



Revisiting of the Coastal Zone Policy in light of the National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management: Identifying Synergies and Gaps



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Cover photo credit: Abbas Ali Mallick (a displaced person from Satkhira district)

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1. Introduction

Bangladesh has a 710 km coastline along the Bay of Bengal, featuring both risks and opportunities. The convergence of the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna river systems that flow through the country into the Bay of Bengal creates significant potential for hazards (Wang, Deng, Feng, Wang, & Guo, 2023). In the context of climate change, flooding and storms have become a significant concern for the country, with serious consequences for human communities – including displacement. Displacement involves the forced movement of individuals from their original homes to new areas, either within their own country or across international borders. Recent research and data underscore the severity of the displacement crisis, which has been intensified by the impacts of climate change on the occurrence of hazards and disasters. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) reported in 2024 that approximately 18.8 million displacements were recorded in Bangladesh between 2008 and 2023 due to 117 climate-related and other disasters (IDMC, 2024). In 2023 alone, 16 disasters triggered around 1.8 million displacements (IDMC, 2024). Moreover, the Groundswell report has established direct correlation between slow onset climate change processes, such as water scarcity, lower crop productivity, sea level rise, heat stress and internal migration. Without concrete climate change and development actions, by 2050, slow onset processes could lead to more than 216 million people to migrate within their home countries globally. 40 million of these people would move in South Asia, and 19 million in Bangladesh alone (Clement, et al., 2021).

Given the centrality of this issue for development and disaster response, this paper explores the intersectionality of national policies focusing on Bangladesh's efforts to address internal displacement. Throughout this paper, we use the terminology adopted in the National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management (2021).¹ The National Strategy defines Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as “Persons, group of persons, households, or an entire community who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence temporarily or permanently or who have been evacuated as a result of disasters caused by sudden and slow-onset climatic events and processes, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border” (MoDMR, 2021).

The National Strategy has been developed by the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) to prevent internal displacement and to protect and uphold displaced persons' rights during and after displacement. The strategy identifies 26 ministries and numerous departments of government that have a role in displacement management (MoDMR, 2021). It also stresses that all policies and strategies that may have implications for the management of displacement should be thoroughly analyzed and that all options should be explored to ensure the representation and participation of displaced persons in their rollout and that the benefits they produce are also enjoyed by the displaced communities.

A significant portion of displacement in Bangladesh takes place in coastal areas. The government of Bangladesh has a policy specifically targeting this region, namely the 'Coastal Zone Policy 2005'.² The aim of the present paper is to analyze how this policy covers displacement and what components of the policy have the potential to be aligned with the goals of the National Strategy. The paper is divided into six sections. Section one provides the rationale and the specific objectives of the study. Section two highlights the major features of the Coastal Zone Policy and the National Strategy. Section three addresses the alignment between the policy and strategy. Section four identifies the scope of incorporation of internal displacement strategies in the Policy.

