EDITORIAL

The year 2015 saw three important global high level conferences led by the United Nations. Those were UN Summit on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in New York, Sendai Conference on Integration of DRR in sustainable development in Japan; and Paris Climate Conference in France. The outcomes of the events will guide the development discourses in the next 2-3 decades. There is huge scope of building synergy among the three processes and their outcomes to strengthen our national policies and strategies for building resilience to climate change, reducing disaster risk and achieving sustainable development at all levels.

Bangladesh is committed to achieve SDGs through inclusive social and economic development. The country has prioritized a set of goals considering the country contexts and the development pathway. The SDGs have more ambitious agenda and targets. We are determined to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions and ensure that no one is left behind. Hence, the government, development partners and civil society must redirect their focus and efforts towards the poorest and marginal community. We must take more demanding targets on health, education, food and nutrition, water and sanitation, protecting environment and promoting gender equity.

We warmly congratulate Sheikh Hasina, Hon’ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh as the Champion of the Earth. She got the prestigious UN Environmental Award this year in the Policy Leadership Category for her far-reaching initiatives to address climate change. We also remember the happy moment of BCAS, when Dr. Atiq Rahman got the Champion of the Earth Award of UNEP in 2008 for his outstanding contributions to climate change science and sustainable development discourse.

SDGs Challenges in Bangladesh and the Role of Civil Society

The United Nations undertook the ambitious goals to end poverty, hunger and inequality worldwide at the 70th General Assembly in September 2015 at its Headquarters in New York. About 200 countries, who are the members of the UN, have agreed the sustainable development Goals (SDGs) at the General Assembly for the next 15 years. Actually, the 2030 global agenda for sustainable development is a plan of action for the people, planet and prosperity of the humanity. It seeks to transform the world towards an economically growing, socially just and environmentally sound society at a new height. The global leadership has recognized that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions including extreme poverty and hunger is the greatest global challenge and urgent requirement for sustainable development. The UN took the pledge that no one will be left behind.

Goals and Targets of SDGs

Built on the MDGs, 17 sustainable development goals and 169 targets were adopted in the SDGs. The goals are: No Poverty; Zero Hunger; Good Health and Well-being; Quality Education; Gender Equality; Clean Water and Sanitation; Affordable and Clean Energy; Decent Work and Economic Growth; Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; Reduced Inequalities; Sustainable Cities and Communities; Responsible Consumption and Production; Climate Action; Life Below Water; Life on Land; Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; and Partnerships for the Goals. A number of new goals such as Decent Work and Economic Growth; Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; Sustainable Cities and Communities;

Sendai Framework for DRR and Climate Change Adaptation

Bangladesh is one of the most disaster prone countries in the world. Global climate change brings additional threats to people and is undermining our development goals. The government of Bangladesh has made laudable progress in disaster risk management and preparedness. The country has formulated National Plan for Disaster Management in the light of HFA1 following the guideline of UNISDR. Bangladesh has revised the Disaster Management Act, 2012 and Standing Order on Disaster (SOD) to address both natural and man-made disasters. NGOs, research institutes, development agencies and civil society organizations are working actively with the government and vulnerable community for disaster risk reduction (DRR) in a comprehensive way.

At this juncture, the year 2015 is very crucial for the DRR community and development practitioners. We are in the era where the world is moving towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from MDGs, formulating Sendai Framework on DDR for 2015-2030 and negotiating Paris climate deal in COP21 under the UNFCCC for a widely accepted agreement to combat climate change.
The twenty-first Conference of Parties (CoP21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which started on 29 November, 2015 came to an end with all the 195 member countries agreeing to the “Paris Agreement” on December 12, 2015 at Le Bourget in Paris. As the gavel came down on the last and extended session of CoP21, all the countries and citizens of the world breathed a sigh of relief. Because CoP21 came against the backdrop of great failures of the CoP15 in Copenhagen and the subsequent CoPs in Durban, Doha, Mexico and Lima during which the parties could not come to a widely accepted and legally binding climate agreement for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol (KP) under the UNFCCC. The first commitment period of KP ended in December 2012.

