



MEDIA RELEASE

ATTENTION: NEWS EDITOR

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The European Commission and UNDP join hands to tackle natural disasters in Bangladesh

Dhaka: The European Commission (EC) signed a contribution agreement today with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to fund 'Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Project'. The EC will contribute 8.9 million euros (taka 78.44 crore) as grant to this project which has been conceived within the framework of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) currently being implemented by the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM).

Mr. Anthony Goodwin, Acting Head of the EC Delegation and Ms Renata Lok Dessallien, UNDP Resident Representative signed the agreement at the office of the Delegation of the European Commission to Bangladesh.

In 2004, the Government of Bangladesh, UNDP and the Department for International Development (UK) launched the first phase of the *Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme* (CDMP), which was primarily designed to assist in the paradigm shift from disaster relief to disaster risk reduction. The EC has now become a part of this initiative by providing grant to support three key areas (a) earthquake vulnerability & needs assessment; (b) disaster management and information network; and (c) livelihood security – hazard awareness.

The purpose of this assistance is to strengthen the systems in place to provide information to local communities so that they mobilize their own coping mechanisms to deal with natural hazards. This will be accomplished by preparing responsible authorities to deal with earthquake and tsunami hazards, providing access to disaster information up to community level and preparing communities with system and materials to protect their livelihoods from natural hazards.

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