



EVENTS (meeting, seminar, workshop, visit)

First Project Steering Committee Meeting approves Annual Work Plan 2010

The first Steering Committee meeting of CDMP II took place on 21 June 2010 at the Conference Room of the MoFDM. It was an important milestone for the project, and was a success.

The meeting took place under the chairmanship of Mr. Md. Mokhlesur Rahman, Secretary, DMRD, MoFDM.

After threadbare discussion, the following decisions were taken:

1) The meeting approved the proposed changes made to the approved Annual Work Plan for 2010;

2) The inception workshop report will be circulated to all concerned for their comments;

3) AusAid, SIDA, representative from the Programming Division, Planning Commission, Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) and the concerned desk officer of DMRD will be members of the Project Steering Committee. Representative of the civil society organization will be selected after getting advice from the Minister, MoFDM;

4) Budgets for the departments under Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock i.e. Department of livestock Services and Department of Fisheries will be given from the resources allocated for Department of Agriculture Extension of Ministry of Agriculture according to the planned activities;

5) Strengthening of DMB is the core business of Government and will be discussed in MoFDM meeting.

On reflecting on the meeting, the following three issues discussed emerge for consideration and uptake:

Ministry leadership and engagement - if CDMP II is to achieve a large part of its mainstreaming agenda, then increased collective efforts will need to be made so that the work plans of the partners ministries and agency/departments are in line with CDMP's objective and make effective use of the limited funding available. CDMP needs to ensure that the implementing partners (Ministries and Departments) fully understand what CDMP is offering, as it was clear from the meeting that some Ministries may have a differing understanding.

Donor relations – UNDP, as coordinating donor, is responsible for managing the important relationships with CDMP's donors.

Delivery – it was clear from the Project Steering Committee that it is time to start delivering. While the past six months has been very well spent in preparing, focus on implementation, particularly in respect of CRA/LDRRF activities, is needed if we are to achieve the revised AWP target for 2010.



Mr. Md. Mokhlesur Rahman, Secretary, Disaster Management Relief Division, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, Chairs the first Project Steering Committee Meeting of CDMP-II

Government officials receive orientation on the DMIC

On 08 June, government officers undergoing training at the BPATC visited CDMP to receive an orientation on the Disaster Management Information Center DMIC. Mr. Ahsan Zakir, Director General, Disaster Management Bureau chaired the event. Abdul Latif Khan, Disaster Response Management Specialist and Tasdiq Ahmed, ICT Specialist of CDMP made presentations on how the Center provides essential information related services to the actors and institutions, particularly the Disaster Management Committees at district, upazila and union levels, for effective emergency response, and coordination.

A number of participants were keen to learn more about the operation and suggested a few ideas on information management and communication for effective disaster management and emergency response.



Mr. Ahsan Zakir, DG, DMB chairs the event while A Latif Khan, DRM Specialist presents the services of DMIC to support national disaster response and recovery

Meeting with UNICEF on possible areas of cooperation on Learning and Development

Disaster management and risk reduction education is the key toward mobilizing the society toward resilience building. In this respect, CDMP II is addressing some of the Learning and Development needs and priorities of the country's primary, secondary and tertiary education with regard to the issues and concerns relating to disaster and climate change. UNICEF in Bangladesh is a leading international partner in addressing the country's education need for children.

On 07 June, a meeting took place between CDMP and UNICEF on identifying possible areas for cooperation and collaboration. Mr. Rafiqul Islam Shathy, Education Officer and Ms. Fahmida Shabnam, Education Officer represented UNICEF, while Dr. Mahmudul Islam, Nasimul Haque and Shahin Hasnain represented CDMP.



Dr. Mahmudul Islam share on the progress and plans in learning and development on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation with UNICEF team

Dr Islam described the on-going activities of CDMP and National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) in curricula development as well as development of supplementary learning materials, identifying the scope and prospects for possible cooperation with UNICEF in this respect. Discussion covered issues related to expectations, challenges, modalities, etc. toward defining how CDMP and UNICEF can collaborate in curricula development as well as the development of the necessary capacity within the mainstream education sector to integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Fahmida Shabnam emphasized that the government and national education system must recognize education in emergencies as among its priorities. Also, children should have the opportunity to acquire knowledge and develop skills to help in taking risk reduction actions in the school, at home, and within their community. This can play a significant role in promoting community level DRR and CCA initiatives for resilience.