Three Key UN Summits

Actually, the year 2015 saw three important global successful processes, led by the UN agencies, which will have huge international, regional and national implications. These are: the UN Summit on SDGs at the 70th UN General Assembly in New York, where the heads of the states from about 200 countries adopted the 2030 agenda for sustainable development; UN high level meeting on Sendai Framework for integration of DRR & CCA in sustainable development, held in Japan; and the long expected Paris Climate Conference known as CoP-21 in France. There is huge scope for building synergy among the 3 processes and their outcomes to strengthen the national policies and practices towards increasing resilience to climate change, reducing disaster risks and achieving sustainable development at local and community, national and global scales.

In fact, there was a lot of skepticism before the conference about whether Paris would get an agreement at all. We were seriously worried that if there was no agreement in Paris, the planet was destined to experience temperature above 3 degrees centigrade by 2100. This would challenge the planetary human civilization, its food, water and livelihood securities as well as increase the likelihood of a drastic reduction in the number of species and greater acidification of the oceans. All the countries would experience dramatic rise in extreme environmental conditions and also threaten the possibilities of poverty reduction and the newly emerging SDGs. Hence the global risks were too high for the economy, development and environment.

Leaders Upfront

It is the first time that all the key heads of states and government came up in front in the beginning of the conference. They laid out their positive expectations and high hopes for the agreement and the need for success. This had created an atmosphere of a positive outcome. All countries and groups realized that the science was very bold and clear. Missing this opportunity would force the different planetary systems (atmosphere, oceans, biodiversity, social, institutional and human systems) beyond recovery and everyone would suffer, despite the levels and differences in technological advancement. Furthermore, many technologies and management systems have already evolved to give several solutions to address rapid climate change and its impacts on society, economy and ecosystems. No country or group wanted to be held responsible for the failure of the negotiations as the stakes were too high for everyone.

The US President, within minutes of the conclusion and adoption of the Paris Agreement, congratulated everyone and termed the success as ‘huge’. The US and the umbrella group China, Russia, India, developing country grouping G-77, the Least Developed Country (LDCs) group, the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and Africa group- all seemed to be happy with the outcomes. When probed, it appeared that each group found that their issues of concern were included though their nuances may have been modified. The Secretary General of the UN Ban Ki moon termed the Paris Agreement as “a health insurance policy for the planet” and “a great success.”

Key Focus of the Paris Agreement

Main discussion in Paris concentrated on the key building blocks of climate negotiations including limiting temperature rise through urgent and adequate mitigation, adaptation to the impacts of rapid climate change, technologies for adaptation and mitigation and capacity building; and fund raising for mitigation and adaptation. After many and extended sessions, the parties finally agreed to keep the rise of global temperature well below 2 degree Celsius by the end of the current century. A new mechanism for mitigation, called Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) was agreed, which is widely criticized for its non-binding nature. The fund (USD 100 billion) from the 2020 to address climate change was proposed. Considering the growing impacts of climate change globally, greater resources for adaptation (50%) of total allocation was suggested. The Paris CoP is termed as a historic event since it saved the multi-lateral process of climate change.

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Oil Spillage caused huge environmental Damage to the Sundarbans

The sinking of oil tanker and fully loaded coal vessel in the recent years has caused huge damage to the flora and fauna as well as the environmental health of the Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest of Bangladesh. Furnace oil spillage from a sunken tanker caused irreparable damage to the ecosystems of the Sundarbans and the livelihood of the thousands of local people. A tanker named Southern Star-7 was hit by a cargo vessel on 9 December, 2014. The tanker sank in the Shela river near Chandpui Forest range under the Sundarbans East Division. The tanker was carrying around 350,000 liters of furnace oil from Khulna to another district through the river of the Sundarbans. The oil, released from the capsized tanker, spread over around 60 kilometers in Shela river and the intricate water ways of the Sundarbans including the river Pashur.

Fishing Ground and Dolphin Habitat affected

The incident took place in the famous ground for Irrawady and Ganges Dolphin. The immediate consequences of the incidents were marked with and around the shorelines of rivers, death of few dolphins and fishes. The damage of the forest and aquatic resources is immense and the experts have predicted irreparable damage in long term. Field observations have indicated that the habitat and the population of the aquatic resources have severely been affected. The forest dependent local communities will bear the burden as their livelihood will be affected due to the loss of aquatic and forest resources. An expert team of UNDP visited the affected areas, prepared an assessment report and recommended a number of steps for protection of the Sundarbans from such unexpected incident.

Loaded Coal Barge sunk

In October, 2015 a fully loaded coal barge sank in the Shela river again inside the Sundarbans. The large barge was carrying 1,245 metric tons of coal. The coal has polluted the water of the river, which has affected the living beings in the river and the near by canals running through the Sundarbans.

Heavy Rain induced Floods and Cyclone affected the Cox’s Bazar Region

The monsoon rain has set in a bit late in Bangladesh in 2015. Generally, monsoon rain starts in early June in Bangladesh, but this year first monsoon start started in the third week of June that was followed by a incessant-heavy rainfall for more than a week in the Cox’s Bazar and the Chittagong regions which was influenced by a low depression in the Bay of Bengal leading to a cyclope called Comen. About 445 mm rainfall was recorded in Cox’s Bazar in the first 4 days and 3 nights. The heavy rain continues for about 10 days in the regions.

Impact of Heavy Rainfall

The rain and the cyclone caused unusual flooding and landslides in the hilly areas of Cox’s Bazar, Bandarban, Rangamati and Chittagong districts as well as in the adjacent plain lands. The incessant heavy rain, floods and landslides caused damages to infrastructures (road communication of Cox’s Bazar with Chittagong and Bandarban district head quarters was disrupted for weeks), houses, standing crops, trees and plans in the forest and home steads. The natural disaster also affected water sources and health, employment, income and food security of vast majority people of the regions.

Cyclone Comen

Cyclone Comen formed as a depression on July 26 over the Ganges delta and moved in a circular motion around the northern Bay of Bengal. It intensified into a 75 km/h cyclonic storm and moved ashore southeastern Bangladesh on July 30. It was an unusual tropical cyclonic storm that brought several days of heavy rainfall to Bangladesh, Myanmar and northeastern parts of India. Moving ashore Bangladesh, Comen was accompanied by a storm surge of 1 to 2 m that affected Chittagong while flooding rains caused landslides. Rough seas killed two people off Cox’s Bazar when a boat capsized. Rain-induced landslides killed five people in Cox’s Bazar, and two others died in the town due to flooding. The storm damaged 88,900 houses across Bangladesh, including hundreds of fishermen huts. Trees knocked onto houses killed at least three people in separate instances. Flooding submerged at least 145,000 ha (360,000 acres) of crops for at least a week after Comen struck the country. Comen killed 45 people in Bangladesh 21 in Cox’s Bazar and 7 in Bandarban District. About 220,0400 residences required assistance for food, drinking water, health after the storm.

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Responsible Consumption and Production; Climate Action etc., have been set in the SDGs.

Key Principles and Priorities of SDGs
The goals are integrated and indivisible. The three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic growth with equity, social justice and environmental sustainability are embedded in the goals. It is expected that the goals and targets will stimulate actions over the next fifteen years in areas of critical importance for humanity, protecting people and plant, enhancing peace, partnership and prosperity of humanity. The SDGs are based on five Ps principles.

People: We are determined to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.

Planet: We are determined to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent actions on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations.

Prosperity: We are determined to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.

Peace and Justice: We are determined to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and justice.

Partnership: We are determined to mobilize the means required to implement these agenda through a revitalized global partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people.

The Heads of the States and UN high officials have adopted the decisions on a comprehensive, far-reaching and people centered set of universal and transformative goals and targets. The 2030 development agenda was accepted by all countries and they are committed to implement the SDGs taking into account the different national realities, capabilities and level of development.

There has been growing recognition that climate change is very crucial development challenge and one of the important issues that undermine sustainable development and poverty eradication. Hence, SDGs have rightly included goal-13 for taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. It was a good achievement of the global negotiation that climate change is put in the heart of SDGs framework. But the global and national processes have to ensure new and additional finance for implementation of both SDGs and climate action. The international and national actors, stakeholders and institution must work in close coordination to reach successful outcomes of UNFCCC and UN-SDGs for a more peaceful, prosperous and climate risk free world.

MDGs to SDGs: Challenges in Bangladesh
Bangladesh made laudable progress in achieving MDGs in relation to poverty alleviation, tackling hunger, spreading education, health services and reducing gender gap. The SDGs have a more ambitious agenda, seeking to eliminate rather than reduce poverty and include more demanding targets on health, education, food and nutrition, water and sanitation and gender equality. It is argued that the country made good progress in MDGs in relation to poverty alleviation (halving the poverty ratio within the given time), education, health (wider coverage of water supply, sanitation and controlling vector born diseases), empowering women and reducing gender disparity, but attention has to be given in areas like energy for all, combating climate change, inclusive growth and development, sustainable consumption, natural resources and ecosystem conservation, infrastructure and sustainable city while implementing SDGs.

