

BANGLADESH PREPAREDNESS PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

JUNE-AUGUST 2025 ISSUE

Institutionalizing Disaster Preparedness in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is emerging as a global model for disaster risk reduction. Beneath its success lies a critical insight: resilience must be institutionalized to be sustained.

A Vision for Institutional Resilience: The Genesis of BPP

The Bangladesh Preparedness Partnership (BPP), led by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) of Bangladesh with technical assistance from the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and funding support from the Gates Foundation, worked toward institutional resilience in Phase 1 (2018–2023) by bringing together government, non-government organizations (NGOs), academia, civil society, and the private sector.

In Phase 2 (2023–2026), BPP is deepening its efforts by engaging local communities, strengthening sub-national systems, and embedding preparedness into national policies, local institutions, and everyday practices—marking a critical step toward institutionalizing resilience. This phase emphasizes the operationalization of the Standing Orders on Disaster (SOD) 2019, the establishment of a formal governance structure, and the implementation of preparedness measures across all levels of society.

Thanks to multi-stakeholder efforts, BPP has institutionalized disaster management by mobilizing diverse partners. Seventeen organizations have already joined the BPP platform, including six ministries and departments, two leading academic institutions, the country's largest private sector apex forum, and seven non-government organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) with extensive grassroots networks. This marks a significant shift from fragmented, isolated efforts to a unified and institutionalized approach to disaster management in Bangladesh,

To sustain this coordination, the MoDMR has established a high-level BPP Mobilization Desk. Located within the MoDMR, this desk serves as a permanent coordination hub and is evolving into a Mobilization Cell to support strategic, long-term disaster governance.

Institutionalization requires strong institutions, clear roles, integration into



Local stakeholders from disaster-vulnerable communities are fully engaged in BPP's Disability-Inclusive Search and Rescue (DISRE) training, gaining essential knowledge and skills for effective disaster response.

development planning, and a shift from relief to risk reduction—all of which BPP actively advances. Through a whole-of-society approach, BPP strengthens local capacity—particularly among women and disaster risk reduction (DRR) practitioners regarding the SOD 2019.

It revitalizes District Management Information Centers (DMICs), applies the Resilience Capacity Index (RCI) at the municipal level, and drives

policy reform by improving the accessibility of the Disaster Management Fund, assisting the MoDMR in revising the National Plan for Disaster Management (NPDM), and Conducting field studies in high-risk districts to guide implementation of the SOD by promoting inclusive planning, fostering stakeholder collaboration, supporting locally adaptive preparedness, and informing future revisions of national policies.

Key Milestone Achieved This Quarter Toward Institutionalization

In its ongoing mission to institutionalize disaster preparedness across various sectors and levels of society, BPP continues to gain momentum. Here's a look at how this institutionalization is moving forward—one step at a time.

Policy Engagement: Toward the Next NPDM

The NPDM has been developed to reduce the vulnerability of the poor to the effects of natural, environmental, and human-induced hazards to a manageable level. The NPDM (2021–2025) encompasses fifty disaster-risk-related activities aimed at promoting sustainable development. Built on the foundations of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) and the SOD 2019, it advances comprehensive disaster risk mitigation efforts.

This plan promotes disaster risk reduction, enhances disaster preparedness, ensures early warning and alert systems for all, and supports emergency response, rehabilitation, and recovery.

It advocates both “build back better” and “build forward better,” with a strong emphasis on inclusivity—prioritizing women, children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and ethnic minorities. The principle of “leaving no one behind” serves as its guiding ethos in striving to “win against all odds.”

BPP has placed special emphasis on the effective implementation of the existing NPDM by drafting a Progress Monitoring and Tracking System (PROMOTS). Following the NPDM development process and the integration of PROMOTS developed by BPP, the next NPDM (2026–2030) will serve as a valuable document with achievable targets.

In July, BPP actively participated in revising the NPDM (2026–2030) during a workshop organized by the MoDMR and UNDP. On 26 August 2025, a meeting of the BPP Mobilization Desk held at the ADPC Bangladesh Office focused on tracking the NPDM and discussed transforming the Mobilization Desk into a dedicated BPP Cell. Key action points were established to guide future initiatives.



BPP Partnership Advisor and former Additional Secretary Mr. Hasan Sarwar presented insights from BPP partners and consultations during a NPDM revision workshop led by MoDMR and UNDP in Dhaka

Institutionalizing Disaster Preparedness in the Business Sector

As outlined in SoD2019, the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), in collaboration with BPP, has institutionalized local disaster management by establishing Safety Cells within the district chambers of commerce in Bagerhat, Kurigram, and Cox's Bazar. These chambers now have trained Private Sector Emergency Response Teams (PERTs) and have assessed over 900 businesses for preparedness, enabling them to manage disaster risks effectively on the ground. This marks a significant step in embedding disaster resilience within local business institutions and chambers for long-term impact.

[READ MORE](#)



Meeting with Mongla EPZ Authority on 13th July 2025 to advance BPP implementation within the EPZ zone, reinforcing private sector engagement in building resilient systems.

Strengthening DMICs at the District Level

Since 2018, Bangladesh has established 65 multi-story Disaster Management Information Centers (DMICs) in every district across the country. These information hubs play a critical role in collecting, analyzing, and sharing early warning and disaster-related information, facilitating two-way communication between national and local levels. Their timely and efficient capabilities are essential for improving preparedness and saving lives. However, most of the centers have remained underutilized until now.

