

Islamic Relief Bangladesh



Islamic Relief Bangladesh has worked with the city of Sylhet for six years to reduce its disaster risk. Sylhet, a major city in north-eastern Bangladesh, is currently booming and is a proposed venue for the 2014 Twenty20 cricket tournament. At the same time, Sylhet is highly prone to earthquakes, the outbreak of fires, water-logging and floods. High population density, rapid urbanization, poorly constructed structures and low knowledge of and skills in disaster preparedness and response make its citizens vulnerable to disasters. ‘Previously, the community was not sensitized about the risk of earthquake and preparedness measures to ensure safety.

There was no community level response mechanism,” said Khan Mohammad Bilal, Sylhet’s Deputy Commissioner. With funding from the European Commission, Islamic Relief Bangladesh helped the city form a Ward Disaster Management Committee, along with community volunteer groups and various school disaster management committees. These groups worked within the community to raise awareness and develop risk reduction initiatives. After six years, these community groups are becoming more self-reliant in initiatives such as door-to-door awareness campaigns, medical camps, seminars, observance days, and simulation drills to raise public awareness on disaster risk reduction.

Links:

- [Reason for nomination \[DOC 84.50 KB\]](#)
- [Candidate's presentation \[DOC 58.50 KB\]](#)

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