Urban Disaster Risk Reduction (UDDR) Programme

Disaster Preparedness for Safer School (DPSS) is a joint initiative of the Federation and American Red Cross under UDDR programme. DPSS has been facilitating school students in urban areas of Dhaka and Rangpur to strengthen their capacities on earthquake preparedness issues for reducing the risk of disaster. In June, a project proposal incorporating 04 more areas namely Chittagong, Sylhet, Comilla and Tangail has been developed and the overall budget is currently being developed. An external consultant has been appointed by the Federation to facilitate the process of proposal development. Community Actions for Disaster Response (CADRE) is an addition to UDDR programme that is funded by Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) to support urban communities for preparedness and management of disaster. CADRE has been supporting communities of Dhaka and Sirajgonj to increase their capacities and awareness on preparedness and response to disaster. In this regard, “Training For Instructor (TFI)” has been developed for strengthening capacities of the community people for reducing disaster risk. TFI has been providing skills-based knowledge on disaster preparedness issues selected people from the communities who, in turn, will act as the instructor to deliver disaster preparedness messages to the volunteers from the adjacent communities. At this stage, a total of 04 communities are selected for TFI where 02 from Sirajgonj and the other 02 namely Narinda and Bangshal from Dhaka. Selection of 02 different TFI groups from Sirajgonj and Dhaka is completed where each group is comprised of 24 members. Efficient technical expertise was a major challenge for the program.

Achievement

A project proposal incorporating 04 new areas has been prepared. Selection of 04 communities and 48 community people for “Training For Instructor (TFI)” from Dhaka and Sirajgonj has been completed.
Training Department

Training department, in Jun ’12, has organised “Basic First Aid Training” and conducted 02 courses on basic First Aid issues. One course has been organised in Dhaka for 26 employees of Linde Bangladesh Ltd. and the other one in Chittagong for 25 members of Bangladesh Police. The training provided theoretical and practical knowledge on basic first aid issues and also communicated Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement message to a total of 51 participants.

The department has also conducted 02 courses during “Orientation on First Aid” in Dhaka for the employees of Santosh Sangu Gas Field where a total of 37 participants have received orientation on first aid issues and Red Cross Red Crescent Movement message. The department has completed “First Aid Refresher Training” at Narayanganj and facilitated 17 employees of Haripur Power Ltd. for increasing their knowledge on first aid issues. Appropriate assistance has been provided to a total of 20 BDRCS personnel for General English Language Course under Dhaka University in order to enhance their communicative skills.

Achievement

“Basic First Aid Training”, “Orientation on First Aid” and “First Aid Refreshers” has been completed.

Knowledge on basic first aid issues and RCRC Movement has been delivered to a total of 125 external professional out of BDRCS. BDRCS personnel, skilful for facilitating skill-based training, have been selected.

General English Language Course under Dhaka University has been arranged for 20 BDRCS personnel.

Personnel and volunteers skilful to facilitate skill-based training and workshop have been selected from BDRCS by the Training department. A lack of technology and equipment support like laptop, multimedia projector, scanner, photocopier, and digital camera is a major challenge for the department in delivering quality services. Inadequacy of skilled human resources and inconvenient office set-up are the other challenges.
Unit Affairs Department

Unit Affairs department has facilitated an election process to form Executive Committee for Barisal Branch and the committee comprising 10 members is elected in the month of June. Ad-hoc committee for Cox’s Bazar, Bholo and Brahmanbaria Branches are also formed with necessary assistance from the department.

Collection of monthly activity reports from all 68 Branches has been completed. At this stage, the department has completed enrolment process of 124 Life Members and 360 Annual Members and also issued certificates for 150 Life Members. The department has collected BDT 63,840 as Share Money from the members. Inefficiency of the Branch level personnel in producing reports continues to be a major challenge for the department. Reluctant attitude of the Ad-hoc committees to form Branch Executive Committee through election process is another challenge.

Achievement

Branch Executive Committee for Barisal Branch is elected through election process. Ad-hoc Committee for Cox’s Bazar, Brahmanbaria and Bholo Branches are formed.
Enrolment of 124 Life Members and 360 Annual Members are completed. Certificates have been distributed among 150 Life Members. BDT 63,840 is collected as share money.

Risk Reduction through Empowerment of Women (RREW) Project

In June, the project has completed Health Awareness Session in 18 villages covering 06 MCH centres in order to build community awareness on health and hygiene issues for reducing the vulnerabilities of disaster. The project has conducted 19 sessions in total and provided skills-based knowledge on health and hygiene issues to a total of 285 community people to increase their capacities for disaster preparedness and management. At this stage, detailed Yearly Action Plan covering Aug ‘12 to Aug ‘13, the last year of project implementation, has been developed and communicated with appropriate personnel. Ground work for ‘Community Based Health & First Aid (CBHFA) Training’ is completed and appropriate training materials have been developed. A MoU has been signed between BDRCS and German Red Cross for improving infrastructure and renovation of Dalahar MCH centre. Adverse weather like heavy rainfall and time constraint were the challenges to conduct health sessions properly.

