



Uttaran

Civil Protection Policy

Community Mobilization

Poverty Eradication

Environmental Justice

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| Date: March 21 Approved by on behalf of executive board | Shahidul Islam Director | Sarder Md. Rezaul Karim Chairman |
| Update - 1 Date: November 2023 Approved by on behalf of executive board | Shahidul Islam Director | Sarder Md. Rezaul Karim Chairman |
| Update - 2 Date: January,2026 Approved by on behalf of executive board | Shahidul Islam Director | Sarder Md. Rezaul Karim Chairman |
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Civil Protection

In keeping with the standards of UTTARAN, the Civil Protection policy is intended to ensure the best practices of handle the people in the disaster. This policy seeks to provide a clear and concise source of human protection in every level that can be readily used by UTTARAN. Donor regulations, that may be more restrictive have also been carefully considered and incorporated in this policy to ensuring all protection of the people in crisis and disaster. In this circumstance Uttaran is practicing another guideline namely Emergency Response Guideline where the vast description is given about the disaster, emergency and different exercises of civil protection.

What is it?

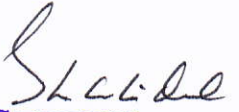
Civil protection is responding to disasters requires efficient collaboration and a multi-skilled approach. Civil protection and disaster management is required for the organization to increase knowledge and its dissemination within the civil protection committee members, and support the Union's ability and capacity to deal with disasters. It will connect and strengthen cooperation with existing initiatives, such as the Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre and relevant international and national structures to increase cooperation, exchange of knowledge, and further expand networking opportunities.

Why is this important?

The disaster risk landscape is rapidly and continuously changing. This requires solid evidence, increased coordination and cooperation, better informed decision-making and more efficient and effective response. The Knowledge Network is a decisive step towards reinforcing an agile, comprehensive and sustainable disaster risk management approach. The Knowledge Network will be a platform of Uttaran to relevant national structures, centers of excellence, researchers, universities, knowledge centers, third countries and international organizations. A wide variety of activities that will be at the core of the Knowledge Network are already ongoing by Uttaran and will be further enhanced to respond to changing needs. A topical training program, a rich selection of exercises, and an exchange program for experts will all be key to strengthen the agility and effectiveness of civil protection.

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Civil protection mechanisms

Uttaran follows the following civil protection mechanisms which have the detail description in Uttaran's Emergency Response Guideline.

- **Disaster Risk Management**
- **Mapping key disaster risks**
- **Research and knowledge sharing**
- **Early Warning and Information Systems**
- **Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC)**
- **Emergency Support Instrument**
- **National disaster Management system**
- **Medical Corps**
- **Rescue Team**

In addition Uttaran also follows:

Civil Protection exercises

Civil protection exercises provide valuable learning opportunities for all involved in operations under the Emergency Response Guideline of Uttaran. Uttaran has an Emergency Response Committee which coordinates Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations exercises every year through its different projects. In order to broaden the offer, the Knowledge Network also introduces new types of exercises such as plug-in exercises for national and international disaster learning and experience, and host area support exercises. The example of host area support of Uttaran is TRM for water clogging in south west area of Bangladesh. "Marooned in the Depth" a short film by Uttaran is a kind of exercise. Alongside full-scale exercises, which are organized by civil protection authorities of country. Uttaran emergency response committee conducted to improve preparedness and enhance collaboration among civil protection authorities of the country and organization. Contingency planning, decision-making procedures, provision of information to the public and the media are among common examples of what can also be tested during the exercises. Uttaran is practicing a Contingency Policy where the detail exercises have given. Moreover, exercises can help the supervisors of emergency response committee to identify further training needs for their staff involved in operations, while parallel workshops on lessons learned can serve as a forum to identify how response can be improved.

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Future outlook

In close consultation with the relevant department of Govt. Uttaran emergency response committee works on the development of the Knowledge Network. Its set-up will ensure a comprehensive and inclusive structure and participatory decision-making, with focus on contributions and added value of expertise, knowledge, skills and good practices of all Member and Partner organizations of Uttaran.

