



Synergies and Gaps between the Bangladesh Disaster Management Act (2012) and the National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management (2021)

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Cover photo credit: Liton Chowdhury (a person at risk of displacement in the Laxmipur District)

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1. Introduction

Bangladesh is part of the world's largest delta, known as the Ganges–Brahmaputra Delta. It faces frequent climatic and environmental disasters, mainly due to its geomorphological characteristics and unique geographical location. Regular flash floods, cyclones, coastal surges, and riverbank erosion are common environmental and climatic disasters that lead to large-scale population displacement during disaster or post-disaster periods. The Government of Bangladesh framed many policies and acts to deal with the climatic and disaster-related challenges. The National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management (NSIDM) 2021 is a comprehensive framework specifically designed to address internal displacement caused by disasters and climate change in Bangladesh. The government of Bangladesh has also adopted an act titled 'The Disaster Management Act (2012)' to combat disaster prevention and management. This paper aims to conduct a comparative review of the Bangladesh Disaster Management Act (DMA), 2012, and the National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management, 2021 and to analyse how both policy documents cover the issues of displacement and what components of the DMA (2012) have the potential to be aligned with the goals of the National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management (2021).¹ NSIDM emphasized that any policies and strategies that may be linked or have an impact on the management of displacement should be carefully examined. This paper aims to analyse how this act covers displacement and what components of the DMA (2012) have the potential to be aligned with the goals of the Displacement Management Strategy (2021). The paper is divided into four sections. Section one provides the rationale and the specific objectives of this policy review. Section two highlights the major features of the Disaster Management Act (2012) and the Displacement Management Strategy (2021). Section three identifies the synergies in both documents (the DMA, 2012 and the NSIDM, 2021). Section four identifies the scope of incorporation of internal displacement management strategies in the Disaster Management Act (2012).

2. Policy framing context

Bangladesh is a deltaic country; eighty percent of the land area consists of floodplains of major rivers, including the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna. People living in the southern coastal belt and the major river estuaries in Bangladesh are highly exposed to tropical cyclones, flooding and riverbank erosion, whereas those in the northwest are facing droughts, low precipitation and heat waves. The increased frequency of tropical cyclones, increasing tidal water height (leading to tidal flooding), sea level rise (SLR), and riverbank erosion are considered the most prominent drivers of displacement in Bangladesh. The research assumes that Sea Level Rise (SLR) from climate change is anticipated to worsen many of these processes and subsume up to 13 percent of Bangladesh's coastal land by 2080. The most critical and foreseeable impact of SLR is the salinity intrusion of cultivable land, soil and water affecting agro-based livelihoods of the coastal population, which could trigger displacement in the coastal area.

With global climate change and variability, the country is facing these types of rapid and slow onset climate change events and processes, and this has resulted in significant population displacement and other forms of mobilities within and from the country. Displacement after disasters, a major form of internal mobility in Bangladesh, often involves short distances and short-term movements but can also be protracted. According to estimates from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), floods during the monsoon season annually displace, on average, one million people in Bangladesh, while cyclones displace an average of 110,000 people each year. From 2008 to 2024, IDMC registered 18.8 million internal displacements in Bangladesh due to various disasters (IDMC, 2024). Considering the climatic characteristics of Bangladesh and the trend of exacerbation of climate-related hazards in coming years, studies suggest that the volume of certain types of population movements is likely to increase. This seems to hold especially for internal displacement and internal rural to urban migration that have already risen due to climate change events.

To mitigate the climatic and environmental challenges, successive governments have developed different policies to support the different groups of victims. The government have adopted various acts and policies, such as the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) 2009 and the National Strategy on the Internal Displacement Management (NSIDM) (2021). The Disaster Management Act (2012) is also a relevant act that the government framed to reduce disaster risks, enhance preparedness, ensure effective emergency responses, and

¹ Onwards, the National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management, 2021 will be written as Displacement Management Strategy (2021) or NSIDM. The Disaster Management Act, 2012 also briefly written as DMA (2012).

facilitate rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts. Many times, these policies overlap with one another. Given the centrality of this issue, this paper will review and find the synergies of Bangladesh's Disaster Management Act, 2012 and the National Strategy on the Internal Displacement Management (NSIDM), 2021. It also explores the specific areas of the Disaster Management Act (2012) that are aligned with the activities of NSIDM 2021. Finally, it suggests integrating displacement issues in the Disaster Management Act (2012).

