



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

UNDP MEDIA COVERAGE

2018



Dhaka Tribune • 18 December 2018

How climate change is impacting plain land ethnic minorities

Agriculture is the main occupation of many members of ethnic minorities, but climate change has left most of them unemployed

Niresh Pahan, one of many ethnic minority farmers living in Naogaon, is on the brink of starvation and poverty as most of his paddy crop died this year. Of the harvest he will reap, half of it will go to the land owner.

The 30-year old man lives in a village under Ganguriya union of Porsha upazila. Niresh is concerned that the landlord might not be happy with the harvest he reaped, and might stop leasing him farmland.

He, like many others, has fallen victim to climate change affecting the region.

Speaking to the Dhaka Tribune, Niresh said: "We usually stock enough rice to cover our needs throughout the year, but what about other expenses? Additionally, most of the landlords have started farming mangoes on their land due to climate change; leaving us without work.

"We are not qualified for any other line of work. So,

employment opportunities for us are shrinking rapidly." Aside from agriculture, many farmers such as Niresh have no alternative but to work at brick kilns for meager pay.

To further supplement their income, around 40 men, including Niresh, leave their little village multiple times a year in search of cheap labour work at farmlands of: Faridpur, Natore, Pabna, Rajshahi, Tangail, and Dhaka.

Niresh's wife—Sonali Rani, 21— who also works as a farmhand in a nearby union, said: "We can hardly cover the daily expenses. I make Tk200 per day, but have to spend Tk50 on transportation."

The scenario is the same in the Saor, Ganguria and Ghatnagar unions of this upazila. Agriculture is the main occupation of members of ethnic minorities in the region, but a few members of the Oraon community also work in other professions.

Effects of climate change

"Around 75% of rice cultivation land is now being used for mango farming, or fruit farming. These farms need fewer workers, and the land owners make significantly more profit," said Laksman Tikka, 50, who lives in the area.

He added that the average temperature in this region is gradually increasing, and rainfall has decreased significantly. This change in climate is forcing land owners to change their agricultural patterns.

Laksman is presently working as a construction worker in Mahadebpur upazila, after the land he used to cultivate rice was converted into a fruit farm by the owner.

These landless minorities mostly depend on local landowners for work and accommodation. As they do not own any land, loaning money from banks is extremely difficult for them.

Panimuni Pahan, a resident of Ganguria, said she tried to loan money from Sonali Bank and Islami Bank but was denied

"Even if we want to raise livestock at our home, there is no way to get financial support for startup capital. Purchasing a cow, which would cost me between Tk15,000 to Tk25,000, is next to impossible for me," said Panimuni.

Some of the local population says they can loan money from some non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in the area. However, paying the weekly installments in a timely manner is difficult for these people, as the community remains without work for multiple seasons every year.

Hefty profits, few concerns

Abdus Sabur Master, owner of Barendra Mango Nursery in Baragari, told the Dhaka Tribune: "My farmlands, along with the lands of many others, are now being used for fruit farming; as the profit is significantly larger than that of rice cultivation."

Echoing the same opinion, Prabin Kumar Saha, a land owner in Ghatnagar area said: "A major portion of my farmland has been turned into fruit farms. I earned around Tk40,000 this year, after deducting expenses. I used to make around Tk5,000 from the land while it was being used to cultivate rice."

Addressing the issue, AHM Firoz, project officer of Barendrabhumi Samaj Unnayan Sangstha (BSDO), said: "Plain land ethnic minority communities are slipping into a more vulnerable situation because of: climate change, reduced rainfall, modern farming technology and lack of professional training opportunities."

BSDO is a local NGO working with ethnic minorities' development and social inclusion in the area.

Upazila Chairman Anwarul Islam admitted that increasingly more members of the community are having difficulty finding work because of ongoing climate change.

"The local administration is working to bring these people under the social safety net. As part of this effort, we have held several meetings with the local landowners, urging

them to support the local ethnic minority community by providing them with work," he added.

Bangladesh Adivasi Adhikar Andolon leader Sanjeeb Dron told the Dhaka Tribune that almost every such community living in plain lands faces a situation similar to that of farmers in Naogaon.

What do the experts say?

Commenting on the issue, Professor Hafiza Khatun of Dhaka University's Geology and Environment department, said: "Climate change is partially responsible for making the ethnic minority communities' situation more vulnerable."

"The second major issue is that they have no alternative occupation or professional training, which puts them out of work during off-seasons. The land ownership issue is another vital reason. Additionally, local farmlands remain un-utilized throughout the year, except during cultivation seasons."

Prof Hafiza suggested that the government pay special attention to improving the lives of the ethnic minority communities by taking steps such as raising awareness regarding climate change, providing professional training, and launching initiatives to maximize the use of farmland.

Many land owners in Naogaon are converting farmlands in fruit farms, as climate change gradually turned rice farming a difficult endeavor | Kamrul Hasan/Dhaka Tribune

"The local ethnic minority community will be able to become self-reliant through fewer restrictions to availing financial assistance, professional training, and the assurance of better land lease arrangements with owners," she added.

In order to address the climate-induced livelihood vulnerabilities of plain land ethnic minorities, HEKS/EPER—a Switzerland based international NGO—has developed a bilateral partnership with UNDP to implement an IBFCR project that aims to empower women, and a project named Climate Change Adaptation Project for Plain land

Ethnic Minority Communities.

Speaking to the Dhaka Tribune, HEKS/EPER Country Director Anik Asad said: "Community-level intervention is not sufficient enough to ensure climate-resilient livelihoods of the plain land ethnic minorities."

"A plain land minorities-friendly policy should be undertaken in order to adapt to and implement it; unfailingly addressing the climate adaptive livelihoods of these communities."

Meanwhile, Tevita G Boseiwaqa Taginavulau, director general of CIRDP said: "The negative impact of climate change is already evident particularly in rural areas, since rural people are highly dependent on natural resources and ecosystem services and also highly vulnerable to climate change induced natural disasters and extreme weather events."

"One key important strategy—which CIRDP is advocating for in Bangladesh—is to increase livelihood opportunities in non-farm sectors like promotion of agro-processing industries, rural entrepreneurship etc., as a way to diversify the livelihood options for rural people."

He added that local government's active engagement and leadership is also important in providing necessary capacity-building to rural people and other functionaries.

In a recent program held in early November, in Dhaka, UNDP Country Director Sudipto Mukherjee said: "UNDP has been working for a long time on climate change issues relating to rights of the plain land ethnic minorities."

"Presently, UNDP has a clear idea, from these interventions, about the vulnerabilities of the indigenous people to climate change. And our interventions... will be expanded to reduce the vulnerabilities of these excluded groups."

Similar news coverage:

Daily Samakal

<https://bit.ly/2TLE0ZU>



UNDP Bangladesh • 11 December 2018

Establishing human rights key for inclusive social progress towards SDGs

Speakers at the celebration of the 70 years of observation of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) has pointed out that although Bangladesh is making socio-economic progress, there is rising inequalities too.

National Human Rights Commission, with support of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), organised a discussion to mark the day at Hotel Intercontinental in Dhaka on 10 December, 2018. Swiss Development Cooperation and Swedish International Development Agency were partners.

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, who was the chief

guest, said Bangladesh constitution entails the UN charter for human rights that ensures basic rights for all.

"The seventy-year observation of UDHR is a milestone for the history of mankind. The declaration enables the states to make sure that everyone irrespective of cast, colour, religion and creed gets their basic rights and dignity in society," he added.

The chief justice also called for incorporating human rights education in the national curriculum: "Assisting young people to incorporate human rights values into their daily lives is a concrete way to prevent discrimination, promote

inclusion and respect for diversity."

"We are working together with public and private organisations to increase accessibility of those physically challenged. We have also taken measures for their easy access to all modes of transport including metro rail and water vehicles," NHRC Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque said.

UNDP Country Director Sudipto Mukerjee pointed out that the fundamental principle of the UDHR is that all human beings are born free and equal, both in rights and dignity.

"The rights that the UDHR encompasses - all of them are crucial for the development of a nation. The UDHR does not create a class system of rights, they are of equal value."

"The Declaration was in many ways ahead of its time, and it is time that we affirm once again that development is about ALL human rights. In fact, sustainable development is all about human rights."

Among others, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Alison Blake, Swedish Ambassador Charlotta Schlyter, Swiss Ambassador René Holenstein spoke at the event.

Sheepa Hafiza, Executive Director, Ain o Salish Kendra; and Mahbub Uz Zaman, Secretary-Bilateral (Asia and Pacific), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, were also present.

Similar news coverage:

bdnews24.com

<https://bit.ly/2VQKHfa>

Daily Star

<https://bit.ly/2stt0F4>

Dhaka Tribune

<https://bit.ly/2AMww1U>

Daily Sun

<https://bit.ly/2Fr4sVR>

New Age

<https://bit.ly/2Db50fS>

dainikshikkha.com

<https://bit.ly/2H2ktmB>

Alokito Bangladesh

<https://bit.ly/2RRrmdi>

amadershomoy.com

<https://bit.ly/2Dc6LK9>

SWAPNO project translates Rashida's dream into reality

"I had to face a hard time... managing meal once a day for my two children was difficult for me but I have been able to overcome the poverty with the help of a government's income generation project," said Rashida lost her husband at the age of eighteen.

Rashida, now a middle-aged woman, took Taka 7,200 as loan under Strengthening Women's Ability for Productive New Opportunities (SWAPNO) project and purchased a tailoring machine. She is now making bags and sales the product in different markets.

"After the death of my husband, I became hopeless as there was no way to manage food for my children. I started doing work as a house servant to manage food and other basic needs," she said while sharing bitter experience of her life with BSS.

Rashida said she tried to do any type of works to survive. "Later on, I got a job at a KG school as an ayah (servant) at a salary of Taka 1,000 per month," she added.

But that was not enough to maintain her family as her son was studying in class-X. She could not bear his educational expenses. She managed a job for his son at a grocery where his salary was Taka 1,500.

But that was not enough to maintain her family. Under such a situation, she came to know about a government's project SWAPNO which will recruit some employees. She went to the Union Parishad and stood in the line.

"God blessed me; I got the job through a lottery. I also got a lottery of Taka 7,200. I purchased a tailoring machine," said Rashida, an inhabitant of village Patkelghata, in Swarulia Union of Tala Upazila under Satkhira District.

"I dreamed to be a small trader... SWAPNO has helped me fulfill my dream. I'm happy," she said.

Like Rashida, Malati, Shaheda Parvin, many other women in Satkhira and Kurigram districts changed their life through joining the SWAPNO.

Talking to BSS, training specialist of SWAPNO Kajal Chatterjee said SWAPNO is a social security project of the government that is helping as many as 8,928 poor women in the rural areas of Satkhira and Kurigram districts to fulfill their dreams and potentials.

The Local Government Division is implementing the five-year project from April 2015 with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Sustainable Development Goals Fund (SDGF) and BSRM.

Chatterjee said, a total of 4,464 widows, divorcees, and wives of disabled persons have found better life than before after completing the first phase of the project.

After successfully completion of the first phase of the project, Chatterjee said, the project has already selected another 4,464 extreme poor women of the districts for the second phase and they are working in maintenance of the union level government property.

He informed that SWAPNO has also launched e-payment system in the 112 unions of the districts.

According to a survey of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), women were employed from August 2015 to February 2017 for 18 months in the first phase. Each beneficiary received a total of Taka 66,450 in cash along with the amount of Taka 22,150 as a 'graduation bonus', which was built up from the mandatory savings

The project helped each woman to earn Taka 40,000 which has led to a drastic fall of their poverty from moderate and extreme level. They are now more secured in taking daily food and incur non-food expenditure, particularly for education of children.

Livestock is now the main assets of the beneficiaries. Apart from increasing their income the composition of their assets has also changed as livestock constitutes about 43 percent of their total assets which was only 13 percent before their joining with SWAPNO.



Prothom Alo • 06 December 2018

Digital Khichuri Challenge held at Ctg

After four successful Digital Khichuri Challenges in four divisions, Chattogram version of Digital Khichuri Challenge was organised on Thursday at port city to find new solutions from the youth that can promote diversity, peace and tolerance.

Partnering with Facebook and Bangladesh ICT Division, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) initiated "Digital Khichuri Challenge" in 2016 in order to glean ideas from the youth with a view to building a more peaceful and tolerant society and promoting cultural diversity, reads a press release.

Before the final day, participants of the Digital Khichuri Challenge spent two days together in an 'Idea-Lab' to

brainstorm ideas and presented that in front of a jury panel. Among eight teams, "Are You Serious," won the first prize for their idea on addressing the issue of racism and intolerance with comedy.

The two Runners-up were, "Team Shadhin" for their idea on tackling the issues of fake news through citizen journalism, and "Team Surge Foundation" for their online counter narrative idea.

The winners will be further guided by UNDP to implement their ideas as start-ups.

"Platform like Digital Khichuri, will help Bangladesh to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 16 -Peace, Justice

and Strong Institutions," said UNDP Bangladesh's deputy country director Kyoko Yokosuka.

Chattogram city mayor AJM Nasir said digital literacy among young people is crucial to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to make Bangladesh progressive and tolerant.

Attending the closing and award giving ceremony of the event Chittagong mayor stressed the importance of digital literacy among the young people to prevent cybercrime and propaganda.

Among others, Mahmuda Afroz, Robert Stoelman, Shidartho Goushami from UNDP, Tina Jabeen from the ICT Innovation, also spoke at the event.

Similar news coverage:

The Independent

<https://bit.ly/2HdlyYY>

UNB

<https://bit.ly/2H8HFzA>

Daily Sun

<https://bit.ly/2QNUjtU>

The News Today

<https://bit.ly/2stteMs>

Bangladesh Post

<https://bit.ly/2VWHNW6>

BSS

<https://bit.ly/2FMlmxn>

cvoice24.com

<https://bit.ly/2FcszHD>



Daily Sun • 16 November 2018

\$12m project to cut disaster risks

The Bangladesh government and UN agencies have jointly initiated a \$12 million project to make Bangladesh more resilient to natural disasters, said a press release.

