



News from CDKN: Migration as an adaptation strategy?

Climate induced migration is traditionally seen as a failure of adaptation, however, new evidence in Bangladesh is showing that internal migration is being used as an adaptation tool responding to multiple livelihood pressures. A team of local and international academics are quantifying the extent and spatial distribution of this migration following a request from the Government for more evidence on the reality of this practice. They are also making recommendations for how seasonal migration can be better regulated and supported, such as setting up migration processing centres in climate vulnerable regions.

The findings of this project – already published in a range of documents – have received great interest from within Bangladesh and beyond. They have presented at conferences in Dhaka, Singapore and Manila. CDKN is now helping to get the message to a wider audience by making a documentary film that will be broadcast on TV and at events – in English and Bengali – that gives the human story behind this research. The aim is to influence local and national policy-makers and politicians who are not usually involved in climate change discussions.

Recent Highlights

- The Government of Bangladesh, represented by Mousumi Pervin is playing a [leading role in a Government cohort of officials from Asian and African countries](#) looking at the issue of mainstreaming adaptation within development planning. Convened by IIED with support from CDKN, the group has co-authored a soon to be released working paper outlining a mainstreaming framework. Mousumi presented the highlights at the CBA conference held in Dhaka in April.

A [briefing note](#) authored by Mousumi also puts forward a case study of Bangladesh’s experience with integrating climate change into the decision-making of Government.

- As part of CDKN Asia’s [learning and innovation hub on disaster risk management \(DRM\)](#) held in Bangkok, partners from Bangladesh shared experiences and identified what we are collectively learning about effective DRM and how we can scale-up this learning to have a greater impact. A system ‘map’ of Bangladesh was developed, identifying stakeholders and relationships that are involved (or should be involved) in climate-smart DRM governance and delivery in their country. This and more will be published next month

How we provide support in Bangladesh

Providing technical assistance and research which supports the Government of Bangladesh to develop and test effective tools and models on climate compatible development, and to advocate internationally for their replication and scale-up.

Total budget committed to date: approximately GBP 2 million.

CDKN Partners in Bangladesh:



Preparing for national action on Loss and Damage

CDKN has been supporting the Government of Bangladesh to build a common understanding around loss and damage at the international agenda by strengthening the evidence base for this emerging issue.

After some success at COP 18, where the door was left open for the establishment of an institutional arrangement such as an international mechanism on loss and damage, the Government of Bangladesh and consortium of partners working with them are now turning attention to action needed at the national level.

A series of research papers have been published which look at how the country should respond to the future impacts of climate change which could exceed development thresholds of people and countries. The papers, on the following topics are providing guidance to the Government on national policy actions.

- [Assessing the risk of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change in Bangladesh](#)
- [Loss and Damage from the local perspective in the context of slow-onset process The case of sea level rise in Bangladesh](#)
- [The legal and institutional context in Bangladesh](#)
- [Loss and Damage from the local perspective in the context of extreme events: Insights from cyclone-affected communities in coastal Bangladesh](#)
- [Establishing links between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the context of loss and damage](#)
- [Assessing micro-insurance as a tool to address loss and damage in the national context of Bangladesh](#)

These papers were presented and discussed during a side-event at the UNFCCC intercessional at Bonn in June. The partners involved, who are now some of the leading experts on the subject internationally, shared the processes and results from work over the last 15 months which has given the Government a better understanding of loss and damage in Bangladesh.

A synthesis paper has also been released which reflects on what has been learnt by the Government and team during this experience of raising international attention on loss and damage.



"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 1.9 million USD. Salinity intrusion also caused a sharp increase in water borne diseases and skin and eye infections."

Saleemul Huq, ICCCAD, project team member



Update on CDKN Projects in Bangladesh

Loss and Damage in Vulnerable Countries Initiative – Nov 2011 – Dec 2013

As part of the UNFCCC process, CDKN is supporting the Government to develop a Work Programme to address Loss and Damage associated with climate change impacts, which will then be used as a model for other LDCs to replicate. The focus is also on the national level with the Government looking at what loss and damage means in Bangladesh (see above). There is expectation that at the next COP in December there will be progress on establishing an institutional arrangement on loss and damage. As such CDKN's support in terms of technical assistance to the Government of Bangladesh via an international team of experts has been extended.



