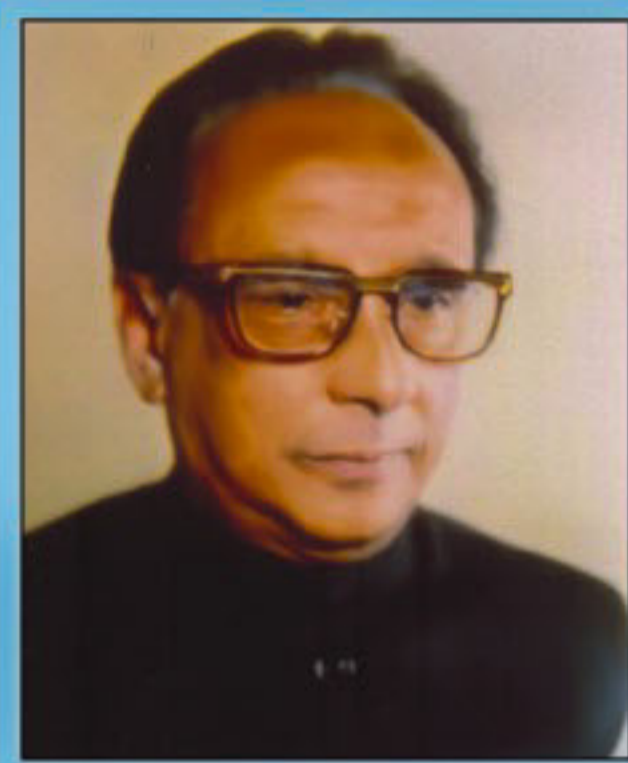


International Day for Disaster Reduction-2010

'Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready'



PRESIDENT
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
BANGLADESH
DHAKA

28 Ashwin 1417
13 October 2010

Message

I am delighted to learn that Bangladesh is celebrating the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) like other countries of the world.

Geographically Bangladesh is situated in a catastrophic region. Our people are experienced over the years in confronting disaster challenges in their way of life. Despite we should adopt various plans and mass-awareness programmes with a view to reducing disaster risk. Today the people are town-bound for a lot of reasons and thus urbanisation is expanding. It is a demand of the day to reduce disaster risk in order to ensure the safety and security of the cities as well as inhabitants. In this respect, this year's theme for the IDDR "Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready" is very significant. I believe all the municipalities and city corporations of the country would take efficacious measures for making planned urbanisation. I urge all mayors, elected representatives of local governments and other concerned authorities to play resplendent role in disaster management.

May public awareness create country wide in the International Day for Disaster Reduction.

Khoda Hafez, May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Z Rahman
Md. Zillur Rahman



Minister
Ministry of Food and
Disaster Management
Government of the People's
of Bangladesh

13 October 2010

Message

The International Day for Disaster Reduction-IDDR is being celebrated today, the 13th of October in Bangladesh like other countries of the world. The theme for this year is "Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready". I think the theme is very much appropriate in the context of campaign on disaster resilient cities.

Now a days cities are the lifelines of a country. They serve as nations' economic engines, centers of technology and innovation. Cities also can become generators of new risks, collapsed infrastructure and vehicles. Moreover, environmental degradation, waste management, unplanned settlement is increasing disaster risk factors in cities. Beside these more than hundred crores of people are living in various slum areas in the cities of the world. That's why these urban citizens are facing various vulnerabilities including natural hazards.

The present Government is committed to service cities toward resilience. To achieve this goal government has taken necessary steps on planned urbanization, construction of buildings following building code, development of consciousness on earthquake risk and search and rescue operations. Under the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) is developing the capacity of mainstream agencies to play their part in urban risk management, hazard, vulnerability and risk assessment of big cities, contingency plans and raising the awareness of stakeholder groups. I welcome non-government agencies to work together with the government in addressing the needs to make our cities resilient to disasters.

I wish every success of all programmes of the International Day for Disaster Reduction-2010.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever

Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque, M.P
Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque, M.P

Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) also has supported procurement of a number of telecommunications as well as fire fighting equipments (fireman suits, heat protective asbestos suit and breathing apparatus for Fire Service and Civil Defense FS&CD). In addition to this, equipment costing USD 1.7 million are also ready for handover to the FS&CD. The equipments include four wheeler water mist system, pump driven water mist system, two wheeler water mist system, confined space rescue system, cold cut system, heavy duty vibrator, search camera, thermal image camera, ratchet cable puller, wood circular saw, rotary hammer drill and rescue jack.

