

# Conference Proceedings



## Proceedings on

# First Annual National Conference on Urban Resilience

17-19 December 2016, Dhaka, Bangladesh

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**ICCCAD**

International Centre for  
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This publication is based upon the outcomes of the three days First Annual National Conference on Urban Resilience and has been compiled from the notes taken by the respective rapporteurs. The publication is a summary from the organizers point of view, and does not necessarily express the views of each individual participant.

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# 1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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ICCCAD is grateful to the organizers and cosponsors who made the conference a grand success. ICCCAD is also thankful to all moderators, session chairs, panelists, participants who attended in the three daylong conference from December 17th to 19th December 2016.

ICCCAD wants to thank all the rapporteurs and volunteers for their spontaneous participation and hard work for turning out this conference a successful one.

## 2 ABBREVIATIONS

ACCCRN	Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network
ACCNLDP	Adaptation to Climate Change into the National and Local Development Planning
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AR5	Fifth Assessment Report of IPCC
BCAS	Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies
BIP	Bangladesh Institute of Planners
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
BRDB	Bangladesh Rural Development Board
BPCL	Bangladesh Petrochemical Company Limited
BRUP	Building Resilience of the Urban Poor
BUF	Bangladesh Urban Forum
CARE	Corporative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CCED	Climate Change, Environment and Disaster
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
COP22	Conference of Parties 22
CCVAs	Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments
CRS	Climate Resilience Strategy
DoE	Department of Environment
DMCC	Disaster Management and Climate Change
DPHE	Department of Public Health and Engineering
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GED	General Economic Division
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
HFHB	Habitat for Humanity Bangladesh
ICCCAD	International Centre for Climate Change and Development
IAP	ICLEI ACCCRN Process
IDMVS	Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies
IDS	Institute of Development Studies, UK
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IUB	Independent University, Bangladesh

IWFM	Institute of Water and Flood Management
KCC	Khulna City Corporation
LGED	Local Government Engineering Department
LGIs	Local Government Institutes
LGNET	Local Government Network
MoDMR	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
MoEF	Ministry of Environment and Forest
NGOs	Non-government Organizations
NUPRP	National Urban Poverty Reduction Program
PET	Polyethylene Terephthalate
PIP	Participatory Identification of the Poor
PRA	Participatory Research Appraisal
PROKAS	Promoting Knowledge for Accountable Systems
RMG	Readymade Garments
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SLDs	Shared Learning Dialogues
SREDA	Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority
STP	Strategic Transportation Plan
UDD	Urban Development Directorate
UDP	Urban Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UPPR	Urban Poverty Reduction programme
VERC	Village Education Resource Center
WCED	World Commission on Environment and Development

## 3 BACKGROUND

### 3.1 URBAN RESILIENCE CONFERENCE

The First Annual National Conference on Urban Resilience was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh during 17-19 December, 2016. The pioneering event was organized by the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) at the Independent University Bangladesh (IUB), and Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN), Bangladesh. Over 500 participants and different stakeholders from different government, private sector entities, NGOs, donor organizations, INGOs, academics and local communities assembled under one roof in the three daylong conference at the Spectra Convention Centre to explore effective and targeted solutions in the context of urban development. The main aim of this conference was to advance and implement the Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG), which is to foster sustainable cities and communities in Bangladesh.

Globally, the majority of the population lives in urban areas and it is estimated that by 2050, more than two thirds of the world's population will reside in cities. In comparison with rural areas, cities are now contributing more to GDP; providing new livelihood opportunities, better housing, education, health, security and other facilities. However, much of the key climate risks are concentrated in urban areas (AR5, IPCC). Thus, the huge influx of population results in unplanned urbanization in developing countries and generates risks of profound social instability, risks to critical infrastructure and is multiplying vulnerability to disasters. Climate change will exacerbate the already severe environmental problems and threaten the living conditions required to meet the challenges of rapid urbanization. Sensitive to natural and anthropogenic disasters, urban areas are becoming more susceptible to external shocks and stresses. Urban climate change-related risks are increasing, including rising sea levels, cyclones, extreme precipitation, flooding, water logging, salinity intrusion, heat stress, landslides, and drought. This has negative socio-economic repercussions which affect people and their health, livelihoods, and assets; local and national economies and ecosystems, as well as infrastructure. The problem is more acute to the socially or economically marginalized groups of the population because of their high exposure to hazards, or a lower ability to adapt and respond due to physical limitations or financial capacity.

Bangladesh has one of the highest population densities and the highest urban population growth rate in the world. Around 30% population live in cities in Bangladesh and by 2050, it will be more than 50%. This population growth and rapid urbanization tend to follow an unplanned pattern, making Bangladesh a disaster prone country. The complexities of urban risks demand a special focus within the new framework of action to absorb disasters and shocks, as well as to build capacities for restoring the urban system to pre-shock levels. Therefore, it is important to know cities' current status of resilience and planning, identify the knowledge gap regarding resilience and how to reduce that gap.

Relevant government and non-government organizations, policy makers, academics and communities have valuable knowledge and experience but information sharing within or amongst them have been sparse. Adequate knowledge of how such risks are interconnected in their emergence at the city level is the first step towards helping cities build resilience. In order to develop a framework for the integration of urban resilience into mainstream policy, development plans, and everyday decision making, there is a need to undertake necessary action within appropriate timeframes. Initiating this conference was an effective tool which managed to bring together diverse departments and sectors to identify appropriate measures for preparedness, response, and recovery.

### **3.2 OBJECTIVES**

The First Annual National Conference on Urban Resilience had the following objectives, to be achieved through interactive discussions:

- Identifying knowledge gaps and exploring means to bridge those gaps
- Investigating methods to build public and private partnerships with the inclusion of Community Based Organizations (CBO)
- Identifying relevant strategies and action plans to address and overcome the challenges of urbanization and to absorb shocks from disasters
- Finding pathways for diverse sectors to achieve SDGs by 2030
- Creating a knowledge sharing platform for a diverse range of leading stakeholders (governmental and non-governmental) to voice their expert opinions, proposals, analysis and aspirations on urban resilience issues

### **3.3 OUTCOME**

Involving various stakeholders including urban experts and policymakers from national, regional and global levels has brought wider expertise and enabled knowledge dissemination. This conference helped in enhancing the scope of public and private partnerships with inclusive CBOs in building city-level reliance. Eventually, this will help in creating a knowledge sharing network to document and record experiences from time to time; acting as an important resource for formulating policies on relevant issues and implementing respective action plans through informed advocacy. This conference proceedings document has been prepared and widely distributed for knowledge dissemination beyond the conference. ICCCAD has pledged to organize this national conference on urban resilience annually in Bangladesh.














## 4 BIOGRAPHIES

	<p><b>Professor M. Omar Rahman</b> Vice Chancellor, Independent University, Bangladesh</p> <p><i>Special Guest, Inaugural Session</i></p>		<p><b>Dr. Saleemul Huq</b> Director, ICCCAD at IUB</p> <p><i>Session Chair, Inaugural Session; Panelist, PSA1; Session Chair, PSC1; Speaker, Concluding session</i></p>
	<p><b>Dr. Atiq Rahman</b> Executive Director, BCAS</p> <p><i>Special Guest, Inaugural Session; Session Chair, Concluding Session</i></p>		<p><b>John I. Carruthers, Ph.D.</b>, Director, Sustainable Urban Planning Program College of Professional Studies, The George Washington University</p> <p><i>Keynote presenter, inaugural session</i></p>
	<p><b>Ina Islam</b> Deputy Director, ICCCAD at IUB</p> <p><i>Welcome address, inaugural session</i></p>		<p><b>A.K.M Musha</b> Country Director, Concern Worldwide Bangladesh</p> <p><i>Facilitator, first plenary session</i></p>
	<p><b>Kazi Maruful Islam, PhD</b>, Professor, Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka</p> <p><i>Keynote presenter, first plenary session</i></p>		<p><b>Mostafa Quaium Khan</b> Adviser, Bangladesh Urban Forum</p> <p><i>Panelist, first plenary session; Panelist, PSA3; Session chair, second plenary session</i></p>
	<p><b>Masudul Haque</b> Chief Social Welfare Officer, Dhaka North City Corporation</p> <p><i>Panelist, first plenary session</i></p>		<p><b>Shishir Shil</b> Secretary General, All Party Parliamentary Group, Bangladesh Parliament</p> <p><i>Panelist, first plenary session</i></p>
	<p><b>Dr. Mahbuba Nasreen</b> Professor &amp; Director, Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies, University of Dhaka</p> <p><i>Panelist, PSA1; Panelist, PSA2</i></p>		<p><b>John William Taylor</b> International Project Manager, National Urban Poverty Reduction Programme, UNDP</p> <p><i>Panelist, PSA1</i></p>

	<p><b>Khurshid Alam</b> Assistant Country Director, UNDP Bangladesh</p> <p><i>Session chair, PSA1</i></p>		<p><b>Mr. Ashekur Rahman</b> Urban Programme Analyst, UNDP</p> <p><i>Panelist, PSA2</i></p>
	<p><b>Professor Shamim Mahbulul Haque</b> Khulna University</p> <p><i>Panelist, PSA2</i></p>		<p><b>Dr. Mehrul Islam</b> Director –Program Evidence, Advocacy, Research &amp; Learning (PEARL), CARE Bangladesh</p> <p><i>Session chair, PSA2</i></p>
	<p><b>Md. Abul Bashar</b> Senior Manager-Program Implementation &amp; Innovation, HFHI-B</p> <p><i>Panelist, PSA3</i></p>		<p><b>Prof. Dr. Md. Shahidul Ameen</b> Architecture Department, BUET</p> <p><i>Keynote speaker, PSA3</i></p>
	<p><b>Dr. Nurul Islam Nazem</b> Professor of Geography and Environment, University of Dhaka and Honorary Secretary, Centre for Urban Studies</p> <p><i>Panelist, PSA3</i></p>		<p><b>John Armstrong</b> National Director, HFHI-B</p> <p><i>Session chair, PSA3; Special guest, concluding session</i></p>
	<p><b>Mr. S. M. Mehedi Ahsan</b> Sector Specialist for Resilience Cities, KfW</p> <p><i>Panelist, second plenary session</i></p>		<p><b>Sarder Shafiqul Alam</b> Coordinator, Urban Climate Change Programme, ICCCAD at IUB ; Country Coordinator, ACCCRN-ICCCAD Bangladesh</p> <p><i>Panelist, second plenary session; Facilitator, third plenary session</i></p>
	<p><b>Mr. Shamim Al Razi</b> Secretary General, Local Government Network (LGNET), Bangladesh</p> <p><i>Panelist, second plenary session</i></p>		<p><b>Terry Cannon</b> Research Fellow, Climate Change and Development, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), UK</p> <p><i>Keynote speaker, third plenary session</i></p>
	<p><b>Dr. Dwijendra Lal Mallick</b> Fellow, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS)</p> <p><i>Facilitator, third plenary session</i></p>		<p><b>Palash Mondal</b> Coordinator: Resilience and Climate Change, Team Leader – Building Resilience of the Urban Poor project, CARE Bangladesh</p> <p><i>Facilitator, third plenary session</i></p>

	<p><b>Mohammad Abdul Qayyum</b> Director General, Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB)</p> <p><i>Session chair, third plenary session</i></p>		<p><b>K.M. Nurul Huda</b> Chairman, Waste Management Expert Foundation</p> <p><i>Session chair, PSB1</i></p>
	<p><b>Hasin Jahan</b> Country Director, Practical Action Bangladesh</p> <p><i>Moderator, PSB1</i></p>		<p><b>Abdur Rob</b> Head of Food, Agriculture and Markets Programme, Practical Action Bangladesh</p> <p><i>Presenter, PSB1</i></p>
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	<p><b>Khadem Mahmud Yusuf</b> Managing Director and CEO, Bangladesh Petrochemical Company Ltd.</p> <p><i>Presenter, PSB1</i></p>		<p><b>Mr. Rajeev Munankami</b> SNV Netherlands Development Organization</p> <p><i>Panelist, PSB1</i></p>
	<p><b>Tazkin Ahmed Chisty</b> Mayor, Shatkhira Municipality</p> <p><i>Panelist, PSB1 and Panelist PSB2</i></p>		<p><b>Mr. Hans-Joachim Hermann</b> Programme Coordinator, Urban Projects in Climate Change Adaptation, GIZ</p> <p><i>Keynote speaker, PSB2</i></p>
	<p><b>Dr. Md. Taibur Rahman</b> Senior Assistant Chief, General Economics Division, Planning Commission, GoB</p> <p><i>Keynote speaker, PSB2 and Panelist PSC1</i></p>		<p><b>Mr. Md. Mafidul Islam</b> Joint Chief, International Economics Wing, General Economic Division (GED), Planning Commission</p> <p><i>Panelist, PSB2</i></p>
	<p><b>Mr. Matiur Rahman</b> Joint Chief, Physical Infrastructure Wing 1, Physical Infrastructure Division, Planning Commission</p> <p><i>Panelist, PSB2</i></p>		<p><b>Dr. Khurshid Zabin Hossain Taufiq</b> Director, Urban Development Directorate (UDD)</p> <p><i>Panelist, PSB2</i></p>

	<p><b>Mr. Md. Abir Ul Jabbar</b> Chief Planning Officer, Khulna City Corporation (KCC)</p> <p><i>Panelist, PSB2</i></p>		<p><b>Dr. Mashfiq Salehin</b> Professor and Director, Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM), BUET</p> <p><i>Moderator, PSB2</i></p>
	<p><b>A K M Mamunur Rashid</b> Climate Change Specialist, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</p> <p><i>Keynote speaker, PSB3, Panelist, fifth plenary session</i></p>		<p><b>Fazle Reza Sumon</b> Vice-President, Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP)</p> <p><i>Panelist, PSB3</i></p>
	<p><b>Dr. A. S. M. Maksud Kamal</b> Professor &amp; Chairman of Department of Disaster Science and Management, University of Dhaka</p> <p><i>Panelist, PSB3</i></p>		<p><b>Mirza Ali Ashraf</b> Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR)</p> <p><i>Panelist, PSB3</i></p>
	<p><b>Dr. Engr. Tariq Bin Yousuf,</b> Superintending Engineer in Environment, Climate Change &amp; Disaster Management Circle &amp; Project Director of Urban Resilience Project, Dhaka North City Corporation</p> <p><i>Panelist, PSB3 and Panelist, PSC3</i></p>		<p><b>Md. Mostak Hussain</b> Humanitarian Director, Save the Children</p> <p><i>Session chair, PSB3</i></p>
	<p><b>Dr. Akter Mahmud</b> Professor, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Jahangirnagar University</p> <p><i>Panelist, PSC1</i></p>		<p><b>Dr. Saiful Momen</b> Department of Environmental Science and Management, North South University</p> <p><i>Panelist, PSC1</i></p>
	<p><b>Mousumi Pervin</b> Local Economy, Livelihoods and Financial Inclusion Coordinator, NUPRP, UNDP Bangladesh</p> <p><i>Panelist, PSC1</i></p>		<p><b>Dr. Sanzida Akhter</b> Assistant Professor, Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Dhaka</p> <p><i>Panelist, PSC1</i></p>
	<p><b>Dr. Muhammod Abdus Sabur</b> Public Health Professional and Consultant, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</p> <p><i>Keynote speaker, PSC2</i></p>		<p><b>Dr. Dipak K Mitra</b> Associate Professor and Head of the School of Public Health, Independent University Bangladesh (IUB)</p> <p><i>Panelist, PSC2</i></p>

	<p><b>Ms. Atia Hossain</b> Health Financing Expert, Urban Health System Strengthening Project <i>Panelist, PSC2</i></p>		<p><b>Dr. Md. Shamim Hayder Talukder</b> Chief Executive Officer, Eminence  <i>Panelist, PSC2</i></p>
	<p><b>Dr. Jahirul Alam Azad</b> Team Leader-Urban Health, CARE Bangladesh  <i>Moderator, PSC2</i></p>		<p><b>Adv Fazilatunnesa Bappy</b> Member of the Parliament, Member, Standing Committee of Privileges  <i>Panelist, PSC3</i></p>
	<p><b>Kazi Reazul Hoque</b> Chairman- National Human Rights Commission  <i>Panelist, PSC3</i></p>		<p><b>Khushi Kabir</b> Coordinator, NijeraKori  <i>Panelist, PSC3</i></p>
	<p><b>Mubasshar Hussein</b> Architect  <i>Panelist, PSC3</i></p>		<p><b>Farah Kabir</b> Country Director, ActionAid Bangladesh  <i>Moderator, PSC3</i></p>
	<p><b>Dr. Shamsul Alam</b> Member, Planning Commission  <i>Chief guest, fifth plenary session</i></p>		<p><b>Catherine Cecil</b> Team Leader, PROKAS  <i>Panelist, fifth plenary session</i></p>
	<p><b>Ranjit Kumar Chakrobarty</b> Project Manager, Inclusive Budgeting and Financing for Climate Resilience Project, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance  <i>Panelist, fifth plenary session</i></p>		<p><b>Mr. Golam Rabbani</b> Fellow, BCAS  <i>Session chair, fifth plenary session</i></p>
	<p><b>Professor Ainun Nishat</b> Professor Emeritus, Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research, BRAC University  <i>Special guest, PSD1</i></p>		<p><b>Mrityunjoy Das</b> Senior Programme Manager, Disaster Management and Climate Change (DMCC) Programme, BRAC  <i>Panelist, PSD1</i></p>