Achievement

A total of 19 Health sessions in 18 villages under 06 MCH have been completed. Total 285 community people have received appropriate knowledge and skills on health and hygiene issues.
A detailed Yearly Action Plan for the project covering its last implementation period from Aug ‘12 to Aug ‘13 is prepared. MoU between BDRCS and German Red Cross has been signed for improving infrastructure of Dalahar MCH centre.
Tracing Department

In Jun ’12, the Tracing department has conducted Branch level RFL Capacity and Needs Assessment with a target to cover all 68 Branches. Assessment has been completed at a total of 44 Branches where 13 in Dhaka division, 06 in Chittagong division, 04 in Khulna division, 08 in Rajshahi division, 04 in Sylhet division, 04 in Barisal division and 05 in Rangpur division. A Tracing team consisting of 06 members for each of the 68 Branches has been developed to facilitate the overall process of assessment.

In this month, a joint team by the representatives from ICRC and BDRCS Tracing department has visited Branch offices in Bhola, Barisal, Potuakhali, Narayanganj, Nature, Chapainawabgonj, Rajshahi district and Rajshahi City Corporation. During the visit, meeting with district level GoB authorities, Branch Executive Committee members, ULOs, volunteers and other NGOs has been organised to share RFL activities and persuade necessary assistance to promote RFL activities. RFL message, both directly and indirectly, has been communicated to around 1800 community people and partnership with local stakeholders is extended. Film show has been organised in Barisal and Bhola to disseminate RFL activities in achieving wider recognition by the community. A documentary on migration has also been displayed at that time to raise community awareness on migration issues and nearly a 1000 people are covered through this film show. Reluctant attitude and lack of adequate understanding of Branch personnel are the challenges to complete the questionnaires properly.

Achievement

“RFL Capacity and Need Assessment” for 44 Branches has been completed. Knowledge on RFL activities and migration issues has been disseminated to nearly 1000 community people of Barisal and Bhola through the film show.

Issues on RFL activities have directly been communicated to 200 personnel of district level GoB authorities including UEC, ULOs and volunteers. Repatriation and reunification for 02 Nepali nationals detained in Dhaka Central Jail has been completed.
Y&V department is developing RCY Core Team at the Branch level in order to carry forward RCY Co-curriculum activities. In Jun ‘12, RCY Core Team for Mymensingh, Shariyatpur, Madaripur, Kurigram, Barisal and Rajshahi City Branches have been formed and each of the teams are comprised of 30 RCY volunteers. ‘Basic First Aid Training’ and ‘Basic Training on RCRC Movement’ have been organised for RCY core team members and a total of 180 RCY members of those 06 teams have received appropriate knowledge and skills on basic First Aid issues and RCRC movement message. Trained volunteers, in turn, will carry forward RCY Co-curriculum activities covering nearly 8,050 beneficiaries. Similar training for the students of Jessore Govt. Women’s College has been organised from 24 to 26 Jun ’12 at Jessore delivering knowledge on basic First Aid issues and RCRC movement issues to a total of 62 students. They will disseminate RCRC movement message among 3,500 students and will be the catalyst of RCY Co-curriculum activities.

Y&V department, with assistance from Japan Red Cross, has been implementing “International Friendship Project - 2012” in Munshigonj, Barisal, Comilla, Cox’s Bazar and Thakurgaon districts covering 10 educational institutions from each of those 05 districts. At this stage, orientation on project activity and RCRC movement issues has already been provided to 20 teachers and 30 RCY Core volunteers from each of those Branches. ‘Basic First Aid Training’ and ‘Basic Training on RCRC Movement’ have also been completed in all 05 districts and 10 students from each of those educational institutions have participated. A total of 500 participants have received knowledge on basic First Aid issues and RCRC movement message and they will communicate RCRC movement messages within 4,500 students approximately.

RCY Volunteers, with the help of ULOs, have distributed relief goods and provided first aid services to nearly 4,000 people affected by flood in Cox’s Bazar and Kurigram districts. A group of 100 RCY volunteers has supported about 1,500 victims after a landslide in Chittagong through search & rescue, first aid services and dead-body management. Inefficiency of Branch personnel for proper reporting is the major challenge for the Y&V department.

**Achievement**

180 RCY Core Team members have received appropriate knowledge on basic First Aid issues and RCRC movement message and have communicated movement message among 8,050 beneficiaries.

Orientation on First Aid issues and RCRC movement message has been provided to 62 students of Jessore Govt. Women’s College and disseminated the message among 3,500 students.

