



Policy, Planning, and Finance Sector Brief Bangladesh

Introduction

The rising threat of climate-related hazards is already being witnessed with increasing severity and frequency of disasters occurring in South Asia.

According to the World Bank, between 1990 and 2019, climate-induced disasters in South Asia affected 1.68 billion people, killed approximately 267,000 and caused over US\$127 billion in economic losses.

The region's endeavor to achieve sustainable growth and reduce poverty is often hampered due to the impacts of climate change on people's livelihoods, food security and health. A World Bank study has warned that, without climate change adaptation, 800 million (or 44 percent) people in South Asia will be living in moderate or severe climate hotspots by 2050 which will push millions of people below the poverty line.

The negative effects of extreme weather and climate events also undermine productivity in key economic sectors such as agriculture, transport, energy, and manufacturing, with limited adaptive capacity in these countries causing further constraints on their development prospects.

Overview of climate change in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change due to a combination of geographical and socio-economic factors, including its low-lying delta and coastal areas, high population

density, poverty level, and lack of resilient infrastructure. Rural and coastal communities have been exposed to climate-induced extreme events, such as erratic rainfall, flooding, drought, sea-level rise, cyclones and salinity intrusion. Consequently, disasters have exacerbated migration to cities, resulting in unplanned and rapid urbanization in the country.

In response, the Government of Bangladesh has placed high priority on building the country's capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Bangladesh has identified six thematic areas, including agriculture and food security; human wellbeing; water resources; disaster risk management; and infrastructure, to invest in and mobilize climate services through corresponding programs to function within a 'multi-institutional architecture'.

Yet, institutional challenges to climate change adaptation prevail particularly in developing an integrated approach to transform climate change vulnerabilities into adaptation opportunities and mainstreaming them into development programs at sub-national levels.

Climate change and policy, planning, and finance sector

Bangladesh has made progress on climate change and adaptation planning since 2005 by being one of the first least developed countries to submit its National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA). In 2009, Bangladesh updated its NAPA with additional projects and developed the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) 2009–2018, establishing short, medium, and long-term projects. To financially support the implementation of the BCCSAP,

the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF) was established in 2009 and has disbursed over US\$400 million for over 400 projects focused on the thematic areas of the BCCSAP.

Submitted in 2015, the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) of Bangladesh were in line with the Roadmap for Developing a National Action Plan (NAP) for Bangladesh which establishes the process of advancing its formulation and advancement, focused on medium to long-term adaptation investments and capacities to integrate climate adaptation in planning, budgeting and financial tracking process.

To mobilize climate finance, the Bangladesh Climate Fiscal Framework (BCCF) and the Climate Public Finance Tracking in Bangladesh were developed in 2014 and 2018, respectively. These instruments serve the primary function of reporting climate finance flows, improving governance of climate finance, facilitating assessment of climate investments, and supporting the design of climate resilience projects.

CARE for South Asia Project

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) are jointly implementing a five-year (2020-2025) regional project called *Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CARE)* for South Asia with support from the World Bank.

The project's overall objective is to contribute to an enabling environment for climate resilience policies and investments in agriculture, transport, water, and policy, planning and finance sectors in South Asia. With a regional outreach, the national-level activities will initially be implemented in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan.

ADPC is implementing the second component of the project which focuses on enhancing policies, standards, and capacities for climate-resilient

development in South Asia. It also seeks to promote the transformation of policies, standards and institutional capacities for climate-resilient development across the key sectors.

ADPC will facilitate high-level dialogues, develop climate-resilient guidelines, and promote innovation and adoption of disruptive technology at national and regional levels.

Support to implement climate resilience priorities

The CARE for South Asia project directly links its implementation with the pillars of the BCCSAP, as highlighted in the updated NAPA. The common objectives of the BCCSAP and NAPA are to incorporate potential adaptation measures into overall policy-making and planning processes to promote sustainable and climate-resilient development activities.

There are numerous studies, tools, frameworks and plans on climate policy, planning, and financing such as the Climate Change Public Expenditure and Institutional Review (CPEIR). Conducted in 2012, it prompts the need for CARE for South Asia project to revalidate and coordinate another review which will lead to updating the current climate fiscal framework. The review will continue to focus on the core aspects of climate financing encompassing institutional arrangements for promoting the integration of climate change policy priorities into budgeting and expenditure management, and integration of climate change objectives within the budgeting process.