Dr Islam explained that the key implementation strategy applied with NCTB support so far has been in terms of technical input and guidance. The cooperation aims to integrate DRR and CCA into the curricula for primary and secondary levels (Class I –XII). Indicative areas for cooperation have also been identified. Level wise competencies need to be identified, particularly terminal competencies. Issues relating on how the grading would be applied to attain such competency level also remained an area for further consideration. The meeting identified a few means to initiate a systematic management and integration of learning materials for children. This includes a half-day workshop on stocktaking on state of education and learning materials on DRR and CCA, identifying gaps and ways to address them. On broad terms, the following areas were identified for consideration for the cooperation between CDMP and UNICEF:

- 1) Enhancement of capacity for curricula development;
- 2) enhancement of capacity for supplementary material development;
- 3) Enhancement of capacity of the teachers;
- 4) Supplementary learning material development;
- 5) Field testing, piloting and scaling up; etc

DMIC team visit Institutes to assess needs to set up e-learning centers

During June, a team from the Disaster Management Information Center DMIC comprising of Luke Mawbey, Md Mahbubur Rahman, Md. Rezwaneur Rahman and Farhad Ahamed visited the different institutes outside Dhaka to assess their need in setting up e-learning centers on Disaster Management. The team met with the officials of the respective institutes and identified the needs.

The institutes visited and assessed, and persons met were the following: 1) Khulna University, Dr. Dilip Dutta; 2) Patuakhali Science and Technology University, Dr. A K M Abdul Ahad Biswas; 3) RDA, Bogra, Dr. Sk. Fazlul Bari; and 4) BARD, Comilla, Mr. Mizanur Rahman.



Sharing the needs to set up e-learning center at Patuakhali Science and Technology University

CDMP Field Mission on the Feasibility of Disaster Resilient Habitats

In June, CDMP sent a field mission as a part of the feasibility study to develop and pilot a disaster resilient habitat to demonstrate as a model of good practice for uptake and up-scaling by mainstream actors and agencies. The team consisted of A Latif Khan, DRM Specialist, Didarul Hasan, Capacity Building Analyst. The two prospective locations for piloting the innovative initiative were visited. The first one visited lies in the Aila devastated Naliun Village in Padmapukur Union, Shyamnagar Thana, Satkhira District. At the time when the visit took place, the entire Ward (in fact the Union) was under water, as the temporary ring embankment that had been protecting the boundary had collapsed a couple of days back. Only one structure in the entire Union, the Union Parishad stands out above the onrush of water. (Photograph-A).

During the field visit, the team met and consulted with representatives from partner NGO Sushilan, the District Commissioner, District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer, PIO, Thana Nirbahi officer, Union Parishad Chairman, and community members.

It was found that a large number of important embankments which had been damaged earlier (including Aila) were not reconstructed or repaired when the latest event took place two days before the visit took place. The local government and the local communities had jointly lent all their effort to build temporary ring embankment which had kept a large majority of the population safe for a time being. However, as the monsoon season started, the temporary measures could not withstand the thrashing waves during the high tide (Photograph-B). The homes and settlement of the entire population of the Union went under water.

TOWARDS RESILIENCE duly acknowledge M Muinul Haque Tanveer for the photographs on pages 3, 4 and 5.



A. Saline water rushes into the Union following a breach of the temporary ring embankment which had been constructed after Aila had devastated the Union



B. The high tide in the second week of June was too much for the temporary embankment and repairs.

As monsoon season already has started, all food for work (FFW) and cash for work (CFW) opportunities has dwindled almost to a halt. In desperation, many of the men and youth have embraced the ultimate – gathering and fishing in the Sunderbans. The locals informed that at least one person fell prey to the Royal Bengal tigers every week.

The situation in the Union, which was severely devastated by Aila in May 2009, can best be described as a lingering humanitarian crisis for those living in the hellish environs. Drinking water is practically unavailable in this Ward, thus locals are totally dependent on external supplies.