3. Rationale and Objectives of the Policy Review

An analysis of the Disaster Management Act (2012) from the context of joint management of internal displacement is necessary for several reasons. This paper aims to identify potential overlaps (in terms of programmes or interventions) between the Disaster Management Act (2012) and the NSIDM (2021). Finding the areas of alignment can help the government to maximize the positive outcomes of its interventions for people at risk and those affected. It is particularly important to pinpoint areas within the Disaster Management Act (2012) that align with the goals of the Internal Displacement Strategy (2021). This scrutiny is crucial for evaluating relevant state policies and identifying opportunities to incorporate the voice of displaced individuals into these documents and making sure that victim communities can benefit from these policies. This review focuses on identifying aspects of the Disaster Management Act of 2012 that have not adequately addressed the challenges of displacement. It then suggests ways to incorporate specific provisions into the DMA (2012) to effectively address and manage the specific challenges faced by displaced persons and populations at risk of displacement. The specific objectives of this paper are:

- a) Highlight the major features of both the National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management (2021) and the Disaster Management Act (2012).
- b) Explore areas of the Disaster Management Act (2012) that are aligned with the activities of the National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management (2021).
- c) Identify the gaps in the Disaster Management Act (2012) to address displacement issues in light of the National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management (2021).
- d) Suggest ways to integrate displacement issues in the Disaster Management Act (2012).

Throughout this paper, it uses the terminology adopted in the National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management (2021). 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 on Internal Displacement Management (NSIDM) recognises the growing challenge of climate-induced displacement and aims to provide preventive, protective, and durable solutions.

4. Major Features of the National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management (2021)

The National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management (NSIDM) is a comprehensive framework designed to address internal displacement caused by disasters and climate change in Bangladesh. It recognises the growing challenge of climate-induced displacement and aims to provide preventive, protective, and durable solutions. Its approach is distinctive in several key aspects, ensuring a proactive, rights-based, and sustainable response to displacement challenges. The NSIDM also adopts a comprehensive definition of displacement, which includes the temporal dimension with recognition of both temporary displacement, in-between temporary and permanent displacement and permanent forms of displacement.

Now, this paper identifies some key features of NSIDM, including three phases of the approach to manage displacement that include planned resettlement and other durable solutions, taking a rights-based approach to deal with displacement, protection during displacement, livelihood support, gender inclusion, multi-sectoral engagement, infrastructural support, data generation and establish an intelligent data management system, and institutional coordination.

4.1 Three-Phase Approach to Displacement Management

The NSIDM categorises displacement into three phases, each requiring a tailored response. These phases are i. Pre-displacement, ii. During displacement, and iii. Post-displacement. To minimise displacement, the pre-displacement phase focuses on risk reduction, adaptation strategies, and planned relocation. During the displacement phase, the strategy prioritizes protection, emergency assistance, and rights-based responses to safeguard affected populations. Finally, in the post-displacement phase, the emphasis is on facilitating sustainable return, relocation, or local integration while ensuring livelihood support and social reintegration.

Preventing, preparing, managing, and addressing are the four strategic responses that the strategy specifies in this context. The goal of 'Prevention', in terms of strategic responses, is to prevent displacement by strengthening community resilience and decreasing vulnerability via disaster management and climate change adaptation. Simultaneously, the second strategic reaction is to 'Prepare' the vulnerable individuals for possible migration and/or relocation/resettlement in a situation when preventive and local adaptation are no longer feasible, such as in the context of anticipated sea level rise. Preparation can also refer to the actions done to guarantee a successful, rights-based evacuation, such as conducting awareness campaigns, training responsible parties, identifying evacuation centres and temporary shelters in advance, and developing standard operating procedures by important service providers like the police, transportation, and health sectors, among others. The above are mostly linked with the pre-displacement stage.

The following components are mostly linked with the displacement and post-displacement stages. Providing emergency humanitarian aid, managing evacuation centres and temporary shelters in an efficient and rights-based manner, addressing the rights of displaced people to food, shelter, health, education, safety, and other necessities, and providing services to those who are not in shelters are all part of the third strategic response 'Manage'. Using long-term solutions to address displacement is the fourth strategic approach, known as 'Address'. The NSIDM outlines some strategic responses for durable solutions to address the displacement issue. Suggested durable solutions of the NSIDM are facilitating i. Return (return to the place of origin after the disaster is over); ii. Local Integration (When return to the place of origin is not possible, local integration in the place of self-relocation); and iii. Resettlement (Where none of the above-mentioned solutions are feasible, in those cases, planned relocation to a third location under a government initiative).

4.2 Rights-Based Framework

A fundamental aspect of the NSIDM is that it adopts a rights-based approach, which acknowledges internally displaced persons (IDPs) as rights-holders rather than mere victims of displacement. The framework aligns with international human rights standards, particularly the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, ensuring a legally and ethically sound response. The NSIDM aligns with Bangladesh's commitments to international frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement, and the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD). By doing so, it not only strengthens Bangladesh's policy framework but also positions the country as a leader in climate-induced displacement policy at the global level. It incorporates gender-sensitive and inclusive measures, prioritizing the needs of vulnerable groups such as women, children, and persons with disabilities. 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'. Khan (2024) commented that "The NSIDMsetting out an inclusive and realistic rights-based policy framework that ensures the protection of the rights of disaster and climate-induced internally displaced persons in pre-displacement, during displacement, and post-displacement phases".

The Internal Displacement Strategy also upholds the livelihood and social protection measures for the displaced. To enhance the resilience of displaced populations, the NSIDM prioritizes income-generating activities, skill development programs, and alternative livelihood opportunities. Additionally, it advocates for access to social safety nets, healthcare, and education, ensuring that displaced individuals can rebuild their lives with dignity and economic stability.

4.3 Integration of Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction

Recognizing the intersection of climate change, disaster management, and sustainable development, the NSIDM integrates climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (DRR) into displacement management. It aligns with the global consensus on treating displacement as part of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. It supports Bangladesh's commitments to frameworks like the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (SFDRR) and the Platform on Disaster Displacement. It proposed integrating displacement issues into existing frameworks that align with the SDGs.

The NSIDM identifies the need for the mapping of risk and vulnerability in climate hotspot areas, investigating the factors driving displacement and migration. It promotes community resilience by advocating for early warning systems and risk reduction strategies that prevent forced displacement. Furthermore, the framework supports nature-based solutions, including afforestation and coastal embankment projects, to mitigate displacement risks and enhance environmental sustainability.

4.4 Institutional Infrastructures, Coordination and Multi-Stakeholder Involvement

The success of displacement management depends on effective institutional collaboration and coordination among government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), development partners, and local authorities. The NSIDM calls for multi-stakeholder collaboration among government bodies, NGOs, researchers, and private sector actors to ensure comprehensive and inclusive decision-making. To effectively manage disaster and climate-induced displacement in Bangladesh, NSIDM (2021) recommends that a National Task Force on Displacement (NTFoD) should be established as the highest decision-making authority and coordinate the efforts of multiple ministries and agencies. Furthermore, it urges for the integration of displacement concerns into national policies and local governance structures, ensuring that displacement management remains a central aspect of development planning. To assess risks, the Displacement Management 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 and other essential indicators to address the specific needs of various displaced groups.

4.5 Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Development

Given the increasing influx of climate migrants into cities such as Dhaka and Chattogram, the NSIDM recognizes the need for urban planning strategies to accommodate displaced populations (Alam & Endacott, 2022). Urban displacement presents unique challenges, requiring integrated housing, infrastructure, and social services to prevent marginalization and ensure sustainable urban development.

