Role of Armed Forces in Disaster Management: Coordination and Cooperation

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Bangladesh: Country context and vulnerability

Recognized globally as most vulnerable to Climate Change

- Deltaic landscape, 80% floodplain
- Population density very high (1045/km²)
- High level of Poverty
- Disaster prone, exposed to frequent hazards
- Over 300 rivers, 57 trans boundary river
- Drains entire western Himalayan runoff to the Bay
- Natural resources based (predominantly agrarian) economy
Hazards Bangladesh faces

- Drought
- Cyclone
- Storm surge, salinity
- Flood
- Water logging
- Bank erosion
Climate change impacts on hazards

- Cyclone/storm surge: increased frequency, intensity, increasing salinity
- Flood: increased frequency, magnitudes
- Droughts: Spreading over time and space
- Erratic rainfall: Intensive rain in short time
- Temperature extremes increasing
- Riverbank and coastal erosion: increasing
- Water logging and permanent inundation
Institutional and policy instruments

**Vision:** To reduce the vulnerability of people, especially the poor, to the effects of natural, environmental and human induced hazards to a manageable and acceptable humanitarian level

**Mission:** to bring a paradigm shift in disaster management from conventional response and relief to a more comprehensive risk reduction culture

**Overall Objective:** to strengthen the capacity of the Bangladesh Disaster Management System
Legal instruments, policies, plans and programs

- Standing Orders on Disasters (SOD) *Revised in 2010*
- National Disaster Management Plan (2010-15)
- The Allocation of Business
- Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2009
- Draft Disaster Management Act
ROLE OF ARMED FORCES IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Risk Reduction

- Develop a sectoral risk mitigation and preparedness strategy / plan through conducting a detailed sectoral risk assessment of the Armed Forces Division (AFD) and prepare earthquake contingency plan for AFD.
- Ensure budgetary provision for the implementation of the plan
- Establish an effective monitoring and evaluation system to ensure effective utilization of resources.
- Undertake staff education and awareness training on earthquake and other natural hazards and providing training to its entire staff on earthquake preparedness and develop a policy.
Risk Reduction (Continued)

- Organize drills on earthquake preparedness and emergency management.
- Prepare a detailed plan of action on search-and-rescue equipments, infrastructure, relief items and security of the affected people.
- Introduce a policy to map out the earthquake vulnerable areas and the possible damage and loss.
- Establish a sectoral risk communication system for the Division.
- Develop a sectoral contingency plan of its risk reduction and management activities.
Role of Armed Forces (Contd)

- **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**
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- Normal Times
  - Designate a Disaster Management Focal Point and inform all concerned.
  - Establish effective contact and ensure continuous liaison with CCDR, NDRCG and MoFDM.
  - Ensure necessary and appropriate preparedness along with the necessary equipments of the three services to extend all supports required with regards to the security/evacuation/rescue purposes of the people especially in the disaster-prone areas before the season starts.
  - Arrange training on disaster management for task force and form a group of Armed Forces for emergency deployment for relief, rescue, and evacuation work effectively.
  - Develop a plan and ensure necessary budget allocation for disaster emergency operation with a view to respond to the demand and emergency.
  - Keep budgetary provision for disaster preparedness and management affairs.
  - Undertake planning in cooperation with the DMB, DM&RD for the use of the Armed Forces in aid to the civil authorities on the basis of requisition and request.
  - Undertake training for the Task Force Commander in emergency response, relief and recovery.
  - Ensure safety and security of installations, establishments, equipment, personnel and resources.
  - Prepare a contingency plan.
Role of Armed Forces (Contd)

Alert and Warning Stage

- Operate the Control Room, Prime Minister’s Monitoring and Coordination Cell round the clock (24 hrs)
- Maintain liaison with the EOC at the DM&RD, MoFDM.
- Keep the appropriate units of Army, Navy and Air force in readiness for conducting rescue, evacuation and relief operations as per requisition.
- Ensure that the necessary preparedness arrangements for the deployment of the Task Force in the event of disaster to areas identified by the Government are in force.
Role of Armed Forces

Disaster Stage

- On the basis of requisition of the Government, deploy the Armed Forces for disaster response, relief and rehabilitation work in aid to the civil powers.
- Collect information on the rescue, relief and rehabilitation work and dispatch it regularly to the coordination cell of the Prime Minister’s Office and the IMDMCC and MoFDM.
- Will ensure early recovery, relief and rehabilitation work as decided by the Government.
- Prepare a report on relief and rehabilitation operations by the Armed Forces services and furnish it to the NDMC/DM&RD.
Role of Armed Forces (Contd)

- Bangladesh Army (4.2.1.2.1)
  - Risk Reduction and Emergency Response

- Bangladesh Navy (4.2.1.2.2)
  - Risk Reduction and Emergency Response

- Bangladesh AirForce (4.2.1.2.3)
  - Risk Reduction and Emergency Response
In Aid To Civil Power

- Aid to the Civil Power is the action taken by Armed Forces in internal security and safety matters while the civil authorities are in control. This implies that in certain circumstances military, the patriotic force of the country, is requested to help the civil administration on specific grounds.
- The use of troops in aid to the civil power for the prevention or suppression of disorder is a function of the government and their employment is authorized by the government.
- It is essential that the mechanism of the civil govt. should be maintained as long as possible.
Conclusion

- The success of all military measures in aid of Civil Power depends upon the co-operation between the civil and military authorities. Successful co-operation is only achieved when there is mutual confidence and understanding.
- Therefore it is important that in peace time, the officers of Civil service and the officers of Army should know each other and have knowledge of each other's duties.