



**POLICY BRIEF**

**GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE FINANCING IN BANGLADESH**



**Introduction**

Bangladesh has been actively engaged in climate action, recognising the severe threats posed by climate change and environmental degradation to its people, economy, and ecosystems. The policy framework of the country reflects this approach –, for example, the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP), Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan, Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, National Plan for Disaster Management 2021–2025, and National Adaptation Plan 2023–2050. Each of these national instruments recognises the importance of a gendered approach to climate action. Notably, Bangladesh was among the first countries to develop a Climate Change and Gender Action Plan (ccGAP) in 2013, a plan which was revised in 2023 with support from UN Women.

This policy brief provides recommendations for integrating gender equality considerations in climate financing mechanisms to foster gender-responsive, climate-resilient, sustainable, and inclusive development in Bangladesh. The recommendations have been informed by a pre-budget consultation,<sup>1</sup> organized by UN Women with representatives from government ministries and women’s rights organizations, including grassroots civil society organizations (CSOs), non-governmental organizations, development partners, and academia.

**Climate change in Bangladesh**

- **185** extreme weather events occurred over two decades (2000–2019)
- Almost half of 6.4 million flood and cyclone affected people in 2024 were women of whom **190,616** were pregnant and lactating mothers
- Women own a mere **6.9%** of agricultural land in climate-vulnerable areas

**Gendered impact of climate change in Bangladesh**

As the seventh most climate-vulnerable country,<sup>2</sup> Bangladesh is systematically affected by a global record of extreme weather events:<sup>3</sup> sea level rise; cyclones; storms; floods; and droughts. The “Feminist Climate Justice; a Framework for Action”,<sup>4</sup> launched by UN Women at the Conference of Parties (COP28) held in Dubai in 2023, notes that women and girls from developing and least developed countries (LDCs) have the smallest carbon footprint yet suffer the most from climate change. Likewise, in Bangladesh – a LDC set to graduate to a lower middle-income country in 2026 – women and girls bear the brunt of the climate crisis.<sup>5</sup>

Evidence suggests that climate change reinforces, perpetuates, and exacerbates pre-existing gender-based inequalities. In climate-affected areas, women endure time poverty due to water scarcity, reproductive health challenges, and decreased access

<sup>1</sup>UN Women developed this policy brief at the request of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The brief focuses on the priorities for gender-based climate financing. To discuss and formulate recommendations for financing gender-responsive climate actions in Bangladesh, as part of the process for development of this brief, UN Women organized a pre-budget consultation on 06 March 2024. Organized under the regional programme, Empower – Women for Resilient Societies, funded by the Government of Sweden, the event convened diverse stakeholders with representation from government ministries and women’s rights organizations, including grassroots CSOs, non-governmental organizations, development partners, and academia.

<sup>2</sup>German Watch. Global Climate Risk Index. 2021. Available at: <https://www.germanwatch.org/en/cr/#:~:text=The%20Global%20Climate%20Risk%20Index,2019%20%E2%80%94%20were%20taken%20into%20account>

<sup>3</sup>Huq, S., Khan, M., Islam, A.S. & Mirza, A. B. Climate change impacts in Bangladesh: What climate change means for a country and its people. 2024.

<sup>4</sup>Using a feminist climate justice approach, the Climate Justice Framework calls for a just and equitable transition by recognising and addressing gender-specific risks and vulnerabilities, and redistributing and investing accordingly. At the centre of the framework are four interlinked domains: i) recognise women’s rights, labour, and knowledge; ii) redistribute economic resources; iii) represent women’s voices; and iv) repair inequalities and historical injustices. See Turquet, L., Tabbush, C., Staab, S., Williams, L., and Howell, B. “Feminist Climate Justice: A Framework for Action”. 2023. Conceptual framework prepared for Progress of the World’s Women series. New York: UN-Women. Available at: <chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnibpcjpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/Feminist-climate-justice-A-framework-for-action-en.pdf>; accessed 01 June 2024.

<sup>5</sup>UN Women. State of Gender Equality and Climate Change in Bangladesh. 2022. Available at: <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2022/09/state-of-gender-equality-and-climate-change-in-bangladesh>.

to resources for livelihoods. A 2022 study shows that daily wage labourers and those who tend to livestock for livelihoods reported income loss following the June 2022 flood in the north-east.<sup>6</sup> As a majority of the agricultural workforce, the impact on women's livelihoods, predominantly in the agricultural sector, is particularly extreme.<sup>7</sup> Women in the most climate-vulnerable districts carry out 98.5 per cent of household care work.<sup>8</sup> Further, gender-based violence and harmful practices, such as child marriage, increase during climate crises and disasters.<sup>9</sup> An Action Aid study showed that 71 per cent of women faced a higher incidence of violence during flooding than prior to it, with 52.3 per cent of women reporting physical violence.<sup>10</sup> The increased number of female-headed households in climate-vulnerable areas, such as the south-west coastal zone, as a result of male outmigration represents another important indicator of women's increasing vulnerabilities.<sup>11</sup> The Rapid Gender Analysis of cyclone Remal, of May 2024, documents the heightened impact of climate change on female-headed households.

