



National Adaptation Plan 2023-2050: An Analysis from the Point of View of Displacement

List of Acronyms

BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics	LGD	Local Government Division
BIDA	Bangladesh Investment Development Authority	LGED	Local Government Engineering Department
BMD	Bangladesh Meteorological Department	MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
BMDA	Barind Multipurpose Development Authority	MoD	Ministry of Defense
BWDB	Bangladesh Water Development Board	MoEFCC	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
CHTDB	Chattogram Hill Tracts Development Board	MoF	Ministry of Finance
DAE	Department of Agricultural Extension	MoFL	Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
DLS	Department of Livestock Services	MoL	Ministry of Land
DoF	Department of Fisheries	PMO	Prime Minister's Office
DSS	Department of Social Services	PPPA	Public Private Partnership Authority
DYD	Department of Youth Development	RHD	Roads and Highways Department
ICT	Information and Communications Technology	SPARRSO	Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization

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1. Analysis of the National Adaptation Plan 2023-2050

Bangladesh' National Adaptation Plan 2023-2050 (NAP) seeks to mitigate vulnerability and risks to climate change by implementing effective adaptation measures, thereby promoting the resilience to climate change of society and ecosystems, all while advancing sustainable economic growth. The geographical features of Bangladesh translate into considerable risks due to climate hazards, with 13% of its landmass situated below two meters above sea level, elevated population density, and exposure to severe meteorological phenomena, including cyclones and floods. The NAP underscores the necessity for coordinated efforts to tackle medium- and long-term climate effects, including the implementation of a Climate Change Impact and Risk Assessment Framework (CCIRAF). It promotes extensive research on the impacts of climate change on ecosystems, agriculture, and fisheries, and supports the adoption of ecosystem-based adaptation strategies. The Government of Bangladesh currently allocates approximately 6 to 7 percent of its annual budget to bolster climate resilience via adaptation initiatives,¹ 75 percent of which is covered through domestic resources, despite Bangladesh's minimal historical and present contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions.

2. Major Features of the NAP

The NAP aims to mitigate vulnerability and risks associated with climate change by promoting effective adaptation measures that enhance societal and ecological resilience while promoting sustainable economic growth. The NAP covers action across eight sectors:

- water resources;
- disaster management, social safety, and security;
- agriculture; fisheries, aquaculture, and livestock;
- urban environments;
- ecosystems, wetlands, and biodiversity;
- policies and institutions; and
- capacity development, research, and innovation.

Bangladesh's NAP indicates that the country already experienced significant climate-related losses and damages, averaging BDT 33.3 billion annually from 2016 to 2021, with a peak of over BDT 100 billion in specific years.² These impacts, caused both by slow and sudden-onset events, significantly affect land, coastlines, hills, floodplains, drought-affected regions, roadways, infrastructure, and urban areas. The NAP recognizes food and nutrition insecurity, livelihood instability, and economic losses as significant risks necessitating immediate, outcome-oriented adaptation strategies, such as stress-resistant housing and eco-engineering solutions. In order to minimize impacts on communities, the NAP also prioritizes responses such as promoting alternative livelihoods, enabling climate-resilience financing, providing access to affordable desalination technologies, developing climate-adaptive livestock shelters, and facilitating community-centered adaptation. All these interventions can address the drivers that push people out of their homes. Moreover, the NAP promotes the strengthening of disaster risk management systems, the establishment ICT-driven early warning systems, and the distribution of localised advisories in indigenous languages, as ways to minimize prospective losses and damages. All these interventions are supported by extensive collaboration among ministries, as well as with local governments, NGOs, and youth initiatives.

¹ MoF. (2021). *Climate Financing for Sustainable Development (Budget Report 2021-22)*. Dhaka: Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

² BBS (2022a). *Key findings and detailed tables on Bangladesh Disaster-related Statistics 2021: Climate Change and Natural Disaster Perspectives*. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Statistics and Informatics Division, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh

3. Coverage of Displacement and other Human Mobility issues in the NAP

Bangladesh's NAP, despite its focus across many thematic sectors, largely overlooks concerns regarding displacement and other forms of human mobility in the context of climate change. The NAP explicitly recognizes that approximately 19.9 million individuals may be internally displaced by 2050, but lacks the scope and the focus to extensively deal with displacement, migration and planned relocations in the context of climate change. This is a concern, considering the country's exposure to sea-level rise, riverbank erosion, saline intrusion, flooding, and cyclonic storms – and their recurrent, significant mobility implications. As shown by table 1, among the eight thematic categories in the NAP, only one—Disaster, Social Safety, and Security—directly or indirectly refers to displacement and migration. The following sections examine human mobility-oriented programs listed in the NAP, and their geographical scope, related adaptation strategies, accountable ministries, and budgetary allocations.

Thematic Sector	No. of Interventions	Interventions Addressing Human Mobility
Water Resources	24	None
Agriculture	19	None
Fisheries, Aquaculture and Livestock	11	None
Urban Areas	10	None
Ecosystems, Wetlands and Biodiversity	12	None
Capacity Development, Research and Innovation	15	None

3.2 Human Mobility-Related Interventions: Details and Implementation

Theme: Disaster, Social Safety and Security Sector

Objective: Reduce climate-related losses and damages, strengthen social protection, and establish risk reduction, response and recovery mechanisms for climate-vulnerable people and migrants.