There is a major need for the development of urban Volunteers for search and rescue and first aid to ensure safety in the event of a large incident. Recently, DMB, CDMP and FS&CD has taken a plan to train and equip over 62,000 urban volunteers in 90 wards (200 volunteers in each ward) to support post incident emergency response requirement. Following their training, the volunteers will be handed over light search and rescue equipment and first aid box. These equipment will be kept in the fire service stations nearest to the volunteer.

Increasing preparedness for earthquake safety in schools: CDMP also is working to support schools in the cities to conduct drills on evacuation, search and rescue in case of an emergency. Also, light equipment and accessories to facilitate these drills are under consideration. A Guide for Teachers on planning and conducting earthquake safety drill in schools has also been published and disseminated among schools.

Improving Safety Practices in building and construction
The Government also is encouraging and enforcing the building code and standards to ensure compliance in the building and construction sector. In this respect, a series of learning and development programmes have been initiated to sensitize and orient professionals and craftsmen to apply the standards to ensure safety. Masons, Carpenters, and others in the trade are being provided hands-on training to carry out their safe construction practices.

Way Forward
The capacity to understand and respond to risks in a systematic and comprehensive manner is a social process and needs to include participation of all concerned. In some countries, such as Haiti recently, cities were reduced to ruins. In contrast, being the similar magnitude, the recent earthquake of strong intensity which shook New Zealand hardly caused losses of lives or property. Better understanding and changes in our human behavior and management practices may hold the key to reducing risks in the event of such an earthquake in Bangladesh. Also, it is the responsibility of the government to respond to citizen needs and ensure that cities are safe and resilient. This can only happen when citizens, NGOs, development and humanitarian agencies, business and commerce all become conscious of their vulnerability to urban risks and hazards. The Government recognizes the important role of each of the stakeholders and also their capacity to contribute.

NGO Activities:
DIPECHO Partners: The European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office is supporting six projects under the Fifth DIPECHO Action Plan for South Asia in Bangladesh through its partners namely Action Aid Bangladesh, Concern Universal Bangladesh, Islamic Relief Worldwide, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Oxfam GB and Plan Bangladesh with the aim to improve the capacities of communities at risk to better prepare and protect themselves from natural disasters in both rural and urban settings.

In urban areas and towards building "cities safe from disasters", the DIPECHO partners are

DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN THE URBAN CONTEXT OF BANGLADESH

Bangladesh is a country of over 70,000 villages. The society, culture and economy is deeply rooted in rural values. The city of Dhaka has a history covering almost five centuries. Expansion of towns and urban space all over the country started gradually from the 1960's. Since independence of Bangladesh in 1971, more and more people are arriving in the urban cities and towns. This has led to a remarkable increase of urban population size which is growing fast.

As a natural hazard prone country, Bangladesh has a history of severe and catastrophic floods and cyclones which caused death of many lives, damage of property and infrastructure. The urban areas, including towns and cities have been severely hit on several occasions. Too much rain within a short period also has caused severe waterlogging, building collapse, and landslides in the urban areas. Floods of 1988, 1998, 2004 and 2007 affected Dhaka, the largest city and caused major losses and damages.

In the recent years, tremors are being increasingly felt in different parts of the country. The chances of a major earthquake taking place cannot be ignored.

In addition to natural hazards, urban cities in Bangladesh are riddled with man-made hazards which are increasing the vulnerability of the residents. Fire on high rise commercial and residential buildings and densely populated areas, building collapses, factory fires in the recent years remind us how the threats of man made hazards are increasing day by day in the city.

Rapid urbanization in the country demands for gradual increase of public services including safety and security of citizens and their assets. The demand is rising for public services and utilities to provide housing, offices, business, factories, schools, hospitals, shopping centers, etc. and so to match the needs of the growing urban population. At present, multi-storied are constructed everywhere. In most cases safety rules and standards are not followed. For this reason, man made hazards are taking place on a routine basis. The roads and highways pose constant threat to passengers and pedestrians alike and the mortality from road accidents in urban cities continue rising unchecked.

Concerns
Lack of appropriate understanding, human error and negligence, delaying or ignoring risk management, etc., are human behavioral responses that contribute to the hazard incidents in our cities. The government and city corporations, other agencies and services responsible for safety and security of citizens are always alert in respect of hazard risks and incidents, and perform responsibility to the best of their abilities and capacity.

