



BANGLADESH

Support for Disaster Management

Disaster Context

Bangladesh is beset by a myriad of natural disasters. Tropical cyclones, tidal surges, tornados, floods, droughts and large-scale riverbank erosion all wreak havoc on the lives and livelihoods of the population.

The country's propensity to natural disasters is due to various environmental factors and its geographical location. Recent estimates suggest that about 4 percent of the world's cyclones hit Bangladesh and that damage and losses to the country amount to about 96 percent of the global total.

In November 1970, Bangladesh's coastal regions were devastated by a cyclone that killed more than 300,000 people and caused over \$2.5 billion of property damage. More recently, floods in 1988 and 1998 brought immense suffering to the population. Agricultural production was disrupted and the country's economy was severely affected in 1998, when nearly two thirds of the country was under water for three months. Bangladeshis and their government are doing their best to prevent and mitigate natural disasters, but there is an overwhelming need to strengthen the country's disaster preparedness and management capabilities.

Project Title

Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (BGD/01/004)

Sectors

- Capacity building of the government and key institutions related to disaster risk management
- Partnership development through advocacy, training and briefing programmes
- Community empowerment through operationalising local disaster action plan and strengthening community institutional support system
- Research on earthquake, urban fire, climate change, and climate variability impacts in Bangladesh

- Establishing and strengthening Disaster Management Information Centre

Funding

UNDP has allocated \$6.34 million. The UK Department for International Development has contributed \$8.10 million under a cost sharing arrangement with UNDP.

Partnerships

- Inter-Ministerial Disaster Management Committee
- National Disaster Management Council
- Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief , Directorate of Relief and Disaster Management Bureau, Department of Environment, and Bangladesh Fire Service
- Disaster Management Committees at the District, Sub-district, and local (Union) level
- Research organizations, professional bodies and grassroots NGOs
- DFID, EU, UNICEF

Programme Activities

The Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) has adopted a programme approach that encompasses all aspects of risk management. This facilitates the move from a single agency response and relief system to a whole government holistic strategy that addresses the issue of community vulnerability.

The concept of CDMP emerged from an earlier DMB project (BGD/92/002) and combined the wisdom of government, donors, and NGOs. The process was quite elaborate, involving all stakeholders through consultations and workshops down to community levels. The Programme Support Document is built on the foundation of the CDMP Framework Document endorsed by both the donors and government.

The long-term national disaster management vision is to reduce the vulnerability of the poor to the effects of natural, environmental, and human induced hazards to a manageable and acceptable humanitarian level. This will be achieved through enhancing community resilience and integrating sustainable risk management initiatives within development planning considerations. This programme works toward the attainment of this vision. The major programme objective for the next five years is “to strengthen the capacity of the Bangladesh disaster management system to reduce unacceptable risks and improve response and recovery activities.” This will be achieved through the implementation of specific component strategies that will target the transition of the disaster management programming emphasis from relief to risk reduction. The following ten components under the first phase of CDMP will address the mainstreaming of disaster management within development and investment programmes; the strengthening of community institutional mechanisms; expanding preparedness programmes to cover existing and new hazards; implementing a skills development programme to improve disaster management efforts at all levels; and studying the key urban risk management challenges:

- Establishing a Programme, Policy and Partnership Development Unit.
- Professional skill building of MDMR and key implementing agency staff
- Advocacy Programme
- Training for national and sub-national officials of the government, NGO, and private sector
- Programme Gap Analysis for Strategic Partnership
- Community risk reduction programmes
- Local Disaster Risk Reduction Fund
- Urban Risk Research: Earthquake Emergency Response
- Increasing capacity for mainstreaming climate change in disaster management and wider development
- Establishing DMIC and strengthening information systems