	<p><b>Shamim Hossain</b>                  Manager, Research and Evaluation, BRAC Urban Development Programme</p> <p><i>Panelist, PSD1</i></p>		<p><b>Dr. A K M Abul Kalam</b>                  President, Bangladesh Institute of Planners and Professor, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Jahangirnagar University</p> <p><i>Panelist, PSD1</i></p>
	<p><b>Mr. Asif Saleh</b>                  Senior Director, Strategy, Communications and Empowerment, BRAC and BRAC International as expert speakers</p> <p><i>Panelist, PSD1</i></p>		<p><b>Mr. Tamzidul Islam</b>                  Programme Manager, UDP</p> <p>Panelist, PSD1</p>
	<p><b>Mr. Gawher Nayeem Wahra</b>                  Director, Disaster Management and Climate Change (DMCC) Programme, BRAC Bangladesh</p> <p><i>Session chair, PSD1</i></p>		<p><b>Ms. Bedoshruti Sadhukhan</b>                  Programme Coordinator (Sustainability Management), ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia</p> <p><i>Moderator, PSD2</i></p>
	<p><b>Dr Monalisa Sen</b>                  Senior Manager (Sustainability Management), ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia</p> <p><i>Panelist, PSD2</i></p>		<p><b>Md. Jubaer Rashid</b>                  Senior Project Officer (Sustainability Management), ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia</p> <p><i>Panelist, PSD2</i></p>
	<p><b>Md. Abdul Baten</b>                  President of Municipal Association of Bangladesh (MAB) &amp; Mayor of Bera Municipality, Bangladesh</p> <p><i>Speaker, PSD2</i></p>		<p><b>Md. Zulfikar Ali</b>                  Mayor, Mongla Port Municipality, Bangladesh</p> <p><i>Speaker, PSD2</i></p>
	<p><b>Mr. Ashrafal Haque</b>                  Chief Engineer, Rajshahi City Corporation, Bangladesh</p> <p><i>Speaker, PSD2</i></p>		<p><b>Dr. Md. Matiur Rahman</b>                  Chief Health Officer, Barisal City Corporation, Bangladesh</p> <p><i>Speaker, PSD2</i></p>
	<p><b>Jamie Terzi</b>                  Country Director, CARE Bangladesh</p> <p><i>Special guest, concluding session</i></p>		<p><b>Hossain Zillur Rahman</b>                  Executive Chairman, PPRC</p> <p><i>Special guest, concluding session</i></p>

## 5 METHODOLOGY

### 5.1 Structure and Programme of the First Annual National Conference On Urban Resilience

		Day 1: 17 December, 2016 (Saturday)			Day 2: 18 December, 2016 (Sunday)			Day 3: 19 December, 2016 (Monday)		
<b>MORNING</b>	08:30-09:30	<b>REGISTRATION</b>								
	09:30-11:00	<b>Inaugural Session</b> Room: King's Hall			<b>Plenary Session 3:</b> Participatory Vulnerability Assessment Host: ICCCAD-IUB Room: King's Hall			<b>Plenary Session 5:</b> Financing the Sustainable Urban Development Agenda Host: BCAS Room: King's Hall		
	11:00-11:30	<b>TEA BREAK</b>								
	11:30-13:00	<b>Plenary Session: 1</b>  Policy Makers Round Table "Implementing the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda – The Role of Local Governments"  Host: Concern Worldwide Room: King's Hall			<b>PSB1:</b> Valuing Waste, Transforming Cities: Promoting Waste-to-Resource Initiatives Host: Practical Action Bangladesh Room: King's Hall	<b>PSB2:</b> Development Planning Needs Better Integration Partner: ACCNLDP Project Room: Queen's Hall	<b>PSB3:</b> Concepts of Building Resilience in a City Host: Save the Children Room: Family Ties	<b>PSD1:</b> Realities of the Urban Poor: Tackling Challenges and Leveraging Opportunities Host: BRAC Room: King's Hall	<b>PSD2:</b> Building Community Engagement to Enhance Urban Resilience Host: ICLEI- Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia Room: Queen's Hall	
<b>AFTERNOON</b>	13:00-14:00	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>								
	14:00-15:30	<b>PSA1:</b> Ensuring Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments Influence Policy and Practice Host: UNDP Room: King's Hall	<b>PSA2:</b> Inclusive Approach Key to Urban Resilience in Bangladesh Host: CARE Room: Queen's Hall	<b>PSA3:</b> Building Resilience in Urban Slum Settlements Host: Habitat for Humanity Bangladesh Room: Red hall	<b>PSC1:</b> Creative Thinking for an Uncertain Urban Future Host: UNDP Room: Queen's Hall	<b>PSC2:</b> Universal Health Coverage: Resilient to Health Shock of Urban Low Income Population Host: CARE Bangladesh Room: Family Ties	<b>PSC3:</b> Safer Cities and Public Spaces for Women's Empowerment Host: ActionAid Bangladesh Room: King's Hall	<b>Concluding Session</b> Room: King's Hall		
	15:30-16:00	<b>TEA BREAK</b>								
	16:00-17:30	<b>Plenary Session 2:</b> Urban Resilience Knowledge Platform Host: ACCCRN-ICCCAD Room: King's Hall								

## 5.2 INAUGURAL SESSION

**Session Chair:** Dr. Saleemul Huq

**Keynote Speaker:** John I. Carruthers

**Special Guests:** Professor M. Omar Rahman; and Dr. Atiq Rahman.

The inaugural session was opened with a welcome speech by Ina Islam, Deputy Director of ICCAD at IUB. She thanked all the hosts and participants for joining the conference and announced the conference aims of highlighting the sustainable urban development plan as well as exploring ways to address the SDGs and to make cities resilient. It was important to note, from her speech, that rapid population growth in urban areas in Bangladesh generates risks to social stability and infrastructures and is exacerbating vulnerabilities to disasters.



*Dr. Saleemul Huq's speech at the inaugural session*

The opening remarks were given by John I. Carruthers who talked about several issues, highlighting key aspects of urban migration in the current status quo. He focused on 6 core values of urban planning:

1. Active learning,
2. Advocacy,
3. Democracy,
4. Diversity,
5. Research, and;
6. World Engagement.

Mr. Carruthers emphasized that planning is not just about perspective or autocracy, but rather the choice we have as a society to find solutions, by weighing costs and benefits, for people with greater needs. He explained that an ideal urban area would be the product of economic efficiency, social equality and environmental friendliness and where education and community-building would find great significance. According to the speaker, for the ideal measures to make a city sustainable, the cities should be evaluated objectively in terms of their competitiveness, within the country, and also globally. They can be evaluated in terms of their inclusiveness as well. A city should be for everyone, not just for the poor or the rich. The plan for environmental and ecological protection of cities should be included in the design. Only then will cities be more resilient. In recent years, however, cities have been developed in a way that ignores environmental benefits and challenges. Yet, some public policies are financially or structurally difficult to implement. The speaker pointed out two questions:

1. If we want to build a better infrastructure who will pay for it?
2. How do we pay for infrastructure developments in a country?

His response indicated that funds should come from those who get the benefits of improved infrastructure. Paying taxes is one of the mechanisms that can benefit the implementation of infrastructure projects. Hence, urban residents have to play an active role in paying taxes while the government has to do its work properly; enforcing tax laws. Regarding the urban planning in Dhaka, he said, *“What I have seen is hope, intelligence,*



*ideas, working, and not being idle in the face of poverty”.*

The opening session also saw the likes of Professor Omar Rahman who emphasized his concerns on family planning as an integral part of resilience in the urban context. He discussed the lack of an agenda on family planning in Bangladesh which has been leading to asymmetric distribution of capital; with 40% of the country's GDP being produced in close proximity to Dhaka. In search of solutions to improve other cities, he then discussed how research on rural-urban migration needs to see the bigger picture, despite political intolerance, where slums are regarded as an obstruction to society rather than an extension. Professor Rahman urges that in doing so, migration will be seen as an opportunity, and that “resilience creates a bubble where opportunity is killed”. Finally, he concluded his speech saying that, “Cities are not aberrations, but solutions that drive the growth of people and economy”.



*Session participants*

Dr. Atiq Rahman mentioned that urban centres have become the focal point of growth, and climate change has added an extra layer of challenges in the ever growing problem of urbanization. Identifying the problems in each cluster is necessary in this regard. Dr. Rahman said that, “*Decentralization of services and wealth is fundamental for growth of cities*”. Governance is necessary for the proper enforcement of rules and laws and also for proper implementation.

Dr. Saleemul Huq announced that the Urban Resilience Network has just started its journey in Bangladesh with the aim to achieve a common platform for urban practitioners and experts which enhances knowledge dissemination to policy makers and interested private actors. He concluded the inaugural session by saying that this would be the first of many urban conferences to come, where visionaries can establish ideas and share knowledge; where the importance of urban development is addressed.

### 5.3 TECHNICAL SESSIONS

The four plenary sessions were titled:

1. Policymakers Round Table “Implementing the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda” – The Role of Local Governments;
2. Urban Resilience Knowledge Platform;
3. Participatory Vulnerability Assessment and
4. Financing the Sustainable Urban Development Agenda.

The following parallel sessions covered various themes in the build up to the plenary sessions:

1. Ensuring Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments Influence Policy and Practice;
2. Inclusive Approach Key to Urban Resilience in Bangladesh;
3. Building Resilience in Urban Slum Settlements;
4. Valuing Waste, Transforming Cities: Promoting Waste-to-Resource Initiatives;
5. Development Planning Needs Better Integration;
6. Concepts of Building Resilience in a City;
7. Creative Thinking for an Uncertain Urban Future;
8. Universal Health Coverage: Resilient to Health Shock of Urban Low Income Population;
9. Safer Cities and Public Spaces for Women’s Empowerment;
10. Realities of the Urban Poor: Tackling Challenges and Leveraging Opportunities and
11. Building Community Engagement to Enhance Urban Resilience

The Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN), and its Bangladesh partner, the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), jointly organized The First Annual National Conference on Urban Resilience in association with diverse partners, which were: ACCNLDP Project, GIZ, ActionAid Bangladesh, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), BRAC, CARE Bangladesh, Concern Worldwide, Habitat for Humanity Bangladesh, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, Practical Action Bangladesh, Save the Children, United Nations Development Programme.

## 6 OUTPUTS AND DISCUSSIONS OF TECHNICAL SESSIONS: PARALLEL AND PLENARY

### 6.1 First Plenary Session on Policy Makers' Round Table "Implementing the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda- The Role of Local Governments

**Host/ Co-sponsor:** Concern Worldwide

The session brought together experts to shed light on the key roles of policy makers and local officials in the context of sustainable urban development. The session aimed at facilitating an informed discourse by sharing experiences and lessons learnt among policy makers, local governments and urban stakeholders and by articulating recommendations on how to take the SDG 11 agenda forward in Bangladesh.

**Moderator:** A.K. M Musha

**Session Chair:** Dr. Saleemul huq

**Keynote Speaker:** Dr. Professor Kazi Maruful Islam

**Panelists:** Mr. Shishir Shill; Mustafa Quaium Khan; and Masudul Haque

The moderator started the session by highlighting the present scenario of urban development in Bangladesh. While 15% of the global populations live in cities, it was emphasized that already 30% of Bangladesh's population



*Session Chair, Moderator and Panelists*

are urban residents, a number that is expected to increase to 50%. Governments play an important role in facilitating the urbanization trend. The city corporation manages cities and the municipal government addresses small towns, creating a city corporation ordinance as well as a local government ordinance. Furthermore, as mentioned by Dr. Huq, although the SDGs will be very important at the global level within the next 15 years, they also need to be translated into actions at national and local levels. In order to incorporate global goals into national policies, Bangladesh is currently in the process of developing necessary tools and methodologies. The SDGs and debate on climate change are useful in addressing current urban growth and challenges. At this point, besides a necessary focus on adaptation, it is also important to address climate resilience.

Mr. Kazi Maruful Islam highlighted the issues of urban growth in Bangladesh in the context of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda, the "Urban Resilience Framework", the role of the local government and how to move forward. The recent predictions of 50% urban residents within Bangladesh by 2050 are mainly fostered by rural to urban migration. Currently, there are 570 urban centres in Bangladesh which experience structural transformations. The administrative responsibility is faced by 11 city corporations and 315 municipalities. With the increasing number of urban centres and the people within those centres, more slums are created and developments which are not inclusive take place. Slum dwellers live in critical situations which neglect the SDG goal 11 of making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Hence, there needs to be more action in order to ensure that they are entitled to basic rights, and have access to water and sanitation services. If urban resilience is not considered, the development of cities will have adverse long-term impacts due to climate change and further migration which significantly outweigh current and, potentially, future city capacities and infrastructures.

Mr. Masudul commented that population growth is not a problem for survival but is a problem for the standard of living. He emphasizes that the external stresses of climate change and population growth cannot and should not be handled by Bangladesh alone and thus, compensation should be acquired from countries that are responsible for global warming. Polluters which can easily be identified since the rate of carbon emission of each country is known should be obliged to support Bangladesh in addressing its challenges. He stresses that this is essential because one of the major problems in Bangladesh is the lack of financial resources. For example, informal settlements are known, but they are unable to access resources are lacking which would entitle them to legal rights. For instance during the fire at the Karail Slum, we were unable to properly help them as they are not enlisted to get the service. They are illegal settlers. So, according to Mr. Masudul, this problem needs to be resolved first. We should think practically and come up with effective solutions to incorporate them into the governance system.

Mr. Shishir Shill stated that there is a need to transform perspectives and mindsets in order to tackle the current and potential urban challenges. There is also a need to consider the conditions of pavement dwellers in mainstream agendas. Furthermore, collective awareness on and actions against corruption are required. Currently, the existing legal act does not address all aspects of the 'urban crisis'.

Mustafa Qaiyum Khan pointed out that local governments are preoccupied with the implementation of existing policies which are not always clear on how to address the SDG goal 11. There are 4 focus areas for policy makers which are: national urban policy, local physical implementation, urban resolution policy, urban planning and design. All policies are, however, still in process and not finalized. Local governments are unable to play an effective role in this regard. In order to solve the land scarcity in cities, one chairman suggested that the government could give 5 bigha lands to poor people and in this way at least 10,000 people could live in better conditions.

Open discussion consisted of discussions regarding the needs of ensuring the new urban agenda that should be tailored to conditions of the extreme poor. The housing and resource access problem might be solved, but the policy needs to be put in place first so we can start making changes and translate the policy into actions.

#### **Open Discussion:**

- Participants from Bhola slum commented that they don't have any legal papers of land or housing. This was addressed to the policy makers and it was mentioned that the consideration of SDG goal 5 on incorporating gender issues within the agenda is also essential.
- Another participant said that the capacity of the private sector is more than enough and the local government should consider incorporating the private sector to meet targets. But he raised a question on how it can be done since there would be too many obstacles to include the private sector.
- Another comment from the audience addressed the benefits of including children in urban development in order to achieve a more holistic approach.
- One person from the audience said that the main problem for sustainable development or financial crisis is the lack of governance.
- Another participant mentioned that there are already more than 450 master plans but none of them have been properly implemented. So, proper policy and tools are a major need here.
- One audience member said that the lack of coordination of work that is done in the urban sector needs to be addressed. There are some urban resilience initiatives from NGOs which help migrants to settle. However, support from the local government is required since the NGO may be able to help

building houses but cannot allocate land to pro-poor people whereas the local government is able to do so.

- One expert from the audience mentioned that more dialogue between the local government and other government bodies is needed.
- One participant also clarified that budget constraints are a major concern. The local government funds are very limited. The budget of City Corporation is different to the budget of the local Pourashava's government. Yet, actions on resilience require variety of actors and not just the local government, but, for instance, also the city corporation. We need a multi-actors approach to involve all stakeholders.

The moderator summarized that urbanization is not only a challenge but also an opportunity for better standards and economic growth. There is a need of institutional reformation since even though all the necessary departments exist they are unable to play their part and take actions to achieve the SDGs. Resources are defined and allocated by ministries and not by the local government and that's where inclusiveness should start. Furthermore, there is a necessity to include the private sector.

The chair concluded the session by saying that the problems have already been identified. Now is the time to solve the problems. By 2030 we need to fill the empty glass with solutions that come from all stakeholders.

## 6.2 Parallel Session PSA1 on Ensuring Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments Influence Policy and Practice

**Host/ Co-sponsor:** UNDP

The session provided a solution-oriented perspective on how Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments (CCVAs) can be better designed and carried out in order to ensure that they are taken into account in policy making and implementation. Key learnings were that the planning process needs to be stakeholder-driven and participatory and that the gap between researchers and planners needs to be bridged.

**Session Chair:** Khurshid Alam

**Panelists:** Dr. Saleemul Huq; Dr. Mahbuba Nasreen; and John William Taylor

The discussion was structured around four questions raised by the Chair:

1. How can we make our cities resilient to climate change and disaster?
2. What incentives can be set to motivate a planning process that is more responsive to resilience issues?
3. How can the mainstreaming of vulnerability be empowered?
4. How can we ensure incremental improvement?



*Session Chair and Panelists*

At the beginning of the discussion, Mr. Khurshid Alam reminded participants of the connection between urbanization and economic growth and pointed out the existing and emerging risks due to climate change. He stated that a demand driven and participatory process during urban planning is necessary and gave an example for implementation difficulties: The UNDP Comprehensive Disaster Management in 13 Cities Project so far only reached the implementation stage in one city. Dr. Saleemul Huq identified the absence of a

platform, fund and incentive as a constraint for the collaboration between practitioners and researchers. Failed projects need to receive 'a critical analysis' to find out why they failed. On the base of the critical analysis, better strategies should be developed. He shared an idea from COP22 which is to create collaboration initiatives between city governments and universities.

Panelist John William Taylor emphasized the need of consistent leadership and advocacy to open up the process of urban planning to people. There is an absence of a systematic approach on how CCVAs can influence policy making. He also raised the issue of financial constraints in urban planning. One problem is that project time durations are being expanded but without increments in payment amounts.

In response to the second question, Mr. Mamun from Planning Commission stated that the master plan guideline has limitations in ensuring climate change and disaster mainstreaming. In the open discussion, it was criticized that many master plan proposals are not approved and that there are difficulties to implement them. Even though many of the municipalities (Pourashavas) have a master plan, they lack the capacity to implement it. Government does not oblige them strongly enough to prepare a master plan that is risk informed. The chair generally agreed to the discussion but added that there are examples of good risk informed master plans such as Mymensingh Master Plan.

In response to the fourth question, Dr. Huq stated that there generally is an overemphasis on technical aspects like physical planning itself, whilst human capacity development does not receive enough attention. Capacity building of governments should receive more attention and climate education needs to be incorporated into planning. Khurshid Alam added that Mymensingh Master Plan was a pilot initiative project during which climate change was taken into account. One participant added that lack of funding is a challenge for capacity building.

After the discussion, the chair requested all the panelists to summarize the discussion with their remarks. Professor Nasrin recommended that technological innovation must include gender and children's perspective. In order to minimize the exclusion errors needs for individual groups like indigenous people, women and children need to be understood.

