

JUNE, 2022

# Climate Tribune



■ **GOBESHONA GOES GLOBAL**

**Editor**

Zafar Sobhan

**Supplement Coordination**

Tasfia Huda

Zora Mohsin

Nafis Shahriar

AHM Mustafizur Rahman

Rubaiyat Kabir

**Content Editor**

Adiba Bintey Kamal

Magnus Mayeen Ahmed

**Exclusive content partner**

International Centre  
for Climate Change and  
Development (ICCCAD)

**Graphic Design**

Alamgir Hossain

**Published and Printed**

Kazi Anis Ahmed on behalf of  
2A Media Limited

**Editorial, News &  
Commercial Office**

FR Tower, 8/C Panthapath,  
Shukrabad, Dhaka 1207  
Phone: 48116830-31  
48116865 (Advertising),  
48116939 Circulation) Fax:  
News-48116887 news@  
dhakatribune.com info@  
dhakatribune.com www.  
dhakatribune.com

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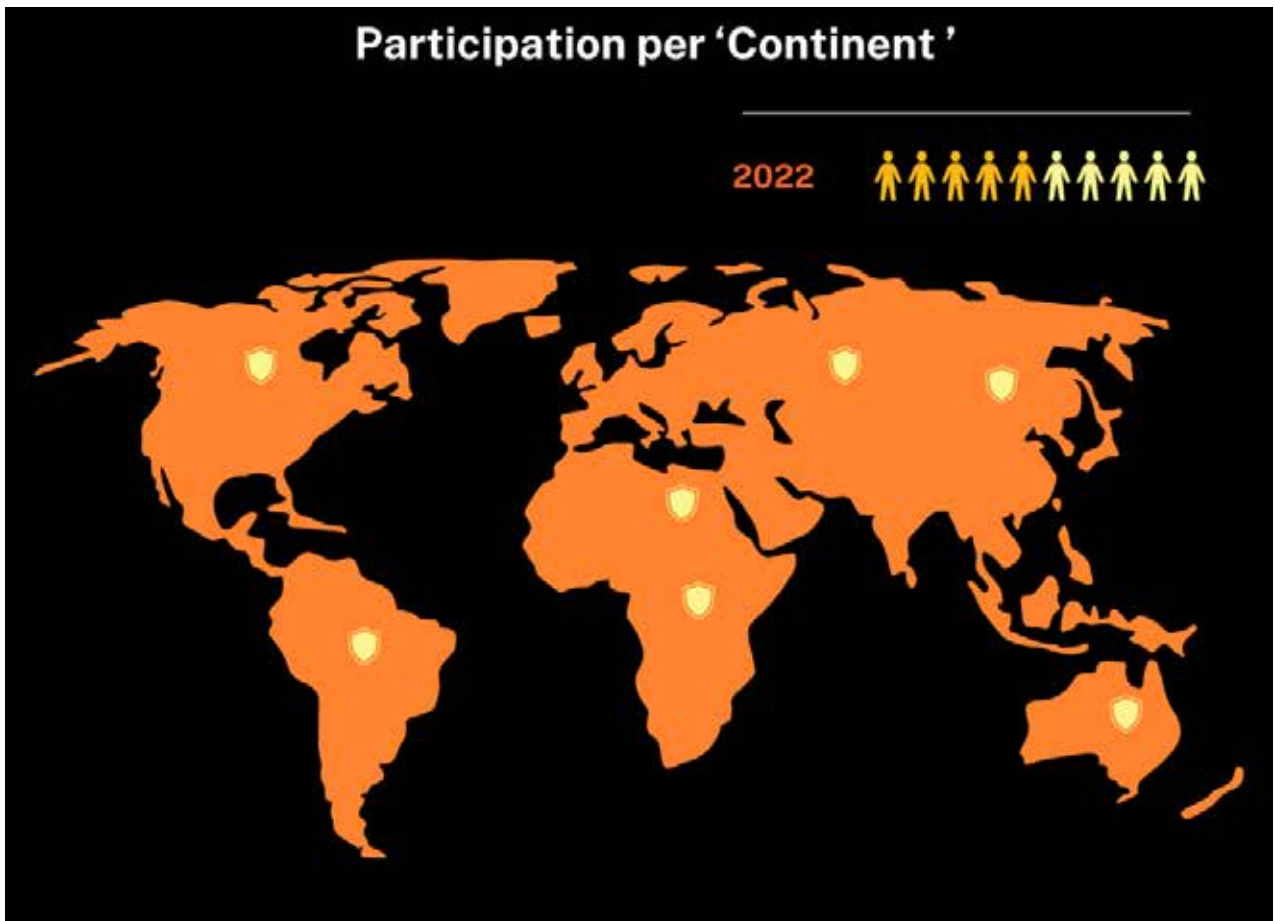
# The 2nd Gobeshona Global Conference

A GROWING PLATFORM FOR  
KNOWLEDGE ABOUT CLIMATE  
CHANGE AND POTENTIAL  
SOLUTIONS

Sarah Farheen Khan

**G**OBESHONA is an innovative knowledge platform for climate change researchers in Bangladesh formed by Dr Saleemul Huq in 2014 to work on building the capacity to adapt to climate change. This platform aims to bring together the national and international research communities to encourage sharing, enhance the quality of research, and, in doing so, make climate change research in Bangladesh more effective for policy-making. It builds knowledge through training programs on publishing research articles for young researchers, monthly science-policy dialogues and webinars, an online research database (Gobeshona Portal), and an Annual Conference - Gobeshona Conference.

Since 2015, the Gobeshona platform has been hosting an annual conference that brings together a distinguished and multidisciplinary group of scholars, policy-makers, researchers, and practitioners from around the world to share their knowledge, research, and practical experiences on climate change issues. Focusing on a broad range of themes and sub-themes to put the latest knowledge on climate