The DPHE is providing 100,000 liters of drinking water on a daily basis, which is planned to continue until 30 June. The current availability as well as future prospects and drinking water security remains bleak. Some Harvesting rainwater will likely take place during monsoon or at the end, but this option may also become limited unless the ponds which were infested with saline water are not dewatered, treated and prepared for storage.

The overall observation on people's condition with regard to humanitarian response can be summed up in one statement. **For the Aila affected households and people living the location visited, not a single item essential to survive or engage in recovery process is secured at the moment.**

The team also visited the second potential location in Dacope Upazila and conducted a focused group discussion FGD with the interested families. Action Aid Bangladesh along with other local NGOs is helping CDMP in designing and piloting this initiative.

Meanwhile, there has been substantial development in partnership building on this initiative. On 23 June, the BRAC University Academic Committee has approved the engagement of BRAC University PPDM in piloting climate/disaster resilient habitat with CDMP/UNDP. The committee also approved the financial resources to contribute in the process. A formal letter is to be forward in this regard.



The children cross this river every day to get to their schools. They always demonstrate the will and commitment to continue on with life and our current responsibility

CDMP Field Mission on Aila Recovery Assessment

A field mission took place during 13 – 17 June to assess interventions for recovery from the devastating impacts of Cyclone Aila. The mission was headed by Mohammad Mohiuddin, CRA Analyst from CDMP. Mr. Didarul Hasan, Capacity Building Analyst was also a member of the mission. Both Padma Pukur and Gabura Unions under Shyamnagar Upazila in Satkhira were visited.

At Padma Pukur, the mission found the Union Parishad members stranded in a room which was engulfed by the onrushing water from the breach in the embankment. The team learnt that the temporary ring embankment which had been constructed with the assistance of the Armed Forces had been washed away. The army personnel who had been repairing the embankment were also huddled in the same room. Everyone, including the CDMP team felt a state of helplessness at this stage. The entire Union is under several feet of water. The community representatives, UP members as well as Army personnel who were present all agreed that any recovery intervention will have to wait until the water recedes and drains out from Padma Pukur.

In Gabura Union, the team met eight UP members together. It was learnt that the drinking water crisis was among those most acute. Two deep tube wells DTW have been placed which is currently the major local source. More DTWs, at least 1000 ft deep are required.

The discussion included the experience and lessons from the Community Risk Assessment CRA and the Risk Reduction Action Planning RRAP process supported by CDMP. Also, the team inquired on implementation and follow up actions taken so far at UP level in relation to implementing the Union RRAP. The UP members agreed that the impact and consequence of the cyclone on the communities and vulnerable people could have been significantly reduced if the priority actions identified in the RRAP were given due attention. In relation to which priority actions can be considered as recovery interventions, the UP members confided that most of the priority actions can be implemented for DRR, once the water drains out from the Union, which may be in mid-September of this year. The respondents also shared concern that afforestation along the embankment came directly into conflict with those who dragged the triangular net along the banks or those who are grazing their livestock along the embankment.

In Dacope Thana under Khulna district, the CDMP team learnt that the local experience of using DTW as a source for drinking water did not materialize in success. Also, when the prospects of desalination plants were raised, the local community members inquired who will bear the costs of operation and maintenance. Finally, when the team inquired about what long term options the local community members considered viable the response was to construct a reserve pond in every para or village and to make these resilient to cyclone and storm surge, sea level rise, wave erosion, salinity ingress, etc;. A sand filter on one side of the pond can ensure removal of pollutants, ensuring the water quality for drinking.

In relation to how the people, especially the poorest and marginalized live their lives and maintain livelihood, a case story of one community member is presented in the following page. Didarul Hasan visited the household and conducted the interview.

Give us work to support our struggle for survival - Md Jalil, Ward No. 5, Padma Pukur Union

The challenges of the people living in the southeast coast of Bangladesh are many. Among them, the very existence of their homestead or settlement is under threat as the support systems necessary for human habitats collapse or proves to be “unsafe.”

This is ground zero, in Ward No. 5 of Padmapukur Union under Shyamnagar Thana, Satkhira District. The major livelihood options practiced by the settlers in the Union are catching fish, farming, small trade, *Mohajoni* (faria) and daily wage labor. Cyclone Aila has reduced the physical and natural assets and the natural resource base from which the human inhabitants receive a stream of benefits and services to support their lives and livelihood.

