

1. Introduction and Background

Bangladesh is predominantly an agricultural country, characterized by very low land-man ratio. At present national population growth rate of the country is about 1.43 percent (BBS, 2003) and the rate of urbanization is 7 percent per annum (BBS, 1997). The level of urbanization is 25 percent (WDB, 2007) with more than 28 million people living in the existing urban area. The trend for the last few decades reveals that the growth of urban population has doubled in every 12 years. The high level of urbanization is mostly liable to diminish the agricultural land to urbanization purpose. About 1% of agricultural land in each year is transferred to another use. The cultivable land in 1983-84 was 20-24 million acres and in 1997 was 17.45 million acre (MOL, 2001). If the rate continues in the future, it would be very alarming for the country. The utilization of agricultural land to the urban purpose is noticeably unplanned and as such Bangladesh is muddled with the complexities of unplanned growth. If the present unplanned urbanization continues, the stock of agricultural land of the country would diminish soon. A huge amount of land in unplanned utilization remains under used, misused and become wastage. A plan is required so that no unauthorized and unplanned development, either in urban area or in rural area, can be taken place.

At the same time, in the wake of globalization, advancement in technology, world wide high rate of urbanization, estimation/ predictions by national and international organizations including UN agencies indicate about 50% urbanization within next 15-20 years in Bangladesh. Appropriate measures to control over the Landuse transformation in rural and urban area are a pre-requisite. The settlement / urban centres should be confined within a limited area. Such centres would be in a nucleated or compact form. The densification measures would be given priority. Measures for the adequate provision of infrastructure, service, utility and modern amenities for maintaining a minimum standard of life, considering environment and sustainability has to be taken.

Apart from the above scenario, Bangladesh is one of the most climate vulnerable countries in the world and will become even more so as a result of climate change. Floods, tropical cyclones, earth quack, storm surges and droughts are likely to become more frequent and severe in the coming years. These changes will threaten

the significant achievements of Bangladesh which has made over the last 20 years in increasing incomes and reducing poverty, and will make it more difficult to achieve the MDGs. While acknowledging the level and magnitude of risks and vulnerabilities, Bangladesh has also received equal global recognition for its risk reduction, preparedness and emergency management skills and efforts which had helped the country to maintain declining trends in terms of human casualties and economic loss. During the last two decades the country has invested a significant amount of its own resource and resources of its development partners in creating the foundation for achieving the Government of Bangladesh Disaster Management Vision of “reducing the risk of people, especially the poor and the disadvantaged, from the effects of natural, environmental and human induced hazards, to a manageable and acceptable humanitarian level, and to have in place an efficient emergency response system capable of handling large scale disasters”.

Realizing the necessity for a paradigm shift in disaster management from its conventional response and relief management approach to a more comprehensive risk reduction culture, the Government of Bangladesh along with its development partners designed and implemented the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) Phase-I during 2003-2009. The goal of CDMP-I was to strengthen the capacity of the Bangladesh disaster management system to reduce unacceptable risks and improve response and recovery activities. CDMP-I followed a all hazard, all risk and all sector approach and the elements of CDMP-I were implemented through strategic, technical and implementation partnership arrangements with different 100 entities or organisations. After successful completion of CDMP-I, the phase-II has been launched.

CDMP-II (2010-2014) is a vertical and horizontal expansion of its Phase-I activities designed based on the achievements, lessons learned and the strong foundation laid during CDMP-I by continuing the processes initiated, deriving actions from the lessons learned, utilizing knowledge resources generated and knowledge products published. The approach of CDMP-II is to channel support through government and development partners, civil society and NGOs into a people-oriented disaster management and risk reduction partnership. That partnership will promote cooperation, provide coordination, rank priority programmes and projects, and

allocate resources to disaster management activities, risk reduction activities and climate change adaptation activities in Bangladesh.

Considering above mentioned conceptual frame-work of CDMP-II, a pilot project on preparing a module for mainstreaming disaster risk preventive measures into comprehensive Land Use development planning and management for Mymensingh (Municipality) Strategic Development Planning (MSDP) Area for twenty years (2011-2031) time-span has been formed between CDMP-II and Urban Development Directorate (UDD).

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 21 March, 2011 between the authorities of Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP-II) of the Disaster Management & Relief Division (DMRD), Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM) and Urban Development Directorate (UDD), Ministry of Housing and Public Works (MoHPW) at the presence of concerned Ministers. The area of collaboration is to prepare an integrated development plan covering Structure Plan, Urban/Rural Area Plan and Action Area Plans, and subsequent training module for Mymensingh (Municipality) Strategic Development Planning (MSDP) Area by including disaster (both natural and man-made) risk reduction measures into comprehensive land use planning and management. The Key administrative activities are shown in the table-1.1 below:

Table-1.1: The key administrative activities between CDMP-II and UDD

S /N.	Key Activities	Date
1	Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP-II) and Urban Development Directorate (UDD) was held at the secretariat of Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM), Dhaka.	21 st March, 2011
2	Signing of Financial Agreement between CDMP-II and UDD (Finalization of working schedule and financial matters) was held at the premises of the National Project Officer (NPO), CDMP-II, Mohakhali, Dhaka.	12 th April, 2011