John pointed out several issues:

- To carry out a good CCVA there needs to be a robust database, stronger demand from government for good urban planning and improved understanding of local governments and citizens.
- Communities do not have a chance to oversee the planning process but the voice of public should be included in the planning.
- Local governments should receive stronger incentives to carry out risk informed planning and resilient economic development.

Dr Huq mentioned the new agreement regarding capacity building in article 11 of Paris Agreement. He requested the new generation to increase their knowledge in climate change and resilience. However, he also pointed to progress: engineers are now considering environment and climate change issues. Planners need to be taught to do the same.

Summarizing the discussion, Khurshid Alam recommended incentivizing and educating the government and

supporting the collaboration researchers and practitioners. A good urban plan needs to be developed that first addresses the “present” problems and then gradually addresses the “future” problems. The views of all vulnerable groups into the planning process need to be sought.

### 6.3 Parallel Session PSA2 on An Inclusive Approach is Key to Achieve Urban Resilience in Bangladesh

**Host/ Co-sponsor:** CARE Bangladesh

The topics of the session were: Exclusion from urban governance – The “invisible” population, the specific challenges that female urban migrants, climate refugees and other marginalized group face and inclusive urban planning and decision-making as means to build resilience. Even though Bangladesh is one of the countries most affected by climate change and there are pressing problems in urban areas, the urban dimension of resilience is often ignored in the debate and actions taken are too simplified. Urban Resilience programs need to take context much more into account from design to implementation in order to address challenges of inclusivity and resilience in urban areas. Particularly, multi-dimensional exclusion and marginalization aspects are prevalent in urban areas and new approaches are needed to address them.

**Moderator:** Md. Mehrul Islam

**Panelists:** Professor Mahbuba Nasreen; Mr. Ashekur Rahman; and Professor Shamim Mahbulul Haque

Initiating the session, Dr. Mahbuba Nasreen presented the concept of sustainable development. Sustainable development is defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future. The term has been introduced 1987 in the Brundtland Report titled “Our common Future” by the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED). The report demonstrated that, as opposed to the general idea at the time, economic growth is not equal for all. Surveys often don’t represent the situation of marginalized people. For example, marginalized people are often not included in the number that represents the average income in a country. All citizens of a country should receive the same basic services and facilities and have their basic needs addressed. The right of marginalized people to safe water, right to food, right to shelter, employment and education need to be ensured.



*Panelists Discussing on Inclusive Approach as Key to Urban Resilience in Bangladesh at Session by CARE BD*

After the introduction the floor was opened for questions from the audience. The panel received the following contributions/ questions:

1. Many urban slums are not recognized by the city and the people living in them are not registered. The slum dwellers do therefore have a lack of representation and the councilor cannot do anything for them. How do you see this problem?
2. How do the panelists see the concept of inclusive resilience?
3. We are voters of our area. But we often get threatened with slum eviction. Our children's studies get interrupted. As the government does not provide us with any facilities, shall we still consider ourselves as citizens?
4. Can you tell us a specific solution to the lack of inclusiveness?

5. In our slum, the government does not provide a connection to electricity, water supply or other basic utilities. We have identified 22 risks. The NGO Village Education Resource Center (VERC) gave us solar light, safe water supply system etc. But we still face a water logging problem. What can we do?

Responding to the first question, Dr. Nasreen pointed out that slum dwellers have representation since they do hold a voter ID card and councilors come to them before election. But the problem is that, due to its illegal status, the slums are out of the councilor's administrative area. It is therefore quite difficult to provide them with services and facilities. However, slum dwellers who have been living at unregistered places for a long time and apply to the government for utility services do often receive those facilities. A much bigger problem is posed by the floating population that does not have a fixed place to live.

Responding to the second question, the panelist said that there is a need to create a list of the excluded population like the Dalit community, transgender, etc. For example, in rural areas there is a list of disabled people, whereas in the urban areas such a list cannot be found. Having this kind of proper information is necessary to achieve inclusive resilience. Regarding the third question, the panelist criticized the absence of any kind of compensation mechanism for slum eviction. Slum eviction should not be done without ensuring resettlement. In rural areas, there are some laws for financial support for resettlement due to river erosion.

Answering the fourth question, Dr. Nasreen said that causes for rural – urban migration need to be identified, particularly those that link to problems with decentralization.

On the fifth question, Dr. Nasreen also pointed out that government alone cannot do everything. Rather, the inclusion of private organizations is necessary to achieve development. Additionally, it is a great thing that communities can identify their own problems; some have already solved problems by themselves.

Dr. Shamim Mahabubul Haquem initiated his speech by saying that urban planning itself has been done since a long time and the work on this is ongoing – however, most of these plans are not yet implemented. He introduced two critical questions for everyone's concern:

1. Did we make those plans with everyone's participation?
2. Did we make those plans for all?

The professor pointed out that the lack of inclusion in the planning process actually hampers implementation. Within the urban areas different people have different needs and expectations which vary between them; these differences need to be taken into account. Inclusion must be ensured from planning to implementation. Back twenty to thirty years ago, the main problem was to collect information of the urban population and the areas. But nowadays, due to the development in the IT sector, it is easy to get access to the necessary data. One example for this is the inclusive plan for Mymensingh city where a three dimensional map was created and then exhibited in the town hall market in Mymensingh for three days. This inclusive planning process was started with a children's art competition. After the competition, a discussion was initiated with the mothers of those children about how they want to see their city and what they think needs to be done. The professor also pointed out that different risks need to be incorporated into planning; for example the earthquake risk for Bangladesh is increasing day by day.

After this first round of answers the panel received the following questions:

1. Can you explain the participatory planning method used Mymensingh city? What is the plan for



Mymensingh as a division?

2. Why are the master plans for City Corporations and Pourashava not being implemented?

In response to the first question, Dr. Shamim explained that the city map was displayed for three days in Mymensingh Town hall. A large number of PRA methods, tools and techniques have been included in preparing this plan which has not been done before. The plan has been made considering the presence of Dauki fault and earthquake vulnerability. On the second question, he stated that the Pourashavas lack skilled staff to implement plans. Another factor is the lack of a strong civil society. Strong civil society should be formed in every city.

Panelist Ashikur Rahman, Urban Expert of UNDP mentioned that 'Inclusion' and 'Resilience' are two very popular keywords nowadays. With rapid unplanned urban growth, many urban areas have retained a high socioeconomic vulnerability related to urban poverty, informal settlements, lack of municipal services, land tenure issues, etc. These urban vulnerabilities are exacerbated by climate-related shocks and stresses. The poor people of society suffer more than the rich from the effects of climate change and 60% to 70% of the slum dweller populations are "climate migrants". There is a lack of statistical data for poor people; for example, the statistical report of BBS does not reflect the real number of urban poor. Since the actual population is not captured in official numbers, there is no budget allocated towards them. UNDP's Urban Poverty Reduction programme (UPPR) has increased the income and assets of slum people. Around 3 million people have benefited from this program. For the UPPR program, the inclusive methods such as participatory creation of a Slum Settlement Land Map and the Participatory Identification of the Poor (PIP) were used to identify wellbeing categories from the perspective of slum dwellers. As a way forward, he introduced the UNDP's new programme, National Urban Poverty Reduction Program (NUPRP). To sum it up, he stated that a single approach to inclusive urban resilience does not work and that instead a multi-dimensional approach should be applied. Furthermore, urban resilience cannot only be measured from the income and asset dimensions.

Ashikur Rahman received the following question from the audience:

- If all the NGOs work for the excluded community, like: poor, women, disabled etc. then why is there still exclusion? Where is the gap?

Ashiqur Rahman answered that the innovative approaches for inclusion taken by NGOs are praiseworthy. But there is a gap because often NGO's use rural approaches to solve problems in urban areas. But rural and urban context require different analytical approaches.

Palash Mondal gave a presentation on CARE's Building Resilience of the Urban Poor (BRUP) project. The approach was to enhance urban resilience in an inclusive way through strengthening the capacity of communities and institutions to prepare for, mitigate, respond to and recover from shocks and stresses. The project was based on a resilient city model with the following components: economic opportunities, savings, access to basic services, infrastructure & physical security, gender equity, a healthy environment, proper management of natural resources, emergency preparedness, recovery from shocks and stresses, cleanliness and proper waste management. The interventions of the BRUP project happened on three levels: Building Resilience for Households and Community, Empowering Women and Building Resilience at Institution level.

Following challenges have been found in the urban slums: lack of community cohesion, no contingency plan, food and income insecurity, unhealthy environment, absence of basic service facilities, disempowered women (pervasive social concerns), fragile infrastructure, poor access to services and more. Challenges faced during this project and the strategies to overcome those were also explained in the session. Palash Mondal mentioned that one lesson learned in the project was that women play a vital role for building cohesion in the urban slum.

After the presentation the panelist received another question:

- What did UPPR and CARE do for adolescents?

Mr. Palash answered that CARE Bangladesh has formed an urban volunteer's team made from adolescents who were trained to make the city resilient. CARE Bangladesh also has created the EKATA group which consists of adolescent girls in each community under the BRUP project. CARE trains them to build their communication skills and attitude.

The moderator of the session Md. Mehrul Islam summarized the session. He recommended a collaborative approach to solve the problems of urban resilience. He suggested that the participation of people from different groups should be ensured in every step of planning and implementation. Finally, he encouraged the audience to express their opinions, viewpoints, objections and suggestions more to contribute to the modification and improvement of projects in order to achieve a greater impact.

#### **6.4 Parallel Session PSA2 on Building Resilience in Urban Slum Settlements**

**Host/ Co-sponsor:** Habitat for Humanity Bangladesh

Natural hazards and their increasingly adverse consequences due to climate change force more and more people to leave their homes and resettle in 'safer' locations. Many displaced people decide to move to informal settlements within cities in search of a better and more secure life. However, the growing number of people rushing to urban slums is putting more pressure on existing structures and is creating an urban crisis that further challenges new and long-term urban residents. Affected people do not only experience a loss of physical identity but also new livelihood threats and enhanced poverty. This is the case because urban slums do not only lack the capacities for the number of new arrivals, but are mostly located in flood plains that are prone to natural hazards and have inadequate infrastructures and services such as lacking clean water, sanitation, legal entitlements and health care services. This also creates new challenges for the government to recognize and improve situations within informal settlements and take active steps towards poverty reduction. This session focused on low-income urban communities who are adversely affected by both urban growth and climate change and facilitated a discussion between panelists and the audience on innovative and interactive ways forward.



*Session Chair, Keynote Speaker and Panelists with several participants*

**Moderator:** Mostafa Quaium Khan

**Session Chair:** John Armstrong

**Keynote Speaker:** Professor Dr. M. Shahidul Ameen

**Panelists:** Md. Abul Basar; and Dr. Nurul Islam Nazim

The session moderator addressed the urgency of the topic and the necessity of improving the situation of urban slum dwellers. He clarified that current statistics by the government are inadequate and not representative of the actual number of people living in informal settlements. He emphasized that studies conducted by the government which show a reduction in slum population are absurd and not realistic considering that more than 1,500 new residents 'settle' in Dhaka each day. This is, he concludes, the reason for the gap between the understanding of experts and policy makers who produce policies on the basis of incorrect data.

Professor Dr. M. Shahidul Ameen stated that there is indeed a gap between the official statistics and the number of people living in urban slums. Not only policy makers and practitioners, but also slum dwellers have the right to know what is going on in our metropolitan cities. According to him, 40% of urban residents live in slums, but only 4,000 people work in the formal sector. Slums are clustered within central areas of Dhaka since traffic congestion and lack of public transport encourage them to stay in close proximity to their working area. According to the UNFPA and the BBS, the population in Dhaka increases by 1,700 people each day (published in October, 2016). This means about 500,000 people resettle in Dhaka city each year and considerably increase the population within urban informal settlements. Yet, he stated that there is no implementation plan in accordance with existing housing policies. Slum dwellers need to be adequately reallocated basic needs and better infrastructures, such as wider roads for ambulances and fire service vehicles. Hence, the need for them to be reintegrated into policies after they were removed from recent policy documents.

Md. Abul Bashar gave a presentation on "Building Resilience in Urban Slum Settlements" where he described the Habitat's programme that gives poor people a unique opportunity to improve their lives. HFHB works in 5 key areas which include Housing, WASH, Climate Change and DRR, Urban Development and Volunteer Mobilization. Thus, Habitat satisfies basic needs in slum areas and helps to identify vulnerabilities as well as solutions through local committees. They consequently aim to enhance resilience through local capacity building approaches and improved local coordination.

According to Dr. Nurul Islam Nazim, the lack of employment, housing and provision of basic services are major issues that force people to move to and within urban areas. He addressed land tenure as one of the biggest problems in urban areas and stressed that housing authorities and the government have a negative attitude towards slum dwellers. Yet, low income residents are not able to afford decent houses or access to basic services and therefore have no other choice than living in informal settlements. People who move to Dhaka often have high expectations to benefit from the services and urban development, yet they are neglected. It needs to be recognized also that slum dwellers are able to make contributions once provided with necessary facilities and opportunities. The elimination of informal settlements will not reduce the challenges within urban areas and governments need to start working with slum dwellers rather than against them.

#### **Open Discussion:**

During the open discussion one participant said that slum dwellers pay more for their poorly constructed house per square meter than people living in decent flats and houses.

- How can we break current power structures within and outside urban slums? Who is going to pay for this?

A slum dweller responded that the people who live in slums are actually the ones who sustain structures within the city so there is urgent need to include slum dwellers as active agents in urban development and recognize their capacities.

The chair of the session summarized the session and recommendations such as the necessity of cooperation among different groups of stakeholders as well as a platform for sharing success stories and failures regarding capacity building approaches of all stakeholders who are strongly encouraged to work together.

## 6.5 Second Plenary Session on Urban Resilience Knowledge Platform

**Host/ Co-sponsor:** ACCCRN-ICCCAD

The objective of the second plenary session was to provide and facilitate lesson sharing and experience among key expert panelists from the ACCCRN network, particularly for discussions on how to create a long term sustainable knowledge platform that can effectively contribute to enhanced city resilience in Bangladesh.

**Moderator & Session Chair:** Mostafa Quaium Khan

The chair welcomed all panelists and the audience and gave a brief overview of the session. He mentioned that urban climate change risks and vulnerabilities have increased in recent decades which have profound impacts on a broad spectrum of urban infrastructure systems and ecosystem services. He highlighted that there is a need to build resilience in cities to tackle and cope with increasing climate change shocks through improved knowledge sharing, capacity building, expertise building and the provision of expert advice to concerned institutions working at the city level. He introduced the following three presentations which he moderated:



ACCARN-ICCCAD session on Urban Resilience Knowledge Platform

1. Mr. S.M. Mehedi Ahasan sector specialist for KFW presented on “Asian Cities Climate Change Resilient Network (ACCARN)”;
2. Sarder Shafiqul Alam, Coordinator, Urban Climate Change programme ICCCAD at IUB and Country Coordinator, ACCARN – ICCCAD Bangladesh presented on “Sustainable Cities and Long –Term Planning: ACCARN-ICCCAD Bangladesh Initiative”;
3. Mr. Shamim Al Razi, Secretary General, Local Government Network (LGNET), Bangladesh shared his experience on Local Government Network for cities and towns in Bangladesh.

Mr. S.M. Mehedi Ahsan shared that ACCARN focuses on five elements including city scoping, city engagement, project implement, scaling up, replication and networking and transition phases of the network structure during the period from 2008 to 2018. ACCARN has implemented more than 30 projects on urban resilience which have been implemented in 10 cities in India, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia. ACCARN’s activities also include field research to generate scientific knowledge which is disseminated through publications. Since 2015, ICCCAD at IUB has joined as a partner of ACCARN in Bangladesh. While ACCARN has faced both success

and failure, the lessons learned from past activities have been and will be valuable for involved agents such as urban planners. He also highlighted that coordination and collaboration between urban planners, local community members and other stakeholders are very much needed. He mentioned that ICCCAD-ACCCRN carries out scientific assessment of community needs to overcome urban climate change induced issues. Urban planner and practitioners need to learn from each other.

Sarder Shafiqul Alam briefly shared ACCCRN-ICCCAD activities in Bangladesh. He thanked ACCCRN for past and current engagements in urban building, urban climate change issues and the opportunity of creating an urban network. He highlighted that sustainable urban development means building resilient cities and achieving the SDG goal-11 which makes cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. He introduced ICCCAD-ACCCRN initiatives as “Knowledge Platform on Urban Climate Resilience” and mentioned that, in order to support the huge urban population in Bangladesh, a comprehensive city resilience plan that is based on thorough research needs to be prepared and implemented through multi stakeholder collaboration and lessons sharing. He stated that ACCCRN has a total of about 1450 members from different countries who can share their knowledge and experiences on city resilience issues which can benefit urban development projects in all affected countries. Individual government officials, academics, urban planners, students, the media and others can be members of ACCCRN. Membership is free for all individuals. Mr. Alam mentioned his target is to increase the network by 1000 members in Bangladesh by the end of 2017 and invited all session participants to join the ACCCRN network. He mentioned that there are urban experts in ACCCRN network who are very keen to share their knowledge. He also mentioned that, to serve the whole purpose of knowledge platform, experts and practitioners need to come out willingly. Mr. Alam also added that the dissemination of knowledge and capacity building can be the key to resilience.

Mr. Shamim Al Razi, addressed his experience in working with the urban local government in Bangladesh since 1999 and shared the 5 steps of the local government initiatives in urban development. He mentioned that, while the local government has a prime role to play in building urban resilience, the staff is unable to perform their respective tasks due to the lack of capacity. Therefore, capacity building is very much needed for them to make cities and towns climate change resilient and achieve green growth. The local government is not aware of current and potential climate change related risks and vulnerabilities and, consequently, does not know how to use raised funds to build climate resilient cities. Al Razi also mentioned that proper advocacy is necessary at the local level. He hopes that, through the ACCCRN-ICCCAD knowledge platform, the knowledge gap will be reduced and capacity building for the local government staff can be arranged.

#### **Open discussion:**

Different dimensions of the ACCCRN network were discussed by the participants;

- How the community level can be engaged and how this network will help policy makers?
- The sustainability of the ACCCRN knowledge platform;
- What are the benefits that are available for ACCCRN members and;
- What is the procedure of becoming a member?

Mostafa Quaium Khan and panelists responded to all questions raised by the audience.

