

**The Conference on
Disability & Disaster Risk Management**

**December 12-14, 2015
Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Conference Report

1. Introduction

a. Background

Planning a sustainable development program for a country like Bangladesh, and not taking into consideration the overall issues of Disasters, both natural and man-made, with a predominance of natural disasters – is in itself a disaster!

With the advent of technology, increased mass awareness, a far efficient information and communication system, and concerted coordinated efforts from both the government and the non-government actors collectively, considerable success has been achieved in reducing loss of human capital in any major disaster event over the decades. But the damage to property, crops & livestock and to the people in vulnerabilities due to many other factors continues to remain major concerns.

But Bangladesh is not alone in this area of concern. The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) brought together almost every country of the world under one framework, during 2000-2015 to address disaster related issues collectively. Considerable progress has also been achieved globally. But the HFA miserably failed to address one important issue, even with the due importance that it deserved!

During any disasters, besides the number of the people that perish, a larger number of people newly become disabled for life due to injuries. During any disasters, among all the people who suffer the consequences, the greatest sufferers are the persons with disabilities. And going by the statistics of World Health Organization, we are looking at 1 billion persons with disabilities worldwide!

Additional challenges faced by persons with disabilities during the preparedness programs, the evacuation efforts, the search & rescue operations, living in safer shelters, providing relief materials, or even during the post-disaster rehabilitation efforts are hardly given any due considerations. Even a comprehensive global framework as the HFA completely missed out these considerations. It therefore is not unlikely that most international development assistance aimed at disaster risk reduction (DRR), or disaster risk management (DRM) has also missed considering the additional plight of persons with disabilities in their initiatives.

The Sendai Framework (2015-2030) however has taken the disability issue rather seriously. It possibly has come as a response to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which especially calls for rights of persons with disabilities even during disasters and humanitarian conditions. There were sustained efforts of persons with disabilities, DPOs and other stakeholders to ensure disability inclusion in Sendai Framework.

The **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030** (Sendai Framework) is the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda with seven targets and four priorities for action. It recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with all stakeholders including local government, the private sector, civil society, DPOs and others.

While Bangladesh continues to remain a major playground of almost all types of major natural disasters, we do have some success stories to share with the world. Simultaneously, the progress we have made in the area of inclusion of disability issues in the mainstream

development efforts, including in DRR and DRM also could be shared. There however still are developments happening elsewhere, from where we can learn and do better.

That had given us the impetus to organize an international conference on Disability & Disaster Risk Management. It took place in Dhaka, Bangladesh, during 12-14 December, 2015.

b. Objective

The **Broad Objective of the Conference** was to identify concrete actions to rollout Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030 with meaningful participation and contributions by persons with disabilities and their organizations in its planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting process.

Besides, it was anticipated that a "Dhaka Declaration on Disability & Disaster Management", a product of the conference could strongly urge all actors to consider disability-inclusive DRM and promote recommendations from the conference. It is expected to be a useful document that can be used both nationally and internationally.

Specific objectives:

1. Share ideas for inclusive implementation of Sendai Framework for DRR.
2. Strongly advocate for disability inclusion in all disaster concerned policies, frameworks, resource allocation, programs and ensure its monitoring and reporting.
3. Exchange innovative practices and share new knowledge & tools on disability inclusive disaster risk and crises management. And to focus on "how to" implement disability inclusive disaster risk and crises management by mainstream DRR and Humanitarian actors.
4. Highlight contributions of persons with disabilities, Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs) and organizations working on disability issues in the field of disaster risk and crises management.
5. Launch and introduce the book 'Crises, Conflict and Disability: Ensuring Equality'.

c. Theme and Sub-theme

Based on the objective, the **Theme of the Conference** was chosen as: Disability inclusive Disaster Risk Management in Post 2015 DRM Setting.

The Sub-Themes:

1. Voices and roles of persons with disabilities and Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) in Disaster Risk Management (DRM).
2. DRM for the most at risks including Persons with Neuro developmental disability, Mental health, and other persons with profound disabilities;
3. Women, Children & Youths with disabilities in DRM.
4. Innovative and inclusive practices on DRM, Crises Management/Humanitarian Actions and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA);
5. National and Local government in DRM and Crises Management (Humanitarian Response);
6. Importance of (a) research and studies; (b) technology and accessible information management system in DRM.

