Climate Bridge Fund (CBF)

Climate Change Window

Call for Concept Note 2023: for NGOs

(Reference No: CBF/CCW/NGOs/2023/01)

Implemented by:

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About Climate Bridge Fund (CBF)

The Climate Bridge Fund (CBF) is a trust fund established by BRAC with support from the Government of Germany through KfW. CBF supports urban adaptation measures in the context of climate-induced migration.

The Climate Bridge Fund has been set up to "bridge" the financial gap from short-term project funding to sustainable provision of services and infrastructure for climate-induced migrants. The aim is to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable people in urban areas who are either displaced or are at the risk of being displaced due to the impacts of climate change.

About the Call

Climate Change implications on migration have been pointed as an emerging risk in the entire world[1]. In Bangladesh, migrants and displaced people in the urban areas are critically exposed to different types of climate change related hazards including rising temperature, drought, heavy rainfall, water logging, flood/flash flood, cyclone and storm surges (particularly in the coastal zone), sea level rise, salinity intrusion and so on. These climatic hazards may result to damage of household properties, contamination of water sources, increase in climate sensitive diseases and loss of livelihoods[2]. The 8th Five Year Plan (8FYP) of the Government of Bangladesh clearly recognizes the outmigration patterns from rural to urban areas mainly due to climatic hazards and indicates the needs of putting greater attention to such climate affected communities[3]. The National Adaptation Plan (NAP), of Bangladesh sets "Develop climate-smart cities for improved urban environment and well-being" as one of the six priority national goals. The government prioritizes actions in the cities/towns to enhance resilience of the climate-induced migrants[4]. Partnership with different stakeholders including NGOs, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), private sectors may need to be increased to ensure

[1] Hoegh-Guldberg, O., D. Jacob, M. Taylor, M. Bindi, S. Brown, I. Camilloni, A. Diedhiou, R. Djalante, K.L. Ebi, F. Engelbrecht, J.Guiot, Y. Hijioka, S. Mehrotra, A. Payne, S.I. Seneviratne, A. Thomas, R. Warren, and G. Zhou, 2018: Impacts of 1.5ºC Global Warming on Natural and Human Systems. In: Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, H.-O. Pörtner, D. Roberts, J. Skea, P.R. Shukla, A. Pirani, W. Moufouma-Okia, C. Péan, R. Pidcock, S. Connors, J.B.R. Matthews, Y. Chen, X. Zhou, M.I.Gomis, E. Lonnoy, T.Maycock, M.Tignor, and T. Waterfield (eds.)]. In Press.

[2] Revi, A., D.E. Satterthwaite, F. Aragón-Durand, J. Corfee-Morlot, R.B.R. Kiunsi, M. Pelling, D.C. Roberts, and W. Solecki, 2014: Urban areas. In: *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [Field, C.B., V.R. Barros, D.J. Dokken, K.J. Mach, M.D. Mastrandrea, T.E. Bilir, M. Chatterjee, K.L. Ebi, Y.O. Estrada, R.C. Genova, B. Girma, E.S. Kissel, A.N. Levy, S. MacCracken, P.R. Mastrandrea, and L.L. White (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, pp. 535-612.

[3] 8th Five Year Plan (8FYP, 2020-2025), prepared by General Economic Division, Bangladesh Planning Commission of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

[4] National Adaptation Plan of Bangladesh (2023-2050) 2022. Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MOEFCC), The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

implementation of effective adaptation/resilience measures at the community level in the urban areas as revealed in the above plan.

It is evident that migration inflow in slums would create pressure with additional demand on basic services including access to employment, housing, water supply and sanitation, health, education, drainage and other infrastructure/facilities in all urban centres including Khulna, Barishal, Rajshahi, Satkhira and Sirajganj. Lack of these basic services and exposure to different climatic hazards referred in National Adaptation Plan of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) 2009, 8th Five Year Plan and other climate change related national policy instruments make the life and livelihoods of urban people especially slum dwellers more vulnerable.