Experts training and exchange

Through the Knowledge Network, Uttaran runs a dynamic and comprehensive training program, offering experts from all organizations opportunities to deepen knowledge of the requirements of civil protection missions of Uttaran's host area. Among others, the training helps experts improve their coordination and assessment skills in disaster response. The training program offers a wide range of courses from basic training to high-level sessions for future mission leaders. Specialized courses aiming to prepare for specific aspects of missions, such as security training or assessments, are also available. The Exchange of Experts in civil protection program allows for the secondment of civil protection experts from Uttaran emergency response committee or Participating another partners. Experts from eligible third organizations can also take part. Through exchanges on topics like firefighting, communication, search and rescue, or new and emerging threats, participants can gain practical learning experiences and knowledge on all aspects of emergency intervention and the different approaches of national systems.

Civil Protection Pool

Following the cyclone Bulbul, Amphan, Foni, Sider, Aila etc. floods and waterlogging, COVID-19, mountain collapse, burn by fire in Bangladesh ensuing activation of the Uttaran Civil Protection Mechanism, the emergency response committee coordinated the deployment of several capacities from the Uttaran Civil Protection Pool where the Technical Assistance Support has given from Uttaran's technical experts of DRR, Agriculture, Nutrition, Food security, Rescue, Environment and others. The overall operation also allowed for the deployment of other medical staff and biological experts, as well as for the provision of urgently needed medical equipment and supplies.

Peer reviews

A peer review of disaster risk management and civil protection arrangements provides a country or a region with a unique opportunity to reflect on its readiness to cope with

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natural and man-made hazards and identify ways of strengthening its broader prevention and preparedness system. The main objective is to facilitate the sharing of good practices in disaster risk management through an independent analysis, which is carried out by a team of experts selected from Uttaran.

Prevention and preparedness missions (advisory missions)

The Mechanism also supports organization in disaster risk management and capacity building for a better response to the negative impacts of natural and man-made hazards. Advisory missions offer tailor-made support and advice on specific needs and problems.

Implementation in Civil Protection

Following are the examples of Implementation in Civil Protection by Uttaran.

- **COVID-19 pandemic**

The COVID-19 pandemic brought about new challenges, such as the market shortage of personal protective equipment and the need for medical supplies, doctors and medical teams. In response to the coronavirus, various emergency Medical, Nutrition and Support Teams have been deployed by Uttaran. From April, 2020 Uttaran staff have been battling against the pandemic. Health capacity development is Uttaran's top most priority to prevent Corona virus and save lives. Oxygen cylinders, nebulizer, medicine and other medical equipment, safety booth establishment, food, mask, corona virus preventive leaflet, poster, hand gloves, protection glass, sanitizer, soap, PPE, hygiene kits, detergent, sanitary napkin, mug, bucket, and other various facilities have been provided by Uttaran from the very beginning of the pandemic in Bangladesh for civil protection in its working areas.

- **Fire**

In March 2021, a massive fire broke out at Ukhiya Rohingya camp killing 15 people and leaving 560 injured. Almost all-important infrastructure of the camp was destroyed in the fire. Uttaran sent its rescue team instantly to help them recover from this harrowing ordeal. Uttaran also worked with its implementing partners to mobilize fundraisers for the affected people.

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- **Cyclone**

During cyclone Bulbul, Amphan, Foni, Sider, Aila etc. Uttaran offered immediate support. Uttaran's emergency response team is well prepared to deal with all such crises. During the mentioned disasters Uttaran's rescue team immediately worked for water purification and supported to setup a communication system effectively and quickly to help people in need. In such cases, Uttaran also rebuilt the destroyed embankments, roads, houses and other infrastructures along with providing instant food, medicine and equipment support to ensure civil protection of its working areas.

- **Flood**

Uttaran offered immediate support through its emergency response team to recent flood affected areas of south western of Bangladesh specially Asasuni, Shyamnagar, Debhata, satkhira and others. From 1985, Uttaran has been working for the flood affected people by conducting rescue activities, mobilizing funds, reviving the agricultural sector and repairing infrastructure, embankment, roads etc. Moreover, Uttaran's rescue team worked for water purification, safe food assistance and also supported to setup a communication system quickly to help the flood affected people.

Conclusion

Uttaran, by using this Civil Protection policy will protect the general people as well as the organization.


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