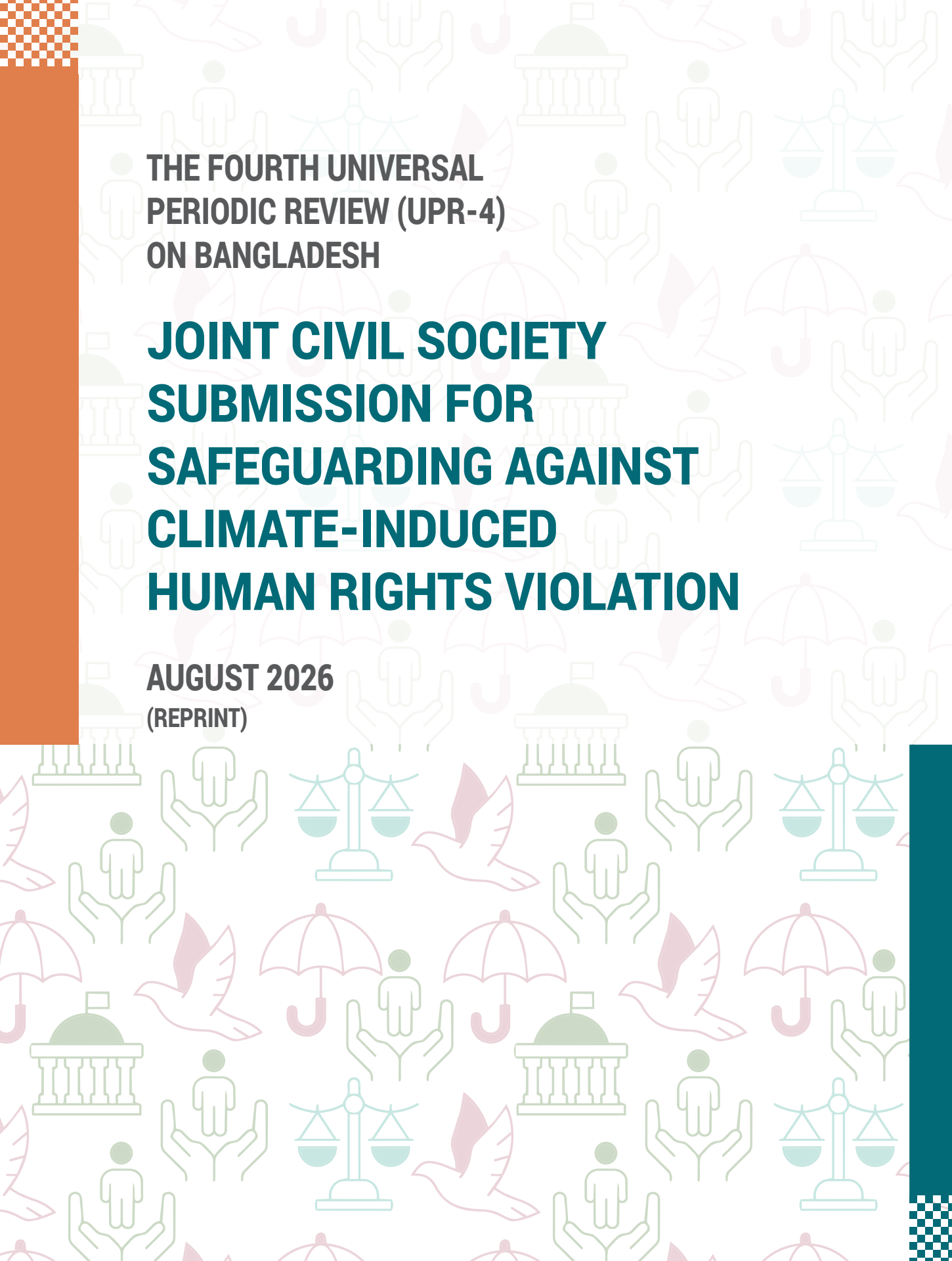




**THE FOURTH UNIVERSAL
PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR-4)
ON BANGLADESH**

**JOINT CIVIL SOCIETY
SUBMISSION FOR
SAFEGUARDING AGAINST
CLIMATE-INDUCED
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION**

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Disclaimer

The report "Fourth Universal Periodic Review on Bangladesh: Joint Civil Society Submission for Safeguarding against Climate-Induced Human Rights Violation" is a collaborative effort of a number of CSOs, wherein CPRD, as leading organization, put together all the views, experiences and evidences communicated by all the consulting partners. Views expressed here are of the consulting partners, and do not necessarily reflect the views of CPRD or of the coordinating authors.