Adaptation policy options and interventions for climate induced displaced people of Bangladesh – Nov 2011 – Aug 2013

The Government of Bangladesh requested CDKN support to increase the evidence, and their understanding, on the reality of climate induced migration and how to respond. The research project, being implemented by the University of Sussex, UK and University of Bangladesh, has completed qualitative and quantitative analysis on the impact of climate change on human displacement, well as a review of the existing policy framework and interventions underway.

The outputs from this research will be published over the coming months, with three policy briefs already released:

1. "Making migration decisions amid climate change in Bangladesh" – which looks at the relationship between migration and climate change
2. "Migration in Bangladesh and its sensitivity to climate change and variability" – which traces current migratory patterns in the country
3. "Future migration in the context of climate change" – which looks forward at what we should expect.

A set of journal articles and working papers will also soon be released which also look at some of the policy recommendations the team have formed.

A documentary on the issue of climate-induced displacement in Bangladesh is currently in production by TvE which will give the opportunity for those affected to give their stories directly.



Action Research on Community Based Adaptation in Bangladesh (ARCAB) – July 2011 – Oct 2012

While the project supported by CDKN to develop a tool for participatory M&E which can be used by practitioners implementing community adaptation initiatives has been completed, its impact still lives on. The team of NGOs and experts in Bangladesh involved in piloting the tool are now sharing this learning internationally. The tool has been used to assess UNDP funded CBA projects in Namibia and Save the Children projects in Ethiopia, to assess the projects' impact and potential for scaling-up. It has also been showcased at international conferences in Dhaka and Delhi, and one of the team members is so passionate about the tool she has decided to do her PhD research on it!

Mainstreaming climate change resilience into development planning in Bangladesh

By Mousumi Pervin, Bangladesh Government's Poverty Environment and Climate Mainstreaming project

Between November 2011 and October 2012, government staff from diverse backgrounds came together at a course facilitated by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) at the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) with support from CDKN to share and reflect on their countries' experience and needs around integrating climate change into development planning. Based on these discussions, they identified three building blocks for successful mainstreaming: an enabling environment, policies and planning, and projects and programmes.

The enabling environment for mainstreaming includes the political will to make climate policy and the information services that guide it. Political will may be evident in high-profile bodies such as the Cabinet Review Committee on climate change led by the prime minister of Bangladesh. The second block, planning and policy, includes the policy frameworks together with institutional arrangements and finance mechanisms. The projects and programmes block takes mainstreaming to the project level. The three blocks are non-hierarchical and non-sequential; in some cases, strategic planning led by technocrats may come before high-level political will, or a country may be pursuing important development goals mainly through individual projects.

This country paper, authored by Mousumi Pervin, reflects Bangladesh's experience against this building blocks framework. This paper explains how political will facilitated a climate-resilient development planning process in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh's vulnerability to climate change is due to various hydro-meteorological and socioeconomic factors. In 2010, the Global Climate Risk Index stated that in 1990–2008, 8,241 people died in Bangladesh while the cost of damage was US\$2.2 billion per year and loss of GDP was 1.81 per cent. However, the political will to address this and incorporate climate change issues into national-level planning does exist.

The Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh said in the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) in 2009: *"The Bangladesh government is fully committed to take all measures so that climate change is managed in a way that people are fully protected from its adverse impacts as promised in our manifesto."*

Despite the high degree of political will shown on climate change, a challenge remains in translating it into concrete action and policy. This is partly due to an information gap that exists on the detailed impacts of climate change and appropriate responses.

In addition, the paper provides an introduction to climate financing mechanisms and the development planning process. In Bangladesh, the institutional and legal framework is strongly conducive to the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation. Bangladesh has several different institutional funding mechanisms on climate change adaptation, including Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund and Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund.

For the full version of this article, visit www.cdkn.org/regions/asia/

What is the Climate Development Knowledge Network?

CDKN is an alliance of six private and non-governmental organisations operating across four continents. The network provides support to decision makers in developing countries to design and deliver climate compatible development. We do this by combining research, advisory services and knowledge management, in support of locally owned and managed policy processes. We work in partnership with decision-makers in the public, private and non-governmental sectors.

For further information please visit our website www.cdkn.org or e-mail us at asia@cdkn.org

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