

Turning Point

Bank Job Aid

Focus Writing Module - 10



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Turning Point

A Complete Preparatory Package for Bank Job Written Part

Climate Change: Global Issue - Regional Impacts

It is quite a dubious time for our planet. In the last 100 years or so, because of our unrestrained use of fossil fuels and systematic overexploitation of the natural resources, we have pushed the planet towards climatological catastrophe. Simply put, we dug ourselves into a deep hole, yet we have not stopped digging.

To pull us out of the hole, world leaders agreed in the 2015 Paris Accords to keep the "global temperature increase in this century to two degrees Celsius while pursuing efforts to limit the increase even further to 1.5 degrees." In order to achieve this goal, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) wants us to halve greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 and attain net zero emissions by 2050. At COP15 in Copenhagen in 2009, developed countries committed to mobilizing \$100 billion every year by 2020 for the developing countries to help them undertake climate actions. The commitment was later extended to 2025 at COP21 in Paris.

Climate Change Impacts

1. According to World Bank, climate change will hit poor and vulnerable people the hardest. Average tropical cyclones cost Bangladesh about \$1 billion annually. By 2050, a third of agricultural GDP could be lost and 13 million people could become internal climate migrants. In case of a severe flooding, GDP could fall by as much as 9 percent.
2. Sea Level Rise (SLR) is the biggest threat for Bangladesh among all the external drivers. The average sea-level rise in the coastal zone of Bangladesh is 3.8-5.8 mm/year over the last 30 years. 12%-18% of the coastal area will be submerged due to SLR by this century. SLR alone will be responsible for 6%-9% decline of rice production in the country.
3. According to a study published in the journal '*Nature*', global warming will turn more than 25 percent of the Earth into desert. A warmer Earth will exacerbate droughts, with far-reaching consequences. They will be drawn-out, leading to acute shortages of water and mass starvation in many parts of the world. As the world warms, rainfalls in Bangladesh during monsoon will become more erratic, less predictable, frightfully dangerous, and immeasurably devastating.
4. The UN's International Office of Migration (IOM) speculates that by 2050, over a billion people will be displaced globally due to climate change. The number of people living in cities will likely be triple. People in Dhaka, currently 22.5 million, can expect to rub their shoulders with an additional 13-15 million climate refugees.
5. Food insecurity, dearth of water and energy, together with depleted resources, will provide the spark that will push otherwise peaceful nations into war. Moreover, famine, poverty, unstable governments, vast inequalities within societies, and control for life-sustaining resources will incite riots and civil wars.
6. Augmented by rising sea levels, cyclonic storms will cause the coastal cliffs in Bangladesh to collapse. As a consequence, people living in low-lying coastal areas will experience incursions of seawater more often during storm surges, where freshwater supplies will be contaminated and undrinkable, agricultural land will be damaged because of increased salinity, and waterborne diseases will become increasingly common. Additionally, along with many coastal cities and island nations, a large portion of Bangladesh will be underwater.

Climate Funding

A. Local Initiatives: Bangladesh has a National Action Plan ready on climate change stressing the need for \$230 billion over next 27 years till 2050 to enhance its adaptation capacity. Government of Bangladesh established Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF) in FY 2009-10 from its own resources. Over the last seven years the climate relevant allocation in national budget has been doubled about US\$ 1.44 billion in FY2015-16 to about US\$ 2.96 billion in FY2021-22 which is 0.73% of GDP for FY2021-22.

B. Global Sources: Bangladesh has accessed climate finance from the following global funds:

- Green Climate Fund (GCF)
- Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF)
- Adaptation Fund (AF)
- Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- Climate Bridge Fund

Bangladesh's Initiatives

At just 0.4 percent, Bangladesh's current contribution to global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is not significant. The country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) commit to reducing emissions by 21.8 percent by 2030. With strong implementation, technology development and uptake, and regional collaboration, Bangladesh can exceed these commitments.

A. Policy Response at National Level: Over the years, the Government has formulated a number of policies, plans and program to address climate change and disaster management in the country; most relevant are:

- Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP), 2009
- National Adaptation Programme of Action, 2005, updated in 2009
- Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Act, 2010
- Bangladesh Delta Plan, 2100
- Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan 2030 (Draft)
- National Plan for Disaster Management 2021-2025
- Bangladesh Energy Efficiency and Conservation Master Plan up to 2030
- Renewable Energy Policy of Bangladesh, 2008

B. Emission Reduction Commitment: Bangladesh will reduce its GHG emissions by 89.47 MtCO₂ within 2030. More than 2.14 MtCO₂ emissions will be reduced by 2025 as per Montreal Protocol targets.

C. Low carbon emitting energy: Bangladesh is pursuing a low carbon development path with increasing emphasis on renewable energy and energy efficiency.

D. Adaptation: Government of Bangladesh has undertaken research on development of drought, cold, waterlog, diseases, pest and salt tolerant crop varieties to cope with the changing climate. Early harvest short duration rice varieties, Drought, salt and flood tolerant rice varieties as well as Stress tolerant other crop varieties.

E. Disaster Management: Bangladesh has become a role model and demonstrated immense success in Disaster Management and Disaster Risk Reduction, which is well recognized globally. Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP), establishing Cyclone shelters, Disaster Relief Warehouse and Mujib Killa, rescue response optimization initiatives, early alert system for impending disaster etc. has increased country's disaster management capacity.

Bangladesh has led the way in adaptation and disaster risk management. Over the past 50 years, it has reduced cyclone-related deaths 100-fold. Despite significant gains in reducing the human toll from climate disasters, Bangladesh continues to face severe and increasing climate risks. Without urgent action, including further adaptation and resilience measures, the country's strong growth potential could be in risk.

Read the writing carefully and answer the following questions:

1. Contrast Bangladesh's contribution in global GHG emission and subsequent vulnerabilities.
2. What are the major approaches to fight against climate change effects?
3. Evaluate the preparedness of Bangladesh against climate change challenges.
4. What could be the role of Bangladesh in global frontier to combat against climate change effects?
5. What do you think the most crucial factor for the globe in future from climate change perspective?

Focus Writing

1. What are the major climate change effects for Bangladesh? Describe the steps Bangladesh has taken to compete against climate change effects.
2. How Bangladesh can take the leading role in global frontier to combat against climate change effects?