

# Understanding community's perception and needs in relation to climate change and disaster risk reduction: Role of NGOs in Bangladesh

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## 1. BACKGROUND

Bangladesh, one of the least developed countries in Asia, has been pronounced the most vulnerable to natural disasters, and it is also expected that the Climate change will affect adaptive capacities of the population which is already overburdened by absolute poverty, recurring natural disasters, and governance related issues. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) suggested that Climate change adaptation is an important option for reducing risks, along with mitigation measures. Hence, studying the existing community-based coping mechanisms to various climate-related disasters assumes importance for designing the appropriate external interventions.

## 2. REAERACH OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study are to understand the following 3 core components;

I Community's perception on climate-related disaster and climate change, and indigenous knowledge of adaptation in Bangladesh (Risk assessment)

II. Community's needs for climate-related disaster risk reduction in Bangladesh (Needs Assessment).

III. Role of NGOs and government in Bangladesh as a facilitator for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation (Institutional Assessment).

Based on these objectives, field study with structured questionnaire survey in 3 different floods prone areas including 1 detailed study area in coastal island of Bangladesh were conducted.

## 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

- Most of the communities in study sites think that their own vulnerability to disasters is changing and increasing over the time.
- Autonomous adaptation can be seen in all study area, but not directly to cope with climate change.
- NGOs are the most preferable external institution for rural communities in Bangladesh, especially, micro-credit program is the most needed activity for reducing risks.
- Sustainability of NGOs in Bangladesh can be identified as Figure I. Climate change risk may result in assuring the relations between communities and NGOs for long future.

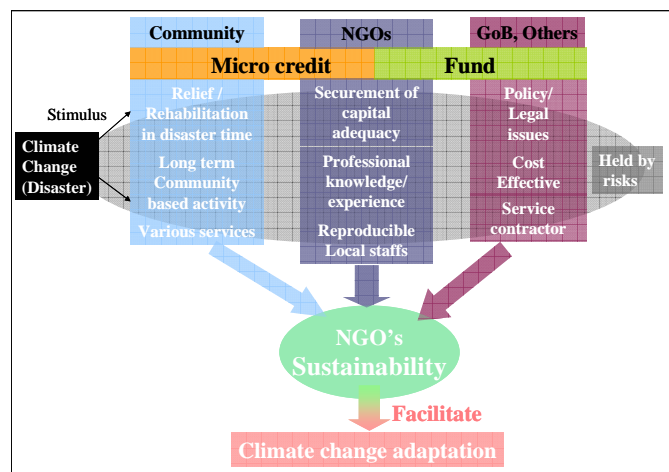


Figure 1 Sustainability of NGOs in Bangladesh

From this research, NGO's facilitation ability for climate change adaptation was clarified.