

Roundtable Discussion on Disaster Risk Governance - Need of National Urban Policy



To mark 'International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2021' and 'CPP's 50 Years' Islamic Relief organised a Roundtable Discussion titled 'Disaster Risk Governance - Need of National Urban Policy' on 10 October 2021. This was organised at the Conference Hall of the Daily Samakal. Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief (MoDMR), Islamic Relief Bangladesh and the Daily Samakal jointly organised the event.

Main objectives of the Round Table Discussion were to celebrate 'International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2021' and '50 years of CPP'. Enamur Rahman, State Minister of Disaster Management and Relief was the chief guest of the event.

The discussants were MP, Govt. high officials, Urban planners, Academicians, Development sector representatives and Civil society delegates. They also discussed on current urban disaster considering urban context and to approve the National Urban Policy which was drafted in 2014 but yet to finalise.

Mohammad Akmal Shareef, Country Director, Islamic Relief Bangladesh has also been one of the distinct participants in this discussion. The event went live from the Facebook page of Islamic Relief Bangladesh and got coverages from various national media & newspapers.

A supplementary was also published in the Daily Samakal (both online & printed version) on the occasion of International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2021 which is celebrated on 13 October 2021.

International Girl Child Day 2021 and 16 Days of Activism Observed



In a grand manner, the Preventing Early Marriage in Bangladesh (PEMB) project observed the International Girl Child Day 2021 on 11 October 2021 in Mithapukur Upazila of Rangpur district. A colorful rally held in presence of 450 participants including adolescent girls, parents, UP Chairman & Members and local leaders. Presided over by the Project Manager Nicholas Murmu, the rally was followed by a discussion session where three UP Chairmen from three unions – Khoragach, Baluamasimpur & Ranipukur - were present. All three chairmen vowed to end early marriage at their own localities.

As part of observing 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence, the PEMB project formed a human chain and collected mass signature on 6 and 7 December 2021 in the project areas of Mithapukur Upazila, Rangpur. More than 500 participants including adolescent girls, parents, Union Parishad bodies and local leaders participated in the event.

In both of the events, the participants took oath of stopping violence against children and women at their own household, neighborhood as well as community. They also pledged to stop early marriage and inform the administration by dialing 109 if they come across any news of early marriage.

Promotes Rooftop Gardening



To promote urban rooftop gardening, IRB conducted training sessions in collaboration with Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) and Sylhet City Corporation.

Youth volunteers of both areas were given training to develop their knowledge, improve their skills and strengthen their capacity on rooftop gardening.

Discussion on 'Prevention of Violence against Women and Realisation of Rights' held in Dinajpur



A total of 48 seminars were organized by Islamic Relief Bangladesh in nine unions of Dinajpur. The seminars were held in presence of Government service providers, community leaders, Faith-based leaders and more than 2000 community participants. Md. Kamrul Islam, Project Manager of SCORE project and project officer Nazmul Haque, periodically presided over the functions at different places. Upazila Executive Officer, Upazila and Union Chairmen, Officers in charge, Sub inspectors graced the discussions as the chief guests. All members of the women's rights and economic group attended the seminars as well. The aim of these sessions was to facilitate community activism to promote human rights and gender equality. The key discussion points were in the sessions- women rights, human rights and child rights, and how to avail these rights from the government and respective stakeholders. In addition, discussion sessions were held on how women -and child rights are violated by the family members, relatives and community people and how to report when violence occurs. The sessions also sensitized the community to reduce violence in their homes and neighbourhood. It also made awareness among the community about the support mechanisms for victims.

