

Accountability Towards Affected Community and Frontline Workers Must Comes Front
**Partnership with Equality and Dignity for Sustainable Capacity in
Disaster Risk Reduction and Response**



Bangladeshi NGOs (Local and National) on the Eve of WHS
**Report on the findings, assessments and recommendations
Towards South and Central Asia Regional Consultation**

Organizations: ASA, BRAC, COAST Trust, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Dak Diye Jai, DSK, Dwip Unnayan Sangstha, FDA, ISDI, NDP, NIRAPAD, ORA, Palli Mangal Karmasuchi, Pidim, Pirojpur Gono Unnayan Samity, Prodipan, RDRS, RIC, Sangram, Sajida Foundation, Sankalpo Trust, SDI, SSS, SKS, TMSS, UDDIPAN, Wave Foundation



/Bangladesh National NGOs for WHS

www.coastbd.org

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List of Important Acronyms

<i>COAST</i>	: <i>Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust</i>	<i>RDRS</i>	: <i>Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service</i>
<i>DCA</i>	: <i>Dan Church Aid</i>	<i>RIC</i>	: <i>Resource Integration Centre</i>
<i>DSK</i>	: <i>Dushtha Shasthya Kendra</i>	<i>SDI</i>	: <i>Society for Development Initiatives</i>
<i>FDA</i>	: <i>Family Development Association</i>	<i>SKS</i>	: <i>Samaj Kalyan Sangstha</i>
<i>INGO</i>	: <i>International NGOs</i>	<i>SSS</i>	: <i>Society for Social Service</i>
<i>NDP</i>	: <i>National Development Programme</i>	<i>TMSS</i>	: <i>Thengamara Mobila Sabuj Sangha</i>
<i>NGO</i>	: <i>Non Governmental Organizations</i>	<i>UDDIPAN</i>	: <i>United Development Initiatives for Programmed Actions</i>
<i>ORA</i>	: <i>Organization for Rural Advancement</i>		

A. Executive Summary

The main objective of this report is to present the findings of the national level consultation of the Bangladeshi local and national NGOs on the eve of World Humanitarian Summit (WHS).

On the eve of the World Humanitarian Summit a working group of 28 Bangladeshi local and national NGOs conducted a countrywide consultation with various stakeholders. Main theme of the consultation was Natural Disaster of Bangladesh. 21 NGOs organized 50 Focus Group Consultations (FGC) and 997 individual interviews in 16 district of Bangladesh on 9 sub themes under disaster. These nine themes were flood, flash flood, cyclone, salinity, deforestation, drought, river erosion, monsoon tidal surge and cold wave. In total 3564 persons participated in the process, of them 55.81% were female. Key participants of the consultation process were affected communities, frontline staff/workers, CEO of NGOs/Institutions, local government representatives, old age people, physically challenged people, children, fisher-folks, local media representatives.

It is to be noted that, in September 2013, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon called for the WHS. Before the Summit eight regional consultations with national governments, humanitarian organizations, community responders / affected populations, private sector and other partners are being held. The last of these regional consultations, covering 16 countries in South and Central Asia (SCA), will take place during July 29-31, 2015 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The process is being managed by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Bangladesh NGOs working group on WHS are organizing the consultation process mainly in two different stages. Stage one is up to the South and Central Asian consultation (July 2015). In this stage the following activities those have been implemented are- two Preparatory Meetings, Formation of alliance/Working group, Orientation on WHS questionnaire, Distribution of organizations for FGC and interview country wide, Field Work: Focus Group Consultation (FGC) and Interview, Workshop to compile the findings, National seminar to present the key findings. Along with these activities stage two is also going on which will be continued up to the global summit (May 2016). Under stage two activities are: Group e-mail: bdngos_whs@coastbd.org, Facebook page: //Bangladesh National NGOs for WHS, Website based campaign: www.coastbd.org.

From the consultation process the NGOs working group mainly tried to get ideas on the effectiveness of humanitarian support, vulnerabilities of people due to natural disaster, innovation and recommendation for effective humanitarian support. All the findings were compiled, fine tuned and validated in a workshop with the participation of representatives from the members NGOs. Final findings with recommendations were placed in a national level seminar in presence of policy makers, top most administrative policy implementers, representatives from national and international NGOs, experts, activists, academics etc.

The national level seminar was presided over by Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, Member of the 2007 Nobel Peace prize Winning UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Team.

Md. Shah Alam, Secretary for the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief was the chief guest. Secretary is the highest administrative position in implementing government decisions.

Summary of the findings those have been identified from the consultation process can be presented in three categories:

Common issues of concern for Local Level Arrangement

- ✓ Building stand by capacities of local NGOs in local level for immediate response rather than waiting for assistance from somewhere else.
- ✓ Institutional and capacity building support to local NGOs while there are partnerships by INGOs and donors agencies in respect of project implementation.
- ✓ Devising downward accountability i.e. accountability toward affected communities and families along with appropriate complain response mechanism.
- ✓ Priority to work with local government and government agencies to develop sustainable capacity in respect of disaster risk reduction and responses.
- ✓ Local government and government agencies should be assisted to develop their capacities in respect of having coordination for all government and non government agencies.

Common issues of concern for National Level

- ✓ Need of priority based investment to construct embankment in coastal and flood prone area.
- ✓ Excavation and re-excavation of ponds / water reservoirs for surface water preservation.
- ✓ Increasing investment for disaster risk reduction and building resilience community.
- ✓ Government assistance and more easy regulation for building community radio.
- ✓ Government assistance and easy regulation to build Amateur Radio disaster response network building.
- ✓ Priority to invest and strengthening telecom network with national ownership.
- ✓ INGOs should not compete with NNGOs in respect of fund hunting in national level.
- ✓ Multi stakeholders dialogue for sharing experiences and strategy future in respect of future disaster risk reduction and humanitarian activism.
- ✓ Bangladesh should prepare and rehabilitation and relocation policies for internally displaced people related disaster and climate impacts.