Dr.Saleemul Huq highlighted that it is necessary to think ahead, to think about impacts and actions taken after the conference. He also invited all participants to join the ACCCRN network. At the end Mostafa Quaium Khan wrapped up the session by thanking the participants.

## 6.6 Third Plenary Session on Participatory Vulnerability Assessment

**Host/ Co-sponsor:** ICCCAD-IUB

The purpose of the third plenary session was to discuss participatory approaches as a way to reduce the gap between top down and bottom up planning with experts and a group discussion. Participatory Vulnerability Assessment was introduced as a new model to solve problems in city resilience development in a systematic way. Physical vulnerability assessment and social-economic vulnerability assessment have been identified as important early activities for the development of a City Resilient Action Plan. Participation from a diverse set of stakeholders is a key element for the successful creation of a City Resilient Action Plan.

**Session Chair:** Mohammad Abdul Qayyum

**Keynote Speaker:** Dr. Terry Cannon

**Panelists:** Dr. Dwijen Mallick; Sarder Shafiqul Alam; and Palash Mondal

Starting the session, Mr. Cannon presented his keynote paper “Why bother with (urban) resilience? Understanding causes of problems and limits to our effectiveness” through first challenging the term `resilience`. He highlighted that the perceptions of people in understanding resilience is important and that the source of problems should be questioned more thoroughly. Urban Resilience should be framed in a way that integrates it more with Disaster Risk Management, Development and Adaptation to climate change.



*Session Chair & Keynote speaker with discussants*

Mr. Cannon further stated that it is essential to understand the processes that make people vulnerable. Processes and systems of power relations create vulnerability and poverty for the ones that are marginalized in these systems. Power relations directly affect the allocation of resources in general and specifically in income, welfare services, levels of taxation, health, education, nutrition and modes of redistribution. Some aspects of inequality are related to cultural categories like gender, ethnicity and caste. There is a need to understand vulnerability in relation to existing power relationships, perceptions of risk and people’s culture and belief systems. Furthermore, unequal land tenure is a key determinant of rural income differences, and insecurity in urban slums. Poor communities like slum dwellers have a lesser ability to cope with disaster shocks than wealthier communities and a disaster is likely to make them even more socio-economically vulnerable. For example, in case of a high-scale earthquake in Dhaka, the poor community would be disproportionately affected both physically and socio-economically compared to a wealthier community. Considering the unequal distribution of vulnerability, the assessment of both physical and socio-economic vulnerabilities of the urban poor are important early activities for developing a good city resilience plan. This holds true on the national as well as on the international level. Globally, only 1% of the world’s people own almost half the world’s wealth.

Climate Change creates not only disasters but also slow onset changes such as increasing the frequency of hazards, increasing variability and trends in weather patterns. These changes can undermine peoples` livelihoods, nutrition, and health and make them poorer and more vulnerable. People’s vulnerability is further

affected by how much they are included in participatory activities of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), adaptation activities and development activities.

In practice, there is a significant gap between what DRR aims to achieve and the reality of the interaction with people as well as their willingness and ability. People do not behave in the way that disaster managers expect them to behave, or want them to behave. Particularly the term “community” is not used consistently or critically. It is often interpreted in different ways to fit the ideas of what an intervention wants to do and what funders think is good to do. When projects claim to do be doing participatory work and ‘empowering’ people, they do in fact aim to overcome processes that the powerful do not want to get rid of or that have existed for hundreds of years. Project timelines expect that these deeply rooted structures can be overcome during a project cycle of 3 to 5 years, but this is a fallacy.

It is not possible to create urban resilience without addressing rural-urban migration as one of the key drivers of urban change. The fast growing population of Dhaka has created an immense population pressure and led to the reclaiming of land from swamps to construct new buildings. This ground is not very stable and there is a risk of liquefaction. This means that the new buildings are not very resistant to earthquakes. In construction, it is very important to make sure that the buildings have actually been properly designed, constructed and inspected.

It is important to take into account the Cure to Damage ratio. Globally, the money available to cure problems is much lower than the money that is used in ways that create problems. Regarding climate change, the Cure to Damage ratio is 1:100:1000, referring to the amount of public funds that are being spent in a way that increases the problem of climate change compared to the funds that are available to help overcome the problems with adaptation measurements. There are much more powerful forces engaged in the Disaster Risk Creation (DRC) than in Disaster Risk Reduction, these forces do also have a bigger influence on the government. Consequentially, a different strategic approach is needed. This gap should be recognized in the research arena and researched further.

Palash Mondal agreed with each point of Terry’s presentation. He pointed out that, whilst there are different tools for Vulnerability Assessment (VA) for the rural context, there is no specific tool for the urban context. Due to this lack, the rural VAs have been used for the urban context, but this leads to less positive outcomes. Different analytical tools are needed for urban and rural contexts.

Mr. Sarder highlighted that improvement of the living conditions in rural areas are needed to make urban areas more resilient. The development of urban and rural areas should not be considered as binary and rather thought together.

Participants contributed by saying that the resilience planning of a specific area should be based on the existing vulnerability as well as the capacity of the systems and community in that area. Participation from a diverse set of stakeholders is crucial for urban resilience planning.

## 6.7 Parallel Session PSB1 on Valuing Waste, Transforming Cities: Promoting Waste-to-Resource Initiatives

**Host/ Co-sponsor:** Practical Action Bangladesh

Bangladesh is facing rapid urbanization and currently around 35 million people live in urban centres; generating 20000 metric tons of waste a day. The city corporations and municipalities adopt end of pipe approach and collect, transfer and dump around 50% of the generated waste without any treatment. The remaining uncollected waste is mostly disposed in drainage network and low lying water bodies. These indiscriminate disposal and unsafe management of waste leads to environmental pollution, emits greenhouse gases and creates health hazards. To address this, the Government of Bangladesh approved 3R (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) strategy in 2010 to emphasize source separation and promote the recycling of waste. The session was focused on the learnings from these improved attempts and seeking expert recommendations for promoting an integrated and coordinated approach for safe management of waste to make our cities resilient and sustainable.



*Session Chair, Presenters, Panelists with Participants*

**Moderator:** Hasin Jahan

**Session Chair:** K.M. Nurul Huda

**Presenters:** Abdur Rob; Uttam Kumar Saha; Mirza Shawkat Ali; and Khadem Mahmud Yusuf

**Panelists:** Tazkin Ahmed Chisty; and Mr Rajeev Munankam

The first presentation was titled “Waste-Agriculture-Energy nexus promoted by Practical Action” which was presented by Abdur Rob and Uttam Kumar Saha. They talked about the vision, working model and working area of Practical Action in Bangladesh. In the urbanization and waste generation scenario, they stated that per capita waste generation in urban centers is 0.41 kg/day and future waste projections till 2025 will be 0.60 kg/capita/day in urban centers. Practical Action demonstrated an integrated approach for safe management of solid waste and fecal sludge in a number of secondary towns. The demonstration included appropriate technologies and associated PPP led business model for collection, transportation, treatment and market development of end product; i.e. biogas and organic fertilizer. They documented the learning and are now advocating to national department and ministries for scaling up. Practical Action is also demonstrating the synergy between rural and urban resilience experiences from different programmes including waste management, food, agriculture, markets, and DRR and climate change. The last part of the presentation mainly provided a message to the audience that waste should be considered as wealth. They provided a scenario that 1-ton waste helps in creating 5 new jobs for the waste pickers, saving 1.1 cubic meter of landfill area, producing 0.25 tons of good quality compost, reducing 0.5 tons of greenhouse gas emissions, producing 40-80 cubic meter of biogas, or providing environmental benefit to 2000-3000 people.

The second presenter was Khadem Mahmud Yusuf whose topic was “Resource Recovery from Plastic Waste”. He mentioned that the plastic industry of Bangladesh has grown significantly over the years. Bangladesh plastics industries produce basic products for RMG, construction material, PET Bottles, packaging and household goods. Per capita plastic consumption is about 14.9 kg in urban area and 3.5 Kg nation-wide which



is far below the level in other regional economies. If per capita consumption reaches similar levels of other developing countries, the industry size will be USD 5 billion in the next 5 years. Around 70% of available plastic waste is recycled in the country resulting in savings of USD 1 billion in the year 2014 by avoiding import of virgin resin. He stated that 80% of those bottles of mineral water and beverages are discarded after being used only one time. Bangladesh can save USD 22 million per year by not exporting flakes abroad. BPCL has set up a Recycled PET Resin manufacturing plant that produces 100% post-consumer recycled PET resin which can be used to create new PET bottles. BPCL will remove 15000 MT per annum from getting dumped into the soil/river/drain. In terms of job creation, the project has generated 200+ locally filled jobs at the recycling facility and an additional 300+ jobs will be created in BPCL's operations as its collection activities expand. BPCL is developing a social engagement plan directly targeted at addressing this systemic issue, thereby eliminating the incidence of harmful informal child labor within its supply chain. BPCL collection points all over the country enable waste pickers to enhance their income by more than 2x what they are making today; bypassing the middleman and bhangari shops.

The third presentation was on the topic of Waste Management Initiatives of the Department of Environment (DoE) by Mirza Shawkat Ali where he focused on how DoE highlighted government decisions to enact "Electrical and Electronic Waste Management and Handling Rules, 2011/2016". He mentioned that the fast growing e-waste is now considered as the most toxic component of municipal garbage. Although it is really harmful for health, e-waste management in Bangladesh is yet to be institutionalized. Local companies don't have the expertise to manage e-waste. So far, only three local companies have taken environmental clearance certificates for e-waste recycling. He recommended that, to encourage take back of e-wastes by the producer or manufacturer, a deposit refund scheme should be considered to ensure better management of 40-50% of e-waste. Better labeling (type of hazardous material, amount) and simplified registration by the e-waste user (manufacturer, producer, assembler, dismantler, recycler etc.) can help in maintaining the record. Then, the information needs to be submitted to DoE at the end of each year and in turn, DoE, after compilation, will submit the information to MoEF. He also mentioned some initiatives which include: Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2008; The Ship Breaking and Hazardous Waste Management and Handling Rules, 2011 and National 3R Strategy for Waste Management, 2010

#### **Open Discussion:**

In the open discussion about the waste management, Mr. Rajeev Munankami commented on the segregation of waste at source. According to him, recycling at the source should be prioritized. However, he mentioned that operation and maintenance is a challenge. Another participant commented that the licensing policy of organic fertilizer is one of the main obstacles in the face of mainstreaming this sector. One participant asked about the optimal way of government and NGOs working together to produce goods from recycling products. The answer indicated the importance of incentives for recycling and clarification of relevant policies. On the question regarding the challenges facing the plastic industry, the panelist responded that resin from crude oil is cheaper which creates competition.

Tazkin Ahmed Chisty shared his experience from his working area where he has found that the south-west region of the country didn't have waste management expertise. Initially, the local people were trained to work on a biogas plant. Fecal solid waste is a source of biogas and compost. The area Shyamnagar of Shatkhira got help from Practical Action Bangladesh and the Ministry of Agriculture introduced the authority to follow fecal solid waste management in those areas. They are now working on encouraging women to commercialize

biogas plants which are community based. The mayor mentioned that they have enough land but they want donors and development partners to come to help them.

Hasin Jahan mentioned that technology and how it will be transferred and utilized is important. Research and development are very important for waste management. Electrical and electronic waste should be managed and treated while maintaining environmental rules and regulations. Roles and responsibilities of informal sector and policy issues should be mainstreamed so that their contribution can be recognized and acknowledged.

The session chair summarized that grassroots initiatives can resolve many crises. In the end, he stated that waste is not a problem. More research and development is needed in the issue of appropriate technologies, and financing and partnership. Business environments need to be conducive for private sector participation. Standardization, certification, and quality control of waste recycled product need to be revisited and a national plan of action, including a mass awareness plan on reduction of unsafe waste disposal, is needed.

## 6.8 Parallel Session PSB2 on Development Planning needs better Integration

**Host/ Co-sponsor:** ACCNLDP Project

The session gave an overview over the gaps, challenges and prospects in the integration of local into national development planning in Bangladesh. Experts from different institutions gave insights on their respective perspectives of the issue, naming the challenges they see and sharing their experiences with the implementation of existing plans. The participants of the discussions were involved in planning at the local or national level e.g. long-term national planning, infrastructure planning and development, setting up of development plans, approval of proposed investment projects, budgeting, resource mobilization or the coordination among different agencies. The session is organized within the framework of the 'Adaptation to Climate Change into the National and Local Development Planning' (ACCNLDP) project, which is jointly implemented by the Planning Commission of Bangladesh and the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.



*Moderator, Keynote Presenters and Panelists*

**Moderator:** Dr. Mashfiqus Salehin

**Keynote Speakers:** Mr. Hans-Joachim Hermann; and Dr. Md. Taibur Rahman

**Panelists:** Mr. Md. Mafidul Islam; Mr. Matiur Rahman; Dr. Khurshid Zabin Hossain Taufiq; and Mr. Md. Tazkin Ahmed

In his keynote 'Development Planning Needs Better Integration: Lessons learnt, Challenges and Implications for Bangladesh' Mr. Hans-Joachim Hermann introduced the GIZ's programme ACCNLDP (Adaptation to Climate Change into National and Local Development Planning). ACCNLDP aims to create a systemic linkage between climate-resilient spatial and development planning at the local level and at the national level. The programme creates the opportunity for local authorities to convey their social, economic and physical needs

and concerns, which are then included in national spatial and development planning. However, in applying this in practice, the divergences between development objectives of local government institutions and upper government tiers pose a challenge. Defined legal and factual procedures are needed to address these divergences.

Mr. Hermann pointed out that different countries choose different models and approaches to integrate local and national development plans. One successful example is Germany, where each state autonomously spends 50% the revenue it produces, and passes on the other 50% to the national government for national projects.

On spatial planning, Mr. Hermann described the challenges that arise from it needing a longer time horizon than public investment (development) planning. Bad integration between the two causes a situation, where neither of the planning types can be effective.

The city economy should be given the highest priority in spatial and development planning and development partners need to work with the finance ministry to support the mainstreaming of urban economic planning across sectors and tiers. A systemic linkage should be established at local and national level in order to ensure better integration in planning. Any successful economic development plan requires the inclusion of the local government. A lack of involvement of local government is likely to raise conflict and let the initiative fail. One problem is the degree of freedom for local investment decision which is currently limited even if funds are available at the local level.

One issue of particular importance in Bangladesh is the use of land. Given the high population density, waste of land or a bad use of it needs to be urgently avoided. Land speculation poses a problem and it needs to be controlled by improved land management. Economy and finance, as well as the availability of land directly affect development planning because land resources are needed for all kinds of development, whether public, private, commercial or industrial.

The second key note presenter was Dr. Md. Taibur Rahman. He named following challenges in the integration of national and local planning: lack of linkages of the local level to the central level planning or budgeting system, lack of sufficient locally generated fund to implement the local level planning (LLP), lack of understanding and capacity, no spatial planning at the local level, a lack of strategic spatial planning in general, lack of integration of efforts both across sectors and across hierarchies and tiers.

Fiscal decentralization has to be the ultimate aim, however, in the current context, it is difficult to realize. Other forms of decentralization though, like the decentralization of the planning process and local planning commissions could be potential preliminary steps towards achieving fiscal democratic decentralization. These should be initiated without delay and a bottom up planning process can be started that way. Some initiatives for this have already been created, such as the “Localizing MDGs” project. It has been piloted in more than 10 LGUs but has not been scaled up.

Dr. Rahman further recommended that all the planning approaches from local and national level should be aligned with the Seven Five Year Plan and SDGs of the Bangladesh Government. The ministry of each sector should bring up the planning needs from the local level and link them to the macro-economic plan. The planning commission may play a coordinating role for the integration of local into national plans.

The moderator asked the panelists some questions. The first question was,

- 'What is the current planning at local level? How is the implementation of these plans ensured?'

In response to the question, Mr. Md. Mafidul Islam said that the Planning Commission is preparing both short term and long term plans to ensure sustainable development. The General Economic Division (GED) has also prepared seven five year plans which are now the guideline for Bangladesh. The plan by the Planning Commission is a live document and will be updated regularly. This plan considered the local demand indirectly; however, there is room for improvement. This plan is not connected with other national level or local level governance or financial plans. However, the 7th five-year plan gives the integration of local and national level planning priority; but it takes time.

Dr. Khurshid Zabin Hossain Taufiq, was asked the following question:

- 'How is the plan made at the national and local level? What are the challenges and scopes?'

He said that the Urban Development Directorate (UDD) is preparing a plan at Upazilla level. They have a decentralized system. Integration is needed with the issue of the ecosystem. The planning process follows a top down approach. The development plan is currently prepared in English but he recommended that it should be in Bengali to ensure a good understanding at local level. In Mymensingh Municipality, the UDD has worked with the community and people's opinions have been taken into account during the preparation of the risk informed land use plan.

Md. Tazkin Ahmed was asked how development needs are prioritized in the master plan and how resources for them are mobilized. He answered that Satkhira Paurashava has prepared a master plan with the help of the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED). There were three phases: Structure Plan (2011-2031), Master Plan (2011-2021) and Ward Action Plan (2015-1016). Satkhira Paurashava gave special importance on drainage for cyclone AILA and the water logging problem. But the municipality is not solvent in preparing and implementing the Master Plan financially. Development support is needed for this. The government of Bangladesh is working hard to solve the issue. Satkhira Paurashava has received 15 million dollars from KFW for addressing emergency waterlogging due to excessive rainfall.

Answering a question about the integration of the physical process at local level with the allocation of the budget, Mr. Matiur Rahman explained the structure of the Planning Commission. It is comprised of 6 divisions with 4 sector divisions that are dealing with the approval of projects. The physical infrastructure division is dealing with all infrastructure and physical development projects in 6 wings. For the approval, the main emphasis is on whether an infrastructure project is aligned with the SDGs or the five-year plan. Mega projects like Padma Bridges are also part of these five-year plans. For the physical process of planning, the mobilizing of resources, creation of employment and cross cutting issues like poverty, gender, and disabilities are critical. Dr. Syed Md. Zainul Abedin added that since 1971, the integration is happening but may be not in effective way.

Mr. Nazrul Islam, Urban Planner at UPPR said that a proposal for the inclusion of neighborhood planning into ward level planning is needed. Among all the issues, environmental issues need to be given priority. The general focus should be more on the actual implementation than on the formulation of plans.

