



Briefing Paper

Decentralization of Disaster Risk Management in Bangladesh



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National Resilience Programme (NRP)
Department of Disaster Management
Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief



Introduction

Bangladesh is known as the 'Role Model' for disaster management through its decades of investment in this sector. The country has emerged itself as global champion for making commendable success through community led and volunteer assisted disaster risk management; development of Early Warning System; community-based decision-making process, government & development partners' commitment, a vibrant NGO sector and a compatible legal and institutional framework.

These centralized national level efforts were evolved by addressing disaster risks/impacts at local levels and by implementing programs through partnerships with local government agencies and stakeholders. In this top-down DRM approach, the apex disaster management agency of Bangladesh, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) is the facilitating entity for policy formulation and performing oversight activities while DDM plays significant roles in implementing action programs at local levels. The major activities performed by these two central agencies include (i) disaster risk assessment by using tools like CRA/RRAP, (ii) undertaking disaster risk reduction activities at regional, community and household levels, (iii) perform disaster response activities, (iv) investing on infrastructure development towards disaster risk mitigation (e.g. construction of embankments, cyclone and flood shelters). (v) implement a limited scale of disaster recovery activities in post disaster conditions. The Standing Orders on Disasters (SOD) has defined the disaster risk management through a 'whole-of-society' approach. This entails that disaster risk management is the multi-ministries & agencies functions where MoDMR has coordination and monitoring roles. It is imperative that there are relevant agencies for providing specific functions like early warning improvement, construction of infrastructure, health preparedness and response and so on that might be wider array rather the function for single agency. Hence, facilitate an enabling environment for access to risk information in preparing and performing risk informed development and disaster management for resilience are critical.

Involvement of local government agencies like Upazila and Union Parishad and disaster management committees set at different tiers (DDMC, UzDMC, UDMC) and related stakeholders are crucial to attain success in the Disaster Management cycle of activities. In these cases, the local level agencies function within strong grip and control of central agencies. It is also pertinent to indicate that the local needs, priorities and capacities remain overlooked due to the absence of effective decentralized DRM systems in Bangladesh. As a result, achieving high degree of success in disaster risk management at local levels remain unfulfilled which is manifested in the existence of bulk masses of non-resilient communities in Bangladesh who recurrently suffers from disaster impacts despite having significant efforts given by central agencies. The centralized efforts contributed in reducing the number of deaths over the years but the number of disasters affected people who endured with disaster loss and damage has increased significantly. The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS, 2015¹) showed that damage and loss caused by natural disasters between the years 2009 to 2015 was 2.3 billion USD. This suggests that reducing disaster loss and damage remain as a fault line in the whole disaster risk management environment in Bangladesh and absence of effective decentralized DRM system might be the major reason for this.

National Resilience Programme explored that existing support structures for building community resilience was limited to certain areas and natural hazards, particularly managing recurrent and mega disasters are critical.

Climate change, rapid urbanization and recent outbreak of pandemic COVID-19 have compounded the risk that demand well understanding, more robust and science-based initiative through a decentralization approach of disaster risk management.

¹ BBS (2015). *Impact of Climate Change on Human Lives*. Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Dhaka.

Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management: An Entry point for Decentralization of Disaster Risk Management

- Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) I which was funded by GoB, UNDP, UK-DFID, EC from 2004–2009 where UNDP was the executing Agency and the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management as the implementing agency. It was the prime initiative to shift paradigm from relief-based response to proactive DRR.
- . Development Partners of CDMP II (2010-2014) included DFID, EU, Norway, Sida, AusAID, GoB, and UNDP. The implementing partner was the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief.
- National Resilience Programme (NRP) with a project duration from 2017-2021 started its journey in building resilience through a joint initiative with 4 ministries and 3 UN agencies with the support FCDO and SIDA.

CDMP in Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation

Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) launched the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) to facilitate the reform of the disaster management approach by expanding its focus from reactive emergency response to proactive risk reduction. A catalyzer for DRR and CCA mainstreaming in Bangladesh was ushered through an organization sphere of action, specifically mainstreaming through programmes and projects entry point via the CDMP-I project of UNDP with GoB that laid the foundation for mainstreaming initiatives in the country and later by the successor CDMP II, including the NRP, IBFCR and LoGIC projects.