Common issues of concern for International Level

- ✓ INGOs should have more development education in their country of origin so that there should not be any antipathy to development aid and xenophobia, there should be a sense of global citizenship and global sharing.
- ✓ UN should consider new protocol of disaster / climate displaced as we feel that Bangladesh alone hardly be able to meet this displacement situation.
- ✓ Reorientation of accountability which should be more focus to front line and affected community level.



B. The Report

1. Background of WHS

The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) is an initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General. This is the first global summit on humanitarian action of this size and scope and it will be held in Istanbul in May 2016.

In September 2013, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon called for the WHS. Before the Summit eight regional consultations with national governments, humanitarian organizations, community responders / affected populations, private sector and other partners are being held. The last of these regional consultations, covering 16 countries in South and Central Asia (SCA), will take place during July 29-31, 2015 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The process is being managed by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Goal of the WHS is to bring the global community together to commit to new ways of working together to save lives and reduce hardship around the globe and The Summit is expected to propose a new agenda for humanitarian action.¹

2. Objective of Bangladesh Consultation

Major aim of the WHS is to 'propose solutions to our most pressing challenges and set an agenda to keep humanitarian action fit for the future'.² Keeping this aim as the spirit, Bangladeshi NGOs have decided to take the national consultation as an opportunity to assess the effectiveness of humanitarian activities in Bangladesh and the vulnerabilities of the people and to set recommendations to make the humanitarian activities or efforts effective. Objectives of the consultation process can be mentioned as follows:

- ✓ To reach local and international audiences, not only to plea for policy and practice level changes, but also to strengthen understanding there by cooperation and coordination in respect of sustainable capacity for disaster risk reduction and response.
- ✓ To discuss how national and local NGOs and different stakeholders can cooperate each other in establishing a process of a sustainable capacity on disaster risk reduction and response.
- ✓ To identify stakeholders' expectations from national and local NGOs in implementing sustainable capacity on disaster risk reduction and response.
- ✓ Create open spaces of discussion among all parties and to establish a relationship to place a sustainable capacity in this regard.
- ✓ To raise the issues of the rights of affected people in getting humanitarian aid.

¹ <https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/>

² https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/whs_about

3. Methodologies of the Consultation Process

Bangladesh NGOs working group on WHS are organizing the consultation process mainly in two different stages. Stage one is up to the South and Central Asian consultation (July 2015). In this stage the following activities have been implemented so far: Two Preparatory Meetings, Formation of Working group, Orientation on WHS questionnaire, Distribution of organizations for FGC and interview country wide, Field Work: Focus Group Consultation (FGC) and Interview, Workshop to compile the findings, Seminar to present the key findings. Along with these activities stage two is also going on which will be continued up to the global summit (May 2016). Under stage two activities that will be active are: Group e-mail: bdngos_whs@coastbd.org, Facebook page: //Bangladesh National NGOs for WHS, Website based campaign: www.coastbd.org.

3.1 The Preparatory Meetings.

Two preparatory meetings were organized to take the necessary understanding and preparation of the country wide consultation. The first preparatory meeting for National Consultation in view of WHS was held on May 4, 2015. The second meeting was organized on May 14. From those meetings the methodologies were designed and a working group named Bangladeshi NGOs in WHS was formed. Number of Focus Group Consultation, Individual interview and the working areas were determined from that meeting. Working areas were also distributed among the NGOs. Nine themes under the Natural Disaster were also selected from the meetings. Issue wise working areas distribution was as follows:

SI	Name of NGOs	Website	Area	Disaster Issues
1	DUS	www.dusbangladesh.org	Noakhali (Hatiya)	Cyclone
2	BORU Bangladesh	www.burobd.org	Tangail	Flood
3	ORA		Kishoreganj	Flood
4	Sajida Foundation	www.sajidafoundation.org	Jamalpur	River Erosion
5	DSK	www.dskbangladesh.org	Khulna	Salinity
6	FDA		Bhola (Char Kukri Mukri)	Cyclone
7	RIC	www.ric-bd.org	Pirojpur	Cyclone
8	Prodipan	prodipan-bd.org	Khulna	Salinity
9	SDI	www.sdi.org.bd	Chittagong (Swandip)	Deforestation
10	Pidim Foundation	www.pidimfoundation.org	Sherpur	Flash Flood
11	SKS Foundation	www.sks-bd.org	Gaibandha	River erosion
12	Wave Foundation	www.wavefoundation.org	Patuakhali	Salinity
13	Palli Mangal Karmasuchi (PMK)		Munsiganj	Flood
14	Dhaka Ahsania Mission	www.ahsaniamission.org.bd	Jamalpur	Flood
15	RDRS	www.rdrsbangla.net	Kurigram	Drought
16	BRAC	www.brac.net	Natore	Drought
18	SSS	www.sss-bangladesh.org	Tangail	Flood
19	COAST	www.coastbd.org	Bhola	Cyclone
20	COAST		Cox's Bazar	Monsoon Tidal Surge
21	TMSS		Bogra	Cold Wave
22	Pradipan	prodipan-bd.org	Khulna	Salinity

3.2 Orientation on WHS questionnaire

The main two activities of the national consultation were the FGCs and individual interview. For both FGCs and interviews specific questionnaires were used. During the two meeting orientations were provided on the questionnaire to the representatives of NGOs involved with the process.

