

CBF Semiannual

NEWSLETTER

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The Climate Bridge Fund (CBF) is a trust fund established by BRAC in November 2019 with the support from the Government of Germany through KfW. It is an innovative finance mechanism to support small-scale projects implemented by registered non-government organisations to increase the resilience of people who are displaced or at the risk of being displaced due to impacts of climate change in Bangladesh.

CBF has two separate windows to support different types of adaptation and risk reduction measures. The Climate Change Window (CCW) supports the climate-induced migrants of five priority areas (Barishal, Khulna, Rajshahi, Satkhira, and Sirajganj), and expanding the coverage, the Emergency Response Window (ERW) supports the climate-induced migrants living in the COVID-19 hotspots of the country.

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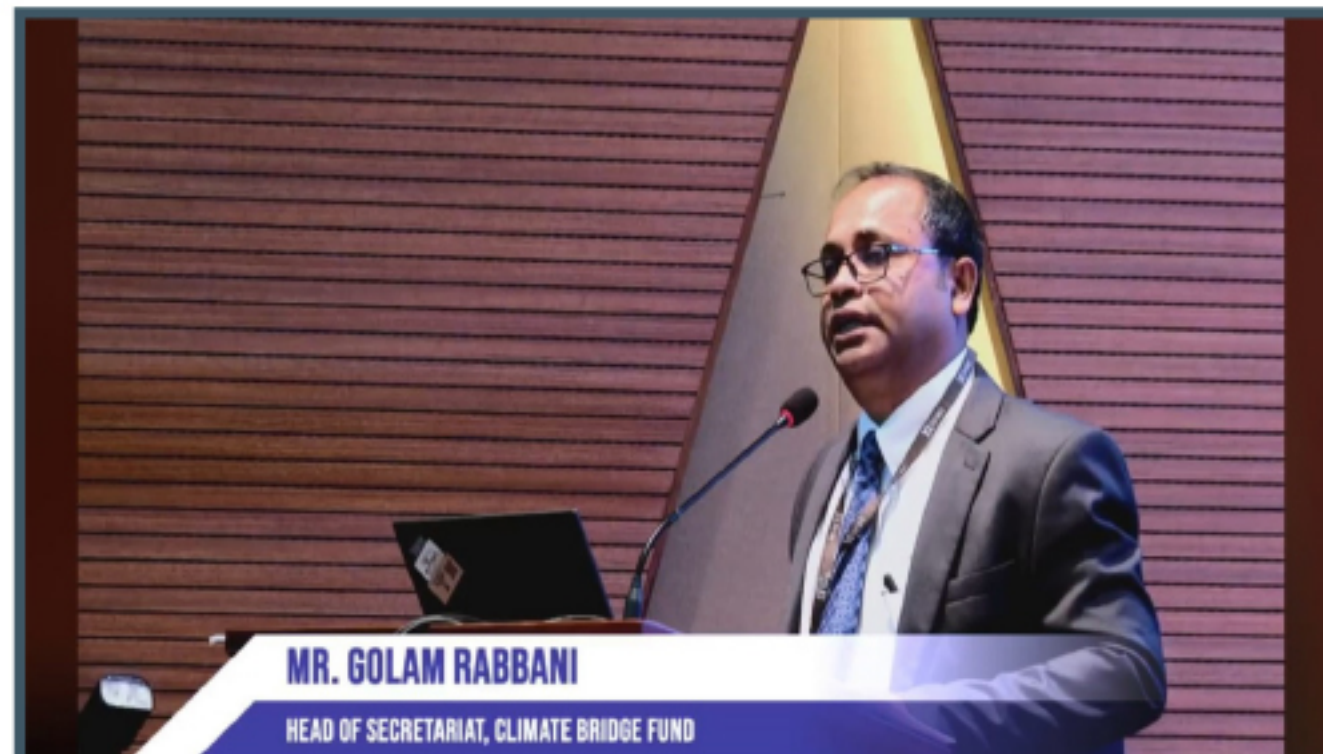
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Human mobility and climate change nexus: Towards a common narrative and action pathway

On 25 July 2022, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GoB), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Bangladesh organised a policy dialogue titled 'Human Mobility in the context of Climate Change: Towards a Common Narrative and Action Pathway' at the Foreign Service Academy. The event brought together a wide range of stakeholders - governments, private sector, civil society, academia, UN agencies, international organisations and media - on a common platform to better understand the nuances of perspectives on the nexus between human mobility and climate change. The event also tried to chart a comprehensive and holistic way forward on how to address this issue in national policy making as well as in relevant international charters.



Dr Md Golam Rabbani, Head of Secretariat, CBF is giving the keynote speech. Photo: CBF

Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr AK Abdul Momen, Member of Parliament, graced the occasion as the chief guest, and the Chair of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Member of Parliament, was the guest of honour. The Deputy Director General for Operations of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Ugochi Daniels was present as a special guest.

In the event, Dr Md Golam Rabbani, Head of Secretariat, Climate Bridge Fund (CBF) presented the keynote speech on 'Human Mobility in the Context of Sudden and Slow-Onset Events and the Adverse Effects of Climate Change in Bangladesh'. He emphasized on recognising climate change induced migration in national policy documents. The importance to have efficient multi-sectoral approach to integrate migrants into urban planning, ensure housing for them and provide job opportunities to such displaced population was also highlighted in the speech. He also talked about how CBF, established by BRAC with the support from the Government of Germany through KfW, is supporting climate migrants to improve their resilience in many urban settlements.