Most of the infrastructure construction in the large cities took place when the risk of earthquake was not considered at that time. Also, in some parts of the large cities, the buildings have little space and narrow alleyway between them causing heavy traffic congestion making access for fire service and search and rescue operations becomes very difficult.

The primary concern therefore is to understand the different types of hazards that are putting the lives and properties of urban people at risk, and the underlying factors that contribute to the risk environment for the urban citizens. Proper understanding about cause of hazards, their characteristics, and what risks they may impose on human lives and properties is necessary. This is also the pre-condition for conscious and comprehensive planning and management of cities and citizens toward taking measures to address urban risks effectively.

Responses
Recognizing the current risks from a wide range of natural and human induced hazards in the large cities of the country, the Government of Bangladesh is taking bold and comprehensive measures to reduce risks to ensure safety of the public and their property. In this respect, dedicated agencies have been engaged around the clock to discharge responsibilities. Many lives and properties have been saved due to their gallantry and service. In this respect, the Disaster Management Bureau, Fire Service and Civil Defense, City Corporation, RAJUK, Public Works Department, Armed Forces Division, Ministry of Health are working together with other stakeholder agencies and citizens to address urban risks in the country. Already, a number of important steps have been taken toward reducing and managing urban risks in the country. The following summarizes some of these efforts.

Policies and Standards
The Disaster Management Bureau (DMB) has recently revised the Standing Orders on Disasters (SOD) incorporating the earthquake hazard concerns. The revised SOD includes additional roles and responsibilities of responsible actors and institutions toward reducing urban risks and ensuring safety from hazard impacts.

Assessment and Planning
The Government's Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) has also recently conducted an Earthquake Hazard and Vulnerability Assessment. The objective of seismic hazard and vulnerability assessment is to develop seismic hazard and corresponding vulnerability maps for the critical infrastructures as well as the building stocks of Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet city corporations including their area under future extensions. Several studies were carried out to develop different earthquake scenarios for the three city corporation areas. Major studies carried out includes, active fault study, development of engineering geological map and seismic maps, development of building stock and critical facility database and maps, vulnerability assessment of building and lifelines, assessment of probable economic loss due to earthquake. Similar assessments for the cities of Rangpur, Dinajpur, Tangail, Mymensingh and Bogra are being planned to commence soon.

The Government's Disaster Management Bureau is also coordinating work on preparing and updating an inventory of services and capacity for post-earthquake emergency search and rescue operations.

Contingency plans have also been developed for Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet, to mobilize emergency responses timely and systematically. Similar plans for Rangpur, Dinajpur, Tangail, Mymensingh and Bogra are underway. According to the decision of the Government, 40 Government agencies already developed their primary contingency plan. Disaster Management Bureau is playing coordinating role in this regard.

Raising Awareness and Understanding
Throughout the year, the Disaster Management Bureau disseminates urban risk and earthquake safety awareness messages through public campaigns and the mass media. These messages and public notification communicate key risks and vulnerability of urban population, safety instructions, and actions to reduce risks and vulnerability. A video documentary on earthquake risk and safety targeting mass audience has been produced and widely disseminated through mass media.

The Government also has engaged in the development and dissemination of public messages and instructions on urban risks and safety in the schools.

Strengthening Capacity
Equipment for Urban Search and Rescue: The Disaster Management Bureau has procured search and rescue items amounting Taka 69 crores for the Fire Service and Civil Defense, Armed Forces Division and city corporations, to strengthen the capacity of the first responders in case of urban incidents and hazards. These equipment consists of pilot transporters, light crane, personnel locator systems, light wheel loader, excavator, fork lifts, mobile light units, generator, power cutter, chainsaw etc. The light equipment dozer over included equipment for evacuation, search and rescue like megaphone, high-pressure air bag, breathing apparatus, knee pad, eye protector, gloves, rubble removing bags, lock cutters, stretchers, crow bar, spade, pick, tents, body bags and chemical light sticks, etc. For the same purpose more items and equipment are being procured amounting Taka 45 crores.

working with key institutions such as schools, hospitals, garment factories, fire services and volunteer networks and are piloting innovative approaches to build the capacity of such institutions towards enhanced disaster resilience.

