

Climate-Induced Migration in Bangladesh: Issues and Concerns

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CONVERSATIONS**

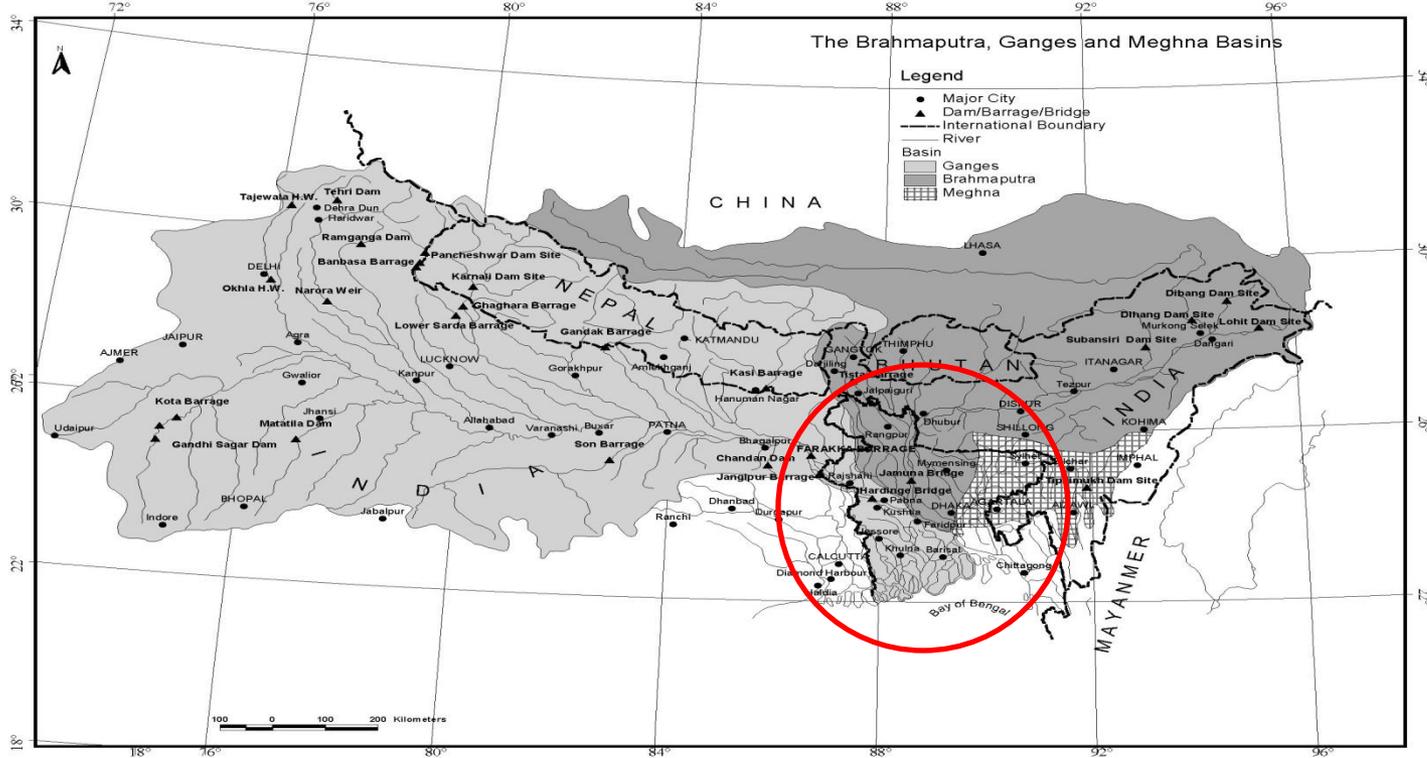
2017

Geographical Context of Bangladesh



Bangladesh: One of the most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change.

(Source: Maplecroft, 2011; Penning Rowsell, Sultana, & Thompson, 2013)



- Bangladesh is a low-lying delta of the GBM flows.
- Bangladesh occupies only about 7% of the combined catchment area, while it has to drain over 92%.