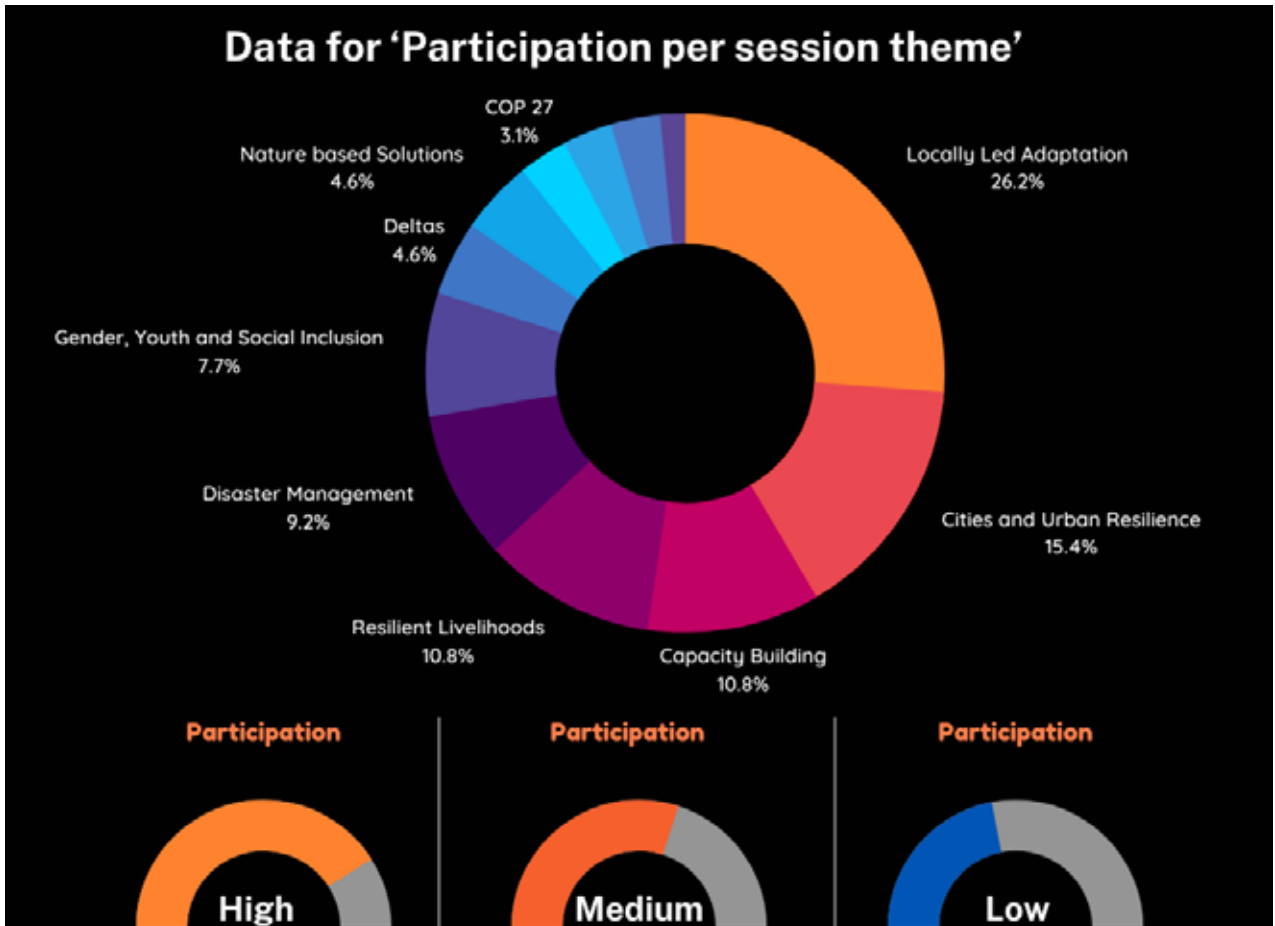


Diagram - Global Public Participation at GGC-2

COURTESY

change into practice. In other words, putting “Climate Change Research into Action”. And successfully organized six annual conferences focused mainly on Bangladesh, hosted at the Independent University (IUB) in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Over time the Gobeshona platform attracted a significant number of international participants, especially from the Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC) among others.

Considering the widespread Covid-19 pandemic, the delivery mode of the Conference was shifted to a fully virtual modality from 2021, as it could not be held in person. It was renamed as the first Gobeshona Global Conference on Locally Led Adaptation and Resilience. The platform received offers to host sessions from all over the world and ran nearly 90 sessions from different parts of the globe; 24 Hours each day with three shifts (8 hours each) for the Asia Pacific, Africa, and Europe, and finally the Americas time zones. However, to have broader participation and inclusivity, no registration or participation fee was demanded from the co-organizers and participants. Enabling some people to participate who otherwise may not have been able to.

After receiving heartfelt responses from GGC-1 partners and participants, the 2nd Gobeshona Global Conference was carried out from 27th March to 1st April 2022 focusing on “Exploring Locally-Led Adaptation & Resilience for COP 27” amongst other themes like Loss and Damage, adaptation technology, Climate Justice, Disaster management, Gender, Youth & Social Inclusion.

Each day, the conference started with a plenary session, which included important highlights from the day before. Throughout the day, the sessions ran parallel, with networking sessions in between. To make the sessions interactive, applications like Mentimeter and Slido were used. This not only made the sessions less tedious but fuelled insightful discussions.

Though the Conference was held on virtual platforms-ZOOM and WHOVA, a command center for the ICCCAD - Gobeshona team was set in a reputed hotel in Baridhara Diplomatic Zone, Dhaka. The team stayed in throughout the week to successfully run all the 88 sessions happening round the clock. All the sessions were coordinated from the command center, with a mobile-office set up for the IT team, Communications team, and Co-ordination team. Yet, several

other debrief meetings were conducted both in person and virtually during the conference week.

Throughout the six-day conference, 1500+ active participants attended the sessions on different themes. Among these themes, the sessions with the most participation were webcasted on ICCCAD's Facebook page and YouTube channel, interested audiences are watching these recordings in their own time, which makes the Conference engagement more notable. Besides the fact that the internet isn't the finest in every part of the world, the motto was to keep an archive of these very impactful discussions online and give open access to any and everyone either affected by climate change or striving to make it less destructive.

### **Thematic Sessions**

The Gobeshona Global Conference has a total of 21 themes. Adaptation Technology, Bangladesh, Capacity Building, Cities & Urban resilience, Climate Finance, Climate-Induced Migration, Climate Justice, COP 27, Deltas, Disaster Management, Drylands and Barinds, Food Security & Agriculture Gender, Youth & Social Inclusion, Geo-engineering, Least Developed Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC), Locally-Led Adaptation, Loss and Damage, Mitigation & Renewable Energy, Nature-Based Solutions, Resilient Livelihood, and Water Security.

The thematic sessions are designed by the session hosts with a focus on either or a combination of the offered themes.

### **Networking Sessions**

Ensured conversations among participants in small groups particularly on a subject matter they are most interested in.

“ Throughout the six-day conference, 1500+ active participants attended the sessions on different themes ”

For instance - youth inclusion, loss, and damage, climate justice, and community-led adaptations.

### **Workshop on 'Loss and Damage'**

Some impacts of climate change that extend beyond adaptation and mitigation, are not a new concept. As one of the most important ways to reduce these Losses and Damages is through Locally Led Adaptation, a workshop was arranged for the first time with the hope of efficiently enabling the vulnerable countries to understand and tackle both the economic and non-economic damages. The participants were given the liberty to openly discuss with some of the globally recognized change makers via this platform.

### **Experience Sharing**

This year onwards, considerable importance was given to the real climate warriors - who tackle climate change with their minimalistic adaptation strategies. Session organizers emphasized exhibiting how the local and climate-affected communities are burdened by the competitive access to funding though having the capability to build back better.

Interpreters were arranged acknowledging the wide range of participation from communities and climate-affected regions. Encouraging attendees to take part and share their thoughts on locally led measures taken in their region, eventually raised a robust exchange of views.

### **Grant Programme**

The Catalytic Grant Programme was inaugurated at the first Gobeshona Global Conference in 2021. This award aims to provide initial seed funding to incentivize partnerships and collaborations at present and in the future to further develop ideas fostered during the conference. Grant winners from the previous Gobeshona Global Conference were encouraged to share their experiences and thoughts upon availing of the grant.