## Global trends in climate financing

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 66) emphasized the importance of significantly increasing investments (in climate change) to close resource gaps for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls through, inter alia, the mobilization of adequate financial resources from all sources, including domestic and international resource mobilization and allocation.<sup>12</sup>

Globally, a significantly higher proportion of climate financing is applied to "mitigation", with a focus on large-scale energy and infrastructure projects. However, according to a 2012 Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project assessment, only 0.13 per cent of such projects include gender considerations within related documents. In fact, globally, only 0.01

per cent of all climate funding supports projects that address both climate change and women's rights.

UN Women study reveal that 160 million more women and girls globally will enter poverty by 2100 due to climate change<sup>13</sup> indicating the criticality of investing for women's resilience building. A growing body of evidence suggests that targeted investments in gender equality and women's empowerment yield returns in environmental conservation, achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and poverty alleviation. For example, the number of malnourished children is 60 per cent higher in countries where women do not have the right to own land and 85 per cent higher where women do not have access to credit.<sup>14</sup> A UN Women study in Bangladesh on "Cost Effectiveness of Gender Aware Climate Change Projects" found that projects that included gender transformative outcomes (e.g. women's access to economic resources, participation in decision-making and leadership, and resilience to climate change), were also the most cost-effective.<sup>15</sup>

## Climate financing in Bangladesh

To operationalise the commitments of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB), the BCCSAP was adopted in 2009–2010, and a Climate Change Trust Fund was established to mobilise internal resources with the aim to implement climate change strategies and actions. The GoB also adopted the Climate Fiscal Framework (CFF) in 2014 to integrate climate change into economic management and subsequently updated it in 2020. Further, since 2018, the GoB has produced an annual climate financing report (CFR).

Currently, 25 ministries and divisions undertake projects and initiatives to combat climate change and prepare climate budget reports based on the six

<sup>6</sup>Needs Assessment Working Group. [Key Immediate Needs and Preliminary Impact Assessment: North Eastern Flash Flood, May 2022 Bangladesh](#)

<sup>7</sup>Zaman, M.A. & Parvez, S. "Women outnumber men in farming sector". The Daily Star, 07 March, 2024. Available at: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/women-outnumber-men-farming-sec-tor-3561481>; accessed 01 June 2024.

<sup>8</sup>BBS & UN Women, Pilot Survey on Disaster-affected Households 2022.

<sup>9</sup>Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence. Gender Based Violence, and its Intersection with Climate Change. 2022. Available at: <chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnibpcjpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.gbv.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/ICGBV-Policy-Paper-Climate-Change-and-GBV.pdf>.

<sup>10</sup>ActionAid Bangladesh. Violence against women during flood and post-flood situation in Bangladesh. 2007.

<sup>11</sup>Murshid, S. & Yasmeen, A. Women of the Coast: A Gender Status Paper of the Coastal Zone. Working Paper WP027. 2004. Available at: [http://warpo.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/warpo.portal.gov.bd/page/aa04373f\\_0ca3\\_49a5\\_b77e\\_5108186638dc/gender.pdf](http://warpo.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/warpo.portal.gov.bd/page/aa04373f_0ca3_49a5_b77e_5108186638dc/gender.pdf).

<sup>12</sup>Commission on the Status of Women Agreed Conclusion (66<sup>th</sup> session)

<sup>13</sup>[https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/data-driven\\_insight\\_the\\_effects\\_of\\_climate\\_change\\_on\\_gender\\_development.pdf](https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/data-driven_insight_the_effects_of_climate_change_on_gender_development.pdf)

<sup>14</sup>UNDP. Gender and climate finance. 2016. Gender and Climate Change. Available at: <https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/publications/UNDP%20Gender%20and%20Climate%20Finance%20Policy%20Brief%205-WEB.pdf>.

<sup>15</sup>UN Women. Understanding Cost-Effectiveness of Gender-Aware Climate Change Adaptation Intervention in Bangladesh. 2017.

thematic areas<sup>16</sup> of the BCCSAP.<sup>17</sup> Over the years, the allocation for climate change has increased, from USD 2.34 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2019–2020 to USD 3.38 billion in FY 2023–2024.<sup>18</sup> This is approximately 4.8 per cent of the national budget, or 8.99 per cent of the total budget of the 25 ministries<sup>19</sup> that have engaged in climate budgeting over the last six years. (See Figure 1.)

