



SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT
6 NOVEMBER 2022

**THE
BUSINESS
STANDARD**
BENEATH THE SURFACE



**MESSAGES
FROM
GROUND
ZERO:
Bangladesh
in the climate
crisis**

BRAC'S 8 PILLARS TO SUPPORT ROBUST ADAPTATION

HERE'S HOW THE WORLD'S LARGEST NGO
IS HELPING BUILD A CLIMATE CHANGE
ADAPTATION ECOSYSTEM THROUGH
EIGHT FOCUS AREAS

CLIMATE FINANCING

Getting funding to the ground is a significant challenge for many donors. The process of ten ends up being lengthy and difficult, particularly for smaller organisations who are the closest to communities. The Climate Bridge Fund is an example of doing climate funding differently. It is a trust fund set up with the support of donors which supports projects implemented by local nongovernmental organisations in Bangladesh to strengthen the resilience of people displaced by climate change. BRAC's knowledge of local conditions and the civil society sector enables the funding process to be streamlined.

BUILDING RESILIENCE INTO PROGRAMMING

People in extreme poverty are especially vulnerable to climate change, and hence need to build resilience against both poverty and climate vulnerability. BRAC is mainstreaming a climate resilience lens into all development activities and strategic planning. Targeting for interventions is done based on poverty and climate vulnerability levels, and work is done in collaboration with people to strengthen their economic, social, and climate resilience.

CLIMATE-RESILIENT CITIES

Extreme weather events are causing more people to migrate to cities, where many end up living in informal settlements with limited access to basic services. BRAC is rethinking who cities should be working for, across 16 cities, seven municipalities and nine city corporations. A wide range of challenges are being tackled, including water and hygiene, education, healthcare, infrastructure development and livelihood training and opportunities.

CLIMATE-RESILIENT ARCHITECTURE

Natural disasters render millions of people homeless in Bangladesh. BRAC is rethinking shelter, to protect lives and livelihoods. Climate-resilient homes which double as mini cyclone shelters ensure people are safe during disasters, livelihoods are not lost and homes are not destroyed, forcing people to migrate. The two-storey structures can withstand extreme weather, are low-cost and can be built using materials and skills in communities.

AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION

Rising seas, floods and cyclones threaten the livelihoods of 90 million people in coastal southern Bangladesh, most of whom rely on agriculture for income. BRAC has been working with farmers since inception, to support them to improve farming practices and introduce resilient varieties of crops, so they can cope with changes in climate, ensure their livelihoods and support food security.

CLIMATE-RESPONSIVE FINANCIAL SERVICES

Unexpected rainfall, drought and flooding destroy crops, leaving farmers unable to earn or recover. BRAC is rethinking financial services, and how they can better support people most vulnerable to climate change. Weather index-based crop insurance supports farmers to make claims based on weather indices, so payouts do not require lengthy settlement processes and farmers can reinvest quickly. Seasonal loans provide flexible repayment schemes, allowing farmers to opt for one-time repayments based on the duration of harvests instead of monthly repayments.

WATER SECURITY

Rising salinity, damaged water facilities as a result of natural disasters, and unpredictable rainfall patterns are rapidly creating a safe drinking water crisis in Bangladesh. BRAC is introducing a wide variety of approaches, such as climate-resilient water and sanitation facilities, rainwater harvesting systems, community-led reverse osmosis plants and supports developing water entrepreneurs who can provide safe drinking water to their communities.

CLIMATE FORECASTING

Accurate weather forecasts can prevent significant damage to crops and facilities, save lives and support planning. BRAC is collaborating with MIT to launch a weather forecasting system which will forecast the local impacts of climate change on people's lives, homes and livelihoods. These will guide BRAC's development of climate-resilience programmes.

People who live on low-lying areas near rivers or in chars live very difficult and unpredictable lives.

PHOTO: SHAFIQL ALAM KIRON/BRAC



A MESSAGE FROM GROUND ZERO:

Is anyone listening?

ASIF SALEH

There is a lack of local input from project design to monitoring and evaluation, which is not only ineffective but can often lead to maladaptation. Initiatives must reflect the lived experiences of those worst impacted by climate change

Things are going from bad to worse very quickly. I am writing from Mongla, standing on an island which didn't exist last year. In 2021, this area was a village that was home to 700 families. Today, almost all the land is submerged in saltwater. 70 families are left, living on this island and holding on, as they watch the water rise. Next year this island will probably be gone, too.

What will happen to the 630 people whose homes and livelihoods are now underwater? They'll likely either migrate to the closest city – Khulna, or join the 2,000 people who move to Dhaka every day. They will go from being proud farmers, fishers and artisans to living in slums, with the skills they have learnt over generations made useless and having to do any work they can find to pay the rent. They will



be competing with millions of others for basic services, and it will be virtually impossible for them not to be in poverty.

This same story is playing out in hundreds of villages, across Bangladesh and the world. People are being forced to move because the impacts of climate change are threatening their lives and livelihoods. Climate-induced migration is not a new issue – we have seen it for decades in Bangladesh – but the scale at which it is happening now is new.

With COP27 around the corner, I hope to see the bold, urgent action needed from global leadership. Three key areas need to be addressed:

First, adaptation needs to be financed adequately. In 2019, US\$20 billion of climate finance went to adaptation. COP26, last year's global convention on climate action, ended with a commitment by richer nations to provide \$40 billion annually in adaptation finance to low and middle-income countries by 2025. This is manifestly inadequate. Funding for adaptation needs to be increased to \$100 billion annually to allow countries who are suffering the most to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

There is also a need to fulfil commitments made. The \$100 billion annually is not new. That's the level that the world's richest nations pledged 13 years ago to reach by 2020.

Second, funding must get to the people who need it the most. The challenge is to make the connections so that funding from international donors can get to those most affected. Here, major nongovernmental organisations can play a key role, providing the international recognition and reputation for fiscal management that would reassure large donors, while leveraging the lived insights of the communities on the ground.

Those organisations could be international ones or large national ones, and would need to work in close collaboration with governments. They don't need experience in climate-specific initiatives. When recent historic flooding devastated northeast Bangladesh, BRAC used its microfinance infrastructure to provide vital cash stipends to those

in greatest need, collaborating in the process with local government officials. What was key was having an infrastructure that could be activated and targeted immediately.

Initiatives such as the Climate Bridge Fund, where funds get allocated to local organisations for innovative solutions, show how civil society organisations can absorb funding. The initiative collates funding from donors and channels it to support small-scale projects implemented by local nongovernmental organisations to strengthen the resilience of people displaced or at risk of being displaced by climate change. BRAC's knowledge of local conditions and the civil society sector enables the funding process to be streamlined.

Third, adaptation must be locally-led. Too often, adaptation involves a cookie-cutter, top-down approach. There is a lack of local input from project design to monitoring and evaluation, which is not only ineffective but can often lead to maladaptation. Initiatives must reflect the lived experiences of those worst impacted by climate change.

Eight principles of locally-led adaptation have been created, with leadership from BRAC. Over 80 governments, leading global institutions and local and international NGOs have endorsed them and are advocating their endorsement by others. What we need to change is the portion of adaptation funds going to locally-led adaptation - which stands at just 6% now.

In addition to what needs to happen at the global level, at a local level, the most important thing we need to prioritise at the top of the agenda is that we, the citizens of Bangladesh, need to understand climate change is a clear and present existential danger for ALL of us.