7. From Practice to Policy Support: Considering disability inclusion in improving basic services in DRM, for example (a) water-supply, (b) sanitation, (c) health, (d) education, (e) livelihood.
8. Disability inclusion as a vector (carrier) for stronger inclusive community resilience including recovery and reconstruction.

d. Organizers

The principal organizers were the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs of the Government of Bangladesh and the Center for Disability in Development (CDD) and the National Forum of Organizations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD), in collaboration with UNISDR.

Associate organizers included the Local Government Division, the Department of Disaster Management (DDM), the Department of Social Services (DSS), the Jatiyo Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation (JPUF), the Neuro Developmental Disability Protection Trust (NDDPT), the Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies (IDMVS), Dhaka University and the Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Center (BDPC).

NFOWD acted as the Conference Secretariat.

e. Participants and Participating countries

The conference had registered a total of 414 participants of which 28% are female. The registrants include 139 persons with disabilities (34% of total). 76 overseas participants had registered from 25 countries. The participating countries are listed below (alphabetically):

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| 1. Afghanistan | 14. Myanmar |
| 2. Bangladesh | 15. Nepal |
| 3. Chile | 16. Netherlands |
| 4. Congo | 17. Pakistan |
| 5. England | 18. Palestine |
| 6. Fiji | 19. Philippines |
| 7. Germany | 20. Qatar |
| 8. Hong Kong, PRC | 21. Scotland |
| 9. India | 22. South Africa |
| 10. Indonesia | 23. Sri Lanka |
| 11. Japan | 24. Switzerland |
| 12. Kenya | 25. United States of America |
| 13. Kiribati | 26. Vietnam |

2. Programs

The conference was publicly announced through a press conference held at the Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief Conference Room on 10th December, 2015, attended by the Minister, Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief, and high officials of the three organizing ministries.

The conference took place at the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh premises at Farmgate, Dhaka, a purposefully built building with fair accessible features. However, additional modifications were made to make it as accessible as possible for persons with disabilities.

The Program Outline

| Date | Morning sessions – One 09:00 to 11:00 | | Morning sessions – Two 11:30 to 01:00 | Afternoon sessions – One 02:00 to 03:15 | Afternoon sessions – Two 03:30 to 05:00 |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| 10th Dec (Thursday) | | | Press Conference with selected Advisory, Scientific & Organizing Committee members on Conference Purpose, expectation and Design | | |
| 12th Dec (Saturday) | Guests take their seats | 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM | Plenary session – 1 (Invited National & International Resource Persons) | Concurrent Session (Sub-theme 1) | Special Event - 1 |
| | | Conference Opening with Book Launching | | Concurrent Session (Sub-theme 2) | |
| | | | Market place (Stalls) | Concurrent Session (Sub-theme 3) | |
| | | | | Market place and Ignite Stage | Market place and Ignite Stage |
| 13th Dec (Sunday) | Concurrent Session (Sub-theme 4) | | Special Event – 4 | Concurrent Session (Sub-theme 7) | Panel and Audience discussion on 'Disability inclusive Disaster Risk Management in Post – 2015 Agenda.' And moving forward from the conference. |
| | Concurrent Session (Sub-theme 5) | | Special Event – 5 | Concurrent Session (Sub-theme 8) | |
| | Concurrent Session (Sub-theme 6) | | Special Event – 6 | Concurrent Session - 9 (Free-session) | |
| | Market Place and Ignite Stage | | Market Place and Ignite Stage | Market Place and Ignite Stage | |
| 14th Dec (Monday) | Presentation by 'Drafting team' of Final draft of 'Dhaka Declaration: Disability inclusive Disaster Risk Management in Post – 2015 Agenda.' | | High Level Panel on Dhaka Declaration and the Way Forward | Conference Closing, Dhaka Declaration Announcement | Media briefing by Chief Adviser and selected members of Advisory, Scientific & Organizing Committee on the outcome of the Conference and Next Steps |

3. Proceedings (Day wise)

A. Day 1 – 12th December, 2015

a) Inauguration

The conference was formally inaugurated by Mr Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Bir Bikram, MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. Ms Meher Afroze Chumki, MP, Honorable State Minister, Ministry of Women & Children Affairs and Dr Jerry Velasquez, Chief, Advocacy and Outreach Section of UNISDR were present as Special Guests.

The Conference Keynote paper was presented by Ms Saima Hossain, Chairperson, National Advisory Committee on Autism, and Member, WHO's Expert Advisory Panel on Mental Health.