The director of UDD added that better coordination and integration of all the relevant institutions is needed. The Planning Commission is doing a good job in preparing government plans and visions. UDD does not make the plans. The implementation responsibility belongs to LGED of LGI, whilst the Planning Commission is monitoring at the macro-economic level.

Concluding the session, the moderator stated that the planning process should be decentralized and should combine a top down and bottom up approach. The coordination between different agencies, organizations and stakeholder needs to be improved.

## 6.9 Parallel Session PSB3 on Concepts of Building Resilience in a City

**Host/ Co-sponsor:** Save the Children

Cities are lifelines of society and engines for economic growth. However, rapid urban growth poses many challenges to city authorities and, if not well managed, cities can also become generators of new vulnerabilities adding risk to disasters. Climate change poses huge risks to our city. Resilience, conceptually speaking, can be applied to evaluate any community in the face of any type of disasters: natural, man-made or climate induced. The session aimed at discussing the concept of resilience of cities and how it can be developed further.

**Session Chair:** Md. Mostak Hussain

**Keynote presenter:** A K M Mamunur Rashid

**Panelists:** Dr. A. S. M. Maksud Kamal; Fazle Reza Sumon; Mirza Ali Ashraf; and Dr. Eng. Tariq Bin Yousuf

The keynote paper was titled “Concept of Building Resilience in a City” whereby the presenter, A K M Mamunur Rashid, analyzed the term 'resilience' through different lenses from environmental sciences to medical sciences. Resilience within a city was characterized with 4Rs: Robustness, Redundancy, Resourcefulness and Rapidity. Four dimensions of resilience were identified; resources, people, organization and process. These dimensions were linked to awareness of use, attitude and behavior, and thinking and decision making integration respectively. Three main outcomes of the concept of resilience were mentioned and they are mainly ‘reduction of the probability of failure’, ‘reduction of the consequences of failure’ and ‘reduction of the time to restoration’. From a wider scope, resilience in a city is characterized as multi-scalar and can be viewed at micro, meso and macro scales; each providing a different perspective and it can also be analyzed from the perspectives of people, systems and elements. Bangladesh moving from its agricultural sector to service sector over the period of time from 2011 till date is shown as an example of positive macroeconomic growth towards resilience building in a city.

Key observations and policy remarks were made where the presenter identified a critical threshold relative to the much rapid growth of urban disaster risk as compared to urban growth in Bangladesh. Population growth and poverty are diversely intensifying in urban centers.

Due to unplanned urbanization, the sensitivity of urban services, urban livelihood and urban economy to climate change is on a steep upwards slope and highly increasing the susceptibility to disaster risk. Most major cities in Bangladesh have been shown to be either high or medium risk cities relative to disasters.

Urbanization can impose as both vulnerability as well as opportunity for citizens. Political economy and urban planning are the keys to determining the extent of vulnerability or opportunity for the citizen, especially for the poor. Therefore, risk informed planned urbanization is an essential step to building urban resilience.



Session Chair, Keynote Presenter and Panelists

Coordination within local government in cities is critical to overcome the bureaucracy enforced by the different levels of hierarchy of urban local governments. Moreover, fiscal analysis of a resilient city is an important component that is disregarded as a dimension of urban resilience specifically as well as urban development in general.

The presenter proposed programmatic approaches for demystifying urban resilience. Initially, there is a need of finding entry points and making the cases which will include the preliminary assessment, raising awareness and strengthening institutions and capacities. The following step should be mainstreaming resilience into policy, institution and planning processes. The main challenge identified within this approach for building resilience is implementation. However, the presenter identified building blocks for urban resilience in Bangladesh which should support the overall process.

In the discussion, Dr, A. S. M. Maksud Kamal described the term resilience as elastic, since it behaves similarly under pressure; absorbing shocks and reverting back to its former condition after the pressure is alleviated. According to him, capacity and resilience represent almost the same meaning. Capacity is usually used to refer to small scale, one-angular and one-way action whereas resilience is used on a vast scale within multi-angle and multi-direction. Yet still, resilience is not measurable. Hence, it is hard to evaluate the present condition of resilience. Therefore, an initiative has been taken in Bangladesh to identify the indicators which could be used to measure resilience particularly urban and rural resilience.

Panelist Fazle Reza Sumon focused on the issue of coordinating between the master plan and the annual plan for comparability, monitoring and evaluation of future plans. He also mentioned the importance of formatting 'City Governance Authority' where he stated that it's essential for operating the coordinated effort under an appropriate mechanism system.

Mirza Ali Ashraf mentioned that there is a need of increasing the use of alternative resources to enhance both urban and rural resilience. For example, a school could be used as a sheltered place in an emergency condition. Mr. Mirza introduced '3Rs', which stand for 'Reduce'; 'Re-use' and 'Recycle'. Proper application of '3R' certainly has the ability to boost both the urban and rural resilience.

Dr. Eng. Tariq Bin Yousuf said that the network should be built up among the respective authorities and organizations while engaging the local community to ensure proper utilization of resources as well as intelligence. Knowledge-based information could be one of the alternatives to the absence of surveyed data.

On the concluding note, Md. Mostak Hussain suggested that researchers should consider developing indicators of urban resilience so that a detailed mechanism could be formed to enhance the urban resilience. From the discussion, he presented some recommendations to the audience. He mentioned the inclusion of fiscal analysis to have an all-inclusive, pro poor urban resilient plan while allocating budget. There is also a need for an overall indicator to measure the resilience of a city to recover from shock or after a disaster. International agreements such as Sendai Framework for DRR, the Paris Agreement and SDG 11 need to be kept in mind while implementing national disaster resilience strategies for ensuring city resilience.

## 6.10 Parallel Session PSC1 on Creative Thinking for an Uncertain Urban Future

**Host/ Co-sponsor:** United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Climate change threatens Bangladesh in a number of ways. One of them is the prospect that it might set off massive rural-to urban migration that overwhelms the already overburdened urban infrastructure and services. In order to find solutions to this scenario this session took up the chance to re-think urbanization patterns and governance mechanisms. Taken from a positive angle the uncertainty that cities are facing might help to discover unconventional, and perhaps more creative solutions to address some of Bangladesh's enduring urban problems. The session's key learning was that it suggested a change of perspective away from simply seeing Rural Urban migration as a problem towards finding solutions with a reform oriented approach.

**Session Chair:** Dr. Saleemul Huq

**Panelists:** Dr. Akter Mahmud; Dr. Saiful Momen; Mousumi Pervin; Dr. Sanzida Akhter; and Dr. Taibur Rahman

The session began with the panelists sharing their thoughts on solutions for a better urban future and was followed by a discussion. On planning, Dr. Akhter Mahmud said that resilience should not be treated as an add-on to existing plans but rather be an integral part of planning. Implementation, however, depends on financial capacity of municipality that is an outcome of their tax collection. Changes in land use and transport



*Session on Creative Thinking for an Uncertain Urban Future*

planning will be necessary to accommodate the rising urban population. Emphasizing resilient transport planning, he said that future expansion should be kept in mind, also with regard to pedestrian movement.

Dr. Saiful Momen stated that interventions generally directly target communities, whereas large areas like urban policies remain unreached. He introduced the idea of community-managed canals to address the issues of water-logging and pollution in canals.

Ms. Mousumi Pervin shared her idea to build a green home in a new silicon city. She furthermore mentioned four dimensions to go forward with future resilient cities. These are decentralization of functions and responsibilities, better urban planning, improved city governance and better coordination among the different service providers.

Dr. Sanzida Akhter stated that urbanization and migration go hand in hand. She emphasized the need to think about resilience from individual and gender perspectives. In her research of rural to urban migration, she has found that after migrating to cities, people often receive another shock that excludes them from the urban communities. Her suggested solution is to build a community network that focuses on the integration of new migrants in each community. The network can help the newly arriving people with providing access to information and support to get a job, build cash capital, etc. It should also include the unaddressed community with special needs. She further stated that the role of men and women in family and workplace should be rethought and that workplaces should have monitoring mechanisms to ensure they are safe for women.

In his comment Dr. Taibur Rahman addressed the macro level and pointed to the problem of the cross-cutting nature of many urban issues and the fact that sector plans are not well coordinated with one another but are rather conflicting. He stated that the current approach to urban policy and planning has created inequality. Contrary to the current practice, urban policies should build on the “Right to the city” approach that includes citizens in planning and builds on the idea of co- governance.

### **Open Discussion:**

In the discussion following the panels’ presentations several important ideas were raised.

Structured trainings for cities` practitioners and others were suggested as a way to translate creative thinking into action. Such trainings could be facilitated by local facilitators. Also, workshops should be organized to build the capacity of urban citizens to participate in urban governance.

One discussant considered migration as a challenge and suggested more decentralized planning based on the situation in particular neighborhoods. Products could be produced and consumed within the same area and this could create economic opportunities.

On the coordination gap, one discussant suggested that the energy department should be a focal point that ensures coordination. Private land owners should be motivated to make their houses resilient.

Saiful Momen emphasized that accurate predictions are necessary in order to get a good result. On poverty, he said that focusing only on the poor is not enough. Focus should be given on the larger geographic unit.

On urban food production, Saiful Momen pointed out that the value of urban land for food production is high and that it is necessary to develop innovative solutions. The government can encourage innovations and create a cell in each ministry to fund and support creative ideas. Dr. Sanzid responded that growing food in the city should be made possible for everyone. This requires campaigning and initiatives to create behavioral change. Prof. Akther Mahmud pointed out the importance of financial strength of municipality and local government. In many municipalities, tax collection authorities do not have maps and taxes are not collected properly. City branding and marketing is important to create leadership and motivate a spirit of working together.

Dr. Huq highlighted the leading role of Bangladesh to gain resilience and create and share knowledge. He shared the idea to set up a challenge fund. It should be based on result based rewards in the areas of the city to enable decentralization. It could incentivize cities to attract migrants. Through innovative approaches like this, there is a chance to transform the challenges of climate change into opportunities.

### **Recommendations**

- Co-governance
- Building a community network
- Structured training for city practitioners
- Focal points to enhance cooperation
- Forums with working groups to change ideas into actions
- Creating cities that can produce their own food



- Incentives provided by government to landowners who grow food on their lands in cities
- Challenge fund to incentivize cities to attract migrants to enable decentralization

### 6.11 Parallel Session PSC2 on Universal Health Coverage: Resilient to Health Shock of Urban Low Income Population

**Host/ Co-sponsor:** CARE Bangladesh

Health inequalities have persisted in urban populations. The growing burdens of non-communicable diseases, especially for demographic and epidemiological transition, progressively add to the demand for complex and costly health care services. In order to reduce high out pocket expenditure and its devastating impact on the poor and vulnerable people, financial protection for health is fundamental. In this regard, the CARE Bangladesh hosted the session at Urban Conference which aimed to capture challenges of urban health, and experiences and lessons learned from promoting health financing system for urban populations, especially for low income people.

**Moderator:** Dr. Jahirul Alam Azad

**Keynote Speaker:** Dr. Muhammod Abdus Sabur

**Panelists:** Dr. Dipak Kumar Mitra, Ms. Atia Hossain and Dr. Md. Shamim Hayder Talukder

The keynote speaker, Dr. Sabur, kicked off the session by discussing the graduation of the health agenda from 'health for all' to 'Universal Health Coverage (UHC)'. He discussed the responsibilities and current actions of different ministries, divisions, city corporations and municipalities in the healthcare sector, particularly in regard to the 4th HNP sector program and in terms of financing and facilitating treatments for people with climate-related health impacts.



Session on Universal Health Coverage

UHC means that all people and communities can use the promotive, preventative, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services they need, of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship. Basically, there are three dimensions to UHC: equity in access to health services; quality of health services and financial-risk protection. It is believed by many that urban health is not an entity of the ministry of health. For the purposes of accountability, it is important for the public to understand the allocation of tasks among the different ministries and divisions; which division will be doing what is dictated by cabinet division. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) is entrusted with medical and health services including promotive, preventative, curative and rehabilitative components. However, local government division of Ministry of Local Government & Rural development Cooperatives (MoLGRD&C) is not assigned with any health activities. According to Local Government (City Corporation) Act 2009, City Corporation is responsible for the health system of the city. According to Local Government (Municipality) Act 2009, municipalities' responsibilities include public health. Local government institutions like municipalities and city corporations are not like government departments. Article 59 of Bangladesh's constitution vested them with the authority to prepare and implement plans relating to public services and economic development. As a result, their relationship with the LGD is not like subordinate departments whose responsibilities may be shouldered by the superior authority like division or

ministry.

There is an urban primary healthcare program. The project covers 10 (minus Chittagong City Corporation) out of 11 city corporations and 4 out of 300 plus municipalities. Different city corporations have their own hospitals and dispensaries with limited utilization. There are other service delivery centers like BRAC, Marie Stopes, and Smiling Sun Clinic. Currently, the Ministry of Health is providing vaccines and contraceptives, major commodities of two important primary health care components; immunization and family planning. MoHFW has a network consisting of a large number of health complexes and hospitals and all serving the urban dwellers. According to Bangladesh Urban Health Survey 2013, 95% of communities in slums and non-slums and about 90% in other urban areas had a health facility available within two kilometers. Thus, there may not be any need of more infrastructures. However, some challenges remain; e.g. costs of treatment, access to information, discrimination and hours of operation of the facilities. These challenges act as barriers to accessing the existing facilities particularly by the low income population. Most health facilities in the urban areas are non-government facilities which are not affordable for the low income population. Many hospitals do not treat people equally. Therefore, there may be many facilities within the vicinity but because of different access barriers, low income population do not receive adequate healthcare.

To get an understanding of health shock and its implications, we need to look at the national health accounts which indicate that the government's share in the total health expenditure has declined from 37% in 1997 to 23% in 2012. Since becoming a lower middle income country and aiming to become a middle income country, donor funds are declining. Donors' share declined from 38% in HPSP to 24% in HPNSDP. However, household out-of-pocket expenditure has increased from 56% in 1997 to 63% in 2012. Every year, 15% of the population is pushed below the poverty line due to catastrophic illness and accidents. A large share of the out-of-pocket expenditure is spent on drugs; the prices to which have increased drastically. The low income population mostly resorts to drug stores.

Bangladesh Health Care Financing Strategy 2012-2032 proposed three strategic objectives which include: generating more resources for effective health services, improving equity and increasing health care access, especially for the poor and vulnerable, and enhancing efficiency in resource allocation and utilization. However, we do not have sufficient resources as government and donor expenditures are declining and the efficiency in terms of resource allocation and utilization is very poor. Dhaka city absorbs most of the resources leaving very little resources for the outlying municipalities.

The Ministry of Health's low absorption capacity leads to poor allocation of funds. The 5 to 10% of the budget which is allocated for health remains unutilized every year. When more funds are requested, it is denied simply because the ministry has a record of not being able to effectively and efficiently allocate its financial resources. As a result, the ministry remains stuck in a mutual vicious cycle.

Governance is required both within government (equity, efficiency, etc.) and outside through better regulations. The government health system lacks governance, so do the private health institutions since they are not bound by any regulations. The 4<sup>th</sup> Health Nutrition and Population sector program tells us that urban health is within the community based health care OP and expected to be led by the director general for health services (ADGHS) as Line Director. Urban health has 26 – 27 operational plans. MoHFW will support respective City Corporation/Municipalities to develop an institutional mechanism for delivering Essential Service Package (ESP) to its dwellers. Upazilla Health and Family Planning Officer, Civil Surgeon, Divisional Director for Health with their corresponding colleagues from the Family Planning Directorate are to support the Mayor (of City

Corporations and Municipalities) and his/her health team to map the health facilities available from MOHFW and other government departments, NGOs and private sectors in their respective catchment area. In the next step, each facility is assigned with a catchment area to serve its population for ESP, ideally, free of cost. Guidelines for establishment and operation of non-government medical college 2011 (revised) require non-government medical college hospitals to reserve 10% of its beds to treat inpatients free of cost. This provision may be revised to serve assigned population in lieu. Municipality/City Corporation may also impose this as a condition to provide registration to those organizations by themselves and/or provide incentives in reducing holding tax for those facilities. Monitoring of functioning of the system is to be vested to ward commissioners as routine and through periodical meetings by the mayor.

### **Open Discussion:**

Since each facility would be assigned to a specific catchment area, an audience member inquired as to whether or not it will affect health coverage for the frequently moving migrant population. In response, Dr. Sabur noted that it is an operationalization teething problem. Initiating a universal health card or simply using the NID could solve the problem. When asked about the effective resource allocation, he stated that it takes new line directors time to understand how to ask for money or allocate it effectively. All social sector ministries (for example education ministry) face the same challenge. We could learn from construction ministries (for example roads and highways) which are more efficient at budget spending.

When asked about the challenge of operating hours as most health facilities do not stay open on Fridays which is a problem for garment workers, Dr. Sabur noted that it is possible for health facilities to operate on Fridays. In fact, there are some facilities which are already doing it. For example, the centre for women and children hospital in Ashulia stays open on Fridays and Marie Stopes holds mobile clinics. However, more efforts have to be exerted to urge other health facilities to do the same.

In response to how garment factory in house health clinics can be made functional, Dr. Sabur said that factories have health corners simply because it has been made obligatory by buyers. A factory typically wants to ensure when buyers visit they see the factory has a health corner but whether it is functional or not is not the factory's concern. Also, having a health corner at the factory cannot be of much help because, for example, if a worker is ill and needs to take a day off, the factory doctor may not grant the leave because the factory management would not be very happy about it. There are many similar conflicts of interest. Additionally, when considering running health education awareness raising sessions for the workers during their lunch time, it was shown by experience that workers will be reluctant to participate since that's the only time they are allowed to leave the floor during the work day. There is a need to rethink whether in-factory health systems need to be improved or whether workers need better access to external healthcare facilities.

Ms. Atia Hossain delivered her presentation on 'Urban Health Safety-net: Lessons Learnt from Urban Health Systems Strengthening Project'. She mainly talked about Urban Health System Strengthening Project. Ms. Hossain discussed the project's focus and how the project is harmonizing urban health safety nets, findings from the project's baseline survey, how the project will contribute to national social health protection plans, trial intervention of common healthcare entitlement card, and policy and broader programming issues.