This is not something we signed up for and this is not something that is happening because of our actions. It happened because of the mindless consumption-driven economy in the name of prosperity that the West promoted. We should not follow that route as we move forward in the economic curve.

Our young people need to lead this agenda, with an aspiration that promotes and takes care of the planet and people. We need to de-

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mand climate justice globally and advocate for actions such as the one listed above, and locally we need to get our heads together and join forces to come forward with solutions and proper planning to head off this disaster unfolding as we speak. We need to hold corporations, organisations and governments accountable. The process will gain the speed it needs when we internalise that climate change is not just a topic for climate experts anymore. It has to be demystified and understood like we understood and prioritised the recent pandemic, with urgency and commitment. It is about to upend all our lives.

No one is safe until everyone is safe – just like we saw with COVID-19. It is an issue that cannot be tackled by the government or NGOs alone, and it is an issue that impacts the future of our children no matter where they live. The ownership and accountability to our planet and our people – starting with the most marginalised – needs to start in all of our homes, and with all of our voices. Are we ready? Is anyone listening?

ASIF SALEH IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF BRAC BANGLADESH.

**Extreme weather events
severely impact the social
and economic life of
countless people every year.**

PHOTO: SUMON YUSUF/BRAC

How Bangladesh is tackling climate change and what it needs from the world



MIRZA SHAWKAT ALI

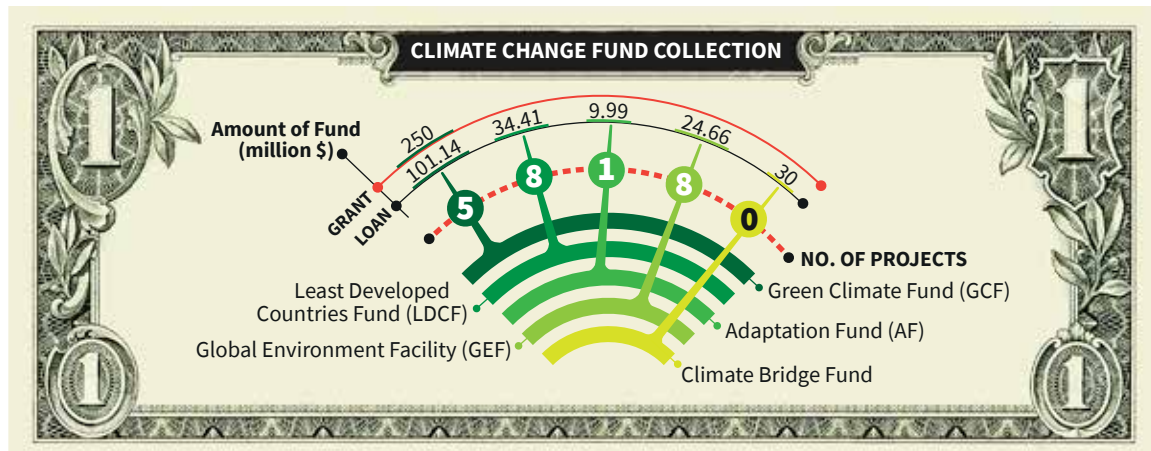
**‘Bangladesh Climate
Change Trust Fund’
(BCCTF) has so far
allocated \$480 million
that supports about
800 projects**

Bangladesh, an innocent victim of climate change, is widely recognised as one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, though its contribution to global warming is about 0.47% of the global emission. According to the Global Climate Risk Index, 2021, published by German Watch, Bangladesh is the 7th most vulnerable country in the world. Its geographical location and geological setting has made it more prone

to various frequent disasters such as floods and cyclones.

Bangladesh has already demonstrated great success in fighting against climate change. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is playing a leading role as part of the government for shifting the country’s vulnerability towards resilience. The government is playing a pioneering role to tackle climate change impacts and mobilise resources to respond to the threats of climate change.

Bangladesh has established its own national climate finance mechanism, ‘Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund’ (BCCTF) from its own resources in 2009 and so far, allocated \$480 million that supports about 800 projects to implement strategic actions of the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP). The investment of the trust fund built more resilient



flood defences and cyclone shelters, strengthened disaster-management systems, improved food security through the introduction of salinity, drought and flood tolerant crop varieties, and funded climate research.

To enhance climate resilience through ensuring increased allocation of resources to implement various development projects climate inclusive, Bangladesh adopted the Climate Fiscal Framework (CFF) in 2014 and updated in 2020 to make the public financial management (PFM) system climate inclusive.

The cumulative budget allocation of the most relevant twenty-five Ministries/Divisions accounts for 57.33% of the total national budget of FY 2021-22. Out of this total allocation, 7.26% is climate relevant. Over the last seven years the climate relevant allocation has doubled, increasing from Tk12,163 crore (about \$1.44 billion) in FY 2015-16 to Tk25,124.98 crore (about \$2.96 billion) in FY 2021-22, which is 0.73% of GDP for FY 2021-22.

The government alone cannot address such a huge challenge. Bangladesh needs financial support from international sources to tackle the adverse impacts of climate change. Bangladesh has accessed resources available from Green Climate Fund (GCF), Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), Adaptation Fund (AF) and other bilateral and multilateral funds.

However, international financial resources are insignificant compared to our requirements. Bangladesh has accessed climate finance (considering only national projects) from the following global funds:

Bangladesh aligns itself to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) processes through implementation of the various ad-

aptation and mitigation initiatives. Bangladesh is at the final stage of the formulation of its National Adaptation Plan (NAP). The draft NAP has already been prepared and expected to be finalised by October 2022 and submitted before COP 27.

The NAP has identified 90 high-priority and 23 moderate-priority interventions under eight thematic areas (water resources; disaster, social safety, and security; agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, and livestock; urban areas; ecosystem, wetlands, and biodiversity; policy and institution; and capacity development, research, and innovations). To implement identified climate change activities in the NAP, an estimated \$230 billion will be required.

To contribute to global emission reduction, Bangladesh submitted an ambitious and updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to the UNFCCC on 26 August 2022 increasing quantified emission reduction targets from 5% to 6.73% in case of unconditional contribution (which stands at 27.56 million tons of emission reduction); and in case of conditional contributions, increasing the existing targets from 10% to 15.12% (or 61.9 million tons of emission reduction) below the business-as-usual level by 2030.

To achieve its unconditional contribution, the following areas are prioritised –

- Renewable energy projects – solar and wind
- Energy efficiency in power plants and power distribution systems
- Modal shift in transport sector
- Increasing energy efficiency in industries
- Clean and green non-fired brick technology in brick manufacturing

- Solar irrigation pump in agriculture
- Energy efficient appliances in household and commercial buildings
- Waste to energy and
- Integrated Landfill and Resource Recovery Facility

It is worthwhile to mention, BRAC was one of the consortium partners to prepare the updated Bangladesh NDC.

The full implementation of the proposed mitigation actions identified in the NDC will require about \$175 billion. The Government of Bangladesh will continue to commit resources to implement the unconditional mitigation actions which will require \$32 billion by 2030. For implementing the conditional mitigation actions the country will require the rest of the resources by 2030 from the international development partners.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change through its line agency Department of Environment (DoE) implement and facilitate among others, Clean Development Mechanism, Joint Crediting Mechanism, Technology transfer through Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN).