Dr Valerie Lynn Karr, Assistant Professor, International Development, School for Global Inclusion and Social Development, USA, and the Editor of "Crises, Conflict and Disability" introduced the book, before it was formally launched in Bangladesh by the Chief Guest.

The program was chaired by Mr Tariq-Ul-Islam, Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare

b) Plenary Sessions

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| <u>Plenary session - 01</u> | Understanding DRM Context & Bangladesh | Mr M Khurshid Alam, Assistant Country Director, UNDP | Mr Md. Riaz Ahmed Director General, Dept. of Disaster Management Moderator: Mr Shafiqul Islam CD, ADD |
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c) Concurrent Sessions

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| <u>Concurrent Session - 01</u> Voices and roles of persons with disabilities and Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) in Disaster Risk Management (DRM) | Widening the participation of people with disabilities in disability inclusive community based disaster risk management in Vietnam | Ms Dung Mai Malteser International | Mr Khandaker Jahurul Alam Executive Director, CSID |
| | DPOs promoting Inclusive Disaster Risk Management in coastal zone of Bangladesh | Mr M Jamal Uddin DRRA | |
| | Capacity Building for DPOs on DRM in Indonesia. | Ms Pradytia Putri Pertiwi, ASB | |
| <u>Concurrent Session - 02</u> DRM for the most at risks including Persons with Neuro developmental disability, Mental health, and other | Autism Barta: a mobile interactive, community-based automated tool for screening autism | Dr Khondaker Abdullah Al Mamun, UIU, Dhaka | Prof Golam Rabbani Chairman, Neuro- Developmental Disability Protection Trust |
| | Assessing vulnerability of Persons with Disability due to human induced disaster: A reference methodology for Bangladesh | Prof Khondoker Mokaddem Hossain, IDMVS, DU | |

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| persons with profound disabilities | Neuro-Developmental Disabilities and Disaster Risk Reduction: an peregrinate of spectrum | Ms Sajida Rahman Danny, Parents Forum for Differently Able | |
| Concurrent Session - 03 Women, Children & Youths with disabilities in DRM | Increased risk factors for women with disabilities | Mr Fred Smith (Ms Rifat Khan / Ms Syeda Asma Rashida) Sightsavers | Ms Nasima Begum ndc, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs |
| | Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities members in Disaster Risk Reduction | Mr M Yousuf SANGRAM | |
| | Inclusiveness should not be only in Policies it should be Practiced | Mr M Shahidul Haque SARPV | |

d) Special Events

Special Event- 01

Sight Savers International & Disabled Rehabilitation & Research Association (DRRA)

Special Event- 02

Shifting the Power (A Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies)

e) Market Place

B. Day 2 – 13th December, 2015

a) Concurrent Sessions

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| Concurrent Session - 04 Innovative and inclusive practices on DRM, Crises Management/Humanitarian Actions and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) | Livelihood – a fighting tool of people with disabilities for disaster risk reduction in coastal area | Mr M Firoz Rahman DRRA | Mr Satya Brata Saha Additional Secretary, MoDMR |
| | Disability, disasters and empowerment | Mr Fred Smith, Ms Rifat Khan / Ms Syeda Asma Rashida Sightsavers | |
| | Institutionalization process of inclusive practices in Disaster Risk Management in NARRI consortium in Bangladesh. | Md. Shafiqul Islam Handicap International Bangladesh | |
| Concurrent Session - 05 National and Local government in DRM & Crises Management (Humanitarian Response) | How It Could Work Now: National and Local Level Synergy towards Disability Inclusion in DRRM | Louielyn Joy A. Morada Center for Disaster Preparedness | Gawher Nayeem Wahra, Convenor & Member Secretary, Disaster Forum |
| | Disability inclusion in DRM and Humanitarian Response | Murshida Akhter Oxfam | |
| | National & Local government in DRM at crisis management in Nepal | Deepak Raj Sapkota Karuna Foundation | |
| Concurrent Session - 06 Importance of (a) research and studies; (b) technology and accessible information | IoT based Intelligent System for Regular as well as pre, post and during Disaster Monitoring and Support for Disables of Bangladesh | Mr M. Mohaimenuz-zaman, Mr Shimul Hassan, Mr M Shahjahan, Mr M Anwar Ullah, Mr Khondaker Abdullah Al Mamun | Prof Khondoker Mokaddem Hossain, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Open University |