Code	Interventions	Adaptation Plans	Lead Ministry	Supporting Ministries/ Agencies	Budget	Geographic Coverage
CDM4	Protection and Enhanced Resilience of Climate Migrants with a Focus on Gender and Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a national inventory of climate migrants. • Strengthen response and recovery systems for displaced populations. • Create alternative livelihoods and job-generation programs. • Manage planned internal migration in urban centers. • Provide in-situ adaptation and ex-situ livelihood training. • Develop index-based insurance schemes. • Improve the financial resilience of climate migrants. • Relocate highly vulnerable communities from cyclone, flood, and erosion-prone areas. 	Department of Disaster Management (DDM)	DSS, DYD, LGD, MoL, BBS, BWDB, MoA, MoFL, MoEFCC, LGED, RHD, CHTDB, PMO, MoF, PPPA, MoD, private sector, NGOs	124 billion BDT	Nationwide

Code	Interventions	Adaptation Plans	Lead Ministry	Supporting Ministries/ Agencies	Budget	Geographic Coverage
CDM6	Increase Resilience of Vulnerable Poor Communities via Diversified Livelihoods, Insurance, and Resilience Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote alternative livelihoods inclusive of gender, ethnic communities, persons with disabilities. Develop climate insurance for small shrimp cultivators, slum dwellers, forest users, farmers, women. Provide financial incentives to socially disadvantaged groups. Offer subsidies to fishers to avoid informal debt systems. Deliver training on livelihood diversification (fisheries, dry fish industries, farming, shrimp farming, forest use, etc.). Supply production inputs (seeds, fishing gear, equipment). 	DDM, LGD	MoF, DSS, DYD, BWDB, MoEFCC, LGED, DAE, BMDA, DoF, DLS, RHD, BMD, SPARRSO, MoD, BIDA, CHTDB, ICT, PPPA, private sector, NGOs	535 billion BDT	Nationwide
CDM8	Expand Social Security and Safety Net Programmes to Build Community-Based Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce climate change allowances and insurance into safety net programs. Increase beneficiary numbers in line with rising climate vulnerability. Provide income security for the elderly, widows, and persons with disabilities. Generate temporary employment for displaced, working-age men and women. Protect livelihoods in char and island areas. 	DDM, DSS, DWA	LGD, MoF, PMO, DYD, BWDB, LGED, DAE, BMDA, DoF, DLS, RHD, MoD, BMD, SPARRSO, ICT, CHTDB, NGOs	625 billion BDT	Nationwide
Total Budget					1,284 billion BDT	

The NAP represents a substantial advancement in integrating human mobility concerns into national climate policies. While relevant issues are not mainstreamed across all sectors, the identified interventions (CDM4, CDM6, CDM8) are extensive in scope, encompassing social protection, livelihoods, insurance, planned relocation, and policy assistance. Advancing these initiatives, enhancing related inter-ministerial coordination, and incorporating human mobility elements into further thematic areas (such as Water Resources, Agriculture, and Urban Areas) will be essential for attaining comprehensive, climate-resilient development.

5. Strengthening the consideration of Displacement and other forms of human mobility in the NAP

As detailed in the previous section, Bangladesh's NAP lack explicit recognition of human mobility issues in all but one thematic area — namely Disaster, Social Safety and Security. The relevance of human mobility implications in other sectors is only implicit, but action under many of these thematic areas is key to averting and minimizing displacement and its impacts (e.g. water resources and agriculture) while the focus on human mobility measures would be important to the full implementation of others (e.g. urban development and ecosystem management). Even within the disaster sector, the scope of the three identified interventions (CDM4, CDM6, and CDM8) is broad and generic, lacking specific, actionable strategies tailored to the distinct needs of displaced populations, climate migrants, and communities experiencing planned relocations, including access to housing, healthcare, education, employment, and social integration.

Moreover, the identification of the Department of Disaster Management as the primary agency for all human mobility-related matters under the NAP neglects the complex nature of population movements, which are far from being only a disaster or crisis management concern. Instead, approaches that effectively address human mobility necessitate collaborative involvement from several ministries, local governments, and civil society actors. Lastly, whereas specific programs such as the Ashrayan Project illustrate governmental commitment to providing durable solutions for displaced communities, persistent challenges of inadequate beneficiary targeting, governance deficiencies, and

insufficient funding reveal more profound weaknesses in the planned responses. The limited coordination of the NAP with other frameworks that are relevant to the management of human mobility in the context of climate change, along with inadequate transparency and accountability measures, jeopardizes the effectiveness of the NAP in addressing one of Bangladesh's most pressing climate issues. Going forward, human mobility issues should be better integrated across all thematic areas of the NAP, and should be complemented through the formulation of a comprehensive, adequately financed, and inclusive strategy to attain genuinely climate-resilient development.



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