

responsible for convening IRP Steering Committee meetings and disseminating information on IRP activities and outcomes.

* IRP members: Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), Hyogo Prefectural Government, International Labour Organization (ILO), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy, Cabinet Office of Japan, Swiss Agency for Development and Coordination (SDC), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), United Nations Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), the World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO), Asian Development Bank (ADB), United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Coordination Center for the Prevention of the natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC)

6-3. IRP Activities in FY 2015

6-3-1. “IRP’s International Recovery Forum 2016”

“IRP’s International Recovery Forum 2016 ~”Sending the Message of Build Back Better”, jointly organized with ADRC, was held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan on 26 January 2016, with over 180 participants, including government officials, practitioners, experts, policymakers, and students

from 37 countries. Mr. Stefan Kohler of UNOPS opened the Forum, and it was followed by a welcome message delivered by Mr. Kaoru Saito, on behalf of Mr. Toshinori Ogata, Deputy Director-General for Disaster Management

Office of the Cabinet Office of Japan. Like the previous forums, Governor Mr. Toshizo Ido of Hyogo Prefecture addressed the participants regarding the creative reconstruction and the importance of implementing both soft and hard measures in DRR. In between the discussions, two dignitaries delivered special presentations, namely Mr. Tatsushi Nishioka of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan who delivered a message on “World Tsunami Awareness Day” and Mr. Neil McFalane of the UNISDR who made a presentation regarding the outcome of the Third UN World Conference on DRR and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 focusing on Priority Four’s Build Back Better in Recovery, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction. In his presentation, he shared expectations to IRP which will play an important role in advising on the progress and challenges in the implementation of the “Build Back Better” priority of the Sendai Framework, along with the New IRP Strategy Framework. Mr. Kaoru Saito of the Cabinet Office of Japan closed the Forum.



Fig. 6-3-1 “IRP’s International Recovery Forum 2016”

6-3-2. Outline of Learning Events on Build-Back-Better

ADRC / International Recovery Platform (IRP) organizes learning events on build-back-better, including (i) Workshop on Disaster Recovery Planning; (ii) Training of Trainers on Build-Back-Better, and (iii) Parliamentary meeting on Build-Back-Better. The key reference materials for these learning events are the Guidance Notes on Recovery which were developed by ADRC/IRP. These guidance notes offer menu of options and highlight lessons and good practices from recovery processes around the world clustered into 11 themes: Shelter, Livelihood, Environment, Gender, Infrastructure, Governance, Health, Psycho-social, Climate Change, Telling Live Lessons, and Recovery Planning.



Fig.6-3-2 Guidance Notes on Recovery

In FY2015, ADRC/IRP organized these learning events in Bangladesh upon request of the country, and upon recognition that Bangladesh is a disaster-prone country with low capacity.

The Workshop on Disaster Recovery Planning, 25-27 May 2015, gathered over 50 high level and technical delegations from various ministries of the government, universities, development partner organizations, NGOs, and private sector.



Fig. 6-3-2 Workshop on Disaster Recovery Planning

The objectives of the workshop were: (i) discuss recovery agenda in Bangladesh in the context of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; (ii) brainstorm strategies and actions on recovery that will be integrated in the existing development plans and related planning instruments; (iii) review and update the Bangladesh Disaster Recovery Action Plan; (iv) explore options the strengthening of existing policy frameworks, including amendments to the Disaster Management Act of 2012, Standing Orders on Disaster, and the National Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction; and (v) enhance linkage among government, partners, and universities in understanding disaster recovery.

The Training of Trainers on Build Back Better, 26-27 October 2015, gathered over 40

professors and lecturers from 16 universities in Bangladesh. The objectives of the two-day training of trainers were: (i) integrate build back better and urban resilience agenda in the academic curricula on disaster risk management; (ii) create a standby pool of volunteers, comprising lecturers and students, who are oriented in the concepts and operations of applying build back better as well as promoting urban resilience; (iii) facilitate the creation of focal points for collecting disaster-related data at participating universities; and (iv) enhance capacities of participants to train other lecturers, students, and practitioners.