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| management system in DRM | Measuring the resilience of persons with disabilities to disasters in Indonesia | Ms Pradytia Putri Pertiwi, ASB | |
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| Concurrent Session - 07 From practice to Policy Support: Considering disability inclusion in improving basic services in DRM for example (a) water-supply, (b) sanitation, (c) health, (d) education, (e) livelihood | Barriers to Inclusive Education | Mr M Abdus Salam GUK | Dr Anwar Ullah, Director- Finance & Admin, JPUF |
| | Effort to empower persons with disabilities from the journey of deprivation and marginalization | Ahmed Borhan INCIDIN Bangladesh | |
| | Practice to Policy Advocacy for Inclusive Local Governance | Mr Santanu Lahiri WSP-WB | |
| Concurrent Session - 08 Disability inclusion as a vector (carrier) for stronger inclusive community resilience including recovery and reconstruction | Building stronger disability inclusive community resilience through disaster preparedness and responses: the experiences in dealing with the Wenchuan, China Earthquake in 2008 | Mr S K Choi & Dr Joseph Kwok HKSR | Ms Sae Kani Director/Co Founder, TRE-Humanitarian Support Asia |
| | Flood Related Housing and Disabilities | Mr Mohammad Abu Sadque, PEng., HBRI | |
| | Inclusion is a human right! | Murali Padmanabhan Light For The World Netherlands | |
| Concurrent Session - 09 Free Papers | Developmental Disabilities of Children and their Health Outcomes | Dr. Rasheduzzaman Mondol & Dr Muhammad Tanvir Faysol Holy family Red Crescent Medical College Hospital | Dr Rownak Hafiz, Chairperson, AWF |
| | Inclusive Secondary Education System for students of ASD and NDDs: Role of Establishment of Autistic Academy Project under the Ministry of Education | Ms Salma Begum & Mr M Salim Chowdhury, Establishment of Autistic Academy Project, Ministry of Education, Govt. of Bangladesh | |
| | Quality of Life Among Survivors From Building Collapse: Case Study of Rana Plaza, Savar, Dhaka | Md. Yeasir Arafat Alve Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) | |

b) Ignite Stage

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| 9:10 AM | Ignite Session - 1 | Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment of Children: an Exploratory Study among Victims of Rana Plaza | Nurunnahar Arju Dhaka University |
| 9:15 AM | Ignite Session - 2 | Innovative Trauma Release Tool to prevent mass Trauma in Post-Disaster Situation. | Sae Kani Director / co-founder, TRE-Humanitarian Support Asia |
| 9:30 AM | Ignite Session - 3 | Role of DPO for inclusive response during Nepal earthquake Response, Relief and Early Recovery. | Sudhir Malla Emergency Programme Manager, CBM, Nepal. |

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| 9:45 AM | <u>Ignite Session - 4</u> | Occupational Therapy Role in Disaster Management in Bangladesh. | Mohammad Monjurul Habib University of Hawaii, USA |
| 1:30 PM | <u>Ignite Session – 5</u> | Disability and disasters: five factors increasing vulnerability for people with disabilities | Fred Smith (Rifat Khan / Syeda Asma Rashida) Policy Advisor – Social Inclusion, Sightsavers |
| 1:45 PM | <u>Ignite Session – 6</u> | Disability Inclusive Education in Emergency (DiEiE) | Subir Kumar Saha Deputy Program Manager (DRR & CCA), Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) |
| 2:00 PM | <u>Ignite Session – 7</u> | Ensure positive Action to include persons with disabilities in the disaster crisis management | M Harun-ur-Rashid Executive Director Bangladesh Protibandhi Shohojogita Sangstha (BPSS) |
| 2:15 PM | <u>Ignite Session – 8</u> | Shifting the Power Initiative and Inclusive Practices of its Partner Organizations | Shamina Akhtar Program Manager, Shifting the Power, Christian Aid. |

c) Special Events

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| <u>Special Event- 03</u> Neuro-Developmental Disability Protection Trust & Institute of Paediatric Neurodisorder & Autism |
| <u>Special Event- 04</u> Disability inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Network |
| <u>Special Event- 05</u> Department of Social Service & Jatiyo Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation |

d) Side Event by UNISDR

e) Panel Sessions

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| Community of practice: Sharing on good practices & learning on DiDRM | Invited panelists and chair from different countries |
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C. Day 3 – 14th December, 2015

a) Plenary Sessions

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| Presentation by 'Drafting team' of Final draft of ' <i>Dhaka Declaration: Disability inclusive Disaster Risk Management in Post 2015 Agenda.</i> ' and finalization. | Drafting team | Mohammad Abdul Qayyum, Additional Secretary, MoDMR, National Project Director, CDMP II |
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b) Panel Sessions