Despite the increasing investment, there remains a staggering gap in terms of the financial resources required to adapt to climate change impacts – USD 230 billion by 2050.<sup>20</sup> Climate financing will need to increase to USD 8.5 billion annually for Bangladesh to reach the required target. According to the Bangladesh Country Investment Plan for Environment, Forestry and Climate Change (CIP-EFCC), the total cost of the CIP-EFCC is estimated at about USD 11.7 billion, of which the financing gap is approximately USD 7 billion or 60 per cent. In particular, areas like pollution control, environmental governance, and gender equity remain significantly underfunded.<sup>21</sup> Approximately USD 6 billion will need to be sourced annually from external sources, i.e. international climate funds and development partners.<sup>22</sup> The minimum requirement of USD 12.5 billion by 2025, equivalent to approximately three per cent of Bangladesh’s gross domestic product (GDP), indicates the urgency and magnitude of the climate crisis the country is expected to face in the medium-term.<sup>23</sup>

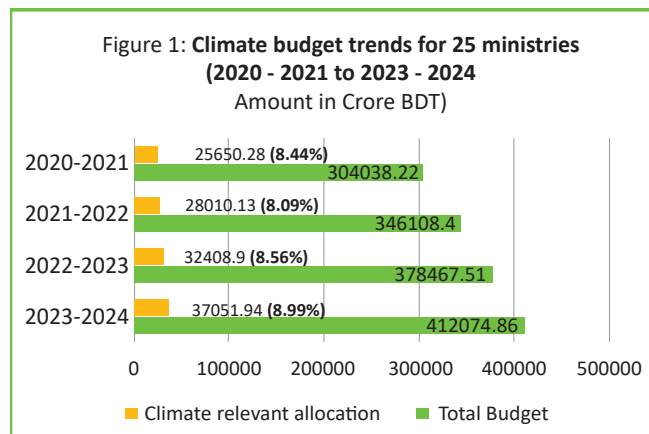
## Gender-responsive climate budgeting in Bangladesh

### Integration of gender in climate financing

The updated Bangladesh CFF 2020 notes that “any effective and comprehensive framework relating to climate change must encompass issues of gender and broader development perspectives including equity”. It further states that “Ministries/Divisions should ensure that the climate objectives set out in the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), the Five-Year Plan, Perspective Plan, Bangladesh Delta Plan, Bangladesh ccGAP and other climate and gender related policy documents are addressed in the project design”. The Climate Financing for Sustainable Development Budget Report (hereafter CFR) for the fiscal year 2023–2024 notes the ongoing revisions to the BCCSAP, and states that the updated BCCSAP will be structured around 11 thematic areas instead of the previous six. The newly included areas are natural resource management, gender, industry and power, regional and urban dimension, and governance.

### Financing trends

In the CFR, the relevance criterion is aligned with the six BCCSAP thematic areas and proposed programmes for harmonised climate finance reporting. Gender is placed under the capacity-building and institutional strengthening thematic area, with a sub-code 0605 for “Strengthening Gender consideration in climate change management”. As per the methodology for determining climate relevance criteria for projects and programmes of the selected ministry/division, a weightage of 26 is given for gender (refer Annex B



<sup>16</sup>The six thematic areas of the BCCSAP are: food security, social protection and health; capacity-building and institutional development; infrastructure; research and knowledge management; mitigation and low-carbon development; and comprehensive disaster management.

<sup>17</sup>GoB. Climate Financing for Sustainable Development: Budget Report 2023–24. June 2023.

<sup>18</sup>Ibid.

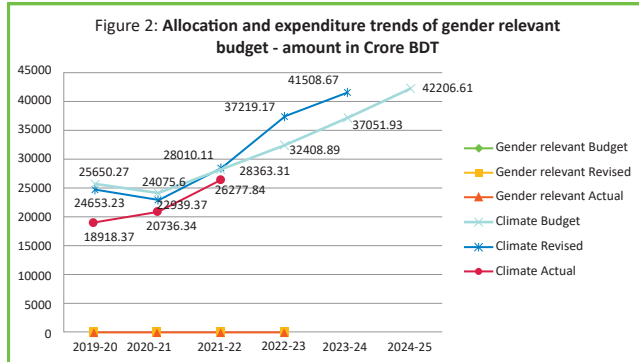
<sup>19</sup> These include: Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Ministry of Disaster Management Relief, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Land, Ministry of Industries, Ministry of Food, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Textile and Jute, Health Services Division, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Housing and Public Works, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways Division, Local Government Division, Ministry of Science and Technology, Power Division, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Energy and Mineral Resources Division, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Technical and Madrasa Education Division and Secondary and Higher Education Division.