Climate Change and Migration

Changing Climate



Rapid and Slow on set Disaster in already vulnerable geographical area



Livelihood Insecurity



Migration/Displacement

Climate Induced Migration: Context

"One of the gravest effects of climate change may be those on human migration". (IPCC, 1990: 103)

*"If disasters occur more frequently and/or with greater magnitude..... migration and displacement could become permanent and could introduce new pressures in areas of relocation."
(IPCC, 2012: 293)*

Who are Climate Induced Migrants ?

Recognizing that the effects of climate change are not yet fully manifested, we have termed them “climate-induced” migrants in this research who have migrated due to environmental problems of the type climate change is expected to cause.

For example, floods, riverbank erosion, waterlogging, drought and salinity intrusion are some cases which are likely to be exacerbated by the impacts of climate change, and therefore people induced by such events have been termed as “climate-induced” migrants in this Research

Source: (Adri and Simon, 2017).

Major Findings of the Research:

There are significant differences between climate-induced and non-climate-induced migrants in terms of:

- Educational level
- Financial capability
- Contacts and Networks
- Institutional affiliation
- Family Structure
- Relationship with place of origin

Vulnerable Group:

The most severe burden of the adverse impacts of climate change will fall disproportionately on

Poor communities (DFID, 2004a; DFID, 2004b).



Climate Induced Migrants are one of the poorest segment of population due to their destroyed asset base, lack of educational qualification and contacts as well as limited knowledge about destination .

Source: (Adri and Simon, 2017)

Major Findings of the Research:

- If the livelihoods framework is examined, it is just after the climatic disaster when the target group needed intervention.
- Potential migrants must have an idea about different hazards and risks as well as advantages of several potential destinations and should have the scope to take what they regard as the best option.
- This paper sheds light on the problems associated with the unplanned migration and concludes that, if not properly planned, the migration outcome is not likely to improve the quality of life; hence this particular migration cannot be termed as adaptation.

Source: Adri and Simon, 2017

Critical Issues

- Climate-induced Migration in Bangladesh is a reality (Source: Roy, 2011; Walsham, 2010; Siddiqui, 2012).
- This is mostly FORCED and unplanned.
- This is mainly rural-urban (also rural-rural; rural-urban fringe and so on)