The High Level Panel on Dhaka Declaration and the Way Forward

After endorsement of the Dhaka Declaration in the precious session, a high level panel had a threadbare discussion in a plenary session moderated by Dr. Jerry Velasquez, Chief of Section of UNISDR. The panel discussion had focused on the way forward to implement the Dhaka Declaration in difference countries to promote inclusion of disability concerned issues in mainstream disaster risk reduction initiatives. The panelists were:

- Dr. Alex Robinson, Country Director Indonesia & Philippines, ASB.
- Ms. Valerie Scherrer, Director, Emergency Response Unit, CBM.
- Mr. Carlos Kaiser, Executive Director, ONG Inclusive.
- Mr. Khandaker Jahurul Alam, Executive Director, CSID.
- Dr. Khondoker Mokaddem Hossain, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Bangladesh Open University.
- Md. Abdul Qayyum, Additional Secretary and National Project Director, Comprehensive Disaster Management Program, Bangladesh.

The panelists expressed their opinions to accommodate the recommendations of the declaration by the state parties through systematic inclusion of issues of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction programs. Each of the panel speakers strongly justified the timely initiative taken by the conference organizers particularly the government of Bangladesh and all other sponsors and supporters. After deliberation of speech by the panel speakers, opinions were gathered from the audience duly facilitated by the moderator. The major outcomes of the discussion are as follows:

- The Dhaka declaration could be a reference document in forthcoming regional and other international platform with due consideration of the recommendations;
- The Dhaka declaration should be accommodated in the national Action Plan for implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in all possible state parties following specified time line;
- Monitoring of UNCRPD implemented by state parties should consider implementation of recommendations in the Dhaka Declaration in all concerned countries.
- The Disaster Risk Management initiatives should systematically involve other concerned stake holders in the process of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of disability inclusive disaster risk management programs;
- State parties should have analysis of needs and requirements of disability inclusion including financial, infrastructural and other special needs services and allocate resources;
- Orientation of all disaster and disability related stakeholders on disability inclusive disaster risk reduction should be initiated following the recommendations of Dhaka declaration;
- Dhaka declaration document may be translated in local language for adequate transmission of messages for policy to implementation level;
- There should be systematical inclusion of persons with disabilities in appropriate planning and implementation structure from national to committee level and engage them with adequate knowledge and capacity;

c) Closing ceremony

The closing ceremony began with the Conference summing up by Mr AHM Noman Khan, Executive Director, CDD & Member Secretary, Scientific Committee.

Mr Monsur Ahmed Choudhuri, Member, Executive Board, Disability Council International, Geneva; Former Member, Inaugural United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with

Disabilities (2009-2012) then formally introduced the Dhaka Declaration for adoption. From among the audience, one participant from each representing country was invited upon stage, who later signed the document, declaring solidarity.

The special guests to the closing ceremony were Dr Jerry Velasquez, Chief, Advocacy and Outreach Section of UNISDR, Ms Nasima Begum ndc, Secretary, Ministry of Women & Children Affairs, and Mr Tariq-UI-Islam, Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare.

Mr Gawher Rizvi, Advisor to the Prime Minister on International Affairs graced the occasion as the Chief guest.

Ms Saima Hossain, Chairperson, National Advisory Committee on Autism and Member, WHO's Expert Advisory Panel on Mental Health discussed the way forward.

Mr M Shah Kamal, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, presiding over the closing session finally declared the conference closed.

4. Conference Output: The Dhaka Declaration

Please see attached

5. Supporters

The major supporters of the Conference were the Government of Bangladesh, UNDP and CBM.

The other supporters were, in alphabetical order, Actionaid, Caritas Bangladesh, Christian Aid, Disability Research & Rehabilitation Association (DRRA), Handicap International, Light For The World, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Sightsavers and Worldvision.

The Associates were the Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Network (DIDRRN), Liliane Fonds, NARRI Consortium and Shifting the Power