

Community Based Early warning System

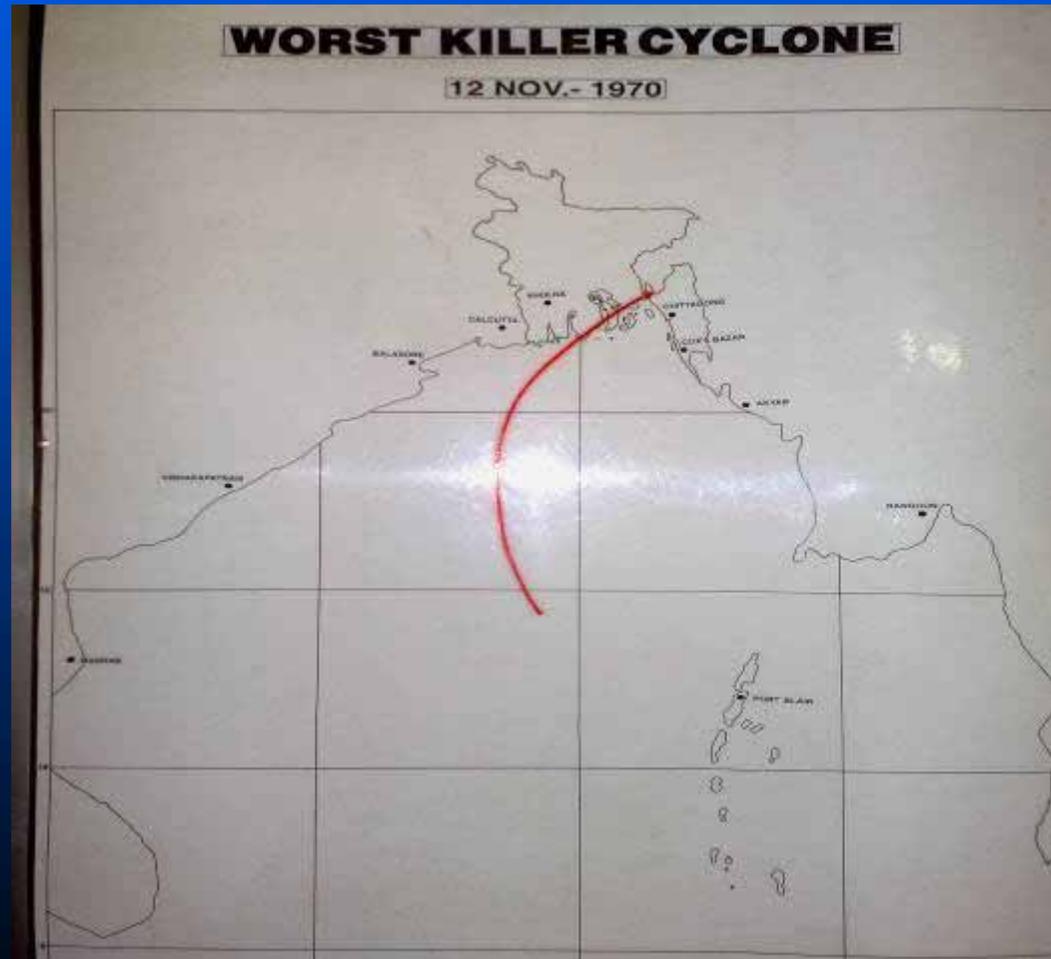
of

Cyclone Preparedness Program

(A joint programme of GOB & BDRCS)

Cyclone

On November 1970 a major cyclone hit the coastal belt with wind speed of 223 km/hour accompanied by a storm surge six to nine meters high, killing an estimated 500,000 people, and making millions homeless and totally destitute. There was no effective Early Warning System at that time for which major casualties happened.



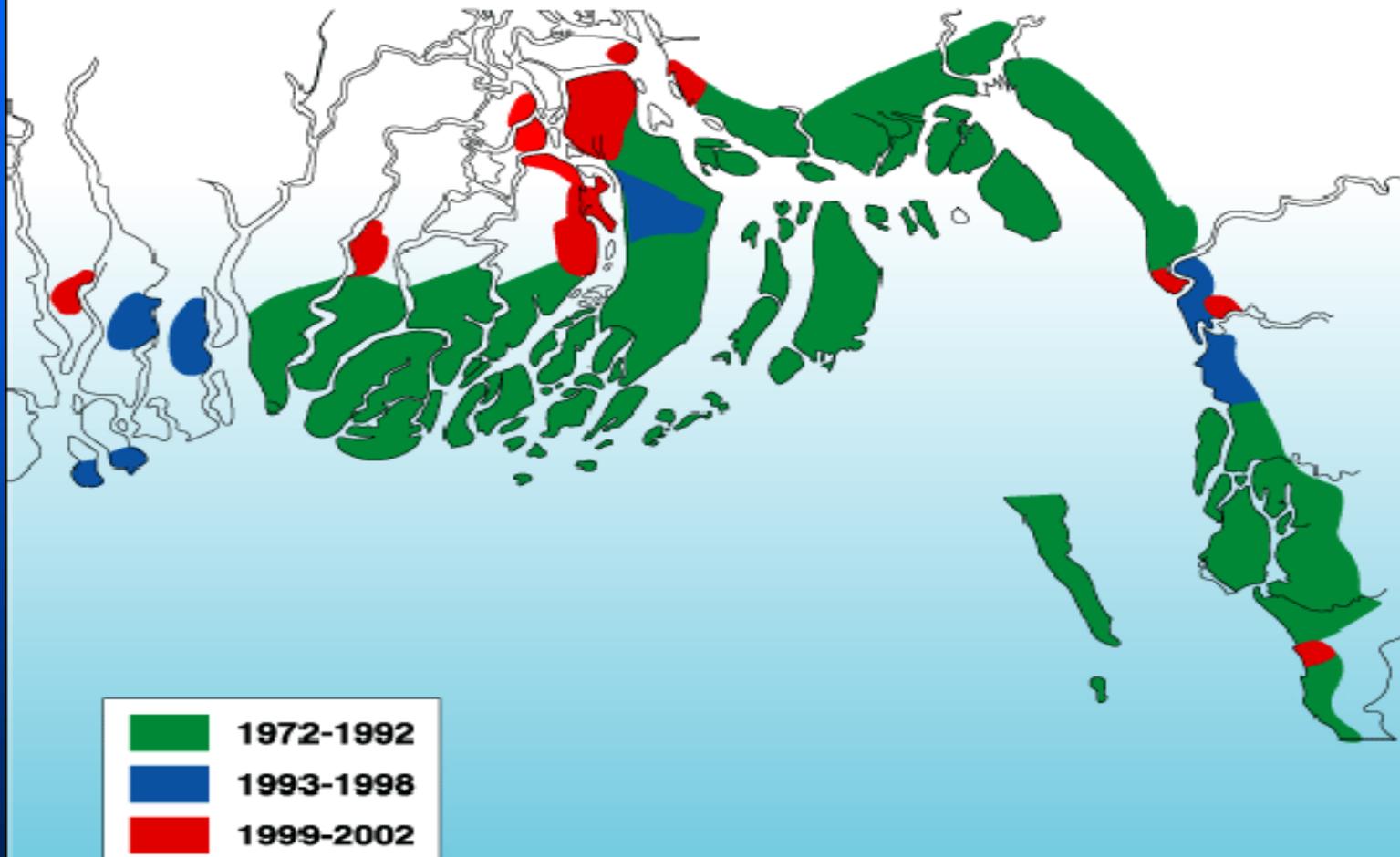
Background of CPP:

After the devastating cyclone of 1970 that perished half a million lives, the League of Red Cross, now the International Federation was requested by the UN general assembly to undertake a leading role in pre-disaster planning for the country. The Cyclone Preparedness Programme(CPP) of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) came into being in 1972. In June 1973, the Government of Bangladesh approved this new CPP programme and undertook the financial responsibility for some of the recurring expenses and setup a joint programme management mechanism by creation of a programme Policy Committee and a programme Implementation Board.

ACTIVITIES

- 1. Disseminate Early warning signals issued by the Bangladesh Meteorological Department to the community people.**
- 2. Assist People in taking shelter.**
- 3. Rescue distressed people affected by a cyclone.**
- 4. Provide First Aid to the people injured by a cyclone.**
- 5. Assist in relief and Rehabilitation operations.**
- 6. Assist in the implementation of the BDRCS Disaster Preparedness Plan.**
- 7. Assist in participatory community capacity build-up activities.**
- 8. Assist in the co-ordination of disaster management and development activities.**