Observance of Universal Children's Day 2021

In a festive mood, the Universal Children's Day 2021 was observed on November 20 at Pangsha (Rajbari), Derai (Sunamganj) and Mithapukur (Rangpur) by Orphan Sponsorship Programme where about 700 participants attended. The event of Pangsha was presided over by the UNO Mohammad Ali and graced by valiant freedom fighter, Md. Zillul Hakim, Member of Parliament, Rajbari-2, as the Chief Guest while Md. Forid Hasan Odud, Upazila Chairman of Pangsha was the Special Guest. Other relevant Govt. officials of Pangsha Upazila and Chairman from Union Parishads were also present. The events of Derai & Mithapukur were attended by the UNO Mahmudur Rahman Mamun & Fatematuj Zohora respectively as the Chief Guest along with other dignitaries. IRB-sponsored children and their guardians, IRB staff members, local elites and journalists attended these events. In addition to discussion, drawing competitions for the children took place and prizes were distributed among the winners. Appreciating the children-focused activities of IRB, the guests expressed their gratification and gratitude for organising such a colorful event.



Livelihoods have been Recovered of Flood Affected Community at Jamalpur

Jamalpur being the most flood affected district in Bangladesh has been severely impacted during monsoon flood 2020. A number of people had lost their livelihoods, assets and other belongings with the damage of embankments, ponds, roads and other community assets. Islamic Relief Bangladesh has supported about 3560 affected families to build resilience within the community with livelihood cash grant, Cash for Work (CfW) for repairing roads and embankments, transitional shelters, gender-sensitive sanitary latrines, flood resilient tube-well, rescue kit and temporary shelter materials to the UDMCs under IRUSA funded project entitled Recovering Livelihood of Flood Affected Communities at Islampur and Dewanganj upazila of Jamalpur District in Bangladesh. Duration of this project was nine months that started on 1 January 2021 and ended on 30 September 2021.



Celebrated International Youth Day 2021

To support youth community and to promote youth engagement in development activities, Islamic Relief Bangladesh celebrated International Youth Day 2021 both in Dhaka and Sylhet. The day was celebrated with lot of enthusiasm and activities. A tree plantation event was organised with Surma Youth Team (Youth beneficiary group of ward#18) and Youth-Net for Climate Justice, Sylhet Unit at Kazi Jalaluddin Secondary School, ward 18, Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) under ReWARD-II project at Sylhet City Corporation where 45 numbers and 3 types (Fruits, Tree, Medicinal) of saplings were planted surrounding the schoolyard. Dhaka ReWARD-II team marked the day by organising a Webinar on Youth Empowerment and Development titled “Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health”. Youth beneficiaries, ward level volunteers and volunteers from Youth Net for Climate Justice participated in the Webinar. The keynote speaker of the webinar was the Coordinator of Food Security Cluster, Bangladesh and Ward Councillor of Ward 11(DNCC), Ward Councillor of Ward 19 (SCC) and Coordinator of Youth Net for Climate Justice were the guest speakers.



Climate Justice Dialogue 'COP26: Expectation & Aspiration'



Islamic Relief Bangladesh in collaboration with Youth Net for Climate Justice & Poribesh o Haor Unnayan Sangstha organized a national dialogue event on 16 October 2021 at Sylhet. M A Mannan MP, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Planning, Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh were the chief guest of this event. Among the other distinguished guests Judith Herbertson, Head, DFID Bangladesh; Mohammad Akmal Shareef, Country Director, Islamic Relief Bangladesh; Habibur Rahman Habib, Honourable Member of Parliament, (Sylhet-3); M Qazi Emdadul Islam, Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet and Ariful Haque Chowdhury, Mayor, Sylhet City Corporation delivered their speech and participated in the dialogue. More than 150 youth climate activists, civil society representatives and journalists from electronic and print media were also present in the event. Main objectives of this dialogue were to do advocacy to policy makers to implement the climate polices effectively, showcasing the communities & young people's perspective & climate agendas and promote the involvement of young people in climate change issues. The event went live from the Facebook page of Islamic Relief Bangladesh and got national and local online electronic, television and print media coverage.



