



# The Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan 2022-2041: An Analysis from the point of view of displacement



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# 1. Background

Bangladesh is at the frontline of the global climate crisis. With a large part of its territory lying close to sea level, high population density and dependence on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture and fisheries, the country faces disproportionate climate risks. Projections indicate that without substantial interventions, climate-induced events such as floods, cyclones, salinity intrusion, and droughts will intensify, threatening livelihoods, food security, and economic development (GoB, 2020). Recognizing the existential threat climate change poses, the Government of Bangladesh has formulated the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan (MCP) 2022–2041 to define a vision for the country's long-term resilience and well-being. The plan is structured around three hubs: energy, resilient well-being, and locally led adaptation. The plan lays out measures for low-carbon growth, averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage, and enhancing resilience and adaptation that will require investments for an estimated USD 89.7 billion. The MCP aims to transform the country's climate vulnerability into resilience and eventually into prosperity by leveraging investments in green growth, mitigation, and adaptation strategies.

This paper provides an in-depth analysis of the MCP, its rationale, objectives and key features, focusing specifically on its relevance for displacement issues and identifying relevant policy gaps. IDMC's data for Bangladesh estimates over 21 million displacements due to weather and climate-related hazards between 2008 and 2024. The MCP mentions that there are currently some 6 million people displaced in the context of climate hazards in Bangladesh, and that more than 20 million people might be displaced in the near future due to sea level rise and the ensuing rise in salinity, as well as the impacts of more frequent and intense cyclones and storm surges. Responses such as the construction of new coastal polders are constructed and the reinforcement of existing ones are needed to prevent and minimise these displacements, which will otherwise have a severe negative influence on the long-term health and means of subsistence for a sizable section of the country's population.

The MCP emphasizes locally-driven solutions that empower vulnerable populations while fostering resilience. Anticipated outcomes of such interventions include reduced distress migration out of climate-affected areas by 2030, the creation of 4.1 million climate-resilient jobs, and a significant reduction in unemployment rates to 3.9%. Moreover, the plan seeks to enhance the country's resilience through investments in renewable energy, climate-adaptive infrastructure, and coastal ecosystem restoration. It lays out an integrated strategy that prioritizes early warning systems, livelihood support, and inclusive urban development to alleviate the factors resulting in displacement. Its ambitious vision aims to challenge the projections of the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, which foresees a rise in climate-induced displacement in the near future. It also seeks to improve on programmes implemented by the government until today, such as the Ashrayan scheme, "cash for work," and "food for work", which have often lacked the comprehensive social, economic, and environmental support needed to protect people displaced and at risk of displacement, leading to continued mobility pressures.

## 2. Rationale and Objectives of Studying this Policy

The MCP aims to achieve robust socio-economic development in Bangladesh while maximizing green economic opportunities and enhancing resilience to climate change. Its objectives include:

- the elimination of extreme poverty and climate change-induced migration by 2030;
- new climate-resilient jobs totaling 4.1 million;
- cleaner air and improved mobility; and
- "net savings or avoided losses" worth at least USD 30 billion per year by 2030.

The MCP includes a number of ambitious, new investments in support of adaptation efforts to build the resilience of populations and ecosystems to contribute to 2041 outcomes. Minimizing and averting climate-induced losses and damages is also an international financing priority of this Plan. The plan is structured around a five-plus-five year format, where the first five years (2021–2025) will be used to lay the foundations for new interventions, and the second five years (2026–2030) will be dedicated to raising the millions of dollars needed to implement relevant interventions at scale. If fully implemented, the MCP would enable Bangladesh to advance technologically, economically, and socially.

The rationale for studying the MCPP stems from Bangladesh's urgent need to address climate risk. The policy aims to guide the country on a transition from a climate-vulnerable to a climate-resilient and ultimately climate-prosperous nation. The key objectives of the MCPP (reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting low-carbon development, strengthening financial structures for climate investments, enhancing adaptation and resilience, integrating climate resilience into national infrastructure and socio-economic policies, and protecting vulnerable communities) make it relevant as a foundation for work on displacement in Bangladesh.

The specific objectives of the analysis presented by this paper are:

- To highlight major features of the MCPP;
- To identify initiatives covered by the MCPP regarding displacement; and
- To identify gaps regarding displacement in the MCPP.

