

DISASTER MANAGEMENT: BANGLADESH PERSPECTIVE

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Summary

Disaster refers to death, loss of human life, economic disruption & deterioration of health and health related services. Disasters are not confined to a particular part of the world. They can occur at any place at any time. Major disasters or emergencies occurred throughout the history and as the world population grows and the resources become more limited, communities are increasingly becoming more vulnerable to the hazards that cause disaster. The statistics gathered since 1969 shows a rise in the number of people affected by disasters. The number of injuries and deaths differs depending on the number of factors such as the type of disaster, the density and distribution of the population, condition of the environment, and degree of the preparedness and opportunity of the warning. We can minimize the death, ecological disruption and deterioration of the health services by proper planning and management.

Key words

Disaster; Mitigation; Cyclone; Earthquake.

Introduction

Management can be defined as a set of activities including planning, decision making, organizing, leading, and controlling directed at an organization's resources such as human, physical, financial, and information with the aim of achieving a set of goals in an efficient and effective manner [1]. Disaster management aims to reduce, or avoid, the potential losses from hazards, assure prompt and appropriate assistance to victims of disaster, and achieve rapid and effective recovery.

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Perspectives of Disaster Management

A) Mitigation - Minimizing the effects of disaster. Examples: building codes and zoning; vulnerability analyses; public education. B) Preparedness - Planning how to respond. Examples: preparedness plans; emergency exercises/training; warning systems. C) Response - Efforts to minimize the hazards created by a disaster. Examples: search and rescue; emergency relief. D) Recovery/ Rehabilitation - Returning the community to normal. Examples: temporary housing; grants; medical care [2].

Disaster Management Cycle

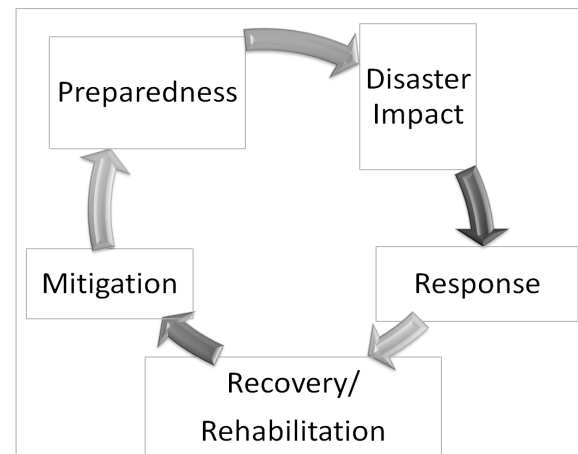


Fig 1: Management sequence of sudden onset disaster

Mitigation

Mitigation activities actually eliminate or reduce the probability of disaster occurrence, or reduce the effects of unavoidable disasters.

Mitigation measures include

- (1) Building codes. (2) Vulnerability analyses updates. (3) Zoning and land use management. (4) Building use regulations and safety codes. (5) Preventive health care. (6) Public education.

Preparedness

The goal of emergency preparedness programs is to achieve a satisfactory level of readiness to respond to any emergency situation through programs that strengthen the technical and managerial capacity of governments, organizations and communities.

Response

The aim of emergency response is to provide immediate assistance to maintain life, improve health and support the morale of the affected population.

The focus in the response phase is on meeting the basic needs of the people until more permanent and sustainable solutions can be found. Humanitarian organizations are often strongly present in this phase of the disaster management cycle [3].

Such assistance may be for providing specific but limited aid, such as –

- (1) Search, rescue and First-aid. (2) Triage- Rapidly classifying the injured on the basis of severity for further intervention. (3) Assisting refugees with transport, temporary shelter, and food.
- (4) To establishing semi-permanent settlement in camps and other locations. (5) Initial repairs to damaged infrastructure. (6) Identification of dead.

Recovery/Rehabilitation

As the emergency is brought under control, the affected population is capable of undertaking a growing number of activities aimed at restoring their lives and the infrastructure that supports them. Recovery measures include-

- (1) Returning vital life-support systems to minimum operating standards. (2) Temporary housing. (3) Public information. (4) Health and safety education. (5) Reconstruction; counseling programs. (6) Economic impact studies. (7) Data collection related to rebuilding. (8) Documentation of lessons learned.