The purpose of this Call for Concept Note is to select projects that contribute in strengthening climate resilient services and infrastructure in selected urban areas[5] in Bangladesh. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) clearly mentioned that the people of coastal urban areas would face huge loss and damages due to rapid (e.g., flash floods, cyclones and storm surges) and slow onset events (e.g., sea level rise, salinity intrusion in ground and surface water) in not only Bangladesh but across the world. The risks of the slum dwellers who are socially disadvantaged people would further suffer if climate resilient services and infrastructures are not extended effectively or adaptation actions are not taken immediately[6]. In addition to this the negative impact on women and people with disabilities and other more marginalised communities will even be further.

Through this call, the Climate Bridge Fund (CBF) aims to contribute in implementation of some of the key national climate change and development policy instruments including BCCSAP 2009, NAP 2022; 8FYP (2020-2025), Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP), The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW, 1979) and Perspective Plan (2021-2041) that critically recognize the need of addressing climate resilience in urban areas through improvement of services and infrastructures. The selected projects would also contribute to implementing the Paris Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Bangladesh.

Submission of Concept Notes open on **7 November 2023 (Tuesday)** and closes on **24 December 2023 (Sunday)** at 11:59 pm BST.

The total budget available for NGOs through this call is 49.34 million BDT.

[5] Khulna, Barisal, Rajshahi, Satkhira and Sirajganj

[6] IPCC, 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Focus of the Call

The Climate Bridge Fund (CBF) invites NGOs (registered under NGO Affairs Bureau of the Government of Bangladesh) to submit project ideas using the prescribed Concept Note Template to respond to this call. Under this Call, CBF will support gender-responsive projects that contribute to strengthening the resilience of climate induced displaced populations (men and especially women, wherever possible with a specific focus on women/ taking the specific needs of women into account), host communities and other vulnerable groups living in slums/informal settlements in selected urban areas of Bangladesh. The following section contains details on who is eligible for CBF funding.

Eligibility Criteria for accessing Climate Bridge Fund

All interested NGOs need to fulfil the following criteria to be eligible for funding. The Climate Bridge Fund eligibility requirements can be classified as: the proposed project ideas (mentioned below as "project-related criteria") and the implementing organisation(s) (mentioned below as "organisation-related criteria"). The proponent should carefully consider whether they fulfil these criteria and have the capacity to implement projects of this nature.

Project-related Criteria:

- **Impact:** Proposed project will contribute to the provision of sustainably operated, climate resilient and gender equitable services and/or urban infrastructure in order to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable people impacted by climate change.
- **Geography**: Proposed project will be located in one or multiple urban slum(s) with a high share of climate-induced migrants and be targeted towards low income, vulnerable communities, including women and other marginalised communities living in the city corporation/municipality areas, where German Official Development Cooperation is active: Khulna, Barishal, Rajshahi, Satkhira and Sirajganj.
- **Bridge funding:** Proposed project should fall in one of these three categories:
  1. Continuance and scale up of successful pilot projects to guide these into financial sustainability
  2. Innovative ideas that have potential for scaling up and self-sustainability
  3. Contribution to longer term operations and maintenance of essential urban infrastructures, that would otherwise remain idle.
- **National plans and local planning:** Projects need to be consistent with relevant national plans and policies, such as NAP as well as with local plans such as city or town master plans. Additionally, proponents must ensure that the city corporation and/ municipality authorities are supportive of the suggested project by consulting/sharing the proposed project idea with them prior to submission of the concept note.
- **Knowledge generation:** Project contributes to generating knowledge on climate change resilient solutions in urban slums, on a broader scale.

- **Community participation**: Project has to be developed in a participatory manner with the target group and/or other stakeholders.
- **Gender**: Project needs to be gender-responsive or gender-transformative. A female participation of at least 50% must be supported by specific measures that address the needs of women and contribute to the empowerment of women. Wherever possible, the projects should also contribute to the transformation of existing gender norms and values (gender-transformative projects).
- **Feasibility:** Project should be technically feasible with a timely implementation of the proposed work plan along with a sound methodology.
- **Viability**: Project should be economically viable, especially when falling into category 1 and 2 of bridge funding (such as positive return on investment and financial efficiency ensuring proper value for money).
- **Duration and budget:** Project should have a duration of 3 to 5 years and requires a contribution of 5-30 million BDT, i.e., 50 lakh BDT to 3 crore BDT from the Climate Bridge Fund (exceptions can be made given that sufficient justification is provided).
- **Environmental & Social Impact:** Project should have no significant negative environmental and social impacts. It must also consider how to practically manage any possible risks. Project should not involve any involuntary resettlement.
- **Do no harm concept:** Proposed project does not threaten social cohesion or create/contribute to existing conflict.