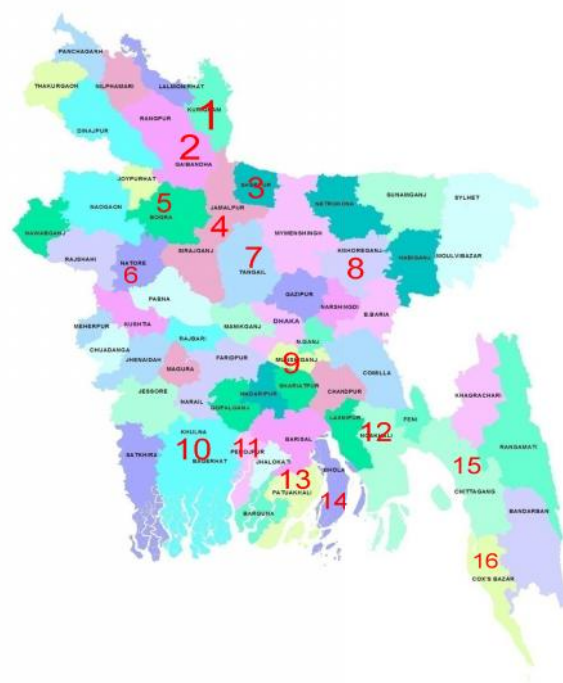
3.3 Focus Group Consultation and Individual Interview

According to the decision of the working group, 21 NGOs organized 50 Focus Group Consultations (FGC) and 1000 individual interviews in 16 district of Bangladesh with 9 themes under disaster. These nine themes were flood, flash flood, cyclone, salinity, deforestation, drought, river erosion, monsoon tidal surge and cold wave. In total 3564 persons took participation in the process, of them 55.81% were female. Key participants of the consultation process were affected communities, frontline staff/workers, CEO of NGOs/Institutions, local government representatives, old age people, physically challenged people, children, fisher-folks, local media representatives.

3.3.1 Covered Areas and Issues

FGCs and interviews covered all important regions of Bangladesh. Covered areas and issues are visualized in the following table and map of Bangladesh:

Area	Disaster Issues
1. Kurigram	Drought
2. Gaibandha	River erosion
3. Sherpur	Flash Flood
4. Jamalpur	River Erosion, Flood
5. Bogra	Cold Wave
6. Natore	Drought
7. Tangail	Flood
8. Kishoreganj	Flood
9. Munsiganj	Flood
10. Khulna	Salinity
11. Pirojpur	Cyclone
12. Noakhali	Cyclone
13. Patuakhali	Salinity
14. Bhola	Cyclone
15. Chittagong	Deforestation
16 Cox's Bazar	Monsoon Tidal Surge

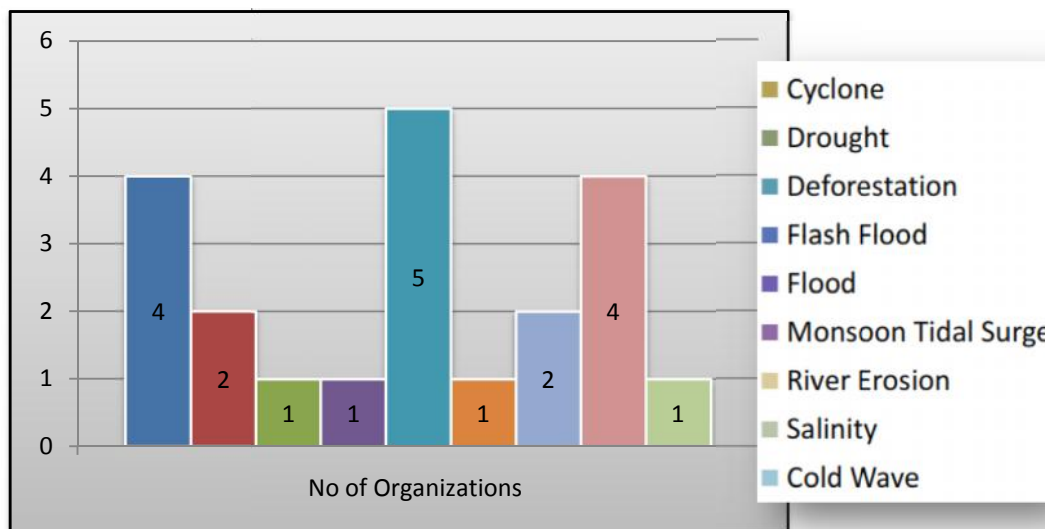


FGCs and interviews were conducted in these districts with the selected issues mentioned against each district.

3.3.2 Number of Issues covered by NGOs

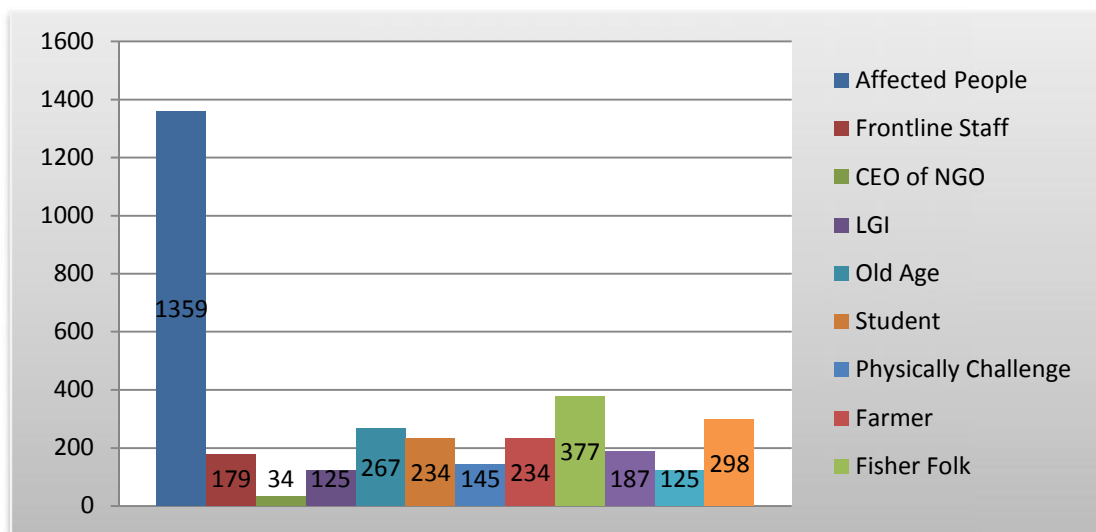
Consultation on the issue of flood was organized by most NGOs, 5 among 21 NGOs took the issue as their consultation. Cyclone and salinity were in the second position. It is quite rational

considering the scenario of disaster of Bangladesh. Flood and cyclone are the main and frequent two disasters in Bangladesh which cause maximum loss of lives and livelihoods. On the other hand river erosion is also another slow on set but huge cause of loss of assets. NGO wise number of issues distribution is shown in the following chart:

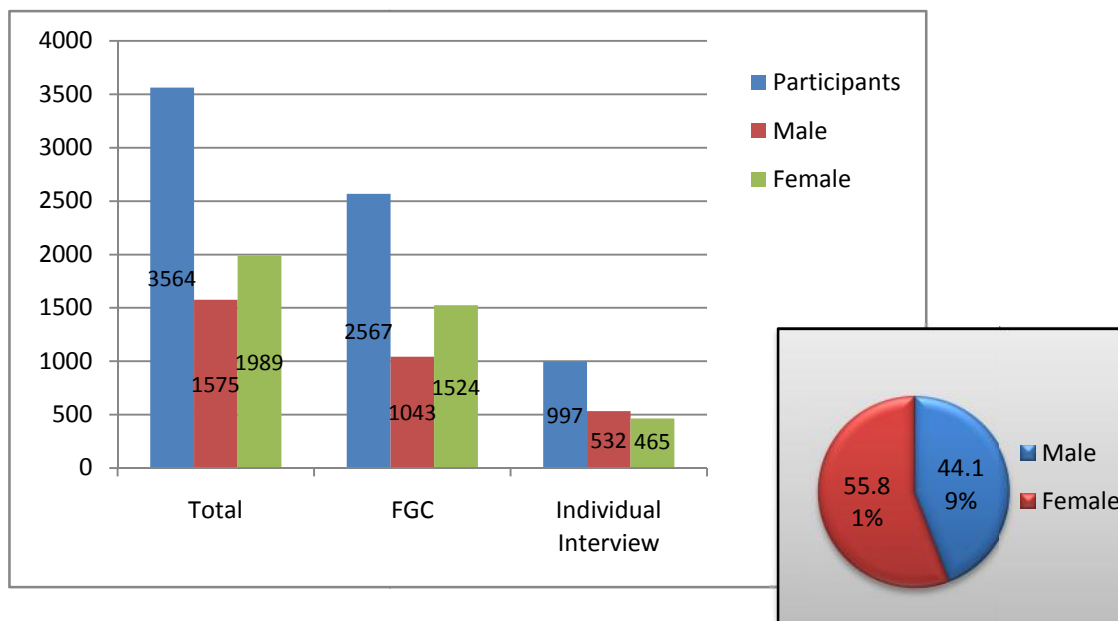


3.3.3 Number and Types of Participants

The consultation process has tried to involve all related stakeholders with the process. For the FGCs and interviews participants were selected maintaining specific criteria. Major focus on the people affected various disaster and people vulnerable to disaster. Community members who have experiences of getting humanitarian support and who need humanitarian support have also got special attention. NGO staff who are involved with various humanitarian activities have also been included. Major participants of the consultation were affected communities, CEO of NGOs/Institutions, representatives from Local Government Institution (LGI), old age people, physically challenged people, children, fisher-folks and local media representatives. Types of the participants are shown in the following chart:



In total 3565 people participated in the consultation process. Of them 1575 were male and 1989 were female participants. 2567 people took participation in the Focus Group Consultation and 997 people were interviewed. 55.81% participants were female and 44.19% participants were male. Number of participants in total, in FGC and interviews is shown in the following chart:



3.4 Workshop to compile and validate the field findings

A workshop was held on 24th May with participation of the CEO/representatives of the members of the NGO working group on WHS. In the workshop Members of alliances of local and national NGOs on World Humanitarian Summit placed their findings of field level consultations with stakeholders on different selected issues. All the findings were compiled and validate followed by detailed discussions on the findings.



3.5 Seminar to Share the Field Findings to the National Level Stakeholders



(From the left) Mr. Jeremy Wellard (UN OCHA), Rezaul Karim Cowdhury (COAST Trust), Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad (Chairman, PKSF), Emranul Haque Chowdhury (Uddipan) and Rafiqul Alam (DUS)

To share the field findings of the consultation to the national level stakeholders a seminar was organized. The seminar titled 'Bangladeshi NGOs on World Humanitarian Summit: Partnership



*Md. Shah Kamal,
Honorable Secretary, Ministry
of Disaster Management and
Relief*

Based on Equality and Dignity for Sustainability Capacity for Disaster Risk Reduction and Response' was moderated by Rezaul Karim Cowdhury of COAST Trust. It was presided by Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, Chairman, Palli Karma Shahayak Foundation (PKSF) and Md. Shah Kamal, Honorable Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief was the chief guest of the occasion. Mr. Jeremy Wellard, Representative from the regional office of United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) in Bangkok was present as the special guest. A presentation was made on behalf of the working group members on the field level findings. Guest and participants took participation on the findings and situation of humanitarian activities in Bangladesh.

It is to be noted that, Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad was a Member of the 2007 Nobel Peace prize Winning UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Team. He is currently Chairman of Governing Council and Rector (honorary) of Dhaka School of Economics (DScE),

which is a constituent institution of the University of Dhaka and is devoted to post-graduate studies in economics and related subjects;

and Chairman, Governing Body of Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF). The PKSF, established by the Government of Bangladesh, is essentially a funding organization mandated to contribute towards poverty eradication through employment generation.³ PKSF has till date lent about US\$ 1534.16 million (at present value) to its 268 POs covering more than 8.23 million borrowers of which more than 91% are women.⁴ Md. Shah Alam, Secretary for the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief was the chief guest. Secretary is the highest administrative position in implementing government decisions.



