

FROM FOLLOWER TO RECOGNISED WORLD LEADER

COMPREHENSIVE DISASTER MANAGEMENT BANGLADESH EXPERIENCE



Prepared by

Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM)
Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP)

Bangladesh is a low-lying deltaic country in South Asia formed by the Ganges, the Brahmaputra and the Meghna rivers. It is a land of around 145 million people within its 147,570 sq. km territory. More than 230 waterways and tributaries have made this country a land of rivers.

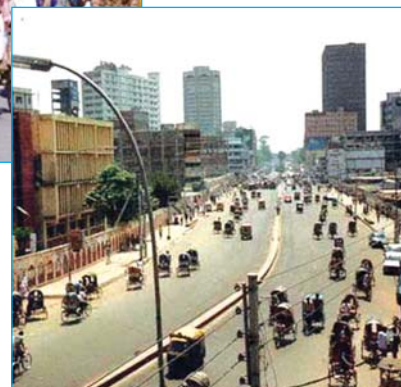
Diversified cultural heritage, archaeological sites and natural beauty of the country have made this land attractive. The country has the world's longest unbroken sandy beach of 120km, sloping gently down to the blue waters of the Bay of Bengal.



The Capital City is Dhaka. Urban drift has increased the population of Dhaka to around 12 million people.

The largest percentage of the civilian labour force of the country is engaged in the agriculture sector.

Historical data suggests that Bangladesh is one of the most disaster prone countries in the world. It is not that Bangladesh suffers from these events more than other countries, it is that the communities are more vulnerable to their impacts and therefore the consequences are more severe.



Comprehensive Disaster Management-Bangladesh Experience

THE MAIN HAZARDS

Bangladesh has its own history of major disasters. The 1970 cyclone and subsequent flood where over 300,000 people perished, the 1991 major cyclone killed over 120,000 and the 2004 floods which inundated over 34% of the country resulting in 747 deaths.

Floods

Annually an average of 15% of the total geographical area is inundated by floods. Flood in 1988,1998 and 2004 caused huge damage of resources amounting 10.6 billion dollars. Interestingly the largest percentage of floodwaters come from across our borders.



Riverbank Erosion

Annually about 8700 hectares of land are eroded as a result of River Bank Erosion having displacement of about 200,000 people. Heavy Rain and Hail Storms, Salinity, Droughts, Tornado, Nor'easters and Landslides often impact on development and livelihoods across the country.



Human Induced Disasters

Road Accidents, Ferry Tragedies and Building Collapse are the major human induced disasters in the country. Repeated Building collapse in Dhaka reflect our increasing urban vulnerability.

Earthquake



Earthquake is considered as an emerging risk for the country, the capital Dhaka and other major cities such as Sylhet and Chittagong are extremely vulnerable.

Cyclone

The frequency of cyclones over the years has increased significantly.

Major cyclones in 1970, 1991 and 1997 resulted in over 500,000 deaths.



GoB Vision on Disaster Management

To reduce the vulnerability of people, especially the poor, to the effects of natural, environmental and human induced hazards to a manageable and acceptable humanitarian level.

MoFDM Mission

To bring a paradigm shift in disaster management from conventional response and relief to a more comprehensive risk reduction culture and to promote food security as an important factor in ensuring the resilience of the communities to hazards.

Overall Objective

To strengthen the capacity of the Bangladesh Disaster Management System to reduce unacceptable risk and improve response and recovery management at all levels and to effectively integrate and manage Bangladesh's food security system.

The Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM) has the mandate to co-ordinate all disaster management activities within the country.

The Ministry is located within the Secretariat Building and is supported by three operational elements: Disaster Management Bureau, Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation and the Directorate of Food.



Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) was designed to assist the MoFDM in achieving the government vision, mission and objectives. CDMP is jointly funded by the Government of Bangladesh, UNDP, UK-DFID and EC. The team consists of a number of professionals and support staff working under the supervision of an international disaster management expert.

Bangladesh has taken a holistic approach to disaster management to ensure we are successful in monitoring and defining our risk environment. The establishment of a National Framework for Action that integrates all programmes, priorities and resources of Government, NGOs and the private sector into one risk reduction programme is a major priority.

