

HUMANS OF **CLIMATE CHANGE**



Content:

Prito Reza/UNDP

The Daily Star

Editorial Panel:

Md Abdul Quayyum/UNDP

Kazi Rufaida Islam/UNDP

Photo:

Prito Reza/UNDP

UNDP Bangladesh

Design:

Simul Chowdhury/Drik

Production:

Drik

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Local Government Initiative on Climate Change
(LoGIC) Project



Background

Often cited as one of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, Bangladesh's unique physiographic location, flat deltaic topography, and socio-economic infrastructure make it particularly vulnerable to extreme climate variability and climate change-induced disasters, including storm surges, floods, cyclones, salinity intrusion, landslides, and erosion. While Bangladesh has experienced tremendous economic growth over the past years, the disastrous effects of climate change have posed a consistent threat to its development.

While vulnerable communities have developed their home-grown adaptability measures to deal with natural disasters, the sheer magnitude of multiple impacts of climate change often overwhelms the traditional coping mechanisms at the local level. With only limited access to knowledge, skills, technology, and funds for climate change adaptation, as well as limited capacity to influence local development plans, vulnerable communities often find themselves unable to sufficiently adapt to the increasingly frequent and severe impacts of climate change.

Women and girls often find themselves especially vulnerable to climate change impacts, due to entrenched gender norms and reproductive responsibilities. As their average income is much lower, female-headed households spend

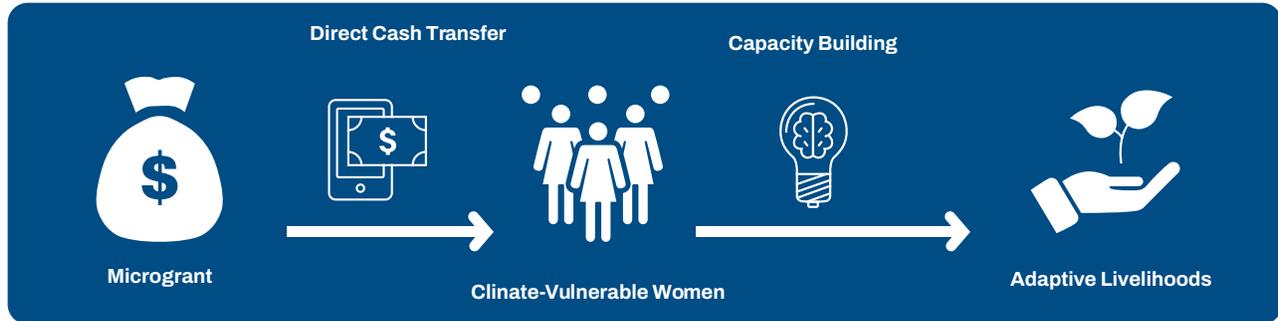
three times more as a share of their income on addressing the effects of climate change than households headed by men, further entrenching gender inequalities.

To address these challenges, the Local Government Initiative on Climate Change (LoGIC) was developed as a multi-donor collaborative initiative of the Government of Bangladesh, UNDP, UNCDF, European Union (EU), Sweden and Denmark. LoGIC is a forward-looking solution to enhance the capacity of vulnerable communities, local government institutions, and civil society organizations for planning and financing climate change adaptation solutions in selected climate-vulnerable areas. Apart from building capacity of local governments and vulnerable households, LoGIC utilizes two financing mechanisms (detailed in the next page) – the Community Resilience Fund and the Performance-Based Climate Resilience Grant – to supplement public and private financing for climate resilience.

Based on its success, as identified by independent assessments, LoGIC has been expanded to include the districts of Rangamati and Bandarban in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and is envisioning a national scale-up that will see more vulnerable communities across climate hotspots in Bangladesh supported to enhance their adaptive capacities.