CPP COMMAND AREA



VILLAGE

UNIT

**2 - Sq. Km.
2-3 Thousand
People**

UNIT COMMITTEE

**Warning
Group**

**Shelter
Group**

**Rescue
Group**

**First Aid
Group**

**Relief
Group**

**Warning Volunteer (L)
Addl. Warning Volunteer**

**Rescue Volunteer
Addl. Rescue Volunteer**

**Relief Volunteer
Addl. Relief Volunteer**

**Shelter Volunteer
Addl. Shelter Volunteer
Female Shelter Volunteer**

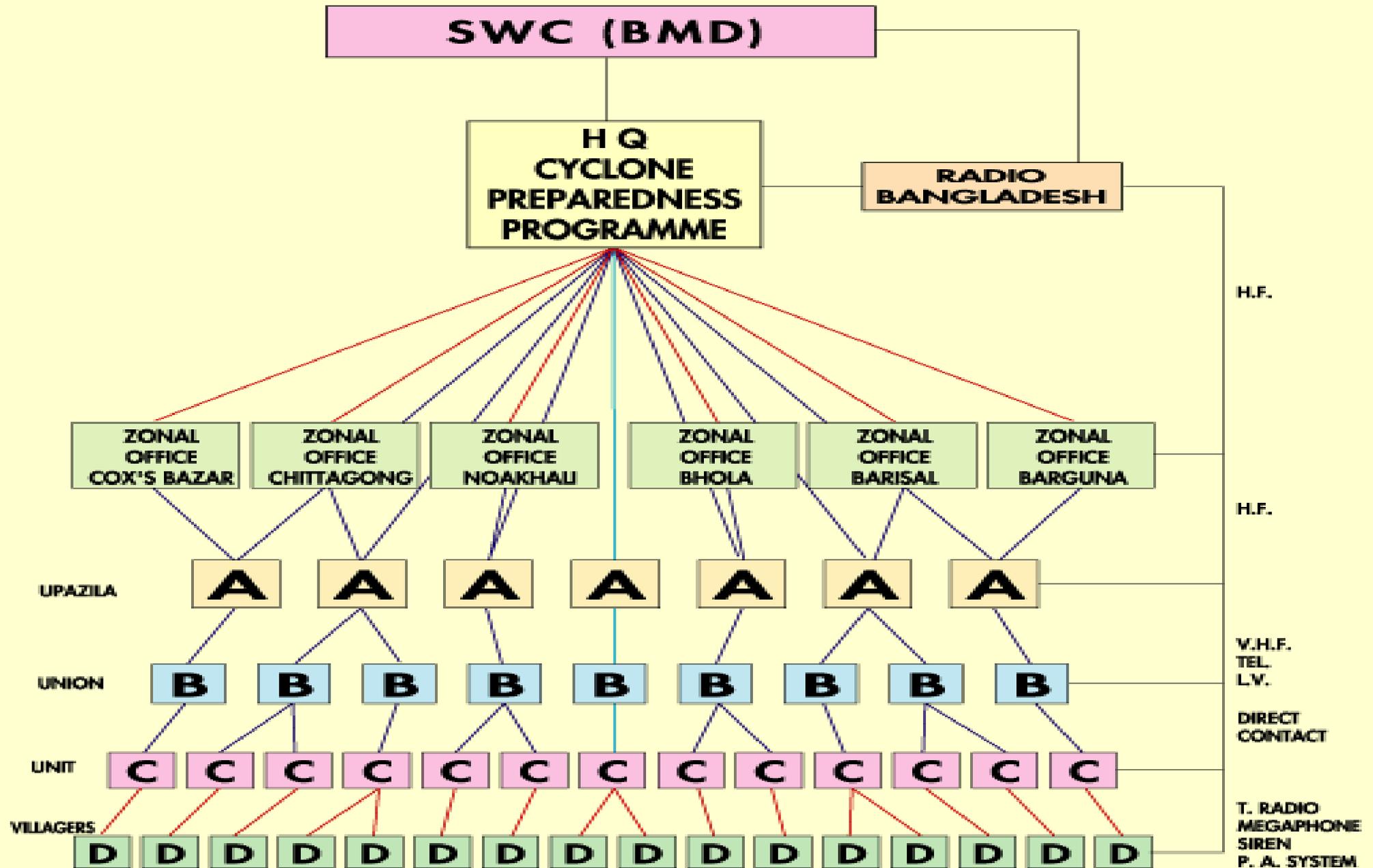
**First Aid Volunteer
Addl. First Aid Volunteer
Female First Aid Volunteer**