In case of national reporting to UNFCCC, DoE prepares and submits National Communications (NC), Biennial Update Reports (BURs). At present DoE is working on an enhanced transparency framework under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement. DoE is also implementing various adaptation projects with financial support from domestic and UNFCCC financial windows.

MIRZA SHAWKAT ALI IS THE DIRECTOR OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE.

An old man in Shubopur village walks along Jamuna River's bank, which is vulnerable to erosion during rainy seasons.

PHOTO: SHEHZAD NOORANI/BRAC



In the eye of the storm

DR AINUN NISHAT

BRAC, the world's largest development actor from the global south, is in a unique position to play a very significant role in implementing steps that will support mitigation and pushing for enhanced levels of adaptation in Bangladesh and countries with its presence in Asia and Africa

Climate change is real. The process of global warming which is behind the changes in climatic behaviour has been established with scientific data and accepted by all countries of the world.

We are witnessing stark changes in weather patterns; seasons are becoming irregular and unpredict-

able. While our summer unleashes unbearable heat waves which are longer and hotter, our winter has become shorter.

While rain and flooding patterns are changing, drought-like conditions are becoming more frequent. Sea level rise and salinity intrusion are destroying life and livelihoods



inducing migration of coastal communities with more severe impacts on crop production, especially in the low-lying regions.

The impacts are severely felt by the people living in the climate vulnerable regions worldwide, such as coastal regions, riverbanks, mountainous regions, and drought and flood prone areas.

Projections say the climate-induced extreme events will bring more devastating impact in future and pose tougher challenges. Possibly the main impact, in the long run, will be on food security and the whole world has identified it as the main concern as this phenomenon will cause migration and displacement of people.

The world is now racing against time to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and step up energy efficiency actions based on an increasing shift towards renewable energy use. To push this agenda and tackle the climate change induced impacts, the Conference of Parties (COP) focuses on discussions on seven key areas: mitigation, adaptation, climate finance, capacity building, technology transfer, fixing global targets to limit GHG and to improve transparency mechanisms in all actions.

Climate interventions have to be well-tailored to adapt to the challenges and adverse impacts that will be faced by communities at particular locations and regions. One of the major routes to achieve this goal will be possible through a community-centric approach based on utilisation of community knowledge, innovations and localised adaptation of technology and empowering local communities.

Only strong and committed collaboration among the stakeholders across all levels – international actors, governments, national development and private sector stakeholders, civil society and communities – can make this mechanism work.

BRAC, the world's largest development actor from the global south, is in a unique position to play a very significant role in implementing steps that will support mitigation by reduction of production of GHGs and pushing for enhanced levels of adaptation to adverse impacts of climate change in Bangladesh (its country of

origin) and countries with its presence in Asia and Africa.

BRAC understands that much more funding is needed for adaptation and that the global commitments that were made about funding for mitigation and adaptation need to be ensured. BRAC's holistic approach, keeps the communities it works with, at the centre of all of its programmes – so they have come a long way in locally-led adaptations, which can be scaled even further.

BRAC's positioning on climate change covers the seven areas of global negotiations that are carried out in COP:

The first is mitigation that underscores strategy development to reduce GHG emissions, and formulate and implement policies on renewable and climate-friendly energy resources.

The second is adaptation. Climate change is only going to intensify the frequency of natural disasters in the future. Rise in sea levels, frequent tidal surges and unpredictable cyclones have given rise to salinity and contamination of drinking water in the coastal areas.

River bank erosion, coastal erosion, landslides, impact on the health sector, etc are other adverse impacts that the whole world is facing. So, BRAC aims at interventions to build resilience across the country – especially in the coastal communities. Immediate action to build enhanced levels of coping capacity against adverse impacts of climate change are the absolute need of the time.

The third is climate finance. In 2015, rich nations at COP15 committed to provide \$100 billion annually in climate finance to low and middle-income countries every year. During COP26, held in Glasgow, the commitment level was recorded at \$70 billion but disbursement of the fund still remains very poor. To that end, potential recipient countries build capacity to manage the fund effectively and ensure that it gets to the ground.

The fourth is capacity building and addressing climate change risks. Capacity development is required to take action on climate change, monitor the risks and respond. Again, this is where organisations like BRAC can play a significant role – with 50 years of experience in the development

world and community-centric interventions solely dedicated to helping people realise their full potential.

The fifth is technology transfer to support climate action. Environmentally sound technologies and innovation to operate on a wide scale, and ensure coverage to the most vulnerable regions. We need to find and develop innovative solutions, and demonstrate good practices in terms of nature-based solutions, conservation of water resources and ensure food security in achieving sustainable development and be recognised on a global scale.

The sixth is transparency mechanism and accountability in terms of funds and investments to take action against climate change. The funding mechanism should also be inclusive and provide an enabling environment for the stakeholders.

The seventh is about fixing global targets on which the world is working on now. In mitigation, the target has been fixed on limiting global warming to 2°C. This year at COP27, however, the debate will be to lower the limit of global warming to 1.5°C. With a strong programme on mitigation and monitoring, the world can achieve its targets. In Bangladesh, the emission level is very low. So, the overall mitigation will be small from our end. Even then, whatever little we contribute, will benefit the planet from tackling climate change. The global targets on adaptation, which have not been fixed as yet, need to be set to elevate to an equal footing with climate mitigation actions. BRAC will be willing to work with the government in this process.

BRAC is bringing cutting-edge innovative ideas, technology and solutions to make a positive impact worldwide. When it comes to climate change, the organisation has the capacity to take a major role in setting global targets and act as a national implementing agency to receive and disburse funds to NGOs effectively.

It is time to promote sustainable solutions, help build capacity, and ensure climate finance to the livelihood resilience in climate change affected areas. The world can't wait, anymore.

DR AINUN NISHAT IS A WATER RESOURCE AND CLIMATE CHANGE SPECIALIST. HE IS THE PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF BRAC UNIVERSITY AND IS AN ADVISOR TO BRAC ON CLIMATE CHANGE, DISASTER AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT.

SYEDA AFZALUN NESSA

HSBC has partnered with Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority and BRAC to grow a mangrove plantation in Mirsarai, Chattogram in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar

Adaptation and mitigation: The way forward to tackle climate change



The pandemic has shown the world's fragility but also its capacity to fight back. Similar urgency is needed to tackle climate change which poses an even bigger long-term risk to the planet.

Bangladesh is considered to be a leading example of climate action. To tackle climate change impacts, it is now investing in climate change adaptation and awareness strategies, and implementing policies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. It is also committed to its development goals and the transition to a low carbon sustainable future.

Climate Adaptation Clinic

The country has a large population which is dependent on climate-sensitive sectors—like agriculture, fishery and forestry—for livelihood. One of the most affected segments (due to climate change) is the farmers. Unpredictable weather events manifest throughout the year—we get rain in December, less rain in July coupled with extreme hot and humid weather which may not be suitable for all kinds of crops. The untimely floods are also washing down acres of farmland. To address these concerns, HSBC and BRAC have been working together for solutions for climate adaptation and mitigation.

HSBC in partnership with BRAC has been working together to develop a mechanism to increase production, by building capacity of farmers and informing them about weather forecasts including rain, flood and extreme temperatures. It also aims to support them with proper structure for storage space for the crops which are flood resilient and climate friendly.

Additionally, an advisory service is to be in place to support the farmers for a good harvest. This entire programme is called Climate Adaptation Clinic. The

completion of the programme is to take place within December 2022 which can be an example to be followed in other regions of the country and elsewhere.

