



Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP)

Management Support Unit (MSU)

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MEDIA RELEASE

ATTENTION: NEWS EDITOR / CHIEF REPORTER

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Australian Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs Richard Marles visits Char Kukri-Mukri, Bhola

DHAKA – Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs of Australia Mr. Richard Marles visits the remote Char Kukri-Mukri of Bhola district on 12th November to see the impact of climate and disaster risks over the vulnerable community. The main purpose of the visit was to see various interventions of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Program, phase II of the Disaster Management and Relief Division, to which Australian Government is a co-contributor with other government aid agencies.

Located in the remote zone of Bhola district, the Char Kurkri Mukri is particularly vulnerable to cyclone, tidal surge and salinity. Non-existence of embankment, inadequate cyclone shelters, lack of fresh drinking water, substandard transportation, and poor health and sanitation facilities has made this location more susceptible to disaster risk. The Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme has completed a detailed Community Risk Assessment (CRA) of this area through participatory process and came up with a Risk Reduction Action Plan (RRAP) to be implemented for reducing the risk of disasters and adverse climate.



The high level Australian delegation were accompanied by Ms. Karyn Murray, Adviser to the Parliamentary Secretary, Mr. Paul Nicholas, Assistant Director General, South and North Asia, AusAID, Muhammad Abdul Qayyum, National Project Director, CDMP II and Mr. Robert Juhkam, Deputy Country Director of UNDP Bangladesh among others.

The delegation team received warm welcome by the local government officials including community people and got introduced with the Union Disaster Management Committee, community leaders and NGO representatives of Char Kukri Mukri while having a brief discussion meeting at UP complex.



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Md. Abdul Qayyum, Additional Secretary of the Government of Bangladesh and National Project Director of CDMP briefly presented the vulnerability profile of Char Kukri Mukri by highlighting the impact of disaster and climate induced events in the meeting. He focused on the priority needs of the people of Char Kukri Mukri like enhancing early warning system, building resilient habitat and construction of earthen killa to which CDMP extends its support to the vulnerable community.

Honourable Richard Marles, Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs of Australia in his speech said that it is very important to recognise the work of the local community what they are doing to combat the impact of disasters and climate change and their struggle can be inspiration to others. He informed that for the first time Australia has passed the landmark legislation to impose a price on carbon emissions which will eventually pursue for a global agreement to curb emissions of the developed world. He further reiterates Australian government's strong support to the efforts of the Government of Bangladesh in addressing disaster risks and climate change.

Later they walked up to see the Mangrove species nursery of Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BFRI) premises and joined a community meeting with the local women involving coastal afforestation initiatives and CRA beneficiaries.

The Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (Phase II) is a five year initiative (2010-2014) designed to strengthen national capacity to reduce risk, and improve response to and recovery from the impacts of disasters and climate change in Bangladesh.

For more information on the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP II) visit: www.cdmp.org.bd

For further information and queries:

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