

INTEGRITY IN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS: LESSONS FROM BANGLADESH

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CONTEXT

- Bangladesh is prone to natural disasters and climate change and is increasingly experiencing deep impacts
- During 2009-2015, only floods have caused a financial loss of about USD 3.53 billion and deprived Bangladesh from achieving an additional 0.30% growth in GDP per year
- Poorly governed climate finance diverted into private accounts and vanity projects have in many ways contributed to the damaging effects
- Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement, SDGs and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction encourage countries to strengthen good governance and effective response systems in disaster risk management

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND CORRUPTION

Although Bangladesh's disaster response and management model are widely commended and followed, they suffer from various governance challenges which weaken the potential for effective handling of disasters.

Abuse of Power

- Built to be used as school cum cyclone shelter, but its rooms stand empty-no classes held
- Ignoring the needs of the vulnerable community, the government engineer responsible for building the shelter located it near his house for his own convenience & to demonstrate his power—leaving local people angry & at risk
- Now the fishing community it is supposed to serve lives on the opposite riverbank, and cannot reach the cyclone shelter during storms



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND CORRUPTION

Misuse of Funds

Despite approving 40% projects from national climate funds for constructing shelters, roads, embankments & repair of infrastructures, no significant improvement is found due to sloppy implementation, embezzlement & lack of project prioritization

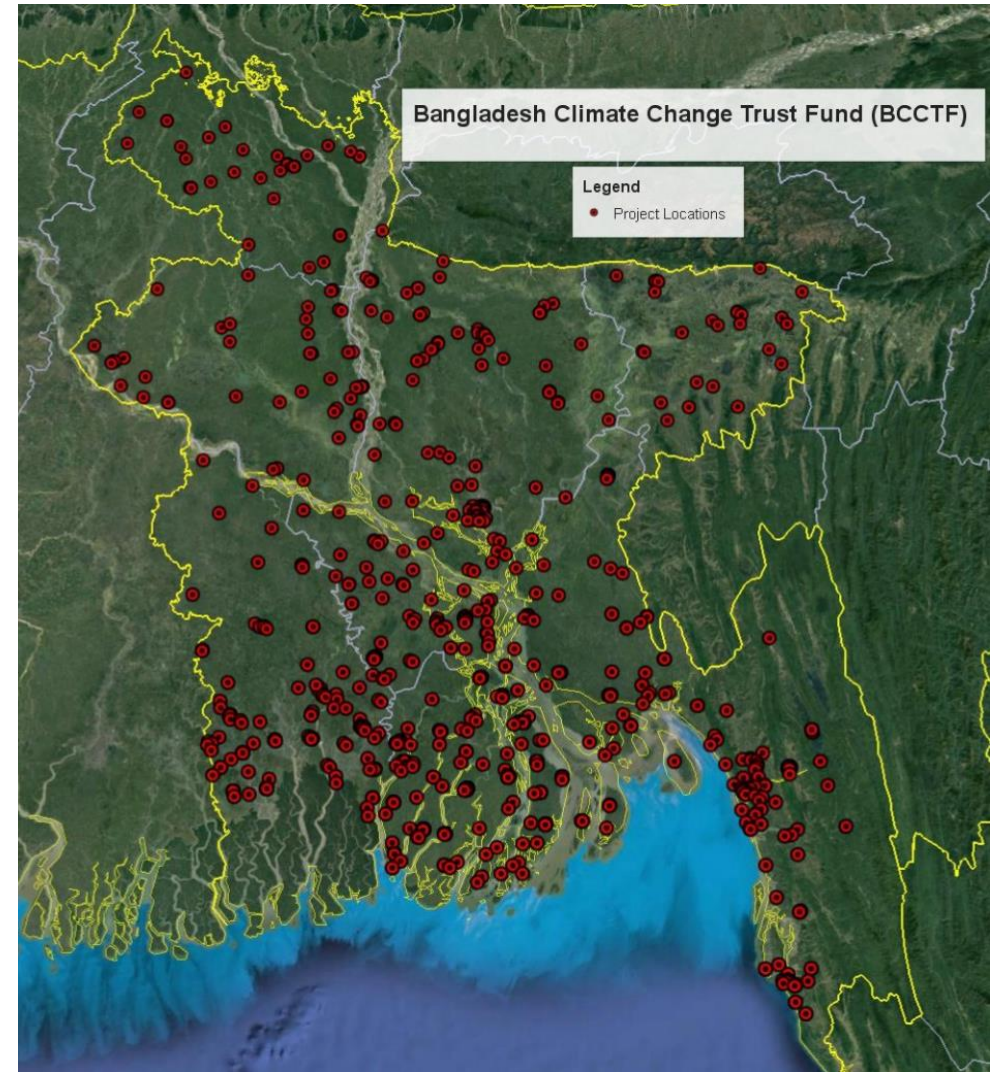
- Cyclone/flood shelters could not deliver the benefits to affected people as they lack emergency facilities (e.g., women, children, elderly, physically challenged). Only 7% of the affected people accessed govt. shelters during the floods in 2019
- A total 46 educational institutions were fully & 5,056 were partially damaged as no risk assessment was done
- School furniture & educational materials were submerged in water and damaged
- Increased loss and damage- each affected family suffered a of loss of USD 2022



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND CORRUPTION

Political consideration in project selection

- Allegations and cases of project approval on political considerations—concentration of projects granted in areas where vulnerability is less
- Some non-existing NGOs were granted climate projects
- TI-Bangladesh study found that insufficient projects/funds were available to prevent river erosion, repair dams & embankments in affected areas during the flood 2019 despite vulnerabilities
- Some projects were found to be already damaged, due to faulty implementation



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND CORRUPTION

Syphoning project money

- A project of 2003 houses, US\$1400 for each house, is unable to protect families from cyclone, storm, flood, cold as money was syphoned by the contractors
- Despite building walls following TIB's report, water seeps from the roof due to low quality of construction and substandard work
- The shelter has no sanitation, water supply and personal hygiene facilities



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND CHALLENGES

- **Shortage of Resources and Capacity**

- Resource constraints to build sufficient shelters
- Inadequate funding from Govt. for rehabilitation (only USD 0.50 to USD 7/house)

- **No practical progress in establishing a fund** under the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss & Damage (The WIM)

- **Concern over promoting private sectors and insurance companies in WIM**

- **No concrete guidelines to report loss and damage**

- **Little consideration of non-economic losses & damages for disaster management**

Climate change impacts the life and livelihood of the poor but corruption multiplies their vulnerability- Stop Corruption in Climate Projects-NOW!



THANK YOU

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