



The Impact of Climate Change on Children in Bangladesh

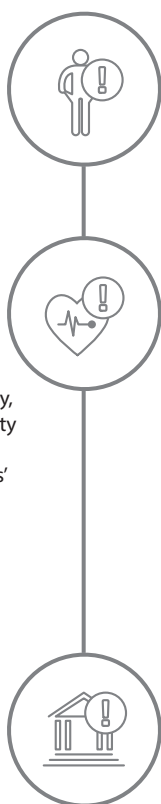
Bangladesh, home to approximately 160 million people, is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change impacts.ⁱ

LIMITED ADAPTIVE CAPACITY

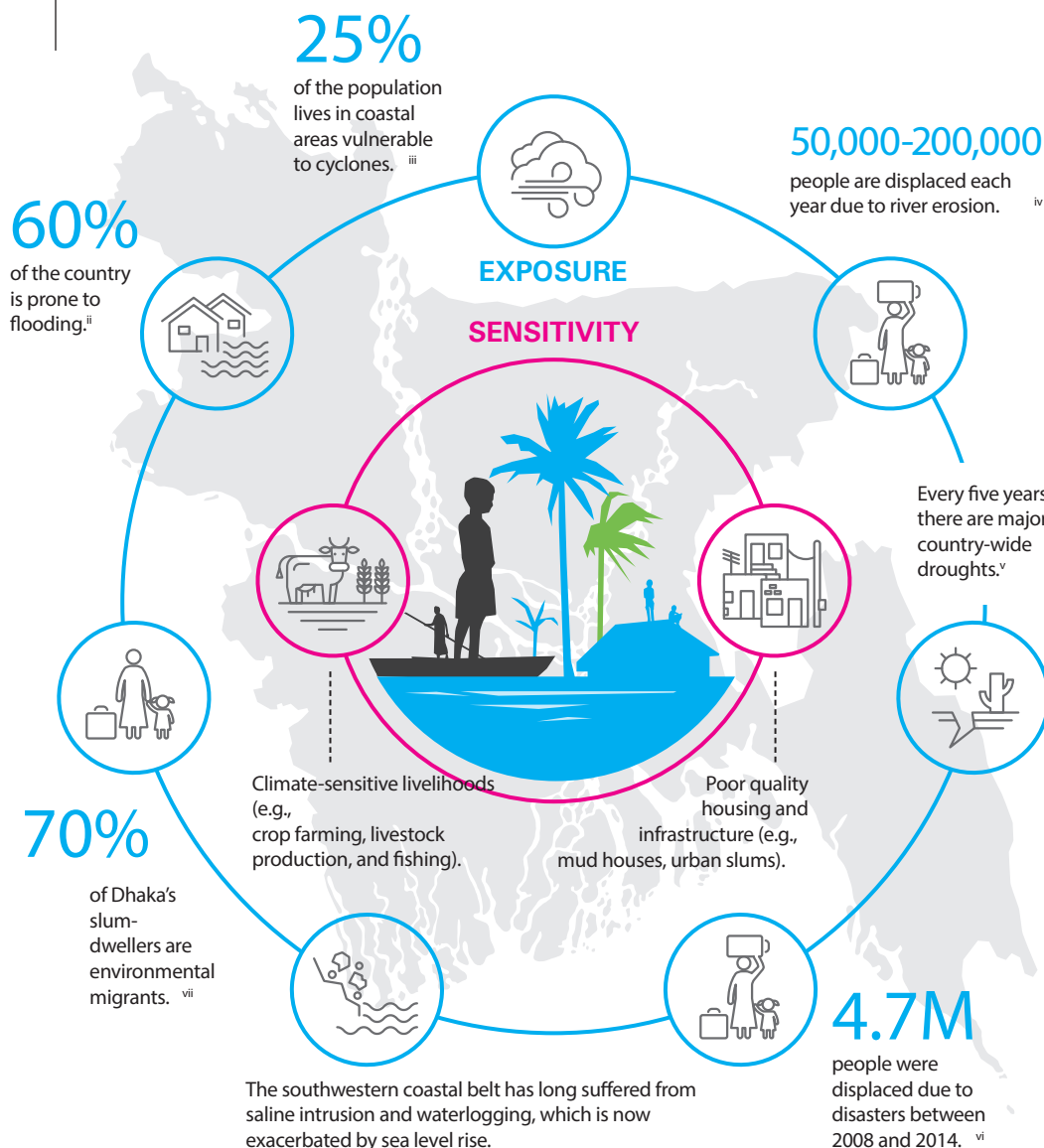
31.5 percent of the population lives below the national upper poverty line (2,122kcal).^{viii}

Underperformance in education, nutritional status, health, access to safe water and improved sanitation, inclusiveness, equality, and safety and security all have a negative impact on individuals' and communities' capacity to adapt.

