

Workshop on National Platforms 23 - 29 August 2008, Davos Switzerland

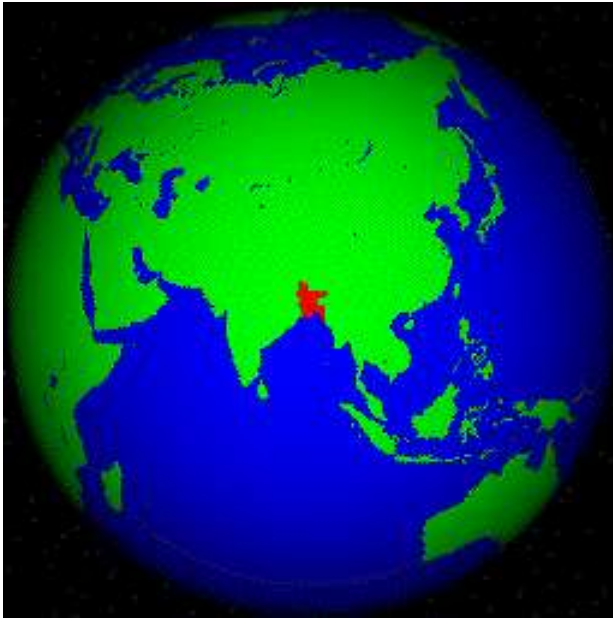
Disaster Risk Reduction National Coordinating Mechanisms in **Bangladesh**

Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury

Vice Chancellor

BRAC University, Dhaka

The Setting



Bangladesh

Population : 145 million

30% Urban

70% Rural

Area : 144,000 sq. km

Administrative Setup

- 6 Divisions
- 64 Zilas (Districts)
- 500 Upazilas (Sub-districts)
- c. 4,500 Unions

Natural Hazards Affecting Bangladesh

- ⊕ Floods
- ⊕ Cyclone and Storm Surge
- ⊕ Erosion
- ⊕ Earthquakes
- ⊕ Thunderstorm and Tornadoes
- ⊕ Drought
- ⊕ Landslides

- ⊕ *Among the countries likely to be affected most severely by Global Climate Change, particularly by Sea Level Rise*
 - ⊕ *10 million people to be displaced by 50 cm SLR*