It recommends the establishment of urban growth centres 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 while commuting to work locations as subsidized transportation expenses. 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). The promotion of such alternative growth centres will help manage urban sprawl.

In summary, the NSIDM stands out as a proactive, rights-based, and development-oriented strategy that goes beyond traditional disaster management policies. The strategy planned to formulate a coherent action plan at both the national and local levels with an emphasis on preventive and adaptive measures to minimize internal displacement caused by climate-related disasters. Addressing climate-induced displacement through a multi-sectoral approach not only provides immediate protection and relief but also ensures long-term sustainable solutions for displaced communities. Additionally, the strategy seeks to facilitate sectoral programs that create enabling conditions for the safe, voluntary, and dignified return, integration, relocation, or resettlement of internally displaced persons (IDPs). A key priority is to enhance the effective management and accessibility of entitlements, ensuring that displaced populations receive the necessary support and services. Furthermore, the strategy promotes livelihood opportunities and overall human development for IDPs, aligning with the Government of Bangladesh's broader commitment to

inclusive development. This holistic framework underscores the necessity of coordinated governance, international collaboration, and community resilience-building in effectively managing climate-induced internal displacement in Bangladesh.

5. Major Features of the Disaster Management Act 2012

The Disaster Management Act 2012 of Bangladesh provides a comprehensive legal framework for disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response, and recovery. The Disaster Management Act 2012 aligns with international agreements such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030), the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The key features of DMA, 2012 include:

5.1 Emphasis on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

By Disaster Management, DMA, 2012 means “procedural institutional structure and programme to reduce the risk of disaster and response immediately after a disaster, through which the following steps or programme are taken to tackle disaster, namely: (a) to determine of imminence of danger, amplitude, scale and time of disaster. (b) to manage as well as adoption of plans, coordination and implementation; (c) to provide and disseminate early warnings, cautions, and signals of danger or extreme danger and transfer lives and properties to secure place; (d) to conduct search and rescue operations after a disaster, estimate the loss of lives and damage of properties and determination of essentials, distribution of relief under humanitarian aid programme, manage rehabilitation and reconstruction and take initiatives for ensuring essential services, restoration and development.”

The DMA (2012) intends to coordinate and strengthen the activities of disaster management. It has formulated rules to build up the infrastructure of effective disaster management. Unlike earlier disaster management policies focused mainly on response and relief, DMA (2012) prioritises risk reduction, preparedness, and resilience-building. It mandates integrating disaster risk reduction (DRR) measures into national and local development planning. The law requires all levels of government, from national to local authorities, to develop disaster management plans. These plans must focus on risk assessment, preparedness, early warning systems, and post-disaster recovery. It promotes nature-based solutions, sustainable land use, and infrastructure resilience to mitigate disaster risks. Recognising the impact of climate change, DMA (2012) links disaster management with climate change adaptation strategies. Climate change-induced vulnerabilities have also been covered within the jurisdiction of the definition of disaster (Khan, 2024). The DMA (2012) defines disaster as an incident caused by nature, human-made, and climate change

5.2 Formation of Legal and Institutional Framework and Allocation of Roles and Responsibilities

The DMA (2012) establishes a formal legal structure for disaster management, outlining the roles and responsibilities of government agencies, local authorities, and stakeholders. It created the National Disaster Management Council (NDMC), chaired by the Prime Minister, as the highest decision-making body for disaster-related policies and strategies. The Council consist of Ministers and Secretaries of relevant ministries, chiefs of the armed forces, law enforcement agencies and heads of several other government bodies. This council is to give directions and guidelines to the concerned authority to make policies and plans on disaster management and other related issues for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

The DMA (2012) also defines the responsibilities of national, district, upazila (sub-district), and union-level disaster management committees. Key agencies include the Department of Disaster Management (DDM), which is responsible for implementing disaster management policies. Local Disaster Management Committees (LDMCs) were also formed to manage the community-level disaster. The DMA (2012) also stipulated strong enforcement and accountability mechanisms. It includes penalties for negligence in disaster preparedness and response. It holds government agencies and other entities accountable for implementing disaster management plans and ensuring compliance with legal provisions.

