**Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons**

**Key questions and types of input/comments sought**

**Human rights impact of planned relocations**

1. Please describe through concrete examples the critical challenges and human rights impacts of ongoing or already implemented planned relocation processes in the context of disasters and climate change in your country or your geographical area of interest. Please provide information on:
   1. Whether relocated persons feel they restored or improved their livelihoods, living standard, access to land and property, safety and security and ability to practice their culture 6 months, 1 year, 5 years following relocation;
   2. Whether host communities (if applicable) were able to maintain their pre-existing livelihood and living standards or attain that of relocated persons, whichever is higher;
   3. Impacts on civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of relocated persons and those who stay behind in place of origin.
2. Please provide information on successful practices and examples of collaboration with affected communities to identify and address the impacts of planned relocations on livelihoods, housing, education, access to public services, food and water, physical and mental health as well as the communal impacts of loss of land, social cohesion, local knowledge and culture.

**Response:** Since 2016, Helvetas Bangladesh has been actively engaged in collaborative efforts with the Government of Bangladesh in the southwestern coastal region, which is widely recognized as a hotspot for climate-induced extreme events and high rates of internal displacement.

Initiative taken by Helvetas emphasizes on establishing **a Migration Hub** at the grassroots level within the administrative structure known as the Union (Sub-sub district) of Bangladesh. This hub operates with the assistance of community youth volunteers and serves as a central resource for individuals considering planned relocation.

**The Migration Hub** offers vital information to potential migrants, including details on available employment opportunities and guidance on navigating the relocation process without relying on middlemen who may not always provide accurate information or ensure secure job placements at the destination. Often, migrants face difficulties and safety concerns during their journey and encounter issues such as non-payment of wages by employers at the destination. To address these challenges, the **Migration Hub** maintains a comprehensive database that includes gender-segregated data on planned migrations, destination locations, types of employment, safety conditions, wages received, and information on middlemen involved in facilitating migration.

Moreover, the Hub provides insights into the types of jobs available at destination areas, empowering migrants to make informed decisions about their relocation.

Furthermore, the **Migration Hub** assists returning migrants by offering guidance on utilizing remittances for establishing diversified income sources, thereby contributing to their long-term economic security and livelihood resilience.

Through effective communication channels, the chairman of sub-sub districts is now better informed about the movement of people from their respective areas, enabling them to coordinate responses and support mechanisms effectively.

Additionally, the **Migration Hub** offers an apprenticeship program aimed at enhancing the skills of potential migrants through skill development initiatives. By boosting their skill sets, potential migrants often secure employment opportunities within or near their host areas. Equipped with the necessary skills required in destination areas, migrants are more likely to access better job prospects upon relocation.

**Legal, policy and institutional frameworks**

1. Please describe any measures, including policies, legislation, practices, strategies, or institutional arrangements that your government or the government(s) in your area of geographical interest have used or have available at the regional, national or sub-national level to conduct planned relocations and/or policy frameworks to prevent arbitrary displacement. Please also identify institutional and governance gaps.

**Response:** Recently, the government of Bangladesh have developed National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management[[1]](#footnote-2) and National Action Plan (2022-2042)[[2]](#footnote-3) which focuses on addressing climate-induced displacement in Bangladesh through a comprehensive approach encompassing prevention, preparedness, management, and durable solutions. Prevention efforts aim to reduce vulnerability and enhance community resilience through disaster management and climate change adaptation, including understanding risks, strengthening governance, investing in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA), and promoting decentralized urban growth centers. The strategy emphasizes protecting displaced populations during migration by ensuring safe evacuations, shelter, and fundamental rights, while also facilitating durable solutions such as return, local integration, and resettlement. Institutional arrangements involve the integration of displacement issues into national frameworks, establishing multi-stakeholder platforms, forming task forces, and exploring funding options, reflecting a holistic approach to addressing climate-induced migration in Bangladesh.

1. Please outline whether the available legal and policy frameworks foresee options for persons who did not wish to relocate as well as assistance, remedies for anticipated economic, non-economic, indirect and long-term losses that relocated persons will incur, and remedies following relocation for unanticipated losses.

**Response:** Two recent plans (Perspective Plan of Bangladesh 2021-2041[[3]](#footnote-4) and Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan 2022-2041[[4]](#footnote-5)) of the Government of Bangladesh is centered around prioritizing local-level modernization initiatives to curtail rural to urban migration. Among the plan, the Perspective Plan of Bangladesh 2021-2041 emphasizes governance, democratization, decentralization, and capacity building as institutional pillars, aiming for a smooth transition from agrarian to urban-based industrial economy through decentralized urbanization and the establishment of regional urban centers. The plan's sustainable agriculture and rural development strategy, notably the "My Village – My Town" initiative, focuses on climate-resilient infrastructure, upazila master plans, water and sanitation improvements, waste management, community spaces, rural job creation, youth empowerment, entrepreneurship, financial access, digitalization, connectivity, fiscal and administrative decentralization, and rural growth centers. The overall goal is rural transformation, intending to provide quality civic amenities in rural areas to mitigate climate-induced migration to cities and bridge the rural-urban divide.

The Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan 2022-2041 aims at investment in Locally Led Adaptation and Reduced Climate-Induced Migration aims to deliver adaptation strategies at the local level, addressing poverty, inequality, and vulnerability while considering various dimensions beyond income. The scope encompasses addressing climate change-compounded hazards, integrating with existing initiatives like "My Village-My Town" and "My House-My Farm" to extend modernized facilities, promote climate-resilient agriculture, and offer financial support for entrepreneurship. By mitigating risks, particularly in coastal areas where 30 million people face displacement threats, and adopting a decentralized approach, including a carbon financing regime, the plan aims to protect livelihoods, habitats, drinking water, and the rural economy while preventing internal displacement through resilient rural development strategies.

**Engagement of communities and regional and international actors**

1. Please indicate how the group(s) to be relocated were informed, consulted and enabled to participate in decisions on whether, when, where and how the planned relocation was to occur. Please also explain how people who wished to stay behind at the site of origin and people who had already moved away prior to planned relocation and may also wish to join at new site, were informed and consulted in the process. As well as information on any challenges or obstacles to the meaningful participation of affected communities in the planned relocation process.

**Response:** From the perspective of Helvetas’s work with migration at local level in certain sub-districts level of the coastal belt of Bangladesh, the affected groups were informed and consulted through the **Migration Hub**, ensuring their active participation in decisions regarding the planned relocation. They were provided with comprehensive information about the relocation area, enabling them to make informed choices regarding whether, when, where, and how the relocation would occur.

For those individuals who wished to remain at the origin site, the **Migration Hub** facilitated access to resources and guidance on improving livelihood opportunities, ensuring that their needs and preferences were addressed effectively.

1. Please provide information on how regional and international actors and organizations were engaged in the planned relocation process.

**Consideration of specific needs of relocated and affected populations**

1. Please provide information on how the specific rights, needs, circumstances, customs, social bonds and vulnerabilities of relocated persons were taken into account and addressed in all phases of planned relocation in your country or your areas of geographical interest. Please include considerations linked to socio-economic, health and demographic characteristics, special attachment to land and members of groups in vulnerable situations, including women, girls, minorities, older persons, persons with disabilities, LGBTI+ persons, Indigenous Peoples, displaced persons, migrants, renters and informal settlers.

**Response:** No

**Data collection, analysis, and availability**

1. Please describe any quantitative and qualitative data as well as frameworks, mechanisms and tools that exist in your country to monitor, assess, measure, calculate, report on and evaluate the impacts of planned relocations on relocated persons and affected communities, including over the long term, and to map future needs given climate change forecasts.

**Response:** No

1. Please share data on the process and impacts of planned relocations on relocated persons and other affected groups, including the effects on members of groups in vulnerable situations, including women, girls, minorities, older persons, persons with disabilities, LGBTI+ persons, Indigenous Peoples, displaced persons, migrants, renters and informal settlers.

**Recommendations**

1. Please provide specific recommendations on how to address the critical challenges and impacts that emerge during planned relocations in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change to ensure they are people-centered, anchored in human rights-based approaches and preserve cultural identity. Please include actions to be taken at the local, national, regional, and international levels, as well as by different groups of stakeholders: governments, communities to be relocated, potential host communities, development agencies, financing institutions, and others.

**Response:**

1. **Local Level:**
   * Conduct comprehensive community consultations and participatory assessments to understand the needs, concerns, and preferences of communities facing relocation.
   * Develop culturally sensitive relocation plans that respect and preserve the cultural identity, traditions, and social structures of affected communities.
   * Establish mechanisms for meaningful engagement and dialogue between communities to be relocated and potential host communities to foster mutual understanding and acceptance.
2. **National Level:**
   * Allocate sufficient resources for the implementation of relocation plans, including infrastructure development, livelihood support, capacity building, creating entrepreneurship and social services for relocated communities.
   * Strengthen governance structures and institutions responsible for overseeing relocation processes to ensure transparency, accountability, and adherence to human rights standards.
3. **Regional Level:**
   * Foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing among neighbouring countries facing similar challenges of climate-induced displacement to exchange best practices and lessons learned.
   * Establish regional mechanisms for collective action on climate adaptation and disaster risk management, including joint funding mechanisms and technical assistance programs.
4. **International Level:**
   * Mobilize financial support from international development agencies, financing institutions, and donor countries to assist in the implementation of community-centered relocation plans.
   * Support the development of international guidelines and standards for climate-induced relocation that emphasize human rights, cultural preservation, and community participation.

1. Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) 2021. National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management. Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Secretariat Dhaka-1000. <https://modmr.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/modmr.portal.gov.bd/publications/d05820e8_b72f_43a1_8cfe_4b4bd34a2560/NSIDM%20Publication(Size%206.5%20X%209.5%20in).pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) 2021. National Action Plan (2022-2042) to Implement the National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management. Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Secretariat Dhaka-1000. <https://modmr.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/modmr.portal.gov.bd/publications/9faf92a8_f054_4a04_a290_91ee14bb88b0/Eng_National%20Action%20Plan%20(2022-2042)%20on%20Internal%20Displacment%20(4).pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. General Economics Division (GED) 2020. Making Vision 2041 a Reality: PERSPECTIVE PLAN OF BANGLADESH 2021-2041. Bangladesh Planning Commission. Ministry of Planning. Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh. <https://oldweb.lged.gov.bd/uploadeddocument/unitpublication/1/1049/vision%202021-2041.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) 2022. Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan 2022-2041. Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh. <https://moef.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/moef.portal.gov.bd/publications/f6c2ae73_30eb_4174_9adb_022323da1f39/Mujib%20Climate%20Prosperity%20Plan%202022-2041.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)