Organisation-related Criteria

- **Track record:** The applicant organisations must have prior experience of implementing projects of similar nature. Additional points will be awarded for prior experience of working in proposed locations, however it is not an exclusion criterion.
- **Budget size:** The applicant organisations should have the proven capacity to handle a sufficiently large budget. Additionally, they must have experience of implementing at least two foreign funded projects in the past five years, each of which are at least the financial size of the submitted proposal.
- **Implementing capacity:** The applicant organisations should have adequate human resources equipped with relevant skillsets, for quality implementation within the proposed timeframe.
- **Financial capacity:** The annual budget of the applicant organisation (if more than one organization then the lead organization's budget has to be mentioned) in each of the last three years should be at least five times higher than the financial size of the submitted proposal.
- **Own contribution:** The applicant organisation(s) are willing and able to contribute to co-financing the project (not obligatory but would be appreciated).
- **Fiduciary standards:** The applicant organisation(s) are compliant with fiduciary standards typical for international funding.

- **Financial management**: The applicant organisation(s) should have a well-established internal control system that is documented and has regularly publishes annually audited financial statements.
- **Collaboration INGO / NGO:** The applicant organisation(s) need to be a local/national NGO, registered under NGO Affairs Bureau of the Government of Bangladesh (NGOAB). International NGOs (or national members of an international NGO federations) registered under NGOAB are also welcome to apply under the following conditions:
  - The proposed project includes a strong collaboration with local/national NGO(s)
  - The contribution of the international NGO should be limited to technical and fiduciary aspects of the project.
- **Compliance:** The applicant organisations should not be:
  - listed on any sanctions list issued by the United Nations Security Council, the European Union, the Federal Republic of Germany or the Government of Bangladesh
  - breaching embargoes regulating foreign trade

  In addition, they are compliant with the following essential principles/policies:

  a. BRAC Procurement Guidelines
  b. BRAC Child and Adolescent Protection Code of Conduct
  c. BRAC Gender Policy
  d. BRAC Sexual Harassment Elimination Policy and Procedure
  e. BRAC Communications Policy
  f. Environment and Social Safeguard Framework (ESSF)
  g. BRAC Safeguarding Policy

Please access the policies via this link:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eY7MUOc2uFKiWGFVVUqMN074EGyL0z0H?usp=sharing

How to Apply

Eligible NGOs are requested to complete the Project Concept Note using the approved template available at www.brac.net/cbf and submit to cbf.info@brac.net. An official letter (with organisational letterhead) from the head of the proponent organisation needs to be sent along with the Concept Note.

Interested proponents are requested to take note of the following:
- All parts of the Concept Note template must be properly filled out in English in order to be eligible.

- As part of the concept note, the applicant organisation(s) shall also fill out a short checklist on environmental and social impacts, provided as Annex to the Concept Note Template.
- Please watch the video tutorial on the concept note development process and content-related requirements.
- Please join the online concept note briefing session to be held on 14 November 2023 (Tuesday) at 3:00 PM following the link: https://meet.google.com/osw-bgdj-xae.
- All applicant organisation(s) interested in submitting a Concept Note to CBF must provide information on their proposed project concept and their institutional capacity in stage 1.
- In stage 2, the Concept Notes will be reviewed (based on the eligibility criteria mentioned above) to shortlist the project ideas. The CBF Secretariat then conducts a due diligence of the shortlisted NGOs.
- In stage 3, the top ranked NGOs/project ideas are selected based on the detailed evaluation of the concept note and due diligence findings. These are then submitted to the Advisory Committee of the Climate Bridge Fund (ACCF) for approval. ACCF will review and recommend qualified NGOs/projects to the Trustee Board for final approval.
- Selected NGOs will be notified through email and requested to develop and submit detailed project proposals. As part of the detailed proposal development, the applicant organisations shall also fill out another checklist on environmental, social and gender safeguard particularly for designing the infrastructure services.
- After the proposals are evaluated, those are once again shared with ACCF for their recommendations and with KfW for No Objection. It is then finally sent to the Trustee Board for approval. ACCF/ CBF may request for a presentation directly from the applicant organisations during this stage of evaluation.