Warning equipments lying with the volunteers

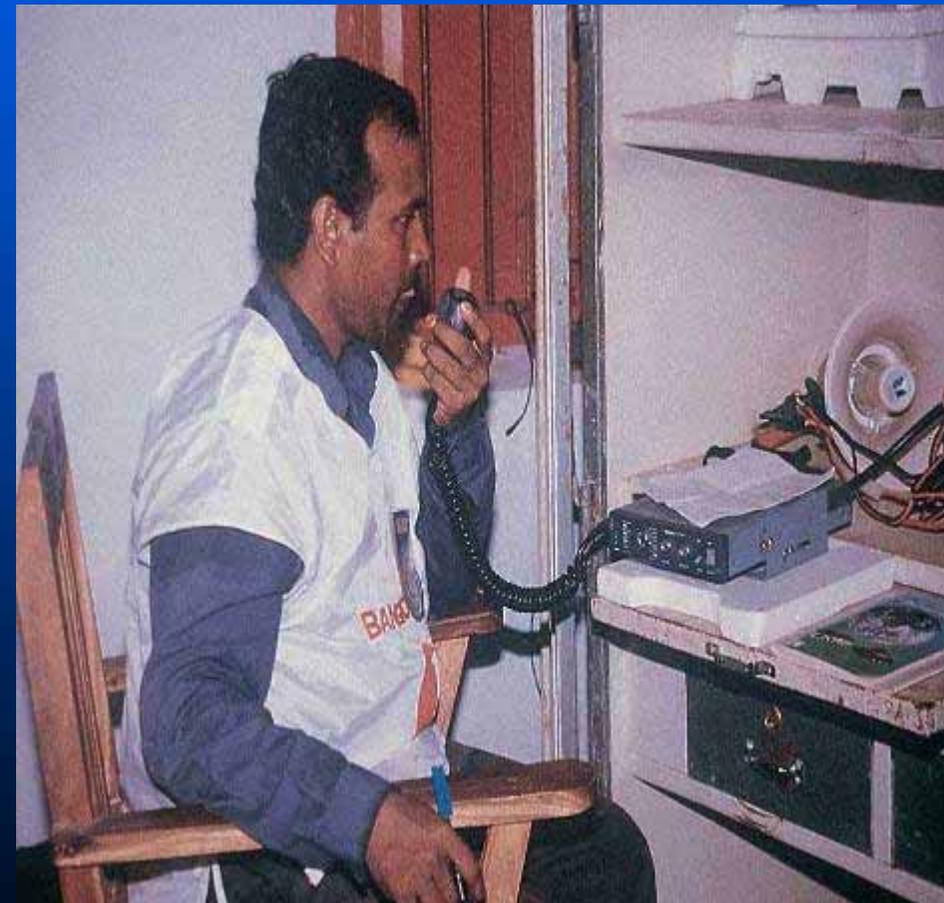
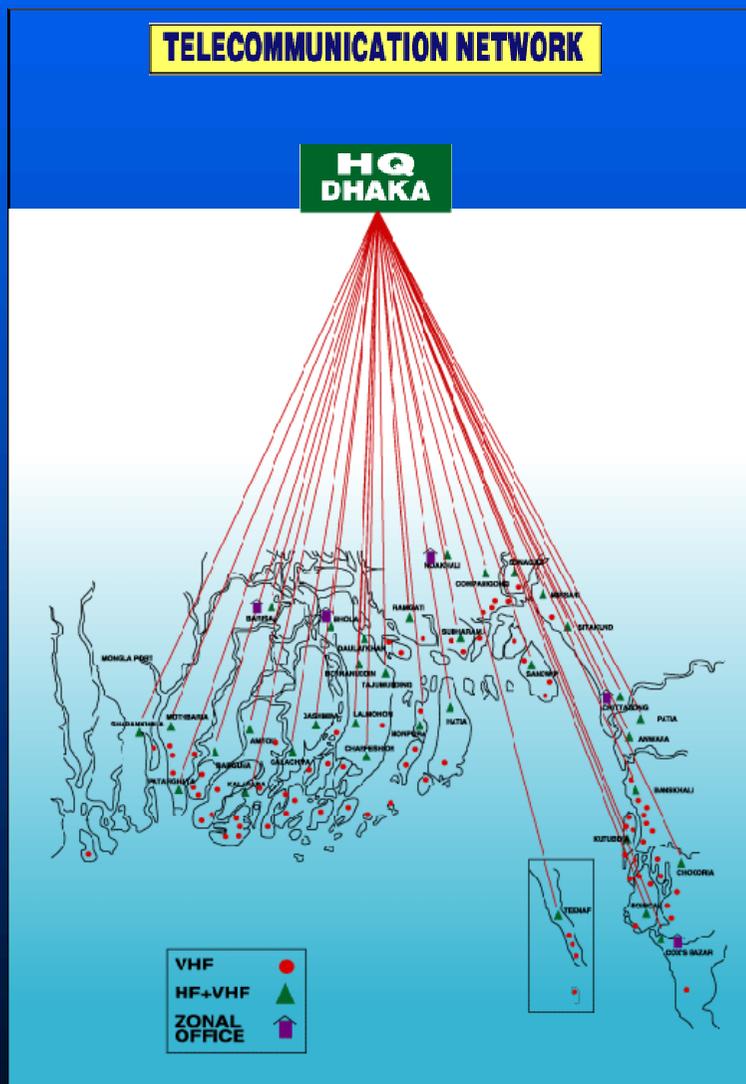
- Transistor Radio
- Torch Light
- Megaphone
- Hand Siren
- Life Jacket
- Rain coat
- Gum boot
- Hard hat
- PA System
- First aid kit
- Rescue kit

