



COUNTRY SNAPSHOT

December 2012

News from CDKN: Bangladesh as a leader on Loss and Damage

When CDKN first started talking to the Government of Bangladesh in 2011 about their ambitions to advance the issue of Loss and Damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change within the UNFCCC negotiations, we did not imagine that the resulting project would achieve so much and receive such attention.

The starting point for the project is local case studies which document the reality of Loss and Damage; these have then been used as inputs to regional discussions, which in turn have been influencing the global debate.

Regional consultations have taken place in Latin America, Africa and Asia to increase common understanding of the different approaches to address Loss and Damage. The Government and the project team have contributed to the official UNFCCC meetings on the subject, and the level of discussion on the subject online and in international and national forums is unprecedented. At COP 18 the issue, and five case studies of Loss and Damage, received wide coverage, and for the first time 'Loss and Damage' has been enshrined in an international legal document and funding pledges made from industrialised countries.

Highlights of Recent Impact

- CDKN's [project on Loss and Damage](#) with the Government of Bangladesh was not only showcased at the official regional UNFCCC meetings on the subject, the team involved actually helped **shape the agenda for the meeting, and facilitated the inputs of LDC Governments.**
- **A cadre of informed Government officials and their advisors** capable of moving the issue of Loss and Damage forward in the negotiations has been created. Policy-makers and stakeholders from across the world have completed a 5-week online course, via UNITAR, to learn the science and policy of Loss and Damage, and the key negotiating issues within the UNFCCC.
- Journalists and Editors for the first time sat together to decide how to **increase the quality and quantity of climate change reporting.** Three leading editors from the New Nation, BDNews24 and Baisakhi TV joined colleagues from across South Asia as part of a [Panos journalist fellowship](#) programme. In the words of one editor, "Bringing together editors and reporters to one interactive forum is a brave thing to do...There was palpable tension when the retreat began, which reduced significantly with time."

How we provide support in Bangladesh

Providing technical assistance and research which supports the Government of Bangladesh to develop and test effective tools and models on climate compatible development, and to advocate internationally for their replication and scale-up.

Total budget committed to date: approximately GBP 2 million.

CDKN Partners in Bangladesh:



From Bangladesh to Somalia: Monitoring Change through Community-Based Adaptation



'The ARCAB framework has been very strong in providing a simple and clear tool, yet very powerful in laying a pathway to achieving more sustainable, forward looking and flexible programmes for our Somalia/Somaliland country office. the tool was very successful in shifting the thinking and aligning different stakeholders efforts towards resilience. Save the Children is now replicating the process in Ethiopia.' Johara Bellali, Save the Children's Regional Manager for DRR/CCA in East Africa

"ARCAB's M&E for CBA framework is the best product on the market". Karimi Gittonga, Save the Children

'Action-Research on Community Based Adaptation Bangladesh' (ARCAB) – an innovative partnership of NGOs and practitioners has, with CDKN support, developed a tool for participatory M&E which can be used by practitioners implementing community adaptation initiatives. An unexpected result from the project is the South-South learning that has taken place on how to deliver, monitor and evaluate CBA interventions.

Ten 'action partners' in Bangladesh designed the tool, with Action Aid Bangladesh testing and implementing it with their CBA projects across the country. However, it has now been picked up by partners in Africa. Save the Children Somalia/ Somaliland have adopted the tool for their latest DRR-CBA project that covers 1,800 climate vulnerable poor pastoralists and households. They are also looking at how it can be used by their projects in Ethiopia.

The scaling up of the tool has gone even further. The Africa Climate Change Resilience Alliance (ACCRA) is using the indicators developed as part of the tool within its logical framework.

The international recognition, and use, of the M&E tool shows the appetite for a simple, participatory approach to not only 'what to measure' but 'how to measure' the effectiveness of CBA.



ARCAB partners designing and testing the M&E tool in 2011-2012 in Bangladesh

Update on CDKN Projects in Bangladesh

Loss and Damage in Vulnerable Countries Initiative – Nov 2011 – March 2013

As part of the UNFCCC process, CDKN is supporting the Government to develop a Work Programme to address Loss and Damage associated with climate change impacts, which will then be used as a model for other LDCs to replicate.

Over the last couple of months, the team implementing the project (Germanwatch, MCII, UNU) have continued to support the preparation of a formal submission to the UNFCCC on Loss and Damage. This included providing technical advice, and organising a workshop for LDC negotiators at the UNFCCC intercessional in Bangkok. A web-based online course is also running for some of these negotiators to build further understanding of the issue.

The project has also developed case studies to document the human impact of loss and damage. These case studies, as well as the formal submission, were launched at a side-event at COP18.

Action Research on Community Based Adaptation in Bangladesh (ARCAB) – July 2011 – Oct 2012

CDKN is supporting the 'Action-Research on Community Adaptation Bangladesh' (ARCAB) – an innovative partnership of NGOs and practitioners - to develop a tool for participatory M&E which can be used by practitioners implementing community adaptation initiatives. The project has now completed its activities and launched the tool nationally and internationally. It has already been adopted and scaled-up by various partners, even reaching Somalia (see previous page). CDKN will be helping to disseminate the results of the project online and through the CDKN network.



"The Government of Bangladesh is increasing its voice and impact on the international climate arena. It is shaping the agenda, and getting best practices locally, scaled up internationally....

...CDKN is happy to be helping them show this leadership."

Ali T. Sheikh, CDKN Asia Director



Adaptation policy options and interventions for climate induced displaced people of Bangladesh – Nov 2011 – June 2013

The Government of Bangladesh requested CDKN support to increase the evidence, and their understanding, on the reality of climate induced migration and how to respond. The research project, being implemented by the University of Sussex, UK and University of Bangladesh, is carrying out qualitative and quantitative analysis on the impact of climate change on human displacement, as well as a review of the existing policy framework and interventions underway.

Plans are underway to make a short documentary on this issue, capturing the new evidence this research will produce, and raising awareness locally and internationally of the policy challenges.

Loss and Damage: From Defining to Understanding to Action

By Kashmala Kakakahel, CDKN Project Manager

It is widely accepted that existing mitigation commitments and actions will not prevent dangerous climate change related impacts. Therefore, **residual Loss and Damage**, the climate change impacts that we are unable to prevent through mitigation and adaptation efforts, will likely be the defining part of the future response to climate change.

This was first officially recognised by the 2010 Cancun Adaptation Framework, which launched a Work Programme to develop policy options to address Loss and Damage. It is hoped a decision will be made at the climate summit in Doha in December 2012 on how to respond to Loss and Damage, both in the short term and as part of the post-2020 international climate regime.

Twenty years ago, when countries realised that carbon emissions are a threat to the future of human existence, efforts were put into **'preventing'** climate change impacts – and the concept of climate change mitigation was born. Ten years later it became clear that mitigation was not happening quickly enough, and it alone would not combat climate impacts. By the seventh UNFCCC CoP, adaptation surfaced as a new area which was to assist in **'managing'** climate change impacts.

Today, understanding on mitigation and adaptation is relatively advanced, and has resulted in some level of action to reduce the impact of climate change. However, lives are still being lost due to climate catastrophes resulting in irreplaceable losses that are slipping through the mitigation and adaptation 'nets'. This is forcing people to rethink how climate change is being tackled. The idea of Loss and Damage is emerging as a way of **'responding'** to climate change impacts.

As a new issue, there is still significant debate about how to address Loss and Damage, with the main options being Risk Reduction, Risk Retention and Risk Transfer. The CDKN funded **Loss and Damage in Vulnerable Countries Initiative** is facilitating debate and leadership on this issue, to try and speed up progress internationally.

It is widely commented that when a new concept emerges within the international climate talks, it follows a four-stage process: 1) Awareness of the issue, but lack of knowledge on the problem, and often confusion over terminology; 2) New knowledge is generated and understanding is enhanced 3) Decision-making starts to address the issue and 4) The issue is mainstreamed within 'Business as Usual (BAU)'.

History indicates that completing all four stages takes around ten years. For Loss and Damage we are still at phase 1. There are still many challenges ahead before consensus can be reached, in particular on the definition of Loss and Damage. But, it is hoped that by using available knowledge gained from the last 20 years of climate research and policy, progress will be speeded up.

For the full version of this article, visit www.cdkn.org/regions/asia/

What is the Climate and Development Knowledge Network?

CDKN is an alliance of six private and non-governmental organisations operating across four continents. The network provides support to decision makers in developing countries to design and deliver climate compatible development. We do this by combining research, advisory services and knowledge management, in support of locally owned and managed policy processes. We work in partnership with decision-makers in the public, private and non-governmental sectors.

For further information please visit our website www.cdkn.org or e-mail us at asia@cdkn.org

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