

# CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE PROGRAM



# Islamic Relief, Bangladesh

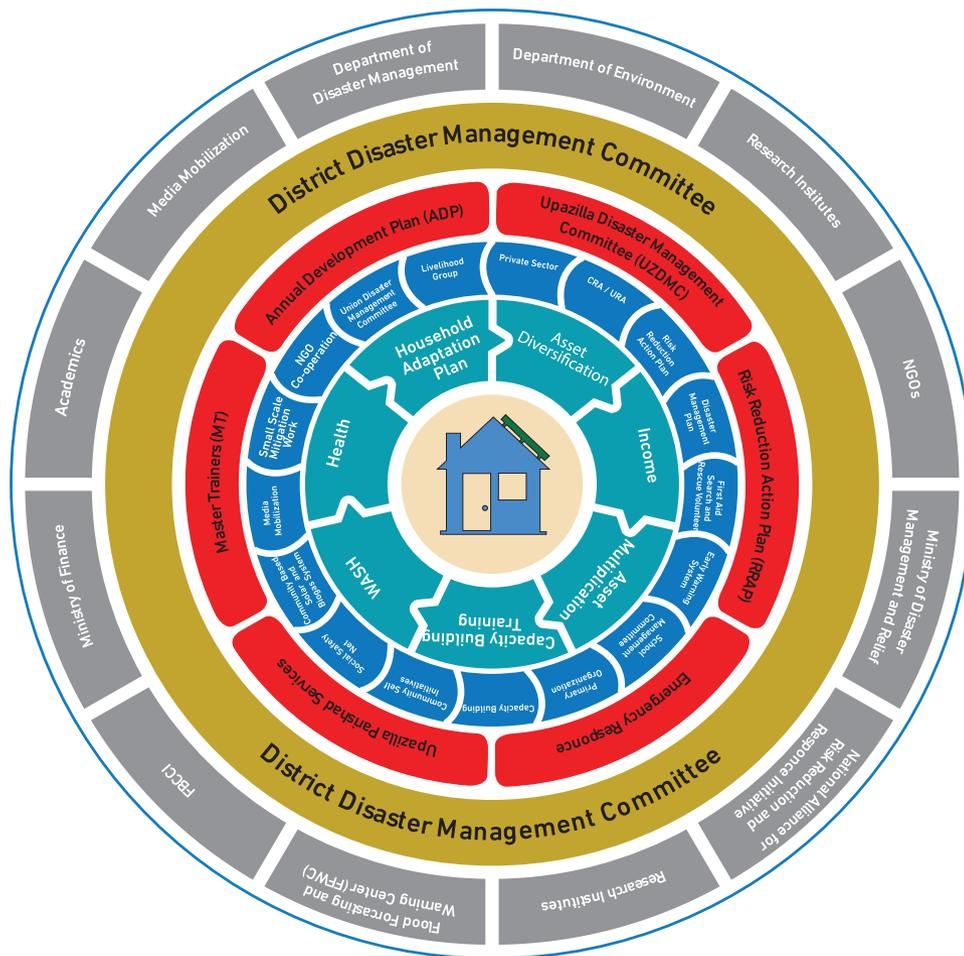
## Climate Change and Disaster Resilience Program

Islam promotes a holistic approach to climate change and disaster resilience. It assumes a link and interdependency between all natural elements - it teaches that if humanity abuses or exhausts one element, the natural world as a whole will suffer direct consequences. With this in mind, and informed by our experience and learning, Islamic Relief in Bangladesh has adopted an integrated approach to address disaster and climate risks. In partnership with government, academic institutions, civil society, communities and the private sector, we are working to support a vibrant, thriving and resilient Bangladesh.

Islamic Relief works with the most vulnerable people in disaster-prone areas. We give special emphasis to socially excluded and marginalized people, women, and older persons. We help local communities and institutions to build and scale up their capacity.

We promote and integrate traditional and indigenous knowledge with the scientific approach of our academic partners and research institutions-creating practical, replicable and impact-orientated solutions which strengthen community and family resilience. We also invest in advocacy and actively develop the leadership capacity of vulnerable people. This makes sure that poor people have their voices heard, and their priorities and concerns are included in local and national planning. In addition, we work with mandated emergency response agencies including the Fire Service & Civil Defense to achieve a stronger, coordinated emergency response. This includes developing trained community volunteers, as part of an overall response and recovery strategy.

# Islamic Relief's Resilience Framework



Islamic Relief Bangladesh is working to systematically enhance the resilience of the most climate-vulnerable households and communities in Bangladesh through strengthening their adaptive capacity and reducing their risk exposure by supporting households, communities, local government and national institutions to anticipate, plan for and adapt to and recover from climate variability and shocks. We work to support the strengthening, linking and integration of local to national sub-systems through bottom-up planning designed to inform national level development planning and climate finance decisions in favour of the most climate-vulnerable communities and persons in Bangladesh.

H Household Level
 C Community Level
 U Upazilla Level
 D District Level
 N National Level

# Model for Scaling Up Community Resilience through Community Resource Centers



Islamic Relief Bangladesh has developed a network of Community Resource Centres which act as a hub of social business, information and services related to resilient livelihood and climate change adaptation.

## Promoting Resilient Livelihood



Reducing risks, responding to external shocks and more recently the fervent consequences of climate change are some of the factors leading to decisions to diversify earning options to move forward towards a resilient livelihood options. Local people of Haor and coastal area are used to practice crop cultivation only in one cropping season the Aman growing season except this period due to conspicuous unfavorable condition yielding can't be plausible. Miles of lands remain fallow as un-cultivated, intending income and food insecurity. IR, B supports local people of Haor and coastal area with technological assistance and guidance for climate adaptive livelihood options for ameliorating their resilience. Climate adaptive livelihood activities indicate improved capacity to plan for a resilient future and to manage risks of further shocks.

## Expanding Incomes



The communities we serve are considered the poorest of the poor, who often struggle for their daily needs. Factors such as geographic vulnerability, climatic hazards prevent them from moving forward in society. Islamic Relief, Bangladesh is enabling them to pull themselves out of poverty through the assistance of assorted Income Generating Activities (IGA).

## Diversifying Livelihood for Climate Change



Disaster and climate vulnerable families have been adapting diverse climate adaptive On Farm and Off Farm livelihood options which will boost up, in increasing their household incomes significantly and improving their status by multiplication of productive asset value, contributing to uplift their socio-economic status in society.

## Farmer's Field Laboratory: Adapting Agriculture



Islamic Relief, Bangladesh is guiding local people on the Farmer's Field Laboratory (FFL) approach through collaborating with different research institutes, Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) and Community Producer Groups. Farmer's Field Laboratory (FFL) the modern coping strategy to thwart the impacts of the damages by climate changes. It's easy to disseminate and replicate the approach, which ascertains sustainability of cropping intensity in a changing climate. Generally FFL is a demonstrative plot, wherein farmers can test a new crop technology with diversifying their knowledge and skillset. Farmer's Field Laboratory has been built on the assumption that, by carrying out their own analysis and activities local farmers of the coastal belt could implement the techniques towards all their crops.

## Producer Group: Empowering Farmers



Islamic Relief, Bangladesh relies on community participation in empowering farmers by themselves through building management skills and leadership along with expertise in agriculture and other input support such as seeds, fertilizers and pesticides

## Renewable Solar Home Energy



To reduce household's fuel expenditure, Islamic Relief, Bangladesh has started to replace kerosene lanterns by solar powered lanterns. Replacing the kerosene lantern, a solar powered lantern/lamp is making it easy in terms of accessibility for the rural people it is also a very low cost power for lighting, This curtails their cost for lighting and household level non-food expenditures. Kerosene lanterns users also no longer need to buy kerosene or candles for lighting, due to which a large amount of income can be saved in the long run as well as limitation of carbon (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions.

## Improved Cooking Stove



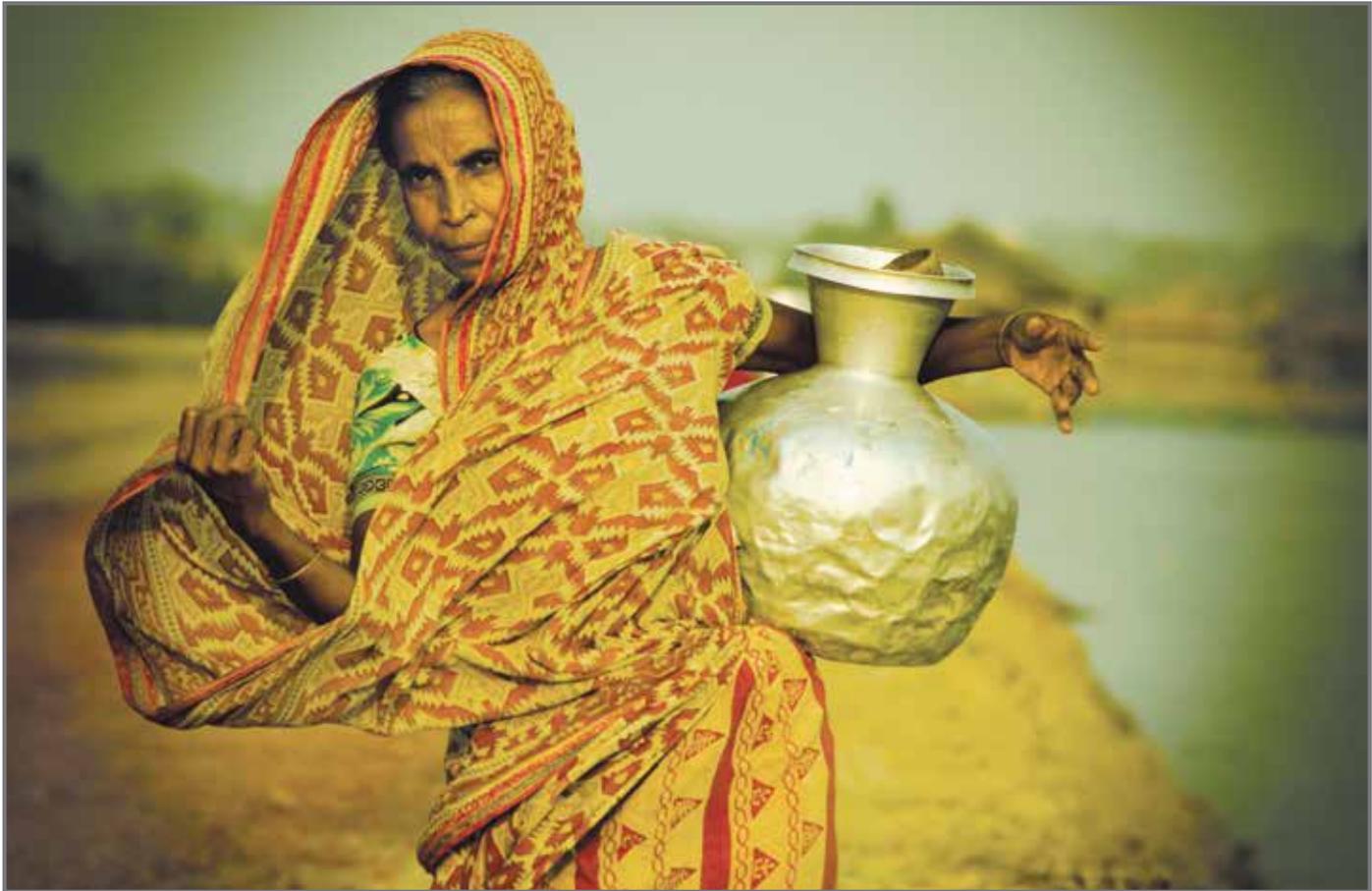
Women of rural areas cook in a stove made of mud, which takes a long while and are stuck within a smoky ambience. All of them are used to it, even though it costs are high. Considering these issues Islamic Relief, Bangladesh has conducted a plan to support rural women with an improved cooking stove. By using the new stove, nearing 50 percent of gross fuel cost will be less and savings can be managed on an average of 2,112 taka monthly. To local people this distinct cooking stove is called as "Bondhu Chula", which is a highly efficient working stove that reduces fuel consumptions. Moreover it's smoke free, creating a safe environment for women and children.

## Green Environment Development



We are embarking in controlling carbon emissions through tree plantation. Other climate change mitigation initiatives through CO<sub>2</sub> emission controlling are also included here as renewable energy usage, awareness and adaptation campaigns and implementation of climate or eco friendly technology are being used.

## Ensuring Safe Drinking Water



People in coastal areas constantly suffer from scarcity of safe drinking water due to the high salinity intrusion. People need on average to walk at least a mile to collect pure saline free water from distinct sources for drinking. People set out from their home every morning to fetch water before dusk from far-flung areas. Urgency of water forces them to walk miles under the hot weather. Their struggle to collect water continues all year round. We have installed many tube wells within the project broad wise area to get drinking water easily. It has made plausible the availability of safe water beyond impediments through intensified salinity and shows we can alleviate the suffering of people who suffer from scarcity of water.