Under “International Friendship Project - 2012”, RCRC movement message has been communicated within 4,500 students. Relief goods and First Aid services have been provided to 4,000 flood affected people in Cox’s Bazar and Kurigram districts. Support has been provided to 1,500 people after landslide in Chittagong.
Information & Communication Department

The department is active for image building of BDRCS and larger recognition of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. In June, Communication department, in collaboration with ICRC, has carried out a week long “Emblem Campaign” in Bagerhat district covering both Pourashava and Upazilla levels in order to raise awareness against any kind of misuse of Red Crescent logo. Initially, a 2-day long Orientation has been organised and a total of 31 volunteers from each upazilla have received orientation on the emblem. The volunteers, in turn, have successfully carried out 5 days door-to-door campaign and have communicated RCRC movement messages to 864 community people for raising awareness against misuse of the logo. BDRCS quarterly news bulletin ‘The Message’ incorporating important activities from all the departments has been published. This news bulletin is a mechanism of communicating significant activities performed by all the departments within BDRCS and among the stakeholders.

Volunteers orientation during “Emblem Campaign”

Achievement

A 07-day long Emblem Campaign is completed in Bagerhat district covering both pourashava and upazilla levels. Orientation on emblem issues has been received by 31 volunteers. RCRC Movement message has been communicated to 864 people through a 5 days door-to-door campaign. Awareness against misuse of the Red Crescent logo and RCRC movement has been raised within 4,320 community people approximately.

Transport Department

Transport department is playing a vital role for convenient movement of BDRCS personnel and efficient transportation of relief and other goods. As routine activity, the department maintains its log book for vehicle movement, supports servicing and maintenance of vehicles and maintains driving schedule for the drivers etc. General servicing of 05 vehicles and engine servicing of 02 other vehicles have been completed in June. In Jun ‘12, retirement process for 01 driver has been completed and 02 other drivers have been transferred.

Achievement

General servicing of 05 vehicles and engine servicing of 02 vehicles have been completed.
Community Development Initiative (CDI) Program

Implementation of CDI program activities has been terminated officially in Jun ’12 where the program has been running since May ’10. Follow-up activities, covering same areas, will be continuing for the period of Jul ’12 to May ’13. Extension of CDI program, covering 02 new districts namely Gopalganj and Rangpur, has been approved for implementation.

Community libraries have been established at 08 Community Information Centres (CIC) by Jun ’12 and each of the libraries are occupied with 206 copies of books for knowledge management. CDRT team members, at this stage, have completed training on disaster preparedness issues and received appropriate knowledge and skills for reducing the risk of disaster. Advocacy meeting with local level stakeholders including government authorities, NGOs, community institutions and media has been organised regarding sustainability of CDI program. Regular meeting for Community Program Committee (CPC), District Program Committee (DPC), Urban Disaster Response Team (UDRT) and Community Disaster Response Team (CDRT) have successfully been completed.

Under its Livelihood component, IGA training for 1,152 beneficiaries is completed to create additional income opportunities for them. Skill based knowledge on tailoring has been communicated to 180 women and girls from all the 08 program units for additional income. Courtyard meeting on women empowerment issues has been conducted at all program units to generate community awareness on gender issues. Under its Education component, education incentive is provided to a total of 931 poor students where each of them have received BDT 100. The program has been providing regular support to 54 adult literacy classes running in all 04 districts.

Achievement

Community library at 08 Community Information Centres (CIC) have been established. A total of 1,152 beneficiaries have received IGA training.

Skill-based training on tailoring has been delivered to 180 women and young girls from all program units. A total of 931 poor students have received BDT 100 as education incentive.

Free medical treatment has been provided to the beneficiaries by organising 02 mobile health clinics in Kushtia district. Installation of 220 improved cooking stoves is completed along with a bio-gas plant.

Under WATSAN and SHELTER component, the program has completed construction of compost pits for 330 households along with installation of a bio-gas plant. Improved cooking stoves are installed at 220 households. Construction of 176 shelters is completed to providing shelter to the beneficiaries. For promotion of hygiene issues, construction of sanitary latrine super-structure is completed. Under its Health component, social awareness on mother & child health care issues is generated within communities by organising courtyard meeting. CDI program, in this regard, has initiated CBHFA courtyard meeting and organised 44 MCH meetings in total within its target areas. At this stage, the program, in collaboration with GoB, has organised 02 mobile health camps in Kushtia district and provided free medical treatment along with necessary health services.
**Fund Raising Department**

BDRCs Fund Raising department has got recognition by IFRC-Kuala Lampur as the member of Asia Pacific Fund Raisers Network (APFN) in Jun ‘12. The department has collected BDT 53,575 by selling BDRCs souvenir items. BDT 5,025 has also been collected through donation boxes at the Osmani International Airport in Sylhet. At this stage, the department has communicated with new business firms regarding procurement of BDRCs souvenir items. Response from the potential sponsors is a major challenge for the Fund Raising department.