In addition, the project will address select objectives from the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Act (BCCT Act), highlighting the importance of finance and investment in climate adaptation actions. The BCCT Act supports the preparation, adoption and implementation of the BCCSAP by the BCCTF to address the financial risk of climate change. It is an annual allocation from the revenue budget of the government created entirely from the domestic funding source.



The project will continue to support the process of climate finance and investments including enhancing and integrating the BCFF into the national planning and budgeting processes and supporting in increasing access to the international climate finance mechanisms. The Bangladesh NDCs take specific climate finance-related activities into account. This includes reviewing the current climate finance landscape, assessing climate finance readiness and gaps, and devising an appropriate climate finance strategy for the country.

Support to implement policy, planning, and finance sector priorities

The project will support the updating of the CPEIR and other instruments in Bangladesh that will result in a National Action Plan for Climate and Disaster Risk Informed Investments which is supplemented by an appraisal and approval framework for climate and disaster risk informed investments.

In addition, the conduct of a Climate Change Fiscal Risk Analysis will help develop an action

plan for climate-related fiscal risk mitigation measures. These two activities will enhance and update the BCFF for the implementation by the Ministry of Finance (MoF).

These activities are prerequisites for supporting the development of National Guidelines on Climate Finance and Planning. The guidelines will support training on climate-resilient and adaptive policy-making, design and solutions for the policy, planning and finance sector as well as other priority sectors: transport, water and agriculture. The project will provide a series of trainings for the policy and budget officers in the MoF; the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Climate Change (MoEFCC); and other relevant government ministries to enhance their capacities to prioritize investment and determine tax incentives and subsidies with additional investments for climate resilience.

Indicated as a need under the BCCSAP and the NDC, the project will also be providing technical support to MoEFCC in gaining accreditation for national/sub-national entities to access the Green Climate Fund and other international climate finance mechanisms.

The provision of technical support to MoF and planning for climate-informed macro-level analysis, modeling, and climate-informed fiscal risk management will not be a one-off activity as this support can be sustained throughout the project.

Special attention will be paid to supporting the Climate Change and Gender Action Plan which focuses on gender-specific issues as well as innovative action plans to enhance resilience-building efforts for women and men in every community. Given the inclusion of the cross-cutting issues and considerations in the project, addressing climate resilience strategies and investment plans with a clear, gender-informed approach will aid in building the capacities of women and women's organizations championing the value of gender equality.

Efforts to strengthen institutional and planning capacity will include creating climate-smart institutions, governance and finance systems and establishing a mechanism to support national level centers of excellence and universities for technical collaboration with line ministries in Bangladesh. Furthermore, the project will support climate cells in relevant government departments as well as the Regional Global Center on Adaptation in Dhaka.

Expected outcomes

The project will develop a National Action Plan for Climate and Disaster Risk Informed Investments, supplemented with the design of a framework for appraisal and approval of climate-related fiscal-risk mitigation measures. An implementation plan will be developed for the BCFF and national guidelines on finance and planning. The project is expected to enhance climate risk management solutions through capacity building and technical support.

Similarly, capacity building of focal points from different government agencies will help them better understand the climate-resilient and adaptive policy making, design, and solutions. Climate-informed macro-level analysis, modeling, and climate-informed fiscal risk management strategies will be developed in coordination with the MoF, and the Bangladesh Planning Commission.

Envisioned achievements from the support and interventions in the country include the adoption of technology solutions to climate change; creation of climate smart institutions, governance, and finance; and establishment of a mechanism to support national-level centers of excellence and universities for a long-term and scaled-up technical collaboration.

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Policy, Planning, and Finance Sector Brief Nepal

Introduction

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According to the World Bank, between 1990 and 2019, climate-induced disasters in South Asia affected 1.68 billion people, killed approximately 267,000 and caused over US\$127 billion in economic losses.

The region's endeavor to achieve sustainable growth and reduce poverty is often hampered due to the impacts of climate change on people's livelihoods, food security and health. A World Bank study has warned that, without climate change adaptation, 800 million (or 44 percent) people in South Asia will be living in moderate or severe climate hotspots by 2050 which will push millions of people below the poverty line.

The negative effects of extreme weather and climate events also undermine productivity in key economic sectors such as agriculture, transport, energy, and manufacturing, with limited adaptive capacity in these countries causing further constraints on their development prospects.

Overview of climate change in Nepal

Nepal is highly vulnerable to climate change mainly because of its challenging topography and diversity of climate zones, fragile socio-economic conditions and sensitive ecosystems. In addition, poverty and social disparity as

well as people's natural resources-based livelihoods have made Nepal more vulnerable towards the impacts of climate change.

