

Dissemination Note

On

**A Resource Website for Climate
Change Impacts on Health**

Background of the Dissemination Session

In order to keep track of the expanding effects that climate change (CC) is having on people's health in Bangladesh, researchers will need access to a wide range of data sources, some of which are hard to find, that pertain to CC as well as health and demographic outcomes. With this vision in mind, on February 13, 2023, Dr Peter Kim Streatfield, Emeritus Scientist at icddr,b, and his team launched the Initiative for Climate Change and Health's highly anticipated climate change and health-related web-based platform, <https://cch.icddr.org/>. The event was held at icddr, b's Sasakawa Seminar Room in Mohakhali, Dhaka.

This website offers sources of pertinent data, scientific publications, and concise explanations of the science of climate change and its influence on health. This project will also bring together, in a single web-based location, relevant data sources and links for researchers and program managers to access up-to-date essential data for this purpose and for designing interventions that may minimize negative impacts of climate change. The resource website has been developed as part of a Research for Decision Makers (RDM) activity that is funded by USAID. This website aims to provide a more current climate change and health scenario in the global and Bangladeshi contexts on a single web-based platform. This website will also let researchers and people in charge of programs come up with ways to help reduce the direct and indirect adverse effects of climate change.

Content of the website

On this website, important information pertaining to climate change is presented. Some of the topics covered on this website include climate change-related threats like vector-borne diseases like dengue, malaria, kala-azar, and chikungunya; heat waves and heat stress; air pollution and related conditions like hypertension; cardiovascular diseases; respiratory infections; water pollution and water-borne diseases like cholera; climate change-related food security issues and associated malnutrition threats; and so on. On the website, you will also find information on climatic disasters such as cyclones, floods, and droughts, as well as local



and global climate change-related factors such as the rise in sea level, salinity, sea surface temperature, carbon dioxide (CO₂) trend, global temperature trends, global greenhouse gas levels, El Nino/La Nina, and the Indian Ocean Dipole.