Limited institutional and financial capacity to plan for, and respond to, climate change risks and impacts.



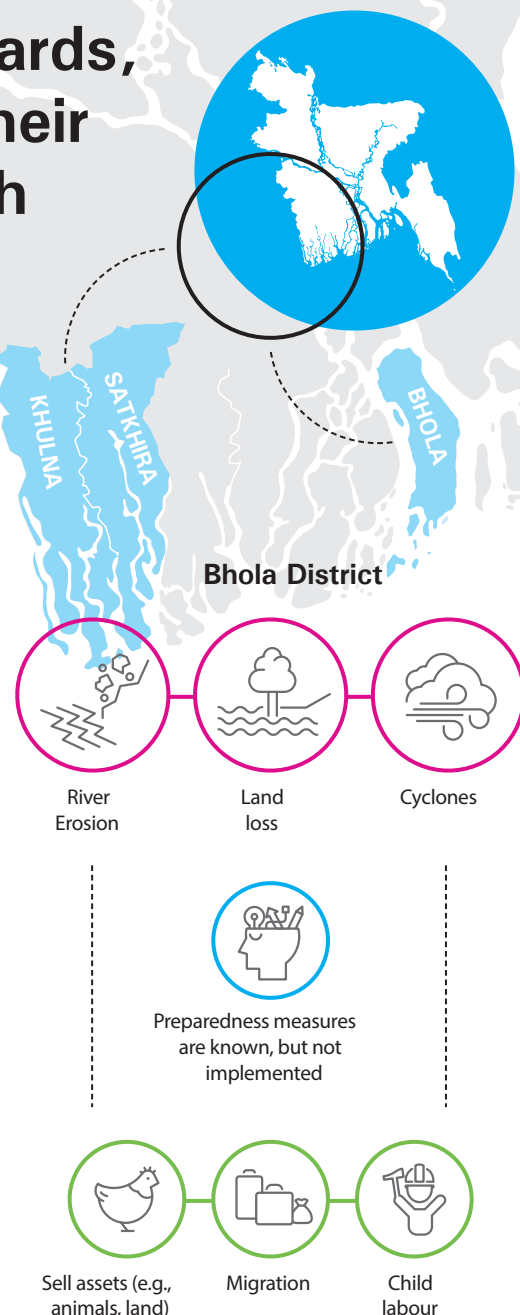
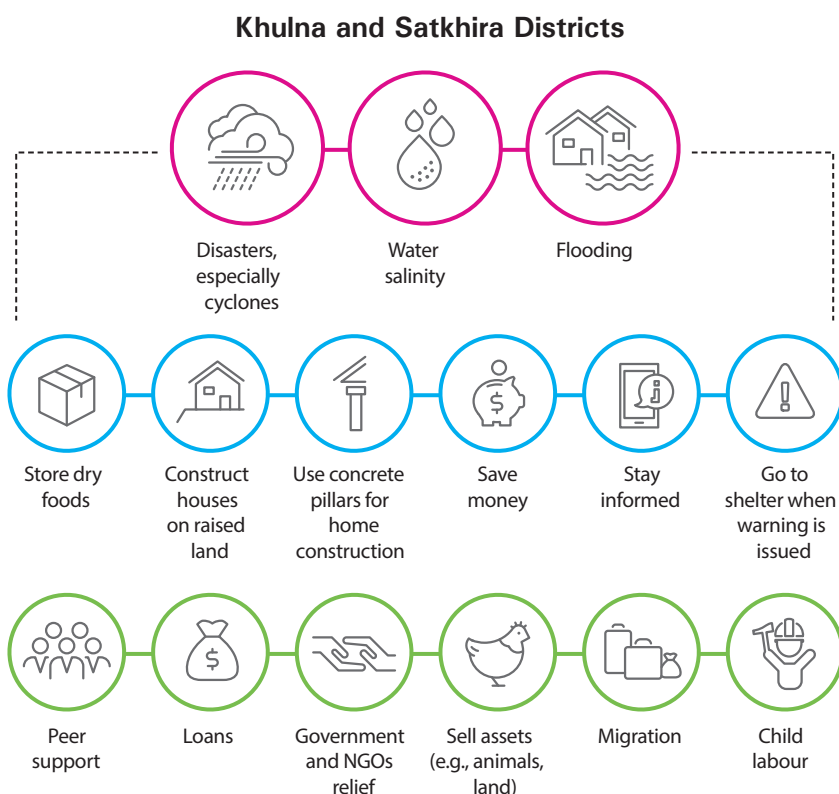
Bangladesh Climate Change Vulnerability Profile