SDGs Priorities in Bangladesh
The government of Bangladesh is committed to achieve SDGs through inclusive social and economic development, which would be environmentally sound and resilient to climate change, disasters and other externality like market failure. The country has prioritized 13 goals from the UN-SDGs and put emphasis on securing economic growth that is inclusive, reduce poverty, enhanced equity and improve living conditions of the common people. Emphasis is also given on environmental governance, stopping corruption, reducing risks and build resilience to disasters and climate change.

Ending Poverty and Zero Hunger: End poverty in all its forms everywhere is the main goal of SDGs. Despite good progress in poverty alleviation, still globally 836 million people (2015) live in extreme poverty. Many of them lack access to good employment, adequate food, clean drinking water, improved sanitation and healthcare. Women are disproportionately more likely to live in abject poverty than men due to unequal access to economic resources, paid work and education. Poverty ratio may rise again due to the emerging threats of climate change, food insecurity, wars, human displacement and violent conflicts.

The Goals of SDGs
Source: UNDP
Currently, about 800 million people are chronically undernourished in the world and over 90 million under the age of five are underweight. The SDGs aim to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition.

Recently, Bangladesh has made laudable progress in poverty alleviation. The poverty ratio has come down to 24% in 2015 from 48% in 2000 in the country. But the absolute number of poor people is huge and millions are living in extreme poverty in hard to reach areas (offshore islands, riverine chars, haors and in the hilly area) and in the urban slums. The government, NGOs and development actors must redirect their efforts towards the extremely poor through resources transfers, human resources development, healthcare, education and ensure their basic security for food, nutrition, drinking water, sanitation and energy. Ending poverty process must target those who live in vulnerable situations; increase basic resources and services and supporting the communities affected by climate change, social exclusion and conflicts.

Clean Water and Sanitation: Water scarcity affects more than 40% of people currently around the world. Global temperature rise and rapid climate change may aggravate situation in some regions and in many countries in the near future. Bangladesh made sustained progress in improving drinking water supply and sanitation, but still over 40% people lack improved sanitation in rural areas and urban slums. Climate change impacts and natural disasters hinder the progress and achievements in WATSAN every year. More investment from government, non-government organizations, development partners, and private sectors would be required in WATSAN facilities and hygiene practices. Empowering women and promoting gender role in economy, family and society is crucial for water and health security, gender equity and accelerating inclusive development. More international cooperation would be required for ensuring greater access to safe water and sanitation by 2030, water efficiency and technology for pro-poor and climate resilient water supply and sanitation.

Empowering Women and Gender Equity: Empowering women and promoting gender equality is crucial to achieve sustainable development. Ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls is not only a basic human right, but it has also multiplier positive effects on society, institutions and development. There are still sharp and gross inequalities in access to productive employment and significant gaps between male and female in the job market. Sexual violence against women, exploitation, unequal division of labour, discrimination in public and family decision making etc., remain as the huge barriers towards gender equality. Ensuring universal access to education and healthcare, women’s equal right to economic and productive resources such as land are vital to realize this goal. Bangladesh must take further actions in this regard based on the earlier achievements.

Affordable and Clean Energy for All: The number of people with access to energy has increased in the recent years, but still one in five lack access to electricity and sustainable energy systems globally. Ensuring universal access to affordable and clean energy would need huge investment in renewable and clean energy, expanding infrastructure and upgrading the technology to make those pro-poor and climate resilient.

Climate Action: Every country in the world is experiencing negative impacts of climate change. GHG emission continues to rise because of extremely inadequate mitigation efforts, which might cause further global warming and rapid climate change. Deeper carbon cut and greater mitigation action are urgently required to keep temperature rise well below 2 degree Celsius by 2100 and stopping dangerous climate change. The poor and vulnerable communities would require knowledge, skill, resources and technologies for adaptation, mitigation and resilience building. Further, we must correct our development paths from an unsustainable production-consumption to more low carbon and climate resilient development.

Sustainable Cities: More than half of the world population now lives in the cities. By 2015, about 6.5 billion people may live...
in the cities. The countries in the developing world are already facing and would face huge problem of rapid urbanization in the near future. We must make the cities socially and economically inclusive, safer, resilient to climate change and sustainable. Millions of poor live in the cities in the developing world. Making cities safer and sustainable means productive employment, ensuring safe and affordable energy, water, health services and housing for city dwellers. It would require huge investment in public transport, water supply, sanitation and energy systems, creating green public spaces as well as improving city planning and management.

