

Creating jobs and ensuring CLIMATE JUSTICE



Sabir Hossain
is deputy managing director and chief sustainability officer at BRAC Bank PLC.

SABBIR HOSSAIN

Bangladesh, one of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, faces rising sea levels, extreme weather, and unpredictable monsoons. These challenges harm the nation's natural resources and deepen socio-economic disparities, particularly for marginalised communities in rural and coastal areas. To ensure a sustainable future, Bangladesh must adopt a holistic approach to climate resilience that integrates environmental goals with social equity and economic stability.

WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY?

Sustainability is about both people and the planet. Human activities such as deforestation, urbanisation, and burning fossil fuels are major contributors to environmental degradation. However, people are also key to reversing this damage. To mitigate the climate crisis, we must prioritise the planet's health by shifting from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydropower.

Fossil fuels, while central to the world's energy systems for centuries, are the primary cause of environmental degradation. Their extraction and use release vast amounts of greenhouse

gases, contributing to global warming. Transitioning to renewable energy is critical for environmental reasons, long-term energy security, and economic stability. However, financing for renewable energy remains insufficient, especially in countries like Bangladesh, which currently has just 4.9 percent renewable energy in its energy mix. The government aims to achieve 15 percent renewable energy by 2030, but meeting this target will require substantial investment and commitment across sectors.

A KEY COMPONENT FOR LONG-TERM RESILIENCE

While environmental sustainability is often the main focus, social sustainability is just as crucial—especially in Bangladesh, where socio-economic inequalities are pronounced. Social sustainability ensures that all members of society have access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and economic opportunities. Without addressing social equity, climate change mitigation efforts can deepen disparities and leave vulnerable communities behind.

Bangladesh has made notable progress in reducing poverty, with the poverty rate dropping from 44.2 percent in 1991 to 18.7 percent in 2022. However, inequalities persist, particularly in rural and coastal

► To ensure a sustainable future, Bangladesh must adopt a holistic approach to climate resilience.

PHOTO: STAR



areas, where communities depend heavily on agriculture and fishing. Climate change already affects these regions, with rising sea levels, unpredictable weather, and altered rainfall patterns threatening livelihoods.

Bangladesh must ensure that its climate adaptation efforts focus on inclusivity for long-term climate resilience. Vulnerable communities need access to resources, technology, and financing to help them adapt. Protecting the environment is important, but it is equally essential to address social inequities. A truly sustainable approach must ensure that marginalised groups have the opportunity to thrive in the green economy.

LINK BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY

The impacts of climate change are felt most acutely by Bangladesh's coastal communities, home to millions of the nation's poorest citizens. Rising sea levels are displacing millions and threatening agriculture, an essential sector for food

security and employment. According to the World Bank, Bangladesh could lose up to 6 percent of its GDP by 2050 due to climate-induced agricultural disruptions.

Small-scale farmers and fishermen in these areas are at risk as climate change increasingly threatens their livelihoods. Addressing these challenges requires more than environmental protection—it demands an inclusive approach that provides these communities with the tools, training, and financing to adapt. Investments in climate-resilient agriculture must include technology, financial support, access to markets, and affordable insurance options to safeguard against climate-related risks.

GREEN ECONOMY FOR ALL

A green economy offers Bangladesh a unique opportunity to combat climate change while promoting inclusive economic growth. This approach aims to reduce environmental harm, create jobs,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

ENGINEERED FOR EXCELLENCE



Marketed by
LUB HOUSE INDUSTRIES LIMITED

+8801708498387 info@nationallub.com