

Quarterly Reflection Workshop

Building Synergies between Labour Migration and Climate Finance Interventions



Background

Climate migration – the displacement of population as a result of the impacts of climate change - is expected to become one of the most complex and unpredictable disasters known to humankind and thus requires immediate attention from the policymakers in the country.

PROKAS is an innovative programme that brings together the Government of Bangladesh, civil society and the private sector to bring about positive change to improve the lives of Bangladeshis. The programme works with partners who aim to make labour migration safer and help the country deal with the impacts of climate change.

Keeping in line with its vision and mission, PROKAS is currently facilitating and aiding two Issue Based Projects (IBPs): Climate Finance Transparency Mechanism (CFTM) project and the Fairer Labour

Migration (FLM) project. CFTM is being implemented by the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) in association with Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER), COAST Trust and Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (CSRL). Whereas the FLM consists of a partnership among Institute of Informatics and Development (IID), Young Power in Social Action (YPSA), WARBE, Bangladesh Ovhibashi Mohila Sramik Association (BOMSA), and Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU).

In order to provide a platform for IBP partner organisations to share challenges faced over the first quarter, project their achievements and identify ways forward with planned interventions, ICCCAD and IID jointly organised the first “Quarterly Reflection Workshop” on 29 March 2017.

Quarterly Reflection Workshop

on CFTM and FLM project



FLM & CFTM Teams



Objectives of the Workshop

- ▶ Promote cross learning and sharing
- ▶ Facilitate collective action to achieve results
- ▶ Guide positive engagement with actors



Introduction

The workshop began with the facilitators introducing the participants to the CFTM and FLM project, as well as the general IBP approach. To acquaint the participating institutions to each other, the workshop provided a brief overview of their organisation's portfolio. Each organisation involved with the CFTM project was then paired with an organisation under the FLM project and was given a minute to discuss and get to know each other. Subsequently, one representative from each organisation formally introduced members of their peer organisation to the audience.

Mr. Syeed Ahamed, CEO of IID, pinpointed that although climate change and migration are two distinct issues, in the near future, massive migration will transpire due to climate change. He expressed his profound pleasure on having all the IBP partners with their diverse sectoral knowledge and experience brought under one roof to share their insights on the issue. Dr. Saleemul Huq, director of ICCCAD, added that considering the interlinkage between migration and climate change, this workshop will serve as an important platform to identify collaborative interventions.





Progress Review

The session presented an opportunity for partners to reflect on and identify successes and shortcomings experienced during the first quarter. Progress made was categorized using the following criteria:



What went well?



What could be better?



Key successes and achievements



Lessons learnt

Progress update of CFTM

What went well? : The project has employed an inclusive and participatory approach for mapping stakeholders. The project and its activities thus far have led to increased interaction with donors and actors engaged in activities relevant to climate change, particularly to climate finance. A CSO group at the local level has also been formed.

What could be better? : Coordination and communication among the consortium partners have been limited and will need to be improved. Knowledge on climate finance among local communities is also limited and has to be enhanced. Since the project kicked off later than expected, it has been challenging to undertake activities as per schedule.



Key successes and achievements

CFTM project has been successful at being autonomous rather than donor-driven. Specific units within the government, particularly External Resources Division (ERD), as well as key actors have been identified for further engagement with the project. Partners working on the ground have increased the participation of marginalised and vulnerable communities.

Lessons Learnt

The climate group said they recognize urgent need to develop a concrete definition for 'climate finance' in Bangladesh. Partners recognised the importance of the power maps and the need to gradually shift the position of the identified actors as well as add new actors as the project moves forward – measures to do so have also been considered.



Contextual Change

This session entailed a plenary discussion, enabling partners to underscore changes in national and global context since the project's inception, which may influence implementation plans.

Changes identified by CFTM

Positive changes: Owing to enhanced coordination and communication among the partners, collective action approaches have garnered momentum. Multiple stakeholders gained familiarity with the CFTM project due to its network building process. Actors' positions in the power maps have improved. Climate change component has been integrated into government's project formulation processes.

Neutral changes: Although lack of local ownership had previously lead to failure of climate change projects, situation has now improved. National Policy on Development Cooperation is being developed by ERD which could help CFTM partners get access to government agencies.

Negative changes: Government agencies, particularly ERD, have experienced changes in personnel causing delays in MOUs formulation. Local partners have faced resistance from local governments due to unavailability of letter of support mentioning government collaboration.

Changes identified by FLM

Positive changes: WARBE has been added to work on the issue. DEMO offices are being set up in Rajan, Chittagong. Grievance mechanism has been established in relevant ministries.

