

BANGLADESH

I. Natural hazards in Bangladesh

1.1 Natural hazards likely to affect the country

The cyclones and floods pose the greatest risk to Bangladesh on a country level. Sub nationally, the northern and eastern regions of the country are susceptible to earthquakes while the southeast is particularly vulnerable to cyclones, floods, droughts and earthquake. Bangladesh is also vulnerable to other natural and man-made hazards, such as river bank erosion, tornadoes, Tsunami, the high arsenic contents of ground water, water logging, water and soil salinity, etc. Bangladesh is also at a great risk from global climate change impacts because of its very low elevation and exposure to various climate related hazards. Although the magnitude of these changes may appear to be small, they could substantially increase the frequency and intensity of existing climatic events, such as floods, droughts, cyclones etc.

1.2 Recent major disasters

The following table shows recent major disasters in Bangladesh:

Year	Disaster	Death
1988	Flood	2373
1988	Cyclone	5704
1989	Drought	800
1991	Cyclone	138,868
1996	Tornado	545
1997	Cyclone	550
1998	Flood	1050
2004	Flood	747

II. Disaster Management System

2.1 Administrative system

Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM) is the national focal point for disaster management in Bangladesh. It manages disasters through its three agencies: Disaster Management Bureau (DMB), Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation (DRR), and Directorate General of Food. It is assisted by other government agencies, such as Fire Services and Civil Defence Department, Disaster Emergency Centre of Armed Forces Division, Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), Flood Forecasting and Warning Center (FFWC), Bangladesh Police, Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP), etc. It has technical and scientific partnership with Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization (SPARSO), Geological Survey of Bangladesh, Centre for Environmental and Geological Information System (CEGIS), Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO),

Institute of Water Modeling (IWM), Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), etc. At the field level, the Office of the Deputy Commissioner at the district level, the Office of the Upazila Nirbahi Officer at the Sub-district level and the Union Parishad at the lowest level of the administration play crucial roles in disaster management.

2.2 Legal system

While Allocation of Business of the Rules of Business of the Government assigns roles and responsibilities to various ministries of the government, the Standing Order on Disasters (SOD) assigns roles and responsibilities to relevant government agencies as well as to Disaster Management Committees (DMCs) at all levels. The enactment of a disaster management law is in progress.

2.3 Structure of disaster management

Bangladesh has an elaborate system of disaster management. A series of inter-related institutions, at both national and sub-national levels have been created to ensure effective planning and coordination of disaster management and emergency response events.

Organizational structure at the national level

- i. **National Disaster Management Council (NDMC):** It is headed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister to formulate and review the disaster management policies and issue directives to all concerns.
- ii. **Inter-Ministerial Disaster Management Co-ordination Committee (IMDMCC):** It is headed by the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM) to implement disaster management policies and decisions of NDMC / Government.
- iii. **National Disaster Management Advisory Committee (NDMAC):** It is to be headed by an experienced person having been nominated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.
- iv. **Cyclone Preparedness Program Implementation Board (CPPIB):** It is headed by the Secretary, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management to review the preparedness activities in the face of initial stage of an impending cyclone.
- v. **Disaster Management Training and Public Awareness Building Task Force (DMTATF):** It is headed by the Director General of Disaster Management Bureau (DMB) to co-ordinate the disaster related training and public awareness activities of the Government, NGOs and other organizations.
- vi. **Focal Point Operation Coordination Group of Disaster Management (FPOCG):** It is headed by the Director General of DMB to review and co-ordinate the activities of various departments/agencies related to disaster management and also to review the Contingency Plan prepared by concerned departments.

vii. NGO Coordination Committee on Disaster Management (NGOCC): It is headed by the Director General of DMB to review and co-ordinate the activities of concerned NGOs in the country.

viii. Committee for Speedy Dissemination of Disaster Related Warning/ Signals (CSDDWS): It is headed by the Director General of DMB to examine, ensure and find out the ways and means for the speedy dissemination of warning/ signals among the people.

Organizational structure at sub-national levels

i. District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC): It is headed by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) to co-ordinate and review the disaster management activities at the district level.

ii. Upazila Disaster Management Committee (UZDMC): It is headed by the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) to co-ordinate and review the disaster management activities at the Upazila level.

iii. Union Disaster Management Committee (UDMC): It is headed by the Chairman of the Union Parishad to co-ordinate, review and implement the disaster management activities of the concerned union.

iv. Pourashava Disaster Management Committee (PDMC): It is headed by Chairman of Pourashava (municipality) to co-ordinate, review and implement the disaster management activities within its area of jurisdiction.

v. City Corporation Disaster Management Committee (CCDMC): It is headed by the Mayor of City Corporations to co-ordinate, review and implement the disaster management activities within its area of jurisdiction.

