

INCEPTION WORKSHOP REPORT OF THE PROJECT

“PILOT ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTIONS TO AVERT, MINIMIZE DISPLACEMENT IN CLIMATE STRESSED DISTRICTS OF BANGLADESH”



10th July, 2024
Hotel Bengal Blueberry, Gulshan – 2, Dhaka.



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Executive Summary

The International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) organized an inception workshop on Wednesday 10th July, 2024, at the Hotel Bengal Blueberry in Gulshan-2, to discuss the project "Pilot Assessment and Interventions to Avert, Minimize Displacement in Climate Stressed Districts of Bangladesh" with its various stakeholders. It was attended by participants across various governing bodies, United Nations (UN) agencies, research institutes, youth organizations, women's groups, (I)NGO representatives, and civil society members. Notable personalities would be the additional secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Climate Change Mr. Iqbal Abdullah Harun, First secretary to the Embassy of Sweden Ms. Nayoka M. Backstrom, and many others.

The primary aim of the workshop was to introduce participants to the project's objectives, goals, activities, and anticipated outcomes. This project, carried out by the International Organization for Migration in collaboration with ICCCAD and the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU), is crucial in addressing the impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities in Bangladesh.

KEY DETAILS

Project Implementation: The project is going to be implemented by the International Organization for Migration in partnership with ICCCAD and RMMRU.

Funding and Management: Funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) and managed by the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), the project will run until June 2025.

Main Goal: To support efforts to prevent, reduce, and address the impacts of displacement caused by climate stress.

Agenda of the Workshop

- Introduce and familiarize the attendees with the purpose, objectives, and expected outcomes of this project.
- Initiate knowledge-sharing, and garner feedback from the participants
- Expecting collaboration from various stakeholders for inclusive and integrated approaches to tackle displacement issues.

The inception workshop successfully laid a strong foundation for the project by promoting collaboration, enhancing knowledge, and ensuring inclusive strategies. This initiative is vital for mitigating the adverse effects of climate change on vulnerable communities in Bangladesh.

Program Schedule		
2:00 PM– 3:00 PM	Registration and Lunch	
3:00 PM – 3:10 PM	Inaugural Session	
	Welcome Remarks	Dr. Bimal Regmi Technical Director The International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)
3:10 PM – 3:45 PM	Address by the Chief guest	Mr. Iqbal Abdullah Harun Additional Secretary MOEFCC
3:45 PM –4:15 PM	Project Overview	Lorenzo Guadango Project Coordinator, Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) Md. Ashfaqur Rahman Khan National Programme Officer International Organization for Migration (IOM) Juel Mahmud Programme Coordinator The International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) Md. Shimonuzzaman Project Manager Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU)
4:15 PM –4:30 PM	Open Discussion (Q/A)	All Participants
4:30 PM –4:40 PM	Vote of Thanks	Ms. Ishita Shruti Head, Migration Policy and Sustainable Development Unit at IOM – UN Migration
4:40 PM – 4:50 PM	Closing Remark	Saqib Huq Managing Director The International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)

Opening & Introduction

Dr. Bimal Raj Regmi, Technical Director, ICCCAD opened the Project Inception Workshop by emphasizing the critical need for generating robust, evidence-based knowledge to address climate change effectively. He highlighted the importance of preparing well over the next two years before any funds are disbursed, focusing on understanding the socio-economic, ecological, demographic, and political aspects of climate extreme events that lead to migration and displacement. Dr. Regmi expressed gratitude to NORAD and the IOM for their support and urged attendees to provide feedback to refine the project's objectives. He emphasized ICCCAD's commitment to promoting collaboration and knowledge exchange to develop actionable solutions at the local level.

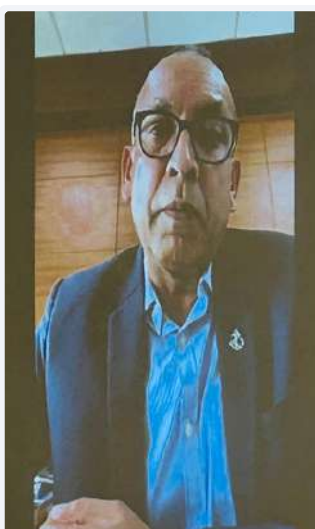


"We need strong evidence-based knowledge to convince policymakers."