The project is designed to sustain the resilience of human and economic development in Bangladesh through inclusive and gender responsive disaster management.

The project titled "National Resilience Programme" (NRP) was launched on Thursday at a hotel in Dhaka.

The project is co-financed by the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and the

Local Government Division (LGD) will implement the project.

The three-year project will provide strategic support in association with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Women and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), to develop national capacity to keep pace with the changing nature of disasters.

The programme has four parts. The Department of Disaster part will focus on disability inclusive and gender-responsive capacities, Programming Division part will focus on the capacity for disaster and climate risk informed planning, Department of Women part will focus on the gender dimension of the programme and the LGED part will focus

on infrastructures.

Speaking at the launching ceremony as the chief guest, Disaster Management and Relief Minister, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya said National Resilience Programme is a knowledge based programme which will enhance women leadership for gender responsive disaster resilient nation.

Swedish Ambassador to Bangladesh Charlotta Schlyte said Bangladesh needs the support of women to fight and adapt to climate change. Being a feminist government, Sweden will continue its support for the vulnerable women in Bangladesh. Mia Seppo, UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh, appreciated the current economic growth in Bangladesh but also warned about the adverse impact of climate change which can pull back the development of the country.

Among others Kabir Bin Anwar, Secretary of Ministry of Water Resources spoke at the event. Over 200 representatives from different ministries, development partners, INGO, NGOs, research organisations and academic institutions were present.

Similar news coverage:

Dhaka Tribune

<https://bit.ly/2R7AhV7>

BSS

<https://bit.ly/2WbpywC>

The Independent

<https://bit.ly/2MIFh7L>

News Today

<https://bit.ly/2Wa1Vpe>

Bangladesh Post

<https://bit.ly/2R1KuCd>

Prothom Alo

<https://bit.ly/2RYK3cU>

jagonews24.com

<https://bit.ly/2FFrEj7>

Ekushey TV

<https://bit.ly/2SjTSB4>

Bhorer Dak

<https://bit.ly/2sA853g>

Bangla Tribune

<https://bit.ly/2RCGHQ9>

sarabangla.net

<https://bit.ly/2CUvn9N>

amadershomoy.com

<https://bit.ly/2S3PdYE>



Daily Star • 06 November 2018

A roadmap to poverty reduction in Bangladesh

Social security is important not only for addressing vulnerability, but also for solving the problems of entrenched poverty and reducing marginalisation. The importance of a well-designed social security system has increasingly been accepted within national and global policy circles for addressing triple problems of poverty, vulnerability and marginalisation. Bangladesh's latest initiative in social security—National Social Security Strategy (NSSS)—takes up the challenges through an inclusive, focused, and coordinated approach to poverty reduction.

The provision of social security is embedded in Article 15 (d)

of our Constitution as citizens' right to social security. In line of the constitutional obligations, the main vision of the newly launched social security strategy is to "build inclusive social security system for all deserving Bangladeshis that effectively tackles and prevents poverty and inequality and contributes to broader human development, employment and economic growth." To that end, the goal of the NSSS is to "reform the national social security system by ensuring more efficient and effective use of resources, strengthened delivery systems and progress towards a more inclusive form of social security that effectively tackles life cycle risks, and prioritises the poorest and most vulnerable members of

society."

Social protection is embedded within the Seventh Five Year Plan. The plan outlines the implementation of the National Social Security Strategy as a core goal in building the foundations of a progressive and inclusive social security system. The priority challenges planned to be addressed over the next five years amongst others include (a) expanding coverage of core social security schemes for the extreme/hardcore poor and most vulnerable people of the society, focusing on mother and child, youth, working age, the elderly and people with disabilities; (b) ensuring that the most vulnerable women are provided with income security and greater opportunities to engage in the labour market, in particular when they enter motherhood; and (c) expanding coverage to the residents of urban areas and to socially excluded people.

Human beings face shocks and challenges at different stages of their life cycle and the poor and vulnerable segments of the population are the worst victims. If not addressed on time, some of the underlying risks could have life-lasting negative impacts. While coverage of safety net beneficiaries has increased over the last decade, the targeting performance suggests need for improvement and streamlining.

Many of the existing social safety net programmes of Bangladesh fit in with the life cycle framework, but concerns of targeting have been paramount. Much of the social security budget is spent on government pensions and food distribution schemes. Programmes to mitigate pregnancy and early childhood risks and disability are remarkably limited in both beneficiary coverage as well as financing. The average benefit of the old age allowance programme is very low and lots of poor, old people are excluded. The disability benefits and vulnerable women's programmes similarly suffer from low coverage and low average benefits since most current programmes are small and the average benefit per individual is low.

The successful implementation of the NSSS will provide a strong basis for Bangladesh to extend proper social security to its poor and vulnerable populations. It recognises the differences in risks at different stages of the life cycle and provides support to various demographic groups. The proposed reforms too are to be instrumental in eliminating leakages, improving targeting, increasing the average value of the transfers, lowering the risks faced by the poor and the vulnerable, reducing poverty and income inequality.

The reforms through the NSSS seek to consolidate the multitude of often duplicative programmes into core programmes based on the life cycle, enhance beneficiary coverage so that the programmes are by design inclusive of the poor and the vulnerable, with special emphasis on the extreme poor, and increase the average programme benefits to make a meaningful impact on the recipients. The NSSS has placed greater emphasis on strengthening the administration and management of Social Security schemes. This increases the efficiency and effectiveness of schemes while also reducing fiduciary risk. Improvements have generally focused on three main areas: professionalising staff and institutions; improving management information systems; and, the delivery of transfers to recipients.

The government understands that improvements in the administrative arrangements for the NSSS will be critical to its success. Administrative problems and weak governance in the implementation of SSPs are interlinked. Establishing good institutional arrangements for administering well-designed SSPs will also help lower leakages. The review of past experience suggests that there are a number of areas that need to be reformed.

The key priorities, accordingly, are to address a vastly simplified institutional arrangement that allows proper planning, implementation, and M&E of the NSSS. The professionalisation of staff is also important to create a group of public servant experts in the delivery of Social

Security schemes both at national and local levels.

The effectiveness in identifying recipients for social security schemes also require (a) upgrading the MISs so that they are able to underpin the effective and efficient delivery of transfers and promote cross-governmental coordination and monitoring of performance; (b) strengthening payment mechanisms to minimise leakage and to use the social security system to promote financial inclusion, in particular among the poor; and (c) establishing an effective grievance redress system so that all citizens have recourse to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in the delivery of the promised benefit.

The government will continue deepening the partnership with different stakeholders in the area of delivering social security services based on the NSSS. NGOs can be helpful in

piloting innovative ideas for possible scaling up, identification of potential beneficiaries, especially those that are hard to reach because they live in remote areas or belong to marginalised or vulnerable social groups of the population, and helping redress grievances and disputes relating to the implementation of the NSSS.

Bangladesh now has a roadmap to a social security system that is inclusive, focused, as well as coordinated enough to achieve the objectives and get the maximum value of public money. The targeted, focused and coordinated approach will ensure that we do not embark on a fragmented implementation, with both duplication and under-coverage resulting from improper targeting, leakages and lack of inter-ministerial coordination. With a comprehensive strategy, our task in the future is to make sure that the roadmap is followed for further reduction in poverty.



Similar news coverage:

Dhaka Tribune

<https://bit.ly/2R7AhV7>

BSS

<https://bit.ly/2WbpywC>

The Independent

<https://bit.ly/2MIFh7L>

News Today

<https://bit.ly/2WwVpe>

Bangladesh Post

<https://bit.ly/2R1KuCd>

Prothom Alo

<https://bit.ly/2RYK3cU>

jagonews24.com

<https://bit.ly/2FFrEj7>

Ekushey TV

<https://bit.ly/2SjtSB4>

Bhorer Dak

<https://bit.ly/2sA853g>

Bangla Tribune

<https://bit.ly/2RCGHQ9>

sarabangla.net

<https://bit.ly/2CUvn9N>

amadershomoy.com

<https://bit.ly/2S3PdYE>

sarabangla.net

<https://bit.ly/2CUvn9N>

amadershomoy.com

<https://bit.ly/2S3PdYE>



Dhaka Tribune • 04 November 2018

10-day long dolphin fair kicks off in Khulna

A ten-day long dolphin fair kicked off in Khulna today with a call to take tangible steps to protect freshwater dolphins in the Sundarbans.

An inaugural session was held this morning at Shaheed Hadis Park in Khulna city at 10:30am with the Khulna City Corporation (KCC) Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque as chief guest in the programme.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Bangladesh in partnership with CNRS organised the fair under a project initiated by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Bangladesh Forest Department.

The fair will go on around villages of West Sundarbans creating awareness for conservation of dolphins and

dolphin habitats for the next ten days.

Raquiul Amin, country representative of IUCN Bangladesh, Arif Mohammad Faisal, programme specialist of UNDP, ABM Sarowar Alam, senior programme officer of IUCN Bangladesh, Jahidul Kabir, conservator of forests (Wildlife and Nature conservation circle) of Bangladesh Forest Department and others were among those present.

Speakers at the programme urged the government to declare the Ganges River Dolphin as a national aquatic animal.

The program today also featured a puppet show by Joler Putul and will hold a host of other activities, kid's craft show, dolphin exhibition and music shows, among others.

The Sundarbans is home to Asia's last two remaining freshwater dolphins -- Irrawady Dolphin and the Ganges River Dolphin, both globally endangered.

Similar news coverage:

New Age

<https://bit.ly/2FJaYr0>

UNB

<https://bit.ly/2W92dLV>

Our Time

<https://bit.ly/255UjC0>

Financial Express

<https://bit.ly/2CD4TZ0>

Dhaka Tribune

<https://bit.ly/2T26iLE>

South Asians News

<https://bit.ly/2RjlyEM>

Daily Sun

<https://bit.ly/2MsguPq>

News Today

<https://bit.ly/2R4Mg5r>

Ekushey TV

<https://bit.ly/2TzN1x>

Channel I

<https://bit.ly/2LZNrIP>

Janakantha

<https://bit.ly/2R8fEM>

risingbd.com

<https://bit.ly/2MoMBQ2>

Daily Inqilab

<https://bit.ly/2LZPiy>

Poriborton

<https://bit.ly/2Hos27p>

Bangla Tribune

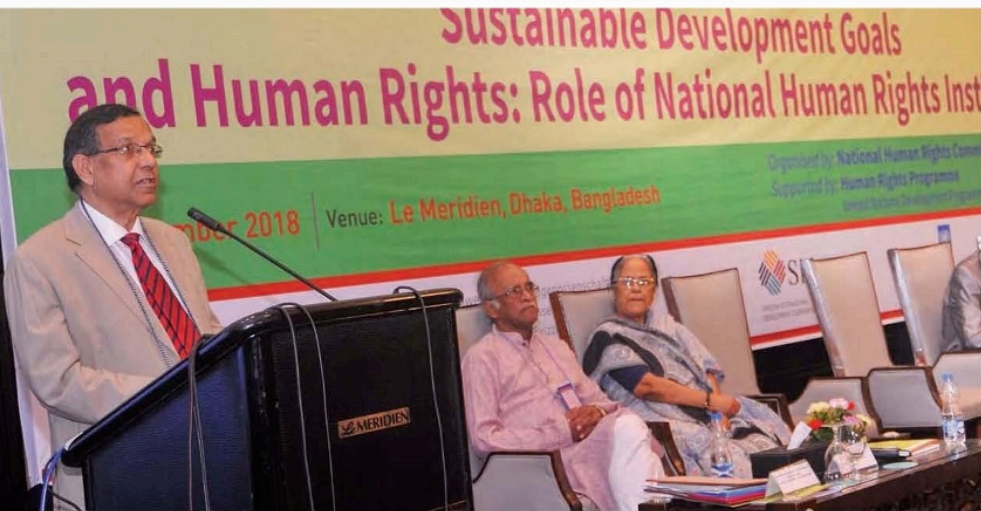
<https://bit.ly/2TAWSL6>

Banglanews24.com

<https://bit.ly/2MoMSCy>

dainiksomosangbad24.com

<https://bit.ly/2T7NqPw>



Daily Star • 01 November 2018

Climate change impacting public health across the world: Law minister

Law Minister Anisul Huq today said climate change is impacting public health, food and water security, and migration not only in Bangladesh, but the entire world.

"Climate change, still left unchecked, will roll back the development gains we have made over the last decades and will make further gains impossible. We think investment in sustainable development will help address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emission and building climate resilience," he said.

The law minister said this while speaking as the chief guest

at opening session of the "International Conference on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Human Rights: Role of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)" organised by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) at Le Meridien Hotel in Dhaka.

NHRC Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque presided over the session where Charlotta Schlyter, ambassador of Sweden to

Bangladesh, René Holenstein, ambassador of Switzerland to Bangladesh, Sudipto Mukerjee, country director of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bangladesh, and Abul Kalam Azad, principal coordinator of SDG at the Prime Minister's Office spoke.

Law Minister Anisul Huq said, "Conversely, action on climate change will drive sustainable development."

"Tackling climate change and fostering sustainable development are two mutually reinforcing sides of the same coin. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without climate action," he said, adding that "Many SDGs are addressing the core drivers of climate change."

The minister also said the government of Bangladesh is keen on the issue.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has appealed to developed countries, and world leaders for their support regarding climate change adaption and wider capacity-building at high-level leaders' dialogue on "Implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change," Anisul Huq added.

