

POPULATION SERIES

World Population Day 2015



Preventing the Worst of Disasters



THE theme of this year's World Population Day, is 'Vulnerable Populations in Emergencies', a topic with special resonance in the Asia Pacific context, as it is home to more than 80% of the world's disasters (UNFPA 2014). Of countries in the South Asian context, the geographical setting of Bangladesh; with mountains bordering much of the country, extensive network of rivers/waterways and the Bay of Bengal to the South, increases the country's vulnerability to major natural disasters. Ranging from floods to drought and cyclones to riverbank erosion, every year Bangladesh experiences some form of natural disaster which affects the lives of its people living in different parts of the country.

Who Are The Most Vulnerable?

When a disaster strikes anywhere in the world women, children and young people account for more than 75 percent of refugees and displaced persons. During crisis situations girls and women face much greater risk of abuse, sexual exploitation, violence, forced marriage, reproductive health-related illnesses and death. Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is a serious threat in an emergency setting. The breakdown of social structures in the aftermath following a disaster can create an environment where women are more vulnerable to GBV. It is documented that the vulnerabilities of girls and women increase due to lack of protection and an absence of deliberate programmes to address their needs during emergencies. As women have only restricted decision making power and mobility they are also more at risk of injury or death during cyclones and floods. A report by the Global Humanitarian Forum in 2009 provided evidence that 90 percent of the deaths in the cyclone that hit Bangladesh in 1991 were women. Much has changed since then in the physical shelters to meet the needs of women. However some of the societal norms that govern power relations in the homes remain the same. Women continue to face acute care burdens and responsibilities for their family and community but hold limited social and legal status. This leads

to less access to capital, social goods and other legal means to protect themselves when a crisis arises.

SRHR information and services

Adolescents and youth find themselves in a similar situation during and after disasters. Their specific needs and vulnerabilities are also often overlooked. A study conducted in Bangladesh by Plan International in 2012 clearly identifies the gaps in disaster response services provided to adolescents and youth, especially in terms of access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services and Rights (SRHR) and safety and security. Respondents in the study mentioned difficulties in accessing SRHR information and services, reproductive tract infections (RTIs), the unavailability of female health staff to discuss SRH issues and experiences of sexual harassment. Another report, recently released by Human Rights Watch (2015) points to a clear link between natural disasters, poverty and child marriage with some families giving their daughters in marriage in anticipation of impending disasters. This evidence also shows that incidences of harassment and violence are most likely to occur while girls and women are staying in shelters and camps following disasters. The study by Plan International reports various cases of adolescent girls being exposed to mental, physical, sexual and social forms of harassment, particularly prevalent at nighttime.

While meeting these basic needs, such as shelter, food and general health, is imperative, it is also important to ensure that SRHR and gender needs of persons affected by emergencies are addressed adequately. It is a fact that the access to basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric services and family planning is lacking during disasters, but also services to treat survivors of gender-based violence are scant or even non-existent. It is therefore no coincidence that, of the 10 countries with the highest maternal death rates in the world, eight are also affected by insecurity and conflict.

The Unsung Heroes of Natural Disasters.....

SUPRITI SARKAR

ZAKIR Hossain Miraj has been working for the Red Crescent Society since 1988. He joined as a volunteer and worked his way up. At present he is the Team Leader of the Cyclone Preparedness Volunteer (CPV) Team in Barguna. As we delve more into the topic of natural disasters, the after effects, team management and current issues that he is facing with his team, it is very difficult to ignore the pain and helplessness in his voice.

"I have seen a lot of poverty, suffering and vulnerability throughout my work", he said. His team work revolves around warning and evacuating people from areas that will soon be hit by a cyclone. "We disseminate early warnings from three to seven days ahead of time. But reaching out to many villages can be a challenge at times. One of the two reasons is, either there are very bad roads, or a lack of communication channels to reach out to the villages. In some cases people just do not want to move. Their financial states and lack of awareness play

a role in the latter reason. Having no savings or a place to go many just own a small house or a cow and do not want to leave behind their few valuable possessions, holding on to them becomes a higher priority than their own safety; or they merely do not believe in the warnings". He continues on to say that this leads to a number of possible situations. It can become a rescue mission or a social catastrophe. In most cases, it leads to heightened levels of insecurity and further financial loss. Convincing them to seek refuge in shelters becomes a challenge at that point.

Besides the difficulties related to warning and

evacuating people in a timely fashion Mr. Miraj also mentions some challenges the volunteer groups themselves face. In total there are 121 units involved in voluntary work. Every team in these units consists of young adults and adolescents; 10 men and 5 women in each team. Human resources are not an issue rather the lack of proper trainers and training equipment. "I would not know where to begin. The Red Crescent Society


The Role of Youth and Adolescents

Involving adolescents and youth in preparedness efforts is an important initial step. Often adolescents and youth have a level of resilience and energies which older people do not have and it is important to capitalise on these strengths. **Young people can be trained as peer educators to provide basic information on SRHR and gender issues to other young people, they can be used to form protection committees in emergency settings and they can be linked as facilitators between the community and service providers.**

Addressing the SRHR needs of adolescents and youth and empowering them to accept leadership roles are two key components of UNFPA's adolescent and youth strategy.

voiced concerns are lost in bureaucracy. The last proper meeting that was held for volunteers was in 1996.

Mr. Miraj is one of the many volunteers who started out young and carried on with his voluntary work. The struggles they face are real and people seem to be overlooking this humanitarian deed of him and his team. Most of the people affected by natural disasters do not have much to begin with let alone after their areas are affected by cyclones, floods etc. So, open your eyes, come forth and help those who need it the most, your own people.