5.3 Community Participation and Public Awareness

The DMA (2012) emphasizes the involvement of communities in disaster preparedness, response, and rehabilitation. It promotes public awareness campaigns and disaster education programs to enhance resilience at the grassroots level.

The Disaster Management Act 2012 marks a shift from a reactive to a proactive approach in Bangladesh's disaster management policies. It mandates the formulation of disaster management plans at national and local levels, the establishment of disaster response funds, and the development of early warning systems. By prioritizing risk reduction, institutional coordination, and community resilience, the DMA (2012) provides a holistic and sustainable framework for managing disasters effectively.

6. Comparison and the major areas of alignment between the Disaster Management Act 2012 and the National Strategy on the Management of Internal Displacement 2021

The Disaster Management Act, 2012 and the National Strategy on the Management of Disaster and Climate Induced Internal Displacement (NSIDM) are two pivotal frameworks guiding Bangladesh's approach to disaster risk reduction and the management of climate-induced internal displacement. Disaster Management Act, 2012 is an Act of Parliament, it holds legal authority, mandating compliance from all relevant stakeholders, whereas NSIDM is a strategic policy document that provides guidelines and recommendations. Although it informs policy and programme development, it does not possess the binding legal authority of an Act. While both aim to enhance the country's resilience to disasters, they differ in scope, objectives, and implementation mechanisms. Below is a detailed comparison:

6.1 Comparative features

Scope and Focus

The Disaster Management Act 2012 establishes a comprehensive legal framework for disaster risk reduction, preparedness, emergency response, and recovery. It addresses all types of disasters, both natural and human-induced, to mitigate overall disaster impacts, conduct post-disaster rescue and rehabilitation, and provide emergency humanitarian aid to vulnerable communities. The National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management (2021) specifically targets internal displacements caused by climate-related disasters. It outlines measures for managing such displacements in a comprehensive and rights-based manner, covering all three phases: pre-displacement, displacement, and post-displacement.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the Disaster Management Act of 2012 include reducing disaster risks, enhancing preparedness, ensuring effective emergency responses, and facilitating rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts. The NSIDM (2021) aims to create a coherent basis for policy directions at national and local levels, adopt preventive and adaptive measures to minimise internal displacement, guide the development of sectoral programmes for the safe and dignified return or resettlement of displaced persons, and ensure access to entitlements and livelihood opportunities for the displaced.

Institutional Framework

Chapter II of the Disaster Management Act 2012 has established institutions such as the National Disaster Management Council (NDMC) and the Department of Disaster Management (DDM) to oversee and implement disaster management activities (Ahmed, 2019). It also asked to constitute the National Disaster Volunteers Organization, National Disaster Response Co-Ordination Group, National Level Disaster Management Committee, and Local Level Disaster Management Committee, as well as appoint officers and employees. Therefore, within this organisational framework, it is very much possible to establish a committee on monitoring and managing disaster-induced internal

displacement. The NSIDM also recommends integrating its strategies within existing institutional setups for disaster management. It emphasises coordination among various ministries and agencies to effectively address internal displacement.

6.2 Synergies between NSIDM and DMA and scopes of alignments

This subsection identifies the possible areas of synergy between the two documents. Chapter I Preamble of the Disaster Management Act, 2012, adopted a definition of “rehabilitation” which is compatible with the rehabilitation needs of NSIDM’s targeted displaced population. According to the DMA (2012), “rehabilitation” means— (a) to restore any infrastructure damaged by disaster or put in a better condition; (b) to restore the normal life, livelihood and working environment in the affected area through developing organizational capacity as well as ensuring the psychological, economic and physical welfare of affected community; (c) to transfer the affected people to another place, if necessary, to bring their normal life back; (d) to manage the better treatment for affected cattle, fishes etc., and if applicable, restore the concerned farms to the previous condition; (e) to take immediate steps to remove the dead body, cattle, fish, etc. from ponds, river, canals, marsh and water bodies and to arrange pure and safe drinking water for humans and cattle as well as purify the water for them; (f) to take necessary measures to remove poisonous objects from the affected area for cleaning the poisonous microbes and garbage, as well as to deal with the situation grown. Therefore, the scope of the definition of ‘rehabilitation’ identified in the Disaster Management Act, 2012 such as transferring the affected people to another place, if necessary, to bring their normal life back; is ultimately means resettlement of the disaster-affected population which is very much the main objectives of the National Strategy on the Management of Internal Displacement.