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ACRONYMS

AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use
BCCSAP	Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan
ccGAP	Climate Change and Gender Action Plan
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EWS	Early Warning System
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
HRC	Human Rights Commission
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPPU	Industrial Processes and Product Use
MCPPI	Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN	United Nations
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UPR	Universal Periodic Review

DEVELOPMENT OF CSO SUBMISSION AT THE UPR-4 CYCLE ON BANGLADESH



Figure-1: Process Followed in the Development of CSOs Submission at the UPR-4 Cycle on Bangladesh

SUMMARY

Climate change threatens the effective enjoyment of a series of human rights. There is an express link between climate change and human rights. The UNFCCC through the Cancun agreements explicitly calls on States to respect human rights when taking actions to address climate change, while the preamble to the Paris Agreement calls on States to respect and promote human rights in all actions to address climate change. IPCC defines climate justice as linking development and human rights through a rights-based approach to climate change. Article 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights guarantees conditions for the full realization of human rights, which are increasingly threatened by climate change. In 2022 the UN General Assembly recognized access to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right, following a Human Rights Council Resolution in 2019 highlighting that climate change has an impact on, among others, the rights to life, self-determination, development, health, food, water and sanitation, adequate housing and a range of cultural rights.

Under the Third UPR cycle in May 2018, the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) accepted the recommendations 147.37 and 147.38 that it will continue its efforts in addressing the negative impacts of climate change and will develop strategies to mitigate the impact of climate change. Although, the GoB has taken some measures to implement these recommendations, negative impacts of climate change remain the root cause of many ongoing human rights violations in Bangladesh. Here, we would also like to highlight that the climate change related disasters are not solely the result of the inaction for mitigation on the part of national government i.e. GoB - but also a result of global climate injustice which requires global response. Through this submission, the consulting organizations urge the GoB to seek cooperation with other states to acquire more resources, technical expertise, knowledge sharing and push for a call on climate justice. Not acquiring sufficient cooperation from other states is a continuous violation of basic human rights of people of Bangladesh especially those suffering from climate disasters.

This submission highlights the impacts of climate change in the last four years of human rights issues of right to life, right to water and sanitation, right to housing, right to education, right to culture with specific focus on loss and damage as well as women and children's rights. We urge the GoB to accept the following main recommendations in the upcoming 4th UPR Review for Bangladesh:

1. Seek cooperation with other states to acquire more resources, technical expertise, knowledge sharing and push for a global call on climate justice.
2. Initiate countrywide mapping of climate displacement and develop national database; ensure housing, land and property for the victim of climate displacement; create sustainable alternative employment opportunities for the displaced people, initiate skill- development and employment generation programs in the climate-vulnerable areas.
3. Ensure that the development projects, including the adaptation and mitigation projects, are followed by a robust Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and strong Social, Environmental and Cultural protection measures.
4. Introduce special girls' education scheme, blended with technical skills, in the climate risk exposed areas. Also enact specific law banning forced marriages and ensure complete enforcement of the same.
5. Ensure availability of safe drinking water and for irrigation to the water stressed communities in climate -vulnerable areas.
6. Ensure child education in climate-vulnerable areas and in the displaced communities.



Group Discussion in the Process of Developing Joint CSO Submission at the UPR-4 Cycle on Bangladesh

BACKGROUND & METHODOLOGY

Background

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique, State-driven peer-review mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council through which the human rights record of every UN Member State is periodically examined. Reviews draw on the State's national report, UN information, and stakeholder submissions, including those from CSOs. These submissions can inform recommendations to States and strengthen accountability. The fourth UPR cycle places particular emphasis on implementing previous recommendations and demonstrating measurable progress in human rights protection.¹

For Bangladesh, integrating climate change into the human rights discourse and the UPR process is particularly important. The country's low-lying geography, high population density and socio-economic vulnerabilities expose communities to cyclones, floods, riverbank erosion, salinity, drought and other climate-related hazards. These impacts extend beyond physical and economic losses and can undermine the enjoyment of fundamental rights, including the rights to life, food, safe water and sanitation, health, housing, livelihoods, and standard of living. International frameworks increasingly recognize this relationship. IPCC in 2022 defines climate justice as linking development and human rights through a rights-based approach to climate change.² The Cancun agreements³ explicitly calls on States to respect human rights when taking actions to address climate change, while the Preamble to the Paris Agreement⁴ reiterated this. The UDHR, through article 28,⁵ guarantees conditions for the full realization of human rights, which are increasingly threatened by climate

change. Following the Human Rights Council Resolution A/HRC/RES/41/21 in 2019,⁶ which highlights that climate change has an impact on several fundamental rights, the UNGA adopted Resolution A.76/L.75 in 2022,⁷ recognizing access to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right.