Speakers at the Seminar (From the top and Clockwise): Anwarul Azim (SDI), Kazi Sabidur Rahman (UN OCHA), Fakir Mazhar (ORA), Md. Zabangir Alam (DCA), Arvin Barun Banarjee (Pidim Foundation), Shamsul Haque (SDI)

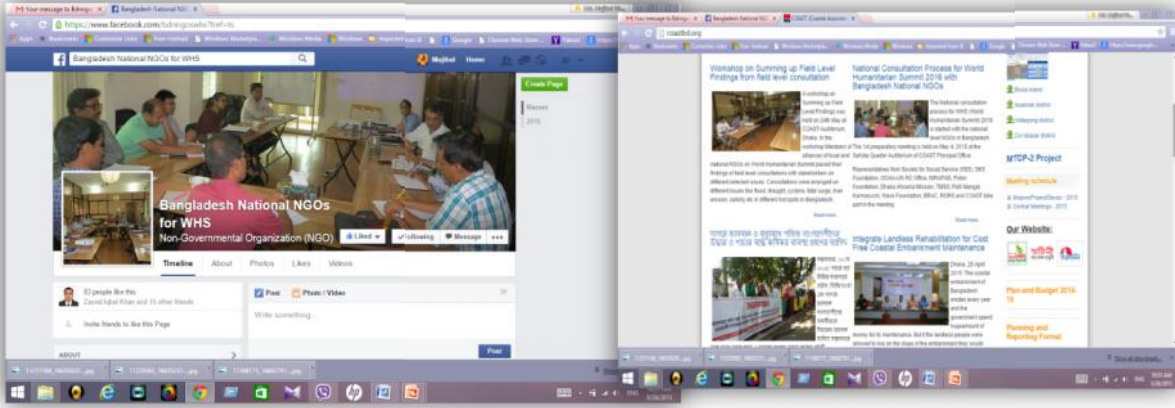
3.6 Online Campaign

As a part of the consultation process the working group has decided to continue information sharing and online campaign. This campaign will be continued up to the global summit in May

³ <http://www.qkabmad.info>

⁴ http://www.pksf-bd.org/?page_id=85

2016. For the campaign a group e-mail (bdnngos_whs@coastbd.org) and a Facebook page (Bangladesh National NGOs for WHS) have been created. All information on events and various resources are being regularly uploaded in the www.coastbd.org.



4. Findings of the Consultation

As mentioned earlier, NGOs working group in Bangladesh on WHS conducted field level consultations and individual interviews in 16 districts of Bangladesh on various issues of Natural Disaster. In total 3564 people from various sections took part in the process. The consultation process mainly focused on the effectiveness, vulnerabilities and innovations with recommendations on various issues of natural disaster like flood, flash flood, salinity, cyclone, river erosion, drought, deforestation etc.

Before discussing findings in details, a discussion on the context of disaster of Bangladesh can be helpful to understand the findings easily. In next some paragraphs some information will be putted on the risk, vulnerabilities of Bangladesh.

4.1 Context of Bangladesh

Bangladesh is one of the most natural disaster prone countries in the world, occupying the 5th position among 173 countries. Bangladesh scores 63.78 percent in vulnerability, 86.84 and 61.03 percent in lack of coping and adaptive capacities respectively⁵. With a huge number of population of 160 million and with the world's most densely populated areas Bangladesh is also considered as one of most vulnerable countries due the impact of climate change. 31.50% of total populations are living at the upper poverty line and 17.60% people are extremely poor.⁶ It is now vastly recognized worldwide that, the poor in Bangladesh will face more food insecurity, water stress and health problems because of the rapidly changing climate that also undermines significantly the efforts to reduce poverty⁷.

⁵ United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNUEHS), The Nature Conservancy, Alliance Development Works, World Risk Report-2012: Environmental Degradation and Disaster.

⁶ Bangladesh Government (2015): Bangladesh Economic Review

⁷ UNDP Human Development Report (2007), Background Paper on Risks, Vulnerability and Adaptation in Bangladesh

Bangladesh government has emphasized in facing the climate change challenges and to reduce the risk of disaster. As the consequences of continuous efforts in this sector Bangladesh has been able to reduce significantly the numbers of lives lost as a result of cyclones. Bangladesh has also been able to successful in disaster management in some other dimensions.

In spite of these achievements, Bangladesh remains a priority country for the OCHA Global Focus Model. It is ranked fourth in the Asia-Pacific region in terms of risk factors indicating that international humanitarian response may be necessary in medium- or large-scale emergencies.⁸ Bangladesh is exposed to a wide range of disaster hazards, and is consistently ranked amongst the most vulnerable countries in the world. Bangladesh ranks 1st in the world in terms of vulnerability and 6th globally in terms human exposure to floods and cyclone. Similarly, the country is highly exposed to the risk of tsunami (3rd out of 76 countries) and earthquakes (17th out of 153 countries), landslides (35th out of 162) and drought (63rd out of 162 countries). Bangladesh faces extreme risks from climate change and ranks 2nd on the Climate Change Vulnerability Index.⁹

Bangladesh has been trying to ensure continuous efforts to reduce risks of disasters and to reduce the loss of lives and assets due to disaster. Investment for this sector is also significant. Between 1991 and 2010 Bangladesh invested \$321 million for disaster risk reduction.¹⁰

Numbers of lives lost as a result of cyclones has been so far reduced significantly. Enhanced humanitarian activities have also been experienced. In spite of these achievements, Bangladesh remains a priority country for the OCHA Global Focus Model. It is ranked fourth in the Asia-Pacific region in terms of risk factors indicating that international humanitarian response may be necessary in medium- or large-scale emergencies.¹¹

	HAZARD & EXPOSURE	VULNERABILITY	LACK OF COPING CAPACITY	INFORM RISK
Afghanistan	8.7	6.9	8.1	7.8
Pakistan	7.6	5.5	6.3	6.4
Bangladesh	8.0	4.9	6.1	6.2
India	7.6	4.5	5.5	5.7

Collected from WHA, SCA Scoping Paper

4.2 Major Findings

In the next few paragraphs findings of the consultation process will be presented. As the process sought to identify the effectiveness of humanitarian activities, vulnerabilities of the people due to disaster and recommendations on effective and innovative humanitarian response, findings will be present in this context.