The definition section of the Disaster Management Act 2012 also included the term “preparation”. ‘Preparation’ means the steps taken to develop the knowledge and idea about the risky situation to increase awareness and capability among the community to deal with the effect of the probable hazards and to conduct programmes to reduce the damage of predicted disasters, post-disaster search, rescue and humanitarian aid programmes. The National Strategy 2021 document also has a large focus on preparation or prevention activities to deal with disaster-induced displacement. The measures outlined in the National Strategy under provisions 2.3.14, 2.3.5, and 2.5.4 which include efforts to improve and maintain cyclone shelters, sea dykes, multi-purpose embankments, killas, road systems, early warning systems, planned tree planting and promotion of social forestry campaigns can be jointly or coordinately performed to mitigate the impact of climate-related disasters on human lives and livestock. Some of the measures aimed at mitigating the effect of disasters on local communities are particularly important to manage displacement effectively.

Section 16 of the Disaster Management Act, 2012 stated the responsibilities and functions of National Disaster Response Co-Ordination Group such as (1) to evaluate disaster situation and activate the method and process of disaster response and speedy rescue; (2) to ensure the sending of resources for response in disaster; (3) to ensure proper dissemination of warning signals; (4) to coordinate the response and speedy rescue operation; (5) to supervise post-disaster rescue and search operations; (6) to coordinate the post-disaster relief operations. This reference allows to inclusion of the people who are at risk of displacement or disaster victims among the priority target populations during the disaster or post-disaster period. The National Strategy 2021 document also planned many similar types of activities to manage the pre-displacement, during-displacement and post-displacement situations. To reduce disaster risk, the DMA (2012) proposes an integrated 'Comprehensive Disaster Management Plan' that also serves to strengthen the coping capacities of the poor during disasters. Thus, through conscious intervention and effective coordination, the implementation of the Disaster Management Act can help advance the objective of the National Strategy. Both of the documents can be aligned, integrated or jointly implemented in some respects to handle the situation of disaster victims. Particularly dealing with displacement and resettlement in three phases, protection during displacement, ensuring rights, providing livelihood support, gender inclusion during the implementation period as well as multi-sectoral engagement to address the displacement issues.

Section 17 of the DMA (2012) stated the formation of different National Level Disaster Management Committees. Following committees, boards were formed for national-scale disaster management namely:- (a) Inter-Ministry Disaster Management Co-ordination Committee; (b) National Disaster Management Advisory Committee; (c) Policy Committee on Cyclone Preparedness Programme; (d) Cyclone Preparedness Programme Implementation Board; (e)

Earthquake Preparedness and Awareness Committee; (f) National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction; (g) Committee for Speedy Dissemination of Disaster-Related Signals, Strategy Determination and Implementation.

The above organisational structure can be utilised for monitoring and management of internal displacement. Alternatively, a dedicated committee for the management of internal displacement should be incorporated in Section 17 of the Disaster Management Act of 2012. Section 18 of the DMA (2012) pointed out the formation of different Disaster Management Committees at the local level, i.e., City, District, Upazila, Pourashava, and Union. Displacement management-related activities can be incorporated into the tasks of these local-level committees.