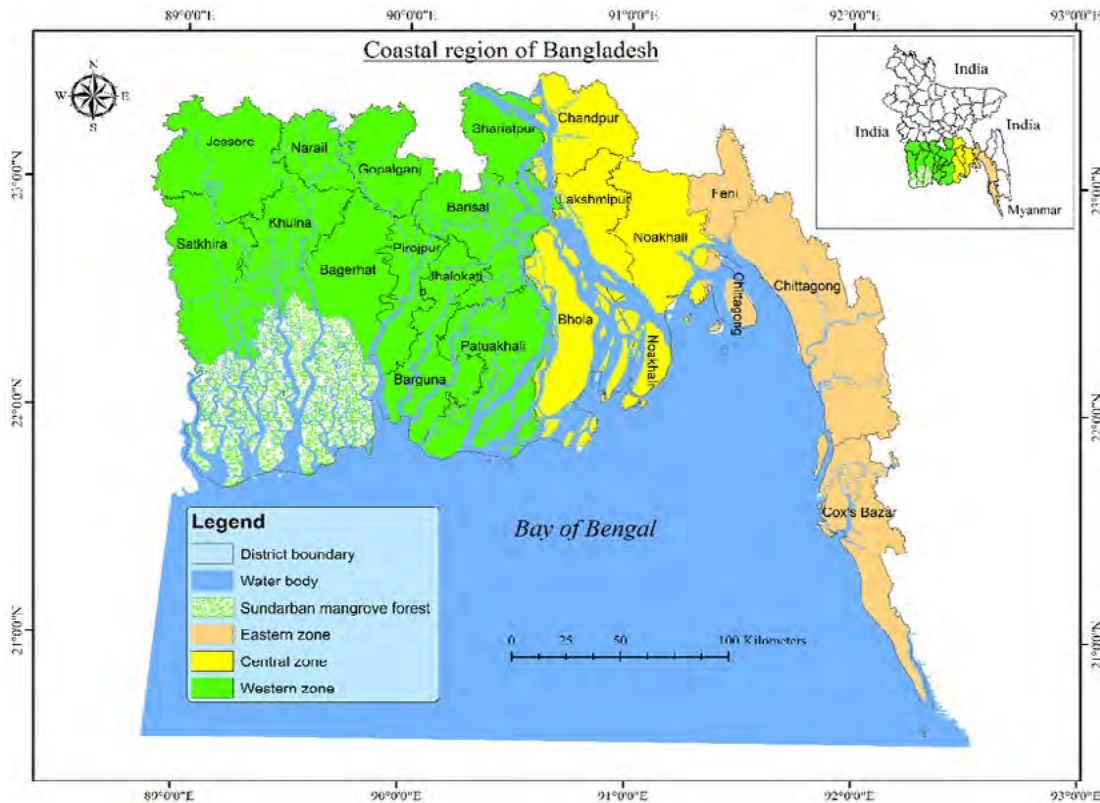
¹ Onwards this strategy will be referred to as “National Strategy”.

² Hereinafter, this policy will be referred to as the “Policy”.

2. Rationale and Objectives

Bangladesh's unique location within the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna river systems has shaped the country's exposure to hydrometeorological hazards and related disasters. Historically, this has resulted in significant population displacement. Bangladesh has a coastline stretching 710 kilometers, covering an area of 47,201 square kilometers, which constitutes 32% of the country's total land area (Wang, Deng, Feng, Wang, & Guo, 2023). This coastal region includes 19 districts, specifically Bagerhat, Barguna, Barisal, Bhola, Chandpur, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Feni, Gopalganj, Jessore, Jhalkati, Khulna, Lakshmipur, Narail, Noakhali, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Satkhira, and Shariatpur (MoWR, 2005).

Figure 1: Map showing the coastal region of Bangladesh with the different coastal zones and districts.³



The interplay of natural and human-made hazards—such as coastal erosion, high arsenic levels in groundwater, waterlogging, seismic activity, soil and water salinity, various types of pollution—has greatly affected the lives and livelihoods of those living in Bangladesh's coastal zones. These challenges have challenged social and economic development in these areas. The Policy was formed in this context, in order to promote sustainable development locally, while addressing the specificities of Bangladesh's coastal areas.

An analysis of the Policy from the perspective of managing displacement has become necessary for several reasons. Successive governments have developed different policies to support different groups from various geographic locations. Many a time these policies overlap with one another. The aim of this paper is to identify potential overlaps between the Policy and the National Strategy to help the government maximize the positive outcomes of its interventions in support of at risk and affected persons. It is also essential to identify the areas of the Policy that have not addressed the challenges of displacement and to suggest ways for incorporating provisions to effectively address and manage the specific challenges faced by displaced persons and populations at risk of becoming displaced in coastal areas.

The specific objectives of this paper are to:

- Highlight the major features of both the National Strategy and the Policy.
- Explore areas of the Policy that are relevant form implementing the targets of the National Strategy.
- Identify gap areas where the rights of the displaced can be better incorporated in the Policy, following the provisions of the National Strategy.