Many, inspired by the previous proposals and executions, were seen applying for this year's grant. Later, the top 5 winning teams were selected and awarded 5000 USD (each) to implement their ideas on locally led adaptation and resilience initiatives.

After a successful virtual conference, as we move into the endemic phase, '2023' seems promising especially to organize the GGC-3 conference in a hybrid module. Which shall encourage participants to take part both in person as has been the tradition before, including participation through virtual platforms. ■

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**Sarah Farheen Khan is working at the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) as a Research Officer. Her research interest lies in - climate change adaptation, its effects on public health, education, food, water security, youth and gender. Sarah can be reached at [sarah.farheen@icccad.org](mailto:sarah.farheen@icccad.org)**



DHAKA TRIBUNE

# Taking a human rights-based approach to understand climate-induced displacement in Bangladesh

Rukhsar Sultana

“I never preferred to migrate to the city, but the disaster, the poverty pushed me towards the city. But the city that saved me from starvation never gave peace.”- Yeasmin Begum (30) used to live at Miar Char village of Badaghat south union of Sumanganj district of Sylhet division. She migrated to Dhaka due to constant rain and upstream waters inundating her village(origin), especially from June to September, yet she dreams to go back to her roots.

Similar to Yesmin, a shocking number of individuals are being affected by a number of weather-related hazards. The 2019 flood-impacted people in 21 districts in Bangladesh; affecting an estimated 580,000 people and displacing more than 307,000 people. While climate change might not be the primary factor of displacement or migration, in many cases increased frequency of disasters (e.g., Floods, Cyclones, River Erosion, Sea Level Rise, Salinity Intrusion, rising Temperature, Drought, Changing Precipitation) have heavily influenced the migration decision of people living at the frontlines of the climate crisis.

“ As this issue is becoming increasingly alarming, we must deepen our understanding of the current scenario as well as anticipate the future threats of climate-induced displacement ”

The recently released IPCC Working Group II report on impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability reiterated the stark realities of human-caused climate change, as well as how global inaction can cause displacement and distress migration. As climate change impacts and associated disasters are on the rise, a staggering number of people are being displaced or forced to migrate. Subsequently, there is a lack of data on migration and the resulting suffering of populations forced to relocate. These climate change issues have a wide-ranging impact, resulting in significant economic and agriculture losses; but other sectors such as health, livelihoods, and infrastructure are also threatened.

As this issue is becoming increasingly alarming, we must deepen our understanding of the current scenario as well as anticipate the future threats of climate-induced displacement. In this regard ActionAid Bangladesh has been working to understand displacement and migration in the country since 2012, from exploring the causes,

and consequences of climate hot-spots in Bangladesh; to addressing Climate-induced Displacement and Migration in Bangladesh from Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA). Between September 2019 and November 2020, ActionAid Bangladesh, with support from ActionAid International and Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA), identified people-centred solutions to address displacement and migration caused by climate change. Five climate hotspots - Khulna, Chattogram, Sunamganj, Naogaon, and Dhaka were assessed for the research. When approaching climate change from a human rights perspective, the principles of universality and non-discrimination are highlighted-emphasizing that all people have rights, particularly vulnerable groups. ActionAid Bangladesh believes that through HRBA, displacement, and forced migration can be avoided by building the absorptive, adaptive, and transformative capacity of people, society, the institution, infrastructure, and the environment. The research focused on communities' origins and destinations and how climate change has a significant impact on the migration decisions made by the impacted communities. The primary motivator for migration is the loss of livelihood, which is exacerbated by climate change. Women and men continue to face significant challenges in addressing the effects of climate change on their livelihoods due to a lack of diverse skills.

This research identified some of the key policy and programme actions from a human rights perspective, those findings and details from the study were communicated and shared with the wider research community, practitioners and policy makers attending the Gobeshona Global Conference-2.

Some key messages and takeaways from the research sharing and discussion were;

**Ensure Basic Rights and Services:** The adequacy and effectiveness of basic rights and services, as well as immediate responses and early recovery assistance to shocks and stresses, continue to be critical factors for communities in deciding whether to migrate.

Collaboration within governments and philanthropic organizations is needed to develop a coherent plan based on evidence-based research, coordinated planning, and investment.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should collaborate with government agencies to support climate migrants and work toward a solution to protect their rights and avoid exploitation by ensuring the right to life and personal security to ensure a safer destination.

- **Establish a Community-Led Protection System:** as an effective means of preventing violence against women and children, particularly during and after a disaster. Furthermore, people, particularly young people, can be equipped to respond to disasters.

- **Introduce Universal Social Protection:** This goes beyond the Social Safety Net Program and adopts the Universal Social Protection system, which includes livelihood generation, social insurance, and a social safety net to address climate-related loss and damage, thereby reducing displacement and migration.

**Effective Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation Investment:** The number of climate-change-related disasters increase the loss and damage to assets and livelihoods. It is therefore critical to ensure the adequacy and effectiveness of investment in reducing the risk of climate-related disasters and assisting communities in adapting to climate change.

South Asia's National Adaptation Plans (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) should include a chapter on climate-induced displacement to emphasise the cause.

Humans should have the right to mobility, and we must ensure a safer transition for climate-induced migrants by identifying and supporting their vulnerability. In this time of climate change, we must give them the freedom to choose their destination

- The establishment of a Multipurpose Information Centre will assist displaced communities in making informed decisions about whether to migrate and, if so, where to migrate.
- It is critical to continue investing in the skill development of the most vulnerable communities, particularly young women, and men. Furthermore, investment in job creation at the local and district levels must be increased.

Establish a financial architecture, which includes a registry system and a joint monitoring task force, to account for all climate investments and ensure their effectiveness. This will reduce the loss and damage caused by climate change, as well as the risk of displacement and migration. While sectoral approaches are important, strategies and actions must be able to meet the needs of people living in poverty and exclusion while ensuring equity, justice, and fairness in addressing climate-induced displacement and migration. These actions need to be gender-responsive and inclusive to all races and ethnicities as well.

**Disclaimer:** The issue presented, and thoughts expressed in the articles are of the authors, it does not necessarily represent the organization's mission and program priorities. ■

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**Rukhsar Sultana is working at ActionAid Bangladesh as a Programme Officer at Resilience and Climate Justice Programme her research interest lies in Migration and Climate Adaptation. Can be reached at [rukhsar.sultana@actionaid.org](mailto:rukhsar.sultana@actionaid.org)**

“ While sectoral approaches are important, strategies and actions must be able to meet the needs of people living in poverty and exclusion while ensuring equity, justice, and fairness in addressing climate-induced displacement and migration ”



# Water resilience through Locally Led Adaptation

HOW DO WE MAKE THE BUSINESS UNUSUAL DURING THE NEW NORMAL?



DHAKA TRIBUNE

Interventions to address climate adaptation have been a stepping stone to tackling climate change, especially for the least developing countries (LDCs). The current intervention programs aim to build the resilience of local communities to climate shocks, and ultimately their well-being by helping them to better prepare, adapt and recover.

