



Proyash – An Urban Risk Reduction Project

Background:

With the impact of climate change, disaster risk reduction in urban and peri-urban areas has become more significant than ever. The number of people exposed to disasters increases as more people concentrate in those disaster prone areas. Haphazard and unplanned settlements in urban areas are immensely vulnerable to natural hazards such as earthquakes, fires, water logging, building collapse, hazardous waste and disease. According to the Population and Housing Census 2011, 23.43% of the total population of Bangladesh live in urban areas. Due to a high concentration in poverty, a large number of those people live in squatter settlements or slums. Negligence, deprivation, and inappropriate resources make women and children predominately the most vulnerable ones. Despite living in such vulnerable conditions, the urban dwellers rarely receive guidance and education on enabling themselves for a safer environment.

Project Objectives:

It's overall purpose is to contribute in strengthening national systems and mechanisms to protect urban/peri-urban women and children from the shock and stress resulting from various urban risks, subsequently creating *cleaner, greener and safer urban environments*. The objective is to strengthen existing risk reduction practises in urban settings by building the capacity and skill set of potential actors of risk reduction at family, community and institutional levels, with community and local disaster management committees being the focal point.

Intended Outcomes:

- Women, children and the community of these urban/peri-urban areas have increased knowledge, skill and capacity to predict, prepare and respond to shocks and stresses by 2017
- Government, private sector and CSOs have increased capacity to address the risks of women and children in urban/peri-urban areas by 2017

Geographical Coverage: All within Dhaka Division: Savar Pourasova, Narayanganj (Ward 15), Mirpur (Please see the word document)

Implementing partners: Social and Economic Enhancement Programme (SEEP)

Project duration: 1st Sep 2015 – 31st December 2017

Funded by: C&A Foundation

Target Groups



Community and School Children



Teachers



Parents



Caregivers



School Disaster Management Committees



Communities



CSOs



Garment Industry



Academia & Media



Government Officials

Major Achievements:

- Strategic Partnership with Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) and Fire Service and Civil Defence, Bangladesh (FSCD)
- Working relationship with Department of Disaster Management (DDM) and Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR)
- 'Clean, green and safe school' campaign initiated under Comprehensive School Safety (CSS) plan in 14 schools of Dhaka, Savar and Narayanganj
- 300 (three hundred) community volunteers are certified by Fire Service and Civil Defence, Bangladesh (FSCD) in cooperation with SCI.
- Disaster risk mitigation activities implemented in jointly with communities and schools of Dhaka, Savar and Narayanganj
- 'Education Safe from Disasters' (ESD) Program and Strategy launched in Bangladesh.

Major Challenges:

- Frequent shifting of government officials delays activities' implementation
- Overlapping of NGOs' activities
- Encouraging corporates to mobilize their resources for risk reduction activities

Future Direction:

- Policy advocacy to institutionalize ward disaster management committee (WDMC) and develop guideline for urban community volunteers
- Mainstream disaster risk reduction activities into annual development plan of city corporations
- Liaison with corporates for resource mobilization in community and school level mitigation interventions
- Facilitate a strong network of non-government organizations (NGOs) to identify and work on components of urban resilience
- Encourage availability of social services for women within the workplace (i.e. garments)



Less Educated 'Bonuas' (it is a local term for people who used to live in jungles and hunting and fishing were their main livelihood) need to be better educated on disaster risk reduction activities'



- Mongoli Rani Karmokar, Barai Gram, Savar, Dhaka