Address by The Chief Guest

Mr. Iqbal Abdullah Harun

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forestry, & Climate Change (MoEFCC)



Mr. Harun, expressed gratitude to IOM, RMMRU, the Platform on Disaster Displacement, and NORAD for organizing the event. He also expressed concern as climate change is a new arena and lacks manpower. He stated that Bangladesh is the 7th most climate-vulnerable countries in terms of climatic threats and emphasized its potential to exacerbate displacement in Bangladesh, a densely populated country facing significant future challenges. He commended the 'Pilot Assessment and Interventions to Avert, Minimize Displacement in Climate Stressed Districts of Bangladesh' project and urged for its expansion based on the findings to inform future government actions. Mr. Harun highlighted the importance of specialized research and collaboration in addressing climate-induced displacement and improving resilience.

"Displacement is not just a current problem but could become a much larger issue in the future as climate change impacts become more pronounced."





Project Overview

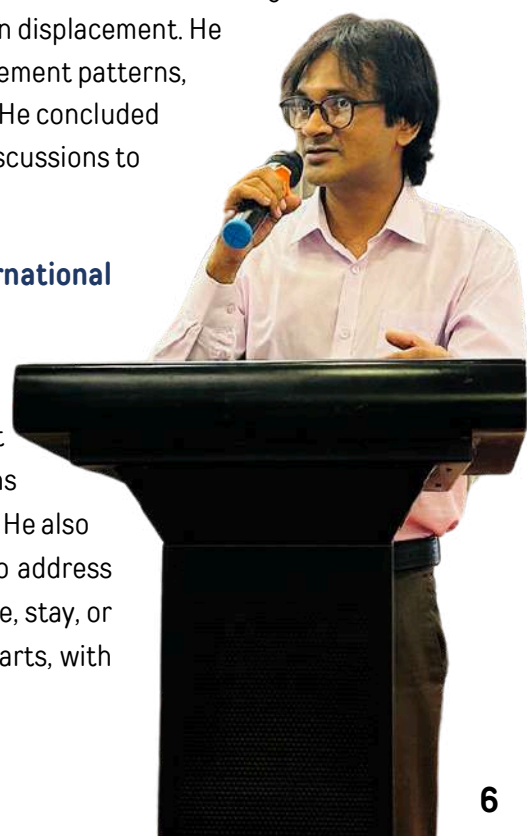
Lorenzo Guadagno, Project Coordinator, Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD)

In the first presentation, Mr. Lorengo enlightened the audience that, the Platform on Disaster Displacement has been dedicated to the PAMAD (Project on Averting, Minimizing, and Addressing Displacement) project since 2022. He mentioned that this initiative is closely linked with global policy discussions on loss and damage, focusing on human mobility. The project aligns with the Task Force on Displacement, established by the Paris Agreement in 2015 under the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage. He noted that the Task Force issued recommendations in 2018 to address displacement caused by climate change, leading to significant developments like the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage in 2019 and the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund. Supported by the Norwegian government through NORAD, PAMAD helps countries implement these recommendations.

Mr. Lorengo also highlighted that PAMAD launched at COP26 and operational since 2022, aims to translate these recommendations into national implementation plans. By engaging with local stakeholders, the project tailors efforts to each country's context. In Bangladesh, consultations with various organizations and ministries highlighted the country's strong institutional framework on displacement. He mentioned, the project focuses on data collection, understanding displacement patterns, enhancing local preparedness, and fostering coordination among actors. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of integrating displacement into policy discussions to reduce economic and non-economic impacts of loss and damage.

Ashfaqur Rahman Khan, National Programme Officer, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Mr. Khan kept his presentation short, and simple, but highly precise. He began by extending a warm welcome to all the attendees and expressing his gratitude to IOM, RMMRU, and the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) for their support in enabling the implementation of practical actions aligned with the government of Bangladesh's strategic plans and visions. He also informed that these organizations will be collaborating in this project to address human mobility challenges by developing solutions for individuals to move, stay, or relocate as necessary through consultations with government counterparts, with an emphasis on policy operationalization.