<sup>20</sup>GoB. National Adaptation Plan of Bangladesh (2023–2050). 2023.

<sup>21</sup>GoB. Bangladesh Climate Fiscal Framework (CFF). 2020.

<sup>22</sup>Ibid.

<sup>23</sup>World Bank. Country Climate and Development Report for Bangladesh. October 2022.



of CFR 2024-25). In the 2024–25 CFR, six ministries/ departments<sup>24</sup> reported on the gender sub-code. Review of the CFR budget for the last five years shows the following trends:

- **Budget allocation declined** from 14.06 crore BDT in the 2019–2020 budget to 9.49 crore BDT in 2024–2025.
- Available data show that the **actual expenditure is significantly higher than the revised budget allocations**. In 2020–2021, the actual expenditure was 24.71 crore BDT, while the revised allocation was 13.21 crore BDT; in 2021–2022, the actual expenditure was 44.59 crore BDT, while the revised allocation was 12.05 crore BDT. Despite the higher expenditure, the budget allocation has remained in the same range as previous years.
- Overall, the budget for **gender remains negligible** as a proportion of the total climate budget – consistently less than one per cent over the last five years – in the range of 0.055 per cent (2019–2020) to 0.022 per cent (2024–2025). (Please see Figure 2.)
- **Three of the six ministries/departments** using the sub-code, namely the Ministry of Agriculture, as well as the Local Government Division (LGD) and the Rural Development and Cooperative Division (RDCD) of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, **lack gender budget for FY 2024–2025** (data not available). For the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), no gender budget is

reported for FY 2023–2024 either and, for the RDCD and LGD, no budget is reported for three fiscal years (FY 2022–2023, 2023–2024, and 2024–2025). Only one ministry which was not previously reporting on this previously – the Ministry of Social Welfare commenced gender budget reporting in FY 2022–2023.

### **BCCT-funded projects**

In 2015, the Finance Division of the Ministry of Finance established a budget ceiling for each thematic area, with 20 per cent and 15 per cent projected as the ceiling for infrastructure and mitigation, respectively.<sup>25</sup> However, this criterion was not applied consistently. The Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF) subsequently prepared a set of guidelines in March 2024. According to the BCCTF guideline, project proposals will be evaluated following a matrix with a weightage of 100; projects scoring below 80 would not be eligible for review by the technical committee. Review of BCCT-funded projects from FY 2009–2010 through December 2023, shows that a total of 969 projects were adopted. In the last three years, approximately 47 per cent of projects were adopted under thematic area 3) Infrastructure; and 34 per cent of projects were adopted under thematic area 5) Mitigation. Very few projects were adopted under the other thematic areas. In 2023–2024, approximately 59 per cent of BCCTF allocations was for infrastructure.<sup>26</sup>

Furthermore, in the BCCTF weightage matrix, only 10 weightage points are accorded relevance to gender equality. Given the significant gender-differentiated impacts of these projects, it would be important to re-assess the weightage points, to ensure ministries/ departments design all projects from a gender lens.

<sup>24</sup>These are: Ministry of Social Welfare; Ministry of Women and Children Affairs; Local Government Division; Rural Development and Cooperative Division; Ministry of Agriculture; and Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief.

<sup>25</sup>GoB. Guidelines for undertaking projects financed by the BCCTF in the climate change-prone and vulnerable areas in Bangladesh, 2024.

<sup>26</sup>GoB. Climate Financing for Sustainable Development: Budget Report 2023–24.

## Costing of gender equality priorities

Of the eight priority areas of the National Adaptation Plan, only three include costed gender targeted interventions as shown below:

Code	Interventions	Domain	Cost (billion BDT)	Implementing entity
<b>2: Disaster, social safety and security</b>				
CDM1	Construction and rehabilitation of gender-, age- and disability-sensitive multipurpose climate-resilient and accessible cyclone and flood shelters with safe drinking water, sanitation and livestock shelter facilities	SWM SEE  CHI  FPE HFF	592	DDM,LGED
CDM4	Protection and enhanced resilience of climate grants with a particular focus on gender and disability	Nationwide	124	DDM
CDM5	Gender-, age- and disability-responsive, youth-led disaster preparedness and emergency rescue and evacuation services	SWM   SEE   CHT   FPE   HFF   CBL   NNW   CHI   URB	20	DDM
CDM6	Increase the resilience of vulnerable poor communities by introducing gender-, age- and disability-responsive, diversified livelihoods, effective insurance mechanisms and climate resilience funds	Nationwide	535	DDM, LGD
CDM9	Halt child abuse, early marriage, and domestic violence triggered by climate-induced disasters	Nationwide	7	DDM, DSS, DWA
CDM10	Accelerated livelihood improvements for women, people with disabilities, and young entrepreneurs through vocational training on adaptation practices and ICT	Nationwide	230	DWA, ICT, DYD, PPPA
<b>3. Agriculture</b>				
CSA12	Development of ecommerce and engagement of women, people with disabilities, and youth in e-commerce based entrepreneurship	Nationwide	11	DAM, DAE, ICT
<b>5: Urban areas</b>				
CRC5	Expand innovative climate resilient, gender-, age- and disability-sensitive WASH technologies and facilities for urban communities	URB	65	LGD