While Bangladesh has adopted climate and development policies that recognize the needs of vulnerable populations, CSOs can provide independent evidence on gaps between policy commitments, implementation and the lived experiences of climate-affected communities. Against this backdrop, this joint CSO submission for the fourth cycle of the UPR leverages the crucial opportunity to bolster civil society engagement in the UPR process to help ensure climate-related human rights concerns in Bangladesh are reflected in the international review process.

Methodology

This joint stakeholders' report has been developed through a series of online and offline exchanges between the consulting partners. A hybrid consultation session was organized on 14 March 2023 by Center for Participatory Research and Development (CPRD) and Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation, Bangladesh. The session was contributed by ActionAid BD, AOSED, Concern Worldwide, Diakonia, DORP, HEKS/EPER, Helvetas, ICCCAD, Islamic Relief, MJF, NETZ Bangladesh, Practical Action, SDS, Shushilan, WaterAid and YPSA. All the consulting partners have been working on the issue of climate change in Bangladesh. The evidence cited in the report comes as a direct source from the consulting organizations' own publications, documentations, and experiences on climate issues.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE UPR-3 CYCLE ON BANGLADESH

Under the third UPR Cycle in May 2018, the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) supported following recommendations on climate change:

- 147.37 *Continue its efforts in addressing the negative impacts of climate change.*
- 147.38 *Develop strategies to mitigate the impact of climate change.*

Progress in Implementing the Recommendations

1. Bangladesh has demonstrated remarkable commitment to addressing climate change through its domestic policy framework. Some of the key measures include National Plan of Disaster Management, Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, National Adaptation Programme of Action, Renewable Energy Policy, Climate Change Trust Fund and Green Growth Strategy.
2. Over the last 4 years, several policy measures and interventions have been undertaken on climate change issues by the GoB. The BCCSAP is in the final stage, Bangladesh Climate Change and Gender Action Plan (ccGAP) is at the stage of the review and Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan (MCPP) is published. The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) discusses climate resilience, justice and human rights. It also highlights the issues of water scarcity, food security etc. Bangladesh submitted the Third National Communication to UNFCCC in 2019-2020. Bangladesh raised emission reduction targets in the revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) in 2021. The updated NDC covers four sectors: Energy, Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU), Agriculture, Forestry & other Land use (AFOLU), and Waste. The GoB has prepared a Roadmap and Action Plan for implementing NDC up to 2041. The GoB has also decided to scrap 10 coal-based power plants in 2021 to align its energy sector with mitigation targets.
3. The GoB follows a human rights-based approach as one of the four of its planning principles. One of the pillars on which BCCSAP is built covers food security, social protection, and health issues to ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable in society, including women and children are protected from climate change. All programs under BCCSAP focus on the specific needs of vulnerable people.
4. Since climate change is now a growing humanitarian crisis for Bangladesh, building adaptive capacities has been placed at the very core of climate

policies and plans of the country. For instance, the draft Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan (MCPPE), the overarching climate plan of Bangladesh, has set to operationalize systematic financing to minimize and avert loss and damage impacts through Mujib Locally Led Adaptation Hubs. These hubs are envisaged to support high degrees of resilience and gender-responsive local opportunities for prosperity to counteract internal migration and enhance adaptation. The MCPPE also aims to support locally led adaptation actions for the most disadvantaged communities. Actions outlined across the MCPPE contribute to increasing protection and resilience of women from climatic shocks and climate-related crises. The MCPPE also includes plan to continue to support housing initiatives like “Ashrayan”, to settle displaced and landless people through the extension of land ownership, ensuring visibility of the vulnerable and enabling their access to services, and also to continue to strengthen country-wide national initiatives for rehabilitation of beggars, who are often migrants due to climate-induced disasters like river erosion, floods and droughts, through rehabilitation centres with training and healthcare facilities and alternative employment. These are envisaged to protect a number of

the human rights of the climate victims.

