

Climate and Development Outlook

Stories of change from CDKN



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**Climate and Development
Knowledge Network**

Helping developing countries
to design and deliver climate
compatible development

Bangladesh Special Edition

BUILDING RESILIENCE AND LEADERSHIP ON CLIMATE COMPATIBLE DEVELOPMENT

In the past 25 years, Bangladesh has experienced six major floods, a severe tropical cyclone every three years and annual seasonal droughts. It routinely tops the list of the most vulnerable countries in the world to the impact of climate change and natural disasters. Climate change is putting the lives and livelihoods of the 50 million people who live below the poverty line in Bangladesh at risk.

The Government of Bangladesh, as well as communities at local level, are taking action to adapt to the changing climate. For example, CDKN research is showing how patterns of migration are becoming a standard adaptation practice. As a 65-year-old resident of Munshiganj explained to the research team: "My eldest son migrated 20 years ago when erosion occurred for the first time. At that time, I lost many lands. It created pressure on my regular income."

The Government has invested over US\$10 billion to make the country less vulnerable and put in place a comprehensive national action plan to tackle climate change. But, the challenge is to ensure this support reaches the ground and makes a real difference to people like the residents of Munshiganj. CDKN is helping the Government to do this.

"Bangladeshis are vulnerable to extreme weather events such as droughts and cyclones, as well as the continuing rise in sea levels," said Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, CDKN's Asia Director. "It takes persistent work and strong partnerships to reduce people's vulnerability to such climate impacts. CDKN is committed to working with local, national and international partners in this task, and to helping the Government of Bangladesh to demonstrate its international leadership on climate resilience."

Climate change and development in Bangladesh

Bangladesh has a total population of 163 million, making it the eighth most populous country in the world. It is extremely poor, with about 30% of the population living on less than a dollar a day. In real terms, Bangladesh's economy has grown at 5.8% per year since 1996 despite political instability and slow implementation of economic reforms. Approximately 45% of Bangladeshis are employed in the agriculture sector, with rice as the single most important product, making livelihoods highly dependent on availability of natural resources and favourable climatic conditions for cultivation. Maplecroft's Index (2012) ranks Bangladesh as the second most vulnerable country in the world to climate change. Its vulnerability is increasing as a result of population growth and the increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events.



GUEST COLUMN

Bangladesh must put more climate policies into action

MUNJURUL HANNAN KHAN, CDKN COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT LEADER, BANGLADESH



Climate change is costing our country, both in terms of the economy and the quality of life enjoyed by citizens. As one of the most climate vulnerable countries in the world, the Government of Bangladesh recognises climate change as a serious environmental and development issue. Building the resilience of those people most at risk from climate impacts is a priority of the Government, and CDKN is helping them to deliver this vision.

The Government has put in place a Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) and was the first country to set up its own Climate Change Trust Fund supported through domestic resources. The challenge now is to translate policies into concrete plans and action; CDKN is providing technical and research

support to the Government to help with this process.

This publication summarises CDKN's partnership work with Bangladesh to date, highlighting key achievements and signposting further information. We are involved at many levels, by investing in policy-relevant research, tailored technical assistance and knowledge-sharing – most recently through plans to support outreach on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fifth Assessment Report in Bangladesh.

We hope you enjoy reading these highlights, but I also encourage you to visit our website to explore the further resources we have indicated, and I welcome you to get in touch about how we can work together.

CDKN and its partners are translating new evidence into concrete plans and interventions to mainstream climate resilience into development, and to strengthen institutions for the benefit of vulnerable people. To date, CDKN has already invested more than £2 million (US\$3 million) in climate compatible development in Bangladesh.

UNDERSTANDING THE STORIES BEHIND THE FIGURES ON CLIMATE-RELATED MIGRATION

Over the next 40 years, we can expect approximately 9.7 million people in Bangladesh to undertake long-term migration away from areas affected by climate stresses such as flooding and erosion. Of these around a million will be migrating solely due to climate change. The numbers who will use shorter term and circular migration as a coping strategy is expected to be even greater.

This is the ‘headline’ finding from a comprehensive research programme delivered by a team at the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU), University of Dhaka and Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex. However, the detail behind this figure provides the real evidence on climate-induced migration. For example, a survey of 1,500 households revealed that while migration patterns and climate change are correlated over time, there are significant gender and regional variances, and that different climate-related hazards have different effects. While people migrate largely for economic benefits, climatic factors do play a role in such movements by affecting their livelihoods, directly or indirectly.