Source: *Climate Financing for Sustainable Development: Budget Report 2024–25*

## Integration of climate change in gender budget

Since 2009, the GoB has produced a gender budget report (GBR), akin to the CFR, to assess how gender-sensitive or relevant the projects and programmes undertaken by the ministry/division are for women’s development.<sup>27</sup> The methodology for the GBR was revised in FY 2024–2025, and entails tracking “gender financing among different ministries and departments”, through a separate gender finance module in the national accounting system (IBAS++).

For FY 2024–2025, approximately 34.11 per cent of the national budget is classified as gender relevant,<sup>28</sup> a minor increase from the previous year (34.09 per cent in 2023–2024). This is 4.86 per cent of the GDP, a decline from the previous year (5.19 per cent in 2023–2024).

Of the 22 criteria in the GBR, one criterion is dedicated to climate change. A sub-code, 0106 “Capacity building of women in climate change mitigation and adaptation”, is included under the first thematic group on “Women’s empowerment and enhancing social status”. A review of the data in the GBR shows the following:

- In the last four years, there has been some increase in the budget allocation under this category – from 5901.9 crore BDT (in 2021–2022) to 6880.8 crore BDT (in 2024–2025).
- Data available in the last two years shows actual expenditure lower than the budget allocation with significant underutilization. For instance, in 2021–2022, actual expenditure was 3705.6 crore BDT against a budget allocation of 5901.9 crore BDT; and, in 2022–2023, the actual expenditure was 4375.8 crore BDT against an allocation of 5832.0 crore BDT.

Unlike the climate finance budget report, no additional disaggregation of the sub-code is provided for further analysis.

Of the 25 ministries/divisions providing data for the climate finance report, seven are among the top 10 allocating the highest percentage of their budgets

to gender relevant areas: Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, Ministry of Social Welfare; and Health Services Division, Secondary and Higher Education Division, and Technical and Madrasa Education. However, except for one reference to climate change in the introduction to the section on the Ministry of Social Welfare, an analysis of the impacts of climate change on gender is not included. Similarly, none of the seven ministries listed climate change as a priority area of investment for the 2024–2025 GBR.

## Key issues

**Budgetary allocations for gender-responsive climate financing remain low:** The GoB has made strong commitments to integrate gender into the relevant climate change policy framework. Despite a significant increase in climate financing over the years, however, the proportion of the overall climate budget tagged as gender relevant remains extremely low – less than one per cent in the last five years.

**Absence of a comprehensive methodology:** Currently, there is only one sub-code on gender, under one BCCSAP thematic area. Given the overarching commitments to gender equality in climate change adaptation and mitigation policies, it may be assumed that gender-related components are included across the other priority areas. However, the methodology used in the climate finance report does not capture this level of information, rendering a comprehensive analysis difficult.

**Limited alignment of gender and climate financing:** The GoB’s efforts to reflect gender in the climate-relevant methodology and vice versa are noteworthy. However, one of the challenges in the current system is the lack of alignment between the climate and gender budget reporting exercises. No gender tagging is used in the national accounting system (IBAS++) to align the climate budget with GRB. In the absence of this, it is difficult to assess the extent to which climate financing in Bangladesh is gender-responsive.

<sup>27</sup>GoB. Climate Financing for Sustainable Development: Budget Report (CFR) 2023–24. 2023.

<sup>28</sup>GoB. Gender Budget Report 2023–24.

**Relevant gender equality policy instruments not yet costed:** Although the CFR includes the costing of targeted interventions on gender equality, aligned to the NAP, key policy instruments such as the ccGAP are not costed. Costing is a key GRB tool that facilitates the estimation of the financial costs of undertaking an intervention. With this information, governments are able to quantify the human, infrastructural and financial resources required to effectively implement programmes and/or deliver services and to ensure that adequate resources are allocated in the government budget.

**Limited use of gender-disaggregated data and gender analysis:** In Bangladesh, significant efforts have been made to strengthen the collection and use of gender statistics, including disaggregated data.<sup>29</sup> However, the analysis in the CFR does not draw on any gender-disaggregated data. Gender-disaggregated data is key to conduct a robust gender analysis to ensure specific risks and vulnerabilities faced by women, girls and other vulnerable groups are taken into consideration to inform the design of climate change programmes and projects, and ensure adequate resources are made available for the same.

**Low representation of women in climate change-related decision-making:** The limited representation of women in climate change-related decision-making processes is another key challenge. While women members are included in the disaster management committees at the ward, union, and upazila levels, a study by UN Women found limited space and opportunities for women’s meaningful engagement and participation.

Evidence from past programming as well as stakeholder consultations also points to the absence of gender-diverse groups in these local-level decision-making platforms.

Overcoming these challenges requires a holistic approach that: prioritises locally led adaptation; strengthens capacity-building; ensures women’s participation, representation, and leadership at all levels; enhances monitoring and evaluation

mechanisms; and fosters greater collaboration among stakeholders.

## Recommendation

### Immediate – in the current fiscal year

#### *Ensure adoption and implementation of ccGAP across key ministries*

Priorities the adoption and implementation of the CCGAP across key ministries and government agencies, led by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. This involves selecting priority actions from the ccGAP, preparing detailed workplaces and projects, and developing a robust monitoring framework to track the investments, including assessing its utilization and impact in terms of enhancing the resilience of women, girls, and gender diverse groups. The ccGAP includes six priority areas: a) natural resources; b) livelihoods; c) infrastructure and settlement; d) women’s leadership and participation; e) gender-responsive means of implementation; and f) capacity-building, challenge. While women members are included in the disaster management committees at the ward, union, and upazila levels, a study by UN Women found limited space and opportunities for women’s meaningful engagement and participation.<sup>30</sup> Evidence from past programming as well as stakeholder consultations also points to the absence of gender-diverse groups in these local-level decision-making platforms.

Overcoming these challenges requires a holistic approach that: prioritises locally led adaptation; strengthens capacity-building; ensures women’s participation, representation, and leadership at all levels; enhances monitoring and evaluation mechanisms; and fosters greater collaboration among stakeholders.

knowledge management and communication. Each of the relevant ministries (e.g., Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Ministry of Fisheries) should review

<sup>29</sup>In 2022, UN Women collaborated with the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics to develop a Guideline and Protocol for Sex Age and Disability Disaggregated Data for disaster risks, after which the Bureau of Statistics piloted the collection of disaggregated data on disaster risks in three unions of Teknaf (Coxs Bazar), Shyamnagar (Satkhira, Chilmari (Kurigram) with the support of UN Women, also in 2022.

<sup>30</sup>UN Women. Understanding the Roles of Women Members in Union Disaster Management Committees in Bangladesh. 2015. Available at: <http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2016/01/understanding-the-roles-of-women-members-in-union-disaster-management-committees-in-bangladesh>.

the ccGAP and select proposed actions. Based on recommendations from key stakeholders, the following actions have been identified for prioritised engagement:

- **Ministry of Water Resources:** Prioritise interventions that “empower women to participate in community and local level water use and management bodies, including but not limited to water user groups”.
- **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC):** Draft community forest management guidelines to include roles, responsibilities, benefits, needs of both women and men
- **Ministry of Agriculture:** Develop an inventory of appropriate gender friendly equipment, tools, and techniques for climate adaptation and mitigation for improved agricultural production; and develop the capacity of women on those technologies.
- **Department of Fisheries:** Reform the legislation governing fisheries to include provisions that enable fisherwomen to register.
- **Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief:** Prioritise women’s leadership in the operation and maintenance of shelters.

### *Ensure ccGAP is costed*

Conduct a comprehensive costing of the ccGAP, under the leadership of the MOEFCC, and in consultation with relevant line ministries and departments; and ensure adequate budgetary allocations are earmarked in the annual budgets of the ministries/departments for effective implementation. The UN Women handbook on Costing Methodologies can serve as a useful resource for this exercise.<sup>31</sup>

### *Ensure consistent application of the BCCT gender guideline for investments in adaptation*

Leverage the BCCT “Gender Guideline for Climate Investment” as a key tool to ensure climate funds are

strategically allocated to initiatives that address the specific needs and priorities of women and vulnerable groups. The Planning Commission should circulate directives to all government ministries/departments, in alignment with the 22 criteria for measuring gender relevance.

### *Prioritise women-led local adaptation initiatives for investment*

Bangladesh, a pioneer of community-based adaptation, has several praise-worthy adaptation initiatives undertaken by grassroots CSOs and women’s rights organizations, including a community-based water system (e.g. rainwater harvesting) and resilient livelihoods for women. However, adaptation initiatives, which benefit the most vulnerable, particularly women in terms of financing, have not been sufficiently prioritised to date. There is a clear need to scale up these initiatives and ensure they are adequately funded.