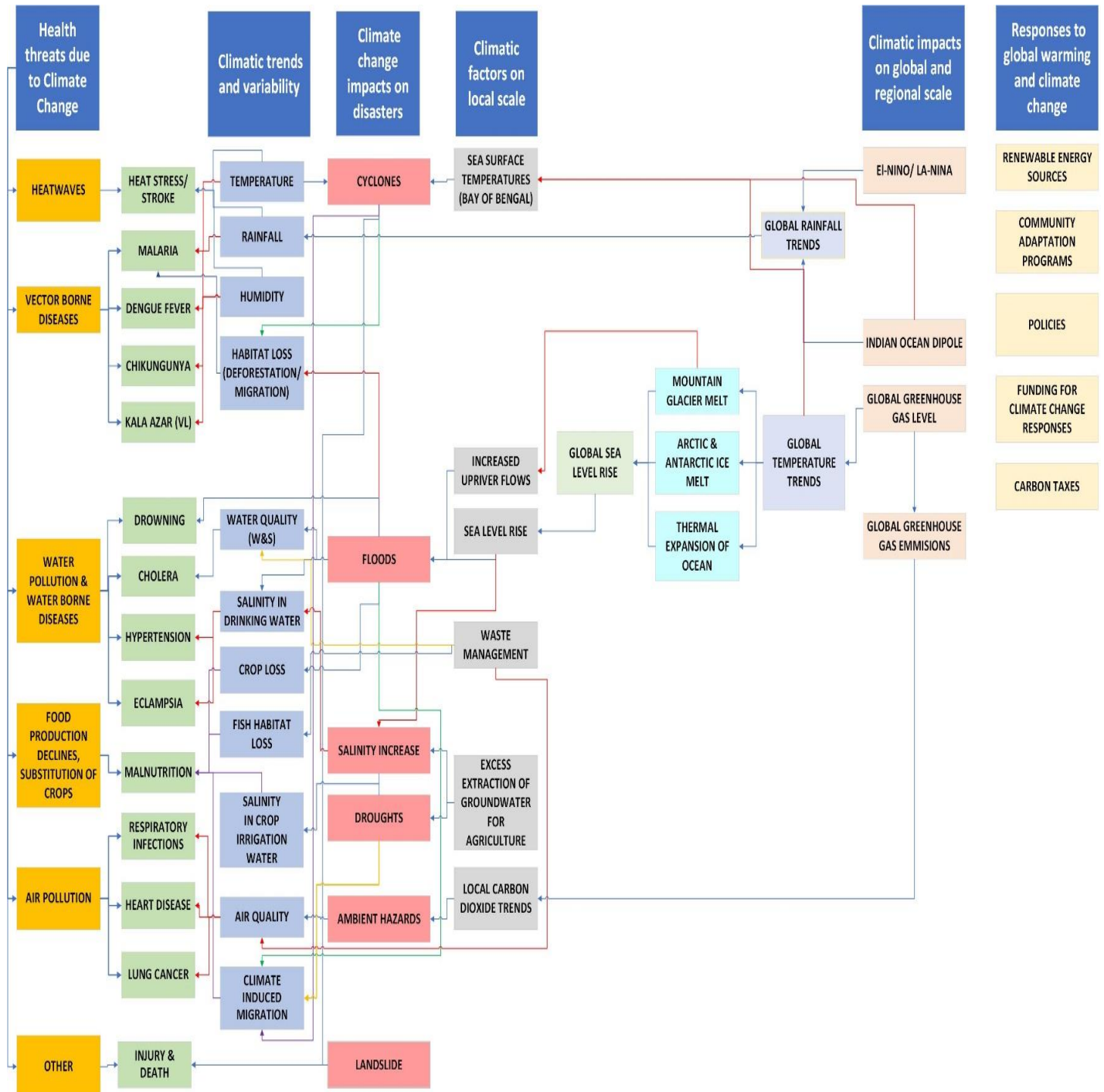


Figure 1: Content of the website

The website also integrates and delivers real-time statistics and interactive graphs on climate factors such as hourly, daily, and monthly temperature, humidity, and air pollution (Air Quality Index, PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, and PM₁) recorded by an IQAir outdoor device. These parameters can be viewed by the user (installed under the above-mentioned activity). Also, the website features graphs that are both interactive and dynamic, and they are based on the climatic parameters that have been gathered from the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD).

From the Dissemination Session

The session was inaugurated by Dr Shams El Arifeen, Senior Director, Maternal and Child Health Division of icddr,b. He welcomed the guests and emphasized the importance of the climate change research. Dr Peter Kim Streatfield, Emeritus Scientist at icddr,b and the project lead, with Mr. Atik Ahsan, a Senior Program Manager, showed the website's features and how it works.



They also showed how it can provide real-time information on climate change and how it affects health, such as temperature, humidity, and air quality data updated every hour by an external Air Quality Device installed in Mohakhali. Dr Manzoor Ahmed Hanifi, Acting Senior

Director of the Health and Population Services Division, and Dr Quamrun Nahar, Head of Research, Maternal and Child Health Division of icddr,b also spoke at the event. The session was moderated by Shusmita Hossain Khan, Knowledge Management and Communications Specialist at Data for Impact (D4I).



Representatives from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), the Government of Bangladesh, USAID, icddr,b, BRAC JPGSPH BRAC University, IFRC, Gobeshona, and other development partners also attended the event.

Talking points from the open Discussion session

Comments from Dr Iqbal Kabir, CCHPU, MoHFW

Dr Iqbal praised the effort of the icddr,b team in developing the website as it will be a resource hub for climate change-related data, health impacts of climate change, and relevant discussions. He addressed the big data gap and data gathering challenges for Bangladesh-specific CC and health-related data. Climate Change and Health Promotion Unit (CCHPU) is

developing a similar website. He suggested/proposed linking the CCH website of icddr,b with that website. He mentioned that data entry is simple, but ensuring data quality is a big challenge. In this regard, CCHPU is planning to train the mid-level researchers. There are so many government sources for multiple data sets. But no comprehensive data analysis system exists within the Government system.