BRAC has put forward its expertise to develop the innovative structure for food storage. This will ensure that the farmers have a safe place to store their produce during floods and get a good price when they deem appropriate to sell their goods.

Mangrove – a nature based solution

The mangroves are one of nature's carbon sequestration powerhouses — fixing carbon through their roots underwater. But their value goes far beyond carbon. They can be up to 50 times more cost-effective than cement seawalls at protecting coastlines against extreme weather and they are a safe breeding ground for thousands of marine species that support local economies.

HSBC has partnered with Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) and BRAC to grow a mangrove plantation in Mirsarai, Chattogram in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar (BSMSN). This is the very first mangrove initiative by a private sector amongst all the economic zones in Bangladesh and will play its part in ecological development in the area.

Till date, the collaboration has ensured more than 40,000 saplings of different mangrove species across BSMSN. The place has witnessed the arrival of crabs and other marine species in one year. This mangrove plantation is estimated to capture 492 tons of carbon each year.

Thus, for long-term sustainability, mangrove plantations can support carbon sequestration and contribute to the National Determined Contribution (NDC) commitment to reduce its 5-15% greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

The climate adaptation and mitigation projects have been aligned with HSBC's Corporate Sustainability strategy in Bangladesh to support the community. This also brings innovation, partnerships and solutions to drive action to protect climate risks and support knowledge for climate change planning.

HSBC has an ambition to achieve net zero in its own operations and supply chain by 2030 or sooner. It also aims to align its financed emissions – the carbon emissions of the portfolio of customers – to the Paris Agreement goal to achieve net zero by 2050 or sooner.

SYEDA AFZALUN NESSA IS THE HEAD OF CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY AT HSBC BANGLADESH.



Madhuri Mallik using a harvester machine. PHOTO: ANEEK MUSTAFA ANWAR/BRAC

IN HER OWN WORDS

‘I SET MY PATH FOR THE FUTURE BY LEARNING MACHINE HARVESTING’

Coastal regions in southern Bangladesh are experiencing increased salinity in water and soil as sea levels rise. Soil fertility is hampered and agricultural output is falling.

As a result, many farmers are exploring technologies such as machine harvesting and resilient crop varieties. Khulna’s Madhuri Mallik describes how she found success as a farmer by utilising machine harvesting.

“I was married at 16. My in-laws didn’t want me to continue studying, but I fought for it. Then, I began to earn through tutoring other students in the area.

The money was enough to start something of my own. I bought seeds through BRAC and convinced my husband to move out of the family home so I could start farming.

A small piece of land, and my love of farming kept our new household going. I tutored and grew crops, to feed my family and sell

the surplus. The profits allowed me to save and invest in more seeds, enough to slowly expand our small farm.

I set my path for the future when I trained on machine harvesting. In the initial days, landowners and other farmers had questions. First, about the machine. Second, about the fact that a woman was operating it.

Once again, I paid no heed. The harvester saves me time, a vital resource here in Khulna, in southern

Bangladesh, where time is of the essence. Changing weather patterns mean crops have to be harvested before the saltwater from the rivers starts flowing into the canals.

My husband and I now work on our farm together. As we and other farmers struggle against the rising saltwater, people are seeing what machine harvesting could do for them. They are also starting to see that women are often far better at taking risks and succeeding.”

MADHURI MALLIK, KHULNA



Monika Kirtoniya in Gopalganj grows vegetables on floating farming beds. PHOTO: SHAFIQL ALAM KIRON/BRAC

IN HER OWN WORDS

‘I AM NO LONGER AFRAID OF DAMAGE BY FLOODING’

In regions where erratic rainfall and extreme weather disrupt traditional farming, communities are rebuilding — on water. Through getting trained on climate-adaptive technologies, people are securing their income sources by continuing to sell fresh produce, while ensuring that their families have access to nutritious food. Monika Kirtoniya of Gopalganj shares how floating farming changed her life.

“My farmland remains flooded for half of the year, so I built a farm that floats.

I sow the seedlings in a raft, sometimes on a bed of old vegetation, or using aquatic plants like rice brand and water hyacinth, and mix them with com-

post and silt.

Crops on land often perish during the monsoon. They aren’t able to handle the increased rainfall and heavy water logging as a result. But floating farms survive.

The seedlings find nutrition in

water and organic matter. Fresh, leafy green vegetables now float their way to my house. I am no longer afraid of the damage the flooding can create. I know I’ll find a way to turn things around for me and my family”.

MONIKA KIRTONIYA, GOPALGANJ.

SNAPSHOT

HOW BRAC MAINSTREAMS CLIMATE CHANGE INTO DEVELOPMENT



BRAC Agriculture and Food Security Programme (AFSP) introduced saline-tolerant crops to the farmers.

PHOTO: BRAC



AFSP introduced a high-value climate adaptive crop that could replace rice cultivation in extreme climatic zones.

PHOTO: BRAC



BRAC Education Programme's boat schools allow children living in some of the most flood-prone and low-lying regions in Bangladesh to gain access to education.

PHOTO: BRAC



◀ **BRAC Enterprises open avenues of alternative livelihood for women.**

PHOTO: SARKER PROTICK/
BRAC



◀ **BRAC Health, Nutrition and Population Programme (HNPP) delivers health services to the remotest coastal areas.**

PHOTO: SARKER PROTICK/
BRAC



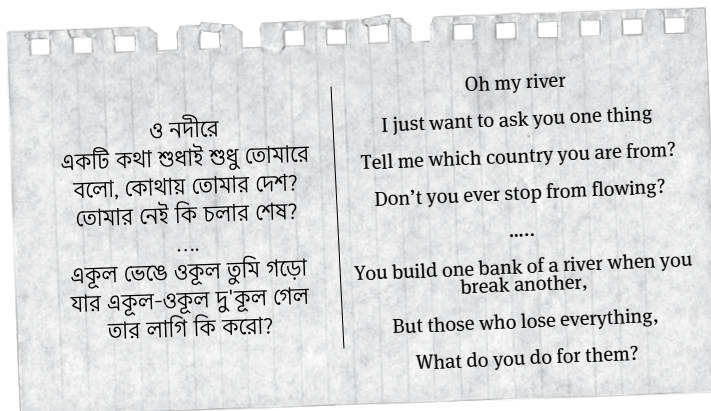
◀ **BRAC Climate Change Programme (CCP) provides storied housing facilities on a pilot basis to people facing frequent cyclones and surges.**

PHOTO: TASFIQ MAHMOOD/
BRAC

ASIF MUNIER

BRAC as the largest NGO in Bangladesh and globally has an important role to play in ensuring climate resilient response

Of rivers, climate change and migration



These are the famous lines of a Bangla film song from yesteryears, composed by Gouriprasanna Majumdar and heard in the voices of no other than Hemanta Mukherjee. Although the song originated in West Bengal, east Bengal or Bangladesh is indeed a land of rivers, with one of the largest networks of 700 rivers ranging from hilly streams to mighty rivers and water bodies. All major cities including the capital Dhaka have evolved on the banks of one river or the other.

Apart from nostalgia, these lyrics can also be interpreted differently in today's Bangladesh. As is the nature of rivers, they change course and traditionally locals have a different name as they pass through their communities, even for the same river.

Some rivers have also dried up, disappeared, flooded or eroded making nearby communities vulnerable.

