

## POLICY BRIEF

# Climate Finance Access and Implementation

## Local-Level Scenario



**ICCCAD**

International Centre for  
Climate Change and  
Development

CLIMATE FINANCE TRANSPARENCY MECHANISM (CFTM)

The Government of Bangladesh (GoB), Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and private sector are taking many initiatives to address climate change at the local and national levels in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) recently conducted multi-stakeholder consultation to understand the access to climate finance and implementation of different projects at the upazilla (sub-district) level. During the research, BCAS selected Bauphal upazilla of Patuakhali district and Sadar upazilla of Gaibandha district to discuss institutional arrangement and finance mechanism to deal with climate change at upazilla level with relevant stakeholders.

This policy brief summarises the outcomes of the research and recommendations received during the consultations.

### Climate Finance to Reach the Grassroots

Concerns are being raised, nationally and internationally, regarding inadequate allocation of climate finance to the grassroots. Offices of the UNO (chief executive of upazilla), municipalities, and Union Parishads should be included in the process of designing and implementing adaptation and mitigation projects to

address local needs. Moreover, a bottom-up approach should be taken to determine climate finance needs at the local-level. In that way, 'climate finance' budget requests from the grassroots, especially from the UNO offices, can reach and be included in the national budget preparation process. This would help ensure that the upazilla administration (local-level administrative unit) and local government receives the requisite funds in a timely and orderly fashion.

### Key Points

National climate finance needs to be addressed in a bottom-up approach where 'climate finance' budget requests from the grassroots can reach and be included in the national budget preparation process.

As 'climate finance' is a relatively new concept, awareness and capacity of government officials and elected representatives at local-level are to be enhanced regarding its governance, utilisation, and localisation.

Climate finance should reach to the people at grassroots for appropriate local solutions to climate change.

Office of the UNO should receive an adequate portion of national climate finance in a more structured manner.

### Stakeholders Consulted

- Senior government officials at the upazilla level
- Elected representatives of Union Parishad and municipality
- Officials of municipalities
- Officials of Union Parishads
- Officials of the NGOs
- Representatives from the local Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)

### Enhancing Awareness and Capacity at the Local-Level

Awareness raising and capacity development programmes on climate finance are mostly organised at national level only. Such interventions at upazilla level are necessary, at the same time, for better coordination and integration. As 'climate finance' is a relatively new concept to the government officials and elected representatives at the local-level, awareness and capacity enhancing activities are to be designed and implemented for them to ensure better governance, utilisation, and localisation of climate finance.

### The Size of Climate Finance Allocated to the UNO Office Mostly Inadequate and Ad-Hoc

Every year, UNO offices receive very negligible allocation – compared to the local needs – as 'climate finance' from the annual development programme (ADP) or GoB fund. The meagre public climate finance that the UNO offices receive is – in most cases – not allocated to them as a response to what the UNO offices send in budget requests every year, but rather is disbursed on an ad-hoc basis.

### Providing Appropriate Local Solutions to Climate Change Issues through Upazilla Administration

Local Government Engineering Department, Bangladesh Water Development Board, local government bodies (such as municipalities) etc. implement different projects at upazilla level that are designed and administered mostly centrally. Consequently, the local needs to combat climate change, particularly adaptation needs, are often not met. Being the coordination hub for all local-level activities, UNO offices can take up the role of coordination with local government representatives to ensure appropriate local solutions. Capacity of the local institutions should be built and supported by expert groups and key institutions.

### Climate finance for the infrastructure of urban drainage network in Bauphal and Gaibandha municipalities

Addressing the drainage problem is the highest priority in the municipalities of Bauphal and Gaibandha, both of which happen to coincide with Bauphal and Sadar upazillas, respectively. Infrastructure development of the urban drainage network currently receives the highest amount of climate finance that are allotted to these municipalities. Although both the municipalities receive more climate fund than the UNO offices of the mentioned upazillas receive, the size of funds that the municipalities receive are still inadequate and, at times, insignificant.

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