Disaster Management: Triage Approach

- (1) Triage consists of rapidly classifying the injured on the basis of severity of their injuries and the likelihood of the survival with prompt medical intervention [4]. (2) Triage is the only approach that can provide maximum benefit to the greatest number of injured in a major disaster situation. (3) Triage should be carried out at the site of disaster. (4) The most common classification uses the internationally accepted four color code system. (5) Red indicates high priority treatment or transfer. (6) Yellow signals medium priority. (7) Green indicates ambulatory patients. (8) Black for dead or moribund patients.

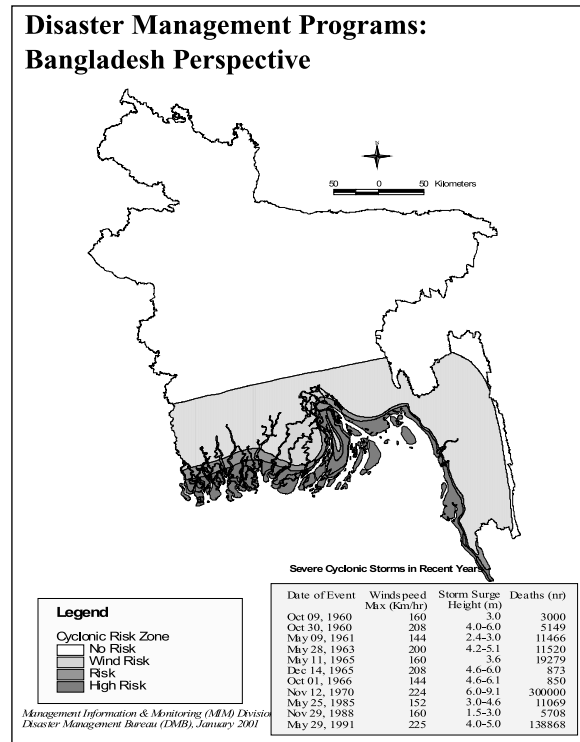


Fig 2 : Areas affected by cyclone in Bangladesh

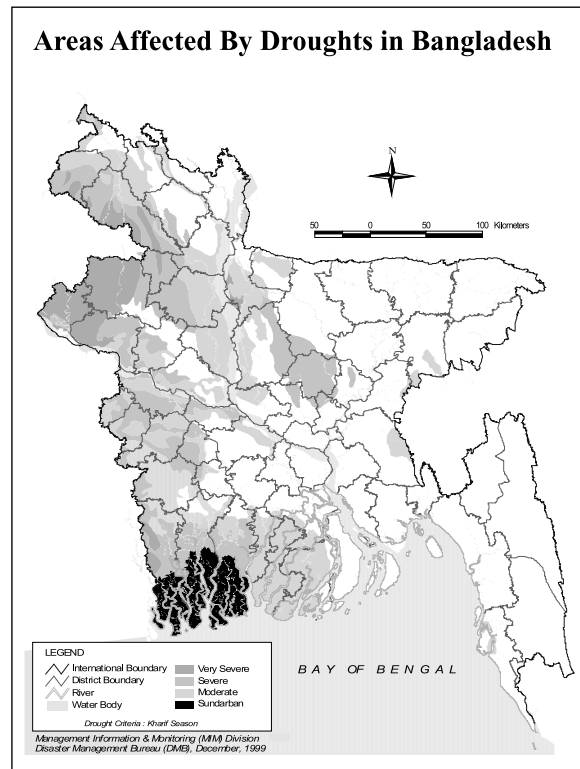


Fig 3 : Areas affected by droughts in Bangladesh

From that time CPP has been working in the field of disaster management in Bangladesh especially in early warning system, search and rescue, evacuation, sheltering, First aid, relief distribution and rehabilitation activities

Disaster Management Organization

1. Bangladesh Red Crescent Society. (BDRCS) 2. Action Aid Bangladesh. 3. Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre (BDPC) : The Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre (BDPC) was established in 1992 as Bangladesh's first independent, local NGO focused solely on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

Conclusion

By working together with a spirit of fellowship and mutual understanding we will be engaging our skills to fight against any disaster, trying to minimize the effect of disasters and providing the safety and security to the people not only bounded in term of a nation rather to the extent of whole mankind irrespective of Nationality, Religion, Cast, Creed, Political stand or Economical class.

Disclosure

All the authors declared no competing interest.

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