This of course is partly a natural phenomenon, but river and environment experts logically explain how it is related to global warming and climate change. Patterns of change in temperatures, floods, cyclones, tidal surges across the world have been changing unpredictably sometimes. Patterns of how rivers behave in a small country like Bangladesh with so many river channels are becoming more and more unpredictable. Sea levels are also rising including the Bay of Bengal, due to global warming and melting of glaciers. Scientists did predict that a significant part of Bangladesh will go under the sea perma-



Every year, people living in climate vulnerable communities face extreme climate challenges and many of them have to migrate.

PHOTO: SHEHZAD NOORANI/BRAC

nently by 2050. This year, our South Asian neighbour Pakistan faced the worst wrath of floods ever – nearly one third of the country has gone under water and it will take about 6 months for the waters to recede.

One never knows for sure what the future holds for Bangladeshis and many mature adults in their lifetime will not be seeing 2050. But certainly, the children and youth from today will still witness to be sure if the scientists were right or wrong. If it is the process of nightmarishly becoming true, people will either perish or migrate to safer grounds to save lives of their own and of loved ones – rather than witness the permanent disaster. National and international efforts are on to slow down the effects of global warming over countries like Bangladesh, but some experts say some permanent damage has already been done. Some of the worst changes cannot be undone anymore, countries can take measures to slow down the negative impact or reduce further damage only.

It is also human nature to struggle and adapt to all kinds of difficult circumstances. That is why civilisations have survived for ages or re-emerged after a major collapse due to natural and even human induced disasters. That thought can give us some solace and hope for us in Bangladesh too. States continue to develop strategies and implement programmes to create climate resilience. Affected communities in danger also can and hopefully will use their indigenous knowledge and family history to protect themselves from even unpredictable river erosions, flooding, sea level rising and any other adverse natural conditions.

One of the coping strategies for communities is to migrate to safer

grounds either within or even outside the country. Communities who have lived in a region for generations tend not to relocate completely with the whole clan. Most cling to their roots while some migrate temporarily or permanently for better education, livelihood opportunities, improved earning and overall a better quality of life. Some are also forced to migrate due to river erosion or being vulnerable to natural disasters. But most Bangladeshis and for that matter South Asians, do remain dedicated to their roots in the mostly rural, agrarian and riverine Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated countries in the world. Human mobility has long been recognised as a positive contribution to social, cultural and economic development at both individual and national level. It would be of no surprise that about 10 million Bangladeshi migrants including Bangladeshi diaspora are present in 173 countries at any given time.

Rural-urban migration is also a common trend for centuries – urban population grew by 1-2% every year during colonial rule, 3-4% during Pakistan occupation and more than 20% in the 1990s in independent Bangladesh. Population of Dhaka is 44 million in 2022 and it has become the 6th most densely populated city in the world. National and overseas cities do host people who have been affected by changing patterns of rivers and cyclones, who may never be able to reclaim their ancestral land and local livelihood. Cities in turn may not always be able to respond to the diverse needs of traditional communities from different parts of the country.

Bangladesh, the international

community, development partners, development actors, humanitarian agencies and the UN may need to coordinate further and strengthen programmes to assist climate resilient communities further for their sustainable livelihood and development. The Standing Order on Disaster finalised under the jurisdiction of the National Disaster Council needs to be operationalised in full force, but also explore innovative ways to support communities in coping with the unpredictability of the impact of climate change. Facilitated voluntary migration could become an effective long-term option in the future, if land mass is permanently reduced in Bangladesh.

BRAC as the largest NGO in Bangladesh and globally, has a heavy but very much doable role in ensuring climate resilient response, finding natural and indigenous solutions – including migration – as an approach for mainstreaming climate change adaptation. Climate change triggered migration, rural to urban or national to international, is often under forced conditions.

This does not have to be if strategic efforts are made to facilitate migration as an option to climate adaptation. BRAC is already in a strategic position to bring in global good practice to Bangladesh and demonstrate successful programme implementation in Bangladesh, globally. Let us hope that future generations do get sustainable livelihood, development and their right to live even if adverse nature is against them. Let us hope rivers do bring us joy instead of sorrow for many years and generations to come.

ASIF MUNIER IS A DEVELOPMENT PRACTITIONER
AND RIGHTS ACTIVIST.



Adaptation needs to be locally- led and Bangladesh can show the way



DR MD LIAKATH ALI

COP27 is an opportunity for BRAC to showcase our best practices of shifting the focus to on-the-ground implementation supported by increasing and accessible finance, technology and capacity-building support

Despite all the affairs that are plaguing the world today, from pulling through the pandemic crisis to escalating energy crisis to soaring inflation, humanity continues to be exposed to the single biggest threat of this century – climate change. This ongoing global phenomenon will worsen, leading to irreversible changes to homesteads, livelihoods, and ways of living as a whole.

Under the current climate conditions and due to its geographic location and topography, Bangladesh has historically been exposed to a multitude of natural hazards such as floods, cyclones and storm surges, salinity intrusion, droughts, riverbank erosion, etc. Changes in temperature and precipitation patterns, increasing frequency and intensity of cyclones, heat stress in the rapidly urbanising cities, groundwater depletion in rural

productive areas, salinity intrusion, and increasing coastal floods due to sea level rise are threatening rural and urban systems alike, disrupting biodiversity, water resources, agriculture and settlements. The adjustment of development-oriented planning is therefore very crucial to address issues triggered by climate change. There is an urgent need to identify context specific climate challenges and to design tailored adaptation strategies and actions.

Against the backdrop of this climate emergency, mainstreaming climate change into development plans is more rational than addressing climate change in isolation. It is an iterative process of integrating considerations of climate change into decision-making, budgeting, implementation and monitoring at sectoral levels. Through the 'learning by doing' process at the sectoral levels, the scheme can then be scaled-up from local to regional to national level – a strategy BRAC follows in designing the development plans.



Mangroves play an important role in protecting coastal habitat from cyclones and tidal surges. PHOTO: BRAC

As part of a collective effort to combat climate change impacts, BRAC has focused on 'Building Resilience to Climate Change' as one of its major programmatic priorities in its strategy over the last five years (2016-2020). Therefore, all programmes at BRAC are mainstreaming climate change into development activities and strategic planning. In line with this, BRAC Climate Change Programme (CCP) has developed a Climate Resilience Framework to ensure the systematic inclusion of climate considerations in development decisions and build resilience to address emerging, indirect, and slow-onset climate impacts and hazards.

The framework plays a leading role in social transformation and inequality reduction through its core activities: identifying the 'entry points' to where climate change adaptation and mitigation may be integrated, enabling a system that, in turn, integrates climate change into budgeting, financing and implementation and establishing a robust monitoring framework. This model pathway helps BRAC programmes synergistically work towards overcoming the dynamics of climate change impacts that best serve the community, partners and other stakeholders through a holistic approach.

Working towards that vision BRAC CCP has established models focusing on water security, agriculture and food security, shelter and housing,

nature based and community-led adaptation practices. The blanket coverage of safe drinking water through filtered rainwater harvesting in six unions of Mongla upazila in Bagerhat district, year-round climate adaptive agricultural support through Adaptation Clinic facility (piloted in Jamalpur and Patuakhali), Mangrove forestation at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar (BSMSN), Mirsarai, Chattogram – are few of our many approaches. An effective strategy BRAC undertakes is by putting the most vulnerable people at the centre of the planning and designing phases of interventions, harnessing the local knowledge and reinforcing the best practices, creating ownership of a planned intervention.