In CDMP, the capacity entry point had propelled increased capacities that enhanced leadership and core business functions of the then Ministry of Food and Disaster Management which was later reorganized into two separate ministries – the Ministry of Food (MoF) and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR).

The programmes via the CDMP-I project further led to other mainstreaming entry points and spheres of action during the period 2004-2009. This included knowledge and information management, Community Risk Assessment (CRA) programme put in place. In later period, resulted to policy, finance, organization and stakeholder spheres of action as illustrated by the CRA in developing Risk Reduction Action Plans (RRAP) of communities. With the RRAPs development, communities are enable for finance mobilization from government, development partners and NGOs to implement the RRAP with local disaster management committees.

CDMP also paved the way for capacity building for government officials on DRR. The government also facilitated the Bangladeshi universities in the development of disaster management curricula². This led to the professionalization of disaster management with universities offering full time degrees in disaster management. Besides, the knowledge sphere of action also extended to the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre that introduced new DRR and CCA content in its regular foundation course for new recruits to the civil service and in courses for senior officials. The inclusion of DRR and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) issues in the curricula of 35 textbooks from classes 3 to 12 through National Curriculum and Textbook Board. Incorporation of DRR & CCA contents in textbooks and

² Ibid.

learning material has resulted in enhanced knowledge and a behavior shift in disaster incident among children.

Additionally, the LDRRF³, a prominent part of CDMP II project, spreading across all 40 disaster-prone districts and also in many urban areas of Bangladesh; provided an opportunity for communities, Disaster Management Communities (DMCs) and officials to learn about DRR and CCA ‘on-the-job’ and demonstrated a multi-hazard approach to risk reduction at community level, activated the government’s DRR capacity in rural areas and successfully delivered a number of micro-projects etc. It benefitted as many as three million people and has also generated replicable models for integrating DRR with livelihoods of communities.

The CDMP also steered the policies, strategy and plans with its influence on the elaboration of the country’s legal framework on disaster risk reduction including the National Plan for Disaster Management 2010-2015. CDMP II advocated and provided technical assistance in policy review such as drafting sections that incorporated DRR and CCA in policies such as the National Agriculture Policy, National Agriculture Extension Policy; National Livestock Policy; National Poultry Policy; and National Fisheries Policy.

The series of policy spheres of actions and corresponding mainstreaming entry points have opened corridors for organization sphere of action specifically through the capacity development of the Planning Commission in mainstreaming and institutionalizing DRR in national development planning through implementation of projects with 14 government departments/ministries.

NRP’s Approach and Intervention for Decentralization of Disaster Risk Management

The programme tried to use the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) definition of resilience which is:

...the ability of men and women, households, communities, cities, institutions and societies to respond positively, efficiently and effectively when faced with shocks and stresses, while maintaining an acceptable level of functioning and without compromising long-term prospects for sustainable development, peace and security, human rights and well-being for all.

On the other hand, resilience is defined by UNISDR as ‘‘ The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodation to and recover from the efforts of a hazard in a timely manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions’’.

Thematic approach from above two streams is the guiding principle in contribution to build national and community resilience through NRP. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction stressed that local DRR is the cornerstone for promoting resilience.

Effective advocacy for mainstreaming disaster and climate resilience and applying risk-informed planning approaches are critical for building national disaster resilience. These require time and engagement at sufficiently senior levels from multi-agencies. Based on the learning from CDMP working with GoB ministries has shown engagement remains limited to project cycle not substantial transformation of institutional policy and ways of working. In this context, NRP has been implementing

³ The Local Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (LDRRF) is a funding mechanism established jointly by Government and the donors in the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) to provide resources and financial supports for the most vulnerable communities in the form of grants to broaden and strengthen their coping capacities against disaster and climate change

through a strategic multi-ministerial engagement to protect development gains through disaster risk management. The project considered the following salient features:

- proper understanding of disaster risk and risk governance in the relevant sectors of government is vital for resilience
- minimizing the capacity gaps in ministries are vital in ensuring inclusive disaster risk reduction and resilience building
- unleashing the potential for mainstreaming approaches on disaster and climate risk awareness in national planning processes.