Fig. 6-3-2 Training of Trainers

The parliamentary meeting, 28 October 2015, was convened to inform members of parliament about the relevant contribution of “build back better in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction” in achieving resilience and sustainable development in Bangladesh. The meeting was specifically aimed at increasing the parliamentarians’ understanding of “build back better” to address existing gaps in policy and legislation as well as to play a more active role in advocating for pertinent policy changes and respective budget allocation.



Fig. 6-3-2 Parliamentary Meeting

6-3-3. Workshop on Disaster Recovery Planning

- Date: 25-27 May 2015
- Place: Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Organizers: ADRC/IRP, Government of Bangladesh, Build Back Better Foundation

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- Participants: 55 Government Officials and representatives from NGOs and private sector



Fig.6-3-3 Participants of the Workshop

The event was inaugurated by Mr. Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya Bir Bikram MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, who expressed commitment to pursue effective disaster management programs by incorporating 'build back better'. At the closing, Mr. Hasanul Haq Inu MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Information, assured the participants that build back better efforts in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction will be advocated in Bangladesh through the support of the ministry and media organizations. At the setting up of the three day workshop, a panel discussion was organized for the Overview of Recovery Issues in Bangladesh. Mr. Mesbah ul Alam, Honorable Secretary, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was the Chief Guest. The panelists were: Prof. Dr. Mahbuba Nasreen, Director, Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies (IDMVS); Prof. Dr. A.Q.M. Mahbub, Department of Geography and Environment (DGE), University of Dhaka; Major A.K.M. Shakil Newas, Director (Operation & Maintenance), Fire Service and Civil Defence; and Mr. Kabir Faizul, Director, Humanitarian and Resilience Programme, CARE Bangladesh. Mr. Syata Brata Saha, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), chaired the session.

In addition to the group workshops (where participants deliberated on strategies and actions for recovery), each day of the three-day event was highlighted with panel discussion to reflect on key recovery issues in Bangladesh. The topics of discussion were focused on risk-financing, risk-insurance, urban safety, role of media, role of universities, and community-based recovery. The members of the panel were from relevant government agencies, private sector, universities, international development organizations, and NGOs. In particular, representatives from the Ministry Finance, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Ministry of Planning, University

of Dhaka, Bangladesh University, CARE International, Islamic Relief, UNDP, OCHA, UNOPS, Christians Aid, Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC), and Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre (BDPC) served as panelists and shared experience as well as expert opinions. In one of the panel discussions, the IRP co-chair Mr. Stefan Kohler served as panelist.

Outcomes: Recovery issues experienced in Bangladesh were identified by the participants and came up with initial listing of strategies and actions along various sectors, including infrastructure, housing, livelihoods, health and psychosocial, among others to be integrated in the proposed Pre-Disaster Recovery Plan of Bangladesh. On top of this, the event was a rare occasion to bring together a wide array of inter-ministerial delegates as well as disaster risk reduction practitioners and experts who were further oriented on the ‘build back better’ options in the context of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The presence of key ministers and their respective secretaries indicated positive sign of putting in place policies and programs to further mainstream recovery agendas such as establishing a national recovery platform, recommending recovery responsibilities for the Inter-Ministerial Disaster Management Coordinating Council to be articulated in the SOD, and endorsing the Bangladesh Disaster Recovery Action Plan.

Next Steps: On the bases of the workshop outcomes, the following next steps were identified. Firstly, a parliamentary meeting on ‘build back better’ will be organized at the Bangladesh Parliament to discuss disaster risk reduction and recovery issues that require legal support and legislation. Under the auspices of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of MoDMR and along with the Build Back Better Foundation (BBBF) of the ISRSDDRR, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Islamic Relief, and the IRP, the parliamentary meeting is proposed on 16 June 2015.

Secondly, the MoDMR through the support of UNDP Bangladesh will take forward the initial strategies and actions for Pre-Disaster Recovery Plan by organizing a writeshop on the first week of August 2015. The expected outcome of the writeshop is a draft Pre-Disaster Recovery Plan of Bangladesh which will be coordinated by the MoDMR. Relevant ministries, agencies, and stakeholders are expected to participate in this event.

Thirdly, MoDMR with technical assistance from BBBF and UNDP will advocate integration of recovery agendas in existing policy and planning instruments in Bangladesh, including the Delta Plan that is facilitated by the Ministry of Planning.