Yet the current evaluation frameworks used in resilience programming often need to adapt to what resilience means in local contexts prior to implementation. This means policy designs are usually at risk of failing to improve the resilience of communities with the goal to avoid unintended negative consequences for communities' wellbeing. This line of thinking takes us back to Ostrom's theory on governing the commons. It raises the question - who is

“There are many hazy definitions and debates of how we should control measures or the intended outcomes however one thing is certain we can no longer stick to community-led interventions that are not self-sustaining or are not people driven”

truly in charge of controlling the resources, the know-how, and implementation of adaptation measures; Is it for the people by the people or a pre-decided project by donors or governments for the people?

There are many hazy definitions and debates of how we should control measures or the intended outcomes however one thing is certain we can no longer stick to community-led interventions that are not self-sustaining or are not people driven.

When we talk about climate adaptation in the context of Bangladesh it usually revolves around water. And definitely, the water sector can lead as a good example of Locally Led Adaptation examples.

The LLA Principles do not require the funds to be given directly to the vulnerable communities, although that is certainly advisable whenever possible, but rather that the fund providers involve the vulnerable communities in the planning and implementation of the projects and programs.

Institutions like WaterAid which has been working with “small water” compared to institutions working with polders, transboundary issues, or “big water” has years of experience implementing a local level intervention that complements the idea that is “people driven” and certainly have the upper hand in complementing LLA. WaterAid's methods ensure good governance practices which for decades now have been giving back power to the people - which goes beyond implementing taps and toilets.

For the last couple of years, WaterAid has been using two specific approaches to making the projects self-sustainable after the project period is over. The first approach considers how we assist vulnerable communities. The decision to plan and provide specific WASH services goes beyond just implementing climate resilient infrastructures and technologies. It takes into account the people and what they want and most importantly how they want it.

Secondly, we plan about the post-project period before we implement any interventions. Our interventions have built-in business models that specifically empower vulnerable groups to take accountability for the interventions we want to implement. How are we doing that? We are empowering women groups to become entrepreneurs and run the interventions as they see fit through our expert guidance. WaterAid uses a business model known as the Water Entrepreneurship for Women's Empowerment (WE-WE) Model which does exactly that. These women are becoming the shot-callers and decision makers, and they use their ideas and business acumen to sustain the projects that the team wants to implement. Starting from community-led savings to using the earnings from our systems to implement businesses they feel are necessary for their communities.

Are Locally led actions the answers we have been looking for? LLA is definitely the missing catalyst climate change practitioners have been waiting for and we are glad it is finally being recognized in mainstream adaptation planning. Hopefully, in the coming decade, Bangladesh can become a country with good business unusual practices and achieve the transformative changes we so direly require in safeguarding the most vulnerable people in the plight of this unprecedented crisis. To know more about the initiative use the link- <https://washmatters.wateraid.org/blog/clean-water-catalyst-gender-equality-empowerment-international-womens-day>. ■

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**Adnan Qader is working in WaterAid Bangladesh as a Senior Advocacy Officer. His research interest lies in climate change adaptation and water governance.**

# Comprehensive adaptation measures to address climate change impacts

CLIMATE BRIDGE FUND'S SUPPORT TO ENHANCE CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN SLUMS OF SELECTED URBAN AREAS IN BANGLADESH



To address the scarcity of safe drinking water during normal and disaster periods, BRAC Disaster Risk Management Programme (DRMP) constructed a solar powered submersible water pump with rain water harvesting system.

COURTESY

Dr Golam Rabbani and Anindita Hridita

**A**mong the urban hotspots, Rajshahi and Khulna are two cities where around 76% and 55% of climate migrants live respectively (GIZ, 2019). These destinations of the climate migrants are also vulnerable to climate change related hazards thus the people coming to the cities or those who are already living there are both at the risk of climate change impacts.

### **Climatic hazards in RCC and KCC: Exposures and Sensitivities**

Climate migrants and other vulnerable communities in slums of Rajshahi and Khulna are exposed to a number of climatic hazards. In Khulna City Corporation (KCC), communities in slums mainly suffer from the adverse impacts of variation in temperature and rainfall, water logging/drainage congestion, cyclone and storm surges, salinity intrusion, sea level rise (SLR), coastal flood and so on. On the other hand, slum communities of Rajshahi experience flood, drought, river bank erosion, rising temperature, lack of rainfall, heat wave, cold wave and so on. According to a recent analysis, based on the meteorological data provided by Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), the annual average maximum temperature in both Rajshahi and Khulna shows

or drainage congestions, movement eventually gets highly disrupted. Finally, these crises affect the lives and livelihoods of the climate migrants.

### **What CBF is doing to enhance resilience of the climate migrants and other vulnerable**

The Climate Bridge Fund (CBF) is a trust fund established by the BRAC in November 2019, with support from the Government of Germany through KfW. CBF has currently four ongoing adaptation projects at Rajshahi and Khulna City Corporations which already covered 42,853 climate migrants and vulnerable population (including 31,837 female, 11,012 male and four transgender people). These four projects are being implemented by Health, Nutrition and

Improved hygienic sanitation facility within the community with separate chambers for male and female and raised plinth constructed by WaterAid Bangladesh (in partnership with VERC).

COURTESY



an increasing trend of 0.020C/yr during 1981-2020.

The annual average minimum temperature in both Rajshahi and Khulna also depicts an increasing trend (0.030C/yr) during 1981-2020. During 1981-2020, the annual rainfall (total) in Rajshahi has shown a sharp decreasing trend of (-8.13 mm/yr) and a (-0.65 mm/yr) in Khulna.

The above-mentioned climatic hazards are causing a series of sensitivities including WASH crisis, especially during the disaster periods. The health crisis is another reality during waterlogging, flooding, cyclone and storm surge, heat wave, cold waves and so on. People of different age groups suffer from different water and vector borne diseases like diarrhoea, cholera and dengue. The overall environment of these low-income urban communities also becomes unhygienic easily during disasters as there is lack of drainage system and unplanned establishments. The communities often do not have proper walkways and during monsoon water logging

Population Programme (HNPP), BRAC, Ultra-Poor Graduation Programme (UPGP) jointly with Disaster Risk Management Programme (DRMP), BRAC, WaterAid Bangladesh in partnership with Village Education Resource Center (VERC), and Caritas Bangladesh.

The projects are multi-dimensional addressing a wide range of challenges in the target cities. The focus of the projects includes access to improved and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services (throughout the year), livelihood support to both men and women with capacity building, health services and awareness raising on climate sensitive diseases, walkways and drainage support, community led solid waste management, household-based vegetable farming, housing, and improve cook stoves which largely address the needs and climate vulnerabilities on social, ecological and physical infrastructures in the target slums.