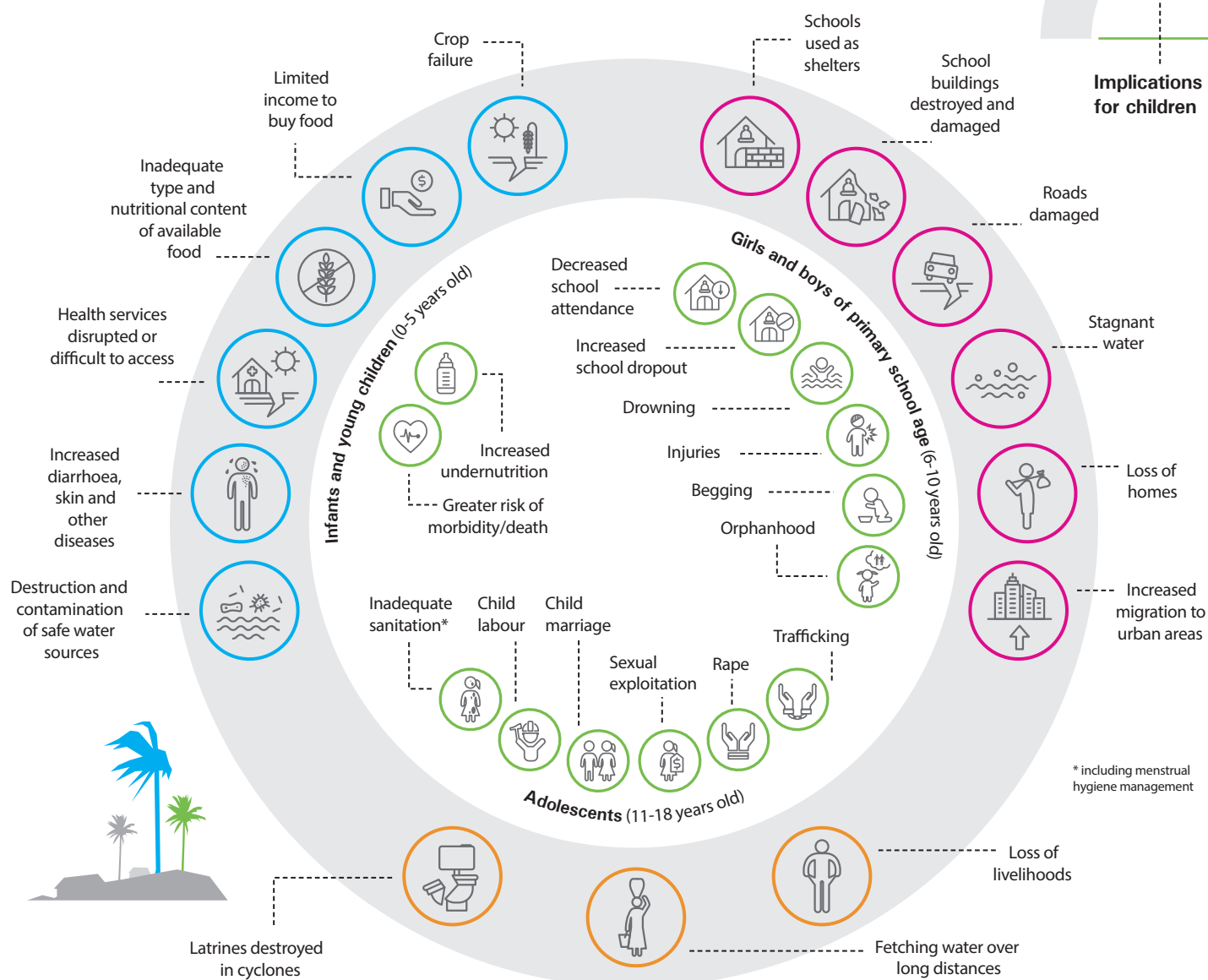
Community Perceptions of Hazards, Environmental Changes, and Their Impacts in Southern Bangladesh

Khulna, Satkhira and Bhola are three districts located in southwestern Bangladesh, where climate change is affecting the severity, frequency, and distribution of climate-related hazards, including immediate disaster impacts as well as slower chronic crises.

— Highest rated hazards
— Preparedness strategies
— Coping strategies



Major Implications for Children by Age Group (life cycle approach)



Key Considerations to Advance Children's Rights in Bangladesh in a Changing Climate



- **Development achievements cannot be taken for granted**

Climate change threatens to slow, halt or reverse sustainable development progress.

- **Who is vulnerable and what success looks like have changed**

Peoples' needs and vulnerabilities have evolved, thus tried and tested approaches may no longer work or be the most appropriate.

- **Increasing need to ensure continuity of service delivery during and after disasters**

Child-centered disaster risk reduction and climate sensitive planning must be the norm, rather than 'response' strategies.

- **Public and private investments must be disaster and climate sensitive**

Investments must be suitable and sustainable to ensure resilience of resources and infrastructure to climate and non-climate related disasters.

- **Policies and initiatives for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction must be inclusive**

Voices, perspectives, and needs of children and adolescents should be brought into processes to develop policies and initiatives.

Climate Change Agenda for UNICEF in Bangladesh



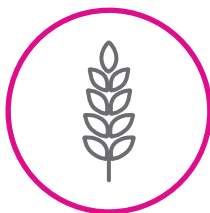
• Health

Advocate for development of **climate resilient plans** at the national and sub-national levels that are part of existing **health response systems**.

Conduct research on current **climate related health impacts and trends**; and develop a **monitoring system** to feed into **government planning cycles**.

Pilot projects to **electrify health clinics** using **sustainable energy solutions**.

Influence policies and practices to **ensure continuity of health services** for children and pregnant mothers during seasonal and other disruptions and chronic crises.



• Nutrition

Advocate for incorporation of **nutritional requirements** that meet the needs of the most **vulnerable groups**, into the adaptation plans of the **agricultural and social welfare sectors** - **especially for girls and women**.

Develop **'crisis modifier' nutrition programming** for use in chronic crises or pre-crisis (i.e. deteriorating) situations.

Conduct research on climate change and **food insecurity trends and hotspots**, and develop an **early warning system** for timely action in the near-term.

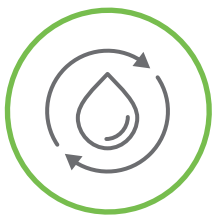


• Education

Advocate for incorporation of **climate change and disaster risk reduction** in **school curriculums and teaching learning packages**.

Pilot projects, conduct research, and influence policy development aimed at **minimizing disruption and ensuring the continuity of education** for all children during disasters.

Climate Change Agenda for UNICEF in Bangladesh



• WASH

Advocate for incorporation of **climate change adaptation into existing WASH** policies and standards.

Pilot projects, conduct research and influence policy development on **solar and other renewable energy sources** for operation of water facilities, as well as on **infrastructure designs** (e.g., latrines and low cost water facilities) **resilient to flood, tidal surges and cyclones.**

Increase programmatic focus and discussions on addressing **environmental degradation** as it relates to **open defecation, pollution of water sources, air pollution, medical waste, and urban waste.**



• Child Protection

Advocate for development of **child-centred social protection** measures as **part of climate change adaptation strategies.**

Pilot projects specifically aimed at the **prevention of child labour, sexual exploitation and child marriage during and following disasters.**

Increase programming focus on **child protection in urban areas** and work with others to monitor **migration due to climate change impacts.**

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The Impact of Climate Change on Children in Bangladesh,” UNICEF Bangladesh, May 2016

- I Vulnerability to climate change is a product of sensitivity, exposure, and adaptive capacity.
- II Figure cited by UNICEF Bangladesh at: http://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/4926_4993.htm
- III Ibid.
- IV Martin, M., Y. Kang, M. Billah, T. Siddiqui, R. Black and D. Kniveton (2013) Policy analysis: Climate change and migration Bangladesh, Working paper 4: An output of research on climate change related migration in Bangladesh, conducted by Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU), University of Dhaka, and Sussex Centre for Migration Research (SCMR), University of Sussex, with support from Climate & Development Knowledge Network (CDKN).
- V FAO (2007) Climate variability and change: adaptation to drought in Bangladesh. A resource book and training guide.
- VI Figure cited by Displacement Solutions at: <http://displacementsolutions.org/ds-initiatives/climate-change-and-displacement-initiative/bangladesh-climate-displacement/>
- VII IOM estimate, cited in: <http://www.theguardian.com/cities/2015/dec/01/dhaka-city-climate-refugees-reality>
- VIII Millennium Development Goals: Bangladesh Progress Report 2015. General Economics Division (GED), Planning Commission Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh