

A Policy Brief

Moving ahead with the Agenda and Priority of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030



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It is high time to continue to build the linkage between Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), Sustainable Development (SD) and DRR to demonstrate progress and relevance to other processes.

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 some progress in disaster risk management and preparedness. The country has formulated National Plan for Disaster Management in the light of HFA1 (UNISDR, 2005). Bangladesh has 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 to address disasters. There is still weakness in implementation, which is very often constrained by lack of resources, capacity among the actors and stakeholders, poor governance and lack of coordination.

Convergence of DRR and CCA

The year 2015 is very crucial for the DRR community and development practitioners. We are in the era where the world is converging towards post MDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), Post 2015 Framework on DRR in Sendai, Japan led by UNISDR and Paris Climate Conference under the UNFCCC for a legally binding agreement to combat climate change. It is high time to continue to build the linkage between



Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), Sustainable Development (SD) and DRR to demonstrate progress and relevance to other processes. Bangladesh has been designated to be one of the priority countries for Asia and Pacific consultation on DRR.

In this backdrop, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) with support from Christian Aid, UK 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. Following the recommendations of the consultation and major decisions came around Sendai; BCAS attempted to prepare a policy brief for macro level policy makers, development partners, research institutes, NGOs and Civil Society Organizations.

This policy brief calls upon government, UN agencies, I/NGOs, private sector, academia, civil society and other stakeholders to breakdown silence and act as an unit to create a platform for joint efforts on DRR, CCA and SD. Through the review exercise and stakeholder consultation, the review team has already outlined the emerging issues and priority areas for action. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 has given the opportunity to farther enhancement of coordinated approach.

Civil society policy review and recommendations

In light of HFA-2 and SREX (IPCC, 2012: Special Report on DRR and CCA) – the policy review exercise identified the gaps, challenges and area of improvement in the existing policies and strategies in integrating and mainstreaming CCA and DRR.

The exercise was rigor and large in its breadth – included the assessment of national policies and strategies, consultation, group discussion and key informant interview. The findings of the exercise were validated through a stakeholder workshop and subsequently consolidated into a two pager communication material titled “Key Message from Bangladesh Civil Society for Third World Conference on DRR in Sendai”.

The concerns raised through the process include a wider range of issues. Some of the noteworthy points are summarized below:



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Thematic Areas/Domains	Proposed areas for Improvement
Macro level/Sectoral policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of sectoral policies to integrate DRR & CCA in line with post HFA and SREX Harmonizing the policy guidelines and directives in line with future climate projections and changed intensity and frequency of extreme events.
Regulatory Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More resource allocation to implement at local level Adjust risk financing considering the changing scenario and enhance financing for DRR and CCA Professional and institutional capacity building Risk integrated infrastructure development Increase local to national inter/intra coordination Include climate change mitigation measure in risk financing Political will and consensus Post 2015 NPDM
Governance/Co-ordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve consultation and coordination for plan and implementation Activate DRR Platforms with focus on CCA Narrow the gap between project design and implementation time Strengthen local level DM coordination and governance Enhance coordination in early warning

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Quality/Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put in place regulatory body for quality control Establish information sharing, of CCA & DRR Improve the local and national governance system for quality implementation of DRR & CCA actions Create central funding , operation and monitoring mechanism
Programmatic Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balancing rural-urban DRR and CCA practices Addressing hazard and sector specific risks Producing the guidelines to facilitate mainstreaming of DRR and CCA Stabilizing local level DRR and CCA fund Establish funding and stakeholders database Establish knowledge repository Engaging the private sector through PPP arrangement Strengthen the contingency mechanism and
DRR-CCA &SD Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate compatible development integrating DRR,CCA and SD Harmonization of policies to get benefit for integration Information and learning sharing on the programme to strengthen the integration mechanism Policy directions should be based on future climate projections Develop monitoring and evaluation system for DRR & CCA programme

Call for Action

With the Sendai Framework for Action in hand, it is high time to call for an integrated and coordinated effort to shift the paradigm of segregated DRR, CCA and SD approaches. In our experience from the exercise and post-Sendai movement, the critical elements for impactful DRR-CCA-SD integration are manifold :

Key approaches to successful DRR-CCA-SD integration are:

- Putting community resilience at the center
- Integrating disciplines
- Multi-stakeholder approaches with enhanced horizontal and vertical coordination
- Accountability, transparency and good governance
- Alignment with Sendai Framework and SREX
- Regular monitoring and reporting of progress

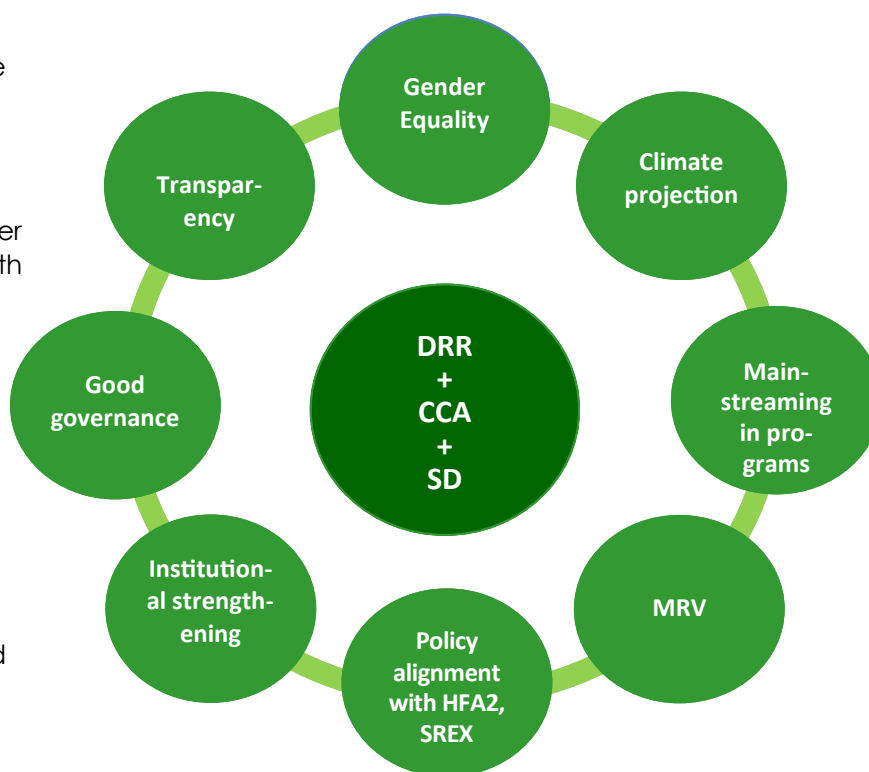


Figure 1: CCA, DRR & SD linkages

The Post 2015 Framework on DRR must focus on disaster and poverty as well as on long term climate impacts due to variability, extremes and slow on set.

Taking this approach into consideration, the roles and responsibilities of the actors and stakeholders can be decentralized as below:

Global Agencies and Actors

- CCA and DRR integration are challenged by many non-climatic factors e.g., poor governance, lack of finance & international cooperation, participation, accountability and efficient use of resources, which need to be recognized and addressed urgently

- Poverty alleviation should be a central focus in DRR and CCA action
- Vulnerability tools should be brought under common ground
- There are some trans-boundary challenges deriving from the behavior of neighboring countries like bird flu, swine flu etc.
- Assessment of L&D due to climate disasters and demand for compensation
- More DRR financing for developing countries



Photo: BCAS

National Agencies and Actors

- Harmonization of policies from national to local levels
- Women should be included into local disaster management plan formulation and capacity building
- Disaster management capability in saving lives is evident, but not sufficient in enhancing resilient livelihood and reducing climate vulnerability
- Public-private partnership can be included into disaster management response
- Corporate sector should produce and make available products (such as food, water, energy and medicine) which are useful in disaster management and relief operation
- Priority Area 2 of HFA-2 (Governance) should be considered seriously both for government and non-government agencies.
- Capacity of NGOs for working simultaneously on DRR and CCA should be enhanced
- Long term investment in disaster prevention and CCA from government
- Urbanization, migration and RMG are linked in Bangladesh, which needs positive transformation through planned efforts and DRR measures
- Increasing media role in DRR and CCA
- NGO should work as watchdog

Local Actors and Stakeholders

- Understanding of the disaster risks by 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
- LGs must get more resources and authority in DRR and CCA activities .

1. UNISDR (2005): *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 - Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters*; www.unisdr.org/wcdr
2. IPCC (2012): *Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaption*; Cambridge University Press . New York.



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