

## **EMERGENCY TOOLKIT**

### ***Effective Tool for Building Earthquake-Resilient Communities***

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#### **Relevance of the Tool**

Though Bangladesh lies in a very seismically active zone, fortunately no major earthquakes have occurred here over the last 100 years. This has left the people **fully unaware** of the earthquake risks and the post-earthquake scenarios that might arise in their areas, including the support services that would be needed. This reality is referred to as a **knowledge gap** and the emergency toolkit has been introduced to help close this gap.



#### **Application of the Tool**

The project focused on awareness raising and capacity enhancement with regard to earthquake preparedness and emergency response to reduce the earthquake risk. The emergency toolkit has been adapted as an instrument to achieve the objective of the project. The following steps were applied to utilize the tool:

##### **Step 1: Identify emergency materials through a vulnerability assessment**

Vulnerability assessments were conducted in consultation with different stakeholders to identify the emergency materials needed.

##### **Step 2: Review secondary documents**

Many relevant reports, manuals and documents were reviewed before finalizing the items to be included in the emergency toolkits.

##### **Step 3: Validate, finalize and organize the emergency toolkits**

The toolkit was validated and finalized in consultation with agencies related to emergency response services, such as the fire department. Later on it was organized.



##### **Step 4: Enhance capacity through appropriate use of the emergency toolkit**

The project organized and conducted a number of training courses for different stakeholders. The emergency toolkit was incorporated as an important component in the training curriculum and also was displayed during the training. Through the training, the operational capacity of the participants was enhanced.

##### **Step 5: Incorporate emergency toolkits in Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials**

The project produced a number of IEC materials, including leaflets, posters and flipcharts. The emergency toolkit was incorporated as an important component of the IECs for



raising awareness of disaster risks, and these IEC materials were disseminated by the change agents to the community.

**Step 6: Identify the most vulnerable families and distribute emergency toolkit to them**

The project identified 80 of the most vulnerable households and distributed emergency kits to those families.

**Step 7: Evaluate the results**

After the completion of the project interventions, a number of evaluation meetings were held to assess the immediate impact of the project. The impact of the emergency toolkits was also evaluated at these meetings.

The case described below is an excellent example of how to mainstream the emergency toolkit.

**Case Study**

For the reduction of earthquake risks, the government of Bangladesh recently developed training manuals for the imams (religious leaders), teachers and managers of critical infrastructure facilities on:

- Nonstructural vulnerability reduction
- School safety and evacuation
- Search and rescue

The emergency toolkit has been highly emphasized in those manuals. These manuals have been jointly developed by the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) in association with Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), facilitated by the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM).