

“Report
On
National
Disaster
Preparedness
Day
Celebration”



Prepared by:
Khan Md. Muzahid Ibne Habib
Coordinator
CMDRR Forum, Bangladesh
Dhaka Ahsania Mission.

Celebration of NDPD 2012:

Bangladesh is the most vulnerable to natural disaster; every year natural calamities upset people's lives and properties in some part of the country. The major disasters are flood, cyclone and storm surge, flash flood, drought, tornado, riverbank, erosion and landslide. Over the past decades, climate change has added significant layers over the traditional disaster management initiatives. Global scientific community has placed Bangladesh as the worth victim of climate induced natural disasters.

In the worst situation to face and mitigating disasters need to utilize new approaches against so called community base disaster management procedures. CMDRR approach really emphasizes participation of community people in the disaster risk reduction procedures. Cordaid realized it and extended hands for familiarize and practice CMDRR concept in Bangladesh. As a result CMDRR forum came into existence in the country.

Considering the vulnerability context of the country, Bangladesh is using to observe National Disaster preparedness day in every year since 1997. Last Thursday of March is use to observe as the Day of National Disaster Preparedness day (NDPD) in Bangladesh. 29th March in this year has observed as NDPD nationwide. The theme for NDPD in this year is "Student-teacher-mass, let us build disaster awareness." The main objective of the day observance is to make the people aware of and motivate them to manage disaster successfully. Bangladesh government has taken different types of initiatives to get prepare the people. Government and NGOs are working together to build a disaster resilient community

Every year CMDRR forum observed the NDPD along with its 13 partner organizations. This year Forum observed this propitious day on 29th March with concerned government departments and other national and international organization under the same umbrella.



CMDRR Forum, Bangladesh:

CMDRR Forum, Bangladesh is a national coordination organization of 13 national level NGOs and INGOs of Bangladesh and supported by Cordaid with an aim to institutionalize the concept of community managed disaster risk reduction in Bangladesh context.

Cordaid, together with local aid organizations, is helping the poorest population groups prepare for disaster situations, like early warning systems and creating evacuation plans. Cordaid starts with the assumption that the hardest hit knows best where the threats are, what they can do about them and what help they need to better protect themselves against disasters. Cordaid supports communities in prevention measures, like improving infrastructure or planting trees to help prevent flooding and prevent landslides. There are ways how local communities are increasing their own resilience.

In line with this, participating organizations have been progressively practising the concept of CMDRR at regional, national and international level. Meanwhile it has come to an existence as a successful organization in terms of practitioner and incorporation DRR related issues and policy advocacy on community managed disaster risk reduction.

Member organizations are;

ADD, Caritas-Bangladesh, Concern Universal Bangladesh, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Fight For Hunger, FRIENDSHIP, INDAB, PGUK, Pidim Foundation, POPI, RDRS-Bangladesh, VARD and YPSA.



Events organized by CMDRR Forum, Bangladesh:

CMDRR Forum, Bangladesh observed the day national & local level with due importance. Following events were carried out at national level in collaboration with partner organizations and other DRR stake holders in the country.

Rally: A colorful rally was started at 8.30am from National Shahid Minar and Dhaka university campus and ended at the Osmani Sriti Milioniotan. The rally was led by Dr. Abdur Razzaque Minister, Food and Disaster Management where a good number of government and non-government officers, UN bodies, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society/ Red Cross, I/NGOs, DRR practitioners including the CMDRR Forum partners participated.



Seminar: The seminar held at Osmani Sriti Milioniotan Auditorium where people from different sectors participated. The seminar was jointly organized by the Disaster Management Bureau and the Disaster Management and Relief Division. The participants from different section of people particularly relevant government officials, NGO, INGO, School students, Fire Service and Civil Defense, Community level volunteers from IFRC



and Ms. Margareta Wahlostrom, UN Special representative of the UN Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction were present as Guest of Honor and took active part in the seminar.

Food and Disaster Management Minister Dr. Abdur Razzaque as a chief guest told the seminar “the day is to remember those affected by disasters and to raise awareness about disaster risk reduction”.

Ms. Margareta Wahlostrom, UN Special representative, said that “disaster risk management and community participation should be given high priority if we want to achieve a resilient nation”. She congratulated Bangladesh and its people for sustaining the momentum, best practices and leadership.



Primary and Mass Education minister Afsarul Amin, UNDP resident coordinator Christa Rader, Disaster Management and Relief Division Secretary M. Aslam Alam, Disaster Management Bureau director general Ahsan Zakir, CDMP Project Director Muhammad Abdul Qayyum spoke among others.

Talk show: A talk show has been telecasted on Shomoy television on the evening of 29th March. The talk show pointed out inclusion of DRR in primary curriculum. Additional Secretary & National Project Director, CDMP Mr. Mohammad Abdul Quayyum, Convener of disaster forum, Gawher Nayeem Wahra, and DRR consultant Moloy Chaki was participated in the talk show.



Supplement: A multihued supplement published in the national dailies- The Independent, The Samakal and The Ittefaq. The daily Ittefaq and the Samakal published the supplement in Bangla and the Independent in English.



The message contained the theme of running year “Student-teacher-mass, let us build disaster awareness.”

Leaflet: A leaflet designed and printed on earthquake.



Poster: A poster designed on the occasion on National Disaster Preparedness Day jointly with DMB, CMDRR Forum Bangladesh, NARRI, CARE, ACDI VOCA, DCA and some other development agencies.

Mock drill / Simulation: To make the day worthy Fire Service and Civil Defense Department organized a disaster response mock drill / simulation to show how to reduce urban disaster risks by involving the first responding agencies and urban volunteers.



📺 **Videos on Mass Awareness:** A PSA (Public service announcement) video show on disaster management organized by Disaster Management Bureau in the national seminar in that day and this were the premier show of the PSA.

📺 **Media Coverage:** Various print and electronic media gave due consideration to the event. The national dailies and other electronic media paid due importance on the day. The daily news papers published special feature giving emphasizes on the DRR elements /issues and disaster related write ups. Besides, different channels broadcasted news on discussions, seminars, rally and talk show respectively.