The SOD provides detailed roles and responsibilities of all disaster management committees, relevant ministries, divisions, departments and agencies at all levels for normal period risk reduction and during emergency response periods.

2.4 Priority on disaster risk management

The government acknowledges the need for disaster risk reduction as opposed to the earlier concepts of responding after a disaster, as a necessary as well as a cost-effective approach. Thus priority has been accorded to focus on community level preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation. Programme to train people living in disaster prone areas for improving their capability to cope with natural disasters is highlighted.

Bangladesh has created a simplistic model to guide the design of disaster management programmes, including development or review of policy and training course material. The model has three key elements and ensures that the move to a more comprehensive risk reduction culture remains central to all efforts.

- (1) **Defining the risk environment** – This element of the model promotes the use of scientific analysis (including climate change impacts) as the basis for accurately determining the future risk environment relative to all hazards, all sectors and all geographical areas. Bangladesh has adopted the process outlined in the International Risk Management Standard AS/NZS: 4360-1999 to guide all community risk assessments.
- (2) **Managing the risk environment** – Promotes the design of risk reduction strategies (Community Based Adaptation Programmes) as an outcome of the risk assessment process. This ensures Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery programmes are multi hazard focused and that they move from being hazard generic in nature to risk specific. This will enable communities to better understand their changing risk environment and thus become more resilient through proactive risk reduction efforts.
- (3) **Responding to the threat environment** – This involves responding to an actual threat situation. It helps Bangladesh disaster management officials to clearly articulate the difference between risk reduction and emergency response and how accurately defining risk environments can influence and enhance emergency response systems and decisions.

III. Disaster Management Plan

1. Sort of plan

The **MoFDM Corporate Plan: Framework for Action 2005 – 2009**. This document sets out the priorities and broad strategies for achieving reform within the disaster management sector and ensures that there are strong linkages with the priorities of the government in respect to the achievement of goals associated with national (PRSP) and international drivers such as the MDGs, WCDR and ISDR.

Each of the three operational agencies (Disaster Management Bureau, Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation, Directorate General of Food) of the Ministry have prepared 2-3 year Strategic Plans based on the Corporate Plan and an Operations Plan detailing the priorities for each twelve month period. These plans are used to assist the MoFDM and its agencies to formulate collaborative partnerships, particularly with NGOs, for sustainable delivery of services relative to each strategy.

2. Legal basis

This is an administrative document. It is expected to get legal coverage under the draft disaster management act.

3. Date of creation of the plan

In March, 2005 the MoFDM launched its Corporate Plan.

4. Content

The Plan recognizes that there are many interdependent elements that make up an effective disaster management system. These elements are listed below as six strategic focus areas. The critical factor is for each of these focus areas to be viewed as being individual inputs to a bigger picture with the outputs of one or more elements, being inputs to other focus area programmes.

- Focus Area 1: Professionalising the disaster management system
- Focus Area 2: Mainstreaming of risk management programming (partnership development)
- Focus Area 3: Strengthening of community institutional mechanisms (community empowerment)
- Focus Area 4: Expanding Risk Reduction programming across a broader range of hazards.
- Focus Area 5: Strengthening emergency response systems
- Focus Area 6: Maintaining and strengthening the national food security system - with a focus on ensuring access to sustainable food supplies.

IV. Budget size on national level

Annual budget for the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management is about US\$ 500 million.

V. Progress and Situation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)

Bangladesh has established the national platform for disaster risk reduction. Bangladesh was the first country to initiate a strategic planning process in line with the HFA, when MoFDM Corporate Plan: Framework for Action 1005-2009 was launched in March 2005. Subsequently, three agencies of MoFDM have published their strategic plans, and the development of annual operational plans is underway. Government of Bangladesh has also launched a Risk Reduction Programme for people at risk in disaster prone areas of the country. Under the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme, the MoFDM is spearheading the implementation of the HFA in five focus areas.

VI. Projects on disaster reduction headed by your ministry

- (1) Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP)
- (2) Risk Reduction Programme
- (3) Construction of Multi Purpose Disaster Shelters
- (4) Strengthening emergency response system through enhancing search and rescue capability (Procurement of equipment)
- (5) Food policy capacity strengthening programme

VII. Counterpart of ADRC

Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.