### Areas of improvement in designing adaptation measures

In our opinion, the comprehensive adaptation measure requires at least three major elements in its design. First element is the assessment of current and potential climate vulnerabilities. It is important to conduct the vulnerability assessment of the target communities with their active participation. While doing that, a top-down approach which allows future risk projections ensures the comprehensiveness of the assessment. As mentioned earlier, there has been an increase of 0.02 /yr in the annual average temperature from 1981 to 2020. It is expected that the annual average maximum temperature will be increased by 1.6 by 2050 in both Rajshahi and Khulna. On the other hand, the average rainfall in Rajshahi and Khulna during 2020 were 1409mm and 1554mm respectively. It has also been found that there is a sharp decreasing trend in annual rainfall by -8.13mm/yr and -0.65 mm/yr in Rajshahi and Khulna respectively from 1981, which means that the annual rainfall in Rajshahi and Khulna may be only 1163 mm and 1544 mm respectively in the year 2050. The data also clearly indicates that the frequency of heatwaves sharply increased for both cities in the 40-year period, 1981-2020. In addition, salinity intrusion, SLR, frequency and intensity of the cyclonic events in the Southwest coast is also expected to be increased in future. If the adaptation measures are not designed considering the current and future vulnerabilities of the primary and secondary hazards of climate change, then measures will not be effective and sustainable.

Second element is the compound impacts of different climatic hazards which need to be analyzed and considered in adaptation design as well. The third element is taking advantage of new potential benefits while designing adaptation measures. As one of the CBF projects built a submersible pump which is solar powered and also a rain water harvesting system in it to decrease the pressure on ground water during the monsoon/post monsoon. The projects often just focus on one element and that lacks the comprehensiveness of the adaptation. It is important to understand the actual or expected climate stimuli to ensure if an adaptation measure is sufficient and effective. The hazards caused or stimulated by climate change are multidimensional and impact a vast range of sectors including agriculture, water, health, environment, infrastructure and so on. We should assess and explore thoroughly so that we can find out the most effective measures for that context.

CBF is trying to explore the comprehensive adaptation measures based on the field realities through the experience of the projects. What we have learned from our experience so far is that it is a continuous learning process and the project and the team should be flexible and adaptive to accommodate the learning throughout the project period to find out the best practices. ■

“ What we have learned from our experience so far is that it is a continuous learning process and the project and the team should be flexible and adaptive to accommodate the learning throughout the project period to find out the best practices ”

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**Dr Golam Rabbani is the head of the Climate Bridge Fund (CBF) Secretariat, BRAC. Can be reached at [rabbani.golam@brac.net](mailto:rabbani.golam@brac.net)**

**Anindita Hridita is working with CBF as senior manager, operations and can be reached at [anindita.h@brac.net](mailto:anindita.h@brac.net)**



DHAKA TRIBUNE

# Advancing resilience measurement: Personal reflections from the experts meeting on resilience measurement in May 2022

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ON ADVANCING RESILIENCE MEASUREMENT PRACTICES

From time to time, I reminisce about the times I have spent in the field working with communities, facilitating their recognition of their resilience, while supporting them with the necessary knowledge and information to bring systems change. I am transported back to my conversations with Vaishali Tai, a farmer who invited us to have Puran Polis (bread filled with a sweet lentil and cardamom stuffing) at her place while we stood staring at the Dimbhe Dam on the Ghod river on the fringes of the Bhimashankar wildlife sanctuary. The sanctuary is home to the endemic Malabar Squirrel, which is dependent on canopies of the groves sacred to Vaishali's community, and a temple dedicated to the spring that emerges from the ground and forms the source of the Bhima river. Vaishali and her husband are subsistence farmers who depend on soil moisture and rain to grow cereal and lentils. The river's water, she tells us, is for the bigger farmers who grow sugarcane.

As a resilience professional, one of my biggest challenges was to talk about social-ecological resilience with the most disenfranchised communities. They are directly dependent on the sanctuary and its resources, historically victimised under the garb of encroachment, but also hold similar aspirations as you and me in this hyper-connected world. What kind of information would help Vaishali negotiate for a better future? This has been my moral compass throughout my work in the years since.

After the Gobeshona conference, I reflect on the meeting, my takeaways, and some learning agenda items for us as lifelong learners of resilience measurement.

### **About the advancing resilience measurement session at Gobeshona conference**

The Advancing Resilience Measurement Session was convened by the Resilience Knowledge Coalition. This session covered different Resilience Measurement tools at the session. This was followed by a meeting that GRP co-convened with the University of Arizona and USAID, held on May 17-18 in Washington DC with about 55 measurement experts in attendance. The meeting built on past progress by the measurement community on advancing resilience measurement, notably the efforts of the RMEL COP and the session at Gobeshona Conference.

In this meeting, old voices and new, from the Global South and the North, showed tremendous energy to share and learn from each other's experiences on resilience programming and measurement. There was a palpable sense of urgency as well to make progress in the way we track progress and share evidence on resilience. We broke into smaller groups in the four sessions over the next two days: Demand-driven Resilience, Psychosocial Resilience, Systems level

“ New experiments with transitions, futures and complexity thinking, and systems change (the Project Urban Living Labs is one such example) bring a glimmer of hope to a scenario that has otherwise been exasperatingly slow to change ”

Resilience, and Climate Adaptation Measurement. The four sessions are reflected in this report that we release today.

### **Learnings from the journey on advancing resilience measurement**

#### **1. How do we ensure that the users' needs for evidence are heard?**

In all three sessions that I attended, there were a lot of conversations around listening to end users -- be it policy-makers or grassroots communities -- but we still seem to struggle to identify ways in which we can track progress and repackage evidence that is suitable to the audience. One suggestion that has remained with me as I reflect on my learnings is the need for "Evidence Harmonisers" or those that can play the role of translating, synthesizing, amplifying, and re-packaging evidence based on user needs. As the coordinator for the Resilience Knowledge Coalition, co-led by GRP, CDKN, and ICCCAD, I am excited

by the opportunities this presents to us as a “network of networks” that aims to act as a bridge between research, policy, practice, and investments. We look forward to co-creating events at the Resilience Hub at COP27 and the Evidence Forum in 2023 that focus on amplifying evidence needs and synthesizing and harmonizing available evidence for adaptation and resilience.

## 2. Measurement tools are fit-for-purpose and context

There is an implicit recognition in the expert community that we need to move beyond the debate on which tool is the best. Based on needs and demands from the end-users, we can choose RCTs, stories, or anything in between to track the impacts and outcomes of resilience programming. In many of the groups that I was a part of at

“By opening our hearts, minds, and ears to what she has to say, and acknowledging the human connection between us. It is only then, that we will truly be able to accept her agency and be truly accountable to her in advancing resilience measurement”

the workshop, we spoke about the need for open data, the role of citizen science in data-scarce scenarios, and the importance of sharing contextual results with decision-makers (whoever the decision-makers are in that context, whether policy-makers or communities). The Resilience Knowledge Coalition is working with resilience experts from the Global South to identify, map, and create a decision tree for resilience measurement approaches and tools. This is an exciting contribution that we hope to make to this space, and we are keen to share the results with this community.

