



# GRRIPP

Gender Responsive  
Resilience and Intersectionality in  
Policy and Practice

# DEVELOPMENT OF CURRICULUM ON “DRR, HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE AND INTERSECTIONALITY”

BANGLADESH UNIVERSITY OF PROFESSIONALS

Dhaka, BANGLADESH

## Context

Curriculum development on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is an important way to impart relevant knowledge about disasters and crises and contribute to the development of innovative programmes and interventions that respond to the needs of affected communities. DRR curriculums are particularly relevant and appropriate for countries like Bangladesh and regions like South Asia, where the prevalence of disasters is felt strongly every year. With growing and new issues like climate change and the Rohingya refugee crisis, it is imperative that we undertake DRR and humanitarian interventions and understand the challenges and scope of working on the issue of intersectionality within affected communities.

This project aimed to develop a curriculum on “Disaster Risk Reduction, Humanitarian Response and Intersectionality.”

## Objectives

1. To prepare two curriculums on “DRR, Humanitarian Response and Intersectionality” for post-graduate students, different professional groups, and development practitioners (1 year and 15-day certification programme).

2. To make both the curriculums part of OER (open educational resources), and accessible to any university or training institute at free of cost.

This work required reviewing existing curriculums and programmes on DRR. The new curriculum was then prepared with the research team’s initial groundwork followed by collecting and analysing experts’ opinions and remarks from relevant disciplines via a feedback workshop.

The outputs were disseminated among universities and training institutes to support the updating of their existing curriculums and also to offer new programmes on humanitarian responses, with a focus on intersectionality. This curriculum project was converted into an academic programme and is expected to impart cutting-edge DRR knowledge and professional skills to students, as well as creating a pool of effective professionals to serve this arena.



*Certificate Programme on “DRR, Humanitarian Response, and Intersectionality” in April 2022. Facilitated by the trainers of Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) Bangladesh.*

*Credit: Md. Awfa Islam*

## Project outcomes

Two curricula were developed on "DRR, Humanitarian Response, and Intersectionality".

The first one is a Certificate programme for professional and development practitioners, designed to be delivered over the course of 15 days and piloted in 2022 in Dhaka. The class contents of the programme were developed under four main themes:

- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Humanitarian Response
- Public Health
- Intersectionality

A total of 60 applications were received; 30 were selected and finally 21 students enrolled in the certificate program (8 women and 13 men). The programme incorporated both online and offline methods for conducting classes in the evening and weekends to accommodate working professionals

The second curriculum is a one-year drafted Postgraduate Programme on DRR, Humanitarian Response, and Intersectionality. This was developed based on the certificate programme participants' feedback and thorough literature reviews. The outline of the curriculum included: Understanding Gender and Intersectionality: Theory,

Policy, and Practices; Public Health and DRR; Social Inclusion in DRR; and other courses.

## Participants' Recommendations on the Certificate Programme

- Humanitarian Development Nexus and Humanitarian Programme Cycle Management should be included in the curriculum.
- Fewer numbers of topics should be selected, and at least two sessions on them should be arranged.
- Additional lecture sessions on intersectionality should be added.
- Inclusion of more professional individuals besides the experienced faculty members can contribute to the improvement of the programme.
- Inter-related Food Security and Livelihood (FSL) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) can be included.
- Videos from disaster shelters, and interviews with first responders and community members should be analysed as case studies.
- A few more topics on gender sensitivity can be included – for instance: safeguarding in humanitarian responses by relevant professionals.
- WASH (water, sanitation & hygiene), and MHPSS (mental health and psychosocial support) with DRR should be used more broadly.

*On 17th December 2022, the GRRIPP South Asia Curriculum Development Team organised a validation workshop on 'Integrating Intersectionality in Theory and Practice' at University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.*

*Credit: Ashish Sarker*



## Development of curriculum on “DRR, humanitarian response and intersectionality”

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