

Loss and Damage in Rajanpur, Bangladesh





The Village

Rajanpur, Bangladesh is a village located in the lowlands of Sylhet, a governmental district in the Northeast corner of the country that shares a border with India. The primary industry of the surrounding region is agriculture, with a focus on tea production.

Climate in Bangladesh

Earlier and Heavier Rainfall

Anthropogenic climate change had more than doubled the chance of pre-monsoon rainfall in Bangladesh, extending the rainy season

Current Displacement

4.1 million Bangladeshis were displaced in 2019 due to climate-related events

Disproportionate Financial Burden

Rural, poorer Bangladeshis spend twice as much on climate-related mitigation than governmental or international aid programs

Increasing Magnitude

The World Bank predicts that 13.3 million Bangladeshis could be displaced yearly by 2050, with the majority coming from the 47% of Bangladesh that relies on agriculture

Loss and Damage in Bangladesh

Loss

Floods, extreme weather events, and rising sea levels threaten to shrink its coastline and destroy one of its most valuable resources: farmland.

Damage

Regular, high magnitude floods are a yearly reality in Bangladesh. Floods that can affect up to 68% of the country in a single year destroy homes, crops, and livelihoods that are expensive to replace.

Loss

At current predicted levels Bangladesh is set to see 10% of it's land area underwater by the turn of the century, with much of that land being valuable farmland. Throughout the country frequent flooding is eroding or salinating other fertile land that resides in the 80% of the country considered to be part of a floodplain



Climate-related events bring with them a tremendous amount of undue loss of life. In a single 2007 cyclone Bangladesh saw 4,000 lives lost and an estimated \$2.3 billion in damages. Warmer oceans and rising sea levels will make storms like this more and more likely.

Damage

Yields of Bangladesh's staple crop rice are expected to go down by an estimated 10-50% over the next 30 years, driving climate migration away from agricultural areas and decreasing food security in the region and worldwide.



Housing in Bangladesh is primarily mud walled with between 45-80% of the housing stock consisting of these flood-prone dwellings


On the Ground

Ruhel Islam, a Minneapolis community member and small business owner traveled to his homeland in northeastern Bangladesh to help with recovery efforts in Rajanpur and other surrounding communities

Upon arrival he found houses washed away and entire villages without adequate food stores or security to sustain themselves through the winter



On the Ground



In the time since Ruhel was growing up and living in Sylhet full time “the rains have gotten more common . . . when it rains it comes much harder than it used to. There used to be very few floods this bad but now they come almost every year”

Ruhel also spoke on the resiliency of the community in Bangladesh: “ people here never give up. some families lost their houses and their farms and everything, but they have no choice but to carry on.”

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