## 3. People are already coping, adapting, and thriving in the face of change. How do we capture their agency-in-action?

We need to move away from techno-centric, straight-jacket approaches to measure resilience. Conversations in every session were peppered with questions on mapping power dynamics, justice, and equity in resilience measurement. “Are we able to capture people’s agency to be resilient?” was a question I was left pondering over during breaks.

Initiatives such as the World Bank’s Atal Bhujal Yojana in South Asia recognise this agency of the farmers in changing the way they manage groundwater and enhance community resilience. Many such community-based approaches are challenging the frontiers of how the collective agency of communities is tracked, and a lot of those stories emerge from the Global South, as strongly illustrated by the Voices from the Frontlines initiative.

## 4. In an uncertain future, can measurement anticipate the need for change in direction?

We have often complicated systems by introducing resilience solutions that have brought about new externalities. Based on these learnings, many in the group believed that it is up to us as resilience measurement experts to be able to define pathways, robust and flexible at the same time, that enhance the resilience of communities at risk. However, the group still felt the need to be able to track the direction and progress of the transition to more resilient pathways. New experiments with transitions, futures and complexity thinking, and systems change (the Project Urban Living Labs is one such example) bring a glimmer of hope to a scenario that has otherwise been exasperatingly slow to change. I wonder what the resilience measurement community stands to learn from these experiments too.

My mind goes back to Vaishali Tai’s warmth and openness in sharing her meals with me. Her sense of abundance when she has little material wealth helps her cope with the vagaries of the Indian monsoon every year. To enhance resilience for people like her, it is this sense of abundance that we as a community of experts can learn from. By opening our hearts, minds, and ears to what she has to say, and acknowledging the human connection between us. It is only then, that we will truly be able to accept her agency and be truly accountable to her in advancing resilience measurement. ■

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**Shuchi Vora is working as a programme officer at Global Resilience Partnership (GRP). She can be reached at [svo-ra@globalresiliencepartnership.org](mailto:svo-ra@globalresiliencepartnership.org). This article was first published on the Global Resilience Partnership Website at <https://www.globalresiliencepartnership.org/advancing-resilience-measurement-personal-reflections-from-the-experts-meeting-in-may-2022/>.**





DHAKA TRIBUNE

# Mobilizing the youth for a better tomorrow

INCORPORATING YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE CAN HAVE A PROFOUND IMPACT

Kazi Taiba Bari Nowsheen and Shohail Bin Saifullah

**Y**outh can be recognized as resources and competent citizens in their own right, rather than as problematic or passive recipients of services. In adult-dominated processes, tokenistic treatment of a few youth members fails to recognize youth as assets with meaningful contributions to offer. Providing young people with significant opportunities to engage in decision-making processes, on the other hand, fulfils their right to be included in collective decision making. When young people are given the opportunity to exercise their rights and responsibilities as citizens in a democratic society, they develop personal and social competencies.

However, through education and practice, young people must be assisted in developing the skills necessary for meaningful engagement. Climate change education and capacity building, especially for young people, is essential for enhancing people's ability to solve environmental and developmental concerns associated with climate change. Because the climate is rapidly changing, the youth are required as change makers or instruments for climate action. Climate change exacerbates young people's existing vulnerabilities.

One of the best ways of realizing the youth's involvement on a national scale, we only need to look at it during a natural disaster. The youth's role in tackling climate natural disasters is irrevocably present; volunteerism is one of the major aspects that pertain to the youth. Climate-related disasters are beginning to overwhelm adaptation efforts in Bangladesh's coastal region. The country has gone to great lengths to adapt and limit the possibility of calamity. Over the last few decades, its Cyclone Preparedness Programme, has drastically reduced disaster mortality. Disaster preparatory organizations have realized this and put emphasis on capacitating the youth in recognizing and assessing early incoming disasters, these training modalities try and empower them as agents of change and advocate

“ Networking is one of the aspects that usually go underappreciated ”

better climate disaster preparedness, as it is then these youths that capacitate their local community in understanding early warning systems and what to do during disasters.

Young individuals who took part in various risk management and risk reduction programs showed improved awareness and comprehension of security issues and measures. According to various studies, young people who participate in a variety of activities before, during, and after a disaster or significant incident are better able to deal with the issue practically and mentally. Youths are extremely resilient and may be able to contribute thoughts and activities in an actual emergency if they are involved in disaster planning ahead of time.

By involving the youth in disaster preparedness and recovery efforts, youth-serving organizations can help to increase the youths' awareness of specific hazards. There are a number of roles that the youths can play during any kind of disaster. The youth can assist in disseminating information about disaster preparedness. The youth can be change-makers

by sharing what they've learned in youth preparedness programs and assisting parents and communities in disaster preparations, such as by developing a disaster plan. The youth can contribute innovative and resourceful disaster preparedness ideas.

While there is a growing interest in youth engagement, there are numerous obstacles to their genuine inclusion in practice. In the sense that young people are frequently included in one-time discussions that have a limited impact on policy decisions, youth engagement is frequently superficial. The refusal of adults to share opportunities with the youth due to the assumption that the youth are not capable, and responsible partners are the fundamental barriers to meaningful youth participation in adult-led organisations and institutions. The chance to develop young people with the skills to participate effectively, rather than waiting until they are adults, is forfeited when the youth are not suitably enabled and engaged. One of the major ways this issue can be alleviated is through active engagements in capacity and networking events.

Networking is one of the aspects that usually go underappreciated; being able to attach the youth to international conferences and as well as making sure that there are ample opportunities to become part of international consortiums leads to the youth's capacity building as well as their voices being heard. One of the best ways we can see this is through the active youth engagement that is seen at the Gobeshona Global Conference, where the conference tries to bridge the gap that persists between the youth, the climate change experts, and practitioners. This sort of bridging can be seen as an enriching process that is beneficial for both the youth as well as the experts, as the youth get to garner knowledge straight from experts and the experts are able to hear and understand the youth's perspective. The youths were able to share their perspectives on the effects of climate change during the conference. They also addressed diverse underlying climate change issues and proposed solutions from their fresh perspectives. Engaging and capacitating the youths through a platform can mobilize their capacity to build a sustainable nation.

The youths should be encouraged to share their opinions and ideas, as well as to motivate other young people to work together to better social situations. They must also be at the forefront of efforts to promote social and economic progress and justice in order to fully enjoy their human rights. ■

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**Kazi Taiba Bari Newsheen is working at the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) as a research intern, her research interest lies in Climate Change and DRR. Can be reached at [nowsheenbari@gmail.com](mailto:nowsheenbari@gmail.com) .**

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**Shohail Bin Saifullah is working as Youth Coordinator at International Centre for climate change and Development (ICCCAD). He can be reached- [shohail.saifullah@icccad.org](mailto:shohail.saifullah@icccad.org).**



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# Possibilities of participatory visual research methods

A COMMENTARY FROM BANGLADESH AND INDIAN SUNDARBANS



The visual methods embedded in the Bangladesh and Indian Sundarbans seek to sketch issues of vivencia (lived experiences) representing climate change, uncertainty, and transformative actions in South Asia.