Schools are particularly vulnerable to urban hazards. The Kashmir Earthquake in 2005, which took place during school hours, resulted in mass casualty in schools due to the lack of preparedness and response capacity. For the DIPECHO partners working in urban areas, building a culture of safety in schools is a priority, whether in formal or non formal institutions. School safety plans have been piloted in several schools as replicable models, and the replication process is facilitated by the development of a Manual on School Safety including tools for safety audits developed jointly with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC). In all the targeted schools, task forces have been formed involving teachers and students trained to perform fire fighting, first aid and search & rescue. These skills are tested through regular mock drills to ensure that everyone is ready to put the learning into practice.

The DIPECHO partners are also concentrating their efforts on hospitals, one of the most crucial institutions when it comes to responding to an urban disaster. The focus of these interventions is to ensure that hospitals are safe from disasters and that medical personnel are trained and equipped to manage mass casualty. The DIPECHO Partners have developed Mass Casualty Management (MCM) training modules, simulation drill and contingency planning guidelines as well as have trained more than 500 doctors, nurses and hospital staffs to confront crisis situation. Garment factories attract millions of workers to the cities everyday and can be the theatre of tragic disasters such as fires, building collapses as well as being at high risk of earthquakes. The DIPECHO Partners are working on ensuring that minimum safety standards are in place by intervening directly in some garment factories as well as by advocating with factory owners and government technical inspection services for stronger safety measures at the work place. In coordination with the Fire Service and Civil Defense Department, the DIPECHO partners have been supporting urban volunteer groups as well and training these volunteers on first aid, search and rescue, fire fighting and psychosocial care preparing them for responding to large-scale fire accidents or earthquakes in their respective cities.

Habitat for Humanity International: Established in 1976, Habitat for Humanity International has been working worldwide for the last 33 years for rehabilitation and ensuring safer households. It started its activities in Bangladesh in 1999 through assisting poor people in low-cost and disaster resilient house construction. The organization supports people for safer and resilient house construction as it is one of the most vulnerable assets in the disaster scenarios. At present, they are working in the Satkhira and Khulna areas through their activities like DRR training and safer house construction under their Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM) project. Following the devastation of cyclone SIDR and flood in 2007, they had successfully implemented two projects on relief & rehabilitation and free sanitation & house construction.

ADD International: ADD works to promote the rights of challenged people, for their inclusion into society and their economic emancipation. More than 30,000 disabled persons benefit from ADD's activities in 28 districts of Bangladesh through formation of disabled people's organizations (DPOs) at the grass-roots and through waging campaigns to attain their social rights. Enabling persons with disabilities (PWDs) to cope with natural disasters is one of the priority activities of ADD.

PWDs are the worst affected during natural disasters but receive the least relief and rehabilitation assistance, sometimes totally excluded. During the 2004 and 2007 floods in Dhaka City, ADD undertook relief and rehabilitation work. In the aftermath of cyclone "SIDR", ADD worked to bring



PRIME MINISTER
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

28 Ashwin 1417
13 October 2010

Message

I am happy to learn that the "International Day for Disaster Reduction" is being observed in Bangladesh as elsewhere in the world on 13 October 2010.

Losses of lives can be reduced and damages to properties minimized if we address disaster risks. Considering this fact, the greatest Bengali of all time, the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman introduced disaster risk reduction initiative in the country through coastal afforestation programme.

Awami League government in 1997 formulated the Standing Orders on Disasters (SOD) to ensure national preparedness and reduce disaster risks. During our current tenure, we have updated and approved the revised Standing Orders, 2010.

The theme of the day this year 'Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready', is very timely and appropriate one in the context of Bangladesh. It is indeed a great challenge to plan urbanisation considering all the hazards and disaster risks. The plan for development of Dhaka is being implemented taking this challenge into consideration.

I urge development agencies, NGOs, private sector, civil society, media and conscious citizens to contribute meaningfully in increasing resilience to disasters.

I wish all the programmes of the day a grand success.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever

Sheikh Hasina
Sheikh Hasina



Secretary
Disaster Management and Relief Division
Ministry of Food and Disaster Management
Government of the People's Republic of
Bangladesh

13 October 2010

Message

Disaster Management Bureau in collaboration with the NGOs and under the guidance of the Disaster Management & Relief Division has taken several programmes to celebrate the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) on 13 October. This year, the theme of the day is 'Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready'. The theme promotes the UN-ISDR "Making Cities Resilient" Campaign which will continue worldwide through 2010-2011. In this connection, I welcome everyone to observe the day with a spirit of contributing toward the broader campaign and its goals.