Realizing the significance of decentralization of DRM for a nation to be resilient, NRP- Department of Disaster Management (DDM) sub-project has undertaken several initiatives in accordance with national and international policy drivers⁴ to generate evidence.

Decentralization of Disaster Risk Management at National Level

Standing Orders on Disaster (SOD) 2019

The SOD 2019⁵ was finalized after long consultation process at different levels, and then published upon approval at National Disaster Management Council (NDMC). Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina formally launched the SOD 2019 in the cabinet meeting on 25th November 2019. It incorporated contemporary ideas, aligned with SDG Goals, SFDRR priorities, Paris Agreement and national policies & plan. Principles of ‘whole of society’ reflects in it quite strongly and institutional set up has been extended up to the grass roots community. Sex, Age and Disability Disaggregated Data (SADDD provisions included in the revised SOD). The project assisted govt. to revise the draft through multi-stakeholder’s consultation.



Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiling SOD 2019 (Bangla Version)



Honorable Prime Minister unveiling SOD 2019 (English Version)

NRP also supported to disseminate the SOD 2019 among all the Union Disaster Management Committees in Bangladesh including all national agencies of government and other relevant stakeholders. This sub-project has also been supporting MoDMR in socializing the Standing Orders on Disaster (SOD) 2019 at both national and local levels. Some 850 people were sensitized and oriented in the

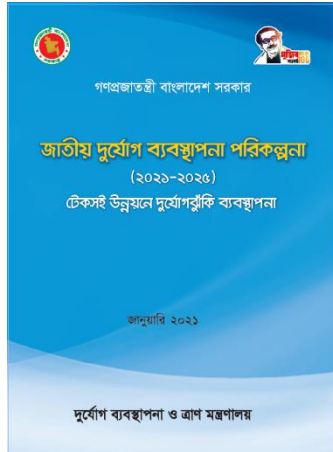
⁴ Include Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, Five-Year Plans, Standing Orders on Disaster 2019, SDGs, SFDRR, etc

⁵ The **SOD** is one of the key documents in disaster management in Bangladesh, as it lays out the duties and responsibilities regarding disaster management at all levels of Government. First formulated in 1997, it is a living document that was last reviewed and approved by the National Disaster Management Council (NDMC) in 2010.

reporting period including 65 DDM officials, 250 journalists, and local DMCs in some areas.

The project trained DDM Officials who has playing a significant role to disseminate the SOD at the local DMCs. National Disaster Management Advisory Committee and selective City Corporation/Poursahava, Union and Ward are being activated following the SOD 2019.

National Plan for Disaster Management (NPDM) 2021-2025



NRP: DDM sub-project provided technical supports to government in formulating **National Plan for Disaster Management (NPDM) 2021-2025** through active participation and intensive consultation process among 25 ministries and wide number of vital stakeholders from CSOs, research & academia and private sectors. The plan put 50 priority investment areas for building resilience. The NPDM aimed to contribute for reducing loss and damage through multi-ministerial investment in DRR, humanitarian response, and resilient recovery. The salient feature of the plan is to facilitate an enabling platform to enhance the spirit whole of society approach including risk-informed, gender responsive and disability inclusive planning investment for resilience.

Develop COVID -19 Contingency Plan

Managing disaster in pandemic context puts extra pressure to the national and local entity of GoB, which require new sets of knowledge and skills with innovative approach. With this backstop, NRP DDM part provided technical support in the preparation of COVID-19 contingency Plans for the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MODMR) and Department of Disaster Management to respond to the pandemic with increased allocation of financial resources. The plan found useful in responding to the Cyclone Amphan and frequent monsoon flood 2020 amid the prevalence of pandemic COVID 19 and there by reducing the cascading impact of disasters which were appreciated by the international and national community.