It is important to prioritise locally led adaptation initiatives for funding, particularly those spearheaded by women’s rights organisations and women’s groups. These initiatives often possess invaluable insights into community-specific vulnerabilities and adaptive capacities, making them essential for building resilience at the local level. The GoB should design funding windows or specific projects for financing such initiatives with women’s rights organisations. Allocating funds and resources to support these initiatives will be key to develop contextually relevant adaptation strategies that effectively address gender disparities and promote sustainable development.

A certain proportion of governments’ adaptation funds should be earmarked to fund the initiatives of women-led organizations on accessible terms, especially from existing mechanisms, such as the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund, administered by PKSF. In addition, local government budgets should contribute to these initiatives. For this, the Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting Guideline (GRPB) for local government, developed by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA), can serve as a reference document.

<sup>31</sup>UN Women. Handbook on Costing Gender Equality. 2015. Available at: <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2015/Handbook%20on%20Costing%20Gender%20Equality.pdf>



### **Strengthen capacities for collection/use of gender-disaggregated data**

The collection and use of updated sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data on climate risks and impacts in the most climate-vulnerable areas of the country (using sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data collection tools available with the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics)<sup>32</sup> are critical to analyse and determine the differential needs and interests of diverse community members, their access to finance mechanisms, and power dynamics.

Comprehensive disaggregated data is essential to conduct robust gender analyses. Gender-disaggregated data should inform the design of gender-responsive project proposals. Concurrently, line ministries should enhance their capacity in gender analysis of ongoing/proposed programmes and projects, to identify areas where gender-responsive climate financing can be strengthened.

#### **Medium-term**

### ***Align gender-responsive budgeting with the climate budget***

Learning from best practices, the Finance Division should introduce gender tagging within all projects, tracking climate finance and integrating gender considerations with climate finance initiatives. The use of gender tagging in the national accounting system (IBAS++) will enable the Finance Division to align the climate budget with GRB. This approach will further enable the effective monitoring of budget utilization for gender equality across ministries.

### ***Integrate gender relevance criteria across the thematic areas of the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan***

Currently, only one thematic area includes a gender relevance criterion in the Climate Finance Framework. Further, the weightage given to gender in the BCCTF weightage matrix is low. It would be important to revisit the current weightage system in the CFR to

ensure the integration of gender across all thematic areas of the BCCSAP. This will be in line with the 2020 Climate Finance Framework which recommends fully aligning project preparation guidelines prepared by the Planning Division with the BCCSAP and ccGAP “so that climate finance can be identified, and gender actions can be monitored and evaluated”.

### ***Apply gender markers for infrastructure development***

The climate finance report notes that the bulk of funds are allocated towards infrastructure development. It is important to ensure that the needs and priorities of women and girls are taken into consideration while planning large-scale infrastructure projects. This involves ensuring equitable access to essential services, such as clean water, sanitation, and health care, particularly in climate-vulnerable areas. UN Women and the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) produced a Gender Marker for Infrastructure,<sup>33</sup> which can be adopted by ministries undertaking infrastructure projects. By investing in gender-responsive infrastructure, Bangladesh can enhance community resilience and promote inclusive growth that benefits all members of society.

### ***Enhance monitoring and evaluation mechanisms***

Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track the impact of gender-responsive climate initiatives should be strengthened. This will involve establishing clear indicators, benchmarks, and reporting frameworks to track progress, identify gaps, and facilitate evidence-based decision-making. By enhancing transparency and accountability in climate financing processes, Bangladesh can optimise resource allocation, enhance programme effectiveness, and achieve meaningful outcomes in the fight against climate change. Gender audits can be employed to assess the impact of infrastructure-related investments on vulnerable groups, such as women and girls. The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) drafted a gender-responsive audit tool. Once endorsed, this can be a useful tool for different ministries/departments to assess the medium- to longer-term gender

<sup>32</sup>Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, GoB. Integrating Gender and Social Inclusion in Environment, Climate Change and Disaster-related Statistics: Methodological Guidelines and Protocol for Data Producers and Users. 2020. Available at: [https://bbs.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bbs.portal.gov.bd/page/096977ca\\_4741\\_4b33\\_8214\\_7b994b64205c/2021-02-11-13-00-c90ac38ac8d34be8e23e497eac11adc8.pdf](https://bbs.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bbs.portal.gov.bd/page/096977ca_4741_4b33_8214_7b994b64205c/2021-02-11-13-00-c90ac38ac8d34be8e23e497eac11adc8.pdf)

<sup>33</sup>UN Women. Strengthening Gender Responsive Resilient Infrastructure of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) in Bangladesh. 2022. Available at: <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2022/03/women-and-girls-contribute-and-benefit-equally-from-sustainable-peace-and-resilience>.

differentiated impacts of their projects/programmes. Further, the use of GRB and social accountability tools, such as participatory expenditure tracking surveys, community-based monitoring, citizens’ report cards, social audits, etc. should be promoted, while ensuring the meaningful participation of women in these exercises.

### ***Strengthen inter-ministerial coordination***

Coordination among key ministries and among duty-bearers and rights-holders is key for concerted effort and greater results. With MOEFCC’s guidance and technical assistance, key ministries – the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Disaster Management, Ministry of Finance, and Ministry of Fisheries – should be supported to plan gender-responsive, climate-resilient development actions in line with the ccGAP.

### **Longer-term by 2030**

#### ***Increase investment in social infrastructure***

Investments in social-infrastructure projects benefiting women, girls and gender diverse groups should be prioritised. The Agreed Conclusion of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68 [2024]) reaffirms the commitment of member states to “facilitate adequate and simplified access to financing for, and build the capacities of, women’s, grass-roots women’s and youth organizations and Indigenous women leading local adaptation and mitigation efforts”.<sup>34</sup> This should be expanded to include climate adaptation projects focused on women’s climate-resilient livelihoods, access to drinking water, and access to sustainable energy technologies, contributing to advancing gender equality while reducing carbon emissions.

#### ***Ensure strong gender focus in climate-inclusive fiscal policies***

The CFF 2020 highlights the key role of fiscal policy measures, including taxation in addressing climate change. Analysis of proposed taxation measures from

a gender lens (using GRB tools) should be undertaken to assess the differentiated impacts on diverse groups.

#### ***Facilitate capacity-building and knowledge-sharing on the climate-care nexus and other emerging issues***

Investments in capacity-building and knowledge-sharing initiatives are necessary to enhance the skills and capabilities of women, youth, and marginalised communities in climate change adaptation and mitigation. These should include allocations for capacity-building initiatives as well as educational resources that empower individuals to actively participate in decision-making processes and contribute to climate resilience efforts. This, in turn, would foster a culture of innovation and collaboration to drive sustainable development and equitable climate action in the country. Going forward, the capacities of different stakeholders should be developed to conduct more complex analysis on emerging issues. This should include, for example, the climate-care nexus, to understand the range of impacts on women’s care burden, time poverty and labour (e.g. how the depletion and scarcity of resources or the destruction of infrastructure may lead to an increase women’s care burden and intensify their time poverty, among others).

#### ***Enhance women’s leadership in decision-making on climate action***

The GBR 2024–25 lists the engagement of CSOs as a good practice in Bangladesh. The GoB should continue to engage CSOs, especially women-led organisations and women’s rights organisations, in budget-related decision-making at all levels through processes, such as pre-budget consultations and participatory planning at the local level. This will be key to implement the Agreed Conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 68), which call on member states to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation and representation of women in diverse situations and conditions in all spheres of public life and at all levels, as well as their leadership in decision-making processes, including in economic policy, budget and financial processes, public institutions.

<sup>34</sup>Commission on the Status of Women, 68th session. Agreed conclusions. March 2024. Available at: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ltid/n24/081/40/pdf/n2408140.pdf?token=w7yhgYFAopnZl-z-H5y8&fe=true>

## Conclusion

By implementing these comprehensive recommendations, Bangladesh can unlock the full potential of gender-responsive climate financing,

driving transformative change that promotes gender equality, fosters inclusive development, and builds resilience to climate change.



Photo: UN Women/ZANALA Bangladesh Ltd.

## Case Story

### Women-led locally led adaptation in Khulna



Photo: UN Women

LIPIKA BAIRAGI, the Founder and Executive Director of the Association for Social Development and Distressed Welfare (ASDDW), located in Dacope, Khulna, is leading positive change in Bangladesh through the adoption of innovative technology to benefit the women in her community. Through the use of solar-powered irrigation pumps, each of which costs approximately USD 5,000 to put in place, the local aquifer is being replenished with desalinated rainwater, irrigating the surrounding 10-acre land in an environmentally friendly manner. Started in 2021 and run by women, this technology does not require diesel, replenishes salty soil with desalinated water, and supports local farmers and produce in a way that not only helps the country reduce its emissions but also empowers local women

Find out more about her journey : [Women's Leadership: Pioneering Climate Action](#)

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Contributing Authors: Dilruba Haider, Maud Aba'a, Navanita Sinha, Noor Ali Shah  
Layout Design: Maud Aba'a

House 39 | Road 43 | Gulshan 2 | Dhaka 1212 | Bangladesh | +88-02-222283828  
<http://bangladesh.unwomen.org> | [www.facebook.com/unwomenbangladesh](http://www.facebook.com/unwomenbangladesh)  
Contact: Dilruba Haider; Programme Specialist; [dilruba.haider@unwomen.org](mailto:dilruba.haider@unwomen.org)