CPP, BDRCS

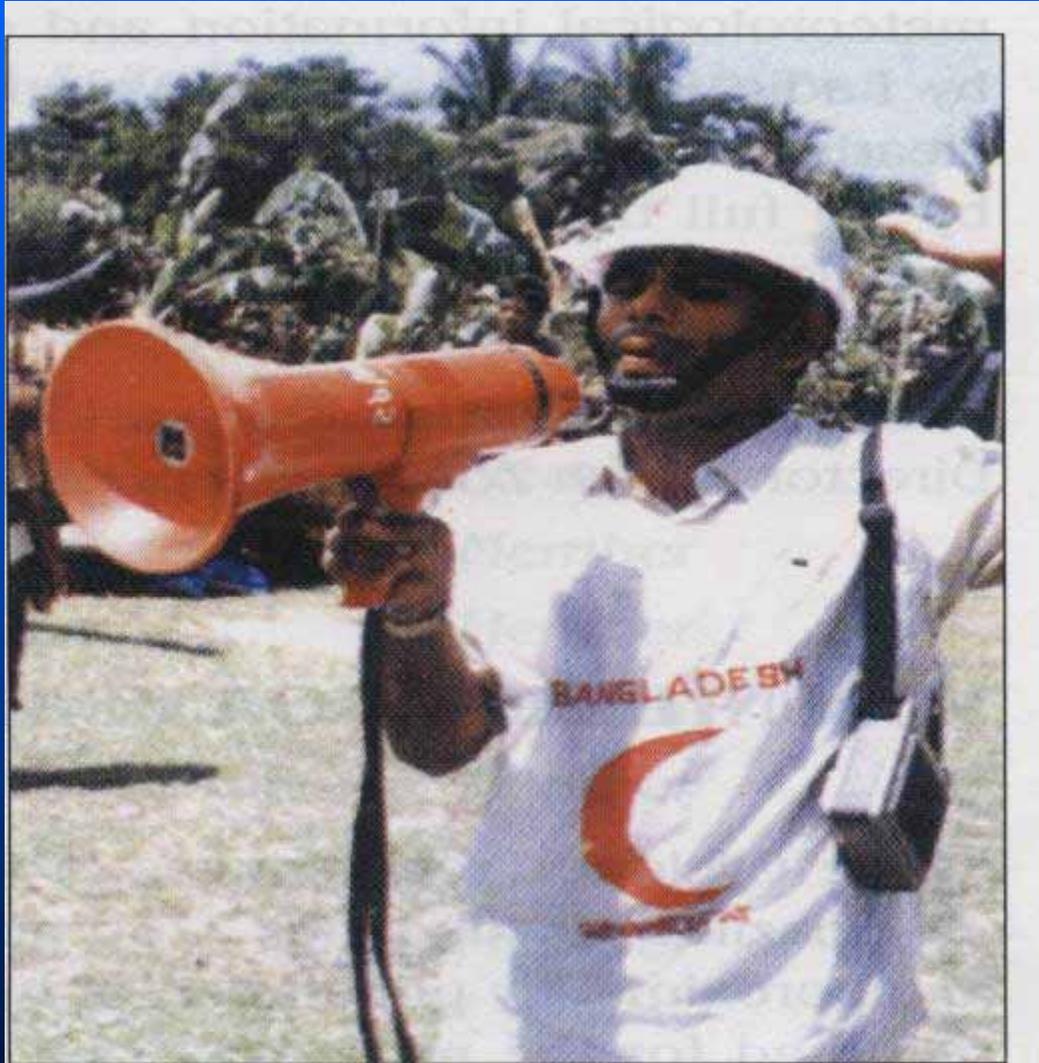
DISSEMINATION OF CYCLONE WARNING SIGNALS



The bulletins are transmitted to the 6 zonal offices and the 30 upazila level offices(sub-district) over HF radio.