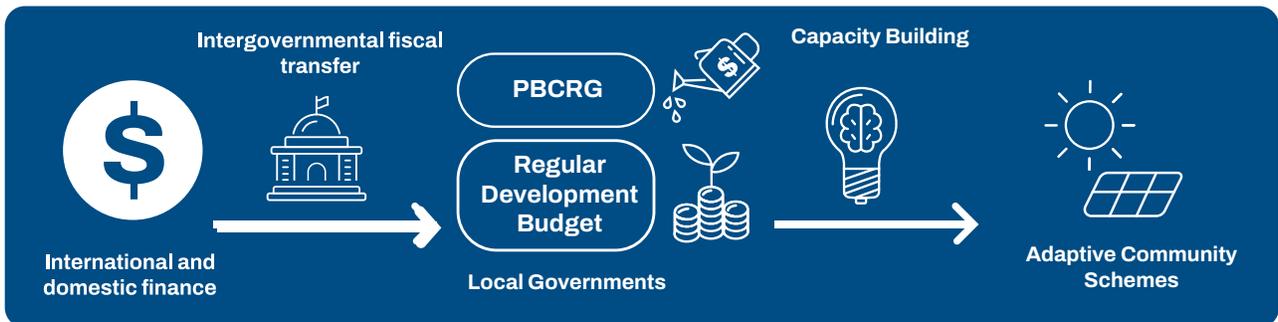
Community Resilience Fund:

Community Resilience Fund is a financing mechanism to build community resilience through the implementation of Climate Adaptive Livelihood Options (CALOs). This fund is utilized by the selected beneficiaries to engage in a climate adaptive business for sustainable livelihoods.



Performance-Based Climate Resilience Grant

The PBCRG is a financing mechanism for local government action on climate change adaptation. These are grants from the central government (represented in Bangladesh by the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, MLGRDC) to selected Union/Upazila Parishads, to finance local actions to build climate resilience. An example of such action is the installation of a 'Lightning Shed' in Sunamganj to prevent deaths caused by lightning in the Haor area.



PARUL BEGUM

Kurigram

My journey has been one of empowerment and rebellion, from my former identity as the 'Beyadop Meye' to that of the cherished 'Priyo Parul Apa'. With the help of LOGIC, my entrepreneurial journey—which started with only three sheep—has since evolved to encompass field agriculture and vegetable farming.

From being a climate victim, I now own a business that provides the essential feminine hygiene products that the women in our neighborhood sorely lack. I am pleased with our company's success and my attainment of self-sufficiency.

Through my work, I want to inspire village women to challenge societal norms and make a positive impact.



Photo: Prito Reza/UNDP

DULIA BEGUM

Barguna

I am Dulia Begum, a 40-year-old lady who has suffered because of the miseries the unrelenting river brought about in my home. I had to find safety at a nearby shelter facility after the flood destroyed my home and swept away my land. My challenges looked unwinnable because I couldn't talk and had poor hearing.

I had to sell my beloved goat in order to pay for immediate medical expenses and home repairs. I persisted and managed to progress in spite of my speech impairment. For a means of support, I began caring for and selling hens. In order to better support my family, I also started working as a seamstress.

My lovely son and daughter are under the care of my unwaveringly loving mother, even if I do not have a partner at my side. I put a high focus on their wellness. In my heart, I hold a dream of owning a cow.



Photo: Priti Reza/UNDP



Photo: UNDP Bangladesh

REZAUL KARIM

Khulna

I, Rezaul Karim Sardar, a 38-year-old, faced numerous hardships in my community. Living in an area plagued by limited access to safe drinking water, water logging, and frequent floods caused by the changing climate was a struggle, especially with a seasonal job and no stability. But I refused to be defeated. I employed my resourcefulness to purify salty water. Through this, I not only help those in need but also earn a regular income.

Harboring a dream of owning a stable home, I aspire to run a small shop, creating a sustainable source of income that will support both me and my loved ones.



Photo: Prito Reza/UNDP

KOLPONA DAS

Sunamganj

I am Kolpona Das, a 45-year-old lady who has repeatedly endured the ferocious fury of floods. My cow and I braved the weather together while seeking shelter in the same little room during those tough days. Due to my husband's lack of employment, I was forced to work as a day laborer, cutting rice and helping with household duties.

With the support of LOGIC, I began my entrepreneurial career three years ago with just three sheep, propelled by the unrelenting drive and directed by the force of reasoning. I increased my flock through tenacity and hard work, finally selling some to buy a boat. Now that my family, cows, and I all share a home with nine sheep, I can proudly tend to them.

My goal is to send my sons to university.



Photo: Priti Reza/UNDP

RAHIMA KHATUN

Khulna

My name is Rahima Khatun, and I am 35 years old. I have had to deal with flooding, river breaks, and the difficulties of being a climate refugee. But even with these challenges, I was able to persevere because I was committed to building a better future for my family and myself.