⁸ UNDP (2011) : *Achieving Effective Balance in Coordination: Disaster Risk Reduction Through Preparedness & Response*

⁹ European Commission(2014), *Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, Bangladesh fact sheet*)

¹⁰ Excerpted from WHS Regional Scoping Paper (For South and Central Asia)

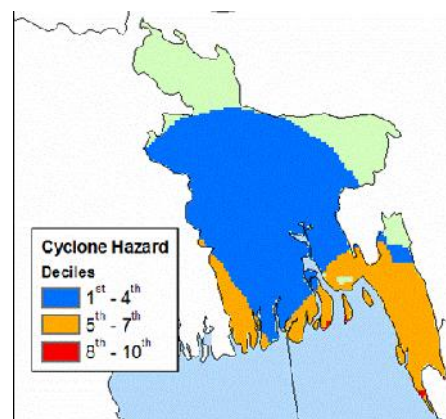
¹¹ UNDP (2011) : *Achieving Effective Balance in Coordination: Disaster Risk Reduction Through Preparedness & Response*

4.2.1 Cyclone

About 40% of the total global storm surges are recorded in Bangladesh, and the deadliest cyclones in the past 50 years, in terms of deaths and casualties, are those that have struck Bangladesh. The two deadliest cyclones occurred in 1970 and 1991, with > 500 000 and almost 140 000 deaths, respectively. However, during the past 20 years, Bangladesh has managed to reduce deaths and injuries from cyclones. For example, the most recent severe cyclone of 2007 caused 4234 deaths, a 100-fold reduction compared with the devastating 1970 cyclone.¹² The following map shows the cyclone hazards in Bangladesh.¹³

4.2.1.a Effectiveness

- ✓ Outreach areas like char islands (sand bar island) and remote islands are most vulnerable areas to cyclone. Most of these areas have no link to road communication. Special attention is needed for these areas.
- ✓ It has found that, quick response some time avoid the selection of right or people in most need. To response immediately and to ensure support in right time pre assessment is necessary.
- ✓ First 48 hours just after the cyclones is important to relief and rescue, this could only be done if there are stand by local arrangement for responses. Local government institutions, local clubs should be strengthened and involved in emergency responses.
- ✓ Relief package hardly prepared with pre informed consent from affected people. In various cases many items provided in relief packets are not found useful for the affected people. It is happened there is lack of practices of pre informed consent of the affected people on relief packet. If all packets are prepared according to the needs and consent of the affected people, relief activities can be more effective.
- ✓ Unfortunately sometimes tendencies of visibility competition are found among various organizations in the humanitarian activities. This tendency hampers the effectiveness of humanitarian activities. To avoid this tendency all activities can be under the coordination of local government and local level government officials.
- ✓ Commitment from political leadership is appreciable but neutrality and avoidance of visibility competition is imperative



Some Major Cyclones in Bangladesh

Year	Number of death
1960	8119
1961	11466
1963	11520
1965	20152
1970	500300
1985	11069
1988	9590
1991	138958
2007	4234

Bulletin of the World Health Organization

¹² *Bulletin of WHO* (2011): <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/90/2/11-088302/en/>

¹³ *Columbia University, Bangladesh natural Disaster Profile*

- ✓ Local knowledge, local level community leadership and local level NGO / Community organization is fundamental to build sustainable capacity.

4.2.1.b Vulnerabilities

- ✓ Most of the coastal islands, chars and districts still unprotected as there are no embankment. The coastal embankment of Bangladesh erodes every year and the government spend huge amount of money for its maintenance. Most of the coastal embankments were built during the decades of 60. Almost of these embankments are now hard to ensure full protection for the people during flash flood or tidal surges
- ✓ Monsoon tidal surge and water inundation, especially saline water thereby is a major cause of vulnerability.
- ✓ Scarcity of drinking water in coastal districts as because of intrusion of saline water and fall of water level in underground.
- ✓ Health facilities in coastal areas, is very weak compare to mainland area, especially due to the absence of required and designated manpower and communication facilities.
- ✓ Education system especially primary and higher secondary education being interrupted heavily for the coastal children during cyclone and during monsoon seasons.
- ✓ Information communication during cyclone and others session are primarily dependent on foreign mobile companies, the towers are susceptible to high speed wind, little coverage of national companies, no volunteerism like Amateur Radio in coastal areas, like what have in Indian coastal areas.

4.2.1.c Innovation/Recommendation

- ✓ Construction of embankment is fundamental to ensure security feeling among people, otherwise in any way they will migrate, which will create havoc of problems for cities. Landless people can be allowed to live on the slope of the embankment; they would happily maintain the embankment through making their livelihood on it. This is how tidal surges and salinity can be obstructed at almost free of cost. Embankment construction should have democratic ownership.
- ✓ Creation of surface water bodies through excavation and re-excavation of ponds in coastal area is a fundamental; pond side high embankment could be utilized for settlement of the landless. Various reports show that, it is evident that, under ground water is decreasing day by day. Bangladesh is already experiencing huge scarcities of water in southern and northern areas. So, expansion of surface water bodies can be solution of this problem.
- ✓ Local NGOs should be assisted to have local level and standby emergency relief storage in local level. Local level NGOs have hardly any food storage capacities. INGOs usually store emergency food in places far from the affected areas. To supply emergency food to the affected areas takes huge time due to that storage. So, local NGOs should be supported to established food storage in their respective areas.
- ✓ Re orientation of warning system, so that it will be understandable to local people. The existing warning and weather signaling systems are a bit hard to clearly understand to

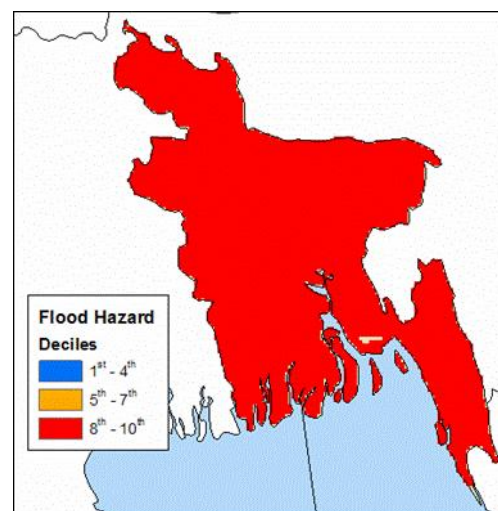
local people. These should be done in easy understandable local language, so that vulnerable people can get the clear message easily.

- ✓ Department of Metrology, which is the major source of warning, should be modernized, decentralized, so that there will be more zonal / regional based quick weather signaling system. Now the weather forecasting system is solely centralized, which creates obstacle to disseminate quick signal and warning to respective areas.
- ✓ There should down ward accountability and complain response mechanism with horizontal nature of communication of all agencies including government and non government bodies who are involved with humanitarian activism.
- ✓ INGOs , UN Agencies and Bilateral donors should consider local NGOs as partners in their effort, rather than considering them as sub contractors, there should be institutional development fund for local NGOs so that they will have sustainable capacity in this regard.
- ✓ There should be fooding arrangement for the people who takes shelter in the cyclone shelter; there are good example of local government and NGOs in this regard. Food supply is necessary to keep the people in cyclone shelters.

4.2.2 Flood/flash Flood

Flooding is a natural phenomenon in Bangladesh and occurs on an annual basis. The rivers are huge by global standards, and can inundate over 30% of the land mass at a time. The notes below should help you to understand the causes and consequences of flooding in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is prone to serious and chronic flooding. Even in an average year 18% of the landmass is inundated and previous floods have affected 75% of the country (as in 1988). 75% of the country is below 10m above sea level and 80% is classified as floodplain as Bangladesh is principally the delta region of South Asia's great rivers. Bangladesh floods on a regular basis, recent notable and catastrophic floods have occurred in 1988 (return period of 1 in every 50 to 100 years), 1998, 2004, 2007 and 2010.¹⁴



Source: Columbia University

¹⁴ http://coolgeography.co.uk/A-level/AQA/Year%2012/Rivers_Floods/Flooding/Bangladesh/Bangladesh.htm

Year	Affected people	People killed	Economic damage (US\$)
2007	13,771,380	1110	1060000000
2004	36,000,000	–	2,200,000,000
1998	15,000,050	1050	4,300,000
1988	45,000,000	2379	2,137,000
1987	29,700,000	2055	727,500
1984	30,000,000	1200	–

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/statistics>.

4.2.2.a Effectiveness

- ✓ From recent experiences it has been found that, due to flood loss of assets is more rather than of human lives.
- ✓ The impacts of flooding in Bangladesh are severe in both rural and urban areas
- ✓ Difficult to have early warning, but it is possible, in most cases flash flood is over night.
- ✓ Little donor support in respect of flash flood compare to cyclone.
- ✓ Need to strive for permanent solutions. Like river management and flood protection embankment etc
- ✓ Regional cooperation in respect of water sharing and flood protection / management is important.

4.2.2.b Vulnerability

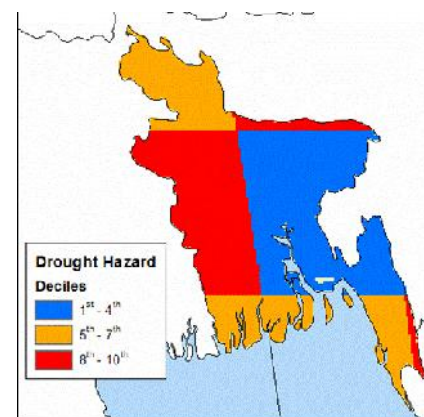
- ✓ Loss of employment and access to basic needs
- ✓ Water standing in their houses more than six months, making high homestead land
- ✓ Specially mother, pregnant and children suffer malnutrition.
- ✓ Disruption in communication, especially in road communication.
- ✓ Saline water intrusion in coastal districts

4.2.2.c Innovation/recommendations

- ✓ Removal of saline water from the pond and waiting for rain for getting fresh water with re-excavation of ponds
- ✓ Expansion Flood tolerant integrated (i.e. integration with fisheries and livestock) agriculture

4.2.3 Drought

Bangladesh is affected by major country-wide droughts every five years. However, local droughts occur frequently and affect crop life cycles. The agricultural drought, related to soil moisture deficiency, occurs at various stages of crop growth. Monsoon failure often brings yield reduction and famine to the affected regions.¹⁵ North-western region suffers most from the drought. As much as 17% of the Aman crops may be lost in a typical year due to drought. Between 1949 and 1991, droughts occurred in



¹⁵ FAO (2007): *Climate variability and change: adaptation to drought in Bangladesh*

Bangladesh 24 times. Past droughts have typically affected about 47% area of the country and 53% of the population.¹⁶

4.2.3.a Effectiveness

- ✓ As drought is a slow onset disaster, it get lower attention compared to cyclone, flood etc. Usually it is believed that, Bangladesh losses crops, droughts not only can cause a greater damage to crops than a flood or cyclone, but they generally also affect more farmers across a wider area. (The 1982 flood damaged about 36,000 metric tons of rice, much lower than the damage done by drought. 1978-79 drought reduced rice production by an estimated two million tons. It directly affected about 42% of the cultivated land and 44% of the population).
- ✓ Affected people are not getting appropriate and adequate support.