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Ref: UGC/HEQEP/Procurement/S 29-AF/2015-548 Date: 08/07/2015

Request for Expression of Interest (REOI)
for
Selection of Quality Assurance (QA) Advisor (International) - 1 position

The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a Credit in an amount of equivalent to US\$ 125.0 million as additional financing from the International Development Association (IDA), toward the cost of Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP). The HEQEP intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments for consultancy services of 1 (one) Quality Assurance (QA) Advisor (International) (Package No S29-AF). The Quality Assurance (QA) Advisor would provide: (i) technical assistance to the UGC/Quality Assurance Unit (QAU) in its task of establishing the Quality Assurance Mechanism in the higher education institutions of the country, (ii) assisting the newly constituted Institutional Quality Assurance Cells (IQACs) at the universities in Bangladesh in executing their responsibilities as delineated in the IQAC Operations Manual (IQACOM); (iii) assist UGC/QAU and Ministry of Education (MOE) in finalizing the Act for the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Council, Bangladesh (QAACB); and (iv) assist in drafting the National Qualification Framework for Bangladesh.

2. The Quality Assurance (QA) Advisor (International) should possess the following qualifications, experiences & skills:

- A post-graduate degree from a recognized higher education institution with at least 15 years experience of teaching at university level. PhD will be considered as an additional qualification.
- Experience in QA practices for higher education and its implementation procedure at least in two countries for 8 years;
- Experience in implementing/reviewing self-assessment of academic programs and institutions;
- Report writing skills in English and ability to deliver them within a timeline;
- Good command on computer operations including MS Word, Excel, Access, Power point, Internet etc.

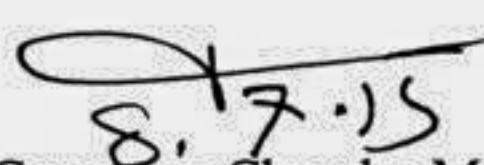
3. The HEQEP now invites eligible applicants to express their interest in providing the services mentioned above. The applicants are requested to submit Curriculum Vitae (CV) in MS Word file in prescribed format along with documents in support of qualifications & experiences, recent photograph and a proposal of expected remuneration. The Terms of Reference (ToR) and format of CV are available in the web address: www.heqep-ugc.gov.bd

4. Consultant will be selected using the selection of individual consultant method in accordance with Guidelines for Selection and Employment of Consultants for World Bank Borrowers (January 2011). Consultant will be selected on the basis of the qualifications, experiences and skills as mentioned above.

5. The duration of the assignment would be 90 (Ninety) working days spread over 18 months. However, the duration of the assignment may be increased or decreased according to the requirement of the QA component of the project.

6. Expression of Interest shall have to be submitted by **6 August 2015** up to 3:00 pm to the office of the undersigned.

7. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs.


 (Dr Gauranga Chandra Mohanta *ndc*)
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GD-2363



JPGSPH
James P Grant School of Public Health
BRAC University



CoE-UHC
Centre of Excellence for Universal Health Coverage



BRAC
University
Inspiring Excellence

Short course on Universal Health Coverage for mid-level/junior faculty, researchers and practitioners in public health

The Centre of Excellence for Universal Health Coverage (CoE-UHC), jointly hosted by icddr,b and James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) at BRAC University is seeking applications for a 5-day long short course on "Universal Health Coverage" that will be held during **August 16-20, 2015**. Public health faculties of public and private universities, researchers and public health practitioners in the public and private (including NGOs) sectors are encouraged to apply. Taka 2,000 only will be charged for food and stationeries. Please visit www.coe-uhc.org or www.icddr.org for details. Download application form from the websites and send the completed form to m.tarek@bracu.ac.bd by **August 1, 2015 (Saturday)**. For more information, please contact Nadia Ishrat Alamgir at nishrat@bracu.ac.bd.




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Memo No: IAPP/BADC/2015-16/28 Date: 09/07/2015

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concerned that the following tenders have been published through e-GP portal.

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Name of Work	Closing deadline
1	27928	WD-11: Lot-01	Re-excavation of Pond/Water body for rain water harvesting in Rangpur District	03.08.15 ; 2.00 PM
2	27952	WD-11: Lot-02	Re-excavation of Pond/Water body for rain water harvesting in Nilphamari District	03.08.15 ; 2.00 PM
3	27959	WD-11: Lot-03	Re-excavation of Pond/Water body for rain water harvesting in Rangpur/Nilphamari District	03.08.15 ; 2.00 PM
4	27963	WD-11: Lot-04	Re-excavation of Pond/Water body for rain water harvesting in Patuakhali District	04.08.15 ; 2.00 PM
5	27965	WD-11: Lot-05	Re-excavation of Pond/Water body for rain water harvesting in Patuakhali District	04.08.15 ; 2.00 PM
6	27966	WD-11: Lot-06	Re-excavation of Pond/Water body for rain water harvesting in Barguna District	04.08.15 ; 2.00 PM
7	27967	WD-11: Lot-07	Re-excavation of Pond/Water body for rain water harvesting in Barguna District	05.08.15 ; 2.00 PM
8	27968	WD-11: Lot-08	Re-excavation of Pond/Water body for rain water harvesting in Patuakhali/Barguna District	05.08.15 ; 2.00 PM
9	27969	WD-11: Lot-09	Re-excavation of Pond/Water body for rain water harvesting in Patuakhali/Jhalokathi District	05.08.15 ; 2.00 PM

The interested persons/firms/ contractor may visit the web site www.eprocure.gov.bd to get the details of the tenders. These are online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Project Director (Additional Secretary)
Integrated Agricultural Productivity Project (IAPP)

GD-2370