Being fully aware of the challenging tasks to build a climate resilient society, the Government of Nepal has undertaken several actions for addressing climate change and has also been actively participating in global efforts to responding to climate change adaptation.

Yet, institutional challenges to climate change adaptation prevail particularly in developing an integrated approach to transform climate change vulnerabilities into adaptation opportunities and mainstream them into development programs at sub-national levels.

Climate change: policy, planning, and finance sector

Nepal formulated and implemented its Climate Change Policy in 2011. Following the federalization process under the 2015 Constitution, Nepal developed a new and more comprehensive policy to take emerging needs into account. The 2015 Constitution restructured the state and distributed powers among three tiers of government—federal, state, and local—which prompted the reformulation of Nepal's Climate Change Policy (NCCP) in 2019.

The revised Climate Change Policy provides a comprehensive description on the roles and responsibilities of the three tiers of the government in addressing climate issues in their planning process.

The revised policy and the new Constitution also paved the way to reformulate the 2011 National Framework on local adaptation plans of action (LAPAs). The NCCP and the 2019 version of LAPAs are envisioned to meet local people's adaptation

needs and to integrate climate resilience into the local and national planning systems.

To financially support climate projects, Nepal's Climate Change Financing Framework (CCFF) was formulated in 2017 with the objectives to plan and manage climate finance, track the quality of expenditures and strengthen accountability in the expenditures reporting.

The CCFF is considered critical to institutionalizing climate change into national planning and budgeting processes, and its activities are coded referring to the Climate Change Budget Code of 2017, according to its relevance to climate change.

CARE for South Asia Project

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The project's overall objective is to contribute to an enabling environment for climate resilience policies and investments in agriculture, transport, water, and policy, planning and finance sectors in South Asia. With a regional outreach, the national-level activities will initially be implemented in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan.

ADPC is implementing the second component of the project which focuses on enhancing policies, standards, and capacities for climate-resilient development in South Asia. It also seeks to promote the transformation of policies, standards and institutional capacities for climate-resilient development across the key sectors.

ADPC will facilitate high-level dialogues, develop climate-resilient guidelines, and promote innovation and adoption of disruptive technology at national and regional levels.

Support to implement climate resilience priorities

In Nepal, CARE for South Asia project will support the operationalization of the Climate Change Policy, NAP, the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and the Climate Change Gender Action Plan (CCGAP) for enhancing the country's climate resilience.

Climate change is currently treated as a cross-cutting development issue that recognizes the need to access climate finance for the implementation of CCA programs.

The National Planning Commission (NPC) of Nepal has developed its Climate Resilient Planning Framework which envisions a society and economy resilient to climate change impacts and includes a format for screening plans, assessment of support, and institutional systems.

Following a robust federalization process, the country updated its National Framework on Local Adaptation Plans for Action in 2019 under the mandate of the Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoFE), which outlines a process for local adaptation planning to deliver adaptation services to climate-vulnerable areas. It also includes the assessment and prioritization of adaptation options integrated into local development planning.

In line with the Government of Nepal Policy Note for Transition to Federalism 2019, which highlighted key areas of capacity building needs within the government, the CARE for South Asia project will support the government in enhancing these capacities in the areas of climate change adaptation and resilience.

The project will also provide support to the Ministry of Finance (MoF) in enhancing the climate public expenditures through an updated CCFF to ensure that it is in line with the new federal governance systems and is rolled out for a pilot province. A Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review (CPEIR) developed by the Government of Nepal in 2011 will be updated and validated by reviewing functional unbundling of roles and responsibilities of the three tiers of government and their institutional arrangements in mainstreaming disaster



reduction and climate change into Nepal's planning and budgeting systems.

Support to implement policy, planning, and finance sector priorities

In line with the national priorities on climate change, the project will be supporting the following:

- i. Development of an implementation plan to roll out the climate change financing framework in the select province.
- ii. Roll out climate change provisions in provinces where training will be conducted for local governments on climate change adaptation, expenditures, budgeting and resilience in support of the federalization process.
- iii. Strengthen the capacity of Forest Research and Training Center toward establishing it as a center of excellence in climate change.
- iv. Documentation and dissemination of traditional climate resilient and adaptive knowledge and technology solutions.