Fourthly, MoDMR with the support from UNDP and BBBF shall take further steps to advocate in linking up key stakeholders in Bangladesh so that the Inter-Ministerial Disaster Coordinating Council (IMDCC) is convened and recovery agenda is integrated in the plans. Among the specific recommendations is the establishment of a National Recovery Platform and the creation of a

dedicated recovery capacity and cell within MoDMR.

Finally, new programs and projects to promote build back better shall be proposed by BBBF in collaboration with MoDMR, UNDP, and other relevant stakeholders. The initial proposals include: (i) campaign for safe schools, (ii) building critical mass of local recovery experts and volunteers, (iii) partnership between local universities and international knowledge hubs to promote recovery agenda in school curricula as well as facilitate knowledge-sharing and exchange, and (iv) partnership with media in increasing level of awareness among policymakers, practitioners, and communities on recovery.

6-3-4. Training of Trainers on Build-Back-Better

- Date: 25-27 October 2015
- Place: Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Organizers: ADRC/IRP, Government of Bangladesh, Build Back Better Foundation
- Participants: 40 professors and lecturers from 16 universities in Bangladesh



Fig. 6-3-4 Training of Trainers Participants

The Training of Trainers reaffirmed that universities play an important role in mainstreaming build back better as well as contribute in advocating for urban resilience, by integrating these agendas in the course curricula, research, and outreach. Additionally, university lecturers and students can be organized into a standby pool of volunteers who are oriented and trained in both concepts and operations of disaster risk reduction and recovery. This pool of volunteers can be quickly activated in case of disasters.

In organizing a pool of volunteers, a programmatic direction may be initiated to apply the knowledge learned from the training. More specifically, in time of disaster, volunteers can link closely with fire brigade department, disaster management office, and other related government and non-government agencies to assist in emergency and response. To further apply their knowledge, volunteers can also be tapped to provide support in damage, loss, and needs

assessments after the disaster. This is a relevant contribution of the volunteers, particularly in the urban areas, because during normal times a systematic collection and management of disaster data will be facilitated by the volunteers under supervision of specific departments of the university. At each participating university, departments offering disaster management courses will serve as area focal point for collecting disaster-related data which can be analyzed by students and lecturers alike. The database, which will be hosted in these university departments, shall be openly accessible to government agencies as well as other relevant stakeholders. In this manner, sharing of information and experience to improve disaster management can be facilitated.

Outcomes: The outcomes of the training were: (i) cadre of lecturer-trainer oriented on build back better and urban resilience to do cascading workshops in Bangladesh; (ii) a standby of pool of volunteers, which can be tapped in case of disasters especially in urban areas; (iii) a cascading plan for mainstreaming build back better and urban resilience in the academic curricula in other universities and academic departments; (iv) establishment of focal points in the participating universities for collecting disaster-related data; and (v) a training manual on build back better and urban resilience.

6-3-5. Parliamentary Meeting on Build-Back-Better

- Date: 28 October 2015
- Place: Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Organizers: ADRC/IRP, Government of Bangladesh, Build Back Better Foundation
- Participants: 40 Members of Parliament and other stakeholders



Fig.6-3-5 President of Interparliamentary Union

At the meeting, the parliamentarians recognized that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 provides a strong guidance on how to support national and local efforts to draft, amend, and adopt pertinent sectoral laws and regulations as well as allocate budget. The meeting highlighted the importance of giving greater emphasis on “how to” integrate build-back-better in policies/legislation, as pointed out by most speakers. At the inaugural, the

speakers already identified some actions that might be taken.

