

## **Paper Title**

A tale of two groups: focusing on the differential vulnerability of “climate-induced” and “non-climate-induced” migrants in Dhaka City

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## Definition of Climate-induced Migrants in the Paper

Recognizing that the effects of climate change are not yet fully manifested, I have termed them climate-induced migrants who had migrated due to environmental problems of the type climate change is expected to cause. For example, floods, river bank erosion, water logging, drought, salinity intrusion etc. are some cases which are likely to be exacerbated by the impacts of climate change and therefore people induced by such events will be termed as climate-induced migrants in my research.

## Rationale of the Research

-Whether the reasons behind migration can play a role in shaping migrants' current socio-economic conditions is rarely researched. By exploring the differentiated vulnerability of two different groups who were driven towards Dhaka City from two different contexts (affected by climate-induced events or not), this paper mainly attempts to unlock the climate-induced migrants' differentiated vulnerability in their destination areas.

## Rationale of the Research

-Previously there have been several research attempts in rural areas to investigate the impact of certain climatic events on people's migration decisions (Black, Kniveton, & Schmidt-Verkerk, 2013; Penning-Rowsell et al., 2013). The latter's research in five villages found that most climate-related migration in Bangladesh is temporary and such migrants, at some point, actually return to their places of origin. However, it is necessary also to investigate the destination part of the equation in order to assess migrants' post-migration experiences. This paper has investigated this phenomenon in case of the climate-induced- migrants in Dhaka City.

## Rationale of the Research

-Previous research has been conducted on the vulnerability of households in climatic-affected regions who are left behind by male “climate-induced” migrants (Buechler, 2009; Kolmannskog, 2009; UNFPA, 2009). However, research examining the vulnerability of “climate-induced” migrants to different destination-based hazards is of recent origin. There have been research initiatives into the vulnerability of Dhaka City due to climate change (Alam & Rabbani, 2007; UN-HABITAT, 2009), but research based on experiences of this particular group, namely “climate-induced” migrants, is relatively a new field of study in the context of Bangladesh.

## *Background Information*



Bangladesh: Most Vulnerable Country to Climate Change Impacts ( Maplecroft, 2011).

# Major climate-induced hazards in Bangladesh with disastrous proportion:

•Flood, 1988

•Cyclone, 1991

•Flood 1998

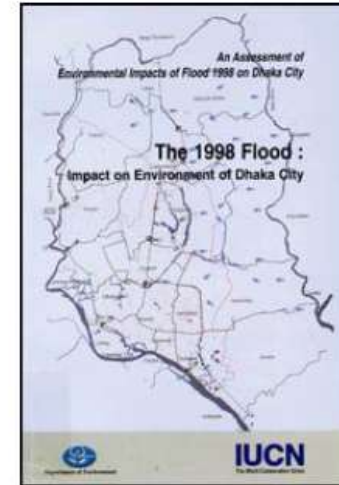
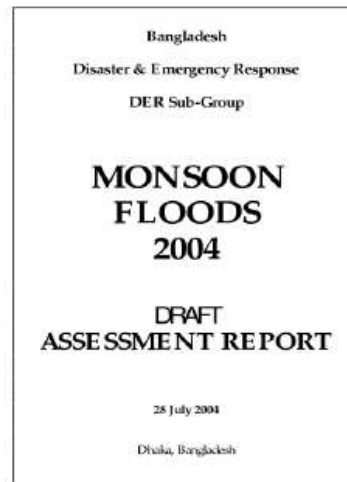
•Flood 1999

•Flood 2004

•Flood 2007