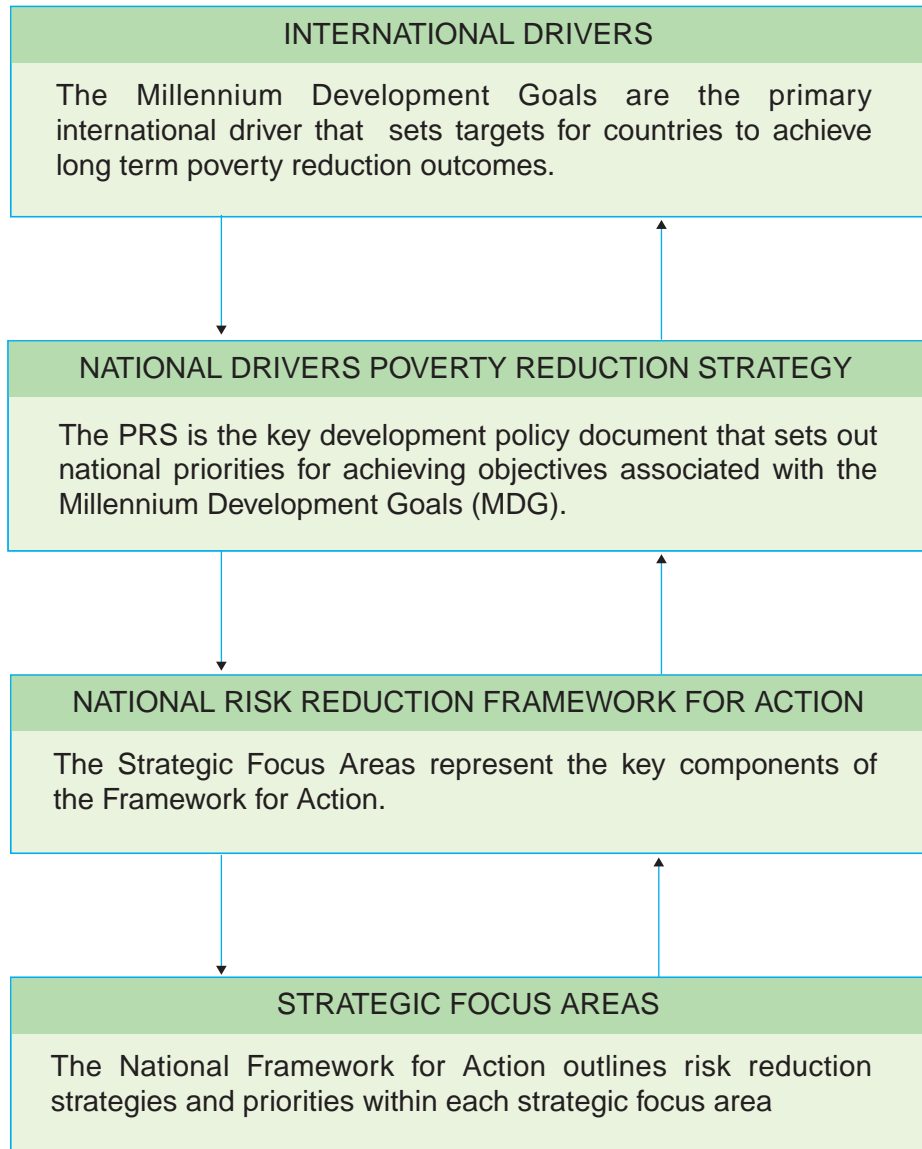
National and International drivers provide guidance on our priorities, whilst strong vision, mission and objectives convey what we need to achieve. Strategic focus areas for achieving risk reduction outline how we will achieve our objectives and the creation of a Comprehensive Disaster Management model guide the design of disaster management programmes and provide consistency in risk reduction policy.