- Mr. Stefan Kohler, Chair of International Recovery Platform, suggested that the National Recovery Plan of Bangladesh, aside from developing it through inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral approach, has to be institutionalized to secure development continuity by building back better in recovery.
- Saber Hossain Chowdhury MP, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UNISDR Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction, argued that parliamentarians need to adopt a new approach in formulating related policies to achieve sustainable development, i.e. shifting from “managing disasters” to “managing risks”. This approach points the relevance of pre-disaster recovery planning to reduce risk, including investing appropriate amount of resources to build back better.
- Mr. Dharendra Debnath Shambhu MP, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), outlined the need for parliamentarians to apply modern information technology to support disaster risk reduction policies/legislation as well as implementation. One specific action he advocated is to lay the legal foundation as well as the legal enabling environment for the Bangladesh “Delta Plan”, aligning it with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Md. Shah Kamal, Secretary Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, cited the role of parliamentarians to facilitate an enabling legal environment to allocate budget for disaster recovery, including allocation for volunteer groups that can assist in recovery efforts. A modest budget allocation is needed to cover build back better approach in all sectors.

Issues, Challenges, and Opportunities: At the technical session, the speakers provided essential information on some of the key issues on disaster risk management and build back better processes in Bangladesh, which the parliamentarians may be able to help address through policies and legislation. At the onset, it was recognized that the concept of build back better in recovery is not yet clearly articulated in the Standing Orders on Disaster (SOD) and National Plan for Disaster Management. Likewise, the Disaster Management Act of 2012 does not stipulate predictable funding for recovery. On top of these, there are underlying issues in Bangladesh that need to be tackled including level of understanding on disaster vulnerabilities, limited resources base, high population density, cultural risk taking behavior, lack of relevant capacities, and transboundary issues. All these factors need to be considered in order to have a holistic perspective of risk management and build back better.

To effectively implement build back better, the technical aspects and leadership aspects of governing recovery, have to be addressed including mechanisms for coordinating all recovery actors, engaging the private sector, and adopting multi-sectoral approach in planning and implementation. There are opportunities to adopt appropriate mechanisms in the ongoing

recovery programs in Bangladesh, such as the Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP), Early Recovery Facilities (ERF), and Emergency Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project (ECRRP) as well as those humanitarian programs, including Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF), Gratuitous Relief (GR), and Housing Grants for the ultra-poor people.

The current Disaster Management Act of 2012 offers several entry points to integrate disaster recovery. Among these are the disaster fund for districts and Upazila; volunteerism, training and research institute disaster risk management; respective committees at all levels, penal provision, publicity, and awards.

Recommendations: Considering the knowledge and information imparted at meeting, the following recommendations were made to guide the efforts of parliamentarians:

- Develop strong governance for risk-informed and risk resilient sustainable development
- Develop coherent policies, targets, indicators, and monitoring system at all levels, especially at national level, among development, disaster risk reduction and climate change to prevent new disaster and climate risk from being created and thus protect future socio-economic development
- Promote sharing of information and know how, innovation, and research
- Promote international partnership and cooperation at all levels to address challenges in disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development
- Engage private sector and business for risk-resilient private investment
- Encourage stakeholders to complement governments in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, particularly Priority Four

To achieve resilience and sustainable development, there is a need to review the current status of development policies and legislation to determine if they are sufficient to guide Bangladesh in achieving risk resilient development – protect lives, livelihoods, development sustainability, and growth. It is critical to make national and local risk assessment available to assist the development of national risk-informed plans and regulations for risk sensitive development practice.

As part of the way forward, the parliamentarians along with other relevant stakeholders must engage in reviewing and revising laws and legislations, especially those related to building code, food, health, infrastructure, environment, and livelihoods. These efforts must be complemented with awareness raising, capacity building, and monitoring of programs and activities. Among specific recommendations mentioned by the discussants and some members of parliament at the technical session were: (i) tapping the role of engineers in designing build back better

infrastructure; (ii) activating the disaster management committees at Upazila, Union, and Ward level as stated in the Disaster Management Act; (iii) advocating risk management and build back better approaches in other standing committees to enrich resilience at various sectors, including economic sector and private sector; (iv) increasing the level of awareness and practice on disaster risk management and build back better; (v) promoting legislation on build back better that enhances the capacities of communities; (vi) ensuring gender concerns, e.g. women participation, in workshops and learning events on disaster management and build back better; (vii) adopting pre-disaster recovery plans to mitigate risks; (viii) engaging local people, Upazila level, in build back better processes by promoting volunteerism; (ix) engaging women parliamentarians in the programs implemented by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief; and (x) Continuing dialogue on assessment and improvement of policies/legislation as well as programs and projects on disaster management and build back better.