The Government requested CDKN to help them to understand, plan for and respond to climate-induced migration. Based on the evidence, the team has produced recommendations to the Government on how to incorporate migration as an adaptation strategy, protect the rights of internal migrants and build the resilience of those in climate-stressed areas to reduce the need for migration. This initiative has started a national conversation on why and how to support climate-induced migrants. Local media such as the *Daily Star* and *Dhaka Tribune*

have featured the research findings. In a public hearing of the parliamentary standing committee of the Ministry of Labour, RMMRU made the case for developing an internal migration policy.

Aparup Chowdhury, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of Bangladesh, adds: “This research paints the true picture of internal and external migration patterns in Bangladesh. It shows the complexity of the issue and puts forward very valuable recommendations on how the Government can respond. This will prove to be a valuable input into the Government’s decision-making process.”

“Our research covered three very different regions, Chapainawabganj, Satkhira and Munshiganj, and through village surveys, focus group discussions and in-depth individual interviews, we got a unique perspective from the ‘front-line’ of climate-induced migration. We now understand the social, economic and cultural reasons for such migration, and its effects. Only on the basis of such information can the Government respond with appropriate policies and measures.”

DR TASNEEM SIDDIQUI, RMMRU





“ARCAB’s monitoring and evaluation framework for community based adaptation is the best product on the market.”

KARIMI GITTONGA,
SAVE THE CHILDREN

BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ON COMMUNITY-BASED ADAPTATION (CBA)

Bangladesh is a pioneer of community-based adaptation (CBA), and practitioners across the country are helping to build the resilience of the most vulnerable in society through bottom-up planning for adaptation. CDKN is helping spread this innovative approach even wider.

In 2013 a network of international and local NGOs and researchers in Bangladesh – Action Research for Community Based Adaptation (ARCAB) – developed a framework for participatory monitoring and evaluation for CBA with CDKN support. This allows the impact of the intervention to be accurately assessed, an important first step to scaling-out. This has been picked up

by a wide range of stakeholders. It has already been used to assess the potential for scaling-up UNDP-funded CBA projects in Namibia and Save the Children projects in Ethiopia. It has also been showcased at international conferences in Dhaka and Delhi and is the focus of a PhD research study.

Johara Bellali, Save the Children’s Regional Manager for DRR/CCA in East Africa, said: “The ARCAB framework has been very strong in providing a simple and clear tool, yet very powerful in laying a pathway to achieving more sustainable, forward looking and flexible programmes for our Somalia/Somaliland country office ... the tool was very successful in shifting thinking and aligning different stakeholders’ efforts towards resilience. Save the Children is now replicating the process in Ethiopia.”

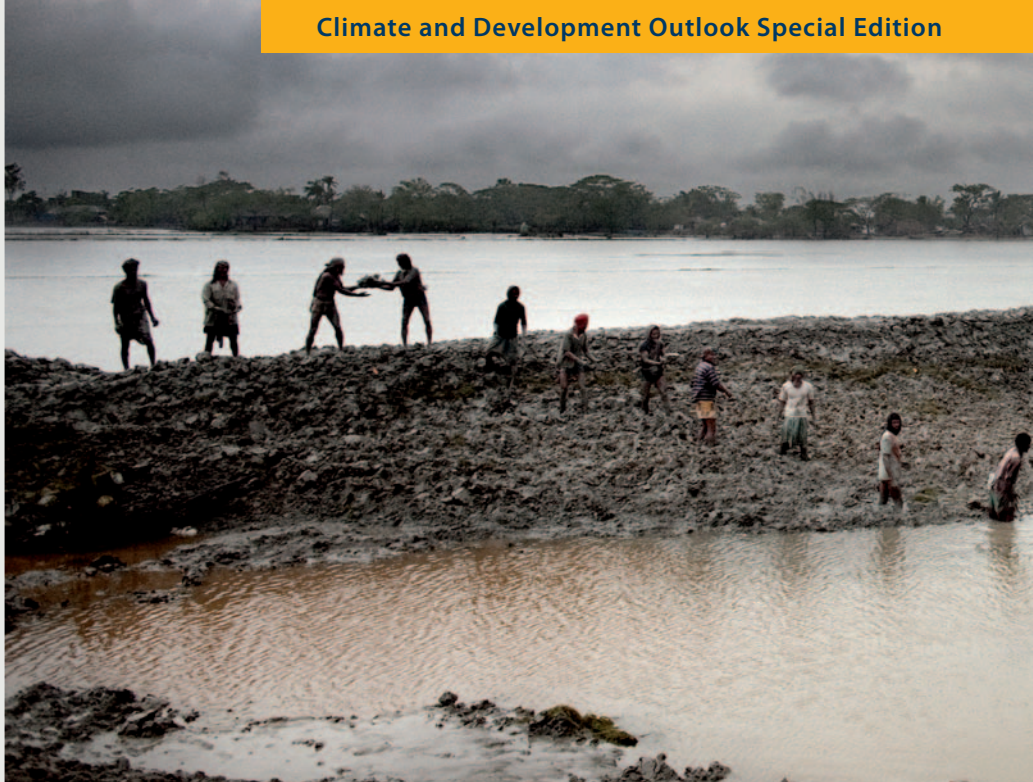
Find out more about CDKN’s programme in Bangladesh

