

Jamalpur is getting ready!

Jamalpur, Bangladesh



Population: 132,700

Type of Hazard(s): Flood, Cyclone, Soil and River Erosion,

Water Logging

Jamalpur city is in the Tangail region of North Central Bangladesh which is bounded by the Brahmaputra, Padma, Meghna, old Brahmaputra and the Lakhya Rivers. The city is surrounded by the Brahmaputra River where as Jamuna river is located in the west. The city has a population of 132,700, with an area of 53.28 km2 with 56% of the land being used for agriculture. There are 12 wards, with 18,778 households and 30 slums. It is evident due to surrounding rivers that Jamalpur is prone to floods, cyclone, soil and river erosion and water logging. In 1998 and 2007, the city was badly affected by floods due to the heavy rains as well as malfunctioning drainage systems.

Disaster Risk Reduction activities

Jamalpur began its disaster risk reduction activities with risk assessments with community participation. After the formation of Technical Working Group comprised of the Pouroshava (City) Disaster Management Committee, the Water Development Board, the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) etc., ward level workshops were conducted in the most vulnerable wards to identify hazards and to prepare ward level action plans by involving ward level committees and the surrounding communities. At present, the city is developing city level multi–hazard maps using GIS data. The city has finalized its action plans and plans to display the maps at the city office in order to enhance public knowledge. Another key activity is the establishing community based Early Warning System with the technical support from the Water Development Board through installation of flood gauges at 18 key locations on the banks of Brahmaputra River and training the community to respond to warning levels. As a part of the exercise to effectively respond to

emergencies, a team from the community has been trained in basic Community Emergency Response.

The Brahmaputra and Jamuna rivers bring prosperity to Jamalpur with their waters for agriculture, which covers 56% of the area. The same rivers take the wealth back within a day or two by flooding. The situation in many areas on the rivers in Bangladesh is similar. As for my experience, the best approach in DRR is to learn from the past, listen to local people, improve upon indigenous methods and strategies with new technology and to take collective decisions at the local level. To reinforce the application of DRR, provisions of legal and administrative mandates are necessary with experts' inputs. With combination of both, we envision to build our city to be a safe haven for all.



Shah Md. Wares Ali, Mayor of Jamalpur