5. In order to reduce climate change vulnerability of and impacts on different genders, communities, and groups and to reduce violations of their rights from climate change-induced disasters, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2023-2050 has been formulated taking into account the increasing risks and vulnerabilities of communities who are mostly dependent on natural resources for livelihoods, the differentiated risks and vulnerabilities among women (e.g., adverse health consequences for women due to climate change), the elderly, children and youth, and the disproportionate risks and vulnerabilities among persons with disabilities, following a country-driven, participatory, gender-responsive and inclusive process.
6. Despite having a host of plans, policies, and a strong commitment by the GoB, negative impacts of climate change remain the root cause of many ongoing human rights violations being committed on communities and people of Bangladesh. Some of the well-intended plans and schemes and strategies developed by the GoB are marred by the delay in implementation, lack of capacity of the duty bearers as well as mal-practices on the ground.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN RIGHTS SCENARIO SINCE THE UPR-3 CYCLE ON BANGLADESH

Climate Change and Right to Life

7. The right to life is guaranteed through the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR, article 3, 25) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR, article 6). The Human Rights Committee in its General Comment no. 36 (para 62) on right to life has stated that climate change is one of “the most pressing and serious threats to the ability of present and future generations to enjoy the right to life”. The Human Rights Council in its analytical study⁸ has stated that in order to uphold the right to life, States have an obligation to take affirmative action to mitigate climate change and thus prevent foreseeable loss of life. The constitution of Bangladesh in its article 32 provides that “no person shall be deprived of life or personal liberty save in accordance with law.”⁹
8. The negative impact of climate change continues to threaten communities in Bangladesh. Since the last UPR Review cycle, there has been no change in terms of occurrence of loss of lives due to climate disasters. The most recent cyclone Sitrang (2022) caused death of 24 people¹⁰. In the same year, 141 people died during a massive flood. There was already a growing number of deaths from lightning resulting in death of 250 people in 2021 and 362 in 2021¹¹. The loss of life due to climate disasters is not limited to the direct occurrence of the disaster but continues even in the aftermath of the disasters. These lives unfortunately are not accounted as climate deaths.
9. The early warning systems for climate disasters could play a major role in preventing loss of lives. Many lives can be saved from floods if the marginal communities living in the remote areas have access to early warning system for floods. In Bangladesh, although, the present cyclone Early Warning System (EWS) employs signal-based warning processes for river and sea ports, there are no similar mechanisms in place for floods. A study conducted by Practical Action in Bangladesh in two Upazilas of Faridpur found that the lack of better communication has been the main barrier (50%) in getting flood early warning in remote Char areas of Bangladesh followed by lack of a proper dissemination channel (47%) as well as a lack of authenticity of the information (9%)¹².
10. The additional loss of lives due to climate disaster continue to happen in climate change hotspots like coastal and floodplain areas such as

Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Kurigram, Gaibandha and Sirajganj. People are affected drastically by hunger, diseases, displacement and loss of income, leading to poverty in the aftermath of the climate disasters. Frequent and severe occurrence of natural disasters brought on by climate change adds more deaths due to the occurrence of malaria, dengue fever, dysentery and other water-borne ailments¹³.

11. The NAP of Bangladesh already points out that out of 2.86 million hectares of coastal and offshore lands, about 1.056 million hectares are affected by soil salinity of different degrees. The threatening matter is the coastal area of Bangladesh covers about 20% of the country and more than 30% of the cultivable land. Historical soil salinity data shows that the problem is already increasing and is evidence of salinity intrusion due to climate change. In addition, climate induced flooding in Bangladesh will be intensified in the 2050s affecting most of the country other than the coastal areas and eastern hills.
12. The right to life also includes right to an adequate standard of living. In coastal and floodplain areas, the loss and damage to the livelihood support system of communities is one of the most common features of the ongoing climate crisis. There is permanent damage to the agricultural land. Aggravated by climate change, the harmful effects of salinity on the coastal communities of Bangladesh are increasing day by day. It is becoming more and more difficult to get access to fresh water. High tidal flow happens during June-July in many areas. The water level gets so high during the new moon that it lasts 6-7 days. As a result, many homestead gardens and other plantations get damaged.
13. Additionally, due to frequent cyclones and floods, the river embankments are breached, and salty water enters the