Context of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Bangladesh

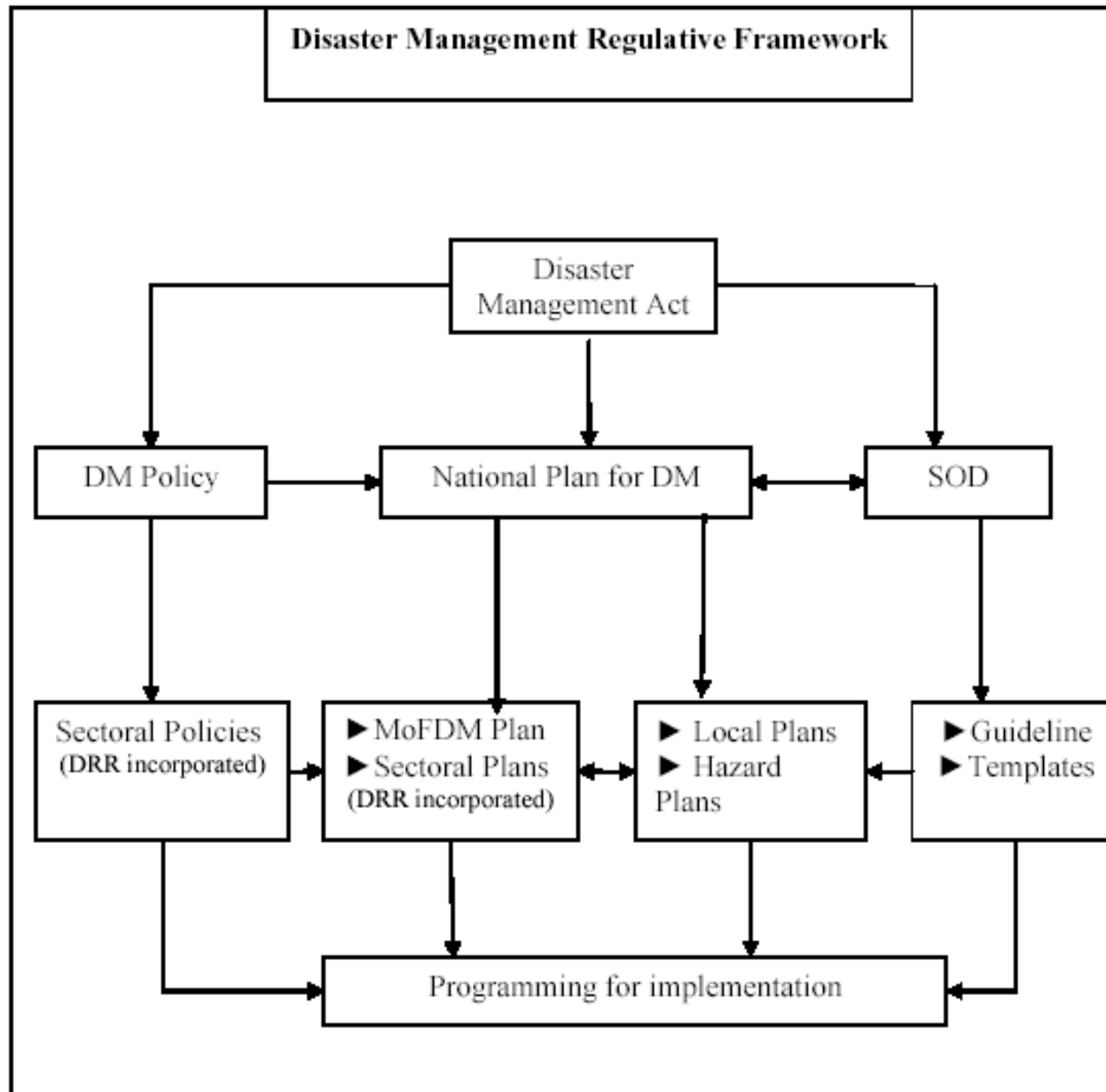
- Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM) is responsible for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)
- Three agencies under the ministry:
 - Disaster Management Bureau (DMB)
 - Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation (DRR) and
 - Directorate of Food (DoF)
- DMB created in 1992 under the then Ministry of Relief (renamed as Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief; merged with Ministry of Food in 2002, presently MoFDM)
 - focal point of disaster related activities in the country.

Context of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Bangladesh

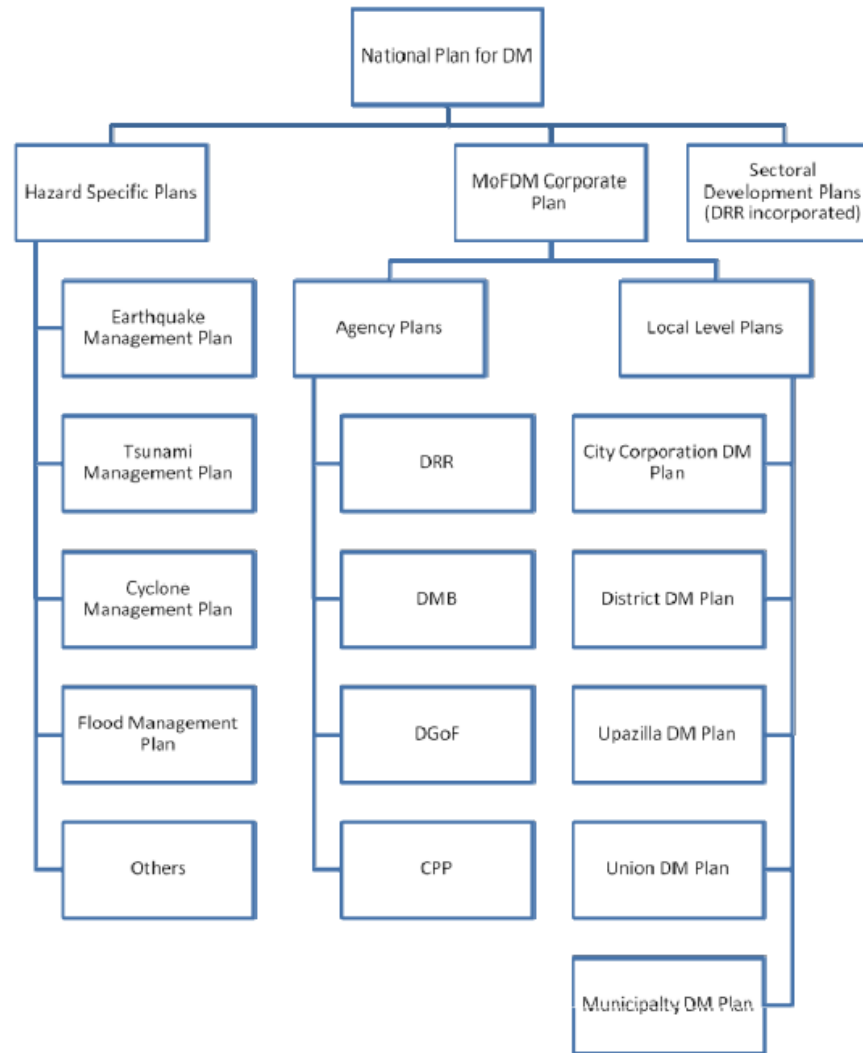
Disaster Management Bureau (DMB) is the Focal Point for the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)

