

CBF Semiannual

NEWSLETTER

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The Climate Bridge Fund (CBF) is a trust fund established by BRAC in November 2019 with the support from the Government of Germany through KfW. It is an innovative finance mechanism to support small-scale projects implemented by registered non-governmental 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

CBF Session at the 3rd Conference on Urban and Regional Planning
Page - 02

Orientation Workshop for ERW Implementing Partners
Page - 03

CBF's Advocacy Efforts in Climate Change Adaptation Leading to COP 28
Page - 04

CBF Session at the 3rd ICURP

On 24 September 2023, Climate Bridge Fund (CBF) Secretariat hosted a session at the 3rd International Conference on Urban and Regional Planning (ICURP), organised by Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) in Dhaka. The session was titled “Climate Resilience: Hands on Experiences from Urban Hotspots”.

During this session, CBF partners BRAC Urban Development Programme (UDP), Dushtha Shasthya Kendra (DSK), Eco-Social Development Organization (ESDO), National Development Programme (NDP), SKS Foundation and WaterAid Bangladesh shared their experiences of implementing CBF funded adaptation interventions through poster presentations. The participants comprised of representatives from various development partners, non-governmental organisations, notable academics, planners and practitioners of built and natural environment as well as climate change.

The keynote presentation of the session was delivered by Dr Md Golam Rabbani, Head of CBF Secretariat, on the innovative financing mechanism of CBF. The session was chaired by Dr Ishrat Islam from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) while Mr Florian Hollen, Head of German Development Cooperation (GIZ), joined as the special guest. Other honorable guests included Dr Md Liakath Ali, Director, Climate Change Programme (CCP) and Urban Development Programme (UDP) of BRAC, as well as Member of the CBF Trustee Board, Mr S. M. Mehedi Ahsan, General Secretary, Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) and Country Manager, Bangladesh at the South Asia Regional Office of Global Center on Adaptation (GCA), and Ms. Deeba Farah Haque, Portfolio Coordinator at KfW Bangladesh.

The session was centered around showcasing how CBF implementing partners are strengthening economic, social and climate change resilience in selected urban locations in Bangladesh by effectively addressing the needs and priorities of local communities. Distinguished representatives of CBF, German Development Cooperation and KfW mentioned the expansive nature of the fund and expressed the prospects of engaging other donor partners to contribute new and additional funds for supporting small-scale grassroots level interventions through CBF. The visual representations of field activities gave the distinguished guests and the audience some perspective on the type of adaptation solutions that the CBF awarded projects are implementing.

Overall, this was an outstanding opportunity for the local level implementers to engage with national and international actors and vice versa.



Panel and audience members engaging in IP presentations learning about their in-field operations under CBF. Photo: CBF



Head of German Development Cooperation (GIZ), Mr. Florian Hollen delivers his speech. Photo: CBF



Portfolio Coordinator at KfW Bangladesh, Ms. Deeba F. Haque giving her speech. Photo: CBF



Director of CCP & UDP and Member of the Trustee Board Dr. Liakath Ali giving his speech. Photo: CBF

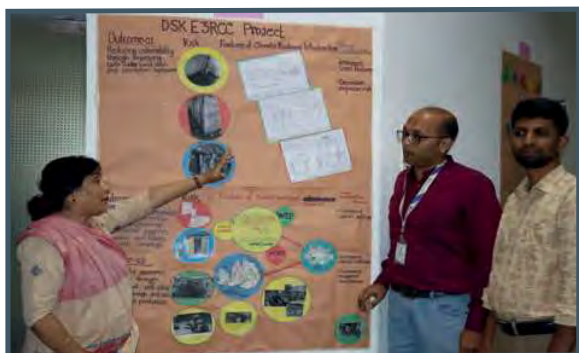
Orientation Workshop for ERW Implementing Partners

In a strategic effort to strengthen a collaborative approach to climate change adaptation, Climate Bridge Fund (CBF) Secretariat successfully organized a three-day Operationalizing Workshop for Implementing Partners (IPs) under the Emergency Response Window (ERW). The event was held between 09 and 11 May 2023 at the BCDM (BRAC Centre for Development Management) in Savar and brought together key stakeholders to enhance their understanding of project operationalization procedures and strengthen their skills in maintaining the essential requirements of CBF's programmatic and technical compliances.

The key Objectives of the workshop were to: Enhance understanding of project operationalization procedures and skills to maintain the basic requirements of CBF's programmatic and technical compliances; Enhance knowledge on basic climate change concepts and adaptation measures; and Foster team building between CBF team and implementing partners (IPs).



