



Proceedings of the Stakeholders' Meeting – 2022

Multi-hazard Preparedness, Anticipatory Action, and Response in Cox's Bazar

06 September 2022

BACKGROUND

Cox's Bazar, one of the coastal districts of Bangladesh, is highly exposed to multi-hazards including high winds and storm surges of cyclonic storms making landfall on the Chattogram coast, monsoon rains, summer storms, and inclement weather caused by depressions in the Bay of Bengal. The camp settlements which are hosting more than 900,000 displaced Rohingya people from Rakhine state since 2017, has become vulnerable to soil erosions, landslides, and flashfloods especially during monsoon season due to hill-cutting, deforestation and interruption to natural setting. Torrential rainfall causes disruption of road access, shelter and asset losses, and additional barriers for refugees to access services.



Photo 1: Stakeholders' Meeting 2022 focused on multi-hazard preparedness, anticipatory action and response happened on 6th September 2022, presided by the Secretary of MoDMR (Photo: IFRC)

Addressing these, humanitarian community jointly with Government actors feel the need of taking harmonized strategy to facilitate effective preparedness for enhancing community readiness to respond to disasters. In line with this, since the beginning of the massive influx in Cox's Bazar, BDRCS, IFRC, UNDP and ISCG together with the Government of Bangladesh have jointly been organizing several periodic pre-disaster consultation meetings among stakeholders with the aim to ensure harmonized and collective efforts on multi-hazard preparedness and response across the camp and host communities capitalizing the formal cyclone season in Bangladesh.

With the growing needs, changes of context and nature of the disasters brought also by the effects of changing climate, the focus of the stakeholders' meeting has shifted more to strengthening multi-hazard risk management incorporating anticipatory actions that would reduce the loss and damage and mitigate potential impacts of multi-hazard risks in camp settlements and host communities of Cox's Bazar.



Looking at the broader Disaster Risk Management (DRM) intervention and coordination perspective, the overall objective of the event is to facilitate an enhanced coordination platform for the key DRM stakeholders working in the camp and host communities of Cox's Bazar in order to discuss and capture the collective efforts of the government and humanitarian actors in strengthening multi-hazard risk management (DRM) portfolio in Cox's Bazar.

The specific objectives are:

- Understanding the specific objective (no. 5) of Joint Response Plan (JRP) that entails broader Disaster Risk Management (DRM) efforts in Cox's Bazar including camp settlements and adjacent host community areas.
- Strengthening Disaster Risk Management (DRM) coordination mechanism in camp settlements through sharing the approved "Guideline for Disaster Management Committee (DMC) in Camp Settlements".
- Updating district wide Disaster Risk Management (DRM) efforts in Cox's Bazar.

The Stakeholders' Meeting was presided by the Honorable Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR). The Refugee, Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), Deputy Commissioner (DC), Head of Refugee Cell (MoDMR), Director (Administration) of Cyclone Preparedness Programme, Head of Operation of PMO-BDRCS and Head of Sub-Delegation- IFRC and the representative of ISCG Principal Coordinator have shared the podium with the MoDMR Secretary in the event. Besides, the diverse group of external stakeholders directly involved in the Disaster Risk Management portfolio including government, humanitarian institutions from UN, I/NGOs, and Red Cross Red Crescent Movement (RCRC) partners were present in the stakeholders' meeting. Please see **Annex II** for the detailed information on the stakeholders involved in the meeting.

OPENING REMARKS



Photo 2: Honorable Secretary Mr. Kamrul Hasan (left) RRRC Mr. Shah Rezwon Hayat (middle) and Ms. Rewa El Oubari (right) highlighted collective effort for effective disaster risk management in Cox's Bazar (Photo: IFRC)

M. A. Halim, Director and Head of Operation-Population Movement Operation (PMO), BDRCS, welcomed the participants of the stakeholders' meeting on behalf of BDRCS, IFRC and ISCG. In his opening speech, he explained the key objectives of the event highlighting the collaboration between the government and humanitarian partners in Cox's Bazar both for camp settlements and host communities on strengthening Disaster Risk Management (DRM) efforts. Mr. Halim also briefed on BDRCS contribution in enhancing the communities' readiness to respond to multi-hazard with the support from IFRC and Movement partners.

