



Background

Network for Information, Response and Preparedness Activities on Disaster (NIRAPAD) has initiated the preparation of monthly report on disaster incidences in Bangladesh with the aim of providing all stakeholders comprehensive information on the disaster events and their impacts; responses by Government and other stakeholders and lessons learned.

The scope of the report allowed NIRAPAD team to review secondary documents regarding emergency response interventions undertaken in January 2015 in Bangladesh. Therefore, the report mainly reflects the information available in published documents.

This report portrays general reflection of the disasters that took place in January 2015 and their impacts and associated response and the early recovery efforts undertaken by the Government and other humanitarian actors.

Overview of Disaster Incidences in January 2015

The month, January encountered two moderate cold waves and few fire incidents. 1st spell of cold wave struck during the second week and 2nd spell occurred during third week in the northern, south-west and central parts of the country as well as and impacts of a moderate cold wave was felt elsewhere in the country. Apart from these events few fire incidents occurred in January on 02, 09, 10, 11, 12, 18, 24 and 26 January at Gulshan; Tahsil Para Village under Kishoreganj Sadar upazila, Jessore and Magura; Kachua upazila; Mohammadpur; Siddhirganj upazila; Demra, Gazipur and Baghachhari; Nilphamari and Gazipur; respectively.

Hazard/ Disaster	January 2015																														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Fire (F)		F							F	F	F	F						F						F		F					
Cold Wave (C)												C	C					C	C	C	C										

Source: Adapted from different disaster situation reports of DDM in January, 2015

Description of the Events in January

Cold wave

Bangladesh has experienced a moderate fall in temperature with cold wave and dense fog in January. Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) reported that the weather condition in January 2015 was experienced two moderate cold waves (1st spell swept over on 12-13 January and 2nd spell on 17-20 January) in the northern, south-west and central parts of the country particularly in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Pabna, Jibannagar, Chuadanga, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Thakurgaon, Sayedpur, Kishoreganj, Sylhet, Naogaon, Sirajganj. In these places temperature dropped down below 8 degree Celsius. The lowest temperature was recorded at 7.2°C in Chuadanga on 12 January and 6.7°C in Rajshahi on 20 January (Cold Wave Situation Report, Climate Change Tracking Cell, Bangladesh Meteorological Department, 24 January 2015).

The cold wave situation including low temperature, cold wind and fog adversely affected the lives and livelihoods of the poor people. During January, the cold wave claimed more than 75 lives of people particularly children and the elderly (Janakanta, 19 January 2015). Boro (winter rice variety) seedbeds in many areas of the district were damaged under the impact of cold wave marked by foggy weather and lack of sunlight. The cold wave also caused damages to winter vegetables. Furthermore, low temperature and fog caused significant disruptions to the lives and livelihood of the people in the affected areas. Day laborers were unable to go to work. Women in the poor families faced difficulties to do their household chores (Jugantar, 20 January 2015). The cold weather also disrupted communications via roads, rivers and air. Three flights of Novo Airways were delayed by about 30 to 40 minutes to reach Chittagong from Dhaka. Ferry service on Mawa-Kawrakandi routes suspended around 10 hours (The Daily Star, 21 January 2015). In the affected areas, rice mills were closed due to low temperature (19 January 2015 Janakanta Newspaper). Elderly and children were suffered from pneumonia, diarrhea, bronchitis, fever and other cold related diseases due to cold waves in many region of country (21 January 2015 Juganter Newspaper).