## Community Based Early Warning System



Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP) volunteers are integrated with the early warning and emergency systems and its own ability of taking effective action during a disaster period. Our effort in enabling communities to respond to warning message through 500 trained volunteers. In addition at Union level, early warning equipment including Megaphone, Hand Siren and Radio were provided to Union Disaster Management Committees (UDMCs).

## Digitized National Flood Forecasting System



For enhancing flood warning system at remote flood vulnerable areas Islamic Relief, Bangladesh is in collaboration with Flood Forecasting and Warning Center (FFWC) has initiated for piloting "Data Communication through SMS" at selected 120 sites across Bangladesh. With the new system, the gauge readers across the country send collected water level and rainfall data through SMS to FFWC following a specified format. Then data is automatically transferred through software to main databases as the input of the model. Thus providing data to the FFWC database quickly with less cost and more accuracy, FFWC of BWDB is in partnership with this initiative. The resulting forecast information is being provided for twice in a day instead of once at present.

## Household Disaster Preparedness



To increase the scope of focusing on actual improvements of quality of life, vulnerability must be reduced. Taking in the reality of the area where our work is located, we acknowledge that it is more important and useful for those communities to anticipate and remain prepared for calamities.

## CRA: Risk Identification and Assessment



We engage our communities in the process of risk identification, analysis, monitoring and evaluation of their risks. An effective risk reduction and mitigation plan can be conducted easily after assessing risks through the community itself.

## Community Risk Mitigation



IRB is contributing to reduce risk through different low cost and innovative small scale mitigation measures such as re-excavation of drainage and irrigation canals along with resilient sanitation and drinking water options, homestead raising with shelter repair, construction or repairing link road networks, school ground raising and repairing culverts and embankments

## Capacity Building



Our capacity building initiatives are designed to develop and operationalize the community risk reduction planning process by way of facilitating with undertaking of mitigation initiatives at the community level.

## School Centered Disaster Risk Reduction



IRB is working in disaster-prone areas of Bangladesh to ensure the safety of school buildings as well as preparedness for potential disasters of teachers and students. School children, teachers have been taught basic life-skills, which will help in ensuring their safety at school and within their communities. IR, B believes that children have the right to participate in discussions of disaster management and climate change decisions.

## Community Volunteers for Urban Risk Reduction



Islamic Relief, Bangladesh is endeavoring to foster up the existing capacities of the people and promote self sufficient communities for urban risk reduction. IR, B has facilitated the process through organizing strong community groups in the working areas. These groups are connected with individual households and other local communities including civil service providers. The members of these community groups work very sincerely especially in terms of learning things, disseminating knowledge, taking actions, coordinating with relevant bodies and doing all relevant things needed for urban disaster risk management. They are being provided with different capacity building trainings, which will make themselves skilled and equipped.

## Earthquake Preparedness



Our earthquake preparedness initiative is an effort to increase community resilience through urban volunteer training, Mock Drill/ Simulation Exercise.

## Urban Waste Management



IRB is unceasingly contributing for a safe and sustainable solid waste management of municipal waste, which aims at conserving the environment by promoting waste management activities.

## Eco-friendly Infrastructure Develop and Urban up-gradation



Considering the likely impacts of changing climate, IRB aims to promote green infrastructures through managing rain water and pond superintending in the slum areas of Dhaka City.

## Ensuring Water Sanitation for the Urban Poor



Kalshi area with clutter households is seen as a shanty town, which is an over populated area. Occupants of this slum use water, supplied from Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (WASA) representative illegally. Water is seen to be managed in an improper way at open places, for daily uses. Moreover here people with children use unhygienic toilets for sanitation purpose, causing water borne diseases. Considering above issues IR, B has taken some initiatives under "Hygienic Water Sanitation Management" for ensuring urban resilience. Now purified water, which a four distinct layer of filtration, this is available to use for daily household chores, drinking purpose as well as sanitation purposes. Two hygienic latrines have been implanted through the support of IR, B, and around 50 households will benefit from these initiatives.

## Environment Friendly Abattoir



Aiming to provide healthy and hygienic meat to Dhaka dwellers Islamic Relief, Bangladesh has constructed a eco friendly Slaughter House, which is not only an area to be used for slaughtering animals but also an environment friendly place. It has separate slaughtering chambers, a bio-gas plant to utilize the animal droppings and a rainwater harvesting plant to run the process in an environment-friendly and energy-efficient manner.



*The Earth is green and beautiful, and Allah has appointed you his stewards over it.*

*(Saying of the Prophet Muhammad peace and blessings be upon him)*

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