

# SNAPSHOT

## URBAN RISK REDUCTION

# Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme Phase II



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## CONTEXT

Bangladesh has made steady progress in achieving MDGs, secured progress in different socioeconomic indicators and infrastructural development. Despite its progresses Bangladesh is yet considered the fifth most natural disaster prone country by the World Risk Report 2012, bearing the disastrous combination of extreme exposure and high vulnerability, among 173 countries in the world.

Along with dense population, rapid urbanization is also a notable feature of the country. It is projected that Bangladesh's urban population will increase from the currently estimated figure of 40 million, accounting for about 28% of the country's total population, to about 116 million by 2040, accounting for about 50% of the country's total population.

## RATIONALE

Since 2008 the world's population has become more urban as a result of a global trend of increasing urbanization. Bangladesh is no exception to that. This has posed a severe strain of the disaster risks in keeping up with the increased demand on its infrastructural facilities and urban services.

In addition to the geological set-up Bangladesh faces major earthquake threats. The combined effect of extremely high density and rapid urban growth with presence of hazards makes urban risk reduction a prominent agenda. The climate change phenomena are accelerating the situation. To address this deadly combination of density and breakneck unplanned urban growth with emerging disaster risks, CDMP came up with a comprehensive approach to urban risks. The urban risk reduction initiative focused on technical and policy support to enhance sustainability and shift from response to preparedness for improving effectiveness to cope with hazards and impacts of climate change.

## CDMP IN ACTION

### MAJOR INTERVENTIONS

#### Mainstreaming DRR & CCA in Urban Local Governance

Urban risk, city planning and the role of local governments in dealing with risk reduction have been recognized as key factors in the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015. Both communities and local authorities are to be empowered to manage and reduce disaster risks. Poor urban governance, informal settlements on unsafe land, declining ecosystems and vulnerable rural livelihoods are main underlying risk drivers, which need to be addressed to build safer cities.

Against this background, CDMP designed the urban risk reduction through execution of an integrated set of activities to include the expanding preparedness programme across a broader range of hazards; operationalizing response systems; raising level of expertise; mainstreaming disaster risk management programming and strengthening community institutional mechanisms.

#### Microzonation Mapping for Cities:

Through CDMP Bangladesh conducted the seismic microzonation mapping for Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet city areas to determine the vulnerability factor for all infrastructure, building, communication networks, life line: gas, electricity and water; etc. CDMP II is now scaling up the seismic microzonation to Dinajpur, Rangpur, Tangail, Mymensingh and Rajshahi township areas.

#### Partnership with UDD for Risk Integrated Development Plan:

A MoU has been signed between CDMP II and Urban Development Directorate (UDD) on 27 June 2012 to prepare a risk integrated development plan and subsequent training module within 30 September 2013. The area of collaboration has been chosen to prepare a risk integrated city development plan covering Structure Plan, Urban/Rural Area Plan and Action Area Plans, Disaster Management Plan and subsequent training module for Mymensingh (Municipality) Strategic Development Planning (MSDP) Area.



### RESPONSE TO SAVAR TRAGEDY - RANA PLAZA

- Around 200 CDMP trained staff of FSCD including Fire Fighter, Rescue expert in SAR engaged in rescue operations with overall coordination of Bangladesh Army.
- Around 920 brave heart Urban Volunteers corps trained with CDMP support joined the rescue operations on rotational basis; 200 in each shift.
- CDMP purchased rescue equipment - around 7075 items including thermal image camera, oxygen cylinder, air lifting jack, rescue jack, stretcher, hydraulic speeder - was supplied at the site.
- Totally 22 SitReps circulated through DMIC.

## Some Targeted Interventions

- **Addressing Landslide Hazard:** Rainfall Triggered Landslide Hazard Zonation in Cox's Bazar and Teknaf Municipalities. Introduced Community-based Landslide Early Warning System that has the component of community based facilitators and volunteers skills development.
- **Skilled Force for Urban Services:** 1,310 construction professionals were trained and received certification them, i.e 560 Bar Binders, 600 Masons and 150 Labour contractors.
- **Safer City Campaign signed by Mayors:** CDMP provides technical support for capacity strengthening of the urban governance systems to address DRR and CCA. 140 Municipality Mayors from all over the country signed the *My City is Getting Ready* Global Campaign of UNISDR in 2012.
- **Sustainable and disaster resilient resettlement for slum dwellers:** CDMP, UPPR and Gopalgonj Paurashava has signed a tripartite MoU towards ensuring sustainable resettlement and rehabilitation of the evicted (350 households) slum dwellers in a disaster resilient housing complex through participatory approach in Gopalganj Paurashava.

### Earthquake Contingency Plan:

Three-tier (agency, city and national levels) earthquake contingency plans have been developed to identify the key resources to respond to the emergency, build and train the emergency response team, and to restore the urban services for meeting immediate needs. The agencies covered: Department of Disaster Management (DDM), Directorate of Fire Service and Civil Defence (FSCD), Armed Forces Division (AFD), Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Dhaka Power Distribution Company (DPDC), Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (WASA), Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited (TGTDC), Bangladesh Telecommunication Company Limited (BTCL).

National Earthquake contingency plan has been developed figuring-out nine operation clusters focusing the command and coordination operations; search, rescue and evacuation operations; health services; relief services; shelter; water supply; sanitation and hygiene; restoration of urban services; transport; and security and welfare services.

### Urban Volunteers:

To further strengthen the emergency response mechanism in the country, through CDMP advocacy initiative, Government plans to train 62 thousand urban community volunteers providing special training on search and rescue operations for trapped victims as well as supporting first aids. 2012 sees citizen activism gaining renewed strength. CDMP-supported development and training resulted in additional 18,000 urban volunteers, 59 Community-based Volunteers for disseminating landslide early warning messages and 578 DRR/CCA practitioners registered in the Solution Exchange. In 2012 CDMP II provided training on Earthquake Safety to 430 Secondary and 1,500 Primary School Teachers and Instructors, with earthquake drills conducted at 12,000 Secondary and 30,000 Primary Schools during the IDDR 2012.

### Heavy Equipment to address Urban Risks:

Continuing the support of CDMP I, heavy equipment, viz. crane, pilot transporter, bulldozer, excavator, forklift, emergency light, and light equipment, such as search camera, thermal imaging camera, air lifting bags, rescue jack, two-wheeler water mist system etc. worth 18 crore BDT were purchased under CDMP II in cooperation with the DDM and handed over to Fire Service & Civil Defence.

### Addressing Landslide Hazards:

Considering the potential rainfall-induced landslide hazard in Bangladesh CDMP-II developed the landslide risk reduction interventions that include Rainfall Triggered Landslide Hazard Zonation in Cox's Bazar and Teknaf Municipalities. This intervention has introduced Community-based Landslide Early Warning System

that has the component of community based facilitators and volunteers skills development. The training of volunteers, linking them to the local administrations and providing simple tools and technology for rain gauge and slope observation were put into practice during the 2012 monsoon season. Whereas it is definitely too early to claim victory, the fact was that while other localities experienced huge damage and casualties, there was no reported casualty in the pilot areas.

### School Earthquake Safety Drills:

As part of preparedness and awareness development, CDMP takes initiative to conduct school safety and evacuation drills all over the country, particularly in earthquake prone cities, twice a year. The initiative is implemented jointly with the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education. A guidebook for school drills and corresponding IEC materials are developed and distributed in the hazard prone districts. CDMP also procured drill equipment for 65 schools. Advocacy is going on to include drills in the school curriculum.

## WAY FORWARD

Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into local governance necessitates relating development priorities to the environmental and social issues that contribute to disasters. Within the various functions of local authorities, mainstreaming requires: the identification of areas prone to hazard events; the identification of communities and sectors at risk; the implementation of protection measures; and the promotion of citizens' abilities to cope. Urban local government strengthening also demands both quantitative and qualitative strength of relevant personnel in such bodies. There are serious deficiencies in municipal human resources, particularly in availability of professional urban planners and other technical people. It is hoped that local government officials will take this challenge of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction to the next level and find ways to collaborate with each other in order to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters in their respective fields.

The Rana Plaza building collapse has shed light on both strengths and weaknesses of search & rescue capabilities, with CDMP now exploring opportunities to expand the FSCD portfolio to further strengthen preparedness and response capacity. This widened engagement with FSCD would include establishment of model fire stations and a specialised rescue squad, capacity building of professional rescuers, an expansion of the Urban Volunteer Programme and fire and building safety in the RMG sector through training of inspectors, factory managers and RMG workers.



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