Through these participatory visual action research techniques are told from the vantage points of women, youth islanders, and through children's paintings, these methods tell mundane stories of everyday incidences of locally-led adaptation experienced in the lives of the communities that are witnessing climatic uncertainty.

These experiences gained from TAPESTRY Project in our collaboration with ICCCAD for our transboundary "Sundarbans without boundaries" journey sought to contribute to evidence building in the Gobeshona Global Conferences of 2020 and 2020.

The stories, through the participatory methods, have been collected through a mixture of photovoice exploration, digital photo diaries, and through use of participatory documentary photography and are told through the lens of the communities in Satkhira in the Bangladesh and from Kultoli in the Indian part of the Sundarbans about their social processes of their lives and livelihood and their relationship with nature.

These stories seek to raise critical questions and build new knowledge to provoke questions on equity, justice, and transformation. In addition, we complemented these stories with the children of the Sundarbans through their paintings, the voices of children, their experiences, and their re-imagination of a future landscape.

Through the visual methods the researchers have tried to systemise local experience and organize shared collective analysis of the relationship between problems and their causes. The stories also seek to encourage the process of reflection and have tried to bring forth an understanding of history in these marginal contexts.

In both the Bangladesh and Indian Sundarbans, the tapestry team co-produced evidence through the use of photovoice and digital diaries which has been immersed among the women islanders to facilitate emergence of new issues through a gender lens leading to collective analysis, problematizing, and, in the long run, a change within the women leading to a sense of empowered transformation.

The tales talk about the knowledge for basic survival and reflect the collective perceptions of marginalised groups. Through the visual methods the research team tried to unearth these stories of locally-led adaptation (LLA) which mirrors popular knowledge that has always been disqualified and subjugated; with elite control over knowledge being used as a way of maintaining a dominant status quo against pressures for social transformation.

Through these story-telling and visual methods we have

“ These stories seek to raise critical questions and build new knowledge ”

tried to reflect on the struggles over the purpose, production and use of knowledge.

Story-telling, through visual methods, facilitates an engaged process of building knowledge thus supporting



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“ Forging knowledge of place through community participation, with the use of visual methods, about their local perspectives and facilitating engagement offers a robust scope for opening of a democratic space for dialogue and debate among various climate actors ”

robust public and civil society engagement that can eventually foster positive social change from below. It enables various marginal communities of practice to contribute experiential knowledge, thus providing an embedded understanding of a phenomenon and thereby facilitating a shared responsibility for taking action.

As a part of a broader agenda of community participation, stories through visual methods seek to build critical consciousness within a community to construct and forge knowledge and take action (Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, 1970). Forging knowledge of place through community participation, with the use of visual methods, about their local perspectives and facilitating engagement offers a robust scope for opening of a democratic space for dialogue and debate among various climate actors.

The sessions archived in the Gobeshona Global Conference are also fundamental to both understanding resilience and building the shared vision of resilience and transformation at the local level. The photos and narratives synthesize local experience and organize shared collective analysis of the relationships between problems and their causes.

The process of reflection and reflexivity is directly linked to action for climate justice and is shaped by an understanding of history, culture and local context. This provides a scope for co-creation of knowledge to support inclusion in policy, to systemize experience and draw out priorities for socially just transformations. ■

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**Shibaji Bose is an independent consultant working with participatory visual research methods. He can be reached [shibbose@gmail.com](mailto:shibbose@gmail.com).**

# Through the looking glass

## GLOBAL GOAL ON ADAPTATION



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### Selamawit Desta Wubet

One of the pillars of the Paris agreement is the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), which is addressed in Article 7.1 the GGA aims at “enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with a view to contributing to sustainable development and ensuring an adequate response in the context of the temperature goal”

The Paris agreement also recognizes adaptation as a global challenge with local, subnational, national, regional, and international dimensions, and that it is a critical component of and contributes to the long-term global response to climate change.

Aiming to elevate adaptation’s stature and increase financial flows, the GGA was established to promote and enhance global adaptation action. Unfortunately, not much

progress was made in this area for years until the Adaptation Committee (AC) was tasked in 2019 by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) to consider approaches to reviewing the overall progress made in achieving the global goal on adaptation and to include the results of this consideration in its 2021 annual report.

The technical paper explores possible methods for assessing overall progress towards the global goal on adaptation, what additional analysis would be useful, and the steps that can be taken to work towards progressively more thorough and rigorous assessments over time. It also highlighted the significance of fully utilizing available information sources to be essential for conducting a collective review of advancements made toward the GGA without adding any extra responsibilities to Parties. This technical paper lays down the foundation to define the technical aspect

and the way forward for the GGA and was welcomed by the CMA.

In Glasgow, the CMA established a comprehensive two-year Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation (GlaSS). The program is being carried out jointly by the SBSTA and SBI with contributions from the current and incoming Presidencies of the COP, the Adaptation Committee, IPCC Working Group II, and others.

The decision specifies eight work program objectives, one of which is to contribute to reviewing the overall progress made in achieving the global goal on adaptation as part of the global stocktake, which will take place every five years, with data collection beginning this year and the stocktake concluding in 2023. It also mandated four workshops beginning with the SB's 56th sessions.

Albeit the issue that demands critical discussions on technical aspects, the discussion on the GlaSS got off to a shaky start at the SB 56, when parties argued for over an hour on whether there should be one or two sessions. In the end, it was agreed that there would be two meetings.

Themed after the two objectives of the work plan "Enhancing understanding of the global goal on adaptation and reviewing progress towards it" the first workshop took place on the 7th and 8th of June with a presentation from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the contribution of the working group II to the Sixth Assessment Report focusing on impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability.

In their joint conclusion, the SBSTA and the SBI requested that the Secretariat prepare an annual report for the fourth session of the CMA in order to document progress made and inform the GlaSS work program. They also asked that subsequent workshops under the GlaSS program be more interactive as that was not the case in the first workshop. The second workshop will be held in August virtually.

What we have observed during the first workshop is that despite parties' agreement to recognize adaptation as a global challenge, the process has been tainted by a longstanding lack of trust in the process and the lack of parity in discussing adaptation and mitigation.

We need to understand why we set the global goal on adaptation. The objective of the Paris agreement is not only to limit global warming but also to increase the ability to adapt to the adverse impact of climate change. The fulfilment of these objectives cannot be left to countries to fulfil on their own. Although it may be challenging to quantify adaptation as a goal, we must consider how adaptation relates to the temperature target. If we fail to take the necessary steps to keep global warming below 1.5, we will need to make further efforts to adapt.

The IPCC Report on Climate Change Mitigation, released on April 4, 2022, stated that without stronger policies, global emissions are on track for a 3.2°C world. A 1.5°C path necessitates a 48% reduction in global emissions by 2030

“We need to understand why we set the global goal on adaptation. The objective of the Paris agreement is not only to limit global warming but also to increase the ability to adapt to the adverse impact of climate change”

and a net zero planet by the early 2050s. It also reports with high confidence that public-private finance flows for fossil fuels continue to outnumber those for climate adaptation and mitigation. The vast majority of global tracked climate finance is directed toward mitigation, with only a small portion directed toward adaptation.