Inception Meeting of ALO Plus Project

The inception meeting of “Alternative Orphan Family Sponsorship Program through Sustainable Livelihoods” (ALO Plus) project, funded by Islamic Relief USA, held on 14 October 2021 at the Hall room of Gangachara Upazila Parishad, Rangpur. In absence of UNO, the meeting was presided over by Upazila Agricultural Officer, Md. Sariful Islam. The Chairman of Gangachara Upazila Parishad, Md. Ruhul Amin was present as the Chief Guest. A total of 55 individuals including Upazila Vice-Chairman (male & female), Upazila Educational Officer, Upazila Cooperative Officer, Veterinary Surgeon, Upazila Rural Development Officer, Upazila Social Welfare Officer, Project Implementation Officer, 9 UP Chairman & UP Secretary, Imam, Purohit and journalists from print & electronic media attended the meeting. A brief detail on Islamic Relief Bangladesh and its activities was shared by Shamim Yusuf, Program Coordinator of Child Rights Programme.



Inception of ALO Waqf Project Held

The inception meeting of the ‘Alternative Orphan Family Sponsorship Programme through Sustainable Livelihoods’ project, funded by International Waqf Fund, (ALO-Waqf) took place on 08 September, 2021 in the hall room of Mithapukur Upazila Parishad, Rangpur. Started in July, 2021, the 42-months-long project has been working to improve the socio-economic condition of 100 orphan households under Mithapukur Upazila of Rangpur district. Md. Zakir Hossain Sarker, Chairman of Mithapukur Upazila was present as the chief guest in the meeting while Fatematuj Zohora, Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Mithapukur presided over the meeting. The meeting was attended by different government officials, NGO representatives, civil society members at the Upazila level. In their speech, they thanked Islamic Relief for starting such an important project at this locality and assured of providing all-out support and cooperation. A power point presentation on the project was given by the Project In-charge, Md. Salim Reza and a brief on the activities of Islamic Relief were shared by Md. Shamim Yusuf, Programme Coordinator of Child Rights Programme.



Awareness Campaign on Dengue Prevention in Sylhet and Dhaka



In October 2021, both in the Dhaka North City Corporation and Sylhet City Corporation areas, IRB organised multiple social campaign of dengue prevention with the help of local authorities to build up awareness within the communities. Islamic Relief Bangladesh has prepared IEC materials (Awareness Leaflets, Awareness Messages through Songs) for dengue campaign.

Islamic Relief Bangladesh organised a 7 days campaign in Dhaka. Lot of initiatives carried out through this campaign which continued from 21 November 2021 to 27 November 2021 to create mass awareness among the city dwellers. Islamic Relief Bangladesh Office conducted awareness session through miking at the project area as well as organised a cultural event. The mosquito workers of Dhaka North City Corporation and our volunteers were also provided trainings in this regard. Islamic Relief helped them for spraying mosquito repellent in the project area to eradicate Aedes larva. Islamic Relief also delivered a pack containing a mosquito net, face mask and a bag to 255 beneficiaries of ward number 2, 11, 19, 20, 21 under Dhaka North City Corporation.

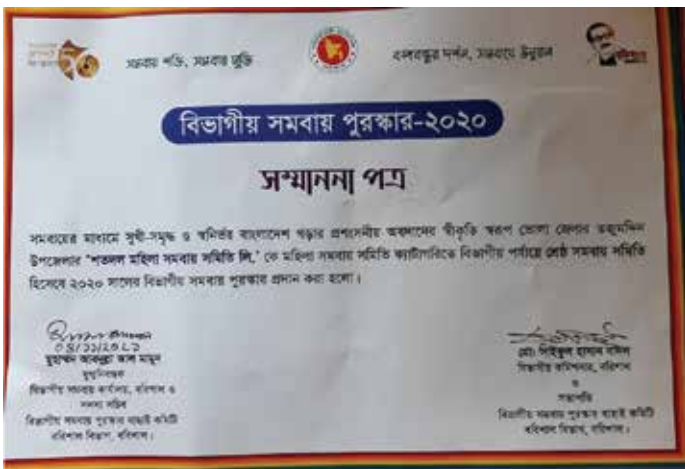
As a part of this campaign, a cultural event arranged on 21 November. The program was inaugurated by Khademul Rashed, Senior Programme Officer of Islamic Relief. Zonal Officer of Dhaka North City Corporation graced the event as chief guest and Ward 20 Counsellor as special guest. Quddus Boyati, the phenomenal folk singer of Bangladesh, performed a stage show with his newly written & composed song containing Dengue awareness message for the mass. This successful event had more than 300 local viewers.

PPE Handover in Different Areas of Bangladesh

To combat against COVID-19 and ensure safety of frontline workers, Islamic Relief Bangladesh handed over more than 3000 PPE to Government Institutions (i.e., Divisional Director – Health, City Corporation Authority, Civil Surgeon etc.) and field offices of IRB in between 28 August and 7 September 2021.



Shotodal Women's Cooperative Society Wins the Divisional best cooperative society



In recognition of their remarkable contribution to building a happy and sustainable Bangladesh through co-operatives, Shotodal Mohila Shomobay Samity (SMSS) of Tajumuddin Upazila under Bhola district was awarded as the best co-operative society at the divisional level in the category of women co-operative society. Economic Empowerment and Governance Programme of Islamic Relief provided all out support and cooperation to Shotodal Mohila Shomobay Samity (SMSS). IRB's support helped SMSS in contributing women empowerment, generating new employment opportunities, marketing their commodities, and ensuring fair price of the goods through Murabaha and Musharakah financing mechanism. The divisional Cooperative Office of Barishal announced the award and the president and Secretary of SMSS both received the honor crest from District Commissioner as well as the Divisional Cooperative officer of Barishal. The award was handed over while observing the 50th National Cooperative Day at Barishal. The cooperative was formed under the ISD project of Islamic Relief and the programme was designed to assist a total of 3000 marginalised project members. The purpose of the association is to improve the social status of the cooperative and its members and to ensure the empowerment of women by raising funds through capital formation and investment in profitable sectors. The cooperative is being operated by 12 Apex Body members. "It is a great achievement for us. We are delighted as our hard work has been recognized. We are thankful to Islamic relief. With their continuous support and advise we have attained our goal"- Said Ruma Akter, President of Shotodal Women's Cooperative Society."

Climate Strike Event at Dhaka and Sylhet

Islamic Relief Bangladesh has participated in Global Climate Strike event on 24 September 2021 in Dhaka and Sylhet. The climate strike event in Sylhet was jointly organised by IRB and YouthNet for Climate Justice, Sylhet Unit. Bangladesh being one of the most climate impacted countries of the world has been suffering relentlessly. As a humanitarian organization, Islamic Relief Bangladesh believes that the impacts of climate change can be reduced if those are addressed with proper initiatives. Thus, with the global climate leaders and activists, Islamic Relief Bangladesh participated in this event.



National Level Sharing: Voices of the Urban Communities in Bangladesh for COP26



To amplify the voices of the urban communities of Bangladesh, Islamic Relief Bangladesh has organised a national level sharing event on 14 October 2021 at the Azimur Rahman Conference Hall of the Daily Star. Islamic Relief Bangladesh has jointly arranged the event with Bangladesh Model Youth Parliament. As Bangladesh is among the top 10 most vulnerable countries to climate change impacts, IRB has conducted a study to capture urban communities' and other stakeholder's opinion for the upcoming COP26 through FGDs and KII in 10 cities of Bangladesh. This event was arranged to share the opinions of urban communities on climate change, its impact and their adaptation mechanism. Urban communities have also expressed their expectations to national as well as global leaders focusing on upcoming COP26. The event was chaired by Mohammad Akmal Shareef, Country Director, Islamic Relief Bangladesh and Sanjay Kumar Bhowmik, Additional Sec. (Climate Change-1), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) were the chief guest in the event. Other participants were including senior respective government officials, senior climate specialists and representatives from civil societies, INGOs, NGOs and different communities etc. The event went live from the Facebook page of Islamic Relief Bangladesh and got national and local online media coverage.

Inauguration of Waste Collection Van in Urban Areas

To combat against COVID-19 and ensure safety of front-line workers, Islamic Relief Bangladesh handed over more than 3000 PPE to Government Institutions (i.e., Divisional Director – Health, City Corporation Authority, Civil Surgeon etc.) and field offices of IRB in between 28 August and 7 September 2021.



Mitigation Schemes Handover to the Sylhet City Authority



Islamic Relief Bangladesh has successfully completed 4 mitigation schemes (Foot-over Bridge construction, Emergency Store Room with Search and Rescue materials, Gender Friendly Wash block, Bathing Cubicle) under ReWARD-II project in Sylhet. On 31 December 2021, Honourable Mayor of Sylhet City Corporation inaugurated all the schemes and handed over of all the schemes which were signed under a MoU with the Sylhet City Authority.

Islamic Relief distributed Eid ul Adha gifts to the FDMNs



On 19 July 2021, Islamic Relief distributed a lungi and a thami to the FDMNs (Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals) of Bhashan Char camp. To ease the congestion of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh Government has relocated close to 20000 household in Bhashan char island. Islamic Relief has ensured both food and non- food items for the FDMNs. On eid day Islamic Relief distributed meat pack for every single family of the island. But this was another gift donated by IFD Online Donation.

Receiving the traditional attire as eid gifts the FDMNs were extremely delighted. Total 4582 households received their outfit and a women said " This was the most meaningful present I have ever received after my relocation." Thami is not the traditional attire in Bangladesh for the ladies and it is not available as such. The Eid gifts were highly appreciated by the women of the camps in Bhashan Char.

Partnership Development and Partners Capacity Building Initiatives



To improve preparedness levels and strengthen links between Islamic Relief country programmes and national and regional networks for sharing and cross-learning and to enhance the capacity of local organisations in emergency preparedness and response, Islamic Relief Bangladesh has completed a number of activities under Strengthening Response Capacity and Institutional Development for Excellence (STRIDE), Phase II project funded by IR Germany. One of the prime activities was a contextualised 'IRB's Strategic Guidance for Partnership Development' document which has been formulated through a vigorous process of consultations with partner representatives, extended country management team (CMT) of IRB and other IRB staffs; in line with IRW's Partnerships Policy and other relevant documents. The process of formulation has been started through a brainstorming session held on 11 November 2021 with the IRB's Country management team members to prepare an outline of the document. After preparing a draft document, a workshop has been organised on 1-2 December 2021 with designated personnel from local partner NGOs, non-partner NGOs and designated personnel of Islamic Relief Bangladesh to share experience on partnership in different context and to provide feedback on the document in the context of Bangladesh. For effective use of this document and to keep IRB's partners and staff members align with it, IRB has organised a Training on IRB's Strategic Guidance for Partnership Development held on 26-28 December 2021 where representatives from IRB Partner NGOs, non-partner NGOs and designated staffs of Islamic Relief Bangladesh to serve as a clear conceptual and technical knowhow to ensure the strategies take ahead. To be in aligned with the STRIDE project's outcome by building capacity of local NGOs and to promote localisation, Islamic Relief Bangladesh have included some other topics in this training event including IRB's Strategic Guidance for Partnership Development, Compliance (Procurement and Financial) and Audit, Humanitarian Essentials for effective partnership management (for all) and Partnership and financial management (IRB staff members only).

Forecast based Early Action in Community Level in Jamalpur district

Islamic Relief Bangladesh has been working on forecast based early action (FbA) in Jamalpur district to reduce the impact of flood over the lives and livelihoods of the community people under Supporting Flood Forecast based Action and Learning in Bangladesh (SUFAL) project. Mechanism has been established of receiving voice message from FFWC through mobile to the selected recipient to disseminate the information with wider community for taking early action. As a result, the community people can harvest jute, rice and other crops from field, fencing pond to save farm fishes, protect assets, animals and other belongings at early basis. Besides, by following this mechanism, UDMC has taken initiatives for implementing early action at community level such as repairing embankments, evacuating people at safe place and other preparedness actions. These activities were done between 1 and 11 July, 2021 in Kulkandi, Noarpara, Sapdhari & Chinaduli of Islampur upazila under Jamalpur district.



Qurbani Programme 2021

Across the Country

Total Cow- 1717

Meat Packs- 60095

FDMN and Host (Cox's Bazar and Bhasanchar)

Total Cow- 660

Meat Packs - 23100





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