Critical Issues

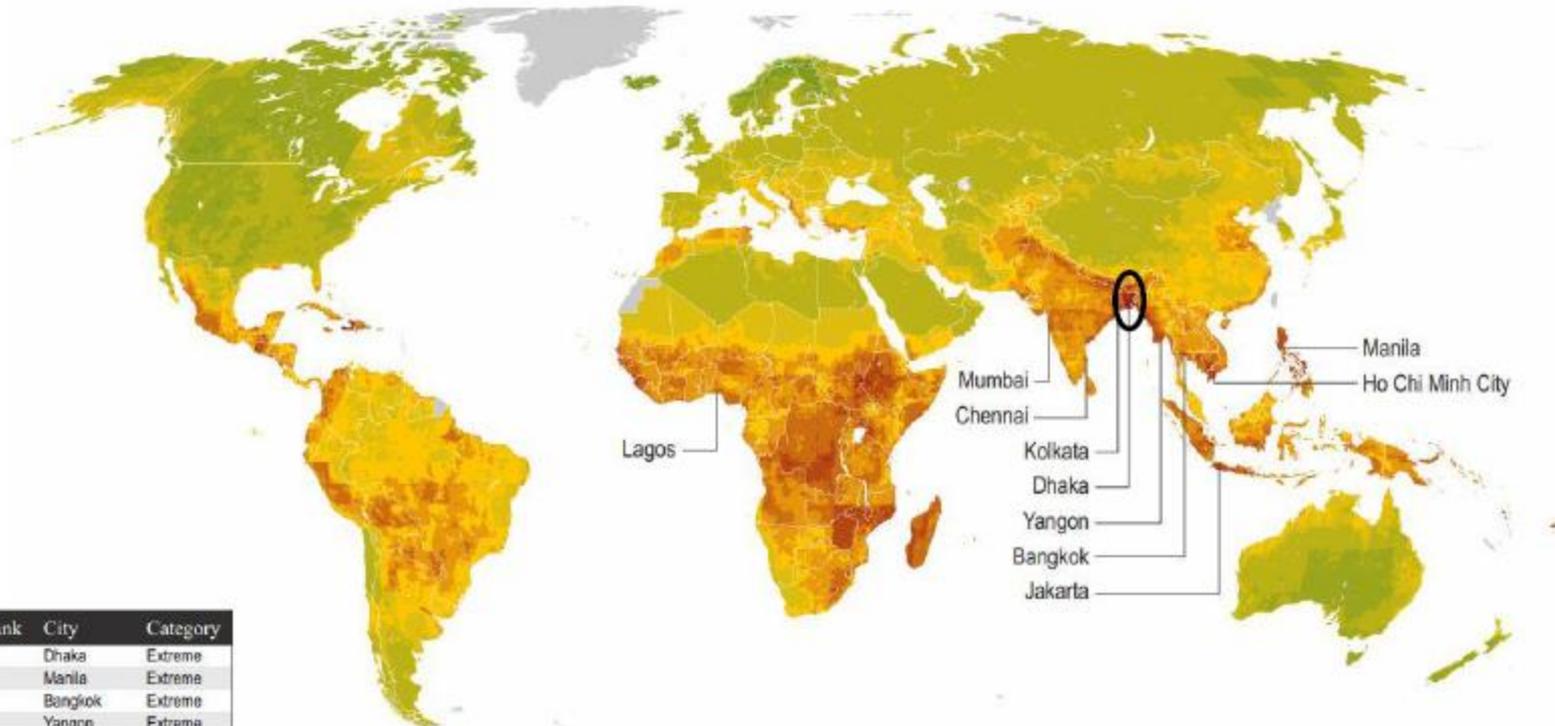
- Migrants have limited knowledge about the risks and hazards of destination, e.g. Climatic hazards and other socio-cultural hazards.
- When the destination is a city, climate-induced migrants generally live in densely populated slums.
- Increased rate of migration creates pressure on already rapidly urbanizing areas.

Critical Issues

- Health becomes a major issue for the migrants after a few months of stay in the city due to insufficient water and sanitation system.
- Most of the climate induced migrants have lower level of education, and therefore their earning is insufficient.
- Therefore, this group is one of the most vulnerable segment of population in destination.