BRAC and BRAC International focus on addressing climate change impacts through locally-led adaptation and mitigation measures. BRAC also works with people with access to the tools and knowledge to adapt and respond to adverse climatic impacts, and adopts sustainable practices.

Recently, the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) acknowledged BRAC Urban Development Programme's Community Development Organisations (CDO) for supporting and pioneering on locally-led climate resilience works, and was announced as finalists for the Local Adaptation Champions Award in the 'Inclusive Leadership' category.

Conforming to the eight principles for Locally Led Adaptation (LLA), BRAC is focusing on creat-

ing pathways for building climate resilient and migrant-friendly cities. The World Bank estimates that Bangladesh may have almost 20 million internal climate migrants by 2050, amounting to almost 12% of the population. By that date, there will be a 50cm rise in sea level according to experts. Keeping this devastating scenario in focus, this project offers to work on gradual transformation towards climate resilience through policy level advocacy with local and national governments. The strategy here is to use the existing, local and scientific knowledge, and build a local level institutional arrangement for promoting locally-led adaptation practices. BRAC therefore designs approaches that both appreciate and incorporate local people and their local knowledge, skills, needs and experience to best prepare for the climate crisis.

As climate countdown becomes catastrophic with every passing second, efforts on adaptation become more crucial. With that endeavour, BRAC continues to pursue convergence between both national and global climate goals. COP27 is an opportunity for BRAC to showcase our best practices of shifting the focus to on-the-ground implementation supported by increasing and accessible finance, technology and capacity-building support. To that end, the aim is to illustrate Bangladesh, as a champion in climate adaptation, prepared for the worst that may occur in the climate vulnerable future.

DR MD LIAKATH ALI IS THE DIRECTOR OF CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME AT BRAC AND BRAC INTERNATIONAL, AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AT BRAC.





Rethinking SHELTER

DR MD LIAKATH ALI

When people leave their homes, they leave everything they own. Shelters cannot accommodate belongings, and there is no space for livestock

The need for shelter in low-lying Bangladesh, one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, is rapidly increasing. Record-breaking floods in the northeast of the country last June drove 7.2 million people out of their homes. In 2020, the coastal belt was hit by a super cyclone that uprooted 2.6 million people. In both situations, millions lost their homes and were forced to stay in shelters for long periods.

The Government of Bangladesh has been wisely investing in constructing cyclone shelters for many years. In the aftermath of a catastrophic cyclone in 1991, that investment increasingly went into constructing multi-purpose cyclone shelters. These have helped to drastically reduce the loss of life. In 1970, for instance, the Bhola Cyclone had a death toll of 300,000. In 2020, during Cyclone Amphan, approximately 20 people died in storm-related incidents.

But the multi-purpose shelters don't protect homes, and they only help those who can get to them.

When people leave their homes, they leave everything they own. Shelters cannot accommodate belongings, and there is no space for

livestock. They are often far away because finding land on which to build them is difficult, and getting to them is particularly challenging.

Shelters are also basic, with shared facilities for women and men, which can discourage families, particularly in conservative areas, from using them. There are often security issues, because they accommodate so many people and often lack sufficient lighting.

In response, BRAC, along with a number of other organisations, has been constructing climate-resilient houses that double as mini cyclone shelters. This adaptation approach has been locally led by communities using existing resources and has resulted in 35 small two-story structures that serve as homes on a daily basis and mini shelters during cyclones or tidal surges.

What are mini cyclone shelters? These climate-resilient two-story structures serve as homes on a daily basis and mini shelters during cyclones or tidal surges. [CLICK TO TWEET](#)

Each mini shelter houses one family, with the understanding that their neighbours will be allowed to shelter there during disasters. On the top floor there are rooms for living, so women and men can sleep separately. There are also bathrooms, rainwater harvesting facilities, energy saving cooking facilities and solar electricity. The ground floor can accommodate livestock, and water can run through it without causing damage. The structures have windows and a fan – uncommon features in many houses in Bangladesh – to help with increasing temperatures.

There are myriad other benefits too. There is no need to travel long distances or leave belongings or livestock, and there are no safety or security issues because mini shelters can

only house a maximum of 50 people, and everyone knows each other. It is much easier to find sites for mini shelters and they can be built much more quickly. Mini shelters are also cost-effective – they are made of red brick, to avoid the cost of plastering – and 50 mini shelters can be built for the price of one multi-purpose shelter, accommodating 1.5 times more people.

BRAC is currently exploring partnerships with the Government of Bangladesh and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). In parallel, BRAC is testing the mini shelters further and exploring other features that could be incorporated. Their design is flexible, so the structure's size and height can be adapted to suit local needs – for example they can be built higher off the ground in wetter areas.

The evolution of these mini shelters is important globally on several levels. It underscores the importance of listening to those closest to the challenges. It demonstrates that locally-led adaptation solutions are not only more cost-effective and quickly implemented, but they are more sustainable than top-down approaches. The mini shelters help people stay in the land where they have lived historically, reducing strain on cities and preserving local cultures, languages and traditions.

Climate change will force the world to adapt, even as we increase efforts to reduce its impacts. Listening to those with lived experience will benefit everyone around the world.

DR MD LIAKATH ALI IS THE DIRECTOR OF CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME AT BRAC AND BRAC INTERNATIONAL, AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AT BRAC.

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RAINWATER
HARVESTINGEnsuring
safe
drinking
water for
people in
coastal
Bangladesh

WINNIE ESTRUP PETERSEN

In Bangladesh, about 35 million people are facing a drinking water crisis and do not have access to safe drinking water. With increasing salinity intrusion in groundwater and freshwater water bodies, people in Bangladesh's coastal zone are left with few options but to drink saline water. These conditions have an adverse impact on the physical and mental well-being of people living in coastal areas.

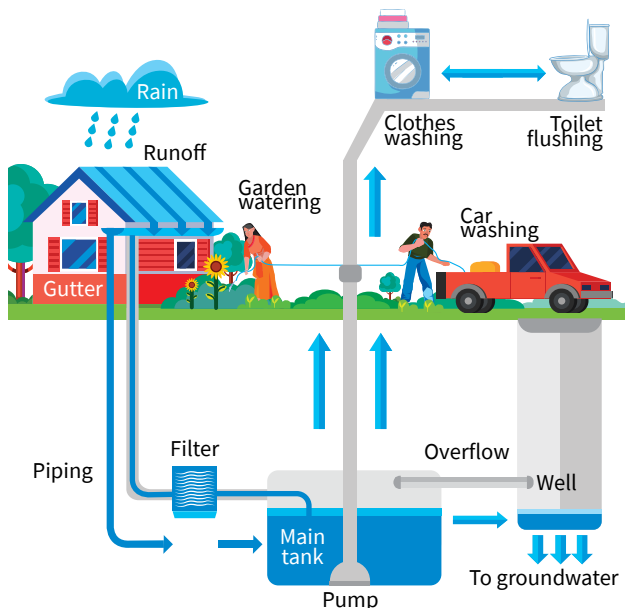
Women, especially, struggle with having to travel long distances to

source safe drinking water for their families. Water borne diseases and high blood pressure, reproduction complexities and heart diseases aggravate an already difficult situation.