Chapter III of the Disaster Management Act 2012 talked about the declaration of disaster zones, special functions to be performed in relation to the affected zone, participation of different forces, etc., involving private organisations and persons in activities relating to affected zone management, assistance for the person affected and vulnerable by the disaster. Thus, the Disaster Management Act encourages collaboration between the private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to implement activities for disaster-affected populations. This collaborative approach aligns with provisions 2.2.5, 2.4.1, and 2.4.2 of the National Strategy, which emphasizes cooperation between public and private sectors in disaster planning and budgeting. Specifically, provision 2.4.1 highlights the need to develop public-private partnerships (PPPs) to create employment opportunities near areas prone to climate-induced displacement, reducing the need for large-scale migration. Similarly, provision 2.4.2 calls for the establishment of urban growth centres at regional, district, or upazila levels through public-private partnerships, fostering formal employment and income opportunities. This strategy aims to ease the population pressure on megacities like Dhaka and Chattogram, offering sustainable alternatives for displaced communities.

To ensure a timely response to disasters, the DMA (2012) mandates the creation of disaster management funds at national and local levels. Chapter IV of the Disaster Management Act 2012 talked about the formation of the Disaster Management Fund, Relief Fund, Relief Treasury. These funds support emergency relief, rehabilitation, and recovery efforts. Since there are rehabilitation and recovery activities that will be implemented from these funds, if planned properly, they can easily accommodate the needs of disaster-displaced populations.

The impacts of disaster across populations can vary and it may impact unequally men and women, the elderly, children, and people with disabilities. Therefore, special consideration and institutions are needed to deal with vulnerable populations during the disaster. Section 27 of the Disaster Management Act 2012 incorporated that “The Government may take the programme to provide necessary assistance for proper rehabilitation or to reduce the risk of the community affected or vulnerable by disaster; preference shall be given on protection and reduction of risk of the poorest and underprivileged community, especially the older persons, women, children and disabled persons while providing such assistance (MoDMR, 2021, p. 17).”

The DMA (2012) seemingly considers the impoverished to be a single category. It hardly breaks down this demographic group into distinct subgroups when examining the effects of climate change, the alternatives for employment and support, and the advantages these target populations would experience from the policies' execution. Instead, the National Strategy addresses each of the three stages of displacement with a distinct subgroup. In order to address and mitigate displacement challenges, the National Strategy document adopts a gender-sensitive and participatory approach that focuses on reducing gender inequalities and considers the different needs and interests of men and women and victim groups. This approach aligns with the goals outlined in provisions 2.2.4 and 2.3.13 of the National Strategy. Therefore, to address the specific needs of different demographic groups, the National Strategy helps identify and develop priorities and response measures. These priorities can also serve as guidelines for the implementing authorities of the Disaster Management Act 2012.

7. Scope to integrate the issues of internal displacement management in the Disaster Management Act 2012

In the previous section, this study identified areas where the Disaster Management Act (2012) is already aligned with the National Strategy. However, there are specific aspects where the interest of the displaced can be incorporated into the Disaster Management Act 2012.

Specific suggestions in different sections of the Bangladesh Disaster Management Act, 2012

❶ Section 2 (Chapter 1) (Definitions)

Insertion of New Definitions:

- **"Climate-Induced Internally Displaced Persons (CIIDPs)":** Individuals or communities forced to leave their homes due to climate-related disasters such as cyclones, floods, riverbank erosion, sea-level rise, and salinity intrusion, but who remain within national borders.
- **"Planned Relocation":** The voluntary, organized movement of at-risk communities to safer locations with adequate infrastructure, livelihood opportunities, and social services.
- **"Durable Solutions":** Measures to ensure sustainable rehabilitation, reintegration, or relocation of displaced persons, either through local integration, safe return, or settlement in new locations.

❷ Section 4 (National Disaster Management Council – NDMC) Chapter II Organizational structure of disaster management

Expansion of NDMC Mandate:

- The NDMC shall oversee, and coordinate policies related to climate-induced displacement, integrating climate resilience and displacement risk reduction into national and local disaster management plans.
- A specialized Climate-Induced Displacement Management Sub-Committee shall be established under the NDMC to implement, monitor, and evaluate policies on planned relocation and rehabilitation of displaced persons.
- Incorporating the National Task Force on Displacement (NTFoD) within the organisational structure of National Disaster Management Council (NDMC)

❸ Section 6 (Department of Disaster Management – DDM)

New Responsibilities for DDM:

- Develop a national database and tracking system to monitor climate-induced internal displacement trends.
- Implement early warning systems tailored to at-risk communities prone to climate-induced displacement.
- Provide technical and financial support for host communities accommodating displaced populations.