He shared his experience from his recent visits to the coastal districts of Bhola, Patuakhali and emphasized on the soil/water salinity issues. He mentioned that (CCHPU) is planning to develop a disease surveillance mechanism in association with the IEDCR. Already has an MOU with BMD, DPHE, DOE, Department of Forest, Department of Disaster Management in this regard. The main plan is to bridge all those organizations together for setting the surveillance system and to get necessary data. He proposed to add CCH website into that platform. CCHPU is going to initiate a short course on climate change impact on health at the University of Dhaka. He proposed to introduce this CCH website to that short course

Comments from the USAID

Climate change is a global crisis. As temperatures and sea levels rise, people around the world are increasingly seeing heat waves, droughts, floods, cyclones, and wildfires upend their lives. Climate change disproportionately impacts people living in poverty and who are marginalized. This decade will be decisive for the future of our planet. That is why USAID has developed a new Climate Strategy (2022-2030) that will guide the humanitarian and development work through 2030 in a way that is truly different.



Comments from Sheikh Tawhidul Islam, professor and director at Jahangirnagar University's Institute of Remote Sensing and GIS

He said he would happily add other data sources to the website, such as the GSN data on sea level rise (SLR).

Comments from Ms Miranda Beckham, USAID

Miranda Beckman, Deputy Director, Office of Population Health, and Nutrition, USAID said that “this website will help the researchers to get necessary information. This website will also raise the awareness about the health issues of climate change” and added that, “USAID

emphasized to continue more research to find out new dimensions and attributing factors of climate change and health.”

She advised sharing the information with other individuals engaged in comparable work or research. Then investigate more mediums to see whether the transmission of new or old illnesses, germs, and viruses is growing due to climate change.



Comments from Dr Mohammad Yunus, icddr,b

He proposed to include a section on cholera because it is also a vector-borne disease and is dependent on climate change.

Comments from Dr Zahirul Islam, BRAC JPGSPH, BRACU

Dr Zahirul Islam who recently began working for the BRAC James P. Grant School of Public Health climate change department, has indicated an interest in engaging with icddr,b climate change to function as a hub.

Comments from Golam Kibria of CECCR, MoEFCC

He mentioned their website ccikm.gov.bd, which contains some CC related information and it will be good to link them with the cch.icddr.org. In addition, he suggested gathering real-time BMD temperature data from all county stations to display on the website.

Comments from Dr Mohammad Shafiul Alam of IDD, icddr,b

He shared his thoughts on sharing the DGHS link to the most recent dengue data. He also told about other vector-borne illness data sharing if required for website updates.

Comments from The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and the German Red Cross recently conducted a feasibility study on the Dhaka city heat wave. These data, as well as other data on similar issues, are accessible and can be collected through the medium of an "appreciation hub" when required.

Comments from Mr Raihanul Haque Khan, RIMES

He said that if the website needed technical help, he would be happy to give it to them because he is also working on a similar project.