I began my business career with LOGIC's assistance with only a few sheep. I bought and sold sheep, goats, ducks, and other animals as I progressed in my business and took advantage of the possibilities that presented themselves. As a serial entrepreneur, I'm pleased to say that today I have food and safety since my fish farm is successful.

My journey serves as a shining example of the unwavering spirit of my tenacity and will that enabled me to fight against the challenges of a changing climate.



Photo: Prito Reza/UNDP





Photo: UNDP Bangladesh

JOHOR ALI

Sunamganj

I am Johor Ali, a resident of the haor area in Sunamganj. During the monsoon season, I used to lie awake at night, my heart heavy with worry, as my young son ventured out for fishing in the haor. I couldn't rest, plagued by thoughts of what might happen if a sudden storm struck, and he found himself without shelter, at risk of drowning in the rising waters or being struck by lightning.

But today, a newfound peace has settled in my heart. When my son sets out for fishing, I can sleep soundly, knowing there is a safe place in the haor. If he senses danger, he can seek refuge in the lightning shed provided by LoGIC, and that thought alone eases my fears.

In the summer while working in the field, farmers often get ill for not having water or having polluted water. The fear of lightning strikes while working in the fields haunted us because there was no refuge, no trees to shield us. For the lightning sheds with tube wells, we can now savor the taste of clean water and find solace in the shelter when rain and lightning strike.



Photo: Prito Reza/UNDP

SIMA MUNDA

Khulna

My name is Sima Munda, and I am a 28-year-old with just a third-grade level of education. When my home and fish farm were swept away by the unrelenting floodwaters in 2020, the terrible reality of climate change made me a victim. When I found myself homeless, I went to a cyclone center and stayed there for a whole year.

I sold fish and worked as a day laborer to make ends meet in order to survive. But a new chapter in my life started thanks to LOGIC's assistance. I started my own business and engaged in agricultural work, growing vegetables, and raising fish, amongst other activities.

I opened my own shop and steadily raised my social standing with the money I made from these endeavors. The goals I have for my daughter are endless; I hope she will become a doctor and overcome the constraints put on her by our situation.



Photo: Priti Reza/UNDP



Photo: UNDP Bangladesh

SHEULI RAI

Khulna

I am Sheuly Rai, an individual who has undergone a remarkable personal transformation. Starting as an HSC graduate, I have blossomed into a self-assured and compassionate community worker, leaving a positive impact on those around me. As a result of my unwavering dedication and involvement as a volunteer, I have not only uplifted my own life but have also touched the lives of my family and the wider community. I serve as a social auditor, auditing local schemes, providing feedback, and offering advice to maintain their effectiveness, ultimately contributing to the betterment of society.



Photo: Prito Reza/UNDP

GOLAM MIYA

Kurigram

My name is Golam Mia, and for the past three decades, my life has been intertwined with the rhythm of the land. Over roughly 150 bighas of land, I, along with fellow farmers, dedicated our days to tending crops that sustained our livelihoods. For years, rice dominated these fields until LoGIC's intervention subtly transformed the landscape, replacing every square inch with the vivid and vibrant yellow of mustard.

Before the installation of these pipe culverts, we grappled with the limitations of water, resulting in meager paddy harvests that left us wanting. However, thanks to the intervention, our land is now rejuvenated, and an unexpected blessing has unfolded before us.

Our toil is now rewarded in ways we never imagined. The yield per hectare has surged, and so have our incomes. An additional 50-60,000 Taka per hectare has graced our lives, making our efforts feel truly valued. The land now generously rewards us for the care we provide.



Photo: UNDP Bangladesh



Photo: Prito Reza/UNDP

NAJLIMA KHATUN

Bagerhat

I am Najlima Khatun, a 39-year-old woman who defied societal standards and norms. I took it upon myself to provide for my family's necessities because my husband was unable to work. I balanced working on a little sewing machine with teaching tuition to put food on the table.

I experienced the severe effects of floods as a climate victim, having my home flooded. But did not let my circumstances define me.