³ Hoque, M.Z. Cui, S. Xu, L. Islam, I. Tang, J. Ding, S. 2019. Assessing Agricultural Livelihood Vulnerability to Climate Change in Coastal Bangladesh. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. Available at: <https://www.mdpi.com/576130>

3. Major Features of the National Strategy

The National Strategy presents a thorough framework focusing on individuals and communities displaced within the country due to climate change and disasters. It draws on the principle and approaches recognized in relevant international frameworks – the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR), the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and the Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda. Its primary aim is to establish a realistic and all-encompassing rights-based framework to protect and uphold the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) (MoDMR, 2021).

The National Strategy outlines responses spanning three critical phases —pre-displacement, during displacement, and post-displacement —covering all forms of climate and disaster-oriented displacement to bolster the country's resilience and response efforts. The National Strategy further divides displacement into three categories based on its nature: temporary displacement, a transitional status between temporary and permanent displacement, and permanent displacement. The National Strategy acknowledges that vulnerable groups, such as the poor, people with disabilities, ethnic and religious minorities, and other marginalized communities discriminated on the basis of age and sex, face heightened risks during displacement.

This paper mainly considers the overlap between the Policy and the targets outlined in the National Strategy in respect to the 'Prevention of Displacement', given that the Policy predominantly focuses on preventive measures aimed at safeguarding coastal natural resources and livelihoods. The National Strategy lays out 44 targets relevant to prevention. The National Strategy's National Action Plan (2022-2042) identifies 424 activities needed to achieve them. These targets are divided into five broad heads: Understanding the Risk and Decision-Making Support; Strengthening climate/disaster risk governance; Investing in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA); Promoting employment, alternative livelihoods, and decentralized urban growth centers; and Climate-disaster Risk Responsive Land Use Plan and Programme.

The prevention of displacement is the area that is elaborated in most details in the National Strategy. When a government takes adequate measures to prevent displacement, not only it reduces potential displacement and the harmful effects on the men, women and children who could become displaced, it also abates the financial burden on the government to respond to displacement and support recovery and durable solutions to displacement. Relevant rights in this respect are: 'non-discrimination and equality', 'right to safety', 'right to life', 'right to development', 'right to shelter', 'right to work', 'right to participation', and 'right to information'. The following paragraph details the major highlights of each of the components of these preventive approaches.

a. Understanding the Risk and Decision-Making Support

In order to assess risks, the National Strategy recommends the periodical collection and updating of field data on displacement, overseen by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MODMR) and local institutions or committees. This process should involve disaggregating data by sex, age, disability (SADD), and other essential indicators to address the specific needs of various IDP groups. The National Strategy also recommends that data collection be conducted through national census to minimize costs and improve forecasting capabilities. Moreover, it identifies the need for the mapping of risk and vulnerability in climate hotspot areas, investigating the factors driving displacement and migration. It also suggests performing regular Community-Risk Assessments (CRA) to create Risk Reduction Action Plans (RRAP) tailored to displacement hotspots, identifying the specific needs of communities, documenting local knowledge and practices, and integrating preparedness measures into educational programs. The strategy also emphasizes community engagement through methods such as courtyard meetings, public announcements, local cultural events, and leveraging radio, television, and religious institutions to increase awareness of displacement issues (MoDMR, 2021).

b. Strengthening climate/disaster risk governance

In order to strengthen climate governance, the strategy recommends developing specialized laws, regulations, policies, institutions, and programs, as well as integrating displacement issues into existing frameworks that align with the SDGs and SFDRR. It suggests revising the section 17 of the Disaster Management Act (DMA) of 2012 to form a national committee on displacement. Similarly, the regulations that are created to implement Overseas Employment Act of 2013 (as amended in 2023) also need to include a legal basis for recruitment of labor migrants from climate

affected areas for overseas employment. The strategy also stresses the importance of ensuring equality by addressing issues related to gender, disability, and the needs of vulnerable groups, while encouraging the creation of alternative livelihoods in partnership with the private sector (MoDMR, 2021).