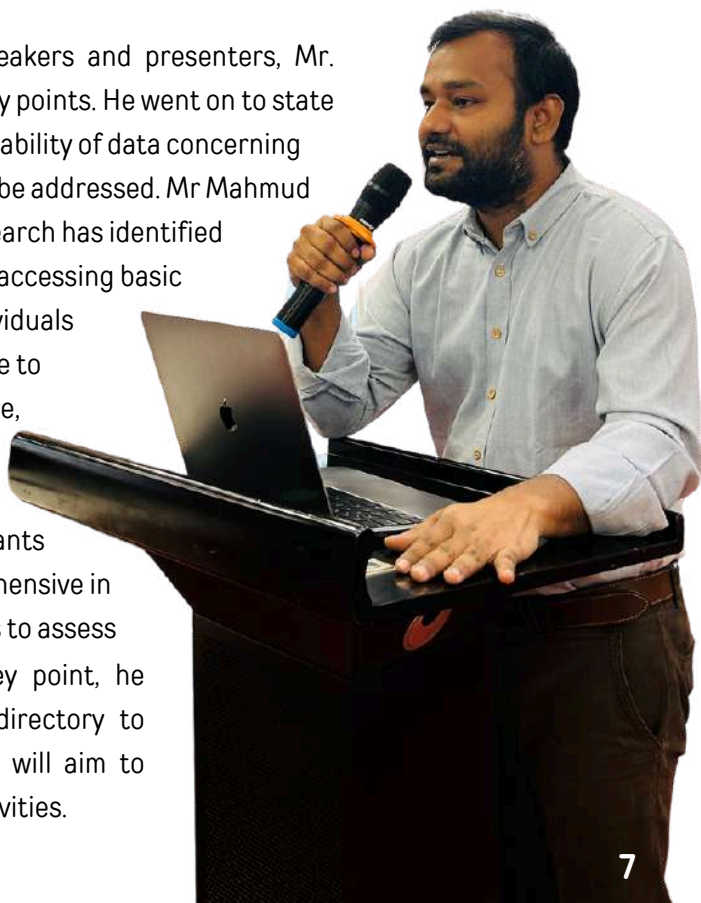


He also remarked that despite possessing a comprehensive policy framework, Bangladesh faces significant implementation challenges that this project seeks to address. Therefore, while informing the audiences with IOM's six major intervention areas, he mentioned that those areas will include the development of a standardized methodology for disaster displacement data collection, the estimation of economic and non-economic losses associated with displacement, support for the coordination efforts of the displacement management cluster, the creation of methodologies to estimate displaced populations due to slow-onset events, the estimation of national displacement figures for the year 2030, 2040, and 2050, and assistance to the government in adopting global best practices for planned relocation.

Mr. Khan concluded his presentation by expressing his hopefulness towards these interventions, which is aimed at supporting the government of Bangladesh in effectively addressing climate-induced displacement and migration.

Juel Mahmud, Programme Coordinator, International Centre for Climate Change And Displacement (ICCCAD)

In addition to the information shared by the previous speakers and presenters, Mr. Mahmud's presentation brought forward some interesting key points. He went on to state that through this project one critical issue regarding the availability of data concerning the displaced populations and their access to land is going to be addressed. Mr Mahmud also informed the audience that the project's preliminary research has identified that access to land and formal land ownership are crucial for accessing basic services such as water and electricity. And, the displaced individuals often face challenges in obtaining these essential services due to a lack of legal documentation for their land holdings. Therefore, the current research initiative will focus on evaluating the status of land access for displaced populations, especially those resettling in urban areas. He also informed the participants about the research methodology which is going to be comprehensive in nature combining both qualitative and quantitative methods to assess the housing and livelihood conditions. For his second key point, he informed the audience about establishing a centralized directory to consolidate relevant information from stakeholders, which will aim to enhance coordination efforts and minimize duplication of activities.



He further shared that Information for this database will be gathered through consultations at both national and local levels, as well as from secondary sources. The dissemination strategy will include dissipating the information through the website, online media platforms, and various public engagements.

Another pivotal aspect of the project was also talked about which is going to be integrating displacement and loss and damage considerations into national policies. This endeavor will involve analyzing existing climate-related policies in collaboration with the partner organization, RMMRU, with a specific focus on migration-related policies. He then concluded his speech by informing about additional capacity-building initiatives that are underway to empower stakeholders and government authorities. And for that customized international training materials to suit local contexts and conducting capacity-building workshops at national and local levels are being planned to design.