The IPCC Working Group II's contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report makes it very obvious that even at 1.5 degrees Celsius, we still face very dire climate impacts. Strong, coordinated global action is required if we are to be able to adapt. The actions that we need to take might be tailored to our local needs but the support and the need to transform vulnerable nations is a global responsibility.

What should we expect as we approach COP 27? We must prioritize adaptation and ensure the implementation of Glasgow's adaptation commitments, including assistance to developing and vulnerable countries in implementing their national adaptation commitments. The GlaSS's work should be used to advance the adaptation agenda and push for greater adaptation ambition in Egypt and later at COP28.

The commitment by developing countries to double adaptation finance by the year 2025 was a positive message to restore trust but yet much more needs to be done. ■

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**Selamawit Desta Wubet leads the CVF workstream with the GCA's Support Program for the Climate Vulnerable Forum and V20, in which role she is principally leading the CVF workstream.**



LLA CHAMPIONS

# Global Center on Adaptation launches Local Adaptation Champions Awards



GLOBAL  
CENTER ON  
ADAPTATION

LOCAL ADAPTATION  
**CHAMPIONS AWARDS**

APPLY ONLINE  
AT [GCA.ORG/LLAChampions](https://gca.org/LLAChampions)

**10TH JUNE TO 10TH JULY**

**#LLAChampions**



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Over 3 billion people already face climate change life-threatening impacts, among them increased heat waves, droughts, and floods. As the impacts of climate change become more and more part of our everyday reality, it is imperative that we urgently provide vulnerable communities at the frontlines with the resources they need to design and implement locally appropriate adaptation solutions. To do so, we must speed up and consolidate our own learning on the most effective and efficient ways to channel this support to where it is most needed. There have been many successes in supporting locally led action, including from wider development efforts, but we don't always hear about them, or learn from them.

The GCA Local Adaptation Champions Awards aim to spotlight and recognize locally-led resilience building efforts, to inspire similar action elsewhere, and to scale up locally-led adaptation efforts to make them mainstream. Local determination of the best possible solutions to deal with localized climate impacts should be the norm rather than the exception. It is the only way to be efficient in addressing the existential crisis of climate change in a resource-constrained world. If local priorities are not heard and addressed while designing adaptation interventions, we are wasting precious resources. If local governments and communities are not in the driving seat, the chances are that efforts will not be targeted, and the outcomes will not be sustainable because they will lack local ownership. We have learnt these lessons the hard way through decades of development efforts. It is important not to start reinventing the wheel when we don't have the luxury of time.

The experience in implementing locally-led approaches to adaptation, which we hope the applicants will share with the team through your applications, will inform the efforts of GCA's Global Hub on Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) to scale up LLA. And we hope it will inform and inspire the adaptation efforts of other local practitioners who may benefit from a similar approach: in addition to the cash Awards, we will document and publicize the efforts of the four winners, including through our LLA Knowledge Platform which is currently being developed.

The winners will be selected by a prestigious Jury and receive their Awards at a ceremony during COP 27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. The Awards are open to any individual, organization or group of partners worldwide, who are in the process of implementing climate change adaptation/resilience solutions that follow one of the eight principles for locally led adaptation.

### Categories of the Award:

#### Inclusive leadership

Interventions in this category are inclusive by design and truly owned by the communities in which they have been

implemented. They have been designed, built and managed with and by the people who will benefit from them the most, and have sought contributions from those members of the community who are often excluded from local decision-making processes due to their gender, race, language, ethnicity, religious practices, sexual orientation, disability or any other reason.

#### Financial governance

This category focuses on rewarding initiatives whose scope was to design innovative financial mechanisms that allow local communities to access and manage adaptation funds in ways that best fit local needs, priorities, and evolving contexts. The mechanism displays strong flexibility and may build on intergovernmental and public-private partnerships or alliances.

“ If local governments and communities are not in the driving seat, the chances are that efforts will not be targeted, and the outcomes will not be sustainable because they will lack local ownership ”

#### Knowledge and capacity

Interventions in this category are designed to strengthen local knowledge and skills related to climate change adaptation, climate finance or locally led adaptation principles in ways that enable local actors to autonomously continue building their knowledge and share their skills over time. Interventions which contribute to knowledge sharing and building the evidence case for locally led adaptation can also apply for this category.



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### Local innovation

This category rewards local solutions or technologies - physical or digital - that minimise the immediate and long-term impacts of climate change on people in the community, in particular those most vulnerable. The solution presented may be an existing solution creatively applied to climate change adaptation, a solution that was never before used in this context, a completely new idea successfully applied or a combination of all of the above.

The call for applications will be open from June 10 to July 10, 2022. The application form and FAQs are available on the GCA website: <https://gca.org/programs/locally-led-action/>  
<https://gca.org/llachampions/>  
<https://gca.org/apply-llachampions/>  
<https://gca.org/faqs-gca-local-adaptation-champions-awards/>

You can apply in the language of your choice, provided that you include a transcript or subtitles for your videos in English, French, Spanish or Portuguese. Please bear in mind that text submitted in a language other than those listed above will be machine translated, a process that may entail loss of meaning and inaccuracies.

Also, help us reach local adaptation champions by spreading the word among your networks. You will find the material to share here: <https://trello.com/b/zUAdGtQ1/gca-local-adaptation-champions-awards> ■

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**Anju Sharma is working as a LLA Programme Lead at GCA. She can be reached at [anju.sharma@gca.org](mailto:anju.sharma@gca.org)**

# Gobeshona goes global due to covid pandemic

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Dr Saleemul Huq

The Gobeshona platform of universities and research Institutes doing research on climate change in Bangladesh was created in 2013 with a handful of members and has now grown to over fifty members. During that time it has supported a monthly webinar for researchers to share their research with each other and also held an annual conference over four days hosted by the Independent University Bangladesh with several hundred participants from Bangladesh as well as from outside Bangladesh.

However in 2021 due to the covid pandemic, the annual conference could not be held in person so we decided to hold it entirely online instead. As it was now going to be online we reached out to friends around the world inviting them to run online sessions to share their own experiences and work.

The response we got was overwhelming and we decided to run nearly a hundred sessions over 24 hours each day over seven days with three eight-hour segments first for the Asia Pacific region and then for the Africa and Europe time zones and the final eight hours for the Americas.

The overall theme for the conference was Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) and there were sessions from Japan to India, to Bangladesh to Nepal, to Africa, Europe, and the Americas.

It was such a great success that we have decided to keep the annual Gobeshona conference online and also keep it as a Global Conference on LLA going forward.

So in March 2022, we held the second Global Gobeshona Conference on LLA with the theme of linking local to Global decision-making with a focus on the upcoming 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to be held in November 2022 in Sharm Al Shaikh, Egypt.

This year we again had nearly a hundred sessions from around the world and are sharing some of the outputs from the sessions in this special issue of Climate Tribune.

We hope our readers will find them interesting and useful. ■

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**Prof Saleemul Huq is Director of ICCCAD. His work is now fully focused on addressing climate losses and damages.**