agricultural land. Due to the stagnant salt water in the land for a long time, many pieces of land have become unfit for cultivation. As a result, many farmers have become unemployed. As there is a shortage of alternative employment in the area, most of the farmers are forced to sell their agricultural land at a low price and migrate to a city. There are many families who used to live in different villages in the coastal areas even a few years ago, but due to climate change, they are forced to leave their ancestral land and settle elsewhere due to lack of agriculture or alternative livelihood options¹⁴. A concrete example has been brought forward by a consulting partner that in the district of Kumkhali, crop yields have significantly decreased over the years due to climate change¹³. The 8th Five Year Plan of Bangladesh also highlights that when a large area of agricultural cropping land becomes submerged or salinized, it affects the livelihood of the people living in the coastal region, which leads them to migrate to the urban areas.

14. In Shariatpur, young people had to migrate 7-8 times due to river erosion. This is a common scenario in char areas, where the displacement rate is not less than 5-6 times. Also, no adaptation interventions work in those char areas as there is no option for farming, educational institutions, hospitals, etc.

Change and Right to Adequate Housing

15. It has been established through the human rights law framework (ICESCR, article 11 and HRC Resolution 37/4) that the adverse effects of climate change have an impact on the right to housing. In the context of Bangladesh, due to the extreme and repetitive climate events communities living in coastal and flood

plain areas are forced to become “climate migrants”¹⁵ in urban areas where they end up living in slum and squatters which is a direct denial of their right to adequate housing. There are no specific measures or established mechanisms to provide support to these climate migrants in the cities.

16. As per the experiences collected by consulting partners, such climate related migration shows the trend that also reflects that progressive realization of the right to adequate housing is not attainable in the near future. For example, a report¹⁶ by a consulting partner highlighted that on the southwest coastal belt (Khulna and Bagerhat) temporary migration has become a more frequent and recurrent coping strategy for many households in Greater Khulna district. The report indicates that after surveying around 70% of households (14 unions under 3 upazilas), at least one member was found to be working outside the village. Meanwhile, seasonal migration due to climate change for the entire family is costly and risky, particularly for children who may drop out of school to work with their parents or be left alone at home. Another survey conducted in 2018 and 2020 in Khulna and Bagerhat districts of Bangladesh showed that temporary migration has become increasingly frequent and longer in duration, with at least one household member working outside the village. A survey conducted by another consulting partner, with 168 respondents in an urban slum in Rajshahi city, northern Bangladesh found that climate disasters resulted in the loss of homes and farmland, forcing people to mortgage their way into the cities.¹⁷
17. Climate migrants in the urban slums in the major cities also have to compromise on the adequate accommodation, living environment, safe water source, sanitation, health and hygiene maintenance and other basic amenities. A survey by a consulting partner¹⁸ found that, in Barishal, people affected or displaced by cyclone and riverbank erosion live in the compact and single-unit houses that lack ventilation, daylight, space and privacy. The narrow and improper drainage system coupled with frequent inundation by the tidal flood of Kirtankhola river caused stagnant water for several days causing the suffering to informal settlers from less mobility, health impairments and economic loss and damage.

Climate Change and Right to Water and Sanitation

18. Climate change affects the availability, quality, and quantity of water for basic human needs and threatens the enjoyment of the human rights to water and sanitation. In Bangladesh, climate change and climate disasters are already affecting the fresh drinking water facilities. The current source of freshwater facilities in the southwest coastal belt is insufficient and unavailable for the communities. The accessibility and availability of safe drinking water is also a major concern especially in south-western coastal belt.

19. In a survey¹³ conducted by a consulting partner, it was found that more than 90% of the respondents in Garuikhali and Kumkhali village in Paikgacha, Khulna, the primary source of drinking water was between 0-1 km away from their households, while about 9% had to travel more than 1 km. Due to low levels of salinity in the homestead ponds in Kumkhali, 70% of the respondents had to travel 0.5 km to collect water for drinking. It was also found that the water security had been impacted by different climatic events. Salinity intrusion in village ponds had largely affected the access to fresh drinking water in two villages leaving only 5% of the respondents with access to fresh drinking water. Mobility in accessing fresh drinking water was further restricted as a result of inundation due to high intensity short-term rainfall. Consumption and household usage of saline and contaminated water gave rise to water borne diseases like diarrhea, cholera, stomach bugs, and skin diseases.