**Political Will and Government’s Commitment**

Sheikh Hasina, Hon’ble Prime Minister of the Government of Bangladesh addressed the 70th UN General Assembly and reassured that her government would be working with the United Nations in advancing peace, prosperity, security, human right and inclusive social development in the country and in the region to achieve the shared dreams and aspirations of all humanity. She has also emphasized that climate change poses formidable development challenges. We would not be able to sustain our development endeavors if climate change cannot be effectively dealt with. The new development agenda makes it clear that all our actions need to be underpinned by our strong commitment to protect and preserve our planet, our biodiversity and our climate. We have only a small window of opportunity, and succeed to set the world on safer, greener and more prosperous path.

**Role of Civil Society**

There is huge scope for the civil society to work with the government in giving critical insights into all these defined goals and transform them into actions. They can also assist the government in developing institutional mechanisms and governance process through periodical assessment and critical monitoring. Bangladesh civil societies strongly feel that the development agenda should aim to guarantee an inclusive society, founded on rights and equal access to the resources, individual capabilities, and a decent and sustainable living environment, while making faster economic development and industrialization a positive force for the society. Bangladesh’s civil societies also suggest that the post-2015 development process should promote sustainable economic growth, while taking account of the specific challenges of Bangladesh and not harming the environment and society. Attainment of SDGs will require a strong and effective institutional mechanism involving all stakeholders including public representatives (central and local), politicians, government officials (executive and bureaucracy), private sector, civil society, NGOs, knowledge community (academic and nonacademic), and development partners. We are committed to work with government and all actors for a better, sustainable and equitable world.

- D. Mallick

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**Sendai Framework for DRR and Climate Change Adaptation**

It is high time to continue to build linkage between Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), Sustainable Development and DRR to demonstrate progress and relevance to other processes. In this backdrop, BCAS has organized a stakeholder consultation on National Disaster Management Policy and Strategies and HFA2 on 08 March, 2015 in Dhaka. A civil society review paper with gaps in policy and recommendations for integration of DRR and CCA as well as strengthening capacity and action of all actors was presented in the stakeholder consultation. It was largely attended by the representatives from the relevant government agencies, NGOs, civil society organizations and media. Md. Abdul Quayyum, National Project Director of Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) and Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief of the GoB attended the consultation as the Chief Guest. The consultation discussed both the strengths and weaknesses in policies & strategies of the government and NGOs in addressing disasters and climate change.

The civil society called upon government, UN agencies, NGOs, private sector, academia and other stakeholders to breakdown silence and act as a unit to create a platform for joint efforts on DRR and CCA, which may enhance resilience in livelihood and protect local development. It is strongly felt that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 will create the opportunity for all actors to advance coordinated efforts.

**Global to Local Actions**

The consultation put forward the following recommendations to initiate immediate and long term actions by the multiple actors from global to local levels.

- Poverty alleviation should be a central focus in DRR and CCA action
- Vulnerability tools should be brought under common ground
- Assessment of L&D due to climate disasters and demand for compensation
- More DRR & CCA financing for developing countries
- Harmonization of policies from national to local levels
- Women should be included into local disaster management planning and capacity building
- Public-private partnership can be included into disaster management and CCA response
- Corporate sector should produce and make available products (such as food, water, energy and medicine) which are useful in CCA as well as disaster management and relief operation
- Long term investment in disaster prevention and CCA from government
- Increasing media role in DRR and CCA
- NGO should work as watchdog and put pressure on government and UN agencies
- Understanding of the disaster risks with the local vulnerable communities
- More resources for local level DRR & CCA actions
- Capacity strengthening on the localization of early warning
- Fund disbursement should be in accordance with the local needs and priorities
- LGIs must get more resources and authority in DRR and CCA activities.

- G. Jilani

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Workshops & Seminars

Bangladesh Perspectives in COP 21: Loss and Damage due to Climate Change

Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) with support from Christian Aid-UK organized a daylong pre-CoP roundtable discussion at the Daily Star on 1 December, 2015. The focus of the roundtable was to share Bangladesh’s perspectives regarding Paris Conference and loss and damage of Bangladesh due to climate change. Civil society groups including negotiators from government and non-governmental organizations gathered in the event and contributed to the discussion. Study findings with important recommendations from the roundtable will be sent and presented at the CoP 21 in Paris, France.