Similar news coverage:

Daily Star

<https://bit.ly/2SD5qf1>

Daily Sun

<https://bit.ly/2Hn7wnD>

Kaler Kantho

<http://bit.ly/2AW2UIC>



Priyo.com • 23 October 2018

ADB, UNDP sign administrative arrangement over CHT dev

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) today signed an administrative arrangement to promote sustainable management of community development for Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

ADB Country Director Manmohan Parkash and UNDP Bangladesh Country Director Sudipto Mukerjee signed the arrangement at a simple ceremony at ADB's Bangladesh resident mission in Dhaka city.

Under the arrangement, ADB will provide \$471,000 to UNDP to implement activities of the ADB-assisted technical

assistance project entitled Sustainable Management of Community Development for Chittagong Hill Tracts (TRTA 9472).

"The technical assistance project will increase the capacity of village level institutions in planning for local development and service delivery," said ADB Country Director Manmohan Parkash.

"Building on UNDP's strong presence in the CHT region, the technical assistance project will also help sustain ADB's interventions and promote community participation in repair, maintenance, planning and public asset

management," he added.

The technical assistance project will enhance capacity of 300 Parha (village) Development Committees (PDCs) on managing and sustaining community assets and infrastructure; train 900 PDC leaders on leadership, organizational and financial management and 500 PDC members on participatory planning, and monitoring towards strengthened governance and rural development.

It will also create a pool of skilled technicians from the unemployed youths to repair and maintain irrigation equipment and tube-wells and strengthen linkages of PDCs with union councils.

ADB has been supporting development in CHT since 2000. Chittagong Hill Tracts Rural Development Project, completed in 2010, implemented 2,040 small-scale infrastructure sub-projects comprising water supply, irrigation equipment and village-roads in 111 unions of CHT.

The ongoing Second Chittagong Hill Tracts Rural Development Project, approved in 2011, supports strengthening of rural infrastructure and water resources management in 600 villages.

UNDP has strong networks in the CHT and has been providing significant development assistance in the CHT region since 2003.

Similar news coverage:

Financial Express

<http://bit.ly/2sHSZsg>

Daily Sun

<http://bit.ly/2B79Ycv>

Xinhua

<http://bit.ly/2sGyblg>



BSS • 16 October 2018

কক্সবাজারে টেকসই বর্জ্য ব্যবস্থাপনা অপরিহার্য

আজ এখানে আয়োজিত এক সভায় বক্তারা বলেছেন, রোহিঙ্গারা আসার কারণে উখিয়া ও টেকনাফ উপজেলার জনসংখ্যা এখন প্রায় ১৫ লাখের বেশি। প্রতি মাসে এই এলাকায় প্রায় ১০ হাজার টন বর্জ্য উৎপন্ন হচ্ছে।

বক্তারা বলেন, এই বর্জ্য উৎপন্নের কারণে কক্সবাজারের পরিবেশের উপর প্রতিকূল প্রভাব ও স্থানীয়রা স্বাস্থ্য ঝুঁকিতে পড়ছে। এই সংকট থেকে উত্তরণের জন্য সকলকে সম্মিলিতভাবে পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ করতে হবে।

আজ কক্সবাজারে জাতিসংঘ উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচির (ইউএনডিপি) উদ্যোগে অনুষ্ঠিত 'কঠিন বর্জ্য এর টেকসই সমাধান: রোহিঙ্গা সংকটের স্থানীয় উদ্যোগ' শীর্ষক সভায় বক্তারা একথা বলেন।

অনুষ্ঠানে প্রধান অতিথি হিসেবে বক্তৃতা করেন রেফিউজি রিলিফ

অ্যান্ড রিপেট্রেশন কমিশনের (আরআরআরসি) অতিরিক্ত সচিব ও কমিশনার মোহাম্মদ আবুল কালাম, ইউএনডিপি বাংলাদেশ এর কার্টি ডিরেক্টর সুদীপ্ত মুখার্জী, এঘেসী অব সুইডেনের ফার্স্ট সেক্রেটারি মার্বেলা লিজানা ববদিল।

অনুষ্ঠানে অন্যদের মধ্যে কক্সবাজারের অতিরিক্ত জেলা প্রশাসক মাহেদুল ইসলাম, আই এস সি জি'র সিনিয়র কো-অর্ডিনেটর আনিকা স্যান্ডল্যান্ড, ইউএনডিপির প্রোগ্রাম বিশেষজ্ঞ আরিফ খান বক্তব্য রাখেন।

মোহাম্মদ আবুল কালাম বলেন, কক্সবাজারে বর্জ্য ব্যবস্থাপনা অতি জরুরি। রোহিঙ্গারা আসায় প্রতিদিন প্রচুর পরিমাণে বর্জ্য উৎপাদিত হচ্ছে, যার কোন সঠিক ব্যবস্থাপনা নেই। বর্জ্য ব্যবস্থাপনায় ইউএনডিপি এর এই উদ্যোগ অত্যন্ত সমরোপযোগী। সরকার এজন্য সব ধরনের সহায়তা প্রদানে প্রস্তুত।

সুদীপ্ত মুখার্জী বলেন, প্রায় সাত লাখ শরণার্থীর জন্ম বাংলাদেশ সরকার তার দরজা খুলে দিয়ে উদারতার দৃষ্টান্ত স্থাপন করেছে, কিন্তু এর ফলে নানা ধরনের সংকটেরও উদ্ভব হচ্ছে, যার মধ্যে কঠিন বর্জ্য ব্যবস্থাপনা এতদিন উপেক্ষিত ছিল। কক্সবাজারকে পরিষ্কার এবং দূষণমুক্ত রাখার জন্য সুইডেনের সহযোগিতায় আমরা কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করেছি।

এর আগে সভায় ইউএনডিপির সলিড ওয়েস্ট ম্যানেজমেন্ট বিশেষজ্ঞ ফয়সাল রিদওয়ান মূল বক্তব্য উপস্থাপন করেন।

উল্লেখ্য, সম্প্রতি কক্সবাজারের রোহিঙ্গা ক্যাম্পে টেকসই বর্জ্য ব্যবস্থাপনায় ইউএনডিপি ও সুইডেন যৌথভাবে ৪৮ লাখ মার্কিন ডলারের প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়ন শুরু করেছে।

Similar news coverage:

Daily Star

<http://bit.ly/2sGVkE8>

Prothom Alo

<http://bit.ly/2sDg7Z5>

BSS

<http://bit.ly/2AU56Gg>

New Age

<http://bit.ly/2sGVzIw>

Daily Sun

<http://bit.ly/2sGVsU8>

UNB

<http://bit.ly/2sGVw6k>

Asian Age

<http://bit.ly/2sG37Sp>

The Independent

<http://bit.ly/2sGVxao>

Bangladesh Post

<http://bit.ly/2AWHzvL>

Financial Express

<http://bit.ly/2sG3dcJ>

Jugantor

<https://bit.ly/2SOAvCc>

Priyo

<http://bit.ly/2ATEFS8>

UNB

<https://bit.ly/2CVMqs4>

amadershomoy.com

<https://bit.ly/2AAW1TR>

Naya Diganta

<https://bit.ly/2SLTpcI>



dainikamadershomoy.com • 20 October 2018

দলিতদের মূলধারায় আনতে সমন্বিত পরিকল্পনা দরকার

সমাজের অবহেলিত দলিত জনগোষ্ঠীকে উন্নয়নের মূল ধারায় আনতে হলে সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা কর্মসূচির আওতায় অর্থ বরাদ্দ করলেই হবে না, প্রস্তাবিত বৈষম্য বিলোপ আইন প্রণয়ন ও বাস্তবায়নসহ সমন্বিত উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করতে হবে। গতকাল জাতীয় প্রেসক্লাবের ভিআইপি লাউঞ্জে 'গ্রাম সালিশি কমিটি হিসেবে পঞ্চায়েতের স্বীকৃতি এবং রাষ্ট্রের করণীয় শীর্ষক' এক গোলাটেবিল বৈঠকে বিশিষ্টজনরা এ কথা বলেন। বেসরকারি স্বেচ্ছাসেবী সংস্থা শারি ও ইউএনডিপি (এইচআরপি) এ বৈঠকের আয়োজন করে।

শারির নির্বাহী পরিচালক প্রিয় বালা বিশ্বাসের সভাপতিত্বে অনুষ্ঠানে

প্রধান অতিথি ছিলেন স্থানীয় সরকার, পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় প্রতিমন্ত্রী মসিউর রহমান রাস্তা। আলোচক ছিলেন দৈনিক আমাদের সময়ের ব্যবস্থাপনা সম্পাদক সন্তোষ শর্মা, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অধ্যাপক মেসবাহ কামাল, ইউএনডিপির প্রোগ্রাম কো-অর্ডিনেটর তাসলিমা ইসলাম, ব্যারিস্টার তাপস বল প্রমুখ।

গোলাটেবিল বৈঠকে বক্তারা বলেন, দেশের অভ্যন্তরে প্রায় ১ কোটি দলিত জনগোষ্ঠী বাস করে। বিশাল এ জনগোষ্ঠীকে পেছনে রেখে দেশের এবং সমাজের উন্নয়ন সম্ভব নয়। তারা বলেন, দলিতদের বাসস্থান, পানি ও পরিষ্কার ব্যবস্থার উন্নয়ন করতে হবে। দলিত শিশুদের শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম থেকে বঞ্চিত পড়া রোধ করতে হবে এবং

তাদের বিকল্প পেশায় নিয়ে আসতে হবে। সরকারের সব মন্ত্রণালয়, অধিদপ্তর ও পরিদপ্তরের পাশাপাশি উন্নয়ন প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলোকেও দলিতদের উন্নয়নে এগিয়ে আসতে হবে। বক্তারা দলিত জনগোষ্ঠীর প্রাচীন সামাজিক প্রশাসনিক কাঠামো পঞ্চায়েতকে শক্তিশালী করার ওপর জোর দেন। পঞ্চায়েতকে গ্রাম আদালতের সঙ্গে সম্পৃক্ত করে আইনি কার্যকলাপে সহযোগিতা করার আশাবাদ ব্যক্ত করেন তারা।

Similar news coverage:

Ittefaq

<http://bit.ly/2sGonaG>

Daily Janata

<http://bit.ly/2sEclY8>

Parliament Pratidin

<https://bit.ly/2FnK2MF>

Ruposhi Bangla News

<http://bit.ly/2sGVH1u>

News 2 Narayanganj

<http://bit.ly/2sGVDig>

Tara News BD

<https://bit.ly/2QyGDfA>

sangbadbd.tv

<http://bit.ly/2sGVF9S>

Young Voice

<http://bit.ly/2sHU17C>

thenewse.com

<http://bit.ly/2AQKhg3>

Dalit Kantha

<https://bit.ly/2H3erlP>



bdnews24.com • 18 September 2018

UN flags serious impacts of Rohingya crisis on Bangladesh environment

The UN Development Programme has pointed to the serious impacts of the Rohingya crisis on the environment in a study as over 1.1 million Myanmar nationals have taken shelter in Cox's Bazar.

The report released on Tuesday identified six physical impacts and seven risks to the ecosystem and recommended 19 mitigation measures to restore the lives in Cox's Bazar.

The study finds that Rohingya needs 6,800 tonnes of firewood collected from forests a month, and each family used about 60 culms of bamboo to construct settlements.

Thousands of shallow tube-wells installed in Kutupalong and Balukhali camps for the refugees are threatening groundwater and fuelling risks of landslides.

A total of 4,300 acres of hills and forests were cut down to make temporary shelters and facilities in Ukhiya and Teknaf of Cox's Bazar, threatening the biodiversity of the three ecologically critical areas. The restoration of the ecosystem

will become irreversible if measures are not taken immediately, according to the report.

Up to 4,000 acres of hilly lands in the Teknaf-Ukhiya-Himchari watershed area have been cleared of vegetation, the report said.

Groundwater was depleting fast due to over extraction, surface water depletion due to excessive extraction and pollution, poor management of solid waste and faecal sludge, soil erosion and hill cutting due to settlement of houses in hills, indoor air pollution from cooking, shrinkage and degradation of wildlife habitats and human-wildlife conflicts and disturbance of marine and freshwater ecosystems.

The UNDP suggested providing alternative fuel for cooking, restoration of degraded ecosystem and management of solid waste and fecal sludge in the camps as some of the mitigation measures.

The objective was to define the baseline of the environmental context of geographical areas of Rohingya movement and their settlement and identify current and potential environmental impact.

Minister for Environment and Forests Anisul Islam Mahmud, while launching the report, urged all to prioritise the conservation of environment.

"What I am afraid of is that, first of all, this is a problem which is not going to be over in the next few years as indicated by all. Even if Rohingyas go back, what will happen to the environment? Would anyone pay for that restoration of the environment?"

"I don't think so. There are so many issues today all over the world. There is so much of demand for money all over the world," he said, adding that he would support every programme to address the crisis.

UNDP Bangladesh Country Director Sudipto Mukherjee said the emergency is putting immense pressure on scarce natural resources in the area, resulting in degraded natural

forests, barren hills and an emerging water crisis.

"This situation demands immediate investments in restoring the environmental and ecosystem as part of the government of Bangladesh's response in Cox's Bazar.

"Sensing the urgency for measures to prevent further degradation and to support early restoration, we, at UNDP, undertook this report with the aim that it would help development actors to programme early and sustained response and funding," he said.

The UN system has stepped up with solutions like alternative fuel, solid waste management, and replantation, but the current investment is not adequate.

"It needs sustainable solutions and long-term effort for restoration and conservation," the UNDP said in a statement on the report.

Since the influx in August 2017, coupled with the host community and refugees from past influxes, the crisis affected population is now almost 1.5 million in Cox's Bazar, creating massive pressure on the already dilapidated environment of Cox's Bazar, which still remains significantly underfunded.