Climate Change and Right to Health

- 20.** Climate change impacts health in a number of ways: directly, through extreme weather or changes in temperature; and indirectly through changes in natural systems that result in crop failures, expanding disease vectors, and displacement of persons.
- 21.** The Constitution of Bangladesh through its article 15(a) mentions that securing the provision of the basic necessities of life also includes medical care. Article 18(1) of the constitution states the improvement of public health as among the primary duties of the State. Although Bangladesh has attained significant improvement in family planning through fertility regulation, child immunization and reducing the child mortality rate, hazards-induced health problems have not received much attention

yet. The human vulnerability to diseases and other health related issues due to climate change have increased significantly and have not received much attention yet.

- 22.** As per the experience of a consulting partner¹⁹, in the Southwest Coastal Belt of Bangladesh, women and children have been found to suffer from numerous health problems including skin ailments, high blood pressure, and pre-eclampsia that are the result of climate change. High exposure to excessive water salinity has a direct impact on women's reproductive health issues. Heat stroke is another health issue that is on the increase in the North-west part of the country. In the face of economic challenge and limited availability of dignified jobs, disaster affected people are bound to refrain from taking any formal medical treatment. Even in the severe cases like pregnancy, they rely on the medicine sellers or quack doctors. In addition, they are paid less attention by the government and local authority; no satellite/community clinic is there for the inhabitants of the urban slums e.g., there is no community clinic in Chandmari Colony in Barisal within 3-4km range.
- 23.** Mental health also is being compromised among people of climate victims due to the impacts caused by different hazards.²⁰

Climate Change and Rights of Women and Children

- 24.** Women in Bangladesh continue to suffer the most from the adverse impact of climate change at different levels. As per the work experience of consulting partners¹⁶, it has been observed that due to the extreme and repetitive climate events people are forced to migrate in urban areas where they end up living to slum and squatters. The absence of all sorts of utility services in slum area make life miserable especially for women.

25. During signal and crisis moments, women are always the last to get to the shelter house; often, they do not have proper space. In the southern part, salinity intrusion has a major negative impact on women's health. Moreover, in every climate-vulnerable spot of Bangladesh, common issues are often found to be water and food crises, eventually leading to health problems. Skin diseases and gynecological health problems are prominent.
26. Results from a dietary diversity survey conducted by a consulting partner²¹ among slum and squatter dwellers showed that women's dietary diversity scored a meagre 5.2 on average (out of 10). Their education is also being disrupted.
27. In case of girls, who commonly face sexual harassment, families de-shoulder their responsibilities by marrying them off. Climate migrants in urban slums, particularly women and adolescent girls face continuous threat and risk of sexual harassment and domestic violence induced by poverty, hunger and moral degradation.
28. Women climate migrants also face economic challenges and limited availability of dignified jobs. They also suffer lack of access to basic medical facilities forcing them to rely on medicine sellers or quack doctors even in cases of pregnancy. The underprivileged and impoverished women in the coastal belt in many cases are bound to bribe the local representative to get access to social safety net programs.
29. The impacts of climate change are also severely impacting children's right to education. A study carried out by a consulting partner²² on climate victims in Shyamnagar Upazila of Satkhira district, highlights that around half of the respondent families have been found to experience dropout of their children from school before completing Secondary School Certificate (SSC) level due to disaster-borne financial crisis/poverty during the post-disaster period. Often, the mainstream educational institutions don't admit the students after a certain period of a year, who suffered study gaps due to disaster, eventually leading them to permanently drop out. Also, often school premises are used as disaster shelters, by the landless and disaster-affected people for prolonged period, thereby deteriorating the educational environment and opportunity of children's right to education.
30. Dalit communities, transgender, and ethnic communities (special-need people) also face severe crises due to climate change. They face further challenges in the shelter during a crisis moment.

Right to Social Security

31. By Article 15 of the Constitution, the government is responsible to secure the right to social security to the underserved arising from unemployment, illness or disablement, or suffered by widows or orphans or in old age, or in other such cases. However, there have been instances where the climate victims are being denied access to social security which is essential for their survival.

32. A field survey conducted by a consulting partner¹⁸ in Bangabandhu Colony found that the “migrant” status makes it difficult for climate migrants to access old age, pregnancy and disability allowance. Also, due to absence of social safety nets, the fisherman community in the Bagerhat and Satkhira are forced to take loan at higher interest rates of 20 to 96% annually, pushing them into the cycle of extreme poverty.

