This data card shows some of the key available data from Bangladesh that helps to understand the connection between land tenure security and climate change in that country. It is meant to highlight this often underexplored nexus, though it does not claim to provide any scientific evidence of causality.

The data card is meant to inform debates about the role of land tenure security in mitigating or adapting to climate change. It was prepared in the frame of a partnership with the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC) and the Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD) with the support of the Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR).
Given Bangladesh’ high vulnerability to sea level rise, floods, cyclones, saltwater intrusion, erosion, and inundation, communities are forced to migrate inland and compete for scarce resources, including land.

This phenomenon has led to food insecurity, loss of livelihoods, and clashes between incoming migrants and existing communities, creating tension and disputes over land ownership and use.

8th most populous country in the world.

80% of Bangladesh’ land area consists of floodplains of major rivers including the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna.

37% of the population was employed in agriculture in 2021.

56% of a population of 90 million live in “high climate exposure areas”, with 53 million people subject to “very high” exposure.

3.5 M people are at risk of river flooding every year due to sea level rise and increasingly intense monsoon seasons.

The average elevation of Bangladesh is less than 10 metres above sea level and most of its urban population is settled in the low-lying coastal areas.
Climate Stress Areas of Bangladesh

**Bangladesh Country Overview**
Climate and Land Tenure

- **NNW**: Northern, north-western region
- **DBA**: Drought-prone and barind areas
- **CBL**: Chalan beel and low-lying area of the north-western region
- **FPE**: Rivers, floodplains, and erosion-prone areas
- **SWM**: South-western coastal area and Sundarbans
- **HFF**: Haor and flash floods areas
- **URB**: Urban areas
- **SSE**: South-east and eastern coastal area
- **CHT**: Chattogram Hill tracts
- **CHI**: Char and Islands
- **BoB**: Bay of Bengal and ocean

### Geographic coverage of the hazards and potentially vulnerable populations across the climate stress areas

**Bangladesh - a country just above sea level**

**Climate and Land Tenure**

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<th>Region</th>
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**Source:** National Adaptation Plan of Bangladesh (2023-2050) / Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
Farming communities are at risk by rapid as well as slow onsets events of climate change.¹

Peasants experience crop failure and asset loss frequently.²

National and international migration has become a livelihood diversification and climate change adaptation strategy.³

72.6% of total working farmers in Bangladesh are women.⁴

Less than 13% of women in rural land-owning households have formal title deeds.⁵

Only 5% of women have effective control over land, particularly agricultural land.⁷

Women lack formal recognition as farmers and are deprived of government programs and benefits.⁶
Between 2000 and 2019 Bangladesh suffered losses because of climate change and global warming worth 28% per year.

$3.27 billion.

17% of the country could be permanently submerged by 2050 if global warming continues at its current pace.

2.86 million hectares of coastal and off-shore land are affected by the varying levels of salinity.

Over 7.1 million Bangladeshis were displaced by climate change in 2022.

28% perceive their tenure situation as insecure.
Bangladesh has made significant strides in developing policy and legal frameworks to address climate change and land tenure.

The country's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) focuses on building resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change, including the protection of vulnerable communities' land rights.¹

The NAP acknowledges the need for land tenure security as a foundation for climate resilience and emphasizes the involvement of local communities in decision-making processes.²

More than 800 projects have been implemented during the last twelve years (2010-2022) under the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF).³