### 3. Major Features of the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan

The MCPP is designed to supplement and accelerate the implementation of other existing policies. Relevant frameworks and initiatives include: the National Adaptation Plan; the National Adaptation Program of Action-2009; Bangladesh's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan-2009; the Climate Change Trust Fund Act-2010; the Climate Change Trust Fund-2010; the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100; the Climate Fiscal Framework for Climate Fiscal Policy-making; the 8th Five-Year Plans; the Investment Plan for Environment, Forestry and Climate Change 2020-2025; the Perspective Plan 2021-2041; the Forest Investment Plan 2017-2022; the Coastal Embankment Improvement Project, the Climate Resilience Program; and the Climate Investment Funds. The priority areas of the MCPP overlap with and strengthen the objectives of all these policies, laying out the cornerstones of Bangladesh's climate prosperity vision. The MCPP identifies six thematic priority areas: Accelerated Adaptation; Just Transition of Labor and Future-Proofing Industry through Technology Transfer; Public Revenue Allocation for the Most Vulnerable; Comprehensive Climate and Disaster Risk Financing and Management; Leveraging 21st Century Technologies for Well-being; and Maximizing Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Resilience in the Power and Transportation Sectors. Among these, only three thematic areas specifically address displacement by focusing on livelihood opportunities, psychological well-being support, and the establishment of Locally-led Adaptation (LLA) hubs for vulnerable communities. The following sections examine these priority areas and objectives in detail, along with their associated targets and budgets related to displacement.

#### 3.1 Just Transition of Labor and Future-Proofing Industry

The MCPP aims to create 4.1 million climate-resilient green jobs by 2030, offering alternative livelihoods for displaced and vulnerable populations. It also has a focus on upskilling and reskilling displaced and at-risk communities to participate in the renewable energy, green manufacturing, and climate-resilient agriculture sectors. Special emphasis is given to gender-responsive livelihood programs and enabling women-led entrepreneurship, particularly for displaced women and communities. Initiatives like mangrove restoration and coastal green belts not only protect against displacement but also offer livelihood opportunities in ecosystem-based industries.

##### Target(s) related to displacement

Year	Target	Lead Ministry
2022	We will join the Climate Action for Jobs Initiative.	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

##### Budget

Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan	Est. Investment Size up to 2030
Just Transition and Modernization through Training and Skills Development for Labor Markets of the Future	USD 1.51 billion*

\* This estimate covers the combined targets of the entire priority area as stated in the policy, not just the specific targets mentioned.

## Resources

International Partners	National Budget	Contribution from Private Sector
International resources for training modules and technology transfer opportunities	National budget support via Skills Employment Investment Program (SEIP)	Public-private partnership and investment for better education, skills, entrepreneurship, and employment

### 3.2 Public Revenue Mobilization

Public revenue mobilization is directly linked to the delivery of **LLA** outcomes, which are a key component of the MCPP. By channeling public funds into LLA initiatives, the government seeks to accelerate flagship programs such as “**My Village – My Town**”, which aims to extend modernized infrastructure, utilities, healthcare services, digital solutions, and mobile financial services to every village across the country. These investments are designed to create decentralized, climate-resilient communities that can better withstand environmental shocks and reduce the pressures that lead to migration and displacement. The program also integrates climate resilience into the “**My House – My Farm**” initiative, which focuses on organizing poor households within village societies to foster savings, provide skill development training, facilitate access to low-cost and seasonal credit, promote entrepreneurship, support marketing, conserve ecosystems, and enhance access to digital financial services.

#### Target related to displacement

Year	Target	Lead Ministry
2026	We will establish LLA Hubs in 20% to 30% of the most vulnerable areas.	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives
2030	We will ensure 100% of the coastal belt is made climate resilient	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives
2030	We will establish LLA hubs in 100% of the most vulnerable areas.	Ministry of Finance
2041	We will ensure zero climate-induced migration by 2041.	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives

#### Budget

Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan	Est. Investment Size up to 2030
Investment in the Realization of Locally Led Adaptation Outcomes	USD 3.89 billion*

*\* This estimate covers the combined targets of the entire priority area as stated in the policy, not just the specific targets mentioned.*

## Resources

International Partners	National Budget	Contribution from Private Sector
Enhanced access to global funding windows such as the Green Climate Fund and exploring opportunities for regional and international partnership.	National budget support via 8FYP and allocation from Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund.	Industry – capital investment and industry consumers as users of ecosystem services.