Md. Shimonuzzaman, Project Manager, Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU)



Mr. Shimon provided an overview of RMMRU's contributions to the project, emphasizing the development of a template for Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) countries to create national strategies for managing displacement, inspired by Bangladesh's National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management. RMMRU is also coordinating with ICCCAD to analyze national policies and develop communication materials to popularize these strategies. On the field level, the organization is leading awareness campaigns and training initiatives, including the formation of 10 local Committees for Adaptation Rights to engage vulnerable communities. He concluded with unfolding, RMMRU's plan to train disaster management committees from corporate, private, and local government sectors in Shatkhira.

With the end of the delivery of information from the organizer's side, the floor was given to everyone present to engage in a discussion of knowledge sharing, as well as to garner feedback. This session was moderated by **Dr. Bimal Raj Regmi**, ICCCAD. He inaugurated the discussions by thanking the presenters for their insightful presentations, which provided a comprehensive understanding of the project's goals. He then invited the participants to engage in the discussion by asking questions, seeking clarifications, or offering suggestions for improvement. And, he initiated the delivery of dialogues by encouraging participants to raise their hands, followed by introducing themselves and then stating their comments—which he earnestly requested to keep concise.



Summary of Queries and Feedback from the Participant's Side

The participants present were all various stakeholders in Bangladesh's water, food, and climate sectors, and are experts in their distinguished field they highlighted key challenges and solutions related to climate-induced migration and displacement; and addressed these four points:

Distinguishing Migration and Displacement: Migration can be an adaptation strategy, whereas displacement is often forced. Accurate data collection methods are needed to differentiate these phenomena, as illustrated by repeated displacements due to riverbank erosion.

Innovative Data Collection: Bangladesh's 4,500 union websites lack detailed migration data. Using mobile phone data during festivals can track population movements and be adapted for post-disaster displacement monitoring. This method provides timely insights for intervention strategies.

Support for Displaced Populations: Immediate tangible support (food, shelter, clothing) is crucial for displaced individuals, as highlighted by a cyclone victim left with only the clothes on her back. Long-term support, including psychosocial aid, education, vocational training, and economic opportunities, is also essential for reducing vulnerability.

Land Governance and Management: Climate change exacerbates land shortages in northern and southern Bangladesh. Effective land governance and management interventions are necessary, including equitable land distribution, sustainable land use practices, and dispute resolution mechanisms. These measures can enhance the resilience of displaced communities.





Expert Insights and Comments

Technical Director from ICCCAD, Dr. Bimal Raj Regmi, Lorenzo Guadagno from PDD, Md. Ashfaqur Rahman Khan, from IOM, and Juel Mahmud from ICCCAD, shared their thoughts, opinions, and answers on the statements and queries received from the participant's side. They cumulatively agreed that clear distinctions between migration and displacement, innovative data collection, comprehensive support systems, and effective land governance are essential for resilience. Collaborative efforts among government, academia, and civil society are crucial for developing and implementing these strategies, fostering a more adaptive society in the face of climate change. Continuous policy advocacy and dialogue are essential for improving and implementing effective policies.

Additionally, Mr. Khan, IOM, stated that it is crucial to distinguish between displacement, which is forced, from migration which is voluntary. The goal should be to minimize displacement and promote migration as an adaptation strategy. He also informed that post-2016 cyclone, mobile data was used to track displaced populations, and it brought forward challenges in distinguishing vacationers from disaster-driven migrants and compromised data protection. He emphasized that effective urban planning is needed to accommodate internal climate migrants, and upskilling vulnerable communities can reduce the need to migrate.

Mr. Juel Mahmud from ICCCAD, further informed the participants that this project will be focusing on building capacity, after assessing the current conditions, and then incorporating the findings into policies rather than directly providing goods or materials. He even mentioned that currently, studies are being conducted on land access whose findings will be shared upon the research's conclusion.

Along with the above-mentioned statements Mr. Guadagno from PDD announced to the participants that this project aims to advocate for future mechanisms to better support countries and communities, and will ensure that displacement impacts are integrated into loss and damage assessments so that communities can respond effectively. Which will ultimately lead to creation a comprehensive support system for displaced populations.

