DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT TRAINING IN COX'S BAZAR[1], BANGLADESH

Overview
Chris Piper worked as a Redr Australia deployee with UNDP in Cox's Bazar from April to July 2018. This was in support of the international and national government program assisting the 900,000 or so Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar District. His official title was Early Warning Dissemination and Training Specialist. His primary tasks included early warning initiatives relating to both tropical cyclones and heavy monsoonal rainfall; some Disaster Risk Management (DRM) training; representation of UNDP on various Working Groups; and installation of some rain gauges around the refugee camps.

Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Training
UNDP was requested by the Bangladeshi NGO BRAC[2] – www.brac.net to provide some Disaster Risk Management (DRM) training for its Cox's Bazar-based staff. This was provided by Chris on the 7th May, where he was supported in this by the BRAC Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Specialist, and the IOM[3] Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. Altogether 42 people attended the training, 36 of these coming from BRAC, six being members of other Bangladeshi NGOs, and the other four, UN staff.

The day consisted of three main sections. The first was the facilitation of Key DRM issues; the second being emphasis on DRR and risk management; whilst the third consisted of a Question and Answer (Q&A) session with the IOM representative.

The framework for the Key DRM issues is the Disaster Risk Management Cycle (DRMC), and a link to a Bangladesh modified version of this diagram can be found at www.torqaid.com/cxb-drm-training. The workshop looked at a number of key DRM issues including the DRMC; the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS); key stakeholders and coordination; spatial dimensions, including maps, geography, climate and logistics; basic needs and vulnerability issues, complemented by the provision of humanitarian assistance; understanding of the background context; and the role of the media and social media, and related funding Issues.

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[1] A link to this training paper can be found at www.torqaid.com/CXB-DRM-training

[2] BRAC was nominated by NGO Advisor – www.ngoadvisor.net in 2018 as the best global NGO for the third year running

[3] International Organisation for Migration

The second section looked at the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) diagram[4], and the risk management process. This included the brainstorming and ranking of key challenges facing the Rohingya refugee community over the coming six months. There was then group discussion on the five main challenges identified[5]. A risk management process was then carried out on each of these identified issues, this analysing the key factors associated with each risk; the causes of that risk; the effects of the risk; and some practical DRR and Emergency Response initiatives which could deal with a combination of the identified causes and effects.

The third section of the day was the Q&A session facilitated by the IOM Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. He addressed the priority issues across the refugee settlements, these being coordination, protection[6], shelter, site management and Non-Food Items (NFIs), WASH[7], health, food security, nutrition, logistics, emergency telecommunications (ET), and Communication with Communities (CWC).   There was then short session on useful Twelve Teaching Tips[8] for the Global Development or Humanitarian Practitioner.

Post Workshop Training
Following the workshop, detailed reports were prepared, including syllabus suggestions for further one to two day DRM training to be held at Cox's Bazar. Preliminary research[9] was also later than carried out with other stakeholders at Cox's Bazar, to look at a more Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) training program, to be carried out within the refugee camps themselves with selected community volunteers. This latter CBDRM training would most likely be carried out following the end of the 2018 monsoon season.

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[4] And a Bangladeshi customised version of this can again be found on the link www.torqaid.com/CXB-DRM-training
[5] These being landslides; waterlogging, flash floods, heavy rain; shelter damage; health risk; and protection issues
[6] This including Child Protection and Gender Based Violence (GBV)
[7] Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
[8] See the link at www.torqaid.com/teach-like-a-champion for a copy of these
[9] This was a working session hosted by the IOM Site Management and Development Sector team on the 22nd May 2018