THE KEY FOCUS OF CDMP IS:

1. Professionalising the disaster management system
2. Mainstreaming of risk management programming (partnership development)
3. Strengthening of community institutional mechanisms (community empowerment)
4. Expanding risk reduction programming across a broader range of hazards
5. Strengthening emergency response systems (operationalising response)

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE NATIONAL RISK REDUCTION FRAMEWORK

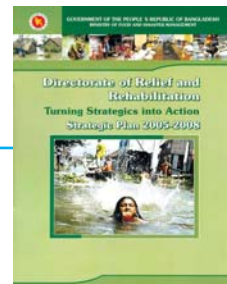
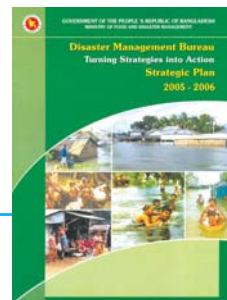
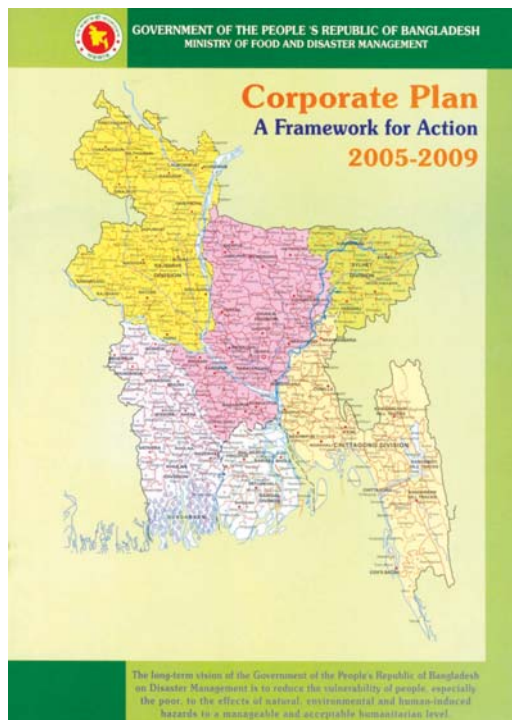


THE FRAMEWORKS

FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION—Phase 1: ESTABLISHING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR LONG TERM RISK REDUCTION

The objectives for this phase in establishing the National Risk Reduction framework was to strengthen the critical policy and planning frameworks and to commence the process of building professional capacities to position the MoFDM so that it could lead an expansive risk reduction programme in future years.

In March, 2005 the MoFDM launched its Corporate Plan: Framework for Action 2005 – 2009 which sets out the priorities and broad strategies for achieving reform within the disaster management sector. Strategic Plans have also been produced for the three operational wings of the Ministry



Comprehensive Disaster Management-Bangladesh Experience

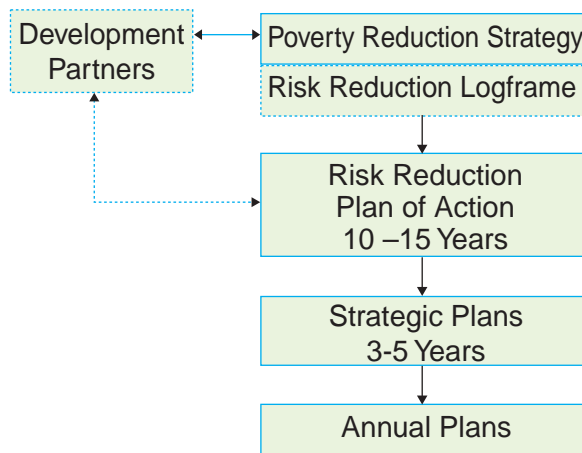
FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION—Phase 2 BUILDING HOLISTIC PARTNERSHIPS

Building on and expanding the emphasis from Phase 1: During 2006 the MoFDM Framework for Action will be expanded to integrate the Programs, Priorities and Resources of Government, NGOs and Private Sector in one consolidated Plan of Action.

THE FRAMEWORKS

KEY ATTRIBUTES:

- Demonstrated linkages with the Poverty Reduction Strategy Priorities
- Articulates immediate, medium and long term priorities
- Provides clear guidance to donors on risk reduction priorities
- Holistic approach to risk reduction



Strategic Partners

- Government Agencies
- Non Governmental Organizations
- Academic Institutions
- United Nations and other Regional Organisations

Implementing Partners

- Government Agencies
- Non Governmental Organizations
- Academic Institutions
- United Nations Agencies
- UN Agencies

Scientific Partners

- Government Technical Agencies
- Private Sector Research Agencies
- Academic Institutions

IMPLEMENTATION

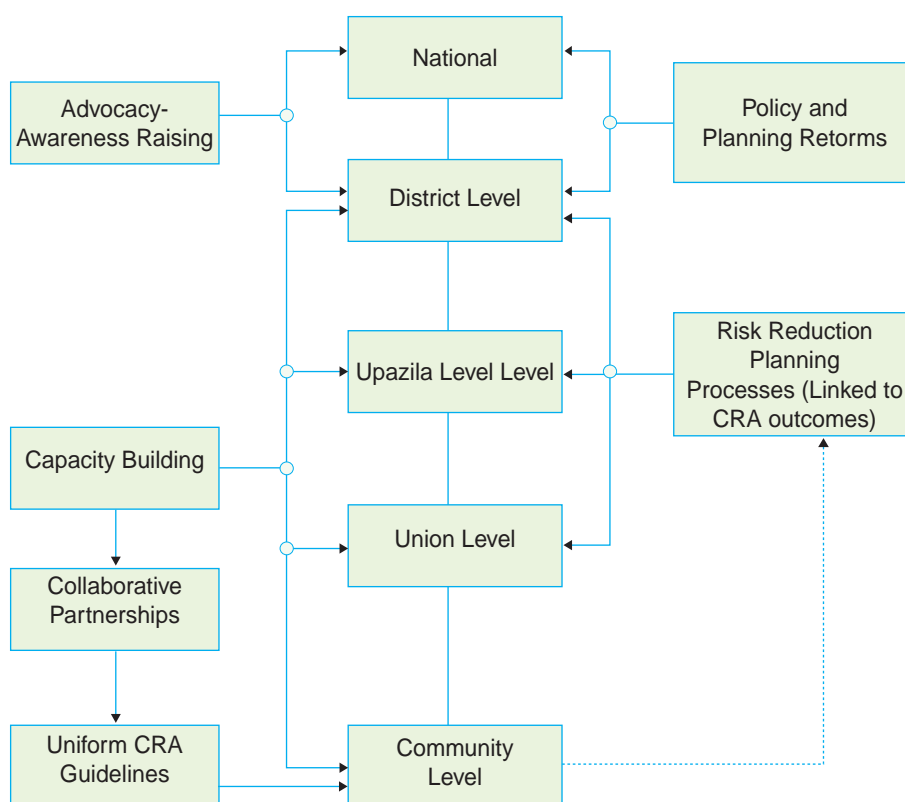
Implementation of framework programmes will be through a network of collaborative partnerships including.

- Strategic Partners – to assist in establishing the operating policy frameworks.
- Implementing Partners – to provide the workforce for sustainable service delivery.
- Scientific Partners – to undertake technical hazard and risk analysis and convert outcomes for use by practitioners, including NGOs.

MAINSTREAMING RISK REDUCTION STRATEGIES

Mainstreaming risk reduction efforts within government, NGOs and private sector is viewed as being the key to achieving sustainable all hazards risk reduction interventions across the whole country. In Bangladesh mainstreaming is seen in much the same light as poverty reduction in that it is the outcome of many top down and bottom up interventions. These include:

- Analysis of national development policy priorities
- Advocacy for increased awareness at the political and policy levels
- Policy reform to reflect commitment and provide guidance
- Capacity Building to increase knowledge and understanding of key stakeholders
- Uniform CRA Guidelines to ensure consistency and completeness of risk assessments.
- Planning frameworks to facilitate linkages of CRA processes with committee structures
- Influencing community attitudes through education curriculums



