

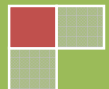
2012

Report on the International Day for Disaster Reduction

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Introduction:

The International Day for Disaster Reduction has been observed in the country as elsewhere across the world on Saturday, October 13, 2012 to address the consequences of disasters through mass awareness. This year's theme of the day is **“Women and Girls: The Invisible Force of Resilience”**. Women's participation in disaster risk reduction initiatives has been stressed.

Half of the country's total population is women. Women, children and senior citizens are the worst victims during any disaster. So, this year's theme of day is a time-befitting one. Disasters affect the women and men equally, but due to social limitations, the vulnerability of women is more during disaster. Women's participation will be strengthened and wider awareness will be raised in disaster risk reduction initiatives by observing the International Day for Disaster



Reduction. The government enacted the Standing Order on Disaster in 1997 and revised it in 2010 to make it more time befitting. The government also adopted the National Plan for Disaster Management 2010-2015 and the Cyclone Shelter Construction, Maintenance and Management Policy, 2011. The women and girls may play an important role in reduction disaster risk and can help cope with its adverse consequences. Bangladesh has been identified as a disaster prone country due to its geographical location, huge population and poverty. The natural disasters are the common phenomena in the country. Flood, cyclone, erosion, land slide, drought, erratic flood, flash flood, water logging and salinity hit the country every year. We need to formulate effective disaster management programmes with participation of both men and women.



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.



Celebration of IDDR 2012:

Marking the day, the Disaster Management Ministry chalked out various programmes, including rally, discussion, workshop, seminar, art & essay competition and demonstrations on earth quake. The President and Prime Miinster have issued separate messages on the occasion.

CMDRR Forum, Bangladesh observed the day national & local level with due importance. Celebrating the day a lot of activities were taken by the Government with the partnership of different donor agencies and national & international NGOs. Following events were carried out at national level in collaboration with partner organizations and other DRR stake holders in the country.

- Rally:** A multicolored 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 The Honorable Minister of Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali MP. An excellent number of government and non-government officers, UN bodies, I/NGOs, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society / Red Cross, DRR practitioners including the CMDRR Forum partners participated.



- Seminar:** As the country faces new threats and challenges of disasters due to climate change, Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina said the government has all preparations to tackle any exigency to be caused by natural calamities.

"We have all kinds of preparation to face any emergency that may be caused by any natural disaster any time," she said while inaugurating a programme marking the International Disaster Reduction Day.



Disaster Management and Relief Ministry organised the programme at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC).

Chaired by Disaster Management Minister Abul Hasan Mahamud Ali, the programme was attended, among others, by Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, State Minister for Housing and Public Works Advocate Abdul Mannan Khan and UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh Neal Walker. Disaster Management secretary Dr M Aslam Alam also spoke on the occasion.

Prime Minister said, her government is working to turn the country into a disaster-resilient one and



making people capable to face disasters through its disaster-risk reduction programme. The PM made a fervent call to the developing partners and donor agencies to supplement the government efforts in constructing cyclone shelters for 34 per cent of the country's population living in coastal areas saying adequate numbers of shelters could not be constructed due to resource constraint.

About the role of women, Hasina said the women work as strong agents of any positive change in any social conditions, and they are making contributions to the development of the family and society using their independent knowledge and efficiency.

- **Talk show:** Forum also initiated for a TV talk show. A private satellite TV channel MY Television was telecasted the talk show on the evening of 13th October. Topic of discussion for talk show was “Women role in DRR in a system of Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR)”, Coordinator, Disaster Management Unit, of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Md. Jahangir Alam and Additional Secretary & National Project Director of CDMP-II Mohammad Abdul Qayyum were participated as the guest. Renowned TV talk show presenter Selim Omrao Khan was played the role of moderator of the talk show.

- **Supplement:** The supplement was published in 8 national dailies both Bangle and English consisting the messages of Excellency President and Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh. CMDRR forum sponsored the supplement in the daily Independent.



- **Poster:** A poster was designed on the occasion on National Disaster Preparedness Day jointly with DMB, CMDRR Forum Bangladesh, NARRI, CARE, ACIDI VOCA, CARITAS, RDRS Bangladesh and some other development agencies.

- **Earthquake drill for 30,000 schools:** Millions of children across Bangladesh were taken part in a nationwide earthquake drill on 13-14 October.



Over 30,000 schools were conducting the drills under the government's Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) funded by the UN Development Programme; they will coincide with the International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction (13 October). "This is to ensure discipline in case a major earthquake strikes. Discipline is important during any emergency."



The drills - the largest in the country's history, and covering both primary and secondary schools - aim to better prepare students in the event of a real disaster. The drills were prepared students to save themselves, as well as act as volunteers to help others in the event of an actual quake. Of the schools carrying out the drills, 480 were in the capital, Dhaka, which are deemed ill-prepared for earthquakes due to lack of awareness and unplanned urbanization. Drills for schools in Dhaka were held on 14 October. With a population of more than 15 million, Dhaka ranks among the 20 most vulnerable cities in terms of earthquakes in the world today, with a major fault line less than 60km from the city, says the World Bank. A strong earthquake could take a major toll in densely populated, low-lying Bangladesh, which is prone to natural disasters, including cyclones, floods and landslides, say experts.

Bangladesh is surrounded by regions of high seismicity and is exposed to a high risk of a moderate-to-strong quake. According to a seismic zoning map by the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, 43 percent of the country is rated high risk, 41 percent moderate risk and 16 percent low risk. Almost 1,200 schools of Dhaka's out of 2,700 are highly vulnerable to a moderate earthquake. Schools in cities like Chittagong and Sylhet and in the north are also vulnerable, according to a CDMP study. MoE's Chowdhury said the drills had created "a real time scenario" in schools from which the students could learn how to protect themselves in the event of a real earthquake. "This campaign had a major impact on our disaster preparedness."

- Fair:** One of the vital events of the day was attending the IDDR fair at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre. CMDRR Forum, Bangladesh organized a stall on the day. The Honorable Minister of Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali MP, The Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief Mr. Dr. M Aslam Alom, and The UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh Mr. Neal Walker visited the stall along with other delegates. Mr. Khan Md. Muzahid Ibne Habib, Coordinator of The CMDRR Forum, Bangladesh was present on the occasion. Different IEC materials, Video documentary, Emergency Kits and tools for disaster, Training materials produced by CMDRR Forum, Bangladesh were displayed at the stall. People had great interest on CMDRR Forum, Bangladesh for collecting materials.



- Media Coverage:** Various print and electronic media gave due consideration to the event. The national dailies and other electronic media also 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 were telecasted news on discussions, seminars, rally and talk show respectively.