The restoration of ecosystem become irreversible if measures are not taken immediately, according to the report.

The study also addressed environmental and related gender-based issues and health risks due to the Rohingya influx.



Similar news coverage:

Prothom Alo

<https://bit.ly/2QCx1C0>

The Independent

<http://bit.ly/2AVryjk>

Financial Express

<http://bit.ly/2sG3dcl>

Asian Age

<http://bit.ly/2sGypc6>

Sangram

<https://bit.ly/2AA12fq>

Bangla Tribune

<https://bit.ly/2FjbgF1>

greenwatchbd.com

<http://bit.ly/2sFxM2f>

Daily Sun

<http://bit.ly/2AUDFgM>

NTV

<http://bit.ly/2sFxQ1Z>

bdnews24.com

<http://bit.ly/2sGeEkO>

Amader Orthoneeti

<http://bit.ly/2AYKicQ>

Jagonews24.com

<http://bit.ly/2sEJmef>

Daily Star

<http://bit.ly/2sEcqCp>

New Age

<http://bit.ly/2sFCIOw>

News Today

<http://bit.ly/2AVj0co>

Kaler Kantho

<http://bit.ly/2sCcaE1>

RTV

<https://bit.ly/2Qyl-ftcy>

abnews24.com

<https://bit.ly/2ACRJeC>

Dhaka Tribune

<http://bit.ly/2sFCiy0>

UNB

<http://bit.ly/2AW3NaW>

Bangla Tribune

<http://bit.ly/2AVq74D>

amadershomoy.com

<http://bit.ly/2sCccM9>

bbarta24.net

<http://bit.ly/2sGVNWU>

Desh Sangbad

<http://bit.ly/2AQKuzR>



New Age • 17 September 2018

Germany to help for community stabilisation, resilience in Cox's Bazar

The German Federal Foreign Office will grant Euro 1.1 million for implementation of Support to Community Stabilisation and Resilience project in Ukhia and Teknaf upazilas of Cox's Bazar.

The project will jointly be implemented by UNDP and the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

United Nations Development Programme and Germany on Sunday signed an agreement in this regard.

German ambassador in Dhaka Peter Fahrenholtz and UNDP Bangladesh Country Director Sudipto Mukerjee signed the

agreement at the German embassy here.

Country representative of UN Women Shoko Ishikawa, also a partner of the project, attended the signing ceremony along with UNDP Bangladesh deputy country director Kyoko Yokosuka.

The year-long project aims to establish community security and gender-responsive policing in Cox's Bazar district, which is reeling under the pressure of the most concentrated and fastest-growing refugee crisis in the world, since the latest Rohingya influx in August 2017.

The population in the district has more than tripled, said a

UNDP media release.

Cox's Bazar was already struggling, before the influx, to address high levels of poverty — 40 per cent higher than the national average, said UNDP.

On top of that, it said, government services for host communities are stretched very thin, due to added pressure from the camps, leading to dissatisfaction inside the host community.

The influx has further increased pressures on local infrastructure, and tensions are rising even within households, according to UNDP.

The project aims to address the impact of the influx on host communities and governance institutions, while promoting social cohesion and stability.

The project will also engage and train local leaders to build their capacities to respond to increasing tensions and grievances, to be effective mediators and to counter radical narratives in their respective communities.

A comprehensive support package will be provided to the police to improve security, and improve the quality of responses, especially for women and children.

Similar news coverage:

Daily Star

<http://bit.ly/2sGypsC>

Asian Age

<http://bit.ly/2AWI2HX>

UNB

<http://bit.ly/2AVqXOC>

News Today

<http://bit.ly/2AVqY58>

Daily Sun

<http://bit.ly/2AVJAH6>



Daily Sun • 14 September 2018

SDG-focused local govt project launched

The government has undertaken a programme to strengthen the local government institutions in the line with sustainable development goals (SDG). The project will be implemented at 16 Upazilas and 240 unions under 8 districts with technical support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Local Government Division will be implemented the project at a cost of US\$7.11m in next five years, said officials. LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain launched the project styled Efficient and Accountable Local Governance (EALG) at a function in Dhaka on Thursday. Deputy Head of Switzerland embassy Beate Elsaesser, Deputy Head of Denmark embassy Refika Hayta and UNDP

Bangladesh Country Director Sudipto Mukerjee present on the occasion. Officials informed that the five-year project will be implemented in Faridpur, Chandpur, Rajshahi, Khulna, Patuakhali, Sunamganj, Rangpur and Netrokona districts to strengthen the governance framework of Upazila Parishad and improve service delivery to achieve the SDGs. Officials hoped that it will also strengthen the capacity of Union Parishads and provide policy support to the government for establishing effective local government system through citizens' participation. Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain said that the government amended the Upazila Parishad Act to enable elected representatives of people to work independently and effectively. "Our

government has taken steps for strengthening local government institutions as a strategy to strengthen the democracy at the grassroots levels, this project will further help us to do so and paving the way for Sustainable Development Goals," he said. Among others, Local Government Division Senior Secretary Zafar Ahmed Khan, Additional Secretary Amitavh Sarker and EALG National Project Director Abu Shahin Ashaduzzaman were present.

Similar news coverage:

Asian Age

<http://bit.ly/2sEplKU>

Ittefaq

<http://bit.ly/2sA9Tcy>

Priyo

<http://bit.ly/2sFCopm>

Samakal

<https://bit.ly/2TDp3Jm>

Sahos24

<http://bit.ly/2B7a9Vd>

Jugantor

<https://bit.ly/2TzxZj4>

Dhaka Times

<https://bit.ly/2M0zUf0>

Jagonews24.com

<http://bit.ly/2AWR73H>

Bhorer Kagoj

<http://bit.ly/2sEcXhj>

amarnewsbd.net

<https://bit.ly/2SLx719>



Daily Star • 08 September 2018

UNDP, Citi Foundation honour youth-led social enterprises

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Citi Foundation awarded three top-performing social enterprises led by young people for their innovations as startup ecosystem, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The event titled "Accelerator Bangladesh: National Dialogue to Foster the Startup Ecosystem in Bangladesh" was the closing of a three-day programme, jointly organised by UNDP and Citi Foundation in association with the Ministry of Youth and Sports at Bangabandhu International Conference Center yesterday.

The initiative is a part of "Youth Co:Lab", a platform for youth entrepreneurship in 18 countries across Asia-Pacific including Bangladesh, said UNDP press release.

Earlier, nine startup teams participated in the two-day boot camp guided by experts from different sectors, and developed their ideas and solutions on issues from education to renewable energy, aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Among the nine, three were selected on the closing day for their innovative solutions on literacy, waste management and community tourism. These three will go to the next

round of Asia Regional Summit which will be held in Vietnam next year.

The programme was addressed, among others, by Additional Secretary of Ministry of Youth and Sports ABM Ruhul Azad; Citi Bangladesh Country Officer N Rajashekar and Deputy Country Director of UNDP Kyoko Yokosuka.

Around 300 delegates, including government officials, private sector participants, NGOs, academia, social incubators, entrepreneurs, and young business leaders, and youth were present at the closing event.

Similar news coverage:

Prothom Alo

<http://bit.ly/2sFJs5e>

nsnewswire.com

<http://bit.ly/2sG3rR7>

Samakal

<https://bit.ly/2FntWCp>

UNB

<http://bit.ly/2AYxEQa>

Daily Sun

<http://bit.ly/2AQKAYf>

New Age

<http://bit.ly/2B7acjR>

Dhaka Tribune

<http://bit.ly/2sGeJF8>



Asian Age • 06 September 2018

Project to be launched for solid waste management in Rohingya camps

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Sweden have penned an agreement to launch a USD 4.8 million project to introduce a sustainable system of solid waste management in Cox's Bazar.

The agreement to implement 'Sustainable Solutions to Solid Waste: A Local Response to the Rohingya Crisis in Bangladesh' was signed by Anders Ohlstrom, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Sweden and Sudipto Mukerjee, Country Director, UNDP Bangladesh, on August 29 in Cox's Bazar, said a press release on Thursday.

The project aims to address solid waste management,

which is one of the biggest but overlooked challenges faced by the Rohingya refugees and also by the marginalised crisis-affected host community in Ukhiya and Teknaf upazilas of Cox's Bazar, since the influx in August 2017, which added extra 700,000 people to the community.

It is estimated that over 10,000 tonnes or around 22,000 cubic metres of waste is being produced per month in the area, which doesn't have a functioning solid waste management system, posing new health and environmental hazards.

The 3-year-long project will contribute to environmental

protection, prevention of diseases, promotion of hygiene and proper sanitary standards, income generation for the host community and support waste reduction and recycling.

Similar news coverage:

Daily Sun

<http://bit.ly/2AVqgVJ>

UNB

<http://bit.ly/2sfCq00>

Daily Sun

<http://bit.ly/2sfy4Gn>

Priyo

<http://bit.ly/2sDgvH1>



UNDP Bangladesh • August 2018

Climate finance essential to attain sustainable development goals

Speakers at a workshop on 05 August, stressed the importance of climate finance to achieve the goal 13 of SDGs, which is Climate Action, by 2030.

They said that at a dissemination workshop on Climate Financing for Sustainable Development: Budget Report 2018-19 and a Launching Ceremony of Citizens Climate Budget Report 2018-19, organized by the Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, with support from Inclusive Budgeting and Financing for Climate Resilience (IBFCR) project of United Nations Development Programme (JNDP) at the Audit Shaban in Dhaka.

UNDP has been supporting the Finance Division, Ministry of Finance to prepare the climate budget report to show the Government's resource commitment to address the adverse effects of climate change. Finance minister, Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, submitted the report titled 'Climate Financing for Sustainable Development: Budget Report, 2018-19' while announcing the National Budget for FY 2018-19 on 7th June 2017.

The report aims to give a snapshot of the climate change relevant allocations of twenty line ministries/divisions of the government.

Speaking at the discussion as the chief guest, Mohammad Muslim Chowdhury, Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh said, "The budget report will create demand to handle climate financing in an appropriate manner."

Environment, forest and climate change secretary Abdullah Al Mohsin Chowdhury said, "The government will undertake the National Adaptation Plan soon."

"This report will provide credible information on the country's climate finance landscape to various stakeholders," he hoped.

Mr. Mohammad Muslim Chowdhury, Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh inaugurated the workshop as the Chief Guest. Mr. Abdullah Al Mohsin Chowdhury, Secretary In-Charge, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, was also present in the inaugural session of the workshop as Special Guests.

The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. Md. Ja'far Uddin, Additional Secretary of Finance Division, Ministry of Finance and National Project Director of BFCR project and Ranjit Kumar Chakraborty, Project Manager, IBFCR, also spoke.

Similar news coverage:

The Independent

<http://bit.ly/2sHUcjl>

BSS

<http://bit.ly/2sDQ18b>

News Hour

<http://bit.ly/2sDQ2Zn>

The New Nation

<http://bit.ly/2AWlfvP>

GCCF

<http://bit.ly/2AUDOkk>

Reliefweb

<http://bit.ly/2sCcm6d>



Banglanews24.com • 25 July 2018

গ্রাম আদালতে সুফলভোগীর সংখ্যা বাড়ছে

ছোট ছোট দেওয়ানি ও কৌজদারি বিরোধ স্থানীয়ভাবে নিষ্পত্তি করার জন্য ইউনিয়ন পর্যায়ে গ্রাম আদালত চালু করে সরকার। উচ্চ আদালতে মামলার জট নিরসন এবং অল্প সময়ে স্বল্প খরচে গ্রামীণ জনগোষ্ঠীকে বিচার প্রাপ্তিতে সুবিধা দিতেই এ উদ্যোগ নেওয়া হয়।

সুফলও মিলেছে সরকারি এ উদ্যোগের। বেড়েছে সুফলভোগীর সংখ্যাও। দেশের ২৭ জেলায় ইউএনডিপি ও ইউরোপিয়ান ইউনিয়নের সহযোগিতায় বাংলাদেশ গ্রাম আদালত সক্রিয়করণ (২য় পর্যায়) প্রকল্পের অধীনে গ্রাম আদালতের কার্যক্রম চললেও শুধু চট্টগ্রামেই গত এক বছরে গ্রাম আদালতে বিচার পেয়েছেন ১ হাজার ২৫৬ জন বিচারপ্রার্থী। মামলা নিষ্পত্তির হার ৮৬ শতাংশ।

স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগ সূত্রে জানা গেছে, চট্টগ্রামের ফটিংছড়ি, লোহাগাড়া, সাতকানিয়া, সন্থীপ এবং সীতাকুণ্ড উপজেলার ৪৬টি

ইউনিয়নে বাংলাদেশ গ্রাম আদালত সক্রিয়করণ (২য় পর্যায়) প্রকল্পের কার্যক্রম চলমান রয়েছে।

গত বছরের জুলাই থেকে চলতি বছরের জুন পর্যন্ত এক বছর সময়ে এসব এলাকার গ্রাম আদালতে মামলা দায়ের হয়েছে ১ হাজার ২৯৮টি। যার ১৬৩টি মামলা এসেছে উচ্চ আদালত থেকে। এর মধ্যে জুলাইয়ে ১২৯টি, আগস্টে ৯৩টি, সেপ্টেম্বরে ৭২টি, অক্টোবরে ১২৮টি, নভেম্বরে ১১২টি, ডিসেম্বরে ৯৬টি, জানুয়ারিতে ১০২টি, ফেব্রুয়ারিতে ১০৩টি, মার্চে ১১৮টি, এপ্রিলে ১৫১টি, মেতে ১১৪টি এবং জুনে ৮১টি মামলা দায়ের করা হয়।