Guest speakers for the orientation session. Photo: CBF



DSK presenting their project outline. Photo: CBF



A group photo of representatives of CBF Secretariat and the Implementing Partners of ERW. Photo: CBF

The event commenced with a warm welcome and registration by the CBF team, followed by an inspiring speech from Ms Hasin Jahan, Speaker of the Advisory Committee of the Climate Bridge Fund (ACCF). In a comprehensive presentation, Dr Golam Rabbani shared CBF's vision and perspectives of the Emergency Response Window. The first day was labeled as 'Resonance Day' and featured participatory sessions on climate change concepts, integrating project measures with key climate change adaptation solutions, and gender-responsive programming in emergencies. Prof. Dr Ainun Nishat, Former Speaker of ACCF and Former Vice-Chancellor of BRAC University, provided valuable insights into climate change impacts, vulnerabilities, and adaptation in Bangladesh. The day concluded with the CBF team summarizing the key takeaways.

The second day, known as Knowledge Day, began with a recap of the previous day's discussions by the CBF team. Presentations on BRAC's experiences and learning in addressing climate change impacts, CBF's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) vision, mechanisms, processes, and requirements were the key highlights of the day. On top of that, instructions on environmental and social safeguarding, communication strategies, including branding policies and procedures were also delivered. Mr Tapas Ranjan Chakraborty and BRAC's M&E team played essential roles in sharing insights and facilitating these discussions.

The final day, Compliance Day, kicked off with a recap of the previous day's discussions, setting the stage for a deep dive into financial and administrative compliances, procedures, and reporting. BRAC's Internal Audit unit and Risks Management Unit provided crucial insights into various ethical aspects of the audit process. The workshop concluded with Dr Golam Rabbani guiding a discussion on future endeavours and officially closing the event.

Ultimately, the workshop proved to be an invaluable platform for enhancing collaboration, knowledge sharing, and capacity building among all participants. The comprehensive agenda covered critical aspects of project implementation, ensuring that the ERW initiatives are well-aligned with the local, national and global goals and targets.

CBF's Advocacy Efforts in Climate Change Adaptation Leading to COP 28

Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA) General Assembly and Planning Meeting 2023

As we approach COP 28, the global community is gearing up for crucial discussions on climate change adaptation. Dr Golam Rabbani, the Head of CBF Secretariat represented BRAC at the forefront of advocating for vital issues at various national, regional, and international platforms.

In a momentous reunion after six years, the Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA) gathered for its General Assembly and planning meeting on 20-22 August 2023, marking the first in-person meeting since 2017 in Nagarkot, Nepal. This three-day event was attended by over 70 members from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. Representing the previous Board Members, Dr Rabbani, addressed the network assembly with his welcome remarks.

The primary objective of the meeting was to unite the CANSA family, providing a platform for discussions, deliberations, and strategic planning to guide the network's vision and advocacy efforts until 2030. The urgency of climate action was a central theme. As part of this collective effort, Dr Rabbani presented a comprehensive talk on the adverse impacts of climate change across key sectors in South Asia.

Utilising a combination of panel discussions and group work, participants identified priority areas and strategies for fostering transboundary cooperation and collaboration.



Head of Secretariat, Dr. Golam Rabbani delivering his address at CANSA 2023. Photo: CBF

Annual Meeting of the Asia Climate Change Consortium 2023

Following the CANSA meeting, Dr. Golam Rabbani, represented BRAC at the Annual Meeting of the Asia Climate Change Consortium (ACCC). Being a founding member of the consortium, he played an active role in shaping the meeting decisions. The ACCC meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 24 to 26 August 2023, served as a platform for sharing national updates from each participating country. From Bangladesh, Dr. Rabbani took lead on sharing the national positions and steered discussions on Climate Finance, with particular emphasis on the critical issue of Loss and Damage. An exciting highlight of the ACCC meeting was the visit to a community in Samut Sakhon, where coastal erosion is being addressed through an innovative community-led initiative involving traditional practices with bamboo lines.

The final day of the meeting focused heavily on preparations for COP 28 and beyond, discussing opportunities and engagements leading up to COP 28, harnessing the collective expertise and insights from the three-day gathering. The inputs and discussions enriched and improved the core messages and existing position papers of ACCC. The meeting concluded with a planning session, outlining the group's work plan moving forward.

Dr. Rabbani's active participation and leadership role in these forums underscore the importance of collaborative action in addressing climate change on a global scale. As we approach COP 28, the groundwork laid by these discussions promise to contribute significantly to outline the future of climate adaptation efforts.



A group picture of the ACCC members at their 2023 Annual Meeting. Photo: CBF

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