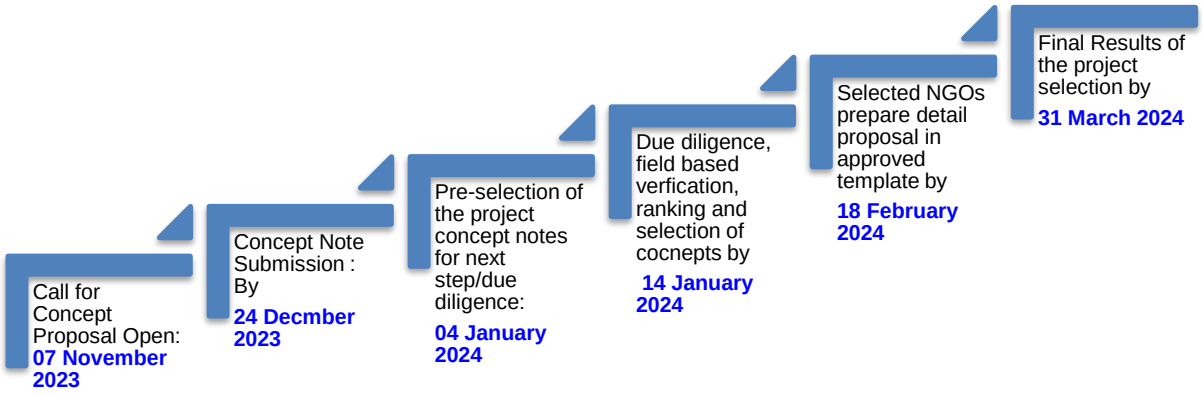

Figure 1. Project selection timeline (2023)

Project Concept Note Evaluation Criteria

The submitted Concept Notes will be reviewed and evaluated against the following criteria (scored out of 100 points):

Table 1: Project Concept Note Evaluation Criteria

Your project idea	**50**
1) Comprehensive project concept ● The concept is effective, feasible and suggests the most appropriate implementation approach ● It has a sound and sustainable concept	15
2) Sufficient impact on target group ● Demonstrated benefit for strengthening of climatic, economic and social resilience of vulnerable people impacted by climate change	15
3) Alignment with Fund's principles ● Project qualifies as bridge funding (e.g., builds on tested and successful pilot by the Implementing Partner) ● Project is gender responsive or transformative (in all aspects: context analysis, design/planning to implementation), involves community engagement and aligns with national and local plan(s) and policies	20
Your organisation	**50**
1) Adequate experience ● Work experience in relevant urban areas in Bangladesh ● Experience with the suggested measures/ approaches and location (based on project references)	20
2) Sufficient financial and staff capacities ● Adequate and qualified staff in Bangladesh and project location(s) ● Annual budget and portfolio size is proportionate to potential grant amount	25
3) Reputation and sound policies ● Donors and other stakeholders are positive about their experiences with the organisation ● Relevant fiduciary policies and guidelines are in place and practiced	5

Important Dates

- Online orientation on concept note: **14 November 2023 (Tuesday) at 3:00 PM BST following the link:** https://meet.google.com/osw-bgdj-xae
- Deadline for submitting Concept Note: **Sunday, 24 December 2023 at 11:59 PM BST**
- Deadline for submitting the full proposal: **Sunday, 18 February 2024 at 11:59 PM BST** (*Only shortlisted organisations will be requested for submitting proposal*)
- Applicant organisations will receive the result of their submitted proposals (written notification) by **Sunday, 31 March 2024**

Further Information

For all enquiries regarding this call for Project Concept Note, please contact: cbf.info@brac.net

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The FAQs are accessible in a separate document available at: www.brac.net/cbf