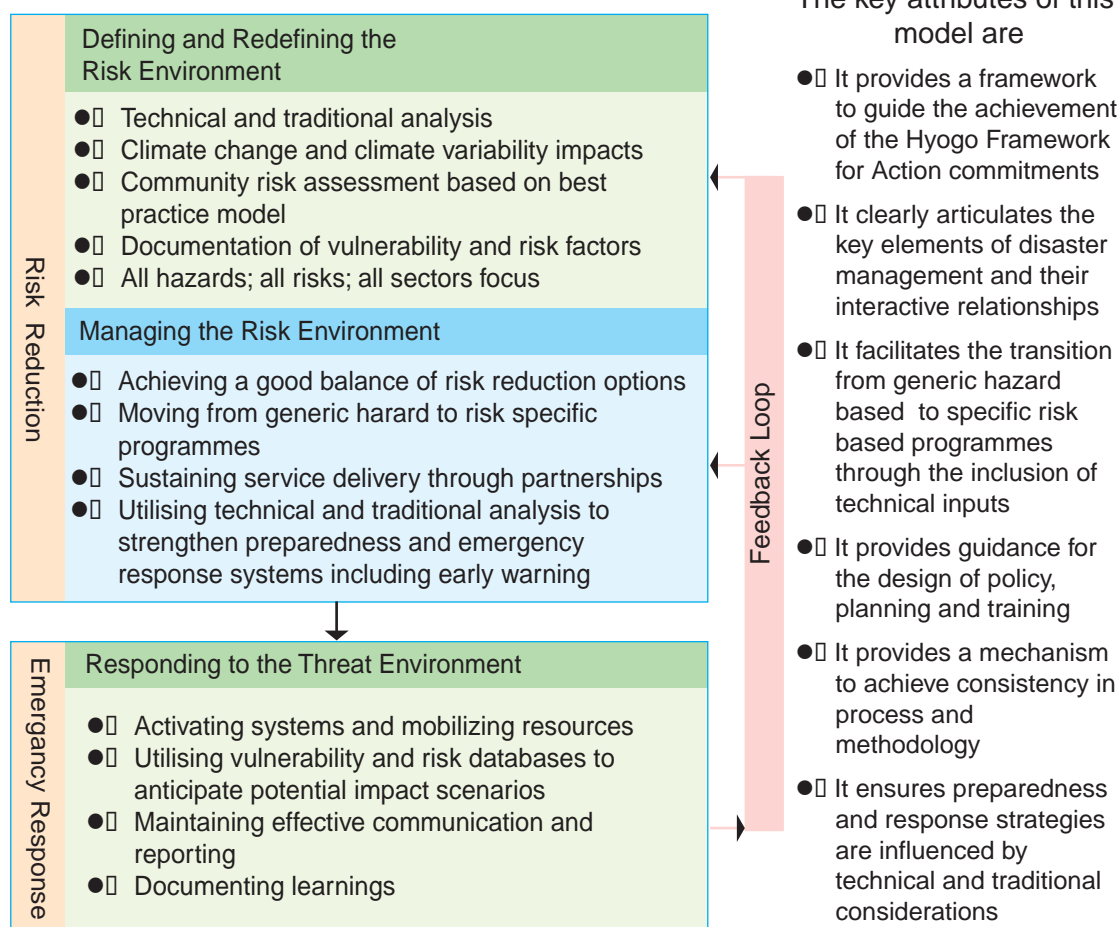
Comprehensive Disaster Management-Bangladesh Experience

DISASTER MANAGEMENT MODEL

At the January 2005 World Conference for Disaster Reduction, over 140 countries endorsed the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and agreed to a number of commitments as means for ensuring a holistic approach to risk reduction.

1. Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.
2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.
3. Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.
4. Reduce the underlying risk factors.
5. Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response.

BANGLADESH DISASTER MANAGEMENT MODEL



A Climate Change Cell has been established in the Department of Environment under the framework of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Program.

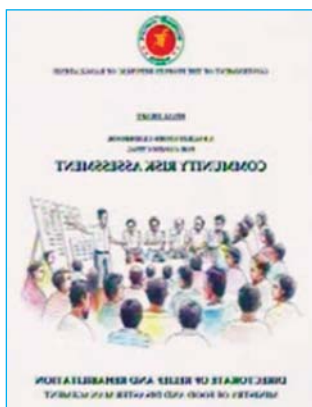
The Cell provides the central focus for the Government's climate change related work, operating as a unit of the Department of Environment under the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Its Objective is to enable the management of long term climate risks and uncertainties as an integral part of national development planning. This will contribute to the primary objectives of the wider Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme, which aims to strengthen the capacity of the Bangladesh Disaster Management System to reduce unacceptable risks and improve response and recovery activities.



