

Pro-Dhaka:

Workshop will be held on September 2018

Innovative Disaster Communication for the Mitigation
of Consequences of Flood in Urban Area – case study:
Mega City Dhaka, Bangladesh

Innovative Krisenkommunikation zur Milderung der Folgen
von Überschwemmung im urbanen Bereich –
das Katastrophenszenario Mega City Dhaka Bangladesch

Climate change represents one of the greatest challenges for crisis and disaster risk management of our time. Bangladesh is often considered to be the country most vulnerable to climate change (Maplecroft).¹ Although Bangladesh has always been a disaster prone country, climate change aggravates the critical situation leading to more frequent and/or more severe disasters and reinforces the vulnerability of the population. Among other impacts:

- (i) A strong increase in natural disasters, such as a higher frequency of cyclones, droughts and flooding;
- (ii) A further tightening of the already existing food insecurity are expected and
- (iii) Increased rates of vector-borne infections (infections caused by vectors such as mosquitos, ticks or midges).

Target-specific crisis and disaster risk communication can mitigate these impacts of climate change and is urgently needed to enhance preparedness and to strengthen resilience of affected local communities. This includes the use of innovative information- und communication technology (ICT) solutions.

The objective of this definition project is to set up a strong Bangladesh-German consortium for the development of a research project that addresses the three critical domains listed above to respond to and better manage natural disasters, health disasters and food insecurity issues. The envisaged project will be committed

- to increase resilience by target-specific risk and disaster communication tools that systematically increase risk awareness for the three disasters domains and sensitivity for the future impact of climate change
- to systematically inform all population groups about protective measures, thus enhancing preparedness and an facilitating an adequate response by the affected population

¹ The Maplecroft's 2011 Climate Change Vulnerability Index "rates Bangladesh as the country most at risk due to extreme levels of poverty and a high degree of agriculture, whilst its government has the lowest capacity of all countries to adapt to predicted changes in the climate" (<https://maplecroft.com/about/news/ccvi.html>).

- to develop concepts for particularly vulnerable population groups, such as women, adolescents old people, and people with hearing impairment or blind persons to improve early warning capacity by providing adapted ICT solutions including alerting Apps, and a strategy to combine these tools in an effective manner with non-digital communication alternatives,
- to prevent the outbreak of disasters by strengthening awareness and preparedness
- to analyse previous and/or ongoing case studies to identify best practices for the improvement of future incidents
- to provide concepts for education and training for academia

Partners involved and their tasks:

1. sine-Institut GmbH (coordinator GER):

An independent institute providing longstanding social scientific expertise in international comparative target-specific and cultural-sensitive risk and crisis communication based on risk perception in the field of natural disasters, vector-borne diseases and food risks. Furthermore, sine provides a theoretical framework, the risk culture concept, to explain and to better understand the framing, blaming and trust in authorities of the population in a disaster-prone country.

- Dr. Kerstin Dressel
Managing Director | Member of Board
Sine-Institut gGmbH | Süddeutsches Institut für empirische Sozialforschung e.V.
Lilienstr. 3, 81669 München, Germany
web Site: www.sine-institut.de



2. Fraunhofer Institut:

Focus of the institute will provide an alerting app and SMS-based information service to inform the population about climate-related risks, and protective measures. All services will be adapted to needs and requirements (legal, organizational, cultural) in Bangladesh.

- Fraunhofer Institut für Offene Kommunikationssysteme (FOKUS)
Prof. Dr. Frank Fuchs-Kittowski
Kaiserin-Augusta-Allee 31
D-10589 Berlin
Germany

3. Jade University of Applied Science:

Jade University of Applied Science will perform target-specific crisis communication for particularly vulnerable population groups, in particular adolescents, people with hearing problems and blinds. Furthermore, JADE will develop concepts for academic education and training programmes at the GUB.

- Jade-Hochschule Wilhelmshaven (**JADE**)
Prof. Dr. Michael Klafft
Friedrich-Paffrath-Str. 101
D - 26389 Wilhelmshaven
Germany

4. Robert Koch-Institute:

Focus of the Robert Koch-Institute will be to provide expertise in the field of climate change and vector-borne infections, One Health approach.

- Robert Koch-Institut (**RKI**)
Prof. Dr. Matthias Niedrig
Nordufer 20
D-13353 Berlin
Germany

5. German University of Bangladesh, GUB (coordinator BD):

GUB will co-coordinate the definition project for Bangladesh and will provide its expertise on the management of natural disasters, vector-borne disease food security issues in Bangladesh.

- Prof. Dr.-Ing. Saifullah Khandker
Chairman, German University Bangladesh Trust
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6. Ministry of Information Technology

- Name- ASM Shafiul Alam Talukder,
Deputy Secretary(7750)
Department of Information & Communication Technology(DoICT)
Information & Communication Division(ICTD).
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Present Posting: Assistant Project Director
Computer Lab Project
DoICT, ICTD, GoV of PRB

7. Arm Forces Medical Institute (AFMI) Dhaka Cantonment:

Disaster Management

- Brig General A.K.M. Mustafa Kamal Pasha
Commandant
Armed Forces Medical Institute (AFMI)
Dhaka Cantonment, Bangladesh

8. Ministry of Health:

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

- Dr Md Iqbal Kabir, MBBS, MPH, PhD
Associate professor, Epidemiology
National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine (NIPSOM) and Coordinator
Climate Change Health Promotion Unit

9. Ministry of Food:

Ministry of Food

- Md. Kaikobar Hossain (Secretary)
Ministry of Food

10. Ministry of Disaster Management & Rehabilitation:

Ministry of Disaster Management & Rehabilitation

- Md. Shah Kamal (Secretary)
Ministry of Disaster Management & Rehabilitation
- Mrs. Shamima Hoque (Additional secretary)
Ministry of Disaster Management and Rehabilitation

11. Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR):

- Dr. Tahmina Shirin

12. Center for Integrated Social Development (CISD):

- DR. Yesmin Sultana

13. Bangabandhu Skeih Mujib Medical University (BSMMU):

- Dr. Kamrul khan and Dr. Abdullah Al Mamun

Present List of Resource Persons from Bangladesh:

1. Prof. Dr. Abul Khair
2. Prof. Dr. Md. Shahjahan
3. Dr. Md. Shahidullah