

Community Based Adaptation (CBA) 10 Conference - Dhaka

- Location:** Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Date:** 21 -28 April 2016
- Conference:** CBA10 held at the Independent University, Bangladesh
- Participants:** 250 participants from 40 countries in total, including Embassy staff, Government partners and NGO partners from Ethiopia, Malawi, Uganda, Zambia, Lesotho, Mozambique and Vietnam; HQ staff from the Resilience Policy Team.

The Community Based Adaptation Conference (CBA10) was held in Dhaka this year. As in previous years, Irish Aid Environment and Climate Change Advisors and some partners attended and held a meeting back-to-back with CBA10 to coordinate the integration of climate change into Irish Aid development programmes.

Approximately 250 participants attended the CBA10 conference over four days, from Monday 25th April until Thursday 28th April in the Independent University, Bangladesh. The theme of the conference was 'enhancing urban community resilience'. (see the Irish Aid agenda in Annex I) The event provided an opportunity to share the latest developments in community-based adaptation (CBA) with an international audience.

The CBA10 was hosted by the Government of Bangladesh. However, on this occasion CBA10 was marred by the refusal to grant entry to Bangladesh to 4 African participants, including one Irish Aid Advisor, who were returned to their countries of origin and at least 8 others who were detained at the airport for periods of up to 24 hours. A full report is available at <I:\Resilience\Environment and Climate Change\ECC Partnerships\Multi-Annual ECC Partnerships\IIED\CBA\CBA10\Report on refusal of entry Dhaka CBA10 29042016.docx>

The conference itself included 26 different sessions and was opened by Abdullah Al Islam Jakob, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Forests. Mary Robinson from the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice also presented at the Opening Plenary of CBA10 through a [video message](#). Adrian Fitzgerald participate as one two donors in the panel discussion: "Supporting Local Organisations" which was moderated by in Sarah Colenbrander from IIED. The panel debate was well attended (about 100 participants), highly interactive and received positive feedback from participants. The presentation from the session can be found [here](#).

Throughout the conference, Irish Aid staff and partners attended a number of sessions of particular relevance to Irish Aid's Climate Change Adaptation and broader Resilience Policy Team work. Further details on talks attended can be found in Annex II.

Barney Dickson, Director of Climate Change Adaptation Unit, UNEP met with all the Irish Aid Advisors as a group to discuss the work that UNEP's Climate Change Adaptation Unit is doing in Irish Aid Key Partner Countries. The Unit has three focal areas; Ecosystem Based Adaptation, Knowledge Exchange and Climate Finance. UNEP CCA have a number of LDCF programmes in the pipeline in Zambia, Uganda and Mozambique which are technically approved but are awaiting funding. In Mozambique, there is a

coastal zone adaptation programme in the greater area of Mozambique which is focused on ecosystem-based approaches and is worth \$6 million. UNEP have a wetland and restoration programme in Zambia which is worth \$6 million and is starting this year. There is also a programme in Uganda focused on forestry and ecosystem-based adaptation which is worth \$4.3 million. Richard Munang (Richard.munang@unep.org) is in charge of the Regional Office for Africa. The Knowledge Exchange platform of UNEP is currently trying to bring together organisations to learn and share experience on adaptation.

Before the conference on Monday 25th April, daily field trips were organised by IIED from Friday 22nd until Sunday 24th for approximately 90 participants. Staff and partners from Irish Aid travelled together and visited a number of urban community based projects. On Day 1 of the field trips we visited the slums of Gazipur to meet community leaders and learn about community waste management systems supported by [CARE Bangladesh](#). We also witnessed a fire demonstration and community play. On Day 2, our field trip was to [Sher-e Bangla Agriculture University](#), where we learned about a roof garden initiative supported by [Islamic Relief Bangladesh](#). The field trip on Day 3 took place in the western part of the city, in Mohammadpur, where we saw how Bangladesh NGO [Community Participation and Development \(CPD\)](#) is working with [Save the Children Bangladesh](#) to educate five to 18-year olds about climate change impacts, and to build their capacity to take action. Further details on the field trips can be found in Annex III.

An evaluation sheet (see Annex IV) was circulated to the participants to assess the usefulness of participating in the Community Based Adaptation conferences and what proposals or suggestions would be made for future attendance at the conference in Uganda (CBA11) in 2017. The completed forms will be compiled and a short evaluation report prepared.

The Environment and Climate Change Advisors workshop was held back-to-back with The Community Based Adaptation Conference (CBA10) which was held in Dhaka this year. As in previous years, Irish Aid Environment and Climate Change Advisors and some partners attended and held a meeting to coordinate the integration of climate change into Irish Aid development programmes. The Guidance Note on Integrating Climate Change into Development Programmes was presented at the workshop is available at <!:\Resilience\Environment and Climate Change\ECC Learning Platform - Training & Communication\IIED Learning Platform\7. CC&D Learning Platform Guidance notes\GN integrating climate into development programming - Working document 04052016.pdf> The GN is a working document that will be updated each year following the Advisors workshop. The workshop included a discussion of the draft Irish Aid Strategy for International Climate Change Partnerships 2016-2018 and number of additions were proposed to be incorporated into the final document.