The project aims to improve access to maternal, new-born and reproductive health services for the urban poor in Bangladesh by integrating and expanding facility-based and community outreach services through providing support to Marie Stopes Bangladesh; NGO Health Service Delivery Program (NHSDP) of the USAID;

and the Government of Bangladesh through UHSS. Out of the six building blocks of WHO health system framework, UHSSP focuses on leadership/governance, service delivery and partially on healthcare financing.

The project is operating in three municipalities: Dinajpur, Mymensingh and Jessore. The target population is the extreme urban poor; around 10 – 12% of the municipality's population falls under this category. The project works with ward counselors through ward health committees. The project does not provide health services, it rather supports the strengthening of health systems and systems approach. The reason the project focuses on harmonization of urban safety nets is because there are multiple actors in the urban setup. They are all targeting extreme urban poor but there are many missed opportunities, and lack of coordination which leads to duplication of efforts. There is a huge information gap on health services: who is providing the services, when and where the services are given, what services are available at which levels, etc.

Apart from the urban health survey, the project gathered information from a baseline survey it conducted at the beginning of the project. The survey involved 3,000 households and focused on people's knowledge of the health facilities and their services. Findings indicate that people are less aware of NGO health facilities. The survey also looked into the percentage of women aged between 15 and 49 who have accessed a facility. There is a variety of initiatives such as health card for the extreme poor by Marie Stopes, BRAC Manoshi's maternal and child health handbook and Sheikh Hasina Shastho Shurokka card (this initiative has been mentioned in the health financing strategy).

There has been lot of consultation at the local and central ministry level. Ward counselors and local communities were involved in defining who is meant by 'extreme poor'. Interestingly, the criteria across the 3 municipalities were similar. The project conducted household interviews then, based on the predefined criteria, the extreme poor were identified. The project created coordination between 3 NGOs regarding their health cards systems. The cards were then distributed to enlisted beneficiaries. Approximately 10-12 % of the total population (of 3 wards) fit the 'extreme poor' criteria. Findings regarding ownership, tasks sharing, information and coordination & clarification on service boundary/coverage were also identified throughout the project.

The next presentation was delivered by Dr. Talukder on 'Urban Health & Role of Civil Society'. He spoke about civil society's role in urban health and where Bangladesh stands in terms of SDGs and action points for future.

His talk started off with an overview of urban health which stated that approximately one-third of the developing world's urban population lives in slums. Globally, based on data from over 1600 cities, 88% of the urban population is exposed to PM<sub>10</sub> or PM<sub>2.5</sub> annual mean levels that exceed WHO Air Quality Guideline values. One billion people worldwide with no sanitation facilities whatsoever continue to practice open defecation. The population without sanitation in urban areas actually increased significantly by 215 million to 756 million in 2012

Regarding the role of civil society for urban health, he discussed prioritizing and ensuring regular information generation on the urban facts, defining direct and indirect targets and indicators for Bangladesh, policy analysis to ensure resource allocation and progress equity basis, strengthening the capacity for multi-sectoral development towards health, public - private partnership development, health and non-health sectors for housing, transportation and others and technology and knowledge transfer through local, regional and global partnership development.

Regarding SDGs and Civil Societies in Bangladesh, the role of civil society to set targets and indicators for health needs to be identified. He mentioned different UN Habitat Programs and Events (Cities and Climate Change Initiatives, Cities Prosperity Initiative, City Resilience Profiling Program, Global Public Space Program, Participatory Urban Slum Up Gradation Program, Safer Cities Program and World Urban Program), WHO Initiatives (Urban Heart, Kobe Call to Action, Hidden Cities and Smoke Free City) and UNICEF initiatives (Child Friendly Cities and Global Civil Societies for Urban Health).

**Suggested Action Points:**

- Strengthen Bangladesh Urban Health Network
- Develop indicators for national urban health as well as national health
- Recognize different national survey & surveillance as a regular information and data generation source
- Set up priorities of health and social determinants activities through a participatory process
- Collect data, monitor and implement program on the basis of local government constitutions to ensure the accountability of political leaders
- Develop resilience within civil societies for ensuring resilience of poor people in urban areas
- Policy review on the progress guideline basis for multi-sectoral partnership as social determinants of health
- Regular knowledge sharing initiatives and resource allocation for this purpose
- Partnership with regional and global civil society initiatives

Dr. Taluker focused on a more inclusive decision making process. He said, “We need to talk about how the Bangladeshi civil societies and NGOs were not a part of the indicator selection for 2030 SDGs and its implications.”

Dr. Mitra discussed urban and rural population dynamics, health care financing in Bangladesh, and financial strategy to achieve UHC. The majority of the health programs target rural populations, however, urban population will be increasing and rural population will be decreasing. In the BDHS data comparison between 2013 and 2014, under several indicators, it can be seen that the urban population are worse off than its rural counterparts. Per capita health expenditure in Bangladesh is low; however, there is no data on which segments of the urban population (income quantile) benefit from the allocated health budget. As discussed earlier, out-of-pocket expenditure is very high in Bangladesh, but it remains a luxury, available only for the high income sector of the population. This means that the low income sector is not being able to access healthcare services. The national health expenditure as a share of GDP is not very high either. The national health financing strategy 2012-2032 proposes reduction of out-of-pocket expenditure from 64% to 32% by year 2032. Community based insurance program is one area which could be considered for the future.

**Strategies of National Urban Health:**

- Universal health coverage for urban population with a pro-poor focus
- Strengthen preventive and primary health care management system
- Ensure urban poverty reduction
- Achieve national population policy targets
- Achieve national nutrition targets
- Adopt innovative service delivery using modern technology, management policy and practices
- Improve institutional governance and capacity development

- Strengthen health service program of the city corporations and municipalities
- Financing and resource mobilization
- Attain sustainability.

As a way forward, the session chair mentioned monitoring, accountability and implementation of research in this regard.

## 6.12 Parallel Session PSC3 on Safer Cities and Public Spaces for Women's Empowerment

**Host/ Co-sponsor:** ActionAid Bangladesh

The session aimed to demonstrate the importance of safety for women and girls in the city for resilience.

**Session Chair:** Farah Kabir

**Panelists:** Khushi Kabir; Dr. Engr. Tariq Bin Yousuf, and Mubasshar Hussein

After a welcome speech by Mr. Sajid Raihan five videos were presented.



Session Chair and Panelists

The video 'Safe City for Women in Bangladesh' highlighted the absence of laws in Bangladesh to protect women against the sexual harassment they frequently face during their daily movement and work in the city. In order to create more safety for women, the legal system should provide unbiased justice for all and address the issue of sexual harassment. Women should be empowered to come to the frontline and rise up collectively in order to make the city safe. Farah Kabir raised a question to Dr. Engr. Tariq Bin Yusuf whether women's voice are included in the planning regarding urban issues and what can be done to achieve SDGs taking into account the gender dimension. In response to these questions Dr. Engr. Tariq Bin Yusuf described the project he is working on, which uses a neighborhood concept that aims to make urban space more woman and children friendly, using up-grading and regeneration methods.

The video 'Madarbari slum community reality' gave important insights on service provision in slums. In the video, a woman garment worker presents the poor condition of housing, latrines and services of Madarbari Slum at Chittagong. Every early morning, 15-20 persons have to stand in a queue to use one single latrine. As a consequence to the wait, working people face difficulties in getting to the workplace in time. The unmanaged solid waste and use of polluted water for daily needs affects slum dwellers' health as the poor conditions of sanitation make people vulnerable to diseases. The women in the video demand a government health clinic in the slum area to treat these diseases.

Following the video presentation, Ms. Farah drew attention on the difference between slum and well off. The discussion then focused on gender responsive public services in Dhaka city. Dr. Engr. Tariq Bin Yusuf pointed out that direct city services are not provided in slums because they are considered an illegal entity. City Corporation is addressing service issues by working with different NGOs. Farah Kabir pointed out that even though slum dwellers are considered illegal settlers, they do actually contribute to society and economy in various forms such as paying Value Added Tax (VAT). Slum dwellers do pay electricity bills, water bills etc. but they do only receive limited service because services in the city target the well off or middle income classes

whilst excluding low income groups living in slums which they consider illegal. Farah Kabir emphasized the need for an awareness building programme and women friendly services.

During the discussion, several questions were asked:

- What can be done for the slum people to ensure public services?
- If they want basic services, who they can ask? Where they can go?
- How can we women; especially those are living in poverty be involved in current urban planning discussion?

Responding these questions, Mr. Tariq pointed out that even though City Corporation cannot directly invest for slum people they are taking many initiatives to support the low income community. The participation of women in designing the development plan for all sectors is being considered by City Corporation. The goal is that, following the planning, people will be engaged during implementation, operation and maintenance. However, an obstacle to women's participation is that many of the ward councilors do not agree to engage women's voice in discussion and decision making because they are male and do not understand the different gender related approaches in planning.

The third video 'Women's Problems in using Public Transport' drew attention to the problems and harassments women face during their use of public transport. Following the screening, the Chair pointed out that public transport are not women friendly and questioned Khushi Kabir on what can be done to address harassment in public transport. Khushi Kabir said that there is a need for men to change their perspective and consider women as human beings rather than sex objects. Free mobility is a woman's right and schemes need to be developed that improve the situation of women in transport. Measurements against harassment should not be limited to transport; safe open spaces for playing sports for women and girls are also needed. They can benefit women which will be beneficial to their physical and mental development. People who grab women in public parks and clubs should face entry restriction. In the discussion, lack of proper enforcement in law and institutional place for women to make harassment claims was emphasized. An awareness programme for bus drivers to change their attitude towards women and intervene in cases of harassment was proposed, along with seats that are reserved for women. Also the formation of a surveillance team to ensure safety at public space/ park was suggested.

The fourth video 'How Safe Cities are Possible' demonstrated, how safe cities can be possible. The video reinstated the safety problem: in Bangladesh, 84% of women using the public transport have to go through bad comments or harassments. For a solution, emphasis should be given to strict enforcement of law, safe public toilet, sufficient lights in streets and easy ticketing system to access the public transport. Women need to raise their voice. Government should hold multinational companies more accountable to paying their taxes and use the money for women's safety. Farah Kabir added to the presentation that lack of funds is a common explanation given by government on why they do not change things. One way to overcome the argument would be to look at already existing policies and government projects that are running and improve them. Panelist Mubassar Hussain defined the best city as the place where all people, be it men, women or children can move alone and freely without having fear. He elaborated his point saying that enforcement of law is highly required to make cities safer and resilient. Some enforcement or rules already exists, but only in privileged areas. Instead of this, safety should exist city-wide. In order to address harassment in public transport he suggests centralization of bus service. Currently the 4000 buses running in Dhaka belong to 1100 owners. Instead there should be only two owners and color codes for different routes

The fifth video `Remarks from Policy Makers` presented comments by Farah Kabir, Country Director, ActionAid Bangladesh; Md. Showkat Ali, Secretary, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority; Begum Meher Afroze Chumki, State Minister, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Bangladesh and many other important personnel. It was pointed out that it is necessary to include men in the solution and give them a space in the movement for improved safety.

Important key recommendations arose from the session:

- Inclusion of women from different socio-economical background in urban planning and the design and implementation of service provisions.
- Sensitization of user groups through behavior change communication initiative so that the services are well maintained and user friendly
- City Corporation should have the coordinating authority to ensure good governance of the service provisions.
- When City Corporation undertakes any plan, there should a platform for the public hearing and public opinion sharing.
- Public transport system needs to be made women friendly. Awareness raising of bus driver is necessary.
- City-wide enforcement of law to change people's behavioral attitude

### **6.13: Fourth Plenary Session on Financing the Sustainable Urban Development Agenda**

**Host/ Co-sponsor:** Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS)

For well-designed sustainable planning, one of the key challenges is financing sustainable urbanization. The public funds available are very limited and the funds dedicated for the well needed monitoring and maintenance of urban services is also sparse. Private sector is yet to play a key role in financing sustainable urban development. On top of these, the impacts of climate change in the urban ecosystem add to existing perils. The session speakers discussed some of the challenges and opportunities in financing sustainable development with a focus on urbanization.

**Chief Guest:** Dr. Shamsul Alam

**Session Chair:** Mr. Golam Rabbani

**Panelists:** Mamunur Rashid; Ranjit Kumar Chakrobarty and Catherine Cecil

Catherine Cecil mentioned that PROKAS mainly prioritizes two things: Climate Change Program and Climate Finance. According to her, "The city authorities should ensure transparent use of funds in the urban projects. Urban dwellers do not get benefited from big development projects if the authorities concerned do not reduce corruption." She said that Bangladesh has managed 1 billion USD from the donors. However, the funding stream itself is a problem. She recommended that there is a need of an accessible web portal which can track the funding and spending of the climate programme.



*Chief Guest, Session Chair and Panelists in the session*



Mr. Ranjit mentioned a project titled “Inclusive Financing and Budgeting for Climate Resilience”. The aim of the project was to embed the issues in budget framework. He focused on fiscal instruments which include taxation and government spending. He recommended the imposition of tax to the polluters and subsidization of tax for green energy.

Samsul Alam stated three relevant aspects which included growth, social impact and environmental impact aspects. The government conducts 1200 projects each year for creating resources and services. However, he stated that development is a destructive creation. For any kind of intervention, all should be careful about whether that intervention is destroying natural resources or not. He emphasized the need of transparency, accountability and competitiveness for sustainable development. Cities are the drivers of economic growth; 70% of the total natural resources are being consumed by the people in cities.

Mamunur Rashid, a climate change specialist of UNDP, said: “The authorities concerned should seriously look into the environment issues while working on urban development projects.” He urged for the inclusion of risk informed urban planning for capacity building in master planning processes. Urbanization can be seen as a process of opportunity and/ or challenge; particularly pertaining to issues of social dynamics and political economy. He informed the participants that, in the 7<sup>th</sup> five-year plan, the focus is on equity. He also mentioned issues of urban ecosystem conservation. There lies structural inequality in the big cities where the slum dwellers pay higher cost per unit of water consumption and/or per unit of living area. The chief guest recommended that increasing the mobility of the people is important as people create resources.

To summarize the session, Mr Mamunur recommended that there should be a dedicated budget allocation for urban poor. And there should be modification regarding financial instruments. Mr. Ranjit, a session participant, recommended the formation of urban local institutions for the enforcement of taxation. Panelist Catherine felt the urge to introduce funding programmes that actually promote transformation of change. Overall, we should advocate for improving transparency. The session chair mentioned that the voice of the civil society should be louder; through different media including writing. Lastly, awareness should be built through educational programmes.

### **Open discussion**

One audience member questioned how the private sector could be involved in this and how would one finance the development of a slum area. The panelists responded stating that it’s possible through a public private partnership. Another question revolved around the planning activities regarding slum development, to which the panelists responded with an elaboration on issues of land distribution in cities. They also mentioned using incentives to encourage grassroots development initiatives. Panelist Catherine mentioned the need for transparency in phases of designing and implementation. One participant highlighted the fact that financing and capacity issues are interlinked. Hence, there should be a separate budget for operation and maintenance. The urban development experts and bankers have urged the government to ensure transparent financing in urban development of Bangladesh.

### **Summary of recommendations**

- Increasing mobility of the people
- Conserving urban resources/ urban ecosystem conservation
- Financing: Beneficiary should pay cost and also polluters
- Transparency and accountability

- Infrastructural development
- Budget for operation and management
- Capacity building

#### 6.14 Parallel Session PSD1 on 'Realities of the Urban Poor: Tackling Challenges and Leveraging Opportunities'

**Host/ Co-sponsor:** The Urban Development Programme (UDP) and the Disaster Management and Climate Change (DMCC) programme of BRAC (jointly)

**Session Chair:** Mr. Gawher Nayeem Wahra

**Panelists:** Dr. Ainun Nishat; Dr. A K M Abul Kalam; and, Mr. Asif Saleh

**Presenters:** Mr. Mrityunjoy Das, and Mr. Tamzidul Islam

In the beginning, a video titled 'Urban Realities: Bangladesh' highlighted low income urban community challenges. It is estimated that 37% of the total population of Dhaka will live in 4000 slums. Due to poor planning and design of houses, the people living in these communities are likely to face different hazards including problems of unavailability of basic infrastructure and services, insufficient public transports and huge traffic congestion or frequent fire incidents. Despite such challenges, urban communities have immense economic potential to generate growth and increase per capita income. Yet, sustainable urban development and rural development cannot be separated. It is, therefore, necessary to achieve mutual development actions in both urban and rural areas in Bangladesh.



*Session on Realities of the Urban Poor: Tackling Challenges and Leveraging Opportunities*

The first speaker of the session, Mr. Tamzidul Islam, gave a presentation on 'City Realities: Tackling Challenges and Leveraging Opportunities' in which he presented the current scenario of urban cities along with some ways forward. According to him, the current situation shows that 28% of the population lives in urban areas across 570 urban centers. However, only 12 urban cities are recognized as major cities. Around 50% of the total urban population lives in Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna. Regarding the future of cities, it is estimated that half of the total population of Bangladesh will live in urban cities by 2040. More interestingly, Bangladesh is likely to exceed the urbanization rate of South Asia by 2020.

In describing the dynamics of cities, he highlighted that cities consist of many complex components such as urban housing settlements, urban water supply, urban drainage systems, urban sanitation systems, solid waste management, transportation and ecological change.

He talked about three domains of urbanization that are closely interlinked: social domain, economic domain and ecological domain. The current situation of urban housing settlements shows that 38% of the urban population lives in slums while 44 % of urban citizens live in temporary structures. Land tenure security is the main challenge for housing. Hence, there is a housing deficit in terms of both quantity and quality which is a major policy challenge for Bangladesh. He suggested a rental housing system that is available for both urban poor and middle income groups and incorporates a control mechanism for rental prices. This strategy helped

to overcome the same urbanization challenges in England in the 1950s. He also encouraged Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) which could provide housing loans and introduce land re-adjustment strategies for new housing allocations. By initiating new strategies, the 'build back better' approach has received increasing global attention since it uses the opportunity of reconstruction to build more sustainable and resilient homes – an approach that is also highly suggested for cities in Bangladesh. Examples of such an approach are improved reconstructions after the recent *Karail* fire incident.

There are some essential basic urban services which are related to the environment. In the Urban Water Supply sectors, most of the slums do not have legal water connections. A total of 50%, 40% and 20% of the population are served by piped water supply systems in Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna, respectively. Other cities/towns only have 19% coverage of piped water supply. The Urban Drainage System is considered to be the most neglected and challenging sector within cities due to poor infrastructures as well as waste dumping. He recommended awareness raising activities for local citizens as well as their active involvement in order to prevent clogging and maintain the functioning of drainage systems.