Therefore, climate resilience is key for Bangladesh's future. Climate change will likely lead to extreme temperatures, erratic precipitation, intensified cyclones, storm surges, and sea-level rise. All of which can result in acute shortage of water for drinking and agriculture, significant changes in coastal aquatic ecosystems, and threaten livelihoods. Being a low-lying, funnel-shaped topography fed by a web of tidal rivers, Bangladesh's coastal zone and its 38.52 million residents are extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Climate diplomacy is a quintessential part of the Danish strategy for global development cooperation, called 'The World We Share'. As such, the Embassy of Denmark is already collaborating with BRAC on the vision to enhance climate resilience, starting with access to safe drinking water for the marginalised communities in the coastal upazila of Mongla, Bagerhat.

The choice to work in Mongla is rooted in the fact that it is an extremely climate-vulnerable sub-district.



Faced with a drinking water crisis, more than 60% of its population does not have access to safe drinking water. The Embassy of Denmark in Dhaka is partnering with BRAC on a project that utilises rainwater harvesting systems (RHS) to enable easy, efficient, and cost-effective access to safe drinking water using filtered water tank technology.

We are proud to partner with BRAC given their holistic approach to development and years of experience in implementing water and sanitation solutions across the coastal region. In wider collaboration with government and non-governmental stakeholders, BRAC and the Embassy of Denmark aim to improve the conditions of at least 67,300 people living in Mongla.

In ensuring their access to safe drinking water, we will not only aid in better health of the community but also render it easier for women and girls to access education and participate in income generating activities. Ultimately, safe drinking water is a basic need and a human right. BRAC and Denmark focus on addressing climate change-induced needs because it is our commitment that no one should be left behind.

WINNIE ESTRUP PETERSEN IS THE AMBASSADOR OF DENMARK TO BANGLADESH.



We have found a way out of the disasters

From surviving a devastating night of Cyclone Sidr to now living in a house that withstood Cyclone Amphan, this is Kulsum Begum's story in her own words

No one was expecting Cyclone Sidr.

I was staying at my parents' house when a cool breeze blew through the kitchen as my mother was putting the dinner dishes away. Within a short time, the wind outside started picking up. It sounded like the hiss of an angry cat.

My husband showed up, worried about me, and my grandmother suggested that we should all go together to a different house for the night, as my parents' house was just made of tin. We didn't know of any safer place closeby though, so we decided to wait it out.

The wind became much louder. We watched flashes – like the flash of a camera – through the gaps in the walls. Each flash was followed by a deafening crash of lightning, which illuminated the village. Our house, and all the other houses around us, rattled.

My grandmother told my husband to tie the table to the roof, but before he could, there was a loud noise as

the wind thwacked against a wall, and the roof flew off. Suddenly, we were completely exposed.

There was one school which served as a shelter during cyclones, but it was too dangerous to move that far. We spent the rest of the night under the shed next to the kitchen.

It was the longest night of my life.

We crawled out of the shed in the morning to a trail of destruction. The house had lost two walls. Other houses were in a similar state. Everything was in disarray. I looked up and saw a cooking pot hanging from a tree branch.

My life, for a long time, was shaped by disasters.

My school's name was 'No 1 Nish-hohari Shorkari Prathomik Bidyaloy'. My best friend's name was Nasreen, and we loved going to school together, and then walking around the village after school, peering into gardens to look at the beautiful flowers.

Then, in class nine, I got married. It was a small wedding. The house was

decorated with my favourite flowers. I was happy to see Nasreen there. But I had no idea what marriage was.

At my new house, my sister-in-law did not take kindly to the fact that she was doing more of the chores. My parents-in-law were not happy with me wanting to continue school. My husband would come home after a long day's work to find I'd gone to visit Nasreen. I hadn't learnt what it meant to be a wife. I was, after all, still a girl. To ease the friction, I would often stay at my parents' house – it was one of those nights that we went through Sidr.

My father-in-law eventually told my husband and I to move out, and set us up in a tiny parcel of desolate land. For the first time, I got busy setting up a home.

We could only build a makeshift shack, but I didn't mind. Then, just as I was getting a handle on things, my husband got into an accident which resulted in a serious brain injury. We were forced to move to the capital



Kulsum Begum lives in Golachipa, Patuakhali.

PHOTO: SARKER PROTICK/BRAC

city, Dhaka, in search of work and specialised medical care.

I got a job in a garment factory while my husband received treatment. We lived in Dhaka for a year, and I divided my time between working, keeping our house organised and taking my husband to clinics. His mental condition worsened. He would forget where he was and have fits of rage. Those were the most trying for me – trying to calm a person down when they had no idea who or where they were. It was like taming a mad bull. There were many days he didn't know who I was.

Bills were piling up. Living in Dhaka was expensive, and my wage did not cover it. As soon as my husband began showing signs of recovery, it was time for us to pack our bags. We returned to our shack and decided to make the best of what we had. My son, Tamin, was born during these years.

A group of women and I got involved with BRAC. We received one

calf each and training on cattle rearing. Soon I was selling milk, and starting to save a little bit of money each month. Then BRAC's officers started talking to us about the storms and flooding in the area, and asked if the plot of land my husband and I were living on belonged to us. We said yes - it belonged to my in-laws.

They asked if we would like to rebuild our home into a stronger, bigger space, one that could withstand heavy storms and flooding, and, if so, could we contribute a portion of the building cost. My husband and I, with the memories of Cyclone Sidr still fresh in our minds, agreed, and worked together with workers assigned by BRAC to gather bricks, sift sand and mix cement.

At the same time, with the savings I had started to build from selling milk, I bought chickens and ducks, and began selling their eggs.

Soon, our desolate parcel of land rang with the cries of chickens, cows and goats, wandering around our

beautiful new two-storied, red-brick home. The morning sunlight filters through the trees onto the verandah, and creates lovely dappled patterns in the afternoons.

Not many people like me have the opportunities I have had. Our house now doubles as a cyclone shelter, and we support families around us whenever a disaster strikes. During Cyclone Amphan, our house sheltered multiple families.

Perhaps for the first time since I was married, I don't feel like I am in a crisis.

I welcomed our second son three months ago, and Tamin attends the same school I went to - 'No 1 Nish-hohari Shorkari Prathomik Bidyaloy'. I'm planning to plant the same flowers I used to love around the house, and I have started seeing Nasreen again, from time to time.

It almost feels like, perhaps, we have found a way out of the disasters, at least for now.

SOURCE: BRAC

Climate change QUO



Bangladesh is at the forefront of climate change. Nowhere are the impacts being felt more keenly than here, yet the country is leading the response. As chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum last year, Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina helped to raise ambition amongst high emitting countries by putting vulnerability centre-stage. Bangladesh has also pioneered the Climate Prosperity Plans, issuing its own Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan setting out ambitious projects to help Bangladesh adapt to climate change, and prosper from clean energy options. The Government of Bangladesh is looking to expand renewable energy, even though it is a low emitting country, and there is limited resource in Bangladesh for solar and onshore wind.

The UK Government is proud to support Bangladesh in both its adaptation and mitigation ambition, and to improve pollution and waste management that will strengthen climate action. We announced a new £120m bilateral programme at COP26 and activities are well underway. We look forward to scaling these up over the coming years and being part of Bangladesh's climate success story.