c. Investing in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA)

The National Strategy indicates that the government should ensure rigorous monitoring and maintenance of existing flood embankments, and where necessary, construct new embankments or undertake river dredging to manage floods, prevent river erosion, and protect against saline water intrusion. It advocates for exploring in-situ resettlement solutions that incorporate traditional knowledge and coping mechanisms of indigenous and local communities, allowing displaced populations to stay close to their places of origin. Enhancing resilience can also be achieved by making homes more hazard resistant, by implementing hazard-specific building codes, designing disaster-resilient cluster housing, or implementing specific measures such as raising plinth heights. Last but not least, in respect to prevention, the strategy recommends facilitating access to bank loans on favorable terms to support these initiatives (MoDMR, 2021). Large scale funding may be secured from the Green Climate Fund or the Climate Bridge Fund to build a sufficient number of multipurpose and integrated gender-sensitive cyclone and flood shelters within embankments and polders, based on population density.

Additionally, the government has prioritized investing in the enhancement of early warning systems, intensifying awareness campaigns within government programs funded by the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF), and utilizing social media platforms for effective communication to the communities.

d. Promoting employment, alternative livelihoods, and decentralized urban growth centers

In order to enhance resilience, the National Strategy encourages the diversification of climate-vulnerable livelihoods, emphasizing the need to expand hazard-resistant agricultural practices, introduce crop insurance as a risk management tool for farmers, and broaden insurance schemes to include shelters, livestock, and other assets. Vulnerable households should receive skills training for off-farm livelihoods, in collaboration with the private sector, to support international short-term labor migration for individuals from areas at risk of displacement, in partnership with national and international organizations. The strategy also suggests establishing an online job portal to match job opportunities with individuals from vulnerable regions.

Moreover, the National Strategy promotes the creation of substantial job opportunities in regions vulnerable to displacement through collaborations between public and private sector actors. It recommends the establishment of urban growth centers at regional, district, or *upazila* levels to offer formal employment and income opportunities, thereby reducing population pressure on central urban locations or mega-cities. Additionally, the National Strategy suggests enhancing both the quality and quantity of transportation services, encouraging displaced individuals to reside in peri-urban areas and recommends the introduction of subsidized transportation to facilitate their commute to workplaces. It highlights the need for advocacy at the global level to campaign for concessional access to funding and transfer of technologies for developing a nationwide commuter train network (MoDMR, 2021).

e. Climate-disaster Risk Responsive Land Use Plan and Programme

In response to risks due to climate-related disasters, the National Strategy emphasizes the need to identify highly vulnerable zones and restrict the construction of human settlements in unprotected or high-risk areas. Instead, it advocates for the development of satellite towns and the construction or planned low-cost housing with essential civic amenities outside these vulnerable zones.

In order to establish a new land use plan, the National Strategy highlights the importance of prompt and accurate identification of land use policies for all public about the *Khas land*⁴ by zone and *mouzas*.⁵ It suggests providing low-cost rental options for migrants to develop climate-resilient housing, rather than focusing on land ownership. Additionally, it sets goals for allocating resources to afforestation efforts and enhancing the institutional capacity of forest officials

⁴ Khas land in Bangladesh denotes state-owned land that remains under government control and is intended for allocation to landless citizens as part of land reform and rural development policies. (Rahman, H. Z., & Islam, R., *Khas Land: Distribution and Access*. CPD-UNDP Working Paper Series, 2002)

⁵ A mouza is an administrative land unit in Bangladesh, delineated for revenue collection, cadastral survey, and land record maintenance, serving as the basic spatial unit in rural land administration. (Hassan, M. K., *The Land Administration System in Bangladesh: An Overview*, International Journal of Public Administration, 2014).

to carry out reforestation in *char* lands,⁶ coastal regions, and embankments. It also prioritizes the creation of a legally-binding institutional framework for the collective management of common pool resources, such as land and water bodies, ensuring access to such resources by poor, marginalized, and displaced individuals for productive and sustainable use (MoDMR, 2021).