Hrushikesh Harichandan, Head of Sub Delegation-IFRC, stressed on the importance of integration and joint planning for effective disaster preparedness and response. He also mentioned RCRC Movement partner's contribution since the beginning of this emergency to complement the wider support among humanitarian community to the affected people in need.

Samuel Falcis, Head of Operations-IOM discussed about the role of stakeholders and their commitment to long-term engagement in the multi-hazard preparedness and response in camps as he believes that preparedness is a shared responsibility, and our role should not be limited to saving lives but also to reduce collateral damages.

Mohammed Hasan Othman, Site Management Coordinator-UNHCR, emphasized on the significant role of the government in leading standardized Disaster Risk Management strategies for the camp settlements through the Office of the Refugee, Relief and Repatriation Commissioner.

Rewa El Oubari, Policy Officer-ISCG, acknowledged that this stakeholders' meeting creates a good platform to enforce partnership between the government and humanitarian community to harmonize disaster risk mitigation efforts aligned with Joint Response Plan (JRP)-2022 under strategic objective 5.

Mamunur Rashid, Deputy Commissioner-Cox's Bazar, started his speech mentioning that this district is highly vulnerable to multi-hazard considering the trend of its impacts because of the changing climate. He emphasized on the function of the district administration as a coordinating body in managing disasters and emergencies across the district where he encouraged a joint planning among all humanitarian actors.

Hasan Sarowar, Head of Refugee Cell-MoDMR, talked about past fire related emergencies that has become more prevalent in camps where further strengthening capacities on fire prevention and management at strategic and community level are required which are aimed reducing impacts in camp settlements.

Shah Rezwan Hayat, Refugee, Relief and Repatriation Commissioner-MoDMR Cox's Bazar, appreciated the collaboration among the humanitarian partners and government agencies for achieving collective accomplishments in the camp settlements where he highlighted the development of multi-hazard coordination mechanism (i.e. Disaster Management Committee -DMC guideline), Health Sector Patient Referral Pathway, Standing Operating Procedure (SOP) for family planning, guideline for volunteers' payment. He also expressed his gratitude to the partners for extending their support to the RRRC office during his tenure.

Md. Kamrul Hasan, Secretary of Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), delivered his valuable speech as the chief guest of the stakeholders' meeting where he acknowledged the collective efforts of RRRC office and the humanitarian partners in developing a guideline that will formalize the DRM coordination mechanism in camp settlements. He also stressed that as there are underlying factors that make people living in camps more exposed to secondary impacts related to health, water and sanitation, humanitarian partners need to integrate relevant sectoral interventions in the overall risk reduction portfolio. Finally, he thanked the government and humanitarian partners present in this stakeholders' meeting which will facilitate collective discussion and strengthening multi-hazard preparedness and response coordination mechanism in Cox's Bazar.

PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

A. Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's Disaster Risk Management Efforts in Cox's Bazar District

M. A. Halim, Director and Head of Operation-PMO, BDRCS presented the overall engagement and contribution of Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement on the Disaster Risk Management portfolio for camp and host communities in Cox's Bazar which includes the following:

- I. Camp level disaster risk management efforts include local capacity enhancement on cyclone Early Warning and Anticipatory Action, volunteers' capacity development on life-saving skills with training (i.e., Disaster Preparedness and First Aid) and provision of equipment, comprehensive risk assessment household level risk mitigation/slope stabilization, development and streamlining Camp Disaster Management Coordination Mechanism. All the actions are happening in coordination with RRRRC office, ISCG, Site Management AoR agencies (i.e., UNHCR, IOM) and key humanitarian partners in camp settlements.
- II. Comprehensive disaster risk management efforts in host communities that covers strengthening disaster risk governance (i.e., formation/re-formation, capacity building of Disaster Management Committee and Shelter Management Committee aligned with SOD 2019) and critical infrastructure mitigation activities in Ukhiya, Teknaf and Ramu sub-districts. Host community interventions also include CPP capacity enhancement support with training and provision of equipment across the sub-districts of Cox's Bazar, disaster readiness efforts in all sub-districts through pre-disaster and post emergency engagements, DRR linked Cash Based Intervention (CBI) as part of COVID-19 Response and livelihoods support, School-based DRR interventions through safety planning, tree plantation, etc. All these efforts are well coordinated with the respective sub-district administration and District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer (DRRO) of district administration.