Fire

Fire incidents occurred several times in the month January, mostly in the garments and sweater factories. Department of Disaster Management reported that fire incidents were occurred at Lake Breeze Hotel in Gulshan 2 on 2 January, at Katashur slum in Poolpar under Mohammadpur thana on 11 January, at Shahria Steel mill in derma thana on 18 January, at Kader Synthetic and Compact Spinning mill in Gazipur on 24 January, at Poura Cloth Market in Saiyadpur under Nilphamary district on 26 January, at Formuza Polycon bd Ltd. in Sherpur under Gazipur district on 26 January 2015 (Disaster Situation Report, DDM, 15 February, 2015). In addition to these, the Daily newspapers reported that fire incidents were occurred at New Jamuna Transport Agency in Jessore, Tahasilpara village in Magura union under Kishoreganj sadar upazila on 9 January and Kachua upazila on 10 January (Janakantha, 11 January 2015); dye factory in Siddhirganj, houses in Barisal, market in Mahastangar under Bogra, Poultry farm in Chuadanga district on 12 January (Janakanta, 14 January 2015) and market in Bhaghaichhari upazila on 24 January (Jugantar, 28 January 2015).

Fire Incidents in January 2015		
Date	Place	Damage & Loss
02/01/15	Gulshan	3 people were burned
09/01/15	Jessore	Lost 1 crore taka
09/01/15	Magura	Lost 7 lac taka
09/01/15	Kishorganj	35 houses burned and lost 35 lac taka
10/01/15	Kachua	6 houses burned and lost 20 lac taka
11/01/15	Mahammadpur	1 child died, 19 houses burned and 551 people affected
12/01/15	Siddhirganj	3 child and 1 people burned
12/01/15	Barisal	Lost 20 lac taka
12/01/15	Bogra	7 shops burned and lost 3 lac taka
12/01/15	Chuadanga	200 chickens killed and 2 poultry farm burned
18/01/15	Demra	Lost 1.50 crore taka
24/01/15	Gazipur	All the machineries and highly flammable synthetic clothes destroyed
24/01/15	Baghaichhari	200 shops burned and lost 20 crore taka
26/01/15	Nilphamari	100 shops burned and lost 5crore 70 lac taka
26/01/15	Gazipur	Lost 50 lac taka

Source: Disaster Situation Report, DDM, 15 February 2015; Janakantha, 11 & 14 January 2015; and Jugantar 28 January 2015

Four Children and one worker were burnt in fire incident at Siddhirganj on 12 January. Three people were burnt and generator room, store room, kitchen room were damaged at Gulshan; 551 persons were affected, one child was died and 19 houses were damaged at Katashur slum; 1.50 crore taka was lost in Demra; all the machineries and highly flammable synthetic clothes and threads were destroyed in Gazipur; 100 shops were burnt and 5 crore 70 lac taka was lost in Nilphamari ; 35 houses were burnt in Kishoreganj; six houses and many shops were damaged in Kachua; 1 crore taka was lost in Jessore; 7 lac taka was lost in Magura; 20 lac taka was lost in Barishal; seven shops were damaged and 3 lac taka was lost in Bogra; two poultry farms were damaged and 1,300 chickens were died in Chuadanga; and 200 shops were damaged in Baghaichhari in fire Incident.

Damage and Loss in Fire				
Hazard	Death	Injury	Damage	Loss
Fire incident	1 children	4 people and 4 Children	55 Houses, 307 Shops and 2 Poultry farms	29,500,000 taka
<i>Source: Disaster Situation Report, DDM, 15 February 2015; Janakantha, 11 & 14 January 2015; and Jugantar 28 January 2015</i>				

Description of Response in January

Response in Cold Wave

- GoB Response:** The Department of Disaster Management distributed 2,70,620 blankets in 7 divisions and Prime Minister's Office distributed 575,000 blankets among the poor families (PPT on Clod Wave Response by GoB in 2014-15, <http://www.lcgbangladesh.org/DERweb>). Also, Prime Minister's Office distributed 14,500 rapper, 20,500 sweater, 4,100 muffler among the poor families (DDM Newsletter, December 2014, Volume 2, Issue 2). Furthermore, the Prime Minister's Office provided allocation order to distribute 107,600 blankets for the poor people of Jessore, Magura, Narail, Jhenaidah, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Gopalganj, Mymensingh, Kishorgonj, Netrokona, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Moulavibazar, Habiganj, Banbarban, Khagrachari, Rangamati districts (Humanitarian Assistance Allocation Order, DDM, 1 January, 2015). In addition to these, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief provided cash allocation order to distribute 2,650,000 BDT as Gratuitous Relief (GR) cash among the poor people of Cox's Bazar, Lalmonirhat, Laximipur, Rangamati, Chuadanga on 1 January 2015; Chittagong, Panchagarh, Chuadanga on 19 January; Dhaka on 11 January; Rangamati on 6 January 2015; and provided rice allocation order to distribute 75 metric ton GR rice among the poor people of Rangamati on 6 January and Dhaka on 11 January (Humanitarian Assistance Allocation Order, DDM, January 2015).

Government's Response in Cold Wave						
Blanket Distribution			GR Cash Allocation		GR Rice Allocation	
Division	DDM Response (Number)	PM Office Response (Number)	District	Amount in BDT	District	Metric Ton
Dhaka	73,967	155,500	Cox's Bazar	50,000	Dhaka	50
Chittagong	42,086	77,300	Lalmonirhat	50,000	Rangamati	25
Khulna	27,872	71,500	Laximipur	50,000		
Rajshahi	37,080	78,700	Rangamati	50,000		
Sylhet	20,527	34,300	Chuadanga	50,000		
Barisal	20,447	29,200	Rangamati	2,00,000		
Rangpur	49,391	128,500	Dhaka	18,00,000		

			Chittagong	2,00,000		
			Panchagarh	1,00,000		
			Chuadanga	1,00,000		
Total Blankets	2,70,620	575,000	Total GR Cash	26,50,000	Total GR Rice	75
<i>Source: PPT on Clod Wave Response by GoB in 2014-15, http://www.lcgbangladesh.org/DERweb; DDM Newsletter, December 2014, Volume 2, Issue 2; and Humanitarian Assistance Allocation Order, DDM, January 2015</i>						

- **NGO Response in Cold Wave:** The Social and Economic Transformation of the Ultra-Poor (SETU) project of CARE-Bangladesh, with assistance of the EEP/Shiree program supported by the Government of Bangladesh and funded by the UKAid from the Department for International Development (DFID), has distributed 3,718 blankets among 2,054 most cold-stricken families (The Daily Star, 25 January, 2015). Furthermore BRAC distributed blankets in Kuliarchar upazila, Kishoreganj (Samakal 26 January 2015).
- **Private Sector's Response:** Islami bank distributed worm clothes in Shantiram union, Sundargang, Gaibandha; Chandpur Kalyan Samiti distributed worm cloth in Sylhet; Naogaon Chamber of Commerce and Industry distributed worm clothes in Naogaon (Samakal 26 January 2015).

Response in Fire

- **GoB Response:** The Department of Disaster Management provided 20 kg rice, 1 piece sharee, 1 piece lungi, 1 piece blanket and 3000 taka to each of the disaster affected poor households in Katashur slum, Mohammadpur (Disaster Situation Report, DDM, 15 February 16, 2015). Fire service rescued many machineries that price was 45 lac taka at Shaharia steel mill in Demra thana, Dhaka (Disaster Situation Report, DDM, 15 February 16, 2015). 50 million worth of products were rescued at Formuza Polycin bd Ltd. in Gazipur (Disaster Situation Report, DDM, 15 February 16, 2015). Upazila Chairman of Kishoreganj was provided 30 kg rice, 2.5 kg pulse, 2 piece blankets and 1,300 taka to each of the affected family in Kishoreganj on 10 January 2015 (Janakanta, 11 January 2015).

Conclusion

Disaster with substantially high magnitude did not occur in January 2015, nevertheless, there were low intensity disasters occurred in different parts of the country. Although the impact and severity of the disasters in January appeared to be less than those in the past, still, these caused significant damages, disruptions and distresses to the affected people. Amongst these low intensity disasters the most visible one, cold wave, was responded on priority basis by Government and few NGOs as well as private sector organizations. The localized disasters, fire incidents, despite they caused significant damage, disruption and distress, because of their lesser visibility, did not get adequate response.