### 3.3 Leveraging 21st-Century Technologies for Wellbeing

Post-disaster psychological well-being remains a largely overlooked area in Bangladesh. The MCPP acknowledges this gap by addressing psychological well-being and setting a specific target to reduce related non-economic losses and damages. While the MCPP proposes transferring the community-based first aid program to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, this initiative could also be integrated into the Crisis Preparedness and Management for Mental Health (CPM-MH) component of the National Resilience Program, which is currently being implemented by the Department of Disaster Management.

#### Target(s) related to displacement

Year	Target	Lead Ministry
2025	We will establish community-based psychological first-aid programs in 50% of vulnerable areas/communities.	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

#### Budget

Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan	Est. Investment Size up to 2030
Resilient Well-Being Programs	USD 150.75 million*

\* This estimate covers the combined targets of the entire priority area as stated in the policy, not just the specific targets mentioned.

#### Resources

International Partners	National Budget	Contribution from Private Sector
Support in the creation of economic zones, psychological first-aid program, and pharmaceuticals research, development & deployment (RD&D). Investment program for climate related diseases, including through joint ventures	National Budget Support via allocation of funds	Industry capital investment in economic zones

## 5. Alignment with Displacement Issues

The MCPP directly addresses the growing concern of climate-induced displacement in Bangladesh, where millions are at risk of becoming internally displaced due to sea-level rise, riverbank erosion, and salinity intrusion. Key strategies to avert, minimize and address displacement are covered by the MCPP, and include:

- ➔ **Locally Led Adaptation Hubs (LLAHs):** These hubs will work as community centers for adaptation, providing services such as livelihood training, early warning systems, and displacement management strategies (MCPP, p. 11).
- ➔ **Adaptive Social Protection Programs (ASPs):** These will act as safety nets, providing financial assistance, housing support, and health services to people displaced or at risk of displacement (MCPP, p. 11).
- ➔ **Urban Planning for Displaced Populations:** While not explicitly detailed, these measures will be needed in order to support dignified resettlement of displaced persons in urban areas and climate-resilient urban planning to accommodate the inflow of those migrating in the context of the impacts of climate change (MCPP, p. 56).
- ➔ **International Advocacy:** The MCPP calls for global responsibility-sharing mechanisms to address displacement, emphasizing international support for measures to address population movements (MCPP, p. xi).

## 6. Gaps and Challenges in the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan

Although the MCPP presents a bold vision for Bangladesh's economic transformation and resilience, it falls well short in tackling the complex challenges of migration and displacement. Among its six thematic priority areas, only three — Just Transition of Labour, Public Revenue Mobilization, and Psychological Wellbeing — touch on displacement-related issues through provisions such as job creation, infrastructure development, the establishment of LLA hubs, and psychological support services. However, these initiatives fall short of offering dedicated, targeted strategies to address the complexities of climate-induced human mobility.

For instance, there are legitimate concerns about the Plan's heavy reliance on large-scale, high-tech infrastructure projects. Observers point out that these initiatives run the risk of marginalizing unskilled and semi-skilled workers, which could lead to higher unemployment and unplanned migration or displacement. The MCPP neither fully foresees nor actively attempts to address these consequences. Furthermore, the Plan is unclear about how LLA hubs will operate for individuals who have already been displaced and what particular services or integration opportunities they will offer, despite the fact that their creation is a praiseworthy initiative.

Although the MCPP has a broad and ambitious goal, there are several major challenges that could prevent it from being carried out effectively. One of the primary concerns is the mobilization of funds and resources. Global funding is crucial to the strategy, especially the \$100 billion annual commitment from the UNFCCC, which is still pending and could change. The limited capacity of domestic financial institutions to steer private sector investment toward climate-resilient infrastructure further hinders efforts to mobilize resources. The lack of institutional coordination and governance is another significant barrier. The conflicting responsibilities of various ministries and agencies, as well as inadequate interagency coordination procedures, may hinder effective implementation and delay. Furthermore, there is an inadequate capacity at the local government level to manage and operationalize LLA hubs and other community-based projects, which are essential to the plan's success.

Additionally, the MCPP places a high priority on rural resilience, and might end up overlooking how vulnerable metropolitan centers are becoming to heat stress and urban flooding – and how significant the impacts of these hazards might become as cities grow through unplanned migration. To fully realize the MCPP's promise and guarantee Bangladesh's inclusive, resilient, and sustainable future, these issues must be resolved.

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