**Achievement**

BDRCs Fund Raising department has been approved by IFRC-KL as the member of Asia Pacific Fund Raisers Network (APFN).

BDT 58,600 has been collected respectively by setting donation boxes and by selling souvenir items.

**Personnel Department**

The department, as routine activity, has been supporting BDRCs employees for their promotion, inter-department transfer, annual increment, retirement, resignation and also new staff recruitment. In Jun ‘12, 05 Officers along with 07 other staffs have been transferred from the NHQ to various sections under Health program. Retirement process for one of BDRCs’ personnel is completed. Under the department, annual increment for 26 BDRCs employees has been arranged. A total of 20 BDRCs employees including both officers and staffs have been registered for the provision of provident fund.

**Achievement**

Inter-department transfer for 12 employees, retirement for 01 employee, annual increment for 26 employees and provident fund membership for 20 officers and staffs have been completed.
A mission team with representatives from the Joint Statues Commission (JSC) of IFRC-Geneva, IFRC-KL and ICRC-KL has visited BDRCS from 17-21 Jun ’12 to join the Inter-ministerial meeting to accelerate the enactment process of BDRCS Legal Base. The department has developed necessary materials and completed preparatory work for the JSC mission visit.

An Inter-ministerial and Red Cross Red Crescent Movement meeting has been organised on 19 Jun ’12 in order to persuade the government for facilitating the enactment process of BDRCS Law. Secretary of Health Ministry, Additional Secretary and Joint Secretary of Food & Disaster Ministry, Joint Secretary and Senior Assistant Secretary of Law Ministry, Deputy Secretary of Defence Ministry and Deputy Secretary of Education Ministry have attended the meeting. The meeting minutes has been communicated with various personnel in and out of BDRCS. On the following day, de-briefing for the Health Secretary, the Law Secretary and the Food Secretary have also been organised at their respective offices.

Second phase of cubicle renovation is underway and will be completed by the end of Jul ’12. In Jun ’12, P&D department has attended DMWG meeting as an active member and is assigned to coordinate the process of developing a comprehensive matrix regarding BDRCS program activities. The department has also facilitated the process in developing a comprehensive project proposal for BDRCS based on the existing projects/programs.

**Achievement**

Inter-ministerial and Red Cross Red Crescent Movement meeting has been completed. De-briefing meetings between government high officials and the JSC mission team have been organised.
Planning, M&E and Reporting (PMER) Section

Consultants for Developing Branch level 4-years Plan and Branch Operations Manual are provided with the offer letter and both parties have accepted the offers. Consultants will start working soon after contract awarding completes. A draft design of BDRCS Strategic Plan (SP) for 2011-2015 has been prepared by the publisher and has been submitted with appropriate personnel in the dept. for their feedback. The design, incorporating their inputs, will be finalised for printing.

Distribution of BDRCS Monthly Activity Reports (MAR) from Nov ‘11 to Apr ’12 has been completed. Publication of BDRCS Monthly Activity Report (MAR) for May ’12 is in process and will be distributed soon. As a regular activity, BDRCS website is updated with event based news bulletins. Compilation of the contents for NHQ based individual department is underway to be uploaded to the website.

In addition, the section has provided overall technical assistance and developed various documents on BDRCS Legal Base issues for the JSC Mission visit. The section has prepared meeting minutes on Inter-Ministerial and Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement meeting. Technical assistance has been provided for HD workshop by producing relevant case studies.

The Section has prepared meeting minutes for DMWG meeting and assigned to provide technical assistance for developing a comprehensive program matrix. Technical assistance has been provided in developing BDRCS comprehensive project proposal. PMER section, as regular activity, has been producing various meeting minutes as appropriate and necessary.

Achievement

Offer letters have been provided to the consultants for Developing 4 years Branch Planning and Branch Operations Manual and accepted by the consultants. Draft design of BDRCS Strategic Plan, 2011-15 has been prepared and the design will soon be finalised. Distribution of BDRCS Monthly Activity Reports (MAR) from Nov ’11 to Apr ’12 is completed.

ICT (Information & Communication Technology) Section

A total of 10 old computers along with relevant equipment, received from the British Red Cross, have been distributed to NHQ based various departments namely Training, Youth & Volunteers, Estate, IR, Personnel, Information & Communication, Unit Affairs and also BDRCS Chairman’s Office. A MoU on RMS has been signed between BDRCS and IFRC (KL).

IT support and services, as routine activity, has been extended to NHQ based departments as and when necessary. The section is also working for IT capacity enhancement of NHQ based departments.

Achievement

A total of 10 old computers received from British Red Cross have been provided to NHQ based various departments.
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