

NEWSLETTER

Issue 4 | October 2022 - March 2023



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.

In this issue

COP27: Issue on Loss and Damage
Page - 02

Consultation Workshop on designing WASH
and Livelihood options
Page - 02

Reflection and Review Meeting on Ongoing
Climate Change Window (CCW) Projects
Page- 03

Grant Agreement Signing Ceremony of
Emergency Response Window (ERW)
Page - 03

Two teams from KfW visits CBF supported
projects in Khulna and Rajshahi
Page-04

COP27: Issue on Loss and Damage

The 27th Conference of the Parties (COP) took place in Sham-al-Sheikh Egypt on 6th November and continued till 18th November 2022. COP was initiated nearly three decades ago by United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as a global climate summit and brought about all the countries of the world together. The main objective of COP lies, primarily in limiting inequity among vulnerable communities and ensuring climate justice for all. Although COP 27 just like the last COPs, focused on mitigation measures to reduce greenhouse gas emission and adaptation interventions to improve resilience of communities globally, yet, the discussion was not limited to adaptation and mitigation only. COP 27 also took sheer interest in the long-discussed agenda of climate-induced loss and damage.

Having twenty years of experience in the field of climate change adaptation, recognized as climate finance negotiator at the global climate summit, and holding expertise in climate induced loss and damage, Dr Md Golam Rabbani, Head of Climate Bridge Fund (CBF) Secretariat participated in COP 27. During this time, Dr Rabbani attended three side events as panelist, which primarily focused on adaptation and climate-induced loss and damage. Here, he represented CBF Secretariat and its contribution in improving the condition of climate migrants and other vulnerable population. Additionally, he also emphasized on CBF being an excellent example of addressing climate-induced loss and damage, as it entirely targets climate migrants residing in the urban slums of Bangladesh. Further, Dr. Rabbani promoted CBF's unique financing mechanism and shared his international, national and local experience of climate change impacts in Bangladesh.



Dr Md Golam Rabbani, Head of Secretariat, CBF speaking as a panelist at a side event of COP 27. Photo: BRAC

Consultation Workshop on designing WASH and Livelihood options

On 8th December 2022 the Climate Bridge Fund (CBF) Secretariat organized a consultation workshop on designing adaptation solutions on WASH and Livelihood under projected climate change scenarios in urban areas, which focused on climate-resilient WASH facilities and livelihood options. The agenda was to understand the zonal segregation of WASH and livelihood options in urban informal settlements in accordance with present and future climatic projections and also to put emphasis on ensuring co-benefits while designing the solutions. Development professionals having expertise particularly in WASH and livelihood participated in this event.

The event started with welcoming words from Dr Md Golam Rabbani, Head of CBF Secretariat. Followed by his introductory speech, Dr Liakath Ali, member of CBF Trustee Board conducted the first session on WASH emphasizing on integrating future climate risks into current WASH interventions for building climate-resilient adaptation solutions.

Dr Rabbani being one of the speakers also spoke about observed changes and future projections of climatic characteristics and also emphasized on future projections of temperature and sea level rise in the context of Bangladesh. Dr Rabbani then opened the second session on Climate Change and Livelihood, where Mr Nahin Ferdous, representative from Ultra Poor Graduation Programme, BRAC discussed the livelihood framework and urged the participants to design comprehensive livelihood adaptation solutions. Followed by each insightful session, a zone-wise group discussion was carried out. The workshop ended with concluding remarks of Dr Rabbani.



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



The participants from the consultation workshop. Photo: CBF

Reflection and Review Meeting of Ongoing Climate Change Window (CCW) projects

Climate Bridge Fund Secretariat (CBF) organized the reflection and review meeting on ongoing CCW projects on 30 January 2023. In the meeting, Mr Asif Saleh, Chair of Board of Trustees, CBF, Mr Tushar Bhowmik and Dr Liakath Ali, member of Board of Trustees were present. Along with them, Advisory Committee of Climate Bridge Fund (ACCF) Members, Dr Ainun Nishat, Ms. Hasin Jahan, Dr Saleemul Huq, and Ms Deeba Farah Haque, members of the Secretariat, and partner organizations were also present. The meeting was arranged to exchange learnings among the project partners, to know about the challenges faced during implementation of planned interventions, and analyse what went well and what did not go well. In the beginning, Dr Liakath Ali welcomed all and stated the key objectives of the meeting. Followed by his speech, the project partners presented their innovative initiatives, progress, and challenges faced while implementing the project.



Mr. Saief Manzoor-Al Islam and Ms. Samiha Nuzhat from WaterAid Bangladesh is sharing the lessons related to their project. Photo: CBF

At the end of each presentation, open discussion was carried out where board of trustees and ACCF members quired about specific interventions and gave relevant feedback. The noteworthy factor was that, a few beneficiaries of the projects were also present in the meeting. During the open discussion, the participants shared how the project initiatives created an impact on their lives. At the end of the presentations, the partners appreciated the initiative of arranging this meeting, and suggested if CBF can provide more trainings to the field level staffs. Lastly, ACCF members graced the event with their concluding remarks.