- Mandate of DMB:
 - ✓ Promote awareness building activities.
 - ✓ A facilitator for the preparation of local disaster management action plans at Union, Upazila and District levels.
 - ✓ Maintain coordination with line departments/agencies, NGOs, social organizations etc.
 - ✓ A facilitator and a depository of all Disaster Management Related Information.
 - ✓ Maintain Inventory of Skilled Disaster Management Personnel.
 - ✓ Monitoring unit to monitor disaster preparedness activities through district administrations.

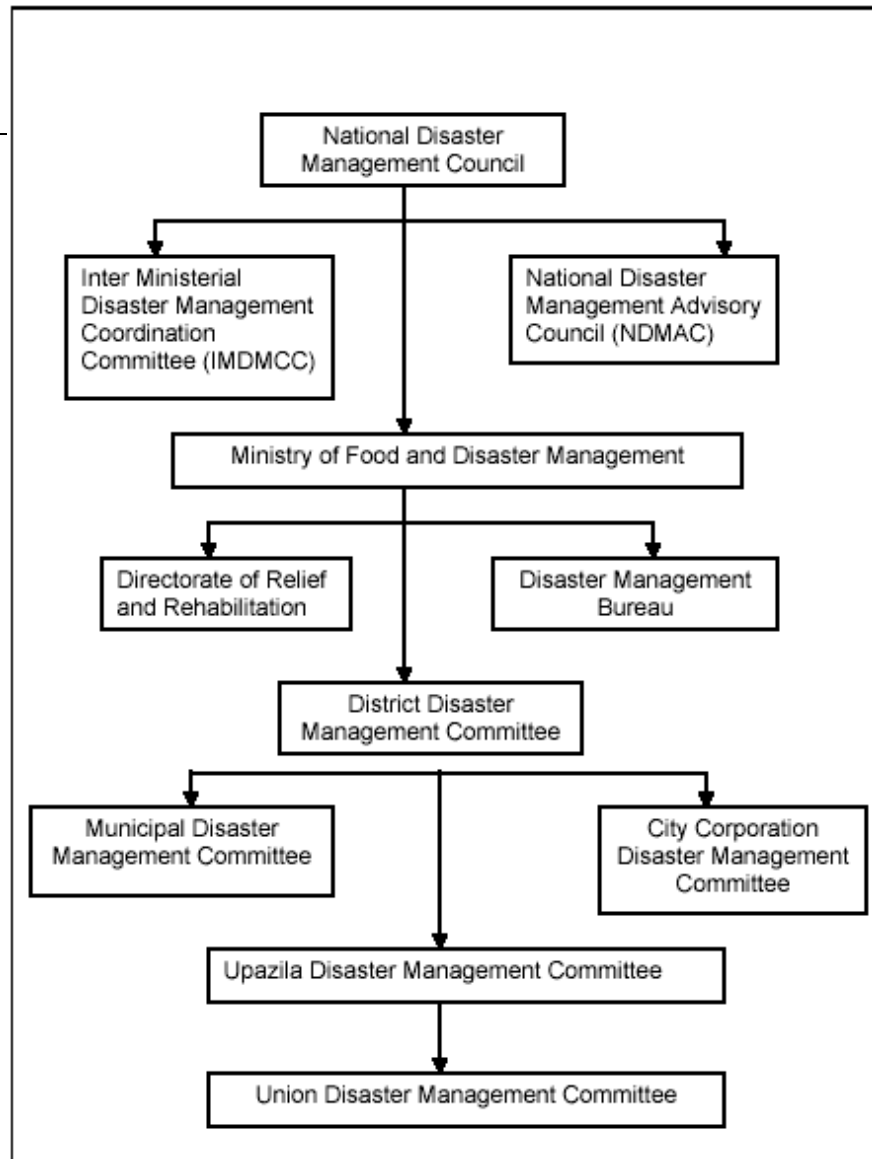
Legal Framework for DRR and DRR National Plan



Legal Framework for DRR and DRR National Plan



Disaster Management Planning
Framework in Bangladesh



Disaster Management Institutions as suggested in the SoD

Legal Framework for DRR and DRR National Plan

Standing Orders on Disaster (SOD)

- Describes the detailed roles and responsibilities of committees, Ministries and other organizations in disaster risk reduction and emergency management, and establishes the necessary actions required in implementing Bangladesh's Disaster Management Model.
- The Standing Orders have been prepared with the avowed objective of making the concerned persons understand their duties and responsibilities regarding disaster management at all levels, and accomplishing them.

Legal Framework for DRR and DRR National Plan

Standing Orders on Disaster (SOD) (*continued...*)

- All Ministries, Divisions/Departments and Agencies shall prepare their own Action Plans in respect of their responsibilities under the Standing Orders for efficient implementation.
- NDMC and IMDMCC ensure coordination of disaster related activities at the National level.
- Local level coordination by respective DMC, UpDMC and UnDMC;
- The Disaster Management Bureau render all assistance to them by facilitating the process.

The existing SOD has been undergoing revision incorporating disasters like earthquake and others.

National Disaster Risk Reduction Mechanisms

- Concept of Risk Reduction - emphasis over Relief and Response – gaining ground in Bangladesh.
- The Government has been working through the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) since 2003 to mainstream the culture of Risk Reduction in disaster management activities. CDMP is being financed by the EC, UNDP and DFID.
- A large number of NGOs working in this effort.

DRR Institutional Relation to Climate Change

National Plan for Disaster Management underscores issues related to climate change and climate variability under its Strategic Goal 5 as follows:

Strategic Goal 5: Expanding Risk Reduction Programming across hazards and sectors.

Key Target 5.2: Establish an Integrated Approach to disaster management including Climate Change and climate variability impacts.

Action Agenda 2008-2015:

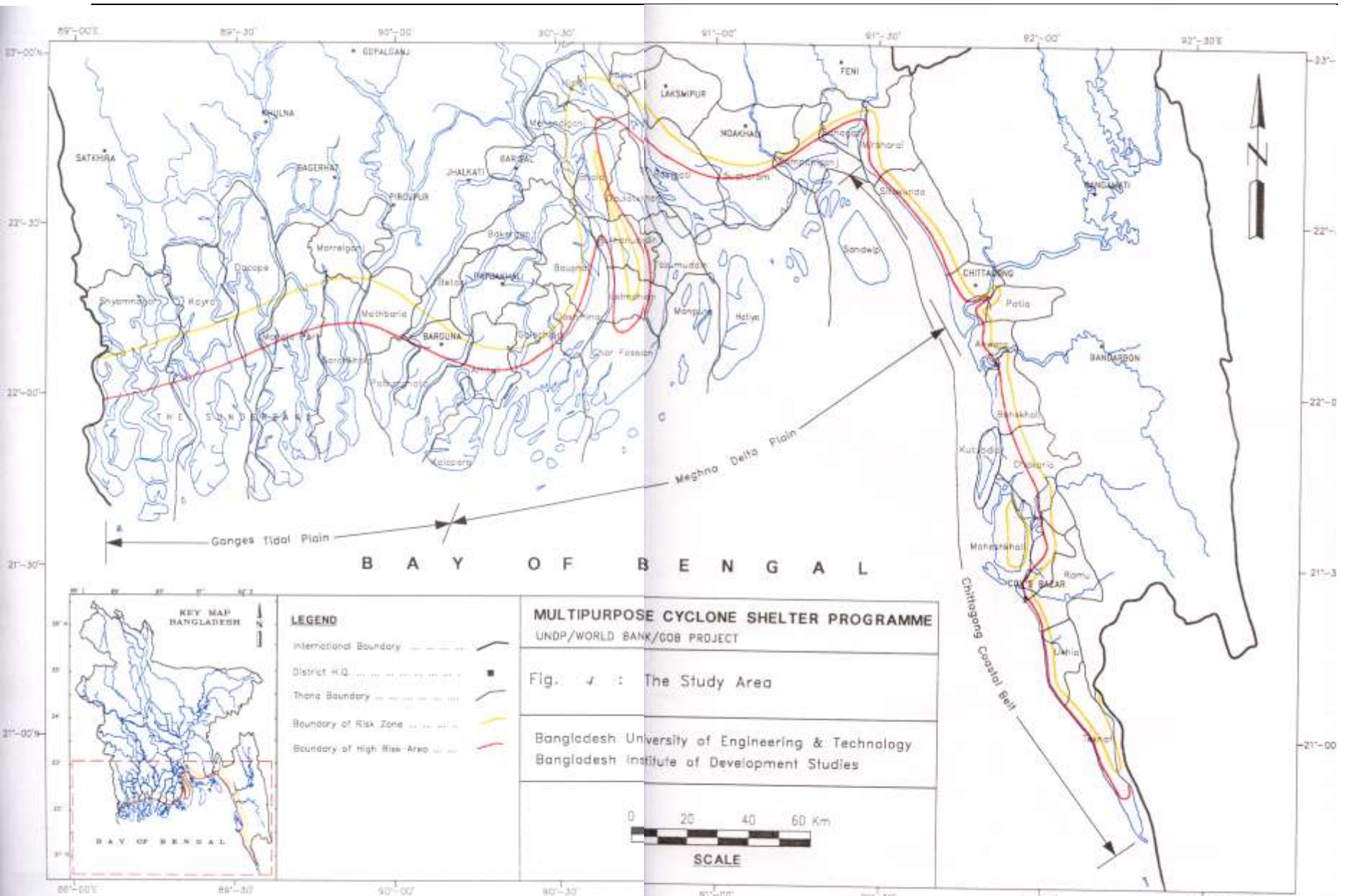
- Establish and capacitate the Climate Change Cell (CCC) within DoE
- Develop scenario and prediction models determine climate change and climate variability impacts.
- Conduct research to determine climate change and climate variability impacts for Bangladesh
- Incorporate climate change and climate variability impact information in the disaster Risk reduction programmes design

Identified Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths:

- Disaster management institutions down to Union level;
- Participatory approaches to risk assessment (community risk assessment, CRA);
- Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP) along the coast
 - jointly operated by Government and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
 - 42,000 volunteers may be mobilized within one hour
 - good warning system
 - Evacuation to multipurpose shelters (2,000 built; another 2,000 being built)
- Active roles of print and electronic media as well as the civil society;
- Disaster Management Education at the University level
 - Postgraduate Programs in Disaster Management (PPDM) at BRAC University, leading to Masters in Disaster Management

Storm Surge Risk Zoning Map





Multipurpose Cyclone and Storm Surge Shelter
(Red Crescent Society)



Cyclone shelter in Chittagong, Bangladesh

Identified Strengths and Weaknesses

Weaknesses:

- Local level DMCs need to be more functional;
- Overlapping responsibilities of DMC members is a major hindrance to proper functioning;
- Government agencies like DMB, DRR should be operational at the local levels;
- Successful program like CPP, lacks government patronization
- Educational and Research Programs like PPDM at BU need financial support