A full report of the workshop is available: <!:\Resilience\Environment and Climate Change\ECC Partnerships\Multi-Annual ECC Partnerships\IIED\CBA\CBA10\Environment and Climate Change Advisors and Partners Meeting Dhaka 29042016.docx>

Resilience Policy Team

Policy Unit

DCD

Annex I:**Agenda for Irish Aid at CBA10, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 24th April - 29th April 2016**

Date	Time	Description	Lead
Thur 21 April	18.00	Meet in lobby of Blossom Hotel to discuss agenda and coordinate roles for CBA10 field visits	Naomi Campbell
	18.45	Leave Blossom hotel for Welcome Dinner at Nascent Gardenia (Transport arranged)	Naomi Campbell
	19.00	Welcome Dinner at Nascent Gardenia	
Fri 22 April	07.15	Leave Blossom Hotel to go to the Summer Palace Hotel for field trips	Naomi Campbell
	07.30	Board buses for field trip at the Summer Palace Hotel (All Irish Aid staff will be travelling together) Buses leave at 8am	
	18.30	Arrive back to Blossom Hotel	
	19.00	De-brief dinner at Blossom Hotel	
Sat 23 April	07.30	Leave Blossom Hotel to go to the Summer Palace Hotel for field trips	Naomi Campbell
	07.45	Board buses for field trip at the Summer Palace Hotel (All Irish Aid staff will be travelling together) Buses leave at 8am	
	18.30	Arrive back to Blossom Hotel	
	19.00	De-brief dinner at Blossom Hotel	
Sun 24 April	07.30	Leave Blossom Hotel to go to the Summer Palace Hotel for field trips	Naomi Campbell
	07.45	Board buses for field trip at the Summer Palace Hotel (All Irish Aid staff will be travelling together) Buses leave at 8am	
	18.30	Arrive back to Blossom Hotel	
	19.00	De-brief dinner at Blossom Hotel	
Mon 25 April	07.45	Leave Blossom Hotel for Interdependent University, Bangladesh (IUB)	Naomi Campbell
	08.00	Check in to CBA10 conference before 8am	
	09.00	Conference begins	
	18.00	Conference finishes with reception in IUB Food Court	
	20.30	Return bus to the Blossom Hotel	Naomi Campbell

Tue 26 April	08.30	Leave Blossom Hotel for Interdependent University, Bangladesh (IUB)	Naomi Campbell
	09.00	Conference begins	
	11.00 (TBC)	Meeting with Barney Dickson - Head, Climate Change Adaptation Unit, UNEP	Adrian Fitzgerald
	18.30	Return bus to the Blossom Hotel	Naomi Campbell
	19.30	Dinner for Irish Aid staff and partners at Soi 71	Adrian Fitzgerald
Wed 27 April	08.30	Leave Blossom Hotel for Interdependent University, Bangladesh (IUB)	Adrian Fitzgerald
	09.00	Conference begins	
	11.15 - 12.15	Panel Discussion on 'Supporting Local Organisations' Adrian Fitzgerald	Adrian Fitzgerald
	18.30	Return bus to the Blossom Hotel	Adrian Fitzgerald
	19.30	Invitation from BBC Media Action to attend dinner in Dhaka (Venue TBC)	
Thur 28 April	08.30	Leave Blossom Hotel for Interdependent University, Bangladesh (IUB)	Adrian Fitzgerald
	09.00	Conference begins	
	13.00	Return bus to the Blossom Hotel	Adrian Fitzgerald
Fri 29 April	09.00	Irish Aid Advisors Meeting at the Blossom Hotel	Adrian Fitzgerald
	17.30	Meeting finishes	

Annex II.

CBA10 field visits in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 24 to 26 April 2015

On Day 1 of the field trips we visited the slums of Gazipur to meet community leaders and learn about community waste management systems supported by [CARE Bangladesh](#). We also witnessed a fire demonstration and community play. On Day 2, our field trip was a walking tour around old Dhaka led by a youth group. The field trip on Day 3 took place in the western part of the city, in Mohammadpur, where we saw how Bangladesh NGO [Community Participation and Development \(CPD\)](#) is working with [Save the Children Bangladesh](#) to educate five to 18-year olds about climate change impacts, and to build their capacity to take action. In the afternoon, we visited [Sher-e Bangla Agriculture University](#), where we learned about a roof garden initiative supported by [Islamic Relief Bangladesh](#).