Md. Jalil, son of Md. Akabbar is in his early sixties. He is married and has one daughter who is eligible for marriage. His two sons are 18 and 16 years old respectively. The older son studies in the madrasah while the younger one accompanies him in his profession, which is catching fish.



Like many in his village, Md. Jalil is resolute in his struggle to survive through a life continuously challenged and at risk

Md. Jalil shared a few moments with Md. Didarul Hasan, Capacity Building Analyst from CDMP who is a member of the team conducting the baseline assessment on the status of human settlement in the Union to plan and develop a participatory approach for disaster resilient self-help habitat piloting and demonstration. He described some of the issues and concerns which are of significance from a risk reduction perspective. The important consideration is to profile the behavior, attitude and practices of the inhabitants of the targeted community/households in relation to the security of their lives, settlement and livelihood in the redefined risk environment.

The fishing season generally peaks during the month of Bhadro (mid August – mid September) while very little is caught during the months from Falgun through Boishakh (Mid February – mid April). Md. Jalil goes on fishing trips into the channels and rivers inside the Sunderbans. The average trip lasts on week. He sits through the following week at home and then goes on another weekly trip. During the time he is on the fishing trip, he is totally disconnected from the outside world. Md. Jalil has no cell phone, or radio on which he can receive any early warning. Also, his boat has neither life-saving jackets nor any rafts/lifebuoys He also has no idea about the welfare of the remaining family members who he leaves behind every week. Nor does his wife and children know if he and the youngest son are all right and alive where they are away fishing. Md. Jalil and his crew sleep in the boat during the night while during day period they fish.

On an average, each fishing trip incurs expenses of about Tk. 2,000. He hires an additional crew for fishing who receive Tk. 800/trip. Tk. 700 is spent on oil and other miscellaneous essentials, Tk. 250 is paid to the government forest staff for each trip and Tk. 200 is paid to toll collectors who represent local underground political parties. He receives a token from the toll collectors which is believed to serve useful should he befall any visits from the cadres.

On an average trip, he catches 3-4 kg fish daily. The catch includes shrimp, whitefish (*parse*) and catfish (*tengra*). He sells shrimp at Tk. 60/kg, parse and tengra at Tk. 30/kg to buyers near the place where he lands his boat on his return at the end of each weekly trip. He informed that if he could access even the bazaar at the Union, he could sell at twice the rates he receives now.

Md. Jalil also briefly described his family expenses. Most of his earning is spent on essential food items, followed by expenses for transportation. Medical expenses rank third. Fishing is the sole earning option for his family. He claimed that himself and the family members do not receive early warning when an extreme event like cyclone or storm surge take place, not for the periods during which the sea remains turbulent and unworthy for him to fish or make the trip. His entire family hoped they would receive some awareness on

what to do during such periods of crises. The family was also very keen to explore and identify options for alternative livelihood to supplement the income of the family as well as to increase their life security. Md. Jalil summed this up by saying “support us with work, so we can buy our food, water, health care services and make our homes resilient to disasters”.

Meeting with the Focal Points to set project implementation into motion

On 16 June, the Focal Persons for the sub-implementing ministries and agencies of the CDMP met for the first time. The meeting was Chaired by Mr. Mushfiqur Rahman, Additional Secretary, Disaster Management and Relief Division, MoFDM and NPD, CDMP-II. He welcomed the focal points from the sub-implementing partner ministries and agency/departments highlighting their role and leadership in successfully implementing the project toward its outcomes.

The NPD informed that this meeting was to focus on the Revised Annual Work Plan 2010 with the view to review and approve prior to the Project Steering Committee meeting. The focal points raised issues for clarification on their work plans and budgets. Among the significant issues discussed were the following:

- 1) Separate funds for Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture;
- 2) Department of Environment adjusted their 2010 budget;
- 3) Fund will be disbursed after steering Committee Meeting and the endorsement of Letter of Agreement (LoA).

The NPD also informed he will finalize the financial guidelines to ensure smooth implementation of the project after the first Steering Committee Meeting.