Under the new LAPA framework, the MoFE and the NPC have planned to formulate over 700 LAPAs at the municipal level over the next five years. In order to support this ambitious plan, the project will develop a roster of LAPA volunteers in a pilot province to support the development of a national mechanism for monitoring and standardizing climate volunteerism under MoFE. This proposed approach is envisioned to equip MoFE with necessary human resources by building the capacity of volunteers and enhancing their required skills and capacity to conduct training in other provinces, supporting the short-term and long-term plans of MoFE in formulating LAPAs.

Introduced by the MoF in 2012, the Climate Change Budget Code tracks budget allocations to climate-relevant programs and projects. In line with the country's transition to federalism, the Code will be introduced at the provincial level through the project and will support the capacity building of officials in the province.

Through a consultative process with the MoF, MoFE, and NPC which will be supplemented by a national appraisal and approval framework for climate and disaster risk informed investments, the project will also develop a National Action Plan for Climate and Disaster Risk Informed Investments in Nepal by utilizing the existing CPEIR to sequence activities and identify gaps in the action plan.

In addition to a series of training on climate public finance and disaster risk financing and insurance, development of guidelines on budgeting for disaster risk reduction (DRR) at federal, provincial and local governments level will be carried out to support the implementation of National Policy for DRR which is in line with the development of national guidelines on climate finance and planning.

Expected outcomes

The project will develop a National Action Plan for Climate and Disaster Risk Informed Investments, supplemented with an appraisal and approval framework and design of climate-related fiscal-risk mitigation measures. Through the 2019 LAPA Framework, the project will formulate LAPAs in one pilot province and develop an implementation plan on how to roll out the CCFF at the provincial level.

The project will adapt MoFE's climate change budgeting and planning guidelines for priority sectors and conduct a series of trainings which will result in increased understanding on climate-resilience and adaptive policy making, design and solutions. Through the provided technical support, the project envisions the climate-informed macro-level analysis, modeling, and climate-informed fiscal risk management is enabled for the MoF.

Similarly, technical assistance in the accreditation process for national and sub-national entities will be provided for the country to gain access to international climate finance such as the Green Climate Fund. Capacity development activities will also target local governments on their climate change adaptation, expenditures, budgeting and resilience building.

Further outcomes and achievements expected in the country will include the adoption of technology solutions to climate change; creation of climate smart institutions, governance, and finance systems; and a mechanism established to support national-level centers of excellence and universities for a long-term and scaled-up technical collaboration.

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The negative effects of extreme weather and climate events also undermine productivity in key economic sectors such as agriculture, transport, energy, and manufacturing, with limited adaptive capacity in these countries causing further constraints on their development prospects.

Overview of climate change in Pakistan

With economically and culturally diverse population living in different climate zones, topographies, and ecosystems, Pakistan is especially vulnerable to weather and the impacts climate change including, sea

intrusion, erratic rainfall, glacial melting, rising temperatures and drought.

As noted in Pakistan's Initial National Communication on Climate Change, there is a strong need to improve information sharing, education and training, as well as technical and scientific research in order to articulate an effective adaptation plan. In recent years, the country has undertaken policies and actions for addressing climate change and has also been actively participating in global efforts to responding to climate change adaptation.

Yet, institutional challenges to climate change adaptation prevail particularly in developing an integrated approach to transform climate change vulnerabilities into adaptation opportunities and mainstream them into development programs at sub-national levels.

Climate change and policy, planning, and finance sector

Pakistan has made significant progress in institutionalization and legislation on climate change in recent years, such as the enactment of the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) of 2013 and its supporting Framework for Implementation (2013 – 2030), and the Climate Change Act in 2017. Particularly, the Framework for Implementation of NCCP is expected to serve as a basis to prepare the local adaptation plan of action (LAPAs), the National Adaptation Plans (NAP), and the Second National Communication on Climate Change. Climate change is considered a cross-cutting and multi-sectoral issue. And the Ministry of Climate Change (MOCC) is mandated to coordinate climate change actions across key ministries.

The second iteration of a Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review

(CPEIR), produced in 2017, recommends the need to strengthen climate response by integrating climate change adaptation into budgetary and planning processes of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (MoPDSI). Further, MoPDSI has a detailed guidebook for planning wings, such as appraising climate change components in the Planning Commission Proforma for Development Projects Forms (PC Forms). Pakistan has also developed a roadmap to systematically mainstream climate change concerns into public economic and financial management in the form of a Climate Change Financing Framework (CCFF) in 2017.