Human Rights Violations in the Context of Loss and Damage

33. Climate change induced human rights violations continue in Bangladesh in many other spheres. The violation of right to property is a common occurrence in climate disasters. As per the research carried out by a consulting partner¹⁹, climate-afflicted people are increasingly losing their properties including land,

houses, standing crops and all belongings due to the recurrence of cyclones, storm surges, riverbank erosion, flood etc. in different climate hotspots of the country. Among the hazards, riverbank erosion mostly causes loss of properties overnight.

34. Forced displacements caused by riverbank erosion are also affecting right to culture of people in Bangladesh. In the southern part, embankments are very fragile. As per the consulting partners, there have been several cases of displacement. In the past, people would come together and performed rituals at Masjids, Mandir, etc. Now, the situation is changing in the southern point due to loss of cultural and religious places. In the northern region, in drought-prone areas, extreme water scarcity even compels people to suicide. A study by a consulting partner has also found that the loss of cultural traits, including festivals and celebrations, are getting diminished by forced displacement and loss of traditional spaces of cultural festivities²².



RECOMMENDATIONS

The GoB has accepted the recommendation on climate change mitigation measures and has shown a serious commitment to improving measures for mitigation of climate change. However, the complexity of climate issues requires much stronger support from the international community. Some of the concerns raised in this submission cannot be addressed by the GoB without the support of the international community.

Main Recommendation

35. Seek cooperation with other states to acquire more resources, technical expertise, knowledge sharing and push for a call on climate justice. Not acquiring sufficient cooperation from other states is a continuous violation of basic human rights of people of Bangladesh, especially the ones suffering from climate disasters.

Specific Recommendations

36. Build strong and sustainable protection and shelters against riverbank erosion, tidal surges and other infrastructures to protect life and properties of the vulnerable communities from the extreme weather events that become frequent and intense due to climate change.
37. Introduce community centric robust early warning systems for the people at a scale which will empower them to take decision and protect their lives and livelihoods. Also, build an adequate number of cyclone shelters containing basic facilities for the disadvantaged groups (e.g., the physically challenged, pregnant women, etc.) in the cyclone-prone coastal areas to save human lives while ensuring adequate social and cultural safeguard and respect to the disadvantaged group.
38. Ensure 100 percent of evacuation of communities exposed to cyclone, floods and storm surge with locally comprehensible, commonly accessible early warning and disaster forecasting systems.
39. Ensure that the development project, including the adaptation and mitigation projects, follow a robust Environmental impact Assessment (EIA) and strong social environmental and cultural protection measures so that the project implementation do not cause violation of human rights in the form of maladaptation, environmental pollution, and involuntary displacement.
40. Initiate countrywide mapping of climate displacement and develop

a national database; ensure housing, land, and property for the victims of climate displacement; create sustainable alternative employment opportunities for the displaced people; initiate skills development and employment generation programs in the climate-vulnerable areas; ensure comprehensive rehabilitation so that the entire community can live together in the new place with unscathed societal setting.

41. Recognize climate-induced migration; monitor the flow of climate-induced migrants at the origin and destination; devise social safety net program addressing the impact group; create sustainable alternative employment opportunities and investment support.
42. Ensure proper beneficiary selection, free from political bias in the projects and interventions taken by the government; ensure transparency and accountability mechanisms in social safety net program; scale up the benefits in quantity and coverage to ensure rights of the climate victims.
43. Review of the land law to ensure ownership of the land formed by accretion in favor of the land's original owner.
44. Ensure availability of safe drinking water and for irrigation to the water-stressed communities in coastal and Barind areas through large-scale desalination plants, rainwater harvesting systems, restoration, and management of common water bodies etc. Ensuring people's access to the public commons e.g., wetlands, forests and Khas lands is critically important for building resilience and as empowering the marginalized communities with social power over the power on the vested interest groups.
45. Ensure that the women climate migrants have access to employment opportunities and access to healthcare facilities.
46. Introduce special girls' education scheme, blended with technical skills, in the climate risk exposed areas and for the displaced communities as a countermeasure to early marriage and social discrimination. Also enact a specific law banning forced marriages and ensure complete enforcement thereof.
47. Ensure child education in climate-vulnerable areas and in the displaced communities; provide special financial support for educational expenses to the children of the disaster-affected families; support safe storage of educational materials; and ensure their admission in education at any time of the year, even if there is a significant study gap.



Group Discussion in the Process of Developing Joint CSO Submission at the UPR-4 Cycle on Bangladesh

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