

Executive Summary of the Review Report on **Goal 13: Climate Action**

Anchor

ActionAid Bangladesh

Co-Anchors

International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)

WaterAid Bangladesh

Associate Organisations

Brotee Samaj Kallyan Sangstha

Practical Action Bangladesh

Dhaka Ahsania Mission

Save the Children in Bangladesh

Enfants du Monde (EdM)

Introduction and Approach

Bangladesh, one of the most at-risk countries to adverse impacts of climate change, has suffered economic and non-economic losses and damages over the last two decades, posing significant threat to the country's ambition of becoming a middle-income country by 2021.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted at the UN General Assembly in 2015, gave the world an ambitious aspiration that leads towards a transformational growth, with the commitment of leaving no one behind. Climate Action—the SDG 13, with five targets and seven indicators, is a unique goal that addresses the adverse impacts of climate change, and has a cross-cutting link with other SDGs. The goal is inseparably linked with the Paris Agreement for Climate Action and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, creating opportunities for affirmative synergies at national level for implementation.

Civil society organisations (CSOs) in Bangladesh have been working in the areas of adaptation and mitigation from local to global levels. Several of these organisations are working in partnerships and in consortiums. The objective of the present study is to stock-take the contribution made by the CSOs in addressing climate change in particular programmes, researches and policy spaces. This report also captures challenges and measures that need to be taken into account for achieving the targets of SDG 13.

CSOs in Programme Delivery and Advocacy

The study showed that, the CSOs in Bangladesh have been working on issues related to climate change, disaster management and resilience building for decades. These activities can broadly be categorised in the following three major types of actions, which again interlink.

Programme Interventions

Based on the literature review and collected data, the study identified five areas of dominance in terms of programme intervention. The first of these areas is building leadership capacity of women and young people in taking climate action at community level. Many CSOs are focusing particularly on transformative women leadership, and income-generation scope and emergency response training for women and young people. Others have reported actions for enhancing women and young people's role in policy advocacy and influencing towards women's empowerment at house and community level. The second core area is—climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture. Empowering women farmers, building capacity to use sack gardening, agro-met services, vermin compost and digital weather boards are few initiatives to note in this regard. The third area is diversified livelihood, under which building and repairing electronic devices, welding, tailoring, carpentry, etc. skills are developed. Strengthening capacity of the community to understand climate change, disaster risk reduction and build resilience engaging women, young people and children is

the fourth area. Major activities focus on the dissemination of early warning systems, increasing the adaptive capacity of community, mock drills, training on disaster risk reduction. The last area is promoting context-specific alternative solutions through adaptation and mitigation. Examples of work under this area include, but are not limited to, solar lamps, eco-friendly stoves and solar water disinfection technology.

Policy Advocacy

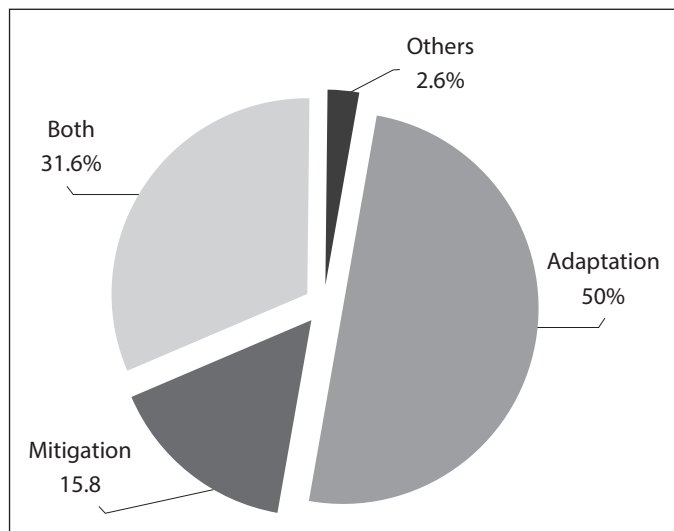
CSOs have been involved in the process of formulation and reviewing of government policies, plans and instruments. For instance, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change conducted several consultation workshops with the CSOs during the formation of Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), Bangladesh Climate Change and Gender Action Plan, and reviewing of the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), in collaboration with selected international non-government organisations (INGOs), are working on finalising a National Mechanism for Climate-induced Disaster Losses and Damages. In 2018, CSOs have published a report with analysis of, and recommendation for, government's climate budget, demanding for more accountable and effective process. It is worth mentioning that Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has contributed to increases in financing, institutional analysis, setting up institutional processes for approval and management of funds, international recognition of the importance of governance in climate change financing, creating demand for performance audits and evaluations, while simultaneously collecting evidence of problems and challenges experienced in the implementation of climate finance projects.

Research and Awareness

Awareness raising, as part of capacity building of the communities that are vulnerable to climate change and disaster impacts—is the most common area of intervention by the CSOs. The NGOs are investing a major portion of their project funds for finding local/contextual solutions that are socially acceptable and economically viable. The action research projects focus mostly on women, young people and children, who are the most vulnerable groups of the society. Furthermore, NGOs, in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh (GoB), have been supporting the conduction of the Joint Needs Assessment in post-disaster situation, to develop a comprehensive response plan and ensure effective financial allocation.

Key Lessons Learnt

The study revealed that 50 per cent of the respondents are working on 'adaptation', where about 16 per cent are focusing on 'mitigation' actions. Around 31.6 per cent of projects address both 'adaptation' and 'mitigation'. The adaptation and mitigation actions can also be further segregated by different priorities, such as awareness, advocacy work, research and technology development, and so on. However, there is a lack of research and projects that address loss and damage area. While few of the organisations are doing



an incredible job by bringing technological changes, such as climate technology parks and solar-based solutions, the area needs further innovation and support from developed countries.

Challenges

Climate change is unpredictable. We do not know what course it will take in the next few years, when the global temperature rises by 1.5°C. Although there are global-level data and information, not much is known on local-level temperature-rise trajectory. Therefore, projects are mostly focusing on building social and economic capacity in short- to medium-term. The contribution of these projects is not always reflected in the

central database of the government, and hence, there is no single monitoring and reporting mechanism to share progress made under SDG 13 and the actual contribution of the CSOs.

Way Forward

Based on the findings, challenges and opportunities, it is recognised that the CSOs require a common space to promote credible solutions to address issues under SDG 13, Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) in a comprehensive way. This also needs to be linked with different government initiatives for greater sustainability. It is imperative to have a joint monitoring and implementation plan (of the GoB and the CSOs) for the progress of SDG 13 and other global agreements on climate action. Specific steps should include collating and disseminating good practices, undertaking public information programmes on local initiatives, and focusing on action research on climate-induced disaster losses and damages.