Support to implement climate resilience priorities

The project supports the application of the Framework for the implementation of NCCP of Pakistan which outlines vulnerabilities of various sectors to climate change and identifies appropriate adaptation and mitigation actions. The Framework for Implementation serves as a catalyst for mainstreaming climate change into decision-making at national and sub-national levels and creating an enabling environment for an integrated climate-compatible development process, including the facilitation and effective use of climate finance available in the country and internationally. It focuses on gender sensitive adaptation to ensure that the project supports climate actions while strengthening gender equality.

The project directly provides support on mainstreaming of climate change adaptation into decision-making, monitoring, and evaluation to facilitate the implementation of Pakistan's Climate Change Act 2017 and NAP. Training and capacity-building activities aimed at increasing the government's access to international funding, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), are an essential part of the project. It will also support the adoption of climate-smart technology solutions in the country.

Primarily, the project provides advisory support to MoPDSI and MoF in identifying, prioritizing and designing policy initiatives and reforms to enhance mainstreaming of climate resilience in policy, planning and budgeting practices. This includes designing an efficient performance-oriented domestic budgeting which not only integrates climate risks and reduces emissions but also creates an enabling environment to align international and private financial flows. The project will also work with the Climate Finance Unit of the MoCC, especially on the operationalization of the climate change financing framework to enhance the public finance management capacities of MoCC and key sectors.

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Support to implement policy, planning, and finance sector priorities

Utilizing the fiscal-risk analysis tool developed by the World Bank, MoPDSI and MoF will be supported with a fiscal sustainability assessment designed to help construct probable paths of key fiscal variables—the budget balance, debt stock and debt service costs in the face of climate-related shocks and under alternatives strategies for financing responses to climate shocks. The simulations will provide information that will facilitate appropriate policy measures to mitigate fiscal risks from climate change. To operationalize the CCFF and support the utilization of CPEIR, a comprehensive policy, institutional and public expenditure and financial management analysis will be conducted to establish inter-ministerial and departmental coordination, investment appraisal, and approval framework.

The project will support the formulation of the National Action Plan for Climate and Disaster Risk Informed Investments in Pakistan and

develop national guidelines for Pakistan on climate finance and planning with support from the MoCC, MoPDSI, and MoF. These Ministries will be providing critical oversight to ensure that the National Action Plan for Risk Informed investments is closely linked to existing policies, strategies, and frameworks and is part of the long-term objectives of the country's climate change strategy and implementation plan.

In addition, the project will conduct a series of capacity building activities on CCA, public policy and finance to support and build the institutional capacities of MoCC, MoPDSI, and MoF. The activities will establish tailored technical training programs such as monitoring and evaluation of adaptation activities in selected sectors, climate vulnerability assessment, and accessing international climate finance.

The project envisions an e-learning system to be developed specifically for Pakistan with a focus on CCA, public policy and finance, which would be supported by key research institutes such as the Global Change Impact Studies

Center (GCISC). Moreover, the project will seek to collaborate with international institutes such as the Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN) and other local expertise to ensure that the exercise continues to be a nationally-driven process. This activity will promote the adoption of climate smart technologies by supporting the innovation ecosystem such as incubators, start-ups, and SMEs.

To ensure this, the project will support the creation of climate-smart institution, governance and finance in Pakistan by establishing climate cells relevant government departments in selected provinces. With an emphasis on institutional and planning capacity, the project will strengthen inter or intra-agency operational coordination and climate-smart local governance.

Expected outcomes

The project will strengthen the country's capacity towards risk - informed planning and investments, supplemented with an appraisal and approval framework. The climate indicators incorporated into the decision support system will enhance the country's planning process such as the use of PC forms with MoPDSI. Climate public financing mechanisms will also be improved through the CCFF implementation plan formulated for MoF.

The project will be providing implementation support to climate risk management solutions, which will focus on capacity building and other forms of technical support.

To achieve this, a series of trainings will focus on increasing understanding on climate-resilience and adaptive policy making, design and solutions. The project also envisions that the climate-informed macro-level analysis, modeling, and fiscal risk management is enabled for the MoPDSI and MoF. The project will further ensure that national and sub-national entities strengthen their capacity to gain access to international climate finance, in particular, in the accreditation process for the entities to access Green Climate Fund.

Further outcomes and achievements will include the adoption of technology solutions to climate change; creation of climate smart institutions, governance, and finance systems; and an established mechanism to support national-level centers of excellence and universities for a long-term and scaled up technical collaboration.

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