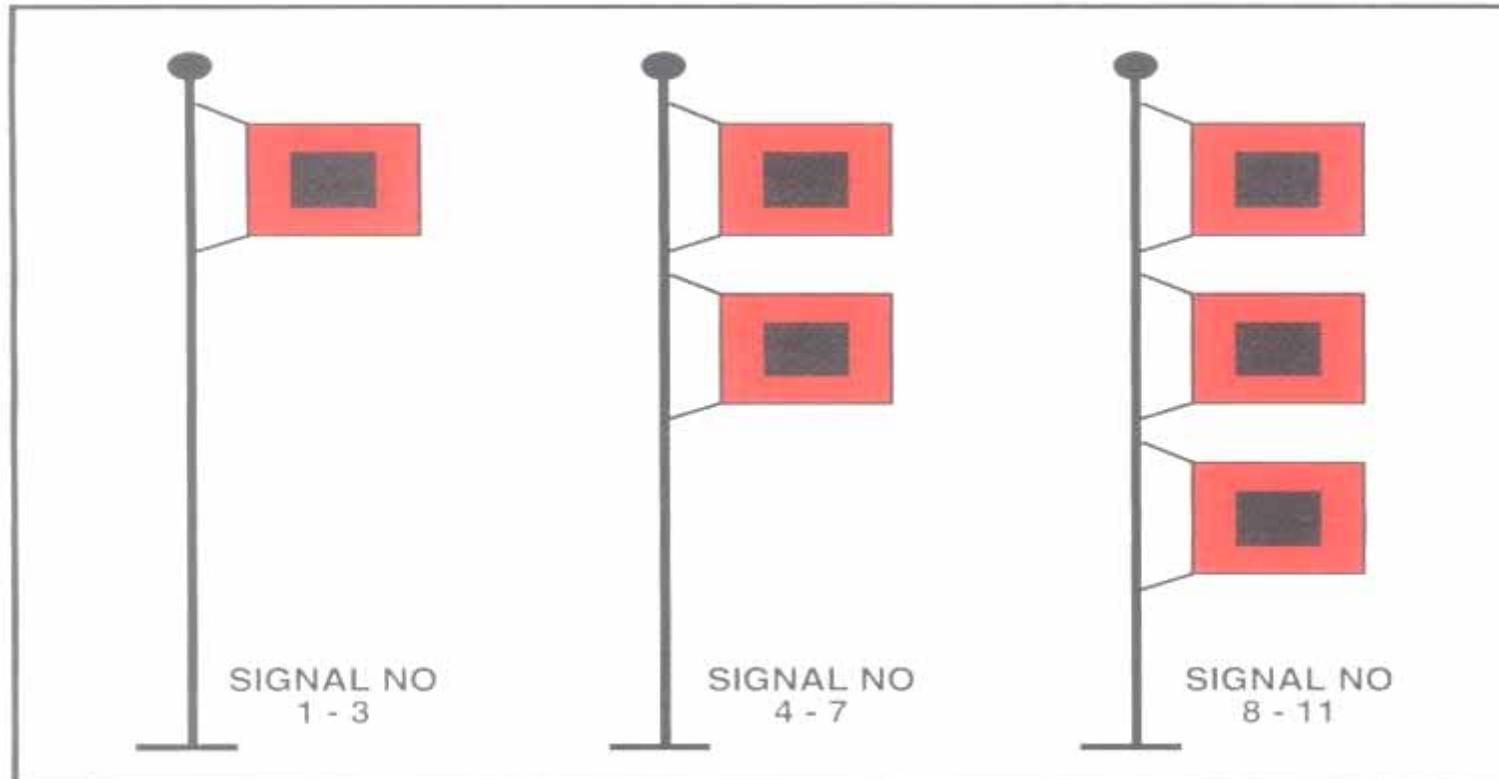
The unit team leaders with his volunteers spread out in the villages and disseminate cyclone warning signals almost door to door using megaphones, hand sirens and public address system.



BDRCS - Cyclone Shelter



HOISTING OF SIGNAL FLAGS



Public Awareness

Public awareness is an integral and very important part of cyclone preparedness activities for its successful implementation.



Public awareness through volunteers Rally.

Before the ensuing cyclone season (April - May and October- November) arrange volunteers rally the grass root level of CPP command area. The objective of the rally is to remained the community that the cyclone season is ahead.



Public awareness through volunteers social contacts

Local volunteers through their social contacts motivate the people in a continues process. This is an important subject for volunteers training also.