4. Major Features of the Coastal Zone Policy

The Policy was formulated by the Ministry of Water Resources of the Government of Bangladesh, in collaboration with other ministries in 2005. Its two main objectives are to: 1) address the increasing impacts of environmental challenges on coastal areas and 2) identify and encourage adequate measures to leverage the full potential of the coastal zone towards the economic and sustainable development of Bangladesh. The region's diverse natural resources—such as coastal fisheries, forests, salt, onshore and offshore natural gas, untapped minerals, and biodiversity hotspots in the mangrove and coral ecosystems present significant opportunities (MoWR, 2005).

Various natural and human-induced events and processes, including erosion, high arsenic levels in groundwater, waterlogging, earthquakes, unplanned expansion of aquaculture, upstream diversion of water, salinity in water and soil, pollution, and the adverse effects of climate change, have negatively impacted the lives and livelihoods of people in the coastal zone. The Policy recognizes that social development in the coastal zone has been challenged by increasing environmental risks. It emphasizes the need to address these unique risks, but also to leverage the specific opportunities in this region, by promoting sustainable economic growth, the reduction of poverty, and the sustainable management of coastal resources to enhance the resilience of coastal communities to both natural and human-induced hazards.

In order to reduce disaster risk, the policy outlines several key measures, including hazard prevention, protection of affected communities, and enhancing their capacity to cope with disasters by introducing alternative livelihoods that support economic growth. It emphasizes the need for sustainable management and fair distribution of natural resources, particularly focusing on gender and age-specific needs. The Policy proposes adaptive measures such as constructing dikes to combat sea level rise, building multi-purpose embankments, implementing an early warning system and establishing cyclone shelters designed with gender considerations and powered with electricity during emergencies through solar photovoltaic systems (MoWR, 2005).

It adopts a gender-sensitive, participatory approach to reduce gender inequalities by addressing the specific needs of women through initiatives like supporting women's education, training, employment, and the rapid allocation of newly accreted *khas* lands to women. Additionally, it promotes equal participation of all stakeholders and seeks to enhance cooperation among government agencies, local institutions, non-governmental organizations, and community representatives to ensure that all voices are heard in decision-making processes. Overall, the policy stresses the importance of improving protection of human rights for all (MoWR, 2005).

The above review of the policy demonstrates that the policy primarily focuses on development and conservation of natural resources. Although different sections of the Policy mention hardship of people in the area, the document does not specifically single out displacement as a cause of hardship or displaced persons as a particularly vulnerable group. The following section attempts to pull out some key elements from the Policy which can be of particular interest for the prevention of displacement or the protection of displaced populations, thereby identifying the potential for integration with the implementation of some of the sections of the National Strategy. This analysis is particularly timely, as the Policy requires a thorough revisit and update, as the coastal ecosystem has gone through a dynamic shift due to anthropological activities and climate change impacts since the policy was adopted in 2005. This process will provide an opportunity to make the Policy more aligned with National Strategy by capturing the most recent ground realities.

⁶ Char lands typically mean the sediment-formed landmasses composed of sand and silt arising within the channels of major rivers due to sediment deposition when fluvial transport exceeds the river's carrying capacity. These lands are inherently unstable, and subject to frequent erosion and accretion. (Arseneault, M.P., Azam, M.N., Ahmad, S., January, 2015. *Riverbank Erosion and Migration in Bangladesh's Char Lands*. pp.41-62)

5. Alignment of the Coastal Zone Policy with the National Strategy

While the Policy never explicitly refers to displaced persons, the measures it proposes to mitigate the impacts of disasters on local communities are particularly important to effectively prevent displacement.