4.2.3.b Vulnerability

- ✓ Scarcity of drinking water
- ✓ Loss of crops and livelihood
- ✓ Psychological illness

4.2.3.c Innovation/recommendation

- ✓ Efficient use of water
- ✓ Techniques of use of more surface water
- ✓ Study of the impact of drought on human psychology
- ✓ Alternative income option during draught seasons

4.2.4 River Erosion

In Bangladesh Millions of people become homeless every year in the country due to river erosion. Jamuna, Ganges and Padma annually consume several thousand hectares of floodplain Making thousands of people landless and homeless every year. During the last three decades The Jamuna, Ganges and Padma rivers have consumed 180,000 ha.¹⁷ Reports say that, 88780 hac of land had been eroded along the Brahmaputra, 27,990 hac along the Padma and 38,510 hac along their distributaries between 1973 and 2007. About 15 to 20 million people are at risk and 1 million people living in 94 upazilas are directly affected by riverbank erosion every year.¹⁸

4.2.4.a Effectiveness

- ✓ Low level of attention to the problem from all parties
- ✓ Lower exposure to the donors
- ✓ Inadequate Rehabilitation programs
- ✓ Hard to get aid for the poor

¹⁶ Department of Disaster Management, Bangladesh

¹⁷ Bangladesh Water Development Board

¹⁸ Mohammed Norul Alam Raju and Afroza Taznin, Daily Star, September 2014

4.2.4.b Vulnerability

- ✓ Making people homeless and landless
- ✓ Loss of assets/ crops/livelihoods
- ✓ Loss of income generating options
- ✓ Loss of lives is lesser but loss of assets is higher than other disaster
- ✓ Increasing migration

4.2.4.c Innovation/Recommendations

- ✓ Developing early warning system
- ✓ Floating/portable housing
- ✓ Appropriate support and rehabilitation
- ✓ Ensuring land rights of the affected

4.2.5 Salinity

The coastal zone of Bangladesh is under the constant threat of salinity. There are predictions that, Number of districts will be most adversely affected by the increase in river salinity. Fresh water river zones will be lost entirely in Barguna, Jhalokoti, Khulna and Patuakhali districts. Over 90 percent of fresh river water in Pirojpur, Bagerhat and in Barisal will be at risk. River water will no longer be utilizable for dry season agriculture in Barguna, Bhola, Jhalokati, Khulna, and Patuakhali districts. 98 percent of rivers in Khulna and 97 percent of rivers in Bhola will be adversely affected.¹⁹

4.2.5.a Effectiveness

- ✓ Inappropriate attention to the problem
- ✓ Hard to get aid for the poor
- ✓ More concentration on support for agriculture
- ✓ Less attention to the socio-economic problem

4.2.5.b Vulnerability

- ✓ Loss of agricultural land
- ✓ Loss of crops
- ✓ Health and various socio-economic problems
- ✓ Scarcity of fresh water
- ✓ Fresh water Fish production is decreasing

4.2.5.c Innovation/recommendation

- ✓ Saline tolerant crops
- ✓ Actions against man made problems
- ✓ Common issues of concern

5. Media Coverage

The consultation process have been able to get attention of the mainstream media of Bangladesh. News of the seminar has been published in 5 English and 12 National level Bangla

¹⁹ *Susmita Dasgupta, World Bank*

news paper. Number of online newspapers has been also published the news. Some key news coverage are mentioned in following table:

Name of the Newspaper	Headline	Online Link
New Age	Coordinated efforts stressed to tackle earthquake	http://newagebd.net/123857/coordinated-efforts-stressed-to-tackle-earthquake/#sthash.16xilROS.dpbs
The Financial Express	Emergency centre soon for post-quake rescue	http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/2015/05/28/94430
The Independent	NGOs seek dignity-based partnership	http://www.theindependentbd.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=259611:policy-support-needed-to-promote-silk-industry&catid=161:region&Itemid=193
The New Nation	Experts for innovative disaster management	http://thedailynewnation.com/news/54369/experts-for-innovative-disaster-management.html
NGO News	Bangladeshi NGOs on World Humanitarian Summit	http://ngonewsbd.com/bangladeshi-ngos-world-humanitarian-summit/
Risingbd.com	Equality, dignity based partnership demanded	http://www.risingbd.com/english/Equality-dignity-based-partnership-demanded/25174



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Emergency centre soon for post-quake rescue

FE Report

The government would set up an emergency centre to facilitate rescue operations in disasters like earthquake, officials at a programme said Wednesday.

Earthquake preparedness would get the top priority on the agenda of the ministry of disaster management and relief from the next financial year following a series of such incidents in neighbouring Nepal and India, they said.

Secretary in charge of the ministry Md Shah Kamal said his ministry's key priority was now earthquake.

He was speaking at the programme on "Bangladeshi NGOs on World Humanitarian Summit (WHS): Equality and Dignity Based on Partnership for Sustainable Capacity in Disaster Risk Reduction and Response," held at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) in the city. It was organised by the National NGOs Working Group for WHS.

Mr Kamal said the ministry had now a fund of Tk 690 million (69 crore) while Tk 1.55 billion was in the pipeline to carry out reform in disaster management approach.

He said the Nepal tragedy ringed the alarm bell as there are two major fault lines crossing Bangladesh---Dauki in Sylhet and Madhupur in Tangail. Nine districts in and around the faults are extremely vulnerable to tremor.

He said the government had taken an initiative to establish the National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) to conduct rescue operations immediately after any disaster. The permanent office of the centre would be in Dhaka.

However, talking on the upcoming WHS in Istanbul next year (May, 2016), the Secretary said Bangladesh had to

6. Conclusion

Bangladesh is ranked fourth in the Asia-Pacific region in terms of risk factors indicating that international humanitarian response may be necessary in medium- or large-scale emergencies. Different government agencies, local-national NGOs and International NGOs have been involved with the humanitarian activities in Bangladesh. This consultation has brought the opportunity to have an assessment of those humanitarian activities. Nationwide consultation with different stakeholders including the affected people will help to identify the gaps in ensuring the

effectiveness in humanitarian activities. Vulnerabilities of people have also been identified and recommendations have been collected from various stakeholders. Organizations involved in this process are pretty much hopeful that, they will be able to raise the issues of humanitarian support and disaster of Bangladesh in the international platforms; some concerns identified from the consultation are needed to be addressed nationally. Some concerns have will have to be addressed by regional and international mechanisms. The consultation process of Bangladesh on the eve of the WHS is rationally believed to ensure an effective window to all to establish a mechanism fit for the future effective humanitarian efforts.