Photo 3: M.A Halim highlighted RCRC effort in Cox's Bazar towards ensuring community readiness to respond to disasters (left) and CPP director (Admin) highlighted CPP engagement in Cox's Bazar including 33 camps (right) (Photo: IFRC)

- III. Institutional readiness to respond to the disasters that consists of strengthening BDRCS's multi-hazard response capacity aligning with the ISCG Response Plan (Development and updating of Multi Hazard Preparedness and Response Plan - MHRP, contingency stock prepositioning, training on emergency response teams, periodic simulation exercises) and technical support to Emergency Preparedness and Response Working Group (EPRWG) of ISCG on wider sectoral preparedness, anticipatory action, and response, capacity strengthening on inclusive DRM among partners working in camps.

- IV. Emergency response support that entails contribution of BDRCS together with its Movement Partners' response to several emergencies including fire incidents in camp 9, 8W, 8E, 5, and 16 and monsoon flood in camps and Ukhiya through mobilizing volunteers and logistical resources.

B. Overview of Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) in Camp and Host Communities

Ahmadul Haque, Director (Admin) of Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP), talked about wider CPP efforts related to preparing the community to combat against disaster related emergencies where he highlighted the following:

- Geo-physical aspects of Cox's Bazar along with the underlying factors (flimsy shelter, fragility etc.) and the prevailing risks of cyclones within the district. Historical overview was briefed on the expansion of CPP system in camp settlements and Ukhiya sub-district with the support from BDRCS/IFRC towards enhancing and streamlining localized preparedness and response capacity demonstrating early warning and anticipatory action mechanism jointly with RRRC office and ISCG.
- Paradigm shift of CPP from cyclone to multi-hazard aiming to scale up multi-hazard preparedness, relevant anticipatory actions, and response in Cox's Bazar.

C. Cox's Bazar Multi-Hazard Preparedness and Response (2022)

Naim Talukder, Interim Focal Point-Emergency Preparedness and Response Working Group (EPRWG), ISCG and **Lana Barreto**, Site Management and Site Development (SMSD) Coordinator-ISCG, discussed and presented the overall efforts on behalf of the humanitarian actors present in Cox's Bazar focusing on Multi-Hazard Preparedness and Response which highlighted the following:

- a. Inclusion of DRM as a strategic objective under ISCG Joint Response Plan (JRP) 2022 focusing on which strengthening Disaster Risk Management (DRM) efforts and addressing the effects of climate change. Highlighting points are as follows:

- I. Enhance the coordination mechanisms among the stakeholders working on DRM in camps and host areas of Cox's Bazar.

- II. Develop multi-hazard preparedness and response -capacity among the Rohingya Refugees and Bangladeshi host community integrating climate vulnerabilities and associated risks. ISCG Multi-Hazard Response Plan for Rohingya camps that will provide a structure in streamlining emergency preparedness and response coordination linked with DRR, for a cohesive, timely, and efficient emergency preparedness and response among agencies, sectors, and working groups to natural and man-made disasters including the adaptation of anticipatory actions using existing Early Warning Systems (EWS) in Cox's Bazar that can trigger readiness and response actions among agencies and sectors to multi-hazards (cyclone, flood, landslide, etc.).

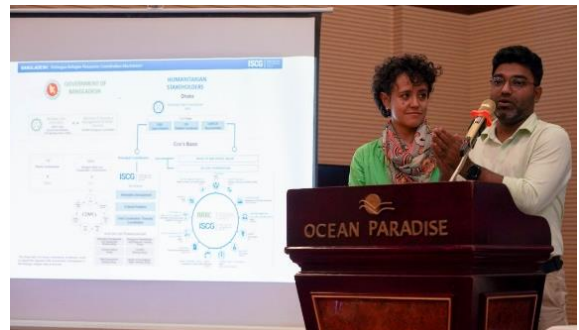


Photo 4: Mr. Naim Talukder and Ms. Lana Barreto presented ISCG effort highlighting JRP objective number 5, operational aspects in camp settlements (Photo: IFRC)

- III. Streamlining Nature based Solution (NbS) for environmental restoration under the technical guidance from Energy and Environment Technical Working Group (EETWG).
- b. Existing Coordination Structure and linkages between Humanitarian Community through the ISCG and Government of Bangladesh.
 - I. The presentation also highlighted the existing operational capacities, sectoral coordination of ISCG and its linkage with the existing coordination structure of the government of Bangladesh in Cox's Bazar, which have been used in previous emergency preparedness and response efforts jointly among the humanitarian actors in camp and host communities.