Annual coordination meeting with implementing partners

To ensure smooth coordination with the implementing partners, Climate Bridge Fund (CBF) Secretariat holds regular coordination meetings. As the spread of COVID-19 slowly decreased, CBF arranged the first in-person coordination meeting with implementing partners in May 29 to 31 2022 at BCDM in Savar.

In the meeting, colleagues from four projects shared their annual progress report. Moreover, reflecting upon their overall experience and the challenges faced during the last one year, they provided some recommendations as well.

Dr Md Liakath Ali, Director, Climate Change Programme of BRAC and BRAC International and Urban Development Programme, and Member, Trustee Board, CBF along with SM Mehedi Ahsan, Senior Urban Resilience Specialist, KfW Bangladesh Office and Member Advisory Committee of Climate Bridge Fund (ACCF) were the distinguished guests in the meeting and provided their valuable guidance for both CBF and the partners. At the end, Dr Golam Rabbani, Head, CBF Secretariat led an interactive discussion on potential adaptation measures which can be adopted in the projects.



Dr Md Liakath Ali, Member, CBF Trustee Board is conducting a session on the overall progress and future plan. Photo: CBF



The participants and guests of the coordination meeting. Photo: CBF

Capacity development training of partners of RCC

One of the major responsibilities of Climate Bridge Fund (CBF) is to develop the climate action capacity of implementing partners. On April 20 2022, a session on adaptation measures and its linkage with CBF funded projects took place at Rajshahi City Corporation. The session participants were the field staff of two CBF supported projects. The end goal of these projects implemented by HNPP, BRAC and WaterAid Bangladesh in partnership with Village Education Resource Centre (VERC) is to strengthen resilience of climate induced migrants residing in particular slums.

Dr Md Golam Rabbani, Head, CBF Secretariat, facilitated the session. The session started with a presentation on climate change, adaptation and migration in the context of Bangladesh. The participants took part in a group work where they analysed and



The Head of Fund Secretariat is conducting a session on adaptation measures and the linkage with the projects at RCC. Photo: CBF

discussed the impacts of climate change on the lives of the people of Rajshahi. Finally, the participants of the session identified how those impacts are being addressed by their respective projects. It is expected that this session will enable the project field staff to have a clearer understanding on the rationale of their adaptation project and activities.



Project focal person, Abdul Kaiyum Khan, is sharing about his project measures. Photo: CBF



Project staff is sharing her work experience. Photo: CBF

ToT on climate change and health: Building capacity of the staff

Health, Nutrition and Population Programme (HNPP), BRAC with support from the Climate Change & Health Promotion Unit, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare organised a Training of Trainers on climate change and health during August 23 to 25 2022 at BRAC Learning Centre at Uttara in the capital to enhance their knowledge and understanding of climate change. Experts on climate change and health from different government and non-government organisations took sessions regarding the impacts of climate change and its impact on human health. Discussants shared their context-specific experiences and ideas during the session.

Dr Md Golam Rabbani, Head, Climate Bridge Fund (CBF) Secretariat, was one of the discussants and took a session on climate change impacts and vulnerabilities in Bangladesh. He discussed the impacts of

climate change, climate change-induced hazards and how vulnerable people are bearing the brunt of it. Dr Rabbani also spoke about the impact of sea-level rise and dynamics of increasing salinity in the southwest region in Bangladesh. He also talked about how climate change is affecting health. Around 15 officials of HNPP participated in the event along CBF Secretariat officials.



Dr Md Golam Rabbani is conducting a session regarding the impacts of climate change in Bangladesh. Photo: CBF

A comprehensive model of WASH support in school

The increasing temperature, frequency of heat waves during pre-monsoon and monsoon season and the lack of rainfall have been gravely affecting the people living in Rajshahi City Corporation. The shortage of rainfall has turned this region into a drought-prone one posing serious threat to water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities. The menstruating school-going girls are heavily impacted by the lack of WASH facilities. This eventually led to higher number of school drop outs.

To address this issue and ensure adequate water supply and menstrual hygiene facilities, WaterAid Bangladesh in partnership with VERC constructed a school sanitation complex at Shahid Nazmul Haque Girls High School in Rajshahi City Corporation under the project titled 'Composite Actions for Climate Migrants in Urban Slums' (CACMUS). The sanitation complex was inaugurated on June 17 2022 with the presence of all relevant local government authorities.

The School Managing Committee President Shahin Akter Rainy inaugurated the complex as chief guest. She said that adolescent girls should be sensitised about climate change, environment and sanitation as well as menstrual hygiene management. Menstruation is still treated as a taboo in our society and this sanitation complex will lead the adolescent girls to a right direction and ensure their health safety during menstruation.



Shahin Akter Rainy, President, School Managing Committee is inaugurating the school sanitation complex. Photo: WaterAid Bangladesh



Project focal, Saief Manzoor-Al-Islam is showing and describing the facilities. Photo: WaterAid Bangladesh

The complex consists of ten latrine chambers, with two compartments specifically designed for menstrual hygiene management. Additionally, hand washing facilities were also constructed. An incinerator has also been constructed to burn used sanitary napkins and to avoid long queues in front of toilets, sitting arrangements have been made. Outside the block, a drinking water station with water purifiers have been set up to ensure students' access to safe drinking water.



The school sanitation complex (inside view). Photo: CBF



The school sanitation complex (outside view). Photo: CBF

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