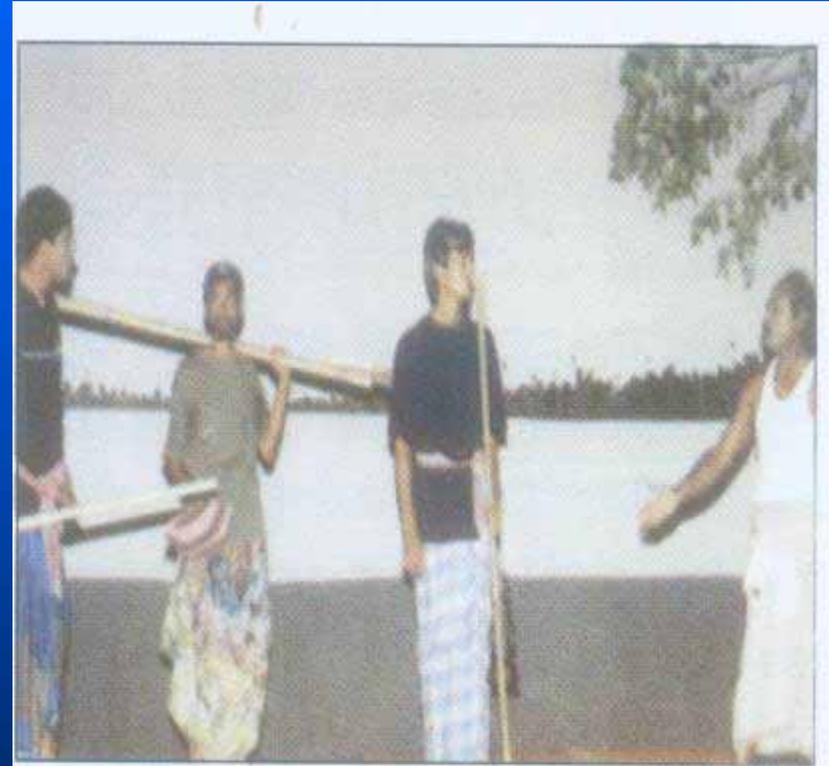
Cyclone drills and demonstration

- Cyclone drills and demonstration are held frequently by volunteers and local people participate in these activities. These drills and demonstration are attended by a large number of villagers.



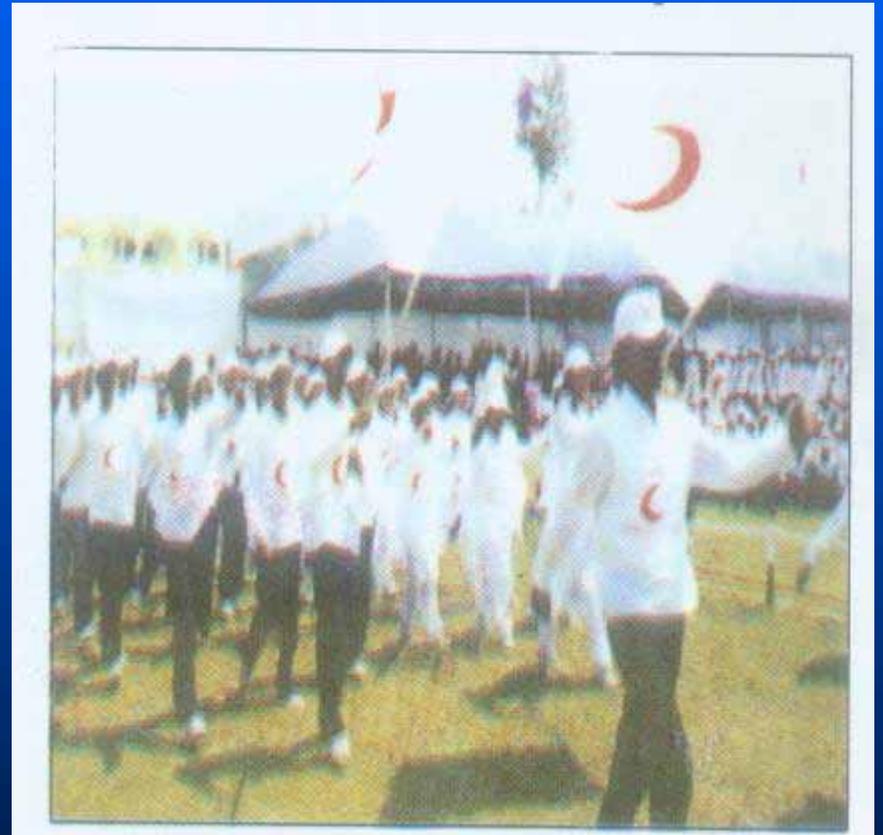
Film/ Video Shows/folk songs

- Documentary film/ videos on disaster and preparedness are shown in coastal villages in cooperation with the Bangladesh Meteorological Department and the films and publication department of the Government.