D. Disaster Risk Management Coordination Mechanism (i.e., DMC) in Camp Settlements

Shamsud Douza, Additional Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (ARRRC) presented the DMC guideline which is recently been approved by the RRRRC for the camp settlements, in order to streamline multi-hazard preparedness and response coordination mechanism across the camp settlements.



Photo 5: Mr. Shamsud Douza, ARRC presented camp DRM coordination mechanism highlighting DMC guideline (Photo: IFRC)



Photo 6: Mr. Mamunur Rashid, DC of Cox's Bazar talked about the nexus between district administration and RRRRC office in effective DRM in Cox's Bazar (Photo: IFRC)

The key highlights of the presentation are:

- The Cox's Bazar camp settlements are complex in terms of geo-physical vulnerabilities, high population density, and prevalence of multi-hazard risk. And with the significant number of actors working in the camps, a coordination mechanism needed to be formalized to better facilitate harmonized and integrated preparedness and response efforts across the 33 camps.
- Recently, a guideline on camp disaster risk governance mechanism (i.e., DMC guideline) has been developed jointly by the government and the humanitarian partners which was later approved by RRRRC Office in June 2022.
- The guideline was developed in line with the Standing Orders on Disaster (SOD) of Bangladesh and will be driven by the government entity of respective camp settlements with the support from the key humanitarian partners which will also act as the nexus between the government and non-government entity.
- According to this guideline, each of the camp DMCs will be headed by respective Camp in Charge, while the Site Management Support Agency will be acting as the Member Secretary. The committee shall consist of sector focal, BDRCS, CPP, Fire Service and Civil Defense (FSCD), Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE), representatives from Law Enforcement Agency and the camp community.

- The guideline defines the roles and responsibilities of the chair, member secretary and members to facilitate preparedness and response coordination across the camps.
- The DMCs will meet once every other month to discuss and decide on defined agenda mentioned in the guideline.

E. District Level Preparedness and Response Readiness

Mamunur Rashid, Deputy Commissioner-Cox's Bazar, discussed the roles and engagement of district administration in the overall DRM efforts in Cox's Bazar and highlighted the following:

- Having shared the significant role of district administration, he reminded all the humanitarian partners to collaborate and plan jointly with the district administration in enhancing the functionality of the local level disaster risk governance structures at all stages of disaster management cycle through working with the Disaster Management and Shelter Management Committees in all levels (district to ward level).
- Expressed his satisfaction to the Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) volunteers for the proactive engagement in preparing the communities through dissemination of cyclone EW information and preparedness actions across the coastal belt including Cox's Bazar district.
- Expressed his commitment towards continued collaboration and coordination with the RRRC office in managing ongoing humanitarian support in Cox's Bazar.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING

This section summarizes the key discussions and associated actions to be taken jointly by the Government and the humanitarian actors including UN and I/NGOs.

- **Implementation of the Guideline for Disaster Management Committee (DMC) in Camp Settlements**- The guideline has already been approved by RRRC office. Humanitarian partners should work jointly with the CiCs/ACiCs in streamlining the overall DRM coordination mechanism in all 33 camps.
- **Consultation with the DC Office in Designing DRM Projects within Cox's Bazar is Imperative**- The interventions related to Disaster Risk Management require prior consultation with the DC office and relevant stakeholders to identify needs and gaps, avoid duplication and ensure alignment with district development plan and need based resource mobilization.
- **Investment for Effective Flood Preparedness and Response Efforts in Teknaf Sub-district of Cox's Bazar** - As Teknaf sub-district is predominantly at risk for flash flood and flooding due to its geo-physical setting and considering associated secondary impacts, government and humanitarian partners need to discuss and plan actions where flash flood is frequent and pure water crisis is predominant.
- **Scale Up Effective Fire Preparedness and Response Interventions in Camp Settlements**- Apart from the ongoing efforts that are being undertaken, further innovation on the fire preparedness and response actions to be scaled up to minimize loss and damage in camps.

- **Strengthening Integration between Health and WaSH Aligning with the Risk Reduction Strategy in Camp Settlements-** Considering the prevailing multi-hazard risk and associated secondary impacts, sectoral interventions on Health and WaSH should be risk informed aligned with the risk reduction strategy.
 - **Investment for Effective Lightning Preparedness in Cox's Bazar-** As lightning has been considered as an emerging hazard in Bangladesh where reported casualties have significantly increased, Government together with the humanitarian actors need to jointly plan on appropriate actions that would mitigate and reduce its impacts to communities.
 - **Systematic Efforts to Manage Solid Waste in Cox's Bazar-** Development partners to explore scopes and opportunities jointly with DC office in managing solid waste in Cox's Bazar.
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ANNEX- I

Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Stakeholders' Meeting – 2022 *Multi-hazard Preparedness, Anticipatory Action, and Response in Cox's Bazar*

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- Updating district wide Disaster Risk Management (DRM) efforts in Cox's Bazar.

PARTICIPANTS OF THE STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING

The stakeholders' meeting will be presided by Honorable Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR). And representatives from Office of the Refugee, Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), District administration, Civil Surgeon Office, and key Government officials from MoDMR (CPP, Head of Refugee Cell) will also attend. Expected participants are the agencies directly involved in the Disaster Risk Management portfolio among government and humanitarian institutions from UN, I/NGOs, and Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

Participants are expected to have better understanding on the overall DRM interventions in Cox's Bazar that will help align and harmonize the overall multi-hazard preparedness, anticipatory action, and response among stakeholders with the guidance from the Government of Bangladesh.

SCHEDULE OF THE EVENT

Time		Agenda	Facilitator
1	06.30-07.00 PM	Registration with Tea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration Desk
2	07.00-07.45 PM	<p>Opening remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Director and Head of Operation (HoO), PMO, BDRCS - Head of Sub-Delegation (HoSD), IFRC - Deputy Chief of Mission, IOM, Cox's Bazar - Head of UNHCR, Cox's Bazar - Principal Coordinator, ISCG - Civil Surgeon, Cox's Bazar - Deputy Commissioner, Cox's Bazar - Refugee, Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), MoDMR - Secretary, MoDMR-GoB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representatives from the Government and respective agencies /institutions
3	07.45-08.45 PM	<p>Presentations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> RCRC Disaster Risk Management Efforts in Cox's Bazar District. Overview of Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) in Camps and Host communities Cox's Bazar Multi-Hazard Preparedness and Response (2022). Disaster Risk Management Coordination Mechanism (i.e., DMC) in Camp Settlements. District Level Preparedness and Response Readiness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head of Operation, PMO-BDRCS Director (Administration)-CPP Representative/s from SMSD & EPR, ISCG Representative/s from RRRC Office Representative/s from Deputy Commissioner's Office, Cox's Bazar
4	08.45-09.15 PM	Open Forum Discussion	N/A
5	09.15-09.20 PM	Vote of Thanks	Country Representative, American RC
6	09.20 PM	Dinner	

ANNEX- II

Departments, Agencies and Organizations Present in the Meeting

Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD)	Swedish Red Cross (SwRC)	BRAC
Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP)	Turkish Red Crescent	CARE
Deputy Commissioner's Office-Cox's Bazar	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	CARITAS
Fire Service and Civil Defense (FSCD)	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	COAST Trust
Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Danish Refugee Council
Refugee, Relief and Repatriation Commissioner's Office and Camp in Charges (CiCs)/Assistant Camp in Charges (ACiCs)	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Dustho Sastho Kendra (DSK)
Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS)	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	EDUCO
American Red Cross	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	HELVETAS
British Red Cross	UN WOMEN	Myanmar Refugee, Relief Operation (MRRO)-BDRCS
Canadian Red Cross	World Food Programme (WFP)	NGO Forum for Public Health
German Red Cross	World Health Organization (WHO)	Save the Children
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	ISCG including Sector Coordinators	SEEP
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC)	Action Aid Bangladesh	Shushilan
Japan Red Cross Society (JRCS)	ACTED	
Swiss Red Cross (SRC)	BBC Media Action	