This publication shares some of the key highlights of CDKN’s work in partnership with the Government of Bangladesh, research and knowledge management organisations, media and civil society. For more in-depth information about our projects and programme in Bangladesh, please visit: www.cdkn.org/regions/bangladesh

“In Sathkira District, 98% of those interviewed experienced adverse effects of salinity intrusion caused by sea level rise and inundations after cyclones. The most severe impacts are on rice production and drinking water. Cyclone Aila in 2009 caused a total rice crop failure. In the following two years rice yields were far below pre-Aila level due to high salinity levels.

This had a severe impact on income and food security because the majority of the population depends on rice cultivation. The loss in rice production for the four study villages was estimated at US\$1.9 million. Salinity intrusion also caused a sharp increase in water borne diseases and skin and eye infections.”

SALEEMUL HUQ,
ICCCAD, PROJECT TEAM MEMBER



BANGLADESH AS A LEADER IN ADDRESSING CLIMATE- RELATED LOSS AND DAMAGE

Since 2011, CDKN has been a partner in the Government of Bangladesh's efforts to advance international technical discussions on loss and damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change. Their leadership has had a huge impact on progress on this important issue both within the UNFCCC and nationally.

Bangladesh is the first country in the world to initiate, with CDKN support, national level research and debate on loss and damage. A consortium comprising Germanwatch, United Nations University, the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) and Munich Climate Insurance Initiative (MCII), has published a series of research papers that cover issues such as assessment of loss and damage, approaches to addressing loss and damage, including micro-insurance, and examining the national legal procedures. A methodology for gathering empirical evidence from the perspective of affected people

and vulnerable communities has also been developed and tested in six countries.

These technical inputs have focused the discussion on loss and damage internationally. The Government of Bangladesh has built a common understanding on this issue within the Least Developed Countries (LDC) group of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). A work programme on loss and damage developed in Bangladesh with CDKN support was presented as a model for others to replicate and a training programme has strengthened the technical knowledge of the negotiators. Many of these countries, such as Nepal, have voiced their ambition to follow Bangladesh's lead and not only study loss and damage in their respective countries, but also to take action.



The team delivering this project has also increased the number of stakeholders looking at the issue. They are using their experience under CDKN's programme to spread awareness elsewhere. For example, ICCCAD has set up an Asia Pacific Forum of international agencies and networks that is playing an effective role in information sharing and has also commissioned new research to further strengthen the knowledge base on loss and damage.

WATCH OUT FOR:

- *Local and international screenings of CDKN's documentary film on climate-induced migration in Bangladesh*

On our website you can find:

- *A briefing note from Mousumi Pervin, member of the Government Cohort on Adaptation, on mainstreaming climate change resilience into development planning in Bangladesh.*
- *Reports and blogs from the CDKN team on national and international progress on the loss and damage debate*

And visit www.lossanddamage.net to access all the information and research related to loss and damage.

Written by Elizabeth Gogoi and Kashmala Kakakhel, CDKN

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The Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) aims to help decision-makers in developing countries design and deliver climate compatible development. We do this by providing demand-led research and technical assistance, and channelling the best available knowledge on climate change and development to support policy processes at the country level. CDKN is managed by an alliance of six organisations that brings together a wide range of expertise and experience.

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CDKN Global

7 More London Riverside
London
SE1 2RT
+44 (0) 207 212 4111
www.cdkn.org
enquiries@cdkn.org

Regional contacts

africa@cdkn.org
asia@cdkn.org
lac@cdkn.org



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