

**ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN
BANGLADESH: LEARNING BY DOING**

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Bangladesh, a low-lying country is known globally as one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change.

Why is it highly vulnerable?

- Its biophysical resources, particularly water, is highly sensitive to climate variability and change
- People's livelihoods & the production system are at high risk
- Disadvantageous biophysical characteristics
- High population density
- High prevalence of poverty
- Poor institutional capability to deal with extreme climate events

There exists a strong social interaction towards managing EWEs

A project on ‘Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change (RVCC)’ has been launched in mid-2002 to promote adaptation to CC.

CIDA provided financial assistance for the implementation of RVCC

CARE-Bangladesh is implementing the project in the Southwestern Bangladesh

Goal: To increase capacity of communities in southwest Bangladesh to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

Purpose: Communities and institutions in the southwest region demonstrate capacity to:

- raise awareness on climate change
- reduce climate change-induced vulnerabilities, and
- influence relevant policy.

Vulnerability through the eyes of vulnerable ones

Initial attempt was made to define ‘vulnerability’ to climate variability and change, as perceived by the target beneficiaries

How people perceive their vulnerability?

When a climate-induced phenomenon affects

- their livelihoods / food security / income security
- their well-being beyond coping ability

(health at risk / housing at risk / quality of asset)



78 FGD in 55 communities

কর্মসূচী ডিভিডি VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

বন্দাকার নাম: **দিঘালিয়া, পায়রা, অভয়নগর।**

মহায়কের নাম: **কোহিনুর জামান মিলন/সুজা**

দল: **সুন্দর-২০ জন**

তারিখ: **২০/৫/০২**

পরিবারের সচ্ছন্দতার নির্দেশক (WBI)

সুবিধা	RANK	১	২	৩	৪	৫	৬	৭	৮
	H	+	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	++	0
	H	++	+++	++	+++	++	++	+	0
	M	0	+	++	++	+	+	+	0
	M	++	+++	++	++	+	+	+	0
	L	0	++	+	++	++	+	+	0
	L	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	0

Defining vulnerability

Field assessment suggests that the major causes of vulnerability are:

Floods (High to Extreme)

Cyclones & associated storm surge

Salinity intrusion

Water scarcity

potable water

irrigation water

Water logging

Climate induced phenomena	Perceived Vulnerability Issues				
	Livelihood-related		Well-being related		
	Food security	Income security	Health	Housing	Asset Quality
Flood	High	High	High	High	High
Cyclone	High	High	High	High	High
Storm Surge	High	High	High	High	High
Salinity	High	High	High	Medium	Medium
Potable water	High	Medium	High	High	High
Drought	High	High	High	High	High
Water logging	High	High	High	Medium	Medium



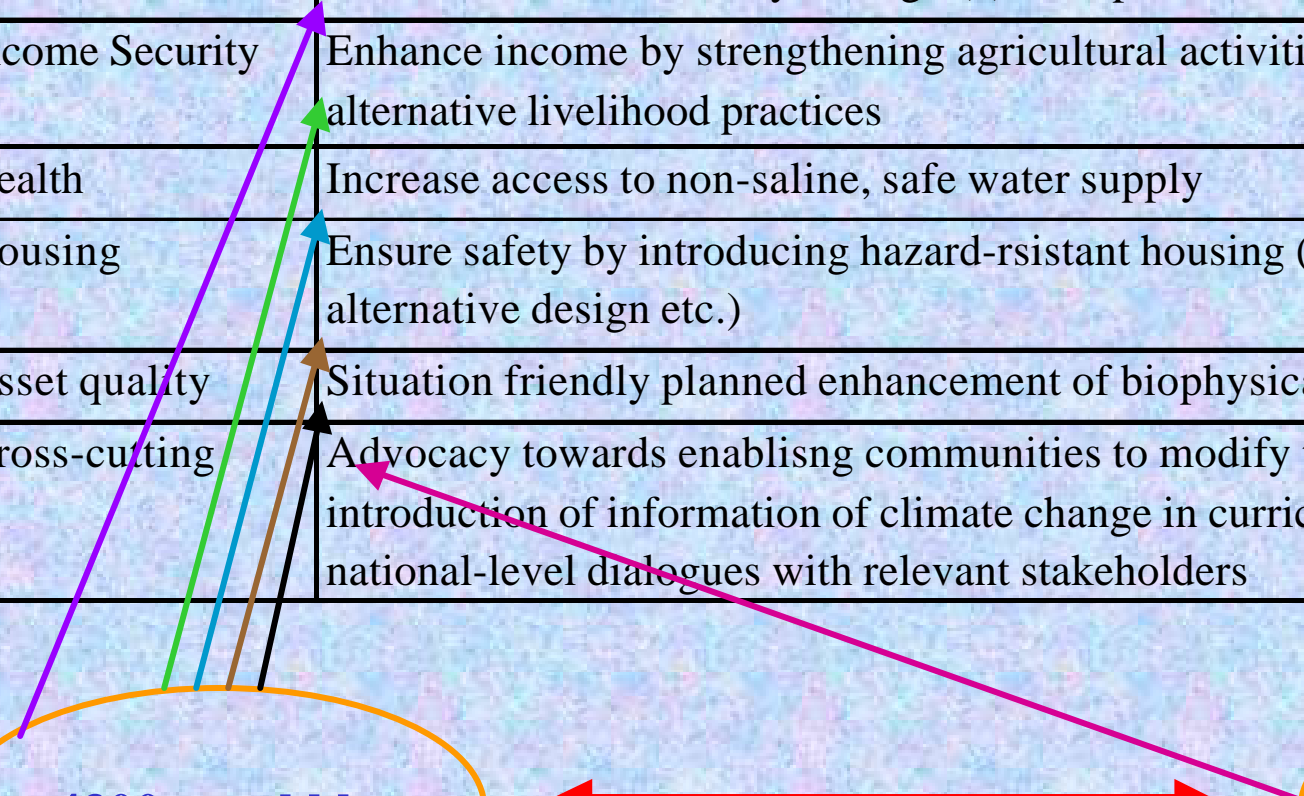
Integrated farming
(rice, fish, poultry and vegetables)
through family/household approach



Problem definition	Strategic approaches to solution
Food Security	Increase food availability through (a) food production; (b) improved food storage
Income Security	Enhance income by strengthening agricultural activities or by introducing alternative livelihood practices
Health	Increase access to non-saline, safe water supply
Housing	Ensure safety by introducing hazard-resistant housing (improved material, alternative design etc.)
Asset quality	Situation friendly planned enhancement of biophysical resource base
Cross-cutting	Advocacy towards enabling communities to modify their risks; awareness raising; introduction of information of climate change in curricula; grassroots-, regional- & national-level dialogues with relevant stakeholders

4300 rural hhs

Community level





1. Preparing a floating garden with water hyacinth



2. Vegetables growing on a floating garden



Cage Aquaculture

Duck rearing in waterlogged area



Example of an awareness raising activity



A pot song and folk drama on climate change developed, field tested and is being performed in courtyards

Learning by doing

Let community define why they feel they are currently vulnerable (if any), and how they would become (more) vulnerable

Explaining strategic solutions help community buy-in

Elaborate field-level discussions provide indigenous solutions! Be prepared for surprises!!

Interventions targeted only at households may not lead to sustainable solutions

For long-term solutions, governance must be enhanced

Advocacy can play a key role for authority buy-in

Awareness building at every level is equally important!

Acknowledging people of the Southwest of Bangladesh,
RVCC, CARE & CIDA for allowing to undertake this
action research



Thank you