

# Building Tornado Warning System for Bangladesh

## Asian Disaster Reduction Center

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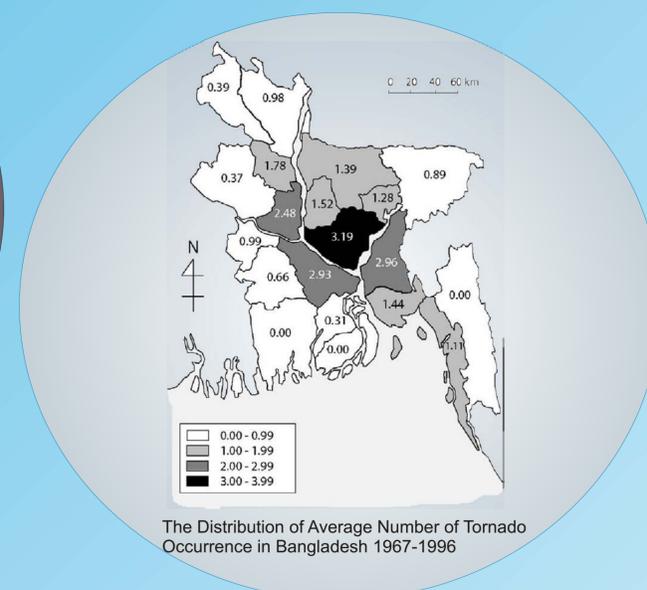
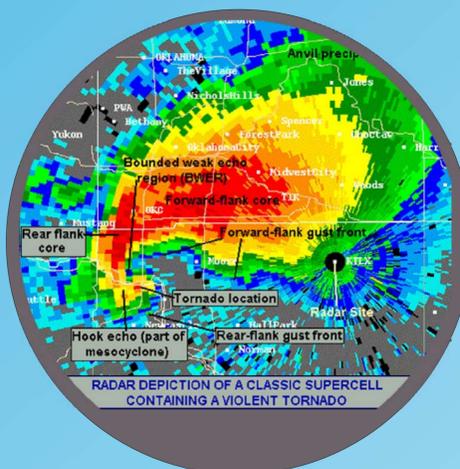
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### Background

Bangladesh is the most vulnerable country to tornadoes in the world. Tornado statistics show great amounts of damage in Bangladesh in the past few decades. During 1967-96 local newspapers reported 5,373 tornado deaths. During the thirty-year period, ten tornadoes killed more than 100 people and five of them killed more than 500 people. In 1996, the Tangail Tornadoes killed more than 600 people & the Manikganj Tornado in 1989, which might have killed up to 1,300 people, is believed to be the deadliest tornado in the world. Still, there is no tornado early warning system or preparedness program in Bangladesh yet.



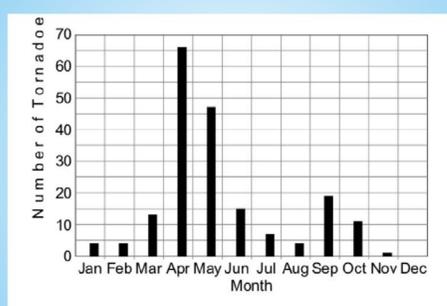
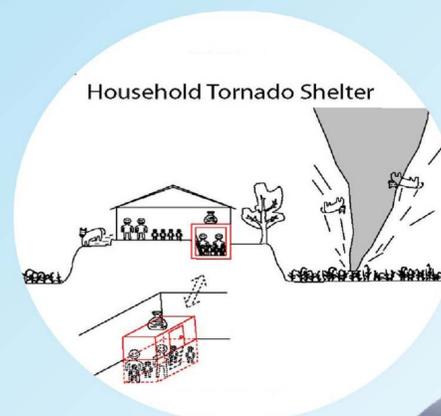
### Objectives

The main objective of this project is to reduce risk of tornadoes and other severe local wind disasters in Bangladesh by adopting appropriate early warning measures. This includes activities ranging from building shelters to education and awareness-raising campaigns. The tornado shelters would save many lives and aid in reducing psychological fears of the local people, especially tornado victims. Based on the results of the pilot projects it is expected that a national tornado warning system is widely adopted. ADRC will support the current system to be integrated into actual policy in Bangladesh.

### Planned activities

The planned activities include:

- Establishment of reliable statistics for severe local wind storms
- Construction of household & public tornado shelters
- Development of tools for education & public awareness
- Selection of pilot villages for training & drills
- Quick response survey after a major tornado disaster
- Strengthening of national monitoring & forecasting
- Organisation of a national awareness campaign
- Development of a communication network to disseminate warning information to community level



Monthly Tornado Occurrence in Bangladesh during 1967-1996