Section 4.1 of the Policy indicates avenues for creating alternative livelihoods and alleviate poverty. Within its "economic growth" framework, the policy sets out to develop locally available alternative livelihoods. It advocates for the establishment of labor-intensive industries that require minimal technology and efficiently utilize locally sourced coastal resources as raw materials. It particularly concentrates on livelihoods surrounding marine fisheries identifying sectors such as: salt production, shrimp and crab farming, shell and pearl culture, livestock development, area-specific agricultural growth, agro-based industries, transport, shipbuilding, shipbreaking, tourism, beach mineral extraction, and renewable and non-renewable energy production. Target 2.3.3 of the National Strategy also highlights increase of resilience of the displaced persons through livelihood diversification including off-farm livelihoods, support to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and better access to social security. Additionally, in order to support industrial growth and decentralization in vulnerable areas, the Policy underscores the importance of developing efficient power, transportation, and telecommunications infrastructure—an objective that aligns with section 2.4.3 of the National Strategy.

In order to meet the basic needs of coastal communities and enhance livelihood opportunities, the Policy encourages collaboration between the private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to implement activities for the poor. This approach aligns with provisions 2.2.5, 2.4.1, and 2.4.2 of the National Strategy that mention collaboration across sectors and prioritize the recruitment of immigrants from this region. The Policy also advocates for the provision of collateral-free credit under favorable terms as part of all livelihood enhancement programs, consistent with provision 2.3.19 of the National Strategy. The development of an integrated communication network across the country through the construction of highways, major roads, rural roads, railways, and waterways is another focus of the Policy, which corresponds to sections 2.4.3 and 2.4.4 of the National Strategy. Furthermore, the policy underscores the importance of the free flow of information among the population, a key objective also emphasized in several sections of the National Strategy (2.1.6, 2.3.1, and 2.3.2). Through these initiatives, the Policy aims to ensure the enjoyment of basic human rights by improving access to primary education, healthcare, sanitation, and safe drinking water—central goals of the "Prevention of Displacement" section in the National Strategy. Moreover, the Policy states that, in the implementation of relevant activities, 'the poor population described in the Policy has to be further segregated as those who have lost their homestead or agri-land and those who have not' (MoWR, 2005). This reference allows to include displaced persons among the priority target populations of all economic development and adaptation activities implemented under the Policy.

In order to reduce disaster risk, the Policy proposes an integrated 'Comprehensive Disaster Management Plan' aimed at strengthening the coping capacities of the poor during disasters such as erosion and cyclones. The plan also includes the introduction of an insurance scheme for impoverished communities in the coastal belt. These strategies align with provisions 2.3.3, 2.3.4, and 2.3.12 of the National Strategy. Additionally, measures like insurance scheme for livestock and other forms of property, multipurpose embankments, shelter, polders and in-situ solutions for resettlement, comprehensive land regulations policy, strengthen forest officials for afforestation and protect permanent green belt outlined in the National Strategy under provisions 2.3.14, 2.3.5, and 2.5.4 are being implemented as part of the Policy to mitigate the impact of climate-related disasters on human lives and livestock. This includes efforts to improve and maintain cyclone shelters, sea dykes, multi-purpose embankments, *killas*, road systems, planned tree planting, and to promote social forestry campaigns and early warning systems. Thus, the conscious inclusion of the targets outlined in the National Strategy within the implementation of the Policy would support process towards the goals of both frameworks.

Ensuring the sustainable management of the country's limited natural resources is essential for achieving the goal of reducing vulnerability and preventing internal displacement. To this end, the Policy emphasizes the careful, integrated use of resources, such as agriculture, forestry, and fishing, including aquaculture. This involves regulating harvesting, extraction, and utilization of natural resources to align with their natural regeneration cycles, consistent with provision 2.5.6 of the National Strategy. Both documents indicate the need to promote the adoption of salt-tolerant crop varieties to reduce the impacts of saltwater intrusion. Additionally, the Policy specifically targets the development of a land use policy for *khas* land and newly formed *char* areas to prevent unplanned and indiscriminate land use. This aligns with the displacement prevention measures outlined in provision 2.5.5 of the National Strategy. Provision 2.5.6 of the National Strategy aligns with the Policy by aiming to increase access to natural resources for the poor and disadvantaged communities that rely on them for their livelihoods.