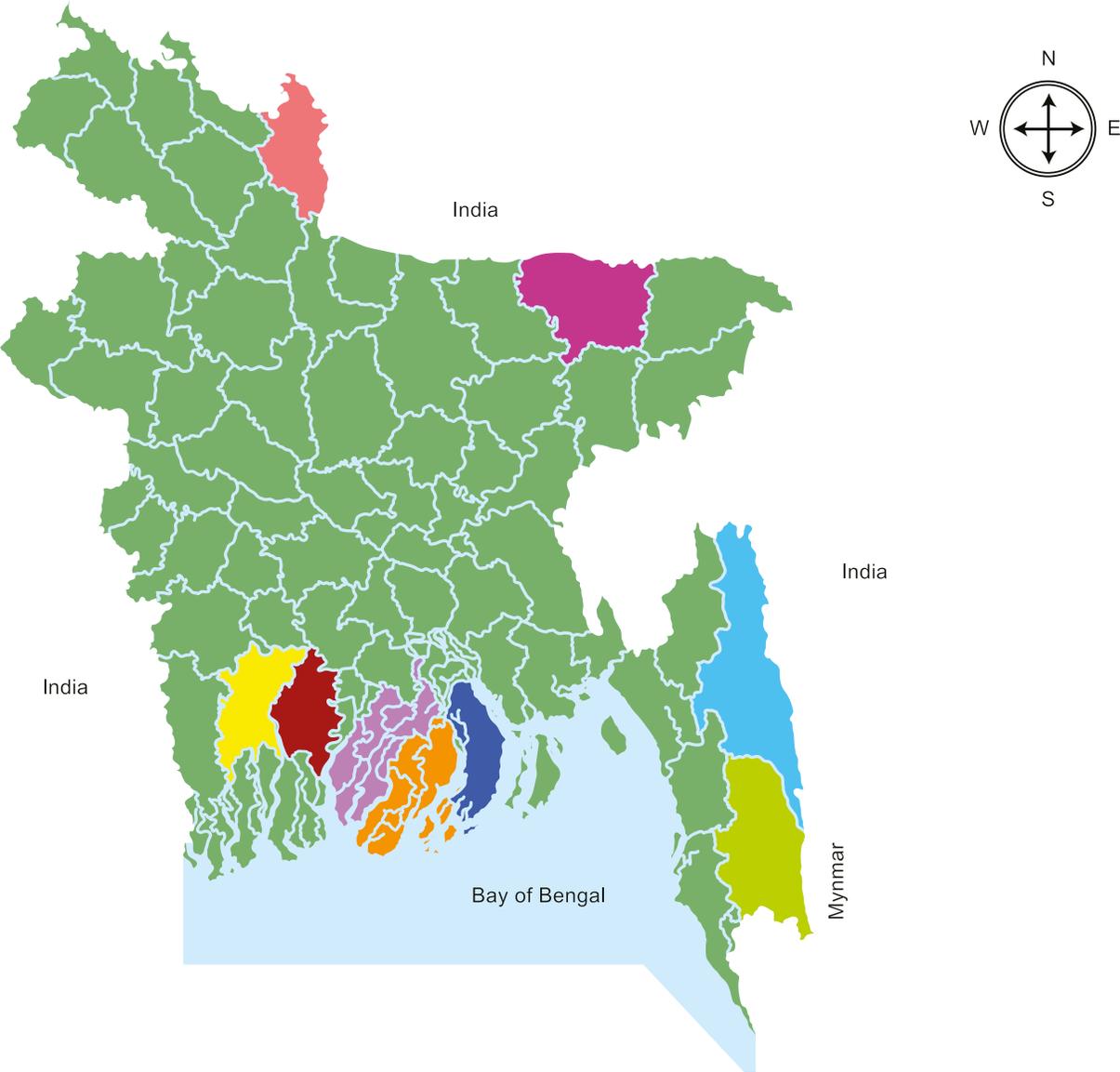
With the support of LOGIC, I started my own business, first selling chicks and ducks and then going on to selling quail, goats, and cows. Because of my perseverance and hard efforts, my family is doing well today. Because of the steadiness that my income has given me, I was even able to buy my husband an easy bike.

My story challenges the deeply ingrained stereotypes in our society, proving that both men and women are capable of taking on responsibilities and contributing to their families' well-being.



Photo: Prito Reza/UNDP

LoGIC WORKING AREAS



- | | | |
|---|--|---|
|  Kurigram |  Barguna |  Rangamati |
|  Sunamganj |  Patuakhali |  Districts in Bangladesh |
|  Khulna |  Bhola | |
|  Bagerhat |  Bandarban | |

Local Government Initiative on Climate Change (LoGIC) Project

IDB Bhaban (Level 8) E/8-A, Begum Rokeya Sharani
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh
www.logicbd.org, www.bd.undp.org



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