Publicity campaign

- Immediately before the cyclone season a publicity campaign is organized with government officials, NGO's and the local public to familiarizes and create awareness on cyclone preparedness.



Radio and Television

In the event of formation of depression in the bay of Bengal arrangement are made with National TV, Radio and other electronic media to broadcast the weather bulletins, films relating to disaster preparedness. Special features on disaster and preparedness are also broad cast over Radio/ TV at that time.



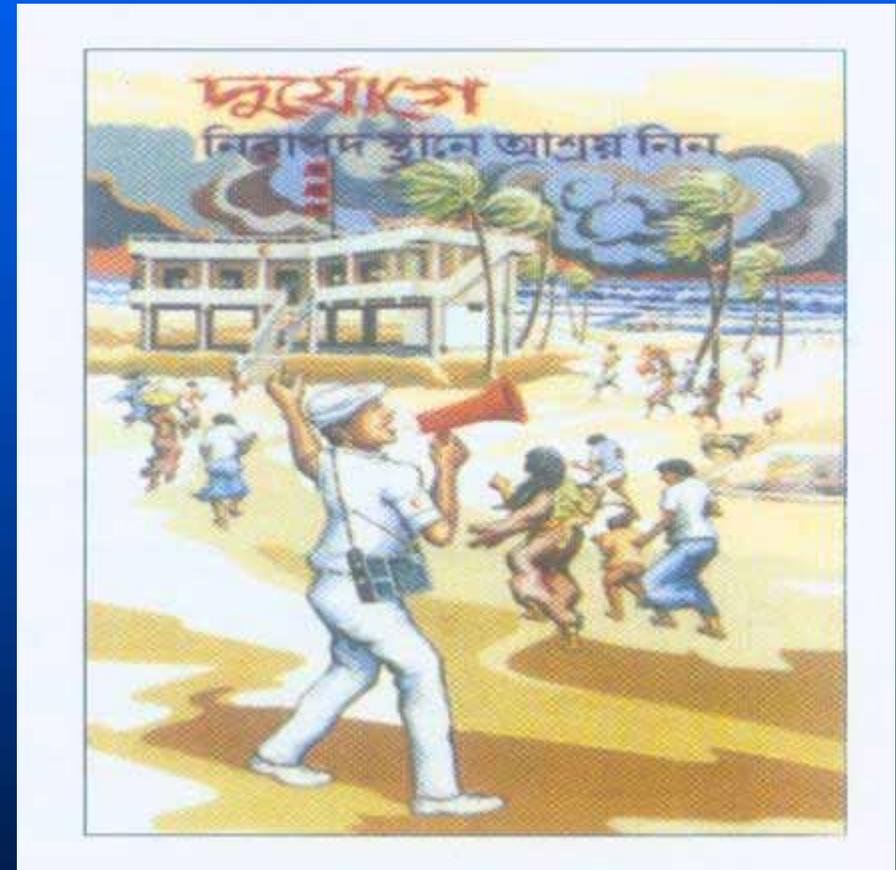
Observance of National Disaster Preparedness Day(NDPD)

As per Standing order on disaster (SOD) National Disaster Preparedness Day is observed once in a year.



Posters, leaflets and Booklets

- Poster, leaflets and booklets etc. on preparedness are regularly printed and distributed to the coastal inhabitants. Special directives on evacuation, interpretation of warning signals, instructions for the fisher men etc. in the form of posters and leaflets have been published and are distributed to the community people.



Staging of drama

- To make the village people realize the importance of preparedness, a specially written drama depicting the significance of preparedness is staged in coastal areas. So far more than 90,00,000 people have witnessed this drama.



Constraints

1. Drop out of 0.5% - 1% volunteers in each year.
2. Replenishment of warning equipments and Volunteers gear.
3. Repair and maintenance of wireless network (35 HF & 96 VHF stations.)
4. Irregular fund flow from IFRC and insufficient fund from GOB.
5. Training for new volunteers (Basic, refresher and others).

Achievement

- This programme has been awarded with “ Smith Tumsaroch award-1998” from Thailand for its outstanding effort that has saved many thousands of lives in Bangladesh.

- The community people accepted this programme and the volunteers are honored in the community for their dedicated services.

- Welfare activities by the volunteers in the event of road accident, fire, boat capsized, river erosion, epidemic etc.

- Minimization of loss of lives and properties.

(1970 cyclone death= 5,00,000 people whereas 1991 cyclone death=1,40,000 and 2007 cyclone SIDR death=3,347 people.)

- Due to CPP activity People's are in positive attitude to rush to the cyclone shelter.

- Much participation of female Volunteers in the programme.

(Out of 42675 volunteers 14225 is female)

Thank you very much