❹ Section 12 (Establishment of National Disaster Management Research and Training Institute) and its purpose.

(1) For carrying out the purposes of this Act, the Government may, if necessary, establish a 'National Disaster Management Research and Training Institute' to research disaster victims, and displaced communities and the effects of climate change and develop the capability of disaster management method and take programmes on other relevant matters).

⑥ Section 14. National Disaster Response Co-Ordination Group

National Disaster Response Co-ordination Group shall be included

- Head of the National Task Force on Displacement (NTFoD)

⑥ Section 17 (Disaster Management Committee, etc. of the national level) and Section 18 (Local Level Disaster Management Committee and Group)

Integration of Displacement Considerations:

- Disaster management committees at the National, District and Local levels shall incorporate displacement response measures, including temporary shelters, social protection programs, and resettlement planning, into their disaster preparedness plans.
- Ensure community participation in decision-making for relocation programs.

⑦ New Section 18A: Rights-Based Protection of Displaced Persons

Legal Protection:

- Displaced persons shall have access to shelter, food, healthcare, education, and livelihoods as fundamental rights.
- Special provisions shall be made for vulnerable groups, including women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and indigenous communities.

⑧ Section (27 Assistance for the person affected and vulnerable by the disaster)

- Government financial and other assistance should support rehabilitation, livelihood restoration, and infrastructure development for displaced communities.

⑨ Section 32 (Formation Disaster Management Fund, Relief Treasury)

New Section 32A: Establishment of a Climate-Induced Displacement Fund

Purpose:

- Establish a dedicated financial mechanism to support rehabilitation, livelihood restoration, and infrastructure development for displaced communities.
- Funding to be sourced from national allocations, international climate adaptation funds, and private sector contributions.

Section (Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting)

Introduction of Displacement Monitoring:

- The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) shall publish an annual Displacement and Disaster Risk Reduction Report, assessing displacement trends and evaluating relocation initiatives.
- A grievance redressal mechanism shall be introduced to address issues faced by displaced persons and ensure accountability in relocation processes.

8. Conclusion

One of the many effects of climate change is displacement, which poses complex social issues for a developing country like Bangladesh. The country framed policy accordingly to deal with these challenges. In this paper, I have reviewed one policy and one legal document to identify the synergies and joint scopes of implementation. In summary, while the Disaster Management Act 2012 provides a broad legal framework for disaster management in Bangladesh, the NSIDM offers a targeted strategy focusing on the specific challenges of climate-induced internal displacement, emphasising rights-based approaches and alignment with international standards. Reviewing the Bangladesh Disaster Management Act, 2012 and the National Strategy on the Management of Internal Displacement (NSIDM) 2021 is fruitful in identifying the potential areas of synergies in implementing the two documents. The review also shows that there is scope to include displacement victims in the Disaster Management Act's different action plans and activities. The DMA (2012) mostly deals with disaster risk reduction, prevention, recovery, rehabilitation and resilience building, while the National Strategy deals with prevention, protection, and durable solutions.

Given the resource crisis Bangladesh faces, it is extremely necessary to combine initiatives and funds that were disbursed distinctively or implemented under diverse heads of sustainable development goals, catastrophe risk reduction, and climate change adaptation. Integration will prevent duplication and rationalise resource utilisation and efficiency. Comparing the Disaster Management Act with the National Strategy reveals that many of the actions and initiatives put in place under the disaster prevention, recovery and rehabilitation also support the National Strategy's goals of protection and durable solutions. This review also identified some possible areas or specific sections in the Disaster Management Act (2012) where there is scope to integrate the interventions of internal displacement management. These inclusions will ensure that the Bangladesh Disaster Management Act, 2012, aligns with the National Strategy on the Management of Disaster and Climate Induced Internal Displacement (NSIDM) and international best practices, fostering a resilient, rights-based, and sustainable approach to managing climate-induced displacement.

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