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**CMDRR  
FORUM,  
BANGLADESH**

**NATIONAL SHARING WORKSHOP  
ON  
COMMUNITY MANAGED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (CMDRR)  
REPORT**

**CMDRR Forum, Bangladesh  
Secretariat:  
Dhaka Ahsania Mission**



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# Report on Workshop titled:

**01. Introduction:** A total of 13 partner organizations formed this forum with an aim to



strengthen coordination among the community managed Disaster risks reduction (CMDRR) concept and broaden its necessity in the context of Bangladesh. To materialize the DRR through community initiatives CMDRR forum intend to enhance capacity of both organizational and individuals of the practitioners of the country. Forum organized different capacity building training at the peripheral level of the country through partners' intensive

supports. At present, Forum is also paying special interest in Climate Change and its impacts issues nationally and internationally through organizing different workshops and forum's quarterly bulletin. Some significant activities of forum are highlighted here in below;

- Policy Advocacy Workshop on CMDRR in Primary Curriculum:
- Policy Advocacy Workshop on CMDRR ,DRR & CCA:
- Issue based Workshop (Coastal, Flood, Haor, Cyclone and Drought):
- International, National, Regional sharing on DRR/CCA:
- Idea, Experience, Lessons Sharing:
- Exchange Visit:
- Forum Bulletin/News Letter:
- Reporting / Documentation/Documentary:

Climate change and its adverse impacts on Bangladesh economy and livelihood of people is a crucial factor. CMDRR forum has its strategic issues of which one of the important and paying much attention on the climate change issues. The workshop was a part of regular program of forum that like to stress on the climate change aspects as an emerging problem in the context of disaster risk reduction in Bangladesh. Forum has been implementing several activities to aware people and policy makers towards climate change and its increasing risks in all sectors of development. This workshop was one of those organized for national level.

## 01. 01 Workshop Information in general:

**Chief Guest –** Prof. (Dr.) M.S Akbar MP, Chairman, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

**Special Guest-** 1.Mr. Ahsan Zakir, Director General, Disaster Management Bureau  
2. Mohammad Abdul Qayyum, National Project Director, the Comprehensive Disaster Management Program  
3. Md. Zahirul Haque, Director General, Directorate of Relief & Rehabilitation.

• **Moderator-** Ahmed Toufiqur Rahman, PM, Friendship

• **Overall Mgt. -** Khan Md. Muzahid Ibne Habib, Dhaka Ahsania Mission.

• **Participants-** Total: 64, Male: 53 & Female: 11

• **Participants Criteria –** Government and NGO officials, Civil society, Community people, journalist,

• **Venue-** Hotel Abakash, (Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation), Mohakhali, Dhaka.

## 02. Proceedings of Workshop:

**02.01. Self Introduction by the participants:** A self introducing by the participants flourished the presence of the expertise person of the organizations at the beginning of the workshop. Participants expressed their name, organization and relevant professional area accordingly.



### 02.02. Welcome address:

The program started with the welcome address delivered by the Country Director of ADD International- Mr. Mosharraf Hossain. He welcomed all distinguish participants especially those who gave their kind consent to be participated from government counterparts as chief and special guests and participants from I/NGO. He emphasized to opponnet against climate change impacts in Bangladesh context. He urged to pay importance of CMDRR concept and its extension among the DRR practitioners and government level as well. With due respect to this he asked cooperation from government as required and it different machineries in order to incorporate CMDRR practice in community perspective.

**03. Presentations:** On the basis of program schedule later on three power point presentations were presented to the audiences. All presentations were relevant to the workshop objectives.

**03.01. CMDRR by Concern Universal Bangladesh (CUB):**

Mr. Abdul Hamid, Head of Education & OD, Concern Universal Bangladesh presented slides on CMDRR concept. He said generally all plans or decisions are taken by the authority of relevant offices but in according to CMDRR decisions are taken by opposite direction. CMDRR is a process which starts at analyzing risks and end at demand driven process by the community people. He drew some example in this regards.



He elaborated the beginning to existing scenario of CMDRR Forum, Bangladesh. Its objectives and ultimate journey towards reducing disaster risk in Bangladesh perspective.

He pointed out some determination of CMDRR forum at glance. These are;

- Platform of sharing
- Networking
- Intervention
- Website and documentation and
- Promoting CMDRR concept in Bangladesh.

**03.02. CMDRR project presentation by Pidim Foundation:** The ED of Pidim foundation, Mr. Advin Barun Banerjee took attention of the entire participants through a power point presentation on CMDRR practicing by Pidim Foundation at its working area. He presented slides covering community involvement in the DRR activities at Jhenaigati of Sherpur district and its unique and potential involvement of Stake net (Stakeholders Network). Stake net is coordinating community based organization which led all development activities including DRR by Pidim and its community based organizations. A documentary film on CMDRR activities was displayed to the audiences accordingly at the end of his presentation.

**04. Open Discussion:** As part of proceedings later on floor was open for discussion. Most of the participants were actively paid their comment/s, suggestions and raised relevant other issues for vitalizing the initiatives.

- Participants emphasized to incorporate youth clubs members, imam, religious priest etc in the process.
- Some suggested increasing member of forum as an important issue.
- Should Increase lateral linkage with the GO- NGO and other performers of the society.
- Community based and community managed DRR is integral part of disaster risk reduction procedure. It has a cycle. CMDRR is the modified form of community based disaster risk reduction.
- Need to more assistance from Cordaid. CMDRR is a process of disaster risk management by people. So it may say disaster risk reduction through people's management.
- Need clarity how to incorporate it with national plan.