Neutral changes: Grievance mechanism and middlemen are still a problem that needs to be addressed. Saudi Arabia has introduced Musaniat system which is a database system on labour migration. Only proper implementation of this system can help address problems associated with migration, especially female migration.

Negative changes: Change in leadership creates problem. Inter-ministerial conflict is another contextual change that need to be minimized to ensure that the project makes the difference it intends to through the project. Outgoing migrants are paying more to the middlemen than rate fixed by the government.

Power map updates

CFTM

Partners collectively identified “new” actors and possible ways forward in developing positive relationships to be able to shift actors to more favorability in support or influencing roles. Organisations such as Bangladesh Bank, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) were identified by CFTM partners. Collaborations to share networks and access to the wider IBP members were discussed as possible actions to consider. Participants were able to break clustered groups of actors (within their individual maps) and target specific agencies or government entities using the rapport of a partnering consortium member. Previous clusters of “INGOS” or “MoEF” were broken down to identify specific organisations or departments.



FLM

Partners brought their own power maps and collectively updated the initial power map for the project. Middlemen were identified as spoilers. Participants identified strategies to deal with middlemen because when the partners begin to implement the project and undertake intervention in respective areas, they may face difficulty dealing with them. Media is another important stakeholder group, playing a passive role in migration issues. Participants acknowledged that they play important roles in the project and therefore, need to be engaged effectively. Powerful actors not yet playing an influential role need to be sensitized to help make migration safer and fairer. There needs to be strategies in place to bring them in favour of the project.

Reflection on Inception Report

This session was aimed for organisations to receive feedback from PROKAS on different facets of the inception report and how they may revise their Issue Action Plans (IAPs) as the project moves forward. Emphasis was placed on updating the consolidated and individual power maps in each quarter depending on the changed power dynamics

between the consortium partners and the partners. As of yet, the inception report requires improvement on its section on the power maps. Hence, in each quarter, if any consortium member cannot make any progress in changing the power dynamics, it should also be mentioned in the quarterly report.

This discussion session also worked as a precursor to the subsequent session on “Risk Analysis and Issue Action Plan Review” by addressing the need to “think and work politically” while mapping for potential stakeholders. Since much of the work in this regard is perception based, probable “spoilers” could arise at any point in time during the project. Therefore, by “thinking and working politically” partners could efficiently identify the spoilers and design necessary Risk Mitigation Strategy.

Following the discussion on power maps, the session focused on the hurdles that may arise for the partners working at the root level. To avoid any inconvenience in the field work, PROKAS offered to provide the Consortium 2 partners with contact details of focal person. Furthermore, due diligence requirements were also underscored such as the need to periodically produce financial reports, keep track of targets and maintain attending registers. The need to promote collective action and mainstream gender and social inclusion in all areas of the projects was reiterated.



Participants preparing the Issue Action Plan

Risk Analysis and Issue Action Plan

This session provided the opportunity for the IBPs to revisit their IAPs and the risk matrix presented in their plans. Based on the changes in context so far as well as the progress made so far, partners identified potential risks to project implementation and proposed a number of strategies to mitigate them.

Way forward

In the concluding remarks, the facilitators highlighted the broader, overarching outcomes that

may be accomplished as a result of successful implementation of the IBPs. This process has already kicked off. Lead facilitators acknowledged the interlinkages between climate change and labour migration in the country and proposed the possibility of IBPs to collaborate on common solutions to the issue in the future. To ensure a more strategic and streamlined approach to accomplishing project objectives, decisions were made to co-establish subgroups on Communications as well as on Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL). These subgroups will serve to learn from each other and develop individual and institutional capacities for effectively implementing the IBPs.



Dr. Saleemul Huq underscored that Bangladesh will be graduating to middle income country by 2024, which means that the country will no longer be eligible for development assistance. However, Bangladesh will continue to receive support from global climate funds and will need to compete with other developing countries to avail these funds. The strategy to do so would be to demonstrate that Bangladesh can efficiently, effectively and transparently utilise the money. He also commended the combination of top-down and bottom-up approaches undertaken to implement the project.



Syeed Ahamed concluded the workshop with a quick debrief of the whole day's activities. He highlighted that the workshop was an enlightening one for FLM partners and the partners now have a roadmap to move forward with their activities. Partners were able to share their perspectives, issues and concept of achieving the goals. These diversified perspectives are critical for accomplishing the multifaceted goals of IBPs. The synergies and areas of cooperation within the two IBPs during the course of the project also need to be identified.