

Cyclone Amphan and Covid-19: Response and challenges

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Pandemic vs Natural Disaster

- 8th March: Bangladesh Declared First Covid-19 case
- Established Localized containment (red, yellow and green zone)
- Strengthen case investigation and contact tracing
- May 2020 Amphan
- Sessions of flood



Situation analysis

- Fortunately all these containment (red, yellow and green zone) was not affected by Cyclone Amphan of May 2020 and the subsequently Floods were not occurred at those areas or not hit extreme hot spots cities of Covid-19.
- However Awareness Campaign continued during disaster (in multiple methods wearing masks, social distancing, hand washing)



Loss and Damage Statistics of Cyclone Amphan

Cyclone Shelter Open	13,153
Sheltered people	2.6 Million
Affected District	19
Affected Family	0.5 Million
Death	28
Injured	898
Missing	0
Road Damage (Fully & Partially)	321 km
Education Institution	1800 (fully and partially)
Total Economic Loss	400 Million US\$



GoB Response to Cyclone Amphan

Rice	4,000 MT
Cash	70,000 US\$
Baby Food	37,000 US\$
Livestock Feed	33,000 US\$
Dry Food	42,000 packed
CI sheet	4,550 Bundle
House Building Loan	161,000 US\$

Double burdened issues

- Suffering with losses and displacement due to COVID-19 lockdown, faced with floods, and cyclones has a double burdened disaster for the communities
- protect the lives and livelihoods of people exposed to disasters and living in disaster prone areas - GoB has taken extensive relief and incentive support program through the **Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief**.
- **Many MoDMR field Officials also affected by Covid-19**



COVID-19 Response

(Particularly from M/o Disaster Management and Relief)

Rice	211,037 MT
Cash in BDT	15 Million US\$

- **2500/- Taka Cash was transferred to 3.5 million families during EID festival through mobile financing service**
- **Allocate VGF (Vulnerable Group Feeding) Rice to the 8.8 Million Family based on Population and Poverty Index**
- **Allocate Food Grain Support to 5 lac Fishermen community**



The Drivers of Disaster Management Response to Covid-2019:

- **PM issues 31-point directive of 02 April 2020**
 - The prime minister has given the 31-point instruction in the wake of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) situation in the country.
- **Directive No.-22-** A special attention will have to be given the most disadvantaged people like agriculture workers, day labourers, rickshaw and van-puller, transport workers, beggars, street children, the women abandoned by husband, widows and 'hijra' community and providing relief to them will have to be ensured.



The Drivers of Disaster Management Response to Covid-2019:

- **Directive No.-23** - Necessary arrangements will have to be made for senior citizens and children.
- **Directive No.-24** - All government employees and volunteer organisations will have to follow the standing orders (SOD) regard the disasters.



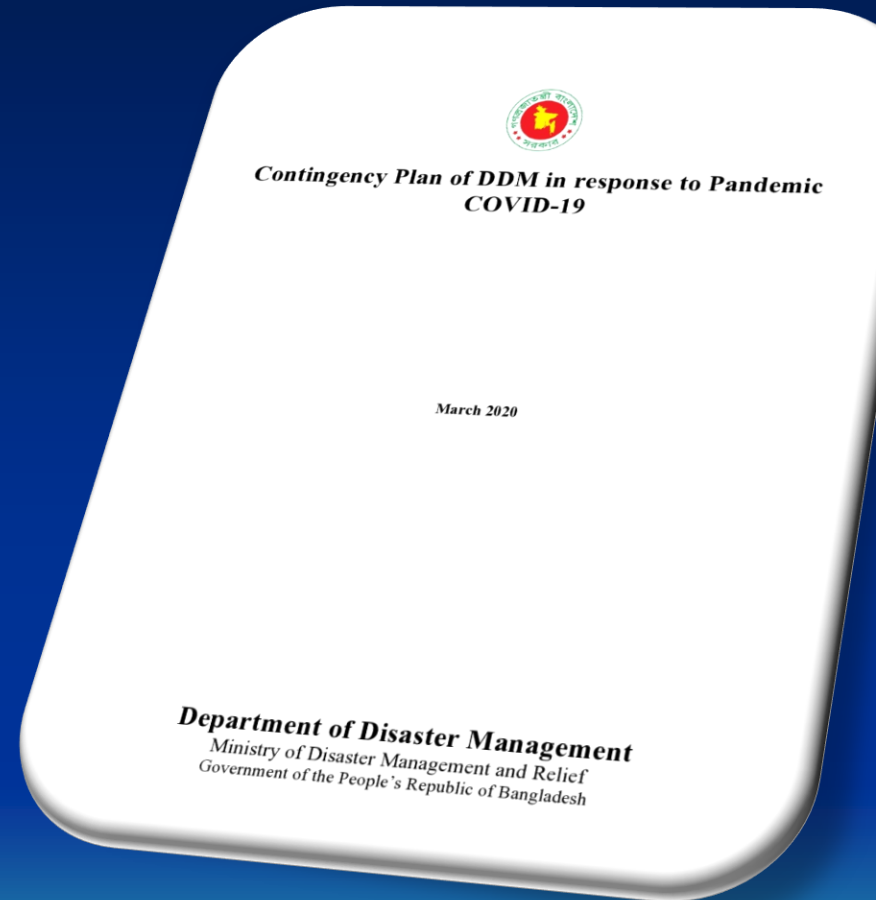
The Drivers of Disaster Management Response to Covid-2019:

- **The National Disaster Management Policy 2015:**
- **Section 3.14**
 - Hazard management for Rodent or biological, bacteria and viruses incident



Contingency Plan for response to Covid-19

- DDM prepared Contingency plan and COVID protocols.
- All Cyclone, Flood and temporary shelters maintained a supply of sanitizers, masks, and other basic protective material for stranded people along with Food, fodder for livestock etc.



Experience of New Engagement

- Feb 01, 2020; 372 Bangladeshis quarantined in Dhaka after arriving from Wuhan, China in a large Pilgrimage Transit Camp near Dhaka International Airport.
- The Department of Disaster Management has taken all humanitarian responsibility including food and clothing of those Passengers for 3 weeks.
- May be it was the first initiative taken by any Disaster Management Authority of South Asia to respond in Covid-19 Pandemic.



Double focus

- Saving lives vs coping with the impact of the pandemic.
- Sometimes it was not easy to follow the WHO and Sphere issued humanitarian protocols for the pandemic and natural disasters, respectively.
- Sometimes it had not been practical to apply COVID-19 precautions during the humanitarian phase of Amphan and during sessions of Flood, since the saving of lives should take precedence over the risk of contracting the disease.
- As millions of people evacuated to shelters, disregarding social distancing norms in some places but after disaster, Social Distancing was not ignored when relief was distributed



Concluding Remarks

- However, Ministry of Disaster management and Relief has tried its best to enforce safety precautions and other social measures during the relief distribution and recovery phases.
- **MoDMR Provided the guidance of applying humanitarian standards in response to COVID-19.**
- The food securities, water, sanitation, hygiene and health issues were well addressed during the response to COVID-19.