Regarding Urban Sanitation Facilities, only 30% of Dhaka City is provided with a central sewerage system. A total of 76.12% of urban households are using sanitary toilets with septic tanks. Within informal settlements, the majority of dwellers do not have sanitary latrines. In this context, he recommended further awareness raising campaigns which spread knowledge on potential diseases and healthcare costs. While the solid waste collection by the City Corporation covers only 60% of the actual solid waste in Dhaka City, it is only about 57%, 48% and 44% for Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal respectively. He recommended incentive-based strategies for recycling such as waste buy-back schemes and trainings which encourage recycling at households and institutions and boost a green economy.

According to him, the challenge of transportation in Dhaka and Chittagong could be overcome with the Strategic Transportation Plan (STP) of Dhaka City and a thorough implementation of the Land Use Plan.

He also stated Ecological Change as a very important parameter. Due to climate change and global warming, urban areas face more adverse and irregular impacts like floods, water logging, cold waves, increase in energy consumption, degraded air and water quality as well as several severe health impacts. He recommended strengthening the community platform by using ICT in creating a database and sharing it within the community. Furthermore, there is a necessity to prepare and implement urban development plans that are sensitive to natural disasters and climate change as well as to improve the capacity building of elected representatives and officials on urban planning and governance. All stakeholders should be included in order to avoid overlaps and the development of new challenges by allocating resources effectively and appropriately.

Mr. Mrityunjoy Das gave a presentation on 'Climate induced internal migration and resilience of human settlement'. He presented a new adaptation method of a resilient housing designed by Nusrat Jahan Mim, a BUET graduate. Initially, he presented some statistics on internal migration and the factors that are responsible for Bangladesh's vulnerability to climate change such as its geographical position, high incidence of natural disasters and limited natural resources compared to its population. Bangladesh ranks sixth in the Global Climate Risk Index 2016 (German Watch, 2016). In order to adapt, people either find alternative livelihoods or migrate to other places (often urban areas) in search of seasonal or even permanent livelihood options which is known as rural-urban migration.

It is estimated that there will be 16 to 26 million migrants in Bangladesh by 2050. This is *due to floods (3-6m), storm surges (5-7m), river bank erosion (2-5m) and sea level rise (6-8m)* (Global Climate Models 2010 and the World Bank Studies 2011). Rising sea levels could inundate more than 17% of the land and could displace even 18 million people unless appropriate actions are taken (BCAS). The presentation reflected on some of the crucial information on migration from natural disaster affected areas. According to Action Aid Bangladesh, it was found that, though displacement is usually triggered by sudden onset disasters, economic and social considerations are the determining factors for migration. It was suggested that climate induced migration can be addressed in two ways. Firstly, unsafe migration could be discouraged by creating an environment that ensures access to necessary facilities. Secondly, safe migration could be facilitated by creating a better environment for potential and already migrated people through appropriate facilities and capacity building initiatives at the destination. BRAC and the German based KFW Development Bank have worked on an initiative that builds resilience among the vulnerable people of Bangladesh who are either displaced or are at risk of being displaced due to impacts of climate change. Primary target areas are Khulna, Satkhira, Barisal, Sirajganj and Rajshahi whereas Dhaka and Chittagong are secondary focus areas. This initiative aims to map climate hotspots for vulnerable people in order to help with social and economic cost analysis of migration and policy gap analysis. It could further help to find alternative livelihood options, improve the existing living environment and introduce climate resilient adaptive technologies.

In order to foster resilience, BRAC promotes multipurpose cyclone shelters and individual disaster resilient housing in semi urban and rural areas. These houses are built to be individual mini shelters which provide protection against the wind and surge. This helps to reduce the vulnerability of remote communities since residents do not have to travel during the emergency period. As families will be staying in houses permanently, they are encouraged to maintain their houses. Rather than building an expensive community cyclone shelter that is unusable in multiple disasters, resilient homes could be built.

#### **Open Discussion:**

In the open discussion, Mr. Andrew Jenkins from the Donor Liaison Office of BRAC asked to consider hydraulic effects, surge duration and expected height of the water while designing the housing project. Mr. Manik Saha from Christian Aid asked whether there is scope for livestock protection as people often value their livestock more than other assets. In response to this question Mr. Mrityunjy Das confirmed that livestock has been considered in the housing plan.

Mr. Ashfaqur Rahman Khan from IOM mentioned that the government and development organizations invest in community cyclone shelters. In terms of individual disaster resilient housing, he asked who bears the cost and where the funding comes from. Mr. Das replied that this will depend on the capacity; we can work with development partners or utilize the microfinance model which is a work in progress of BRAC with the World Bank.

Mr. Ashfaq also questioned the accuracy of the number of migrants. Mr. Das said that concrete data on climate induced migration in Bangladesh is needed. Research is being done which should be available soon.

Mr. Ashfaq also suggested finding out innovative financial products for the poor. He also raised his concerns over the ownership of land since the government will not encourage the slum upgradation. What is the distribution mechanism to landless people? Having built on *Khas* land; this was a long and painful process. *Khas* land is government-owned fallow land, where nobody has property rights. It is land which is deemed to

be owned by the government and available for allocation according to government priorities.

Ms. Suporna Das from Helen Keller International suggested considering the nutrition issue along with the housing support. Mr. Das ensured this will be incorporated.

Mr. Aminul Haque from IFRC spoke about promoting activities by and for the youth in urban areas. In this context, he mentioned that there should be a linkage with the IFRC urban volunteer base for better coordination.

Mr. Nepal Chandra Dey from RED of BRAC said that all solutions need to be translated into practice and urged for implementation in the field.

Dr. Ainun Nishat gave a presentation on 'Resilience, Climate Change and Urbanization' in which he mentioned that there are two definitions for resilience with focus on climate change.

One is toughness, which is the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties and the other one is elasticity; the ability of a substance or object to spring back into shape. There are two divergent schools of thought which are disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. The two schools are merged for a paradigm shift in disaster management. It was found that people adjacent to cyclone shelters are more likely to die during a natural disaster event as they take more time to make a decision. In Bangladesh, there is a need of more than nine thousand shelter houses and we have only four thousand shelter houses. Circular and octagonal shaped cyclone shelters are considered as the best design for a shelter house. Dr. Nishat suggested making mosque roofs flat so they can be used for shelter during disaster events.

Mr. Asif Saleh shared the learnings from different interventions in which BRAC has addressed urban issues over the last year. He mentioned that urban challenges are far more complex due to social and political dynamics. Unavailability of old data is another problem which prevents the assessment of changes. The list of service providers is also unavailable for most areas. Another problem is that we do not coordinate during a period when there is no disaster so there need to be more dialogue. He summarized the learnings from the presentation by making some suggestions such as portable skill development of the youth which will help to increase resilience of communities in both rural and urban areas. Furthermore, it is crucial to create and facilitate innovations and partnerships in which all stakeholders, especially the youth, are involved. There should also be policy coverage for urban resilience. There are three main innovation areas that should receive attention: employment, housing and transportation.

The last speaker, Dr. AKM Abul Kalam, suggested that for urban areas, especially for the major 12 cities, there should be a Master Plan for each city that has to be implemented as an Act so that everybody is obliged to follow the plan.

Mr. Gawher Nayeem Wahra referred to the transport and traffic situation within cities and suggested separate bicycle lanes. He also criticized the present constructions of houses, such as the practice of building a house first and thinking of a sewerage model later on. Moreover, he strongly encouraged the involvement of all community members in planning and implementation processes in order to achieve urban resilience. Mr. Wahra also appreciated the concept of resilient housing that could also be beneficial in times of forced eviction or occurrence of any hazards like a fire outbreak. He emphasized the paradigm shift of focusing on individual housing rather than cyclone shelters since such an effort will save more lives. In order to achieve

this objective, more collaboration and networks as well as awareness and capacity building of all stakeholders are required.

### 6.15 Parallel Session PSD2 on Building Community Engagement to Enhance Urban Resilience

**Host/ Co-Sponsor:** ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia

The conference highlighted the sustainable urban development goals and ways to make cities resilient. With support from Rockefeller Foundation, ICLEI South Asia worked with seven cities in Bangladesh under Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN) Project to strengthen urban resilience using the ICLEI ACCCRN Process (IAP) tool kit. The toolkit is centered on active stakeholder engagement which includes government, local NGOs, development organizations, academia, local community representatives and the private sector that are engaged through Shared Learning Dialogues (SLDs). The session helped to promote the effectiveness of the IAP tool for better understanding of a city's vulnerabilities and resilience actions and highlighted the role of stakeholder engagement in forming a city resilience strategy (CRS).

**Moderator:** Ms. Bedoshruti Sadhukhan

**Panelists/ Speakers:** Md. Jubaer Rashid; Md. Abdul Baten; Md. Zulfikar Ali, and Dr. Md. Matiur Rahman

During the session, Ms. Bedoshruti Sadhukhan gave his presentation on the topic of 'Building community engagement to enhance urban resilience', where he presented the role of the IAP in encouraging stakeholder engagement for a robust resilience building process. Ms. Bedoshruti Sadhukhan from ICLEI summed up their main activities during the session as helping local government/municipalities to create city resilience strategies (CRS) through ICLEI ACCCRN Process (IAP) tools. He highlighted their attribute of being a third party is in an advantageous position to make the difficult task of bringing municipality local governments and governments together.



*Session Moderator, Panelists and Presenters*

The most startling attribute of ICLEI is its approach towards building city region cooperation to enable sustainable development in the local, regional and sub national level. ICLEI is working towards building community engagement in cooperation with the ACCCRN Network. The IAP tool is a participatory, adjustable, flexible process that can be modified with changing conditions in the city. It involves finding out the climate risk, urban issues and vulnerability coping capacities after engaging with the target communities, followed by building a city resilience strategy (CRS). It doesn't end there, but moves one notch higher towards implementation by gathering funds and project planning followed by monitoring and review. This whole process enables resilience building. Efforts are made to make the process as inclusive and participatory as possible through facilitation. The various issues of water supply, drainage, sewerage, solid waste management, economy and livelihood, transportation and ecosystems are addressed. ICLEI sets up a Climate Core Team in local levels who are responsible for implementing city governments operations. Risk assessments are made according to prior climate change vulnerability assessments. A list of possible Interventions is developed in order to address the climate risks and vulnerabilities identified. ICLEI helps mobilizing funds for implementation. The benefit of community engagement is the fact that it facilitates

communication and partnerships within the city, which the local authorities were not always aware of. It also enhances transparency.

Success stories from few cities around Bangladesh are highlighted by the presence of those city mayors and authorities.

In the next presentation, the Mayor from Mongla spoke about the benefits of using the IAP process in making the CRS for Bangladesh cities. Md Zulfikar Ali, Mayor of Mongla port municipality reported that they have developed a dam and 6 switch gates, drainage systems and roads and a green zone where 7500 trees have been planted. Marine drive road has been built. Water supply and sanitation project has been developed. Rain water harvesting solution is tackling the salinity in water in the area.

The Chief Health Officer of Barisal presented on the topic of “Moving from Resilience Building to Leveraging Funds for Resilience – Barisal City Perspective” where he presented the scenario on how they were able to link the CRS with funding opportunities that were emerging in the city. Dr. Md. Matiur Rahman pointed out Barisal’s improvement in the fragile areas of health system, storm water drainage, water supply and sanitation.

The President of MAB, Mr. Abdul Baten, who is also the mayor of Bera Municipality endorsed the role of participatory development. Mohammad Abdul Baten stated that it would be a wise step to divide budget mechanism in 2 phases, and put emphasis on the idea of creating model municipalities. He adds that tools and strategies are needed within limited resources.

In the open discussion, Mr. Shamim Al Razi from LG Net acknowledged the role of institutions such as ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability and MAB in experience and knowledge sharing between cities. Mr. Shamim Al Razi, ex-mayor of Singra said that within new Budget strategies: 10% fund of ADP can be dedicated for climate change. He also reaffirmed that budget developing mechanism should be divided in 2 phases. He also mentioned that policy level advocacy is needed to enable local leaders to link with the government and network building needed for knowledge sharing. Sarder Shafiqul Haque, Country Coordinator of ACCCRN Bangladesh, stated that community engagement has to be made long term as well as capacity building needs to be sustainable, along with an assessment of ICLEI’s plans. The session participants appreciated the IAP as an effective tool for resilience planning processes in the cities of Bangladesh.

**Recommendations:**

- The local governments and networks existing in Bangladesh should use the ICLEI ACCCRN Process toolkit to undertake vulnerability assessment and develop strategies to combat climate change.
- Experience and knowledge sharing between cities is essential and MAB and ICLEI can play a big role in the same.
- ICLEI should take forward the initiative and carry on with the capacity building of the local governments.
- Model municipalities
- Tools and strategies needed within limited resources
- Network building needed for knowledge sharing

## 6.16: CONCLUDING SESSION

**Session Chair:** Dr. Atiq Rahman

**Presenter:** Dr. Saleemul Huq

**Special guests:** Jamie Terzi; John Armstrong; and Hossain Zillur Rahman

In the concluding session, Dr. Saleemul Huq began by thanking all the participants for fruitful discussions over the past three days. In the concluding speech, Dr. Huq summarized the genesis of the thinking behind organizing the event.

He stated that urbanization in Bangladesh is desirable but must spread beyond Dhaka. There is a need to focus on building capacity of people and organizations, not just building infrastructures. A paradigm shift is needed in investing in infrastructure first, to investing in people and concentrating on building capacity on people and organizations. We must take account of views of women and the vulnerable and ensure continuous dialogue between authorities and citizens.

As a way forward, he promised to hold the National Urban Resilience conference every year with a focus on “Initiating solutions” not just identifying the problems, and building on future plans through scaling up and going into national policy. He recommended on following up with an increment on solutions. He also urged for replicating and rewarding good pilot practices at local levels through challenge funds or award schemes which can be a good solution. After his speech, the Special guests said their closing remarks.

Jamie Terzie stated that a lot of solutions have been accumulated through contributions from everyone which will inspire us to keep growing. She added that Bangladesh is good at identifying solutions, identifying strategies and making commitments for change.

John Armstrong stated that this urban dialogue every year will have a positive impact. He stated that we need to be more intentional about bringing ourselves together in order to share our failures and successes. He put emphasis on all sectors, NGOs, experts and governments to work together.

Hossain Zillur Rahman said that urban issues are getting the recognition it should get from a spectrum of actors. He speaks of resilience as having resonance, which encompasses many issues of habitat, urban governance and risk. He stated that the urban spectrum has gradations and each of these different gradations need to be addressed differently as their issues are varying. He also laid emphasis on focusing on the economic side of planning.

Dr Atiq Rahman, the session chair shared his idea on the 3 gradations/types of cities according to size and complexity level with a focus on solutions. He stated that wishing urbanization to not grow, won't work, rather decentralization is the key solution to this growing issue.

Sarder Shafiqul Alam stated his closing remarks as the host and thanked all the partner organizations and participants for their fruitful engagement and contribution to the Urban Conference.



Dr. Atiq Rahman, Dr. Saleemul Huq, Hossain Zillur Rahman, John Armstrong and Jamie Terzie at concluding session



## 7 KEY LEARNINGS/ SOLUTIONS PROPOSED AT THE CONFERENCE

### 7.1 KEY LEARNINGS

Cities are not aberrations, but solutions that drive the growth of people and economy. Considering urban resilience in the processes of development of cities will ensure long-term climate change impacts including migration, are accounted for. This entails adequate future planned city capacities and infrastructure, better governance including resource allocation, inclusiveness and inter/ intra sectoral collaboration (e.g. public-private collaboration, government-universities collaboration, etc.). Additionally, better communication and dialogue between stakeholders such as government with its different levels, private sector, general public, researchers, informal settlers, marginalized groups, etc. is needed for improved, participatory and stakeholder-driven planning. Urban Resilience programs need to take context much more into account from design to implementation in order to address challenges of inclusivity and resilience in urban areas.

Capacity building on climate education and governance is another area that is of critical importance to government bodies and should receive more attention climate education needs to be incorporated into planning. In parallel, local governments should receive stronger incentives to carry out risk informed planning and resilient economic development.

In order to minimize the exclusion error needs for individual groups like indigenous people, women and children need to be understood. Urban policies should build on the “Right to the city” approach that includes citizens in planning and builds on the idea of co- governance. The right of marginalized people to safe water, right to food, right to shelter, employment and education need to be ensured. Multi-dimensional exclusion and marginalization aspects are prevalent in urban areas and new approaches are needed to address them. People who live in slums are actually the ones who sustain structures within the city so there is urgent need to include slum dwellers as active agents in urban development and recognize their capacities. Roles and responsibilities of informal sector and policy issues should be mainstreamed so that their contribution can be recognized and acknowledged. Similarly, the role of men and women in family and workplace should be rethought and that workplaces should have monitoring mechanisms to ensure they are safe for women.

Lastly, there is a need to understand vulnerability in relation to existing power relationships, perceptions of risk and people’s culture and belief systems. Urban Resilience should be framed in a way that integrates it more with Disaster Risk Management, Development and Adaptation to climate change. There is also a need for an overall indicator to measure the resilience of a city to recover from shock or after a disaster.

