

UNITED NATIONS



জাতিসংঘ

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS RESIDENT COORDINATOR IN BANGLADESH

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UN Partners Strengthen Emergency Preparedness

Dhaka: The United Nations Country Team organized a disaster preparedness 'table-top exercise' 16-17 May in Dhaka to review and discuss the actions that the UN and its partners in Bangladesh would take in response to a large-scale flood disaster.

The exercise is part of a larger UN strategy on disaster preparedness and was aimed at preparing the major actors for their role during disaster response. Designed to examine communication, coordination, and decision-making processes for all stages of a large-scale flood emergency, it helped participants in identifying the preparation and planning process along with roles and responsibilities of supporting agencies.

In her opening remarks UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Renata Dessallien, acknowledged that the Government of Bangladesh has developed an often impressive capacity to respond to disasters if and when they strike. The Ministry of Food and Disaster Management plays a lead role coordinating disaster preparedness, response, and risk reduction efforts throughout the nation. At the same time the UN RC emphasized that Bangladesh still faces challenges in disaster management, and the UN stands ready to support the country in its effort to strengthen preparedness and response capacity.

Outcomes of the event included recommendations for improved contingency planning. A number of national and international experts, including staff from UN OCHA Bangkok, were involved in planning and facilitating the event. Participation was broad, and included senior representation from the Government, bilateral donor agencies, NGOs, and UN agencies.

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