



Information Update

Community Radio – An Important Tool for Reducing Vulnerability and Building Resilience

Date 29 September, 2011
For immediate release

DHAKA – On 21 September, 2011, Comprehensive Disaster management Programme (CDMP) and Bangladesh NGOs Network Radio and Communication (BNRCC) organized a workshop in Dhaka to develop a strategy for engaging Community Radios in national Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation efforts. Representative of the 14 community radio initiators, government organization, civil society participated at the workshop, highlighting the role of Community Radio and scope for collaboration to raise community awareness on DRR issues and building resilience of the vulnerable community.



Mr. Ahsan Zakir, Director General, Disaster Management Bureau highlighted the importance of early warning messaging to save lives, assets and livelihood. “Media and new technologies have played an important role in reducing disaster related death. It is important to increase the understanding and knowledge of the community on risk reduction to protect development gains. Community Radio can play an important role for disseminating the knowledge and technology to the vulnerable sections of the society”

Dr. Aminul Islam, Assistant Country Director for Climate Change, Environment, Disaster Management of UNDP Bangladesh stressed the need for direct involvement of the community member in the production and dissemination of communication materials. “Community Radios must be an institution by the people,

for the people and of the people. It must build a mechanism to ensure independence and autonomy from political influence and business interest”



“Community radio will not only enhance the knowledge of the community on DRR and CCA, but also will contribute towards accountability and transparency of the government and NGO.” Stated Mohammad Abdul Qayyum, National Project director of CDMP upon thanking the participants for their valuable recommendation.

Representatives from Community Radio Stations and civil society discussed in groups on the DRR and CCA information need at the community level and

provide a framework for future activities. The participants recommended that the government and CDMP should invest in developing generic modules and content to disseminate through all community radios for ensuring consistency in messages. They also advised to work with individual Community Radio for developing localized content and themes. Capacity Building of the Community Radios initiators on DRR

and CCA issues also discussed. Participants prioritized formation of community listeners group for inclusion and direct participation of the community members in production and dissemination of DRR and CCA issues.

Representative from Radio Chilmari, Radio Mukti, Barendra Radio, Radio Mahananda, Radio Padma, Radio Zhinuk, Radio Nalta, Lokobetar, Radio Naf, Radio Sagargiri, Radio Pallykantha and Krishi Radio attended the workshop.

- 30 -

Also available in Bangla

Media Inquiries: Shumon Alam + 880 2 9890937 Ext. 133