Expectations from Paris CoP: After the scenario building speech on climate change politics by Dr. Atiq Rahman, Executive Director of BCAS, Ms. Nazzina Mohsin, a Senior Researcher of BCAS made the first presentation on the people’s perception on climate change impacts and their expectations from Paris conference. BCAS conducted the study in six divisions of Bangladesh, with the support from the Embassy of France at Dhaka. The study identified the most affected sectors and people’s expectations from Paris. The main point of the people’s expectation was centred on the reduction of carbon emission and increase the fund for adaptation to reduce risk of the people who are already adversely impacted by climate change.

L&D in Coastal Bangladesh: In the second presentation, Dr. Dwijen Mallick, Fellow and Director of BCAS, spoke on the increasing loss and damage from climate change. BCAS with support from Christian Aid-UK conducted the Loss and Damage study under Capacity Building, Advocacy, and Partnership project for resilient livelihood. 300 households of coastal Bangladesh, surveyed in the assessment, demanded grant from the developed world for climate resilience development through implementation of local adaptation strategies, promotion of salinity tolerant agriculture, and affordable technology, conservation of wetlands, river embankment, forest conservation and rainwater harvesting. It was seen that the average amount of loss per household from cyclones Sidr and Aila was BDT 313,184. Both economic and non-economic L&D was assessed. The financial support for the 3 affected village communities for the next five years was estimated BDT 15 crore.

Among others, Shakeb Nabi, Country Director of Christian Aid; Farid Uddin Ahmed Executive Director, Arannyak Foundation; Omar Tarek Chowdhury, Fellow, BCAS; Dilruba Haider, Coordinator, Gender and Climate Change, UN Women also made their valuable speeches.

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Paris Climate Agreement …

Follow-up in Bangladesh

Now the parties (Nation states) have to develop their own strategies and action plan to implement the agreement. The Paris agreement will give rise to a large number of activities in key areas and sectors such as mitigation, renewable and energy efficiency, adaptation, financing and planning adaptation and mitigation in agriculture, water, foods, health, energy, infrastructures, industry, disaster management as well as resilience building in cities and rural livelihoods. The commitments in Paris Agreement could be achieved if actions are taken forward by the nations including Bangladesh across the following key areas, which are interlinked:

- Long-term mitigation strategy, capacity building and action plan
- Integrated adaptation planning and implementation by linking with DRR and livelihoods
- Political will, institutional strengthening, integration and good governance
- Climate finance to benefiting the most affected and vulnerable groups and ecosystems; and
- Measuring, monitoring, reporting and verifying the processes and outcomes.

- Atiq Rahman
ADAPTING FROM THE GROUND UP: Enabling Small Business in Developing Countries to Adapt to Climate Change; Lisa Dougherty-Choux, Pieter Terpstra, Srilata Kammila and Pradeep Kurukulasuriya, Published by; World Resources Institute and UNDP.

The book highlights the business case for why governments should focus on creating an environment which will encourage micro and small enterprises (MSEs) in developing countries to invest in adaptation. In most countries, the private sector accounts for more than 60% of GDP, and MSEs in developing countries provide around 60% of all employment, supporting the livelihoods of billions globally. This report unpacks what it means to engage the private sector from the micro level up as an agent of change. It is hoped that the evidence and the ideas presented in this report will spur further thinking and action in countries around the world on different ways in which resilience to climate change can be promoted. This report aims to influence policymakers, development partners, and climate funds to support and design policy interventions that unlock, catalyze and/or direct investments by and for MSEs in ways that take into account climate change risks and opportunities. It draws on real world projects, as well as a growing body of research on private sector adaptation.

The Climate Challenge: Community adaptation and women’s empowerment in Bangladesh. Editors: Atiq Rahman. Dwijen Mallick, Golam Jilani and Ifat Newaz. First Published: June 2015, Published by; Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) and Christian Aid.

The book is prepared based on the study findings of the best practices by Christian Aid partner organizations that are working with poor and marginalized communities in different regions of Bangladesh to help them develop lasting ways to increase farm productivity and earn income for their families. The book includes case studies on how the poor and vulnerable communities organize themselves and act to reduce risk and vulnerability to climate change impacts. It is intended to be a reference for Christian Aid, its partners and other development agencies looking to expand and improve work on resilient livelihoods in Bangladesh and other parts of South and South East Asia.

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