Develop Disaster Impact Assessment (DIA) for Promoting Risk Informed Planning

NRP-Programming Division, there was a capacity development entry point initiated on disaster and climate risk-informed planning, targeting planning professionals of key sectors at the macro level (i.e., project appraisal and formulation stage, and budgeting) of key sectors. From this borne a knowledge sphere of action i.e., assessment and analysis entry point with the development of the Disaster Impact Assessment (DIA) tool and guideline - a mainstreaming tool to integrate knowledge and information about disaster and climate-related events, trends, forecasts, and projections introduced into the development planning process of Bangladesh to minimize loss and damage caused by disasters.

Sendai Framework Monitoring and Reporting System



Seminar with Parliamentary Standing Committee for SFDRR on 24 Nov 2019 that highlight the engaging high level policy stakeholders in SFDRR implementation. Workshop with Multi ministerial Focal Points for SFDRR on 26 Nov 2019

NRP supported the government to develop the customized guidelines for Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) monitoring and reporting. A total of 250 professionals including policy stakeholders were sensitized about their roles and responsibilities to implement SFDRR. The events include (i) seminar with the Parliamentary Standing Committee for MoDMR (ii) day-long workshop with relevant ministries, divisions and departments, NGOs and (iii) 3-day training on SFDRR monitoring and reporting for 26 focal points from 18 ministries, divisions, and departments. The project also supported in forming an inter-ministerial technical committee for disaster related data management, validation and entry into Sendai Monitor. The project reviewed the loss and damage assessment tool known as D-Form to link with SFDRR monitor which engages 20 key ministries, relevant to disaster risk management. In addition to that capacity building support is being continued for SFDRR focal including MoDMR and other ministries.

In addition, other agencies like Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) has taken initiatives to gather climate change induced disaster impacts data by undertaking a project titled ‘Generation of Disaster Related Statistics 2020: Climate Change and Natural Disaster Perspectives’; data will be generated from different disaster hot-spots every year by using mobile phone enabled smart data collection tool. NRP will leverage this effort into Sendai Monitoring process.

Support to Develop Recovery Strategy

Recovery usually receives inadequate attention in the DRM that require paradigm shift with a policy decision. The earlier concept of recovery has been substituted by the core concept of Build Back Better (BBB) for resilience building. The NRP DDM sub project provided technical support to GoB for conducting an assessment and developed a National Recovery Strategy in a gender responsive and disability inclusive manner. National Recovery Strategy drafted the National Recovery through national and local level consultations which focuses:

1. Individual and community participation & empowerment
2. Eco-centric solutions towards a Build back better future;
3. Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning with the aid of science backed assessment tools;
4. Inclusion of Traditional/ indigenous approaches;

5. Ensuring People-centric and socially inclusive recovery;
6. Women led and gender inclusive recovery which will be pro-poor/ livelihood focused;
7. Efficient use of resources to avoid sectoral overlaps in a coordinated manner.
8. Timeliness and Flexibility of recovery work



Workshop on Recovery Strategies

The strategy will assist to have a common understanding with a sound basis for multi sectoral engagement and coordinated post-disaster recovery and action.

Decentralization of Disaster Risk Management at Local Level

Although Bangladesh is globally recognized as a leader on community-led and volunteer-assisted disaster risk management and risk reduction, the coverage of existing support structures for this remains limited to certain areas and to natural hazards. There are limited options for vulnerable households to access support for reducing their risk and improving their resilience. With this backdrop the project has been implementing different decentralized interventions towards improving community resilience. The decentralized approach put it emphasizes on replicable, cost-effective models for local disaster risk reduction and risk management, and institutionalizing models that have shown promise in previous disaster risk reduction and climate change projects.

The most important decentralized interventions are as follow:

Risk Reduction through Transformative Social Safety Net- A Case of Employment Generation for the Poorest of the Poor (EGPP)

Considering growing government annual development budgets, its extensive portfolio of social safety nets and the likelihood of declining international aid, the National Resilience Programme does not aim to implement local risk reduction activities at scale but to provided strategic support to enhance the



Disaster Risk Reduction Inclusive Social Safety Net scheme

government capacity to do so through its own structures and programmes. The programme focused in developing replicable, cost-efficient and gender-responsive models through joint initiative for disaster risk reduction and resilience-building. This effort involved identifying opportunities to enhance existing government and civil society organization capacities in activity plans and implementation, as well as systematic and strategic evaluation (including value for money) of project interventions.

To develop a risk informed plan that ensure the effective participation of community people, mostly women, persons with disability, child, elderly there need a well-designed and useful toll. Through CDMP, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) developed Community Risk Assessment (CRA) tool to identify and better understand the local level disaster risks. CRA is a participatory process for assessing hazards, vulnerabilities, risks, ability to cope, preparing coping strategies and finally preparing a risk reduction action plan (called Risk Reduction Action Plan, RRAP) by the local community. The CRA method recognizes that the vulnerability, disaster loss, reduction or mitigation strategy and coping mechanism vary from community to community. So, it ensures representation of professional, community and other groups so that their views are reflected in develop risk proof interventions at local level. CRA tool plays an important role in assisting communities and disaster management committees to identify “all hazards” risk, together with the most appropriate range of risk reduction options that can be introduced to either eliminate or reduce risk to more manageable means. The well-structured and useful tolls yet remail to use its full potential and widen its scopes towards DRR and CCA. NRP with its partners faciliated CRA that developed Risk Reduction Action Plan (RRAP) in 20 Unions that analyzed 180 Union Wards (the lowest administrative unit) level risk and vulnerability to undertake most effective interventions for community resilience.

There is an extensive social safety net programme of GoB for the poor and vulnerable people. While MoDMR have large scale safety net initiatives through its Test Relief, Food for Works, and Employment Generation programme for the Poorest (EGPP) for reducing vulnerability of poor people including women and persons with disability. Exploring the huge potential, the sub-project has developed an approach to make Social Safety Net DRR flexible to leverage the resource for building resilience. It’s has been promoting a pilot to develop a cost-effective, gender–responsive risk informed model for supporting disaster risk reduction and resilience building through the EGPP or other SSP of MoDMR.

Since its beginning NRP-DDM developed a practical guideline thorough study to facilitate GoB for inclusion of DRR elements in the safety nets including identification, selection, preparation and implementation of the project/schemes.

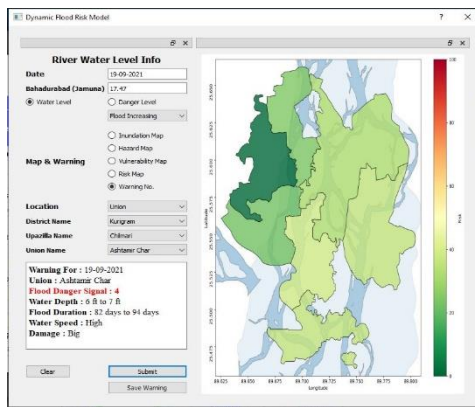
The NRP: DDM part piloted 15 gender responsive, disability inclusive risk informed Safety Net schemes through EGPP in four Upazilas of Kurigram and Jamalpur districts. Local level DDM officials

and Union DMCs used the ward level RRAP for preparing DRR inclusive social safety net (DRRiSSNP) interventions with the active participation of community and DMCs. The interventions addressed the flood risk and its height in design of rural infrastructures like road. The project also supported the most vulnerable households through plinth rising, common community ground for flood shelter of human and livestock.

The DRRiSSN schemes employed 237 extreme poor (female-81, male-156 in which 9 are persons with disability) for 2500 man-days. In addition, a total of 10 extreme poor households' members including 8 females, 2 persons with disability were received in average 40 days employment through working with tree plantation, grass for vegetation, turfing and watering to protect road, raised homestead, flood protection ground (Eid-gah) from flood for supporting resilient infrastructures. The project also supported with guide wall and mobilized the resources from UNDP's logic project and ADP fund of UPs to build culvert for reducing water logging. Additionally trained 632 community people (Women-208, Men-424) on local level disaster preparedness. Another 200 EGPP beneficiaries received training and inputs on resilient livelihood aimed to support the EGPP beneficiaries get out from extreme poverty and building community resilience. It has provided inputs to incorporate DRR elements in revising guideline EGPP + which is being developed by the DDM and MoDMR for leverage the resource in building resilience. The project also working for developing technical and policy brief for advocacy and influencing to bring the transformational change of DRRiSSN through widening scopes across the sector and GoB agencies and beyond.

Flood Preparedness Programme

The Government of Bangladesh has strong Early Warning (EW) systems for cyclone but in case of flood there is enough room to improve. The Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) and FFWC produce and disseminate disaster warning information through the media and institutions at the local level. The GSB (Geological Survey of Bangladesh) has established landslide EW systems in parts of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, and Teknaf cities. MoDMR has also established local EW systems through 30 community radio stations. Flood is single most natural hazard induced disaster in the country that incurred huge economic loss with a number death tolls. Protecting development gain there needs solid approach and innovative for reducing loss and damage from flood, while CPP is found instrumental for live saving from cyclone and storm search. Taking the lesson as good practice from CPP, NRP DDM part facilitated the development of Dynamic Flood Risks Model to help community-level preparedness including early action and responses through accessible science based early warning generation and dissemination.



Data input Interface of DFRM



Flag hoisting by FPP Volunteers

The science based Dynamic Flood Risk Model (DFRM) has been tested at community level ready with BUET-IWFM and CARE with the engagement of DMC to disseminate color coded flag for flood early warning. The model gives a range of information including depth, velocity, inundation, and duration.

Which assist the community people to take early action in reducing loss and damage. For the last mile dissemination of the warning a total 1440 trained community level volunteers are gained substantial experience by engaging themselves as responders during last flood response with local DMCs. They also participated in various activities like building community awareness, assisting the local level disaster management committee for humanitarian response amid COVID context and to prepare flood risk management plan. They are experienced with necessary knowledge and tools like DFRM. The DFRM Model was shared with stakeholders in a national level workshop and dialogue. Interest about DFRM is growing among the academia and practitioners. The workshop suggested couple of trials at field level to get the final confirmation about its accuracy and applicability. The project ultimately would support to government for recommending institutionalization Flood Preparedness Programme (FPP) in future.

Disability inclusive and Gender Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction

NRP DDM's has been piloting to promote disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction (DiDRR) through partnership with CDD. A total of 2981 persons with disability has been identified and mapping out in the 4 unions at Chimari and Kurigram Sadar. It has also worked through developing guidelines, capacity building of persons with disability, DPOs on inclusive preparedness and response, and mainstreaming at the local level. 98 first responders developed and trained on disability inclusive search and rescue who delivered significant service on response during last monsoon flood.

A total of 35 Persons with disability trained on Disability Inclusive DRR, leadership and advocacy. 36 Disaster Response Coordination Groups and DMCs at Upazila, Union and Ward level are being activated according to SOD 2019. While inclusion of persons with disability in the DMCs are confirmed to represent in the meeting to influence in decision making process for enhancing DiDRR in planning and implementation process. IEC materials, training module including audio-video developed on DiDRR which were used in awareness building for COVID 19 with a sign language. The project also facilitated the accessibility to infrastructure, assistive device for mobility, resilient livelihood, and rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities.

The project has been working with the focus areas of accessible early warning and action through build the capacity of DPOs and local DMCs and active participation of community to reduce the disproportionate impact of disaster to the persons with disability.



DiDRR ensures accessibility, inclusive early warning for person with disability

Community Led Earthquake Risk Management

The potential for a major earthquake also poses significant additional risk in terms of loss of life, affected population and consequences for the national economy. These are issues which cannot be managed solely through improving existing national systems for disaster risk management but must also be addressed by building resilience against natural hazard and climate induced shocks and stresses in all sectors. Addressing the seismic risk community level preparedness are critical. In this context the initiative from the NRP-DDM sub-project is now half the way to develop a preparedness package for earthquake in the four urban cities/towns. Eight ward level contingency plans have been developed through applying scientific and social analysis tools within Urban Risk Assessment to support risk informed urban planning for resilience. The plan is prepared and owned by the community as they engaged in risk and vulnerability identification and preparing better response plan with City Corporation including FSCD and wider range of local level stakeholders.