The theme 'Making Cities Resilient' is the outcome of series of campaigns in 2006-2007 on "Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School" and "Safe Hospitals" in 2008-2009 to highlight the importance of ensuring schools and hospitals resilience which subsequently promotes to achieve cities' resilience to disasters. Making Cities Resilient Campaign will continue for two years, from January 2010 to December 2011. I am very happy to mention here that a number of cities and local government organizations have already undertaken risk reduction activities in their development programmes. Following the campaign, it is expected that more cities and local government organizations will come up and include disaster risk reduction as an integral component of local development planning, with a view to facilitating the advancement of the goals of the Hyogo Framework for Action by 2015.

Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) and Disaster Management Bureau of the ministry have initiated a systematic and comprehensive approach towards urban risk management. The primary objective is to strengthen the capacity of mainstreaming the agencies and stakeholders to understand the risks, planning how to reduce the risks, and reducing the risks. In this regard, a vital concern is the volunteer participation of all concerned, particularly the city-dwellers who are at-risk.

Finally, I reiterate government's firm commitment in working together towards making the cities of Bangladesh a disaster resilient one.

Md. Mokhlesur Rahman
Md. Mokhlesur Rahman

assistance to 6,000 persons with disabilities in Bagerhat, Pirojpur and Patuakhali. If capacity of PWDs is built up, they are capable to sustain themselves from the destruction of natural disasters. Presently ADD is working in 8 districts at disaster risk reduction activities and advocating for their development with government and development organizations. ADD is also creating mass awareness against the negative attitude towards persons with disabilities.

Concern Worldwide: An international humanitarian NGO working in the poorest countries and has been supporting Bangladesh since the Liberation War. It supports the government to contribute to the achievements of development objectives and Millennium Development Goals. Concern Worldwide has been responding to major disasters since 1972 and assisting government institutions at national and local level and the communities for emergency preparedness and adopting disaster risk reduction measures to reduce vulnerabilities and loss of lives and assets. It builds capacity of community for Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) including promoting appropriate varieties of crops and technologies to mitigate the impact of disasters.

Muslim Aid: It is a UK-based relief and development agency established in 1985, working in over 75 countries, established its Bangladesh Field Office in 1991 and for the past 23 years has been active in development activities as well as disaster relief and rehabilitation programmes. Alongside being active in the field of economic empowerment, education, health, water, sanitation and hygiene, Muslim Aid has been assisting people affected by the natural disasters which regularly hit Bangladesh; particularly cyclones and floods.

Hope'87: HOPE'87 has always given special attention to Humanitarian Projects and Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Projects. HOPE'87 Bangladesh has adopted an Awareness Campaign on Disaster Preparedness along with training programme on Fire Aid of Rescue (FAR) for children and youth of different schools in Bangladesh. This programme is being conducted in cooperation with HOPE'87 network member organizations in different schools. In this respect HOPE'87 has produced different IEC materials with necessary messages on earthquake awareness and preparedness.

ACDI/VOCA: ACDI/VOCA Bangladesh PROSHAR is collaborating with the Disaster Management Bureau, Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP), United Nations and other national and international NGOs in Bangladesh to promote the critical message for Bangladesh to make their cities, communities and village areas ready for natural disasters through preparation and resilience.

HEED Bangladesh: HEED Bangladesh is a reputed organization working in Disaster Management along with Poverty alleviation, Health & Education programs since 1974. It has been contributing in disaster mitigation, disaster preparedness, post disaster rehabilitation & relief activities and climate change related risk reduction.

Conclusion:
Recognizing cities as the frontier of human society and progress, and the concern of risks and vulnerability to hazards, the UN-International Strategies for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) has announced that this year, the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) 2010, celebrated on 2nd Wednesday of October i.e. 13 October, will address the theme "Making Cities Resilient: Our City is Getting Ready". Bangladesh is celebrating the Day through organizing events and programmes all over the country commemorating the day's theme. A global campaign has also been launched this year on "Making Cities Resilient", which will continue during 2010-2011. Let us seize the opportunity and mobilize towards making Bangladesh cities resilient.

Ahsan Zakir, Director General, Disaster Management Bureau

Organized by : Disaster Management Bureau, Disaster Management and Relief Division