#### **05. Learning Sharing:**

INDAB Executive Director shared a case study as a part of its learning to the likeminded organizations. This learning is elaborated herein under;

River erosion is a common scenario of INDAB CMDRR working area at Babugonj upazila of Barisal district, Bangladesh, where the river Arieal Kha flows. The community people of INDAB CMDRR project area at Babugonj are most at risk to river erosion, cyclone, flood etc. Due to geographical location of the area a lot of people are becoming landless and extreme poor every year. Particularly, the sufferings of the people of Dehergoti Union under this Upazila are the worst due to erosion of the river Sugandah. Erosion turns victim families of this area shelter less and enormously poor overnight by destroying infrastructures, homestead, vegetation, crop lands and business places plunge into the river. Hundreds of families are displaced over night and in course of time.

Living with a wretched situation the people of Dehergaoti union tried to get support from different sectors and some initiatives were also taken by the Government e.g. Govt. Threw some concretes blocks into the river but actually it was not effective enough to mitigate the river erosion; hence, people become totally helpless as they were still under threat. They were concerned about the continuity of their livelihood status also. In these circumstances, INDAB's CMDRRC (Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction Committee) arranged an open discussion meeting to find out the means to sort out the problem. Having discussed long, it was decided to throw bamboo cages into the river as a traditional practice. This bamboo cage method was used usually for two reasons:



First, this technique was followed very effectively long ago and at the same time it is cost effective. Furthermore, all the necessary stuffs are very much available within the village. As per decision a group was formed to implement the method to prevent river erosion which collected all the necessary materials from the project area. The community people contributed willingly cash and kinds as per their capacity. After the collection of raw materials, 120 bamboo cages were made by skilled local carpenters. Then, a day was fixed to throw the cages into the river and on that fixed day community people carried those by engine boat voluntarily and threw the cages into the river.

There is a positive impact of the bamboo method which has already saved a large area of Dehergoti union from river erosion. It has also saved approximately 75 acres of land where there are crop lands, hospital, mosque, school, local bazaar and the houses which are the last shelter of the extreme poor people

#### **06. Discussion by the Guests:**

Special guest of the workshop Mohammad Abdul Qayyum, additional secretary and National Project Director of CDMP urged to implication of CMDRR in disaster management in Bangladesh. He also paid his honor to the people of Bangladesh especially the community people as they are the **front line manager of disaster management** in Bangladesh. He pointed out that CMDRR is a worldwide recognizes disaster management approach for long time. But in Bangladesh this approach has been initiating by some NGOs, CMDRR forum of course one of the pioneer of the concept. Even government recently tried to prioritize the concept in terms of DRR management arena. He also said that in Bangladesh disaster loses reduced remarkably but at the same rate development doesn't came in to existence since now. He stressed to do all less than one umbrella to reduce disaster risk. He urged to do on the issues GO and NGO collaboratively and need to enhance policy issues appropriately to the policy makers and others involved in the processing. He emphasized to mainstreaming the CMDRR issues in Bangladesh in the context of DRR management regarding to this a strong advocacy should be needed. Different Civil society organizations got many successes in different policy issues in Bangladesh. DRR related organization should have such agitation and way forward programs.

He urged to selecting appropriate model of housing in line with the disaster resistance housing.

At the end he paid his gratitude to the CMDRR forum for inviting him and gave the opportunity to meet all. He hoped that CDMP will be a partner of CMDRR forum to bring the success and learning of managing DRR in Bangladesh perspective.



Later on The Director General (DG) of Relief and Rehabilitation Department of government of Bangladesh shared his experiences as a field level action player. He shared the experiences of AILA affected areas; Nimtali fire and recent launch capsized at Meghna. He said people of the country are adopted with the disasters. He also demanded contribution of rich people with regards to disaster management in Bangladesh as there are many example of rich man contribution in different societal issues. He also urged to make a workable situation among GO, NGO and private sectors in order to reduce DRR management in Bangladesh and introducing CMDRR concept.

The Honorable Chief Guest of the workshop Mr. Prof. (Dr.) M.S Akbar MP, Chairman, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society also a lawmaker said Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable country in terms of disasters and climate change adverse impacts. But commitment from donors is very few and disappointing. BRCS is an internationally recognized organization in terms of disaster management. He said that in the context of disaster Bangladesh became one of the leaders. He made a comparison in managing disaster management. During Bizli devastation Myanmar was damage more than Bangladesh.



He said that RCS now a day involved in rescue, relief, DRR and others different humanitarian issues.

He conveyed thanks to CMDRR Forum for introducing CMDRR in Bangladesh.

At the concluding the chairperson of the workshop Mr. Jyoti Gomes concluded the half day long workshop with vote of thanks; he especially conveyed his gratitude to the Hon'ble chief guest, special guests and participants from different organizations practicing CMDRR approaches as a way to reduce disaster risk reduction in Bangladesh. He wishes all to be practitioner of CMDRR forum and **frontier** of climate change and its impacts in the community level.

**07. Media Coverage:** News on the workshop was published the different national dailies and telecasted in Bangladesh Television (BTV). Such as: The Daily Somokal, The Daily Inqilab, The Daily Sangbad, The Daily Bhorerkagoj, The independent, The Daily New Age, The News Today, The Financial Express, The Bangladesh Today.





# NEWAGE

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2012

## Community managed disaster risk reduction emphasised

**Staff Correspondent**

THE concept of community managed disaster risk reduction should be promoted through developing better risk management, capacity building and livelihood protection, observed a group of speakers at a workshop in Dhaka on Wednesday.

The Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction Forum, Bangladesh, with the help of its 13 local partners, organised the workshop at Abakash hotel in the capital.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society chairman MS Akbar, also a lawmaker, Relief and Rehabilitation Department director general Mohammad Zahirul Haque, Action on Disability and Development International country director Mosharraf Hossain and CMDDR Forum leaders spoke at the discussion.