Mr. Mushfiqur Rahman, Additional Secretary, DMRD, MoFDM and the National Project Director (NPD) of CDMP Chairs the First Focal Point Meeting

First Meeting with Development Partners on project implementation

On 17 June, the Development Partners of CDMP met officially with CDMP Professionals for the first time since the second phase commenced. The meeting was chaired by Md. Mushfiqur Rahman Additional Secretary, DMRD, MoFDM, and National Project Director of CDMP, who welcomed the participants. The agenda discussed included i) progress till date; ii) Inception Report; iii) Agenda for the first Steering committee Meeting of 21 June; and iv) Discussion on Annual Work Plan (AWP) 2010.

A presentation was given by Otin Dewan LDRRF Specialist on CDMP II Progress till date. The draft Inception Report was presented by Nasimul Haque, Communication Specialist. Abu M Kamal Uddin, Climate Change Adaptation Specialist presented the salient features of CDMP II.

The issues raised by the development partners included, among others, the following: i) development partners must receive all documents and reports at least one week prior to a meeting or for action; ii) CDMP II should have a comprehensive and elaborated Communication and Visibility Plan to ensure that the contribution of all parties are duly acknowledged throughout the project period; iii) How DMIC can service Rapid Disaster Damage Assessment; iv) ensure the piloting of disaster resilient habitat are community owned and user-driven



Representatives from the UNDP, AusAID, EU, UKaid participate in the Development Partners Meeting. The NPD and CDMP professionals described the progress till date and issues relating to implementation.

CDMP attends the First Meeting of National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

The 1st NPDRR meeting took place on 23 June 2010. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Md. Mokhlesur Rahman, Secretary, DMRD, MoFDM. He is also Chair of the National Platform for DRR. About 40 participants participated in the meeting including, Additional Secretary, DMRD, MoFDM Mr. Mushfiqur Rahman, and National Project Director, CDMP, Prof. Abdullah Abu Sayeed from Bishwa Ssahitya Kendra, Director General, DMB and Director, BDPC and from various government, NGOs official and representative from development partners. Mr. Mohammad Mohiuddin and Dr. Mahmudul Islam from CDMP delivered presentations on the DRR and CCA mainstreaming process and the concern about the national platform for DRR. It was decided that i) the NPDRR will meet in every three months; ii) CDMP will provide technical support to the NPDRR.

CDMP attends the First Meeting on Knowledge Management for Digital Office/e-Governance

On 17 June, the First Meeting on Knowledge Management for Digital Office/e-Governance took place in the ICC Building, Prime Minister's Office. The Meeting agenda included Brief updates on how and what are tools are being used in A2I, UNDP, Ministry of SICT, and Power division. A brief presentation was given by Tasdiq Ahmed on how Google products are being used at CDMP for knowledge management/sharing purposes. He will also discuss feasibility, cost effectiveness of using tools, such as Google docs, in government agencies; Selection of appropriate technology, planning and/or listing out action items for (replicable) implementation of knowledge management process and tools in the offices of DG Admin IV at PMO and Cabinet.

Project Concern International PCI visits CDMP to explore areas of mutual cooperation

On 24 June, Jim Di Francesca and Chris Bessenecker of Project Concern International (PCI), USA visited CDMP to share and discuss opportunities with the professionals. They showed interest in working closely with CDMP on their future projects on disaster risk reduction in Bangladesh with USAID support.

The meeting was chaired by Everett Ressler, Project Manager of CDMP stated that the partnership proposal from PCI is a welcome opportunity. Since CDMP has taken on the immense challenge of risk reduction interventions both in rural and urban area, targeting 40 Districts and 2,000 Unions, it will need partners for effective implementation.



Everett Ressler, Project Manager, CDMP chairs the meeting with Project Concern International while the professionals describe the major thrusts of the project

STAFF NEWS

- During June, Mr. Everett Ressler joined as Project Manager. Mr. Didarul Hasan joined as the Capacity Building Analyst.
- CDMP professionals and staff bids farewell to Mr. Mushfiqur Rahman, Additional Secretary, DMDR, MoFDM and National Project Director of CDMP who went into retirement from 30 June.

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