Community Centre & Cyclone Shelter, Various locations, Bangladesh

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND
EMERGENCY CYCLONE SHELTER

Map of Bangladesh and surrounding regions during a cyclonic storm.

These projects are located at Kambalia, Moheshkhali and Chakaria in Cox’s Bazar District, Bangladesh. These sites are within a mile of the shores of the Bay of Bengal. The building performs the dual function of a community development centre and emergency cyclone shelter during cyclones and tidal waves. The idea of having such a dual function is primarily to minimize danger to lives and property, immediately following a cyclone. There is also a need to integrate economic activities in the affected regions. Instead of using the building only as a shelter during emergencies, there is an effort to make the building a hub of community activities. The building has facilities like seed storage, emergency food stores and cooking areas for post-cyclone rehabilitation.

The building is designed to withstand winds of 265 kph and tidal waves up to 19.5 ft above the existing sea level. The vertical circulation from the ground floor is through a ramp to facilitate movement of livestock, bulky goods and for easier human circulation and convenience of utilization during flooding created by tidal waves, on the ramp is not enclosed. The drinking water tank is located on the first floor to avoid saline water penetration during cyclones.

The first floor is used for existing different cooperative groups, informal and adult education, health care facilities etc. community centre for livestock, movable property and people.

The second floor is continuous to the first floor by stairs. A second floor is used as an office for a non-governmental development organization as a shelter during cyclones along with cooking and cooking facilities for post-cyclone rehabilitation and settlement of affected people.

The design has ensured a built environment capable of generating sustainable activities. Careful thought has been given to the use of materials in designing the building. Considering the effect of salinity and high winds, i.e., wood has been used in the internal walls having 2" char moved for waterproofing. The windows have perforated bamboo for wind-screens. Glazing to the windows has been provided to reduce the risk of accidents during cyclones.
INFORMAL CHILDREN EDUCATION

FIRST FLOOR PLAN
NOT TO SCALE

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SHELTER AT KUTUBDIA

SITE LOCATION MAP

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Community Development Centre (CDC) is used for job training for key commercial activities targeted at low income groups - especially women. These activities will include production of household items for the local market, handicrafts, handloom and silk products, as well as bamboo and cane products. Support for these activities, including training, design, quality control and marketing is provided by affiliated institutions such as Kumudini, Arang and WSD.