Observations: Day 1: Slums of Gazipur, community waste management systems, fire demonstration and community play, supported by CARE Bangladesh.

- CARE Bangladesh work with a community group called the Community Development Committee (CDC) in the slums of Gazipur who prepare a map of the resources they have including how many households, water wells, solar lights, educational services, social services and health services they have. They also identify the risks that they face in the community in terms of health, environment etc. From this they then develop a list of actions that they hope to achieve.
- One major risk that the communities face is the incidence of fire. In March 2016, 33 households went on fire. With the help of CARE Bangladesh, the CDC provided support through food, cash transfers, shelter and clothes.
- In terms of climate change, the communities reported that they find that the winter is colder but shorter, it is generally hotter, there are erratic rains that bring health diseases and the water levels are decreasing, resulting in a smaller volume of drinkable water.
- Many communities have migrated from rural areas to the city in search of work. The land where the slums are built is Government land and the houses are built by private owners. Therefore, slum communities have no security in terms of land or housing. Water and electricity is also privately owned.
- The Women's Empowerment Group that we met said that the best outcome of setting up the group is that they can sit together, discuss problems and ask the government for help where needed. The group has set up a system where they collect 20 taka from 83 households each month which is collected in to a community bank account and used for projects such as the waste management project.

Slums of Gazipur, community waste management systems, fire demonstration and community play, supported by CARE Bangladesh feedback

After day one of the field trips, colleagues and partners met to discuss how they would develop climate risk screening, a climate risk and vulnerability assessment and a future climate risk and vulnerability assessment based on the observations from the day. In terms of the climate risk assessment, the main risk in terms of climate change was flooding, which had increased in terms of frequency, intensity and severity. There were a number of other hazards such as fire and water logging but colleagues felt that

based on the information provided they couldn't be sure of the evidence linking these events to climate change.

In terms of the vulnerability assessment, there are a number of factors that are contributing to people's vulnerability. Namely, location; settling in a flood-prone areas, settlement pattern and limited adaptive capacity in terms of renting and services privately owned.

When looking at future risks, the linkage between climate change and health was highlighted as a key concern. The environment in which the communities live and work is full of hazards in terms of breathing in PVC materials which are highly combustible. There is also no provision of social protection for communities and it seems no government policy focused on the urban poor especially those in informal settlements.

Observations: Day 2: Walking tour around Old Dhaka.

- For the second day of the field trips, the group walked around the city of old Dhaka learning about the variety of historical buildings in Dhaka. We also visited a Massaman School for boys learning the Koran which is one of the oldest buildings in Dhaka. In Bangladesh, there are Sunni and Shia Muslims but mainly Shia.

Observations: Day 3: Field trip to Mohammadpur, youth climate change program supported by Bangladesh NGO [Community Participation and Development \(CPD\)](#) and [Save the Children Bangladesh](#). Afternoon field trip to [Sher-e Bangla Agriculture University](#), roof garden initiative supported by [Islamic Relief Bangladesh](#).

- In the morning we met with Bangladesh NGO CPD to discuss their focus on working with children affected by climate change in Dhaka. CPD work with a number of government departments, CSOs and service providers to raise the voice of children in Dhaka City.
- CPD organised the Clean Dhaka Campaign Program with the city Corporation and a World Environment Day event with the Department of Environment.
- CPD work with primary and secondary school children to raise their awareness of environmental and climate change issues within Bangladesh.
- In the afternoon, we visited a secondary school where students told us that the issues they face in terms of climate change are in terms of health and the difficulty of concentrating in higher temperatures. They also explained they can resolve the issue by stopping pollution, planting trees and proper waste management.
- We also visited a youth group who use items like plastic bottles to create pencil cases and CDs to create pictures in the afternoon. The group have the motto 'Don't waste anything'.
- In the afternoon, we visited the roof-top garden initiative supported by Islamic Relief Services programme at Sher-e Bangla Agriculture University.
- In Dhaka, there is very few green spaces left and water provides a huge problem, both in terms of shortages and flooding. The rooftop gardens aims to grow a number of plants that need less time to grow and less water on the rooftops of households throughout Dhaka City.
- The programme has also involved the training of 100 volunteers to sell plants to households and provide management services to look after plants. The prevalence of rooftop gardens should hopefully reduce the Urban City Heat Index which is quite high in Dhaka.

Youth climate change program supported by Bangladesh NGO Community Participation and Development (CPD) and Save the Children Bangladesh feedback

Following on from the field trips, colleagues and partners met to discuss whether their perspectives on the programmes from a civil society, donor or Government perspective. The CPD programme, from a donor perspective was perceived as building a foundation of sustainability with youth in Dhaka. CPD run a number of activities which will lead to an attitudinal change. However, there are questions around issues of scaling the programme up and in order to achieve this the programme should be integrated into the current education system.

From a civil society perspective, there are a number of risks at play and resources are constrained. A stakeholder approach with the government could work well. Also the programme could be better designed in terms of maximises context-specific opportunities. For example, the seedlings promoted could be local, indigenous, fast-growing, nutritious plants instead of generic ornamental plants.

From a government perspective, there is a political will demonstrated within the programme. The teachers mentioned that the government will go to a certain point of responsibility and then the schools themselves are responsible. It would be good to know if the approach taken is a standardised approach across civil society that government could engage with.

Afternoon field trip to Sher-e Bangla Agriculture University, roof garden initiative supported by Islamic Relief Bangladesh feedback

From a donor perspective, there was not a huge level of scalability, cost effectiveness or Value for Money demonstrated with the rooftop garden programme. Throughout the programme, there was no community involvement either. However, it is a good research programme where they are looking at best possible science.

From a civil society perspective, the programme is a good idea but the model does not fit community needs. The outreach of the programme is not effective and the programme seems to be aimed at the middle class as opposed to the poor.

From a government perspective, this idea could be useful in terms of an area to promote in the private sector in the future.

Annex III.

CBA10 Conference - 4 Key Sessions

Plenary session 2: Building community participation in urban CBA

Diane Archer from IIED facilitated this session. Speakers included Fiona Percy from Care International, Janeth D. Bascon, from Homeless People's Federation of the Philippines, Vositha Wijenayake from CANSA / Southern Voices on Adaptation and Chime Paden Wangdi from Tarayana Foundation, Bhutan. Main points from the discussion included that in order to build social capital in a rapidly changing urban community setting, a number of actors including service providers and government officials must be engaged in the process. It is also important to allow enough time between the analysis and decision-making processes to ensure that both the knowledge from both climate experts and local community members is taken on-board. It is also important to recognise that people can be rooted to a place and don't necessarily want to migrate, even if they should be based on scientific evidence.

Parallel session 3B: Disaster and Risk Reduction

Stu Solomon from The Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) facilitated a discussion on linking Community-Based Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate change. Speakers included Terry Cannon (IDS), Thinh Nguyen Anh (ADRA Vietnam), Lars Bernd (UNICEF), Shakil Akther (URP at BUET) and Brooke Ackerly (Vanderbilt). Key points that were raised include that we need synergies across all three areas to reduce duplication of effort and increase impact across CBA, DRR and the SDGs. It is also important to recognise that after a disaster, everyone may be affected but not necessarily affected equally. Therefore, the interaction with the political economy is important to discover underlying causes of vulnerability.

Plenary 'out-of-the-box' session 4: Learning from Failure

This interactive session was led by Bettina Koelle and Pablo Suarez from the Red Cross - Red Crescent Climate Centre. It included a number of sessions where participants spoke about the barriers to talking about failure within development programming.

Plenary session 5: Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, and Resilience

Rohini Kohini from UNDP and Janice Ian Manlutac from Oxfam GB Asia facilitated this session. Speakers included Bella Tonkonogy (UNDP), Bal Krishna Jamarkattel (CARE Nepal), Shafiqul Islam (SME Foundation, Bangladesh), Charles Nyandiga (UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme) and Ronald Mendoza (Ateneo School of Government). Ronald Mendoza presented on the survival of Eva Marie Arts & Crafts, a small medium enterprise in the Philippines after Typhoon Yolanda. The enterprise was run by one local entrepreneur who supported up to 400 local jobs supplying hand-woven bags to U.S. and Japanese markets. During the typhoon, US\$400,000 worth of stock was destroyed and the grass that the bags were made with was inundated with salt water. Furthermore, 1/3 of the workers lost their homes. To overcome this, the enterprise sources raw materials from another island and borrowed from families and friends in the US. After three months, they could start exporting products to the U.S. Further information can be found [here](#).

Annex IV: Comments on the Community Based Adaptation (CBA10) - 28 April 2016 – Feedback from Advisors and Partners

Question	Very satisfied	Quite satisfied	Not satisfied
How satisfied were you with the CBA content?			
How satisfied were you with the CBA facilitation?			
How relevant were the CBA sessions to your work?			
Did CBA10 meet your expectations of intended outcomes?			
How satisfied are you that the linkages made in CBA will meet your programme needs?			
General satisfaction with the facilities and administration (including accommodation, venue, transport, meals, pre conference communication and information).			
What is your overall impression of CBA10? Please list key strengths and weaknesses.			
Strengths:			
Weaknesses:			
What parts of CBA10 (knowledge, concepts, tools) will help improve the effectiveness of your work?			
What actions will you be taking as a result of the CBA10?			
How do you think Irish Aid could make best use of CBA11 in Uganda and why?			
What were the Strengths and weaknesses of the Irish Aid Environment and Climate Change Advisors and Partners workshop?			
Strengths:			
Weaknesses:			