Conclusion and Way forward

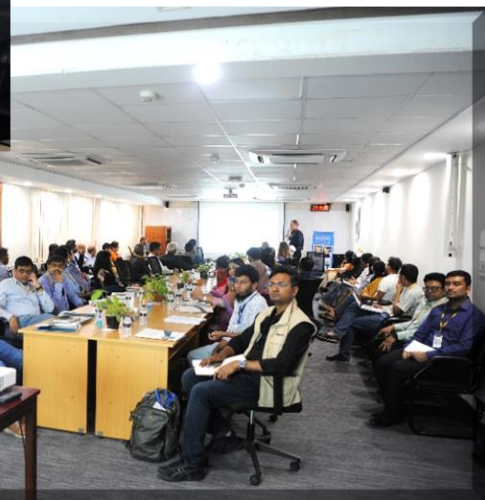
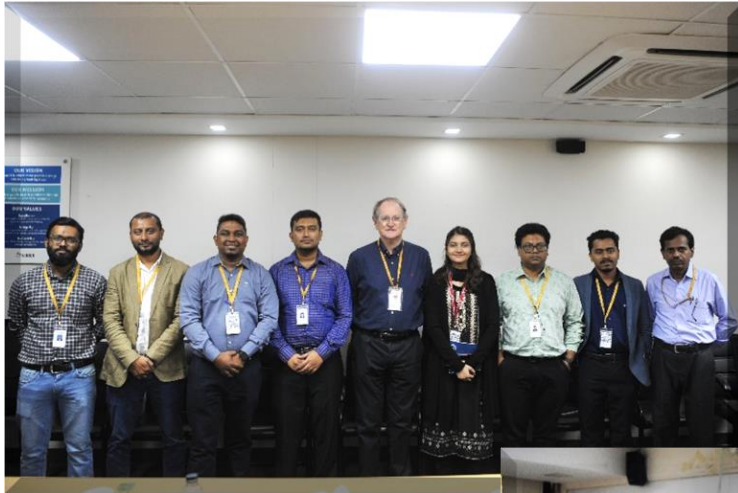
The primary goal of this website is to continue to help researchers and practitioners in Bangladesh who work at the intersection of climate change and health in a big way. This website will provide researchers, program managers, and policymakers with the data and discussion they need to measure and track the effects of climate change on health and come up with ways to reduce these effects. A set of knowledge briefing papers based on website content and in-house publications on climate change and health were added under the

publications tab to make this website more interactive, informative, and helpful to researchers and policymakers, focusing on the objective.



Dr Shams El Arifeen, team leader for RDM, assures that icddr,b would maintain this resource website following the completion of the project in response to Hasib Irfanullah of Gebeshona's inquiry over the future of this website.

Some more pictures



Dissemination Session on A Resource Website for Climate Change Impacts on Health

Date: 13th February 2023|| Monday

Time: 10:30 am – 12:45 pm

Venue: Sasakawa Seminar Room 1 &2, icddr,b

68 Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani | Mohakhali | Dhaka 1212 | Bangladesh

Program Schedule

Time	Topic
10: 30 am – 10: 45 am	Registration and Tea
10: 45 am – 10: 50 am	Welcome
10: 50 am – 11: 00 am	Initiative for Climate Change and Health at icddr,b
11: 00 am – 11: 30 am	Background, objectives and demonstration of the website
11: 30 am – 12: 15 pm	Open discussion
12: 15 pm – 12: 30 pm	Strategic priority: Climate change and health research at icddr,b and future directions
12: 30 pm – 12: 40 pm	Remarks from USAID
12: 40 pm – 12: 45 pm	Note of thanks
12: 45 pm onwards	Lunch

Dissemination Note On A Resource Website for Climate Change Impacts on

Prepared by:

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Dhaka, Bangladesh. 2023.

Available at: <https://cch.icddr.org> and <https://rdm.icddr.org>

About the <https://cch.icddr.org> website

Monitoring the growing impacts of climate change (CC) on health in Bangladesh requires various data on climate change, health, and population outcome. To bring together relevant data sources and essential links, to provide a more up-to-date climate change and health scenario in the Global and Bangladesh context in a single web-based platform, a resource website “<https://cch.icddr.org>” has been developed under the USAID's Research for Decision Makers (RDM) Activity. The website provides essential resources and relevant data sources for health professionals to enhance their understanding of climate change and utilize the knowledge in health research and intervention design, which may minimize the negative impacts of climate change.



The website shows real-time data and interactive graphs on climatic parameters such as hourly, daily, and monthly temperature, humidity, and air pollution (Air Quality Index, PM2.5) through an integrated iQAir device. The website also generates dynamic graphs on the meteorological parameters collected from Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD). The website showcases icddr,b works on climate change and health. We believe the resources website should enable researchers, program managers, and policymakers with essential data and discussion to measure and monitor climate change's impact on health and design interventions that may minimize such negative impacts.

This Dissemination Session on A Resource Website for Climate Change Impacts on Health was organized with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the terms of USAID's Research for Decision Makers (RDM) Activity cooperative agreement no. AID-388-A-17-00006. Views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the US Government or USAID. icddr,b is also grateful to the Governments of Bangladesh, Canada, Sweden, and the UK for providing unrestricted/institutional support.