## 7.2 PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

Action	Stakeholder(s)	Indicator(s)	outcome
Decentralized, context-specific planning and production	Government, Private sector	1. Economic opportunities 2. Market for local products	Decreased unemployment Fulfilling local needs in an accessible and affordable manner
Bangladesh knowledge creation and sharing	Government Researchers NGOs Practitioners	1. Scientific papers published	Bangladesh becomes a global research center
Participatory in-factory health systems/ improved access to external healthcare facilities	City Corporation Private sector NGOs CBOs and local community	1. Improved health 2. Reduced diseases rates 3. Improved productivity	Factory workers become more productive, their quality of life is improved and basic health needs are met
Awareness program for bus drivers on gender, equality and inclusivity	Government City Corporation Private sector NGOs Media CBOs	1. Harassment levels 2. Prevalence of marginalized groups in public transportation 3. Safety levels in public transportation	Safer, more inclusive public transportation in cities; reduced harassment incidents against women and marginalized groups
'Build Back Better' approach for home reconstruction	Government NGOs Local community	1. Resilient and sustainable households	More resilient infrastructure in cities of Bangladesh

## ANNEX-I: Agenda (Detail Schedule of the Conference)

### DAY ONE: SATURDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2016

08:30-09:30	<b>Registration</b>
09:30-11:00	<b>Inaugural Session</b>
<i>King's Hall</i>	
Welcome address:	<b>Ina Islam</b> , Deputy Director, ICCCAD at IUB
Keynote presenter:	<b>John I. Carruthers</b> , Ph.D., Director, Sustainable Urban Planning Program College of Professional Studies, The George Washington University
Special Guest:	<b>Professor M. Omar Rahman</b> , Vice Chancellor, Independent University, Bangladesh
Special Guest:	<b>Dr. Atiq Rahman</b> , Executive Director, BCAS
Session Chair:	<b>Dr. Saleemul Huq</b> , Director, ICCCAD at IUB
11:00-11:30	<b>TEA BREAK</b>
11:30-13:00	<b>First Plenary Session</b>
<i>King's Hall</i>	
	<b>Policy Makers and Mayors Round Table “Implementing the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda – The Role of Local Governments”</b> <b>Hosted by Concern Worldwide</b>
Facilitator:	<b>A.K.M Musha</b> , Country Director, Concern Worldwide Bangladesh
Keynote presenter:	<b>Kazi Maruful Islam</b> , PhD, Professor, Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka
Panelists:	<b>Mostafa Quaium Khan</b> , Adviser, Bangladesh Urban Forum <b>Masudul Haque</b> , Chief Social Welfare Officer, Dhaka North City Corporation <b>Shishir Shil</b> , Secretary General, All Party Parliamentary Group, Bangladesh Parliament
	<i>Open Discussion</i>
Session chair:	<b>Dr. Saleemul Huq</b> , Director, ICCCAD at IUB
13:00-14:00	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
14:00-15:30	<b>Parallel Sessions (PS) A</b>
<i>King's Hall</i>	
	<b>PSA1: Ensuring Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments Influence Policy and Practice</b>
	<b>Hosted by NUPRP of UNDP</b>
Panelists:	<b>Dr. Saleemul Huq</b> , Director, (ICCCAD) at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) <b>Dr. Mahbuba Nasreen</b> , Professor & Director, Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies, University of Dhaka <b>John William Taylor</b> , International Project Manager, National Urban Poverty Reduction Programme, UNDP
	<i>Open Discussion</i>
Session chair:	<b>Khurshid Alam</b> , Assistant Country Director, UNDP Bangladesh
14:00-15:30	<b>PSA2: Inclusive approach key to urban resilience in Bangladesh</b>

**Queen's Hall**                      **Hosted by CARE Bangladesh**  
Panelists:                      **Prof Mahbuba Nasreen**, Director of the Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies (IDMVS), University of Dhaka  
   **Mr. Ashekur Rahman**, Urban Programme Analyst, UNDP  
   **Professor Shamim Mahbubul Haque**, Khulna University  
*Open Discussion*  
Session chair:                      **Dr. Mehrul Islam**, CARE Bangladesh

**14:00-15:30**                      **PSA3: Building Resilience in Urban Slum Settlements**

**Red Hall**                              **Hosted by Habitat for Humanity Bangladesh**  
Keynote Speaker:                      **Prof. Dr. Md. Shahidul Ameen**, Architecture Department, BUET  
Panelists:                              **Md. Abul Bashar**, Senior Manager-Program Implementation & Innovation, HFHI-B  
   **Dr. Nurul Islam Nazem**, Professor of Geography and Environment, University of Dhaka and Honorary Secretary, Centre for Urban Studies  
   **Mostafa Quaium Khan**, Adviser, Bangladesh Urban Forum  
*Open Discussion*  
Session Chair:                      **John Armstrong**, National Director, HFHI-B

**15:30-16:00**                      **TEA BREAK**

**16:00-17:30**                      **Second Plenary Session**

**King's Hall**                              **Urban Resilience Knowledge Platform**  
   **Hosted by ACCCRN-ICCCAD**  
Panelists:                              **Mr. S.M. Mehedi Ahsan**, Sector Specialist for Resilience Cities, KfW  
   **Sarder Shafiqul Alam**, Coordinator, Urban Climate Change Programme, ICCCAD at IUB ; Country Coordinator, ACCCRN-ICCCAD Bangladesh  
   **Mr. Shamim Al Razi**, Secretary General, Local Government Network (LGNET), Bangladesh  
*Open Discussion*  
Session chair: **Mostafa Quaium Khan**, Adviser, Bangladesh Urban Forum (BUF)

**DAY TWO: SUNDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2016**

**09:30-11:00**                      **Third Plenary Session**

**King's Hall**                              **Participatory Vulnerability Assessment**  
   **Hosted by ICCCAD-IUB**  
Keynote presenter:                      **Terry Cannon**, Research Fellow, Climate Change and Development, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), UK  
Group Facilitators:                      **Dr. Dwijendra Lal Mallick**, Fellow, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS)  
   **Sarder Shafiqul Alam**, Coordinator, Urban Climate Change Programme, ICCCAD at IUB ; Country Coordinator, ACCCRN-ICCCAD Bangladesh  
   **Palash Mondal**, Coordinator: Resilience and Climate Change, Team Leader – Building Resilience of the Urban Poor (BRUP) project, CARE Bangladesh

*Open Discussion*

Session Chair: **Mohammad Abdul Qayyum**, Director General, Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB)

11:00-11:30	<b>TEA BREAK</b>
11:30-13:00	<b>Parallel Sessions (PS) B</b>
<i>King's Hall</i>	<b>PSB1: Valuing Waste, Transforming Cities: Promoting Waste-to-Resource Initiatives</b>

**Hosted by Practical Action Bangladesh**

Session Chair: **K.M. Nurul Huda**, Chairman, Waste Management Expert Foundation

Moderator: **Hasin Jahan**, Country Director, Practical Action Bangladesh

Presenter: **Abdur Rob**, Head of Food, Agriculture and Markets Programme, Practical Action Bangladesh

**Uttam Kumar Saha**, Head of Energy and Urban Services Programme, Practical Action Bangladesh

**Mirza Shawkat Ali**, Director, Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment and Forestry

**Khadem Mahmud Yusuf**, Managing Director and CEO, Bangladesh Petrochemical Company Ltd.

Panelists: **Mr. Rajeev Munankami**, SNV Netherlands Development Organization

**Tazkin Ahmed Chisty**, Mayor, Shatkhira Municipality

*Open Discussion*

11:30-13:00	<b>PSB2: Development Planning Needs Better Integration</b>
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*Queen's Hall*

**Hosted by ACCNLDP Project**

Keynote Presenter: **Mr. Hans-Joachim Hermann**, Programme Coordinator, Urban Projects in Climate Change Adaptation, GIZ and

**Dr. Md. Taibur Rahman**, Senior Assistant Chief, General Economics Division, Planning Commission, GoB

Panelists: **Mr. Md. Mafidul Islam**, Joint Chief, International Economics Wing, General Economic Division (GED), Planning Commission

**Mr. Matiur Rahman**, Joint Chief, Physical Infrastructure Wing 1, Physical Infrastructure Division, Planning Commission

**Dr. Khurshid Zabin Hossain Taufiq**, Director, Urban Development Directorate (UDD)

**Mr. Md. Tazkin Ahmed**, Mayor, Satkhira Pourashava, Shatkhira

**Mr. Md. Abir Ul Jabbar**, Chief Planning Officer, Khulna City Corporation (KCC)

*Open Discussion*

**Moderator: Dr. Mashfiqus Salehin**, Professor and Director, Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM), BUET. The Keynote Presenters were

11:30-13:00	<b>PSB3: Concepts of Building Resilience in a City</b>
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*Family Ties*

**Hosted by Save the Children**

Keynote Presenter: **A K M Mamunur Rashid**, Climate Change Specialist, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Panelists: **Fazle Reza Sumon**, Vice-President, Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP)  
**Dr. A. S. M. Maksud Kamal**, Professor & Chairman of Department of Disaster Science and Management, University of Dhaka  
**Mirza Ali Ashraf**, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR)  
**Dr. Engr. Tariq Bin Yousuf**, Superintending Engineer in Environment, Climate Change & Disaster Management Circle & Project Director of Urban Resilience Project, Dhaka North City Corporation

*Open Discussion*

Session Chair: **Md. Mostak Hussain**, Humanitarian Director, Save the Children

13:00-14:00

**LUNCH BREAK**

14:00-15:30

**Parallel Sessions (PS) C**

*Queen's Hall*

**PSC1: Creative Thinking for an Uncertain Urban Future**

Panelists: **Hosted by NUPRP of UNDP**

**Dr. Akter Mahmud**, Professor, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Jahangirnagar University  
**Dr. Saiful Momen**, Department of Environmental Science and Management, North South University  
**Mousumi Pervin**, Local Economy, Livelihoods and Financial Inclusion Coordinator, NUPRP, UNDP Bangladesh  
**Dr. Sanzida Akhter**, Assistant Professor, Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Dhaka  
**Dr. Taibur Rahman**, Senior Assistant Secretary, Planning Commission

*Open Discussion*

Session Chair: **Dr. Saleemul Huq**, Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)

14:00-15:30

**PSC2: Universal Health Coverage: Resilient to Health Shock of Urban Low Income Population**

*Family Ties*

**Hosted by CARE Bangladesh**

Keynote Speaker: **Dr. Muhammad Abdus Sabur**, Public Health Professional and Consultant, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Panelists: **Dr. Dipak K Mitra**, Associate Professor and Head of the School of Public Health, Independent University Bangladesh (IUB)  
**Ms. Atia Hossain**, Health Financing Expert, Urban Health System Strengthening Project  
**Dr. Md. Shamim Hayder Talukder**, Chief Executive Officer, Eminence

*Open Discussion*

Moderator: **Dr. Jahirul Alam Azad**, Team Leader-Urban Health, CARE Bangladesh

**14:00-15:30 PSC3: Safer Cities and Public Spaces for Women's Empowerment**

*King's Hall* **Hosted by ActionAid Bangladesh**

Panelists: **Adv Fazilatunnesa Bappy**, Member of the Parliament, Member, Standing Committee of Privileges  
**Kazi Reazul Hoque**, Chairman- National Human Rights Commission  
**Dr. Engr. Tariq Bin Yousuf**, Superintending Engineer in Environment, Climate Change & Disaster Management Circle & Project Director of Urban Resilience Project, Dhaka North City Corporation  
**Khushi Kabir**, Coordinator, NijeraKori  
**Mubasshar Hussein**, Architect

*Open Discussion*

Moderator: **Farah Kabir**, Country Director, ActionAid Bangladesh

**15:30-16:00 TEA**

**DAY THREE: MONDAY, 19 DECEMBER 2016**

**09:30-11:00 Fifth Plenary Session**

*King's Hall* **Financing the Sustainable Urban Development Agenda**

**Hosted by BCAS**

Chief Guest: **Dr. Shamsul Alam**, Member, Planning Commission

Panelists: **Mamunur Rashid**, Climate Change Specialist, Climate Change, Environment and Disaster (CCED) Cluster, UNDP  
**Ranjit Kumar Chakrobarty**, Project Manager, Inclusive Budgeting and Financing for Climate Resilience Project, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance  
**Catherine Cecil**, Team Leader, PROKAS/Tanvir Mahmud, British Council

*Open Discussion*

Session Chair: **Mr. Golam Rabbani**, Fellow, BCAS

**11:00-11:30 TEA BREAK**

**11:30-13:00 Parallel Sessions (PS) D**

*King's Hall* **PSD1: Realities of the Urban Poor: Tackling Challenges and Leveraging Opportunities**

**Hosted by BRAC**

Special Guest: **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Professor Emeritus, Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research, BRAC University

Panelists: **Mrityunjoy Das**, Senior Programme Manager, Disaster Management and Climate Change (DMCC) Programme, BRAC  
**Shamim Hossain**, Manager, Research and Evaluation, BRAC Urban Development Programme

**Dr. A K M Abul Kalam**, President, Bangladesh Institute of Planners and Professor, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Jahangirnagar University

**Mr. Asif Saleh**, Senior Director, Strategy, Communications and Empowerment, BRAC and BRAC International as expert speakers

**Mr. Tamzidul Islam**, Programme Manager, UDP

*Open Discussion*

Session Chair: **Mr. Gawher Nayeem Wahra**, Director, Disaster Management and Climate Change (DMCC) Programme, BRAC Bangladesh

**11:30-13:00 PSD2: Building Community Engagement to Enhance Urban Resilience**

*Queens' Hall*

Hosted by ICLEI – Local Government for Sustainability, South Asia

Moderator: **Ms. Bedoshruti Sadhukhan**, Programme Coordinator (Sustainability Management), ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia

Panelists: **Dr. Monalisa Sen**, Senior Manager (Sustainability Management), ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia

**Md. Jubaer Rashid**, Senior Project Officer (Sustainability Management), ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia

Speakers: **Md. Abdul Baten**, President of Municipal Association of Bangladesh (MAB) & Mayor of Bera Municipality, Bangladesh

**Md. Zulfikar Ali**, Mayor, Mongla Port Municipality, Bangladesh

**Mr. Ashraful Haque**, Chief Engineer, Rajshahi City Corporation, Bangladesh

**Dr. Md. Matiur Rahman**, Chief Health Officer, Barisal City Corporation, Bangladesh

*Open Discussion*

**13:00-14:00 LUNCH BREAK**

**14:00-15:00 Concluding Session**

Summary findings sharing by **Dr. Saleemul Huq**, Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development at Independent University, Bangladesh

Special Guest: **Jamie Terzi**, Country Director, CARE Bangladesh

Special Guest: **John Armstrong**, National Director, HFHI-B

Special Guest: **Hossain Zillur Rahman**, Executive Chairman, PPRC

Session Chair: **Dr. Atiq Rahman**, Executive Director, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS)



## ANNEX-II: List of Participants Attended in the Conference

ACCCRN and ICCCAD at IUB, Dhaka		
The First Annual National Conference on Urban Resilience, Spectra Convention Centre, 17 to 19 December 2016		
List of Participants		
Organization	Name	SL
ActionAid Bangladesh	Mahfuza Mala	1
ActionAid Bangladesh	Sariful Islam	2
ActionAid Bangladesh	Daisy Akter	3
ActionAid Bangladesh	Kashfia Feroz	4
ActionAid Bangladesh	Shahidul Islam	5
ActionAid Bangladesh	Farzana Afroze	6
ActionAid Bangladesh	Samanjar	7
ActionAid Bangladesh	Zehra Simeen Islam Rahim	8
ActionAid Bangladesh	Nurun Nahar	9
Nijera Kori	Khushi Kabir	10
Urban Resilience Project , DNCC	Dr. Tariq Bin Yusuf	11
President of Commonwealth Association of Architects	Mubasshar Hussein	12
CD, ActionAid Bangladesh	Farah Kabir	13
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# A GLANCE OF MEDIA COVERAGE OF URBAN RESILIENCE CONFERENCE

**ACCRN** BETA Connecting People to Build Inclusive Urban Climate Change Resilience

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## First Annual National Conference on Urban Resilience, Dhaka, Bangladesh from 17 to 19 December 2016

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The Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCRN), and its Bangladesh partner International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), jointly organized the First Annual National Conference on Urban Resilience in association with diverse partners, which were: ACCNLP Project, GIZ, ActionAid Bangladesh, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), BRAC, CARE Bangladesh, Concern Worldwide, Habitat for Humanity Bangladesh, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, Practical Action Bangladesh, Save the Children, United Nations Development Programme. Each of the partners contributed a share towards the costs of the event. The conference was held from 17 to 19 December 2016 at Spectra Convention Centre, Gulshan-1, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

**Dhaka Tribune**

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## 'Dhaka can't be the lifeboat of 160m people'

By **Abu Siddique** | Published at 07:13 PM December 18, 2016  
Last updated at 10:57 PM December 18, 2016

John Carnuthers, Mohamed Hossain Opi

John Carnuthers, the director of the Sustainable Urban Planning Programme at George Washington University, is in Dhaka to attend the first annual national conference on urban resilience, as the key-note speaker. **Dhaka Tribune's** Abu Siddique talked to him on his thoughts about urban resilience.

**ICCCAD** International Centre for Climate Change and Development

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## DAY – 2 : The First Annual National Conference on Urban Resilience 2016

ICCCAD / 18 December, 2016

The second day of the First Annual National Conference on Urban Resilience started with the third plenary session on 'Participatory Vulnerability Assessment' organized by ICCCAD/ILUIS. The session's keynote speaker Mr. Terry Cannon of Institute of Development Studies, UK, conveyed an interesting logic on participatory vulnerability assessment, where Mr. Cannon challenged the term 'Resilience' in the current situation as he highlighted key aspects why perception of people in understanding resilience is important and asked people to question problems by asking the "why?" of any situation more widely. The second part of the day started with three parallel sessions conducted by Practical Action Bangladesh, ACCNLP Project and Save the Children.

Image: Busy volunteers in the front desk

Practical Action Bangladesh highlighted how untreated waste and improper use of resources can lead to high amount of waste generation and come up with different treatment process to tackle the waste problem in the urban context. Their development practice has supported 3,79k people where 50% are women. Transforming waste into wealth through green practices is one of the main focus areas they are using to promote resilience.

Image: The observer participating in the parallel session 'Making Waste, Transforming Cities'

Save the Children headed the topic of Building Resilience in a city. They urged that cities are lifelines of society and engines for economic growth. Going into the session they approached participants and stakeholders on how to reduce vulnerability. Currently they work with urban children who are using their concepts of survival in a concrete jungle to face Climate Change by becoming well-nested. A R M Muzannar Hossain of UNLP climate change specialist highlighted the importance of communities to adapt and protect them from disaster related shocks.

The joint session of ACCNLP Project, Planning Commission and GIZ, has highlighted on the integration of local plan in national development on their session titled as 'Development Planning Needs Gender Integration'. One of the panelists Dr. Khurshed Zaman Hossain, Deputy Director of Urban Development, Dhaka (IUCD) has discussed about the local planning practices from the government side.

The First Annual National Conference on Urban Resilience continues to engage participants and officers/stakeholders from different government and non-government organizations, private sectors, NGOs/Universities/NGOs, academics and communities to come up with more sound solution under the context of urban development.

# Conference Proceedings



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