Dhaka City: A major destination of climate-induced migrants

Climate Change Vulnerability Index 2013 – Most at risk cities



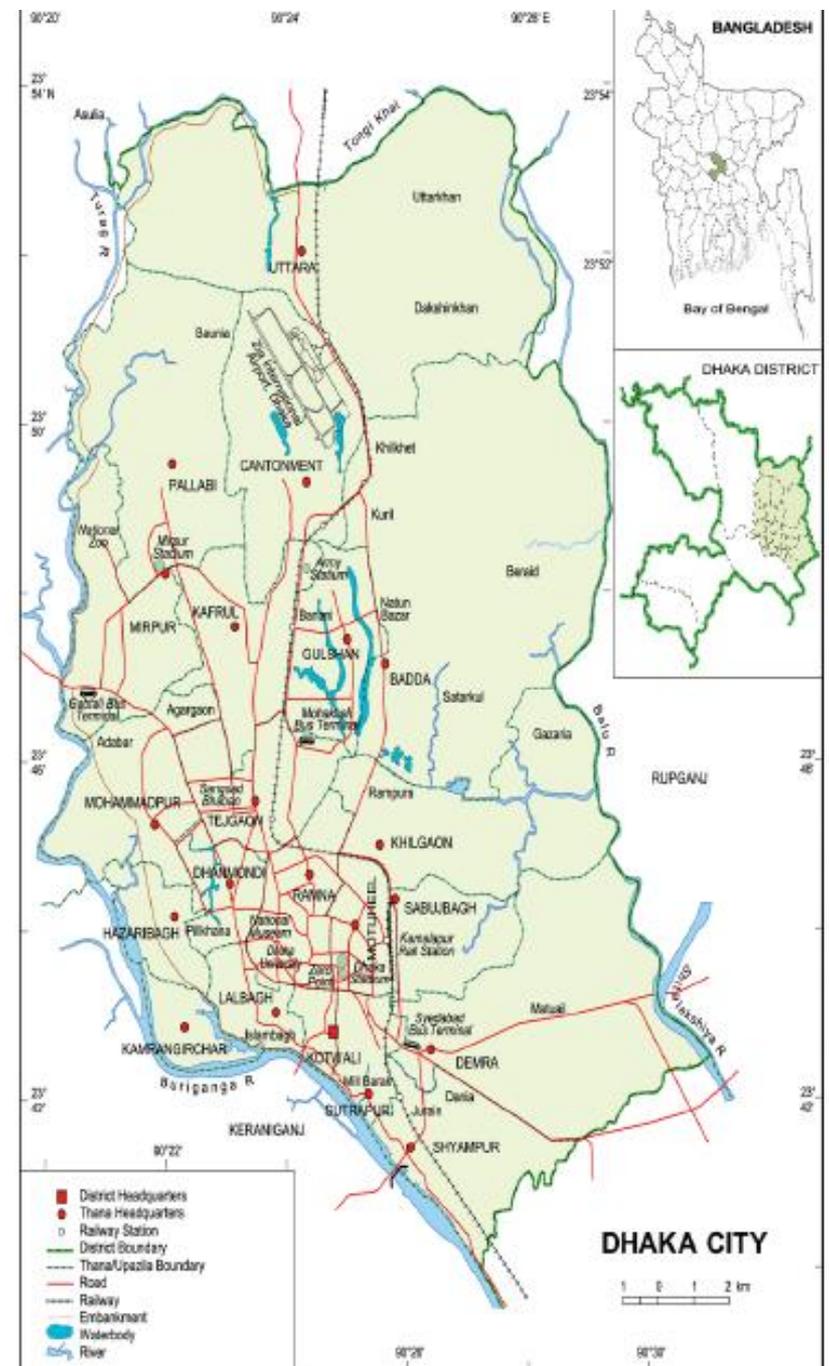
Rank	City	Category
1	Dhaka	Extreme
2	Manila	Extreme
3	Bangkok	Extreme
4	Yangon	Extreme
5	Djakarta	Extreme
6	Ho Chi Minh	Extreme
7	Kolkata	Extreme
8	Mumbai	High
9	Chennai	High
10	Lagos	High



Dhaka's Vulnerability to Climate Change Impacts:

- Flooding and Drainage Congestion
- Heat Stress

With an urban growth rate of more than 5.6% annually, Dhaka, which hosts more than 14.6 million people, is one of the fastest growing cities in Southern Asia, and is projected to accommodate more than 20 Million by 2025.



Dhaka Flood Prone Areas

Source: Bangladesh
Centre for Advanced Studies

Legend

-  River
-  Major Road
-  Secondary Road
-  Other Roads
-  Slum settlements
-  Flood-prone areas
-  Areas not flooded during 1998 flood



Facts about Dhaka slums:

- 60% slums have no drainage system (CUS, 2006)

- Although Bangladesh has among the highest population densities in the world (at 2,600 persons per square mile), the population density in slums is roughly 200 times greater

(UN-HABITAT, 2009).









Major Concerns

- Pressure on limited resources and consequent risk of conflict.
- No way of going back to their places of origin due to destroyed asset base (and/or disturbed livelihood base).
- Lack of recognition as a special group.
- Absence of concrete policy to protect the climate Induced migrants.
- Limited Legal protection.

Relevant Questions:

1. Terminological Discourse: Migration or Displacement?
2. Should we Encourage or Discourage climate induced Displacement/Migration? Why?
3. What intervention should be taken before migration?
4. Should climate induced migrants be treated as a special group before/after migration?

Relevant Questions

5. Can there be institutional mechanisms to identify them following displacement?
6. Are there viable ways to protect their legal rights? What are those instruments?
7. What policies should be in place to avoid 'Multiple Exposure to Disaster'?
8. Should we only be thinking about in-country displacement? Whither internationally facilitated displacement?



Thank You
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