Provision 4.6 of the Policy addresses the need to empower coastal communities. To promote the inclusion and enhance the safety and security of coastal populations, the Policy sets targets aimed at ensuring equal participation of all stakeholders. This is to be achieved through co-management mechanisms involving government agencies, local government institutions, and non-governmental organizations, with a focus on empowering grassroots communities. The Policy also includes initiatives to protect and promote the cultural heritage of diverse communities residing in the coastal zone. In alignment with this, provision 2.1.6 of the National Strategy proposes several measures to prevent displacement, such as public announcements (miking), local cultural events, engagement of religious institutions, and courtyard meetings. These measures are complementary to those outlined in the Policy and contribute to the empowerment of coastal communities.

6. Reform of Coastal Zone Policy to Incorporate the Interest of People Displaced or at risk of Displacement

In the previous section, this study identified areas where the Policy is already aligned with the National Strategy. However, there are specific aspects where the interest of the displaced can be incorporated in the Policy.

The Policy was established to confront the lack of initiatives addressing emerging environmental challenges in Bangladesh's coastal zone, which has led to limited socio-economic development in the area despite its vast natural resources. The Policy emphasizes creating a secure and supportive environment for coastal communities. Its goal is to foster conditions that enable poverty reduction, the development of sustainable livelihoods, and the integration of the coastal zone into national development processes. The achievement of these commitments would inherently contribute to mitigating the risks of potential displacement in the coastal region. Explicitly mentioning the term 'Prevention of Displaced Population' in the goals and declarations of the revised coastal zone policy would allow authorities to demonstrate the relevance of the phenomenon and relevant responses in the area. Furthermore, the National Strategy outlines specific rights—such as 'non-discrimination and equality', 'right to safety', 'right to life', 'right to development', 'right to shelter', 'right to work', 'right to participation', and 'right to information'—that are key to protect vulnerable populations affected and displaced by climate hazards. Incorporating these rights into the revised Policy would make it more rights-based.

Consistently with the SGDs and the SFDRR, the National Strategy advocates for the development of specific laws, policies, institutions, and programs that integrate displacement into existing frameworks, tailored to specific contexts. For instance, it recommends amending the Disaster Management Act 2012 and the Overseas Employment Act 2013 to create alternative livelihood opportunities for vulnerable populations. Harmonizing the revised Policy with these laws would further affirm the rights of those at risk of displacement in coastal areas. Additionally, the National Strategy highlights the importance of providing training, facilitating temporary and circular international labor migration, and creating employment opportunities in the economic zones, in ready-made garments (RMG) and other manufacturing sectors, to diversify income sources. In contrast, the Policy proposes local livelihood solutions for vulnerable populations that may not be sufficient to grant everyone decent, adequate employment. Therefore, the revised Policy should incorporate the promotion of other livelihoods that can be accessed through internal and international migration. The potential of migration to expand livelihood opportunities should be adequately recognized.

Furthermore, in order to enhance the resilience of at-risk populations and prevent potential displacement, the National Strategy emphasized improving the structural safety of buildings through careful planning, such as by raising plinth

heights or constructing floating houses, in accordance with hazard-specific housing policies for vulnerable areas. Revising the Policy in line with these suggestions would improve access to safe houses for many people at risk. Finally, the National Strategy proposes the creation of satellite towns or planned low-cost housing with civic facilities near potential displacement areas. Such a measure is key to address displacement from coastal areas and should be considered in a revised Policy.

Sl no. Theme	National Strategy	Coastal Zone Policy	Alignment	Scope to Incorporate
❶ Livelihood Diversification & Poverty Alleviation				
	Provision 2.3.3 – Emphasizes livelihood diversification, support to SMEs, off-farm activities.	Section 4.1 – Promotes alternative livelihoods (e.g., marine fisheries, shrimp/crab farming, agro-industries, etc.)	Alignment in creating and promoting local alternative livelihoods.	Need to include explicit reference of displaced populations as beneficiaries of livelihood programs.
❷ Infrastructure & Decentralization				
	2.4.3 Infrastructure development in vulnerable areas	4.3.5 Development of power, transport, telecommunication for industrial growth	Aligned	
❸ Transport & Communication				
	2.4.3, 2.4.4- Integrated communication network	4.3.5- Promote building highways, rural roads, railways, waterways to increase connectivity.	Partially Aligned	Link transport improvements to relocation or service access for displaced populations
❹ Private sector & NGOs collaboration, & financial inclusion				
	2.2.5, 2.4.1, 2.4.2 & 2.3.19- Address the importance on public private partnership, and flexible access to credit for vulnerable groups	4.3.2- Encourage private and NGO support to poor and provide collateral free loans on favorable terms	Aligned	
❺ Community Empowerment & Participation				
	2.1.6- Empowerment through cultural programs, co-management of public properties, public engagement etc.	4.6- Targets equal stakeholder participation, co-management & cultural heritage	Aligned	
❻ Planned Relocation & Satellite Towns				
	2.5.3 Proposes satellite towns, low-cost housing with civic facilities near vulnerable areas	No direct mention of resettlement or town planning	Not aligned	It might possible to add planned relocation framework for high-risk zones in revised policy.
❼ Safe Housing & Infrastructure				
	2.3.17 Emphasizes on building hazard-resilient housing, floating houses, plinth raising	Doesn't cover housing standards	Not aligned	Integrate climate resilient housing designs and plans for at risk populations
❸ Legal and Institutional Reform				
	2.2.2.- Proposes reform of Disaster Management Act 2012, Overseas Employment Act 2013	Current policy does not address legal/institutional reform	Not aligned	Harmonize the Policy with existing laws that support displaced populations
❹ Rights-Based Framework				
	Stakeholders had direct participation in developing this Strategy. Moreover, it includes rights to life, work, information, shelter (cross-cutting)	Does not explicitly mention rights framework	Not aligned	

7. Conclusions

The joint review of Coastal Zone Policy (2005) and the National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management (2021) brings out the potential for synergies in the implementation of the two documents. The review also shows that both policies present some gaps. The Coastal Zone Policy mostly deals with preventive interventions, spanning development, land-use planning, risk reduction and resilience building, while the National Strategy deals with prevention, protection, and durable solutions.

The global community now emphasizes the need for integration of programs and resources allocated to pursue climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable development objectives. Integration will rationalize the use resources, avoid duplications and promote more effective implementation. The comparative analysis of the Coastal Zone Policy and the National Strategy shows that many of the components and programs implemented under the Coastal Zone Policy also contribute to the prevention objectives of the National Strategy. The latter, however, helps spell out some of these objectives and actions, and can further to guide specific efforts on protection during displacement, and durable solutions.

Moreover, the Coastal Zone Policy looks at the poor as a homogenous group. It hardly disaggregates this census group into different sub-groups while analyzing the impact of climate change, evaluating support mechanisms and alternative employment opportunities, and assessing the potential benefits that may be derived from policy implementation. The National Strategy, instead, deals with different sub-groups separately in all three stages of displacement. The Coastal Zone Policy partly disaggregates its provisions according to the level of impacts people are suffering, distinguishing those who have lost their homes and land, or are on the verge of losing them, from the others who have not. The National Strategy therefore helps identify and develop priorities and responses that address the specific needs of particular population groups.

Coordination among the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) can help both ministries in achieving common development and resilience objectives. Synergies can also support progress towards internationally agreed objectives, including for reporting on the implementation of the SFDRR or the SDGs. Many of the prevention actions that are undertaken by MoWR under the Coastal Zone Policy, for instance, can be reported by MoDMR under the SFDRR monitor.

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