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Anna Ballance

*Senior Climate Change & Environment Advisor
British High Commission*



Climate finance today reflects the political, economic and social dynamics of the neoliberal globalised world order. The post-Paris trend is a reflection of downgrading of the principle of distributive justice, enshrined somewhat better in the Climate Convention, in favor of neoliberal market justice, which de-emphasizes public responsibility, with market and private sector expected to solve global commons problems. So, public adaptation finance provided by the Global North as their obligation, agreed under both the Climate Convention and the Paris Agreement, remains orders of magnitude smaller, compared to needs of the poorest communities and countries in the world.

What would happen if more than 100 most vulnerable countries including the Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, and densely-populated countries like Bangladesh, India and Pakistan continue going down in their economic and social development, because of increasing impacts from the new normal of extreme climate disasters? So, people-oriented state actors, and non-state actors like BRAC are contributing greatly to reducing both adaptation and development deficits in the Global South.

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Professor Mizan R Khan

*Deputy Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD);
Programme Director, Least Developed Countries
University Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCO)*

and Bangladesh NOTES



Climate change is one of the most discussed issues in the world today. Bangladesh has already taken urgent steps to minimize its harmful effects. Although Bangladesh is one of the affected countries; it continues to do its best to adapt. As a result, the world has recognised us as a champion of adaptation.

Bangladesh has played a leadership role in leading dialogues on climate action. Bangladesh is the first to develop a dedicated Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan to minimize the effects of climate change impacts. This document has paved many actions down the line and guided the market leaders.

As a development organisation, BRAC has taken all of its approaches on time to address this

century's biggest problem. It ranges from developing its climate change strategy to designing a

dedicated programmatic approach. We hope that Sir Fazle Hasan Abed's legacy will be reflected

in climate actions as well as become a replicable model across the world.

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Habibun Nahar

*Deputy Minister
Ministry of Environment, Forest and
Climate Change, Bangladesh*



The impact of climate change has accelerated and adversely affected all of us.

Currently, Bangladesh is facing more challenges than ever due to rapid urbanisation and industrialisation. These are also imposing substantial pressure on the environment.

In this context support from development partners is essential to mitigate and adapt the impact of climate change.

It is also to be noted that despite being one of the lowest

carbon emitting countries, Bangladesh encourages its private sector to invest in

low carbon activities. This is due and effective mechanism to achieve GHG emission target given in the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), 2021.

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Sharifa Khan

*Secretary
Economic Relations Division,
Ministry of Finance,
Bangladesh*



A few years ago, the late Sir Fazle Hasan Abed invited me to give a talk on climate change and how it's affecting the world.

Following that, Abed bhai invited me to do an assessment of BRAC's ongoing activities and come up with recommendations to incorporate climate change into their work.

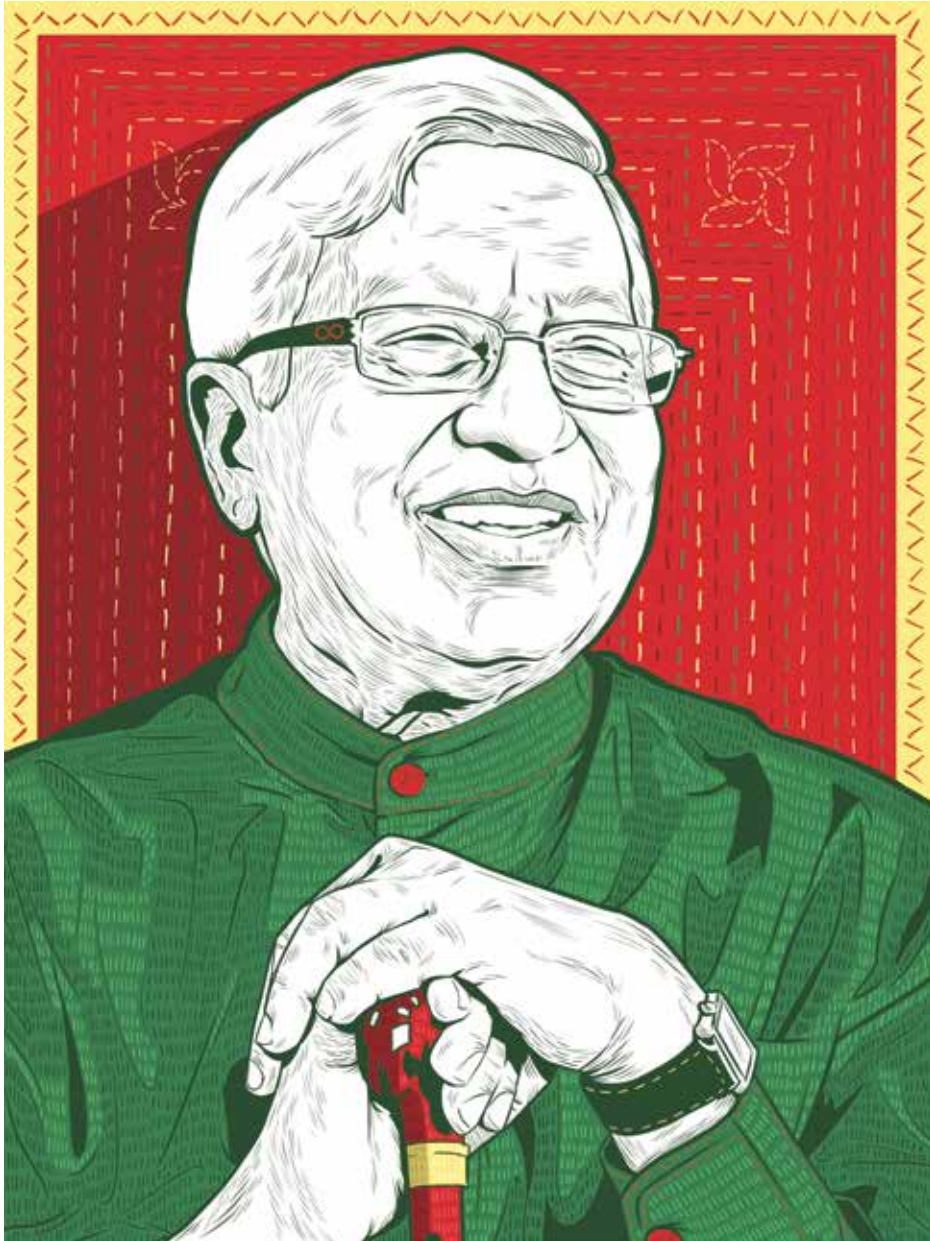
Abed bhai accepted my recommendations and invited me to become an advisor to BRAC, to guide the organisation in implementing the recommendations. Over the last few years, BRAC has been able to make major strides in implementing the plans and has already become a well-known player in the climate change world.

The climate change activities of BRAC are not only confined to BRAC Bangladesh but are also being taken forward in the different developing countries where BRAC International works.

BRAC is now well on the way to being recognised as one of the significant players in the climate change world, particularly in managing and implementing projects and programmes at scale on Locally Led Adaptation (LLA).

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Saleemul Huq

*Director
International Centre for Climate
Change and Development (ICCCAD);
Professor, Independent University
Bangladesh*



SKETCH: MORSHED MISHU

“Climate change is our biggest existential crisis in today’s world. Today, it’s the young people who are most at risk. Hence, it’s the youths that must find a way out of this crisis, otherwise it won’t be possible to keep the Earth habitable in future.”

SIR FAZLE HASAN ABED
FOUNDER
BRAC