Trained UCVs are disseminating warning messages

A total of 12 Ward Disaster Management Committees are activated those ensured the representation and active participation of women and persons with as persons with disabilities SOD. The DMCs were instrumental in preparing earthquake contingency plan. Rangamati a Chottogram Hill Tract district incorporated landslide risk management in the risk reduction action plan. The plan is prepared by the Ward DMC in association with the City/Pourshava DMCs of 4 towns which received the strong ownership on their own action plan for its application in the real world. The trained volunteer is the integral part of the local plan who are patronized by the FSCD and City Corporation/Municipalities. FSCD enrolled them in the central volunteer data base.

A total 1600 (woman-630; man-970) Urban Community Volunteers have been developed on Earthquake and Fire Safety including a Search & Rescue technique through Fire Service and Civil Defence. Over 40% volunteers are youth women with good numbers of persons with disabilities are remained working in the first responder's force. The UCVs were a great help for the local authorities and people during the initial months of the ongoing Covid-19 as auxiliary force of first responders. They disinfected public places, constructed handwashing stations, and distributed relief items and awareness messages. A total 188,696 people in Rangpur, Tangail, Rangamati and Sunamganj town got benefit of the interventions of the UCVs. With the recognition of great works one Urban Volunteer in Rangpur received national award as best 25 volunteers in the country in the eve of International Volunteer Day 2021.

Building Construction Committees (BCC) are activated through building capacity who found instrumental in screening the building with compliance for safer building to urban hazards mostly earthquake and fire. The initiative facilitated for enforcement of the BNBC on the ground.



Meeting of BC Committee



BC Committee members conducting site monitoring

Capacity Building support for local Disaster Management Committee

From Upazila Disaster Management Committee to Ward Disaster Management Committees are activated through project support in 4 floods prone Upazilas of Kurigram and Jamalpur districts. A total of 220 local Disaster Management Committees received training on their role and responsibilities as per SOD 2019. The project supports to ensure the active and effective participation of women, persons with disabilities and youth through their enrollment in the revised, newly constituted committees.

The committees are featured with:

- Promote participation of women's and persons with disability and facilitate leadership in local-level disaster management committees (DMCs) and work with these committees to support gender responsiveness and disability inclusion.
- Promote inclusive DMCs through active participation and leadership from the persons with disabilities
- Enhance representation and leadership of women and persons with disability at all levels of climate change adaptation and disaster risk management for transformational change



Activation of Union and Paurashova level WDMC

Advocacy and Resource Mobilization

Drafted policy and technical brief for advocacy and resource mobilization for expanding and promoting decentralization of DRM. The current prioritized initiatives are in the following:

- Advocacy with 5 key ministries for DRR integrated social safety schemes for resilience
- Consolidated Dynamic Flood Risk Model and advocacy for institutionalization of Flood Preparedness Programme
- Localized funding and continuation of capacity support for nursing Gender and Disability people supporting organization CSO for enhancing gender responsive and inclusive DRM for community resilience
- Gradual withdrawn of project support for continuation of simulation of contingency plan through city corporation and municipality
- Refresher training for community through city corporation ADP funding mechanism for sustainability
- Wider use of CRA through local DMCs, NGOs in preparing risk deduction action plan and its resource mobilization
- Guideline for BCC roll-out and continuation of enforcement of the regulation for safer construction through wider involvement of community in urban risk reduction culture
- Communicating with communication products for advocacy and resources mobilization

Way forward

- Localization of the action plan in NPDM 2021-2025 would be complementary for budgeter and financial inclusion in the decentralized DRM
- Address the major challenges, lessons learnt as well as opportunities to enhance decentralized DRM both in rural and urban contexts in NRP
- Promote participation and empowerment of local to national actors regarding decentralized DRM.
- Finalize the strategies to facilitate policy makers in taking decisions to scale up risk informed development with a focus of decentralization in DRM