Recognizing this challenge, BPP conducted an in-depth study to strengthen and operationalize DMICs in Cox's Bazar, Kurigram, and Bagerhat, establishing them as a national model for future expansion. Based on the study's recommendations, all necessary equipment

for capturing, preserving, and sharing information—along with appropriate software and training—has already been provided, in line with Study's guidance.

Between June and August 2025, a DMIC Working Group was formed in Cox's Bazar. During this period, key meetings were held, equipment was installed, standard operating procedures (SOPs) were developed, and a BPP Coordinator was assigned. High-level officials pledged their support for the upgrades. On August 27, a coordination meeting was held at the ADPC offices, attended by all three District Relief and Rehabilitation Officers (DRROs). The meeting finalized the updated working group formation and outlined concrete plans for DMIC operations, data updates, and private sector inventory sharing.

[READ MORE](#)


Mr. Namul Abedin, Joint Secretary of MoDMR and Director of the Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP), visited Cox's Bazar to allocate space for the DMIC and assess renovation needs.

Institutional Capacity Assessment Using the Emergency Response Capacity Index (RCI)

BPP is strengthening municipal disaster preparedness by applying the RCI, developed by the Honduras Institute of Earth Sciences (IHCIT). BRAC University led the RCI implementation in Bangladesh as the academic partner of BPP. The RCI team comprises members from BRAC University (Department of Disaster Management and Environmental Studies) and Dhaka University (Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies), who completed assessments in Cox's Bazar and Bagerhat.

With IHCIT's support, the academic team localized the RCI tools and performed comprehensive evaluations, providing clear metrics to enhance response capacity and guide improvements.

As part of this initiative, BRAC University held a dissemination workshop on 11 August 2025, to share research findings on the disaster response capacity of Cox's Bazar Municipality.

About 25 participants, including local officials and experts, discussed key gaps and recommendations to enhance preparedness. The overall assessment rated the municipality's response capacity as medium, highlighting the need for improved funding, resources, and collaboration.

[READ MORE](#)


The RCI assessment result dissemination and way forward workshop in Cox's Bazar on 11 August 2025.

Strengthening Communication Networks: Enhancing Disaster Preparedness

BPP convened a crucial Communication Orientation Workshop on 29 June 2025, aimed at reinforcing disaster preparedness through stronger communication networks. The workshop united representatives from government agencies, academia, the private sector, and NGOs. Together, they emphasized the power of coordinated messaging and collaboration to build safer, more resilient communities across Bangladesh.

[READ MORE](#)


Strengthening communication systems is essential for enhancing disaster preparedness. Participants pose with guests after the workshop, reflecting a shared commitment to coordinated and resilient messaging.

📢 From Evidence to Action: National Webinar on SOD 2019 Implementation

Join us on 18 September 2025, from 3:00 to 4:15 PM, for a webinar titled "From Evidence to Action: Strengthening Disaster Preparedness in Bangladesh." This webinar will present key findings, challenges, and evidence-based recommendations from a baseline study conducted in three geographically distinct and disaster-prone districts in Bangladesh—Kurigram (flood-prone), Bagerhat (cyclone-prone), and Cox's Bazar (landslide and multi-hazard prone).

Don't miss the opportunity to join! Registration takes just a minute to complete:

REGISTER NOW



The poster features the following details:

- Logos:** Gates Foundation, BPP, and adpc.
- Title:** WEBINAR
- Subtitle:** From Evidence to Action: Strengthening Local Disaster Governance in Bangladesh
- Topic:** Webinar on the Baseline Study of the Standing Orders on Disaster (SOD) 2019
- Speakers:**
 - Prof. Mahbuba Khatun: Co-founder, Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies, University of Dhaka, Keynote Speaker
 - Mr. K.M. Abdul Wadud: Additional Secretary and Chair, BPP Mobilization Desk, MoDMR, Chairperson of the Webinar
 - Mr. Mahsin: Former Secretary, MoDMR & Senior Partnership Advisor, BPP, Panelist
 - Mr. Razwanur Rahman: DG Department of Disaster Management, Panelist
 - Brig. Gen. (Retd) Abu Nayem Md. Shahidullah: Advisor of NSCC Safety Council, Panelist
 - Edwin M Salonga: Programme Lead for CBDRM at ADPC, Moderator
- Date:** Thursday, September 18, 2025
- Time:** 3:00-4:15 PM (BST)
- Platform:** Zoom (Live-streamed on Facebook)
- More Info:** +88-0-1752698847, 01819-463109
- Register now** button.
- Logos:** BPP and ADPC.
- Text:** Bangladesh Preparedness Partnership (BPP) Led by: Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) Technical Support: Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) Funding From: The Gates Foundation

Looking Ahead

BPP has reached a pivotal milestone in its journey toward long-term sustainability, with an increasing focus on institutionalizing its integrated approach at the national level. This progress is exemplified by the active leadership of the BPP Mobilization Desk, chaired by the Additional Secretary of MoDMR, Mr. K.M. Abdul Wadud, as he aptly stated during the coordination meeting



"All partners need to come forward now, as ADPC has supported us through BPP for a long time. Moving forward, our support should increase, while BPP's support will gradually decrease."

— Mr. K.M. Abdul Wadud, Additional Secretary, MoDMR; 24 March 2025, at the BPP All-Partners Coordination Meeting, Dhaka.

LIKE, SHARE, FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1630378921199235>

Join the BPP Facebook Group for regular updates



<https://app.adpc.net/bpp>, and <https://adpc.net>



bpp.modmr@gmail.com