Closing Session

Vote of Thanks

Dr. Ishita Shruti

Head of Migration Policy and Sustainable Development Unit,
International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

Dr. Ishita Shruti commenced her speech by emphasizing Bangladesh's prominence as a case study for climate change and displacement due to its vulnerability to multiple disasters. She highlighted the challenge of resource crunch the country will face as it graduates from Least Developed Country (LDC) status in 2026, underscoring the need for innovative resource mobilization and program design. Dr. Shruti praised the project's partnership approach, noting IOM's commitment to localizing partnerships and leveraging the strengths of ICCCAD and RMMRU.

She addressed the difficulties in obtaining accurate data on climate-induced displacement, pointing out the global challenge of distinguishing between voluntary and forced migration. Dr. Shruti stressed that developing a robust methodological framework is crucial for capturing climate migrants. She emphasized that effective policy advocacy must integrate displacement into loss and damage frameworks, not merely as a term but as a substantive issue. Concluding her remarks, she thanked all partners, especially ICCCAD, and affirmed IOM's openness to further collaboration.



“Effective climate change responses must include displacement in loss and damage frameworks.”

Closing Remarks

Saqib Huq

Managing Director of the International Centre for Climate Change And Displacement (ICCCAD)

Mr. Huq thanked the attendees for joining the online event and participating in the Inception Workshop, which marks the start of a process to develop evidence-based policies. He emphasized that the workshop is a beginning, not a final product, and invited participants to contribute their expertise to create actionable roadmaps for assisting vulnerable populations. He also acknowledged the lack of cohesion in development systems due to bureaucratic barriers and highlighted the project's focus on building a comprehensive knowledge base and exploring innovative solutions, such as using mobile data for tracking migrants, which could lead to even developing climate-resilient, migrant-friendly towns and ensure host communities benefit without conflict. By integrating sectoral expertise with global frameworks like the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage (SNLD) and the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF), the project seeks to establish effective national mechanisms and pilot successful initiatives. He concluded his speech by encouraging ongoing contributions to inform national stakeholders and thanked attendees for their participation despite traffic challenges, and wished them safe travels.

ANNEX (Participant List)

Sl.	Name	Designation	Organization
1	Sharif Al Kamal	Senior Programme Manager	Friendship
2	Moumita Das Gupta	Research Fellow	CCJ-B
3	Mahmuda Akter Mity	Senior Research Associate	SAJIDA Foundation
4	Pankaj Paul	DRR Specialist	UNRCO
5	Md. Ashik Sarder	Sr. Officer	IFRC
6	Vivianne vd Vorst	Sr. DTM Manager	IOM (HQ)
7	Ishita Shruti	Head, MPSD	IOM
8	Tahoura Junnordine	P.Assistant	IOM
9	Shohail Bin Shaifullah	Country Coordinator CBD	RWA, WA
10	Shimonuzzaman	Project Manager	RMMRU
11	Ashfaqur Rahman Khan	NPO	IOM
12	Md. Lutfor Rahman	RO	ICCCAD
13	Bimal Regmi	Technical Director	ICCCAD
14	Dr. SM Morshed	NE	IOM
15	MD. Almamun Rakib	NCAF	LSS
16	Saila Sobnom Richi	MM Coordinator	Youthnet
17	Abu Nayeem	Deputy Manageer	BRAC
18	MD Mahmudul Hasan	Domain Coordinator	Helvetas
19	Farah Anzum	Strat. Comms Associate	GSCC
20	Md Ashikul Islam		LSS
21	Shanoar Hossain	General Member	LSS
22	Mostakima Rahman	National Executive Member	LSS
23	Ukhing Nue Chak	Assitant Director Coms	IID
24	Nayoka M. Backstorm	First Secretary	Embassy of Sweden
25	Nafia Saddaf	JRO	ICCCAD
26	Maliha Momotaj Himu	RO	ICCCAD
27	Nlshat Tasnim	RO	ICCCAD
28	Sifat Hossain	PO	ICCCAD
29	Fariha Ishrar Khan	Intern	ICCCAD
30	Nazmussakib	PO	ICCCAD
31	Tanjib islam	Intern	ICCCAD
32	Ahsan Habib	IT Officer	ICCCAD
33	Munia Tahsin	RO	ICCCAD
34	Bukhariuzzaman Shainik	CO	ICCCAD
35	Juel Mahmud	Programme Coordinator	ICCCAD



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