The Climate Change Cell's programmes focuses on four main areas:

- Building the capacity to coordinate and integrate climate change issues in mainstream development activities.
- Strengthening existing knowledge and availability of information on impact prediction and adaptation to climate change.
- Awareness raising advocacy and coordination with partners across Govt. NGOs, civil society, private sector and donor organizations
- Improving capacity to adapt livelihood to climate change in the agriculture sector.



Bangladesh has adopted a unique approach to Community Risk Assessment (CRA). A key element of this approach is the establishment of a uniform CRA guidelines for use by all stakeholders.

The special features of this CRA guidelines are :

- The inclusion of both traditional and scientific analysis of the risk environment-this includes consideration for climate change impacts
- An All Hazards All Sector Approach
- Community participation in CRA and the determination of risk reduction options.

Major Steps of CRA

- Scoping the Community
- Identification of Hazards, Vulnerable Sectors, Elements and locations
- Risk Analysis and Evaluation
- Specific Risk Reduction options and Action planning
- Consensus on options



DISASTER MANAGEMENT INFORMATION CENTER (DMIC)

The DMIC is an information sharing system that uses ICT to connect Government agencies, NGOs, the private sector, regional and international agencies for cooperative action in risk reduction and emergency response .

The DMIC is being established initially at the National and District levels but will be progressively expanded to provide a whole of country network.

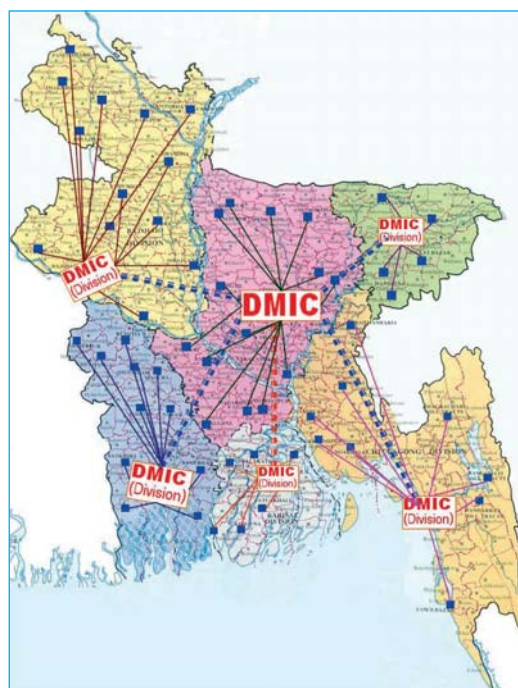
Some of the functions provided by the DMIC

Risk Reduction

- Provision of risk information
- Mapping of risk reduction activities
- Information databases on disaster management capacity
- National information portal

Emergency Response

- Database of institutions' capacities to respond:
- Early warning information products and dissemination media
- Collaborative tools to enable inter-agency coordination of response
- Database of real-time inventories of relief materials, water, shelter, food, drugs etc.



Bangladesh recognizes the crucial sustainability factor lies with its ability to develop and maintain a professional and highly skilled workforce.

In April 2006 twenty government officials attended the first post graduate disaster management training course at Swinburne University in Melbourne Australia. This course was funded by Australian's Agency for International Development (AusAID) and forms part of the broader professional development strategy being implemented by the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management. 40 additional students will attend the similar course during 2007 and 2008.

Although focused nationally, Bangladesh will be advocating for a broader regional emphasis in the coming years to ensure consistency in the professional development of national disaster management officials particularly within SAARC countries.



Bangladesh places great emphasis on the establishment of regional frameworks for disaster management. The Ministry of Food and Disaster Management is playing a lead role in supporting the introduction of regional frameworks to support the strengthening of disaster management within SAARC member countries.

In May 2006, SAARC member countries endorsed a proposal to adopt a uniform disaster management framework for SAARC countries. This framework is modeled on the Bangladesh CDMP design.



MAKING CONTACT

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