আগের ১৯০টিসহ মোট ১ হাজার ৪৮৮টি মামলার বিপরীতে এ সময়ে বাতিল ও নিষ্পত্তি হয়েছে ১ হাজার ২৫৬টি মামলা। এর মধ্যে জুলাইয়ে ১০৬টি, আগস্টে ১০৯টি, সেপ্টেম্বরে ৭৭টি, অক্টোবরে ৮৫টি, নভেম্বরে ৯২টি, ডিসেম্বরে ১০৭টি, জানুয়ারিতে

৮৬টি, ফেব্রুয়ারিতে ১০৭টি, মার্চে ১৩৭টি, এপ্রিলে ১৭৭টি, মেতে ১২৫টি এবং জুনে ৪৮টি মামলা নিষ্পত্তি হয়।

গ্রাম আদালতের মাধ্যমে শুধু মামলা নিষ্পত্তি নয়, মিলেছে ক্ষতিপূরণও। টাকার পরিমাণে যা ২৭ লাখ ২০ হাজার ১৪৭ টাকা। এর মধ্যে গত বছরের জুলাইয়ে ৫২ হাজার ৩০০ টাকা, আগস্টে ২ লাখ ৩ হাজার টাকা, সেপ্টেম্বরে ৭৬ হাজার ৫০০ টাকা, অক্টোবরে ১ লাখ ৪৫ হাজার ১৪৭ টাকা, নভেম্বরে ১ লাখ ২০ হাজার ৭০০ টাকা, ডিসেম্বরে ১ লাখ ৫২ হাজার ১০০ টাকা আদায় করা হয়।

অন্যদিকে চলতি বছরের জানুয়ারিতে ২ লাখ ৩১ হাজার ৫০০ টাকা, ফেব্রুয়ারিতে ৩ লাখ ৪৭ হাজার ৮০০ টাকা, মার্চে ৩ লাখ ৯৯ হাজার ৩০০ টাকা, এপ্রিলে ৪ লাখ ৩১ হাজার ৬০০ টাকা, মেতে ৫ লাখ ৯ হাজার ৫০০ টাকা এবং জুনে ৫০ হাজার ৭০০ টাকা ক্ষতিপূরণ আদায় করা হয়।

সংশ্লিষ্টরা জানান, গ্রাম আদালত আইন ২০০৬ (২০১৩ সালে সংশোধিত) এবং গ্রাম আদালত বিধিমালা ২০১৬ অনুযায়ী সর্বোচ্চ ৭৫ হাজার টাকা মূল্যমানের কৌজদারি ও দেওয়ানি মামলা নিষ্পত্তি হয় গ্রাম আদালতে। নিজ নিজ ইউনিয়নের চেয়ারম্যান এবং আবেদনকারী ও প্রতিবাদকারী মনোনিত ২ জন করে ৪ জন প্রতিনিধিসহ ৫ সদস্যের সমন্বয়ে গঠিত হয় এ আদালত।

গ্রাম আদালত গঠিত হওয়ার পর ১৫ দিনের মধ্যে সভা আহ্বান করা হয়। সভায় আবেদনকারী ও প্রতিবাদকারী উভয় পক্ষের মধ্যে আপসের মাধ্যমে বিরোধ নিষ্পত্তির উদ্যোগ নেন আদালত। এতে বিরোধ নিষ্পত্তি না হলে বিচারিক প্রক্রিয়া শুরু করে তা নিষ্পত্তি করা হয়। অল্প খরচে, স্বল্প সময়ে এবং সহজে মামলা নিষ্পত্তির সুযোগ থাকায় দিনে দিনে ভরসা বাড়ছে এ আদালতে।

স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগের উপ-পরিচালক ইয়াছমিন পারভীন ভিবরীজি বাংলাদেশিউজকে বলেন, উচ্চ আদালতে মামলার জট নিরসন এবং প্রান্তিক জনগোষ্ঠী বিশেষ করে নারী ও দরিদ্র লোকজন যাতে দ্রুত সময়ে ন্যায়বিচার পায় এ জন্য সরকার গ্রাম আদালত চালু করেছে। এতে ইউএনডিপির সঙ্গে ইউরোপিয়ান ইউনিয়নও সহায়তা দিচ্ছে।

Similar news coverage:

Hajigonj Kantho
<http://bit.ly/2AYxJmW>



New Age • 02 June 2018

Swedish envoys visit women-led climate change adaptation initiative in Khulna

Sweden ambassador in Dhaka Charlotta Schlyter and counsellor, head of development cooperation, Swedish embassy in Bangkok Anne-Charlotte Malm visited Deluti union parishad of Paikgacha upazila in Khulna on Friday to see the initiative of Gender Responsive Climate Change Adaptation.

The visiting team also included controller, Swedish embassy in Bangkok Goran Schill, controller, Swedish embassy in Dhaka Reazul Islam and representatives from UNDP. Bangladesh is considered as one of the most climate vulnerable countries and women in hard to reach areas, like

Deluti union are among the most vulnerable and are at greatest risk of climate related hazards.

UNDP in collaboration with the Finance Division has been working to address this challenge through the increasing flow to climate finance.

The Inclusive Budgeting and Financing for Climate Resilience funded by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and UNDP is working to consider women in national strategy for climate change and implement the local climate action plan to demonstrate gender-responsive climate actions at local level.

The team visited the project and met a group of vulnerable women and learned about how the women are becoming the change makers and fighting climate change with support from UNDP and SIDA.

Under the project women are trained on alternative livelihoods like crab fattening, alternative agri-system like hydroponics etc. They are also provided with a 'Women Centre' under this project, for training and other purposes. Charlotta Schlyter has applauded the initiative of the women with support from the union parishad and UNDP, SIDA for their measures to tackle climate change, said a press release.

Similar news coverage:

Daily Star

<http://bit.ly/2AYYTtJ>

The Independent

<http://bit.ly/2AYYVll>

Dhaka Tribune

<http://bit.ly/2sEtXtd>

Financial Express

<http://bit.ly/2AQKCzI>

Observer

<http://bit.ly/2sEpXtC>

Daily Sun

<http://bit.ly/2sHUd6Q>

UNB

<http://bit.ly/2AVqigj>

The New Nation

<http://bit.ly/2sCcQ5X>

Kaler Kantho

<http://bit.ly/2AZlB51>

Ittefaq

<http://bit.ly/2ASuWf9>

banglanews24.com

<http://bit.ly/2AUsljY>

allnewsbd24.com

<http://bit.ly/2AWlkl1>

Protidiner Sangbad

<https://bit.ly/2Fnr16g>

Shomoyer Khobor

<http://bit.ly/2sDQ4Rp>

Jonotar Bangla

<https://bit.ly/2TCv3lJ>

ctgpost.com

<http://bit.ly/2sEcDpb>

Shironam/bdnewseveryday.com

<https://bit.ly/2M5zFhS>



Prothom Alo • 22 May 2018

BUET youths win Safe Water Challenge award

A group of youths called 'TETRA' has won the maiden Safe Water Challenge award for their innovative solution to solve safe water problems in the coastal areas.

UNDP Bangladesh and Pureit of Unilever jointly organised the competition, according to a UNDP press release. The winner received Tk 500,000 for executing the idea.

The winning team, comprised mostly of BUET students, introduces a device named 'Atoshi' which simultaneously can desalinate and purify water. This device can produce 8-10 litres of drinking water per day on average, said the UNDP press release.

The device developed with the locally available materials is environment friendly, and can be produced at a low cost and thus can be sold at an affordable price in rural areas.

Earlier in February, UNDP and Pureit of Unilever made a partnership to provide pure water to commoners in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goal-6 - access to clean water and sanitation.

As part of the initiative, UNDP and Pureit jointly launched the first ever 'Safe Water Challenge', asking youths to submit their proposed solutions to solve safe water challenges in the rural areas of Bangladesh.

Among 130 entries, 10 proposed ideas were primarily selected.

The top 10 finalists on Tuesday presented their ideas before a jury board comprised of experts from different sectors at the UNDP country office in Agargaon of the capital.

UNDP Bangladesh's acting country director Shaila Khan said, "At UNDP, we believe that the SDGs represent a unique opportunity for big corporate to look at new markets and new technologies. Safe Water Challenge is one such approach to generate ideas for entrepreneurs linked directly with the demand of big corporate bodies.

"This unique partnership with Unilever will encourage other private organisations to come forward and be a part of the journey of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," she added.

Speaking on the occasion, Unilever marketing director of home care Tanzeen Ferdous Alam said, "We're committed to eradicate water-borne diseases for the people of Bangladesh by providing solutions for safe drinking water and help all the relevant stakeholders to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030."

The winner of the challenge will work closely with UNDP and Unilever to implement the plan and establish a business model for safe water.

Similar news coverage:

Daily Star

<http://bit.ly/2AYYTtj>

The Independent

<http://bit.ly/2AYYVII>

Dhaka Tribune

<http://bit.ly/2sEitXd>



Financial Express • 10 February 2018

China, UN extends further support to flood victims

China, along with the United Nations decided to extend further rehabilitate the flood effected people of last year's flood.

To this end, the embassy of China in association with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the district administration distributed various relief items to flood victims of Nilphamary.

To support the flood victims of the northern districts, the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China has partnered with the UNDP to provide \$4 million for early recovery efforts in Bangladesh.

As part of this joint initiative, a total of 13910 families in Kurigram, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat, Bogra and Nilphamari districts received the relief materials.

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, Chinese Economic and Commercial Counselor to Bangladesh Li Guangjun, UNDP Country Director Sudipto Mukerjee, UNFPA Deputy Representative Iori Kato and Nilphamari Deputy Commissioner (DC) Mohammad Khaled Rahim attended the relief distribution event.

BSS, citing a release says, China, UNDP and UNFPA partnership also helped Rohingya women by providing them with life-saving reproductive health kits, medicines

and supplies to health facilities particularly for women and girls of reproductive age.

Similar news coverage:

Kaler Kantho

<http://bit.ly/2sDgC5p>

bdnews24.com

<http://bit.ly/2AZm11D>

Daily Sun

<http://bit.ly/2sEpZ1e>

Ekushey TV

<https://bit.ly/2seXVJ8>

UNB

<http://bit.ly/2sHep9b>

jagnews24.com

<http://bit.ly/2AVjUpi>

Janakantha

<https://bit.ly/2VDYyVE>

Arthosuchak

<https://bit.ly/2Fo7Yzt>

jagnews24.com

<http://bit.ly/2sHeoSF>

Uttor Bangla

<http://bit.ly/2sCwsNN>

Bartoman

<http://bit.ly/2sFCv4g>

New Age

<http://bit.ly/2sDgF15>

Kaler Kantho

<http://bit.ly/2s1ctgp>

Xinhua

<http://bit.ly/2sElzy3>

Daily Sun

<http://bit.ly/2sAa33E>

Ittefaq

<http://bit.ly/2AVjZt6>

Bangla Tribune

<https://bit.ly/2VEudqj>

Sarabangla.net

<https://bit.ly/2SNcOdk>

71 sangbad.com

<http://bit.ly/2sG3zA5>

Amar Barta

<http://bit.ly/2sELJ03>



Daily Sun • 30 March 2018

Digital literacy must for progressive Bangladesh, says Zunaid Ahmed Palak

State Minister for ICT Division Zunaid Ahmed Palak has put emphasis on practicing digital literacy by the young people, saying that it is very important to make Bangladesh progressive and tolerant, reports BSS.

"Digital literacy among young people is crucial to make Bangladesh progressive and tolerant," he told "Digital Khichuri Challenge" follow-up event, organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on Thursday.

vPartnering with Facebook and Bangladesh ICT Division, UNDP initiated "Digital Khichuri Challenge" in 2016 in order to glean ideas from the youth with a view to building a more

peaceful and tolerant society and promoting cultural diversity, said a press release here today.

After three successful "Digital Khichuri Challenge", an event was organized to share the learning and challenges and find the way forward.

The winning teams from the past events presented the progress of their projects till to date. Among the winners; 'It's Okay Bangladesh', a platform, created by the winners of Digital Khichuri Challenge 2016 is now providing mental support to distressed individuals, through the website: <http://itsokaybd.com/>.

Another winning team 'Icarus' started an online platform "Onimikh"- <https://www.onimikh.com/> for young artists to promote Bangladeshi culture and heritage.

Team "Bonshai" is now working on an automated online messenger app called Anu-Bot that will attend to the problems of youths and provide solution to manage their anger and stress.

Addressing the event as the chief guest, the state minister assured the support from his ministry to continue their work. "Youths are the architects of Digital Bangladesh and the current government is always interested to invest in youth through initiatives, like Startup," said Palak.

"Platform like Digital Khichuri, will help Bangladesh to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 16- Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions," said Kyoko Yokosuka, deputy country director, UNDP Bangladesh.

Similar news coverage:

Dhaka Tribune

<http://bit.ly/2AVkhjG>

Kaler Kantho

<http://bit.ly/2sEJGcX>

UNB

<http://bit.ly/2sCws0f>



Asian Age • 02 March 2018

UNDP to raise tsunami awareness in BD

The coastal belt of Bangladesh is vulnerable to Tsunami, but people of the coastal areas are not aware of it, especially the children are at high risk. To raise the awareness and preparedness on Tsunami, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with support from the Government of Japan arranged drills for school children on 1st March in Cox's Bazar.

Almost 230,000 people died in 2004 Tsunami, that hit Sumatra Island, Indonesia. After this one of the deadliest Tsunami, UNDP, with financial support from Japan, has been working in 18 countries including Bangladesh to raise Tsunami awareness among the school children.

Under this initiative, UNDP in association with the

Department of Disaster Management of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, identified five most vulnerable schools in Cox's Bazar and Maheshkhali districts and has been working to raise the awareness of the children about Tsunami. As part of that, on 1st March a drill and art competition were organized at Madhya Kurushkul government primary school, where the Director General of the Department of Disaster Management Md Reaz Ahmed, attended the drill as the chief guest.

While speaking at the event, Md Reaz said, "Among many other disasters, Tsunami is a new disaster for Bangladesh. We only got to know about this after the 2004 Tsunami in Indonesia. Bangladesh government has already taken many

initiatives to minimize the loss, if Tsunami hits. We are also working with our development partners to raise the awareness among the coastal people. Besides that, government has introduced a helpline-1090, where people can find information about weather or natural disasters anytime a day from any mobile without any charge." He further added, cyclone centers are built for safe places during Tsunami and with support from Japan government, we are working with UNDP to prepare the school children. We hope to continue this in future."

Dr. ASM Maksud Kamal, Professor, Disaster Science and Management, University of Dhaka said, "Many people from the coastal areas, haven't heard about Tsunami yet. Though there is low risk of Tsunami in Bangladesh but still steps should be taken to keep the poor and marginalized people of the coastal areas safe, if Tsunami hits."

UNDP Bangladesh, Country Director, Sudipto Mukerjee in his speech said, "Coastal areas are always vulnerable to many disasters like cyclone, landslide, tidal surge etc. There is another threat, called Tsunami, which can be dangerous if occurs in the sea." Sudipto also said, "School-aged children and students can make a significant contribution to enhancing the awareness and preparedness of a community simply by sharing the knowledge with their family members."

Similar news coverage:

New Age

<http://bit.ly/2sDwogu>

Daily Sun

<http://bit.ly/2sDwqF8>

Asian Age

<http://bit.ly/2sFCyWY>

UNB

<http://bit.ly/2ASuygf>

jagonews24.com

<http://bit.ly/2AVIoxPG>

banglanews24.com

<http://bit.ly/2slczoh>

Priyo

<http://bit.ly/2sBVZXi>



Dhaka Tribune • 28 February 2018

Green Climate Fund, UNDP to build resilience of women to fight climate change

The Green Climate Fund has approved almost \$25m in grant funding to support the efforts of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to build the adaptive capacities of women and adolescent girls living in the southwestern districts of Bangladesh.

Green Climate Fund is world's largest multilateral fund for climate change action.

With a focus on women and adolescent girls, a new six-year project "Enhancing adaptive capacities of coastal communities, especially women, to cope with climate change induced salinity" will begin in July.

The project will benefit 700,000 people living in disaster-prone areas, says a statement issued by UNDP.

According to the statement, this is first of its kind project in Bangladesh, where the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs, is providing \$8m as a co-financer to work with UNDP to empower women as "change-agents" to plan, implement, and manage climate-resilient solutions.

The project will provide assistance to 39,000 women and girls in Satkhira and Khulna to adopt resilient livelihoods, while ensuring reliable, safe drinking water for 130,000 people through community-managed rainwater harvesting solutions.

It will also seek to strengthen the participation of women in last-mile dissemination of gender-responsive early warnings and continued monitoring and adaptation of livelihoods to evolving climate risks.

In addition to training in business development, the project will link women's producer groups to business via networking activities (including through Public-Private Initiative platforms to be established at local level), and will provide support to access credit from the financial sector.

The project will link women's producer groups to market, the statement said.

Nasima Begum ndc, secretary, ministry of women and children affairs, welcomed the Green Climate Fund Board's approval.

She said: "The Government of Bangladesh is committed to tackling climate change in the context of its overall development framework and its goals under Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

"This newly approved project contributes towards priorities outlined in Bangladesh's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and climate change strategies, including its Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan and existing Climate Change Gender Action Plan."

Through the project, the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs will be integrating gender and climate change across sectors. The Department of Public Health Engineering will be scaling-up climate-resilient solutions to ensure safe drinking water across coastal communities.

Similar news coverage:

Daily Star

<http://bit.ly/2sEcNwN>

Daily Sun

<http://bit.ly/2AVrakS>

Financial Express

<http://bit.ly/2sEq8oM>



Daily Star • 28 February 2018

Use ADR system

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday urged the lower court judges to encourage litigants to use the alternative dispute resolution (ADR) system to settle cases outside the court in order to reduce the backlog of cases.

If the ADR system is used, it will be possible to reduce the backlog and thereby provide the people with legal aid within a very short period, he added.

The government has included the rules of ADR system in the Code of Civil Procedure and Orthorin Adalot (Money Loan Court) Act for this purpose, said Anisul while addressing the inauguration of the functions of the National Justice Coordination Committee as the chief guest.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organised the event at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

Law and Justice Division Secretary ASSM Zahirul Haque Dulal presided over the occasion where Additional Inspector General of Police Mokhesur Rahman, acting registrar general of the Supreme Court Md Zakir Hossain, Inspector General of Prisons Syed Ifekhar Uddin, and UNDP's Bangladesh Country Director Sudipta Mukharjee also spoke.

Similar news coverage:

UNDP Bangladesh

<http://bit.ly/2sEqbAY>

Financial Express

<http://bit.ly/2sGprUJ>

Dhaka Tribune

<http://bit.ly/2sCwwgv>

Kaler Kantho

<http://bit.ly/2sDQcJR>

publicnow.com

<http://bit.ly/2AUsoWQ>

NTV

<http://bit.ly/2sFCBc8>

Channel I

<https://bit.ly/2VDyNWS>

bdnews24.com

<http://bit.ly/2AW5hlw>

Bhorer Kagoj

<https://bit.ly/2RAFKrJ>

banglanews24.com

<http://bit.ly/2AW4Fwe>

Dhaka Times

<https://bit.ly/2FoscsA>

jagonews24.com

<http://bit.ly/2sBWn8c>

Ekushey TV

<https://bit.ly/2TEU9jl>

Bangla Vision

<http://bit.ly/2sD7zBD>

Samakal

<https://bit.ly/2H3Vz5X>

Ittefaq

<http://bit.ly/2sG4hNL>

Kaler Kantho

<http://bit.ly/2sNBdDX>

Bangla Tribune

<https://bit.ly/2ForWKF>

Inqilab

<https://bit.ly/2QB7rvT>

71sangbad.com

<http://bit.ly/2AW5t4e>

Jugantor

<https://bit.ly/2D0A5CW>

risingbd.com

<http://bit.ly/2AW4UYa>

Desh Sangbad

<http://bit.ly/2sGyYtg>

Janakantha

<https://bit.ly/2TzXzEC>

Alokito Protidin

<https://bit.ly/2AACPW8>

Amader Orthoneeti

<http://bit.ly/2sCwRQJ>



Kaler Kantho • 30 January 2018

জলাবদ্ধতা নিরসনের দায়িত্ব চায় পরিকল্পনা কমিশন

যশোর, খুলনা ও সাতক্ষীরার তিন দশকের জলাবদ্ধতা সমস্যার স্থায়ী সমাধানের দায়িত্ব নিতে চায় পরিকল্পনা কমিশন। জলাবদ্ধতা নিরসনে একটি জাতীয় টাঙ্কফোর্স গঠন করে সে টাঙ্কফোর্সের প্রধান হিসেবে পরিকল্পনাসচিবকে রাখার প্রস্তাব করেছে কমিশন। একই সঙ্গে আলাদা একটি তহবিল গঠনের প্রস্তাবও করেছে কমিশন।

পরিকল্পনা কমিশনের কার্যক্রম বিভাগ ও জাতিসংঘ উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচির (ইউএনডিপি) যৌথ গবেষণায় এমন প্রস্তাব করা হয়েছে। গতকাল সোমবার রাজধানীর শেরেবাংলানগরের এনইসি সম্মেলনক্ষেত্রে গবেষণাটি আনুষ্ঠানিকভাবে প্রকাশ করা হয়।

অনুষ্ঠানে প্রধান অতিথি ছিলেন অর্থ ও পরিকল্পনা প্রতিমন্ত্রী এম এ মান্নান। এ সময় অন্যদের মধ্যে বক্তব্য দেন পরিকল্পনা বিভাগের সচিব জিয়াউল ইসলাম, সাধারণ অর্থনীতি বিভাগের সদস্য ড. শামসুল আলম। অনুষ্ঠানে মূল প্রবন্ধ উপস্থাপন করেন ইউএনডিপির পরামর্শক রবিউল ইসলাম। স্বাগত বক্তব্য দেন পরিকল্পনা কমিশনের কার্যক্রম বিভাগের প্রধান সাঈদুল হক।

সাধারণ অর্থনীতি বিভাগের সদস্য শামসুল আলম বলেন, ‘পরিকল্পনা কমিশনের দায়িত্ব হলো দেশের নীতি কৌশল প্রণয়ন করা। দেশের ভবিষ্যৎ কর্মকৌশল ঠিক করা। অর্থনীতির গতি-প্রকৃতি নির্ণয় করা। একটি অঞ্চলের জলাবদ্ধতা নিরসনের কাজ পরিকল্পনা কমিশনের নয়। জলাবদ্ধতা নিরসন কারিগরি

বিষয়। সে বিষয়ে বিশেষজ্ঞ আছে। পানিসম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়, পানি উন্নয়ন বোর্ড ও দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা মন্ত্রণালয় আছে। তারা জলাবদ্ধতা নিয়ে কাজ করবে এটাই তাদের দায়িত্ব।’ তিনি আরো বলেন, ‘পরিকল্পনা কমিশন কোনো বাস্তবায়নকারী সংস্থা নয়। আপনি প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়ন করবেন, এটা আপনার দায়িত্বের সঙ্গে যায় না। ম্যান্ডেট দেওয়া হয়নি আপনাকে প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়নের জন্য। জলাবদ্ধতা নিরসনের জন্য সমন্বয়ের ওপর জোর দিতে হবে। একই সঙ্গে ড্রেজিং ও উজ্জান থেকে পানিপ্রবাহ বাড়ানোর ওপর গুরুত্ব দিতে হবে।’

জলাবদ্ধতা নিরসন কারিগরি শামসুল আলম বলেন, ‘সরকার ১০০ বছর মেয়াদি একটি ডেস্টা প্যান প্রণয়ন করেছে। সেখানে জলাবদ্ধতা নিরসনে বিভিন্ন পদক্ষেপের কথা বলা হয়েছে।’

অর্থ ও পরিকল্পনা প্রতিমন্ত্রী বলেন, ‘আমি ছোটকাল থেকেই যশোরের ভবদহ অঞ্চলের দুর্গখের কথা শুনে আসছি। দক্ষিণাঞ্চলে জলাবদ্ধতা বহু বছরের পুরনো। ৩০ বছর আগের। এখনো সমস্যার সমাধান হয়নি। জলাবদ্ধতা নিরসনে কত টাকা লাগতে পারে, সেটি বের করতে বিশেষজ্ঞদের কাছে পরামর্শ চাই। একই সঙ্গে জলাবদ্ধতা নিরসনে সব সংস্থার মধ্যে সমন্বয় সাধন জরুরি।’

গতকাল প্রকাশিত প্রতিবেদনে বলা হয়েছে, ২০০০ থেকে ২০১৬ সাল পর্যন্ত যশোর, খুলনা ও সাতক্ষীরার জলাবদ্ধতা নিরসনে স্থির মূল্যে পাঁচ হাজার ৬৯৭ কোটি টাকা ব্যয় হয়েছে। বার্ষিক উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচির (এডিপি) আওতায় বিভিন্ন প্রকল্পের আওতায় এই টাকা দেওয়া হয়। কিন্তু প্রকল্পগুলোর মধ্যে সমন্বয় না থাকায় সাধারণ মানুষ সুফল পায়নি।

প্রতিবেদনে বেশ কয়েকটি পরামর্শ দেওয়া হয়েছে। তাতে বলা হয়েছে, সব সংস্থার সমন্বয়ে ২০১৮ সালের মধ্যে একটি ফ্রেমওয়ার্ক তৈরি করা। এ ছাড়া ২০১৯ সালের মধ্যে জলাবদ্ধতা নিরসনে একটি অ্যাকশন প্যান তৈরি করতে হবে। এই অ্যাকশন প্যান বাস্তবায়নে ২০২০ থেকে ২০৩০ সাল এই ১০ বছর মেয়াদি আলাদা একটি তহবিল গঠন করতে হবে।

Similar news coverage:

Jugantor

<https://bit.ly/2RgK3Ja>

Dhaka Times

<https://bit.ly/2VHjJGef>

Amader Orthoneti

<http://bit.ly/2AW5DIS>

sarabangla.net

<https://bit.ly/2FjQsgC>



While making a presentation on SDGs M&E Framework for Bangladesh, Dr. Shamsul Alam, said presently, data for 64 indicators are readily available; data for 58 indicators are partially available, while data on 110 indicators is not available in the context of Bangladesh.”

Abul Kalam Azad laid emphasis on generation of administrative data. He said, “All ministries have to work in collaboration with Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) for generation and validation of data for SDGs monitoring”.

Similar news coverage:

Daily Sun

<http://bit.ly/2sFCWvq>

Dhaka Tribune

<http://bit.ly/2shUfSA>

Daily Star

<http://bit.ly/2AW5a9A>

UNB • 24 January 2018

Framework to track SDG progress in place

The government has approved the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Bangladesh aimed at tracking the implementation progress of SDGs in the country.

The M&E Framework for SDGs was approved at an inter-ministerial meeting titled “Finalization of Bangladesh’s Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” held at NEC Conference Room of Planning Commission in Dhaka on Tuesday.

The General Economics Division (GED), Planning Commission and Engaging with Institutions (EI), IP Project, UNDP Bangladesh have jointly organized the meeting, said

a press release on Wednesday.

Chaired by Planning Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal; Dr. Shamsul Alam, Member (Senior Secretary), GED, Planning Commission; Abul Kalam Azad, Principal Coordinator for SDGs Affairs at Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) and secretaries from different ministries were present at the meeting.

Mentioning the Prime Minister’s political commitment in implementing the SDGs, the Planning Minister said Bangladesh will engage all required resources en route to attaining global goals, SDGs.

He also said that the first report on progress monitoring of SDGs in Bangladesh will be prepared soon based on this framework.



UNB • 29 December 2018

UNDP, WALTON join hands to save Ozone Layer

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and WALTON signed an agreement on Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) phase-out project on here Saturday.

Sudipto Mukerjee, Resident Representative, UNDP Bangladesh and SM Ashraf Alam, Managing Director, Walton Hi-Tech Industries Limited signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations.

After the ratification of the Montreal Protocol in 1990, UNDP has been working with the government and private industries to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the production of numerous substances that are responsible for ozone depletion.

In line with that UNDP and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, with funding from the Montreal Protocol, will support WALTON, the largest refrigerator manufacturer in Bangladesh to phase out HFCs.

These are mainly used in refrigerators and air conditions, which are contributing to global warming rapidly. Earlier in 2011, UNDP, supported WALTON to phase out HCFC, said UNDP.

Attending the signing ceremony, Sudipto Mukerjee Said, "UNDP is proud to partner with WALTON in the world's single largest private sector conversion project to save the planet and help to achieve the Sustainable Development

Goal 12-Sustainable Consumption and Production."

He also thanked the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Montreal Protocol for partnering with UNDP.

SM Ashraf Alam highlighted WALTON's efforts to keep Bangladesh green. "Conservation of environment is always our top priority and we're glad to take part in this journey with UNDP to save the Ozone layer"

Among others, Khurshid Alam and Shaila Khan, Assistant Resident Representatives, UNDP, Mamunur Rashid, Climate Change Specialist, UNDP and other high officials from UNDP and WALTON were present.

Similar news coverage:

bdnews24.com
<http://bit.ly/2AW5P16>

RTV
<https://bit.ly/2H5ObHg>

Manabzamin
<https://bit.ly/2QCbCYc>

Samakal
<https://bit.ly/2VGndti>

risingbd.com
<http://bit.ly/2sHeQ3j>

abnews24.com
<https://bit.ly/2sl0vta>

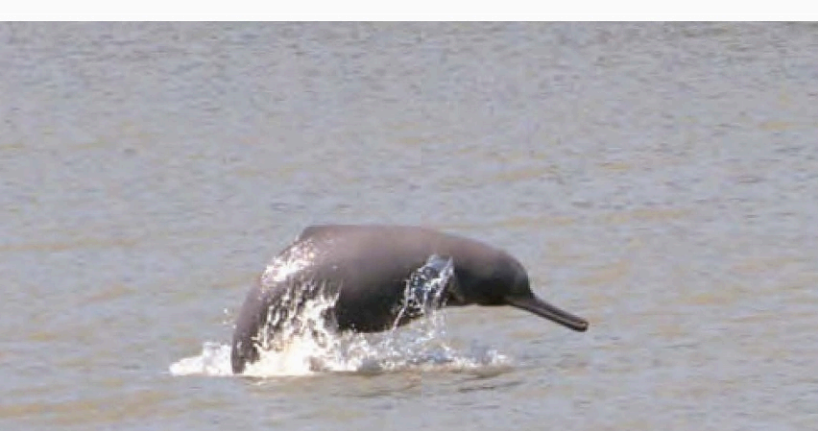
Bangla Tribune
<https://bit.ly/2D2eMkN>

UNB
<https://bit.ly/2FrFnxE>

Jai Jai Din
<https://bit.ly/2H2t0WJ>

Kaler Kantho
<http://bit.ly/2sBWosM>

Janakantha
<https://bit.ly/2sjxTf>



BSS • 04 January 2019

Community people to become Sundarbans dolphin saviours

The Bangladesh Forest Department has started forming dolphin conservation teams involving community people to protect the endangered aquatic species in the rivers of the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest.

"We've already formed three dolphin conservation teams in the Sundarbans and will constitute more such groups to protect dolphins," Md Modinul Ahsan, Divisional Forest Officer and National Project Director told BSS.

Noting that the conservation teams are working voluntarily to create awareness among the community people so that they come forward to save dolphins in the Sundarbans, he

said the team members have already received training to this effect.

Modinul said when dolphins are caught in the nets of fishermen in the Sundarbans' rivers, the conservation teams immediately inform the forest officials about the incidents and thus dolphins are rescued and released to nature.

The Sundarbans is a home to the Asia's last two remaining freshwater dolphin species – the endangered Ganges River Dolphin and Irrawaddy Dolphin.

To protect the Sundarbans dolphins, the conservation teams are being formed under the Expanding the Protected Area System to Incorporate Aquatic Systems

With financial support from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Forest Department in collaboration with IUCN Bangladesh is implementing the project.

IUCN Programme Coordinator ABM Sarwar Alam said three dolphin conservation teams have already been formed in the Sundarbans and such four teams will be floated soon to monitor and check fishing in the dolphin protected areas of the mangrove forest.

The department has so far identified several hotspots in Sela-Supati rivers, Sibsa River, the estuarine area around Putney Island, Pasur River, Baleshwar Estuary, and the Pankhali confluence, covering an area of 57 square kilometres.

In 2012, the government declared the Dhangmari, Chandpai and Dudhmukhi areas of Pasur and Andharmanik rivers as 'dolphin sanctuaries', covering 32 linear kilometres.

Sarwar Alam said after introduction of the conservation teams, fishing declines by 70 percent in Dhangmari sanctuary and that is why the state of dolphin is good there.

A huge number of cargos ply through the canal of Chandpai sanctuary every day, posing threat to dolphins, he said, adding boundary of the channel has already been demarked for plying water vessels, so dolphins could be protected controlling vessel movement.

Dolphin still in danger: Sundarbans is the only place where the Ganges river dolphins and Irrawaddy dolphins are found together. But these are now endangered mammals due to both natural and manmade causes.

Similar news coverage:

Daily Sun

<http://bit.ly/2sGpQhc>

New Nation

<http://bit.ly/2sDQyqH>



Daily Star • 19 November 2018

People-friendly court

After the demise of her landless husband, domestic help Runu Begum, 45, with her only child Surma, took shelter at her father's house at Sakhipur village in Barguna's Bamna upazila several years ago. Surma is now an HSC first year student of a local college.

Runu often faces inhuman behaviour from her brothers. On June 4 this year, Runu and her daughter were physically tortured by one of her brothers and nephews over a trivial matter.

After the incident, Runu started heading for the local police station, but on the way Eusuf Ali, a member of village police, advised her to file a case with local Gram Adalat (village court) instead of police station after hearing her sorry tale.

Following a case filed by Runu at a cost of only Tk 10 as fee, the village court, led by the local union parishad (UP) chairman, issued a summons notice to the accused to appear before the court.

After hearing both sides, the court asked the accused for pardon for their bad deeds and fined them Tk 1,000 as treatment cost of Runu and Surma. The accused also made commitment not to torture the woman and her daughter further.

"I am very grateful to the court as they heard me and gave their judgment in a very short time," said Runu.

There was a longstanding dispute between auto-rickshaw driver Motiar Rahman of Karuna village in Betagi upazila and

his neighbour Shahin Khan over borrowing Tk 50,000.

On January 20 this year, Motiar filed a case with the village court at Mokamia UP office by paying fee of only Tk 20. After examining witnesses and evidence, the court in its judgment on March 5 asked Shahin to repay the money to Motiar. The latter got the amount following the verdict.

Like Runu and Motiar, many got justice through the village court in different union parishads of the coastal district.

The government enacted a law named 'Gram Adalat Ain-2006 (Amendment 2013)' to resolve the petty matters at a low cost. Local UP conducts the court, but due to lack of technical knowledge, the court failed to play its role properly.

Later, the LGRD ministry, with the help of European Union (EU) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), implemented a project titled 'Activating Village Court'. The second phase of the project started in January last year, which will end in December 2019 in order to improve access to justice for disadvantaged and marginalised groups.

Twenty-five unions of Amtali, Bamna, Betagi and Pathorghata upazilas have been brought under the project and total 1,436 cases out of 1,545 were disposed in the courts till August 30 this year, said Kamol Banerjee, Barguna district facilitator of UNDP under the project.

The courts also realised a total of Tk 1.17 crore and gave it to the victims in the cases during the time, he said.

Any plaintiff can file a case with the village court by paying only Tk 10 in criminal and Tk 20 in civil nature matters, valued up to Tk 75,000, said Kamol Banerjee.

As many as 1,080 unions of 128 upazilas in 27 districts have been brought under the coverage of the project, said Banerjee.

Advocate Shahjahan, a lawyer of Barguna District and Sessions Judge's Court, said village court is getting popularity among the locals as it promptly resolves petty matters at a token cost.



Daily Star Business page • 06 November 2018

Developing a thriving ecosystem for start-ups

During a national dialogue to foster the start-up ecosystem in Bangladesh, nine start-ups consisting of two members each were given a unique opportunity to present their business ideas in front of top corporates on September 7. Prior to that, the teams received assistance and mentoring for two days to polish their ideas before their final presentation.

The project, presented by Youth CoLab and Youthopia.bangla, led jointly by UNDP and Citi Foundation, is a "key initiative which has been introduced in 18 countries throughout the world", according to Ke Linka Lin, national dialogue coordinator, UNDP's Bangkok regional hub.

And, because of its success, it is now being extended to even more countries, including Bangladesh.

For a country like ours, where nearly a third of the population is between the ages of 18-35 (numbering 60 million by 2020), this is particularly exciting.

Bangladesh is soon set to become a middle-income country after several years of consistent economic growth, which means investing in start-ups and small business enterprises now becomes even more crucial.

Thus, a great way of combining the two together is to encourage young people to become entrepreneurs, as that

would be a great way of ensuring that we maximise the benefits of our current demographic dividend.

This is where UNDP, along with its partners, have teamed up to act as an accelerator behind accelerators to try and empower young people to start their own businesses. But, for young people, starting a business is not an easy task by any means, especially in Bangladesh.

Despite today's youth being more educated and proficient with technology than previous generations, financial constraints remain a major barrier for them to start their own business.

Getting the necessary financing from banks become especially difficult because of their demand for collateral which many young people do not have readily available. What then is the alternative?

Well, as this project demonstrated, getting start-ups to pitch their ideas to corporations, who can then finance their projects is one innovative way of circumventing the problem of financing.

Not only does this help start-ups find alternative investment sources, but it also helps established corporations overcome some of their rigidity and invest in potentially great business ideas that can change society for the better.

Given that it is often difficult for start-ups to get their ideas to the market, interacting with well established businesses, on the other hand, can help young entrepreneurs overcome some of the common problems that they face such as finding the right direction for their ideas, sustainability and the scaling up of their business later on.

But what value can start-ups bring to society, in exchange?

As Tina Jabeen, deputy project director for ICT innovation at Startup Bangladesh, explained during the discussions, Bangladesh is targeting to become a developing country by 2021.

For the past few years it has been enjoying a 7-plus percent GDP growth. However, "in order to sustain we need to have minimum 8 percent GDP and that is not easy."

This is why start-ups are so important, as they “can bring a lot of employment with more innovative businesses which would require technical knowledge”.

Moreover, “In order to enjoy 8 percent GDP we need \$20-25 billion foreign investment in Bangladesh”. And start-ups are perfectly aligned to attract the increased investment that is necessary, as in today’s world, it is much easier to attract investors through companies that are tech-driven.

Therefore, although the start-up ecosystem in Bangladesh is currently in its infancy, more focus should be shifted towards it so that the economy can reap the benefits from it in the long-run.

In that regard, it is important to understand that there are more barriers to setting up a new business than financing alone.

Young people in Bangladesh are often discouraged from taking the risk of starting their own business, and are encouraged to settle for something that seems to be a safer bet. Because of familial and other kinds of pressure, they are prevented from pursuing their dream of starting a new business.

However, as Wahid Hossain, founder and CEO of Tiger Bow, explained, start-ups need training and guidelines, besides other kinds of support.

The government alone cannot provide these supports.

And, along with that, society at large too must be made aware of the benefits that start-ups can provide to our economy. Once that has been achieved, developing a thriving ecosystem for start-ups can proceed much faster, generating much greater profits for our nation in the years ahead.



Dhaka Tribune • 30 November 2018

‘United efforts, investment by private sector essential for safe drinking water’

‘The demand of water is quite high owing to the high population density’

Speakers at a roundtable have called for united efforts, greater involvement and investment from private sector to ensure supply of safe drinking water to all by the year 2021.

‘Pureit’ brand of Unilever Bangladesh and ‘Innovation Hub’ of United Nations Development Program (UNDP) jointly hosted the roundtable titled ‘SDG 6 Multisectoral Dialogue on Safe Water’ at Westin Hotel in Dhaka on Thursday evening.

The roundtable was organized to brainstorm the private

sector’s challenge in ensuring the supply of safe drinking water for all against the backdrop of urbanization and climate change.

Nojibur Rahman, principal secretary to the Prime Minister, was the chief guest, while Managing Director and CEO, WASA, Engineer Taqsem A. Khan was the special guest.

“The partnership between the government and private sectors is very crucial to entitle everyone to safe water. They need to work in unison and a need for investment from the private sector. It is only then, it would be possible to reach

the goal to ensure safe water for all by the year 2021," Nejjibur Rahman said.

He suggested considering the country's climate and geography before making any plans.

Engineer Taqsem A Khan said, "The demand of water is quite high owing to the high population density. It is a big challenge to ensure safe water for even 17 million people living in Dhaka. We are trying to face this challenge under the leadership of the prime minister. But, it is not possible for the government alone to manage safe water for such a huge population. The private sector also has to come forward. Dhaka WASA has already started some projects in partnership with the private sector."

He urged the private sector to come forward with greater involvement in the process.

The roundtable is a step towards realizing the organization's overarching goal to lead sustainable practices and investments in ensuring safe water.