Grant Agreement Signing Ceremony of Emergency Response Window (ERW)

The Emergency Response Window (ERW) under CBF Secretariat organized the Grant Agreement Signing Ceremony for the awarded projects on 24th January 2023. ERW started its journey during COVID-19 to support climate migrants and other vulnerable people residing in urban informal settlements of Bangladesh whose lives and livelihoods are severely impacted by the pandemic. As ERW supports NGOs to enhance emergency response initiatives, CBF aimed to formalize partnerships with the partner organizations through this grant signing ceremony.

As the event progressed, representatives from partner organizations expressed their remarks on CBF's initiative and acknowledged its role in bridging the gap between global and local while capacitating local partners. Dr Saleemul Huq, Vice speaker of the ACCF, added to the discussion and stated that the CBF is playing crucial roles in addressing loss and damage issue and can readily be cited as an example for loss and damage fund. Followed by Dr Huq's speech, the grant agreement was signed with fourteen national and international organizations including seven BRAC programmes and seven non-BRAC NGOs which included NDP, Habitat for Humanity, WaterAid Bangladesh, DSK, ESDO, SKS, and Christian Aid. Right after the agreement signing, Dr Ainun Nishat, member of ACCF shared his part of experience regarding fund management and advised CBF to hold its credibility through proper monitoring and evaluation. At the end, Mr. Asif Saleh, Chair of Board of Trustees (BoT), CBF graced the event with his concluding remarks. He urged the participants to focus on scaling up the interventions and ensure sustainability of every intervention implementation.



Group photo from the grant signing ceremony. Photo: CBF



Mr. Asif Saleh, Chair, Board of Trustees, CBF signing agreement on behalf of CBF Secretariat with Mr. Alauddin Khan, Executive Director, NDP. Photo: CBF

Two teams from KfW visits CBF supported projects in Khulna and Rajshahi

Khulna and Rajshahi are often marked as one of the many climatic hotspots of Bangladesh, and have experienced rapid rural-urban migration flow in recent times. While multiple interventions were planned in the rural parts of both the areas, their urban counterparts seldom received attention over the past few years. CBF having sheer interest in urban slums of Bangladesh, have supported four projects till date under the Climate Change Window in Khulna City Corporation (KCC) and Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) since 2020. The project intended to better off a range of support, including livelihoods, solid waste management, WASH, drainage, roads and walkways, better housing, and health facilities.

The implementing partners of these four projects are Caritas Bangladesh, WaterAid Bangladesh, Ultra-Poor Graduation Programme, Disaster Risk Management Programme, BRAC, and Health, Nutrition, and Population Programme, BRAC.

To observe the progress and assess the infrastructural interventions of the project, a team from KfW visited all four projects in both KCC and RCC, between 9th and 11th March 2023. The team from KfW comprising of Ms Christina Bartz, Senior Portfolio Manager, Mr Peter Rooney, Principal Technical Expert, Mr Daniel Pastoor, Procurement Manager, Ms Jutta Volmer, Environmental and Social Specialist, and Ms Deeba Farah Haque, Sector Specialist, visited four slums (Notun Bazar, Labonchora, Greenland Abashan, and Bastuhara) of KCC on 9th March to see the implemented interventions. Followed by the visit in KCC, on 11th of March 2023 two slums (Sreerampur and Baje Kazla) and in Shahid Nazmul Haque Girls High School were visited by the same team in RCC. The KfW team also conducted two reflection meetings, one in KCC and another in RCC to know about the challenges faced and new learning/s each partner incurred since the inception of the project.



Christina Bartz, Senior Portfolio Manager along with partners and community representative at Sreerampur Slum RCC. Photo: CBF



Group photo with KfW team, CBF Secretariat team and partners at Shahid Nazmul Haque Girls High School. Photo: CBF

The innovative project interventions of CBF also caught attention of the high-level management of KfW and a second round of visit was conducted by Mr. Stephan Opitz, Member of Management Committee of KfW, Michael Sumser, Country Director, and Manik Saha, Sector Specialist at KfW, Bangladesh at Greenland Abashan slum, KCC on 16th March 2023. During the field visit Mr. Stephan meticulously went through the CBF supported interventions involving WASH facilities, livelihood options, solid waste management (SWM), roads and walkways, and drainage system that has been supported by CBF.



Mr. Stephan Opitz, Member of Management Committee, KfW with Dr. Liakath Ali, member Board of Trustee, CBF and Dr. Rabbani, Head of CBF, Secretariat at Greenland Abashan Slum, KCC. Photo: CBF

Design and Content
Khandker Tarin Tahsin

Editor
Nafisa Delwar, Jamil Akther, Pujarini Roy, and
Ashik Rubaiyat

Advisor
Dr. Liakath Ali and Dr. Md. Golam Rabbani

Contributors
Colleagues of CBF Secretariat and Implementing partners

To learn more, please contact-
Dr Md Golam Rabbani
Head, Climate Bridge Fund Secretariat
Telephone: +88 02 2222 81265 Ext- 3642
Email: rabbani.golam@brac.net