Kedar Lele, CEO of Unilever Bangladesh, said: "When we as a business want to grow, we must make sure that growth has to be responsible. Hence the 4 'R's' - 'Reduce,' 'Recycle,' 'Reuse' and 'Recharge' have to be taken into account. Unilever's water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) agenda is coming to Bangladesh in a great way. Our brand 'Pureit' as well as the organization has been at the forefront of the WASH agenda."

"I ask all organizations, entrepreneurs, and finance institutions in this room that if you think the brands of Unilever can work with you to expand your reach and develop business models, you are most welcome. We will create time, energy and investment into it to make it a reality. Secondly, I would suggest adding one more P to the PPP. It's not simply profit-driven partnership, but a purpose-driven partnership," he said.

The roundtable discussed the existing projects of the government, non-government organizations, and INGOs regarding ensuring safe water in Bangladesh and the projects that are needed to be undertaken in the days to come.

Sudipto Mukherjee, UNDP's country director said, "Safe Water is a challenge that requires large capital expenditure and time. At the same time, it represents an untapped market potential for private sector to serve millions of people and multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). UNDP is supporting private sector endeavors by offering technical advice to measure impact, and plan inclusive businesses and the platform to connect stakeholders."

All stakeholders including financial institutions, public and private sectors, and NGOs had their participation and voices in the roundtable. The recommendations that came from

the event will pave the path for the next course of action in ensuring public-private partnership to entitle everyone to safe water.

Country Public Affairs & Communications Officer of Coca-cola Shamima Akhter, Associate Director of PwC Sandeep Kota, Senior Advisor of World Bank Javed Bin Karim and Tanzeen Ferdous Alam marketing director of Unilever Bangladesh Limited attended the roundtable along with other dignitaries.

In February this year, Unilever Bangladesh teamed up with the UNDP Bangladesh to help the country attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Daily Star Business page • 04 December 2018

Apparel industry building sustainable businesses

Markets earlier used to solely depend on supply and demand, and the prices and profit were contingent upon these forces. However, the emerging trends of the global economy are disrupting the economy in ways where businesses need to adapt to the increasingly informed consumers, agile digital competitors, and new customer segments brought by the connectivity of information technology.

The first industrial revolution used water and steam power to mechanise production. The second used electric power to create mass production. The third used electronics and information technology to automate the production

process. Now the fourth industrial revolution is building on the third and it is a digital revolution that synthesises its preceding revolutions.

As Bangladesh aims to progress to a middle-income country, its stakeholders need to align with the above trend to sustain its development in the long-term. This means: creating an ecosystem that nurtures innovative entrepreneurs who can compete on the world stage; empowering youth that will be the next generation of the workforce; preventing jobless growth; and finally, growing business with broader social and environmental awareness.

Private and public stakeholders who foresee this necessity have started to convene to align themselves in re-designing the economy, as exemplified by the Thought Leadership programme by Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The programme also congregated leading established businesses in the apparel industry and stakeholders of the supply chain.

Bangladeshi apparel industry is a quintessential part of the national economy, constituting more than 10 percent of the GDP, 80 percent of earnings from exports, and well over one-third of the employment.

The apparel industry has come a long way during the past two decades, wherein it has the highest number of green factories and half of the factories have effluent treatment plants.

The Accord and the Alliance, the two Western buyers' platforms working to improve workplace safety in Bangladesh readymade garment sector, have completed their tenure and the industry remains in positive rating.

However, challenges remain in measuring and communicating these positive changes to the export destinations, as well as continuously exploring new business models that ensure growth through the fourth industrial revolution. For the apparel sector specifically, the new economy has created a new customer segment, distribution model, and shareholders.

New digital technology is connecting and informing communities and consumers who are demanding transparency and accountability while having access to several outlet channels that are directly linked to suppliers. NGOs have emerged as supporters of distribution and production models through their livelihood generation and capacity building programme that can support goods consignment scheme or new market outreach. Smaller companies are becoming more agile and competitive with the adoption of latest technologies and personalisation.

These new opportunities and risks represent a shift in how financial value is generated – profit lies not in merely reducing cost and mass-producing merchandise, but in having an inclusive business model to accommodate the increasingly connected and complex economy where businesses need to address the social aspect and consequences of their business beyond price tags and machines.

"Innovation is not necessarily a new invention. Innovation becomes the structural transformation of the ecosystem when best practices raise awareness," said Linda Germanis, project manager of the UNDP Innovation Hub, while presenting the keynote at the Thought Leadership programme.

The list of examples of financial value in sustainable practice goes on: increasing productivity through capacity building; offering decent work for employee retention and lower absenteeism; certifying good practices; and sourcing responsibly to mitigate risk.

A best example is H&M Plus, which aims to utilise 100 percent recyclable products as part of the company's endeavour to create a circular economy and lower the risks of climate change.

DBL is inspiring others to set up fair price shops, and SMEs like Sokhipad are introducing business models with established corporate houses.

The two companies are part of the platform "Business Call to Action", yet another manifestation of the more significant trend of convergence of stakeholders and socio-economic values. Through the platform, which can be accessed through UNDP Bangladesh country office, businesses can become a member to gain global visibility, impact measurement and planning services, and technical advisory in inclusive business model design.

HSBC's sustainability strategy, on the other hand, is working to reduce the environmental impact of its clients' supply chain.

Transformational change is taking place where new customer engagement, new investment areas and subsequently investment vehicle, and new partnerships are being forged.

Similar news coverage:

UNDP Bangladesh

<http://bit.ly/2lkZtiC>

Financial Express

<http://bit.ly/2TN977R>



Daily Star Business page • 13 December 2018

Inclusive business models for safe water

How would you feel if you were limited to using 13 gallons of water per day that includes roughly a 90-second shower, eight glasses of drinking water, a few dish-washings, one cooked meal, two hand washings, two teeth brushings and one-toilet flush? Sounds bizarre? Surprisingly, the dwellers of Cape Town have been encountering this reality just after facing the prospect of their city running out of water.

The water crisis in Cape Town, South Africa began in 2015

which resulted in a severe water shortage in the region. The severity of the crisis reached such a level that the government of South Africa decided to announce 'Day Zero', which indicated a moment when the municipal water supply would largely be shut off if a particular lower limit of water storage is reached and people would be sent to communal water points to collect their daily allotment of 6.6 gallons of water. Though the day has not arrived yet, it

still remains an ever-present threat and may happen anytime in 2019.

No doubt, the Cape Town water crisis highlights the significant threat to companies and serves as a warning to the vulnerable cities around the world.

Bangladesh is among the vulnerable zones that encounter safe water challenges not just in terms of quantity but obviously in quality. A study reveals that almost 97 percent of its population have access to water, but 40 percent have the privilege of getting safe water and proper sanitation which is a matter of major concern for achieving the targets of the Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6).

The other concern deals with the overconsumption of water by large industrial sectors such as the textile industry. Granted that water has a special economic utility and is a key input in the textile sector, but this particular industry consumes large quantities of water in the direct operations of supply chain, which eventually results in the huge depletion of the groundwater level particularly in Dhaka city.

Moreover, the unavailability of tariffs on groundwater extraction allows businesses and agricultural practices to extract water at a rapid pace with minimal or no recycling.

In the wake of such reality where 60 percent of the people is accessing unsafe drinking water, there is a huge untapped market potential for the private sector to play a key role in solving the question of safe and quality water access.

Drinkwell and Folia Water are two innovative social enterprises in Bangladesh which not only bring commercial approaches to their social initiatives but also reflect creativity in aligning their business with the SDG 6. Drinkwell uses the public-private partnership model to serve the purpose of providing water services to the urban population. The company has partnered with Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority to make Dhaka the first megacity to provide a legal access to safe water for all by establishing Water ATM systems.

Folia Water's value proposition involves the distribution of

silver-infused filter papers that cost as low as Tk 30 and thus provide the opportunity to the low-income community to have filtered water within an affordable range.

Realising the need to facilitate the proliferation of inclusive business models such as Drinkwell and Folia Water, Pureit brand of Unilever Bangladesh and the Innovation Hub of the JNDP jointly hosted a roundtable in Dhaka on "SDG 6 Multi-sectoral Dialogue on Safe Water".

Speaking at the roundtable, Kedar Lele, chief executive officer and managing director of Unilever Bangladesh, said only public private purpose-driven partnership can bring meaningful difference to establish an effective water governance.

Linda Germanis, the project manager of the Innovation Hub for Private Sector at the JNDP, emphasised the need to develop new business-to-business models to introduce water recycling, harvesting and safe drinking water into established businesses.

The roundtable applauded the initiatives of two startups -- Tetra and Shishir Water -- for the effort to address the

problem of groundwater salinity in the coastal regions and serve clean drinking water to the unserved population at an affordable price respectively.

However, challenges lie in the fact that the new business model for water services receives less attention because of a lack of effective commercial and social marketing facilities. Effective new partnerships need to be forged to bring visibility and awareness around existing best practices and to give the tools for initiatives to plan, implement, and measure the impact and profitability of business models. One such existing partnership is JNDP's platform Business Call to Action, which provides services through the Innovation Hub.

The Cape Town's crisis clearly warns Dhaka of the imminent danger that the city is going to face if the misuses of water are not prevented. Experts believe that the increase of water price and the initiation of innovative technologies are of good help to cut the excessive water use. But it is unanimously agreed that mass awareness is a crucial element to save the city before getting our taps switched off permanently.

Similar news coverage:

UNDP Bangladesh

<http://bit.ly/2E7Ds60>



Daily Star Business page • 20 December 2018

Firms being equipped to build inclusive business models

When we talk about support for the bottom of the economic pyramid, our endeavours might seem somewhat myopic. Financial aid can only help to an extent. As for corporate social responsibility, one might argue it's just another form of charity that is not systematic or sustainable in the grander scheme of things.

So, there has been a surge in restructuring efforts in modifying operations, products, and services of businesses in such a way where disadvantaged people can be catered to through decent work and access to essential goods and services.

One such initiative is Business Call to Action (BCtA) launched at the UN in 2008 to accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by "challenging companies to develop inclusive business models, which engage people at the base of the economic pyramid – people with less than \$10 per day in purchasing power in 2015 US dollars – as consumers, producers, suppliers, distributors of goods and services and as employees."

The BCtA stresses the importance of an inclusive business model that benefits low-income communities by including them in an organisation's value chain in a sustainable way. More than 200 companies have been included as BCtA

members worldwide with the support of the UNDP.

There are organisations in our country which have proved that it is possible to do inclusive business through commercially viable initiatives involving low-income individuals as consumers, producers, suppliers, distributors and employees.

In Bangladesh, the UNDP Innovation Hub is rolling out the initiative and member companies are impacting 21.6 million people through their core business across the SDGs.

Garment manufacturer DBL Group is one such member company in Bangladesh. The group joined the BCtA in 2016 and has pledged to provide more than 30,000 of its employees with access to affordable basic household food and health items.

Employees of DBL were finding it difficult to work or live in the remote locations of the manufacturer's new factories. Accessing daily necessities such as food or sanitary products at affordable prices was becoming an arduous task because of the lack of shops in these areas. Where food and other basic household necessities were being sold at skyrocketing costs in these areas, it came as no surprise that access to affordable women's hygiene products was out of the question. This led to decreased job satisfaction and productivity and high absenteeism.

In order to boost employee satisfaction and productivity, DBL launched its first Bandhan Fair Price Shop in Gazipur. While basic necessities were offered to employees at less than the usual market price, they were also able to buy these items on credit in this cashless shop without being charged interest. Gradually, these shops were established in five other DBL manufacturing complexes. The initiative of DBL has not only benefitted 24,450 employees of the company but has also reduced absenteeism by more than a third and improved employee satisfaction.

Each shop sells around 370 items, including sanitary napkins, which are sold at more than 70 percent less than the average market price. Women are employed at Bandhan

Even at this day and age, it's a taboo to say the 'P' word in our society. Let alone talk about the discomfort girls and women face when they are menstruating, one can't even buy a sanitary napkin without enduring the stares of a hundred eyes. The cost of sanitary napkins is another impediment that compels women to use cloths or fabric, contributing to bad menstrual hygiene and urinary tract diseases.

Sokhipad, which produces quality, lower priced sanitary napkins, has been a godsend for many girls and women from the lower income strata. It uses super-absorbent polymer so that the napkins can be used for long hours. Moreover, the pads are treated with ultraviolet ray to make them germ-free. Each pack costs Tk 65 whereas popular sanitary napkin brands cost around Tk 120-150 per pack.

Following its commercial production in October last year,

five schools in Dhaka's Rayerbazar and Hazaribagh have been buying the napkins. Sokhipad also launched its operations in 14 districts outside Dhaka, where 700 volunteers, or 'Shokhi Apa', sell sanitary napkins door-to-door, thereby saving girls and women from the embarrassment of buying sanitary napkins from pharmacies and open shops. They can even consult with volunteers about their concerns on how to use the product and how it can benefit them.

What's most interesting, however, is Sokhipad's marketing model, which does not involve retailers in profit sharing or marketing campaigns. Instead, the profits are reinvested in community awareness campaigns where the volunteers visit schools to inform school children about menstrual hygiene. The supply chain is maintained by the volunteers who bring in new customers.

Unilever Bangladesh regularly campaigns for better hygiene practices in Bangladesh. The issue of hygiene is compounded by the lack of access to safe water. Unilever Bangladesh, through its brand philosophy of "doing well by doing good," mainly focusses on community awareness building through educational campaigns. Through its water purifier brand, Pureit, for example, Unilever seeks to create awareness about the importance of clean drinking water, especially among the disadvantaged people. Similarly, through their handwash soap Lifebuoy, it seeks to raise awareness about the importance of washing hands.

In order for a community to develop and thrive, it's important to invest in the community's sustainability. Through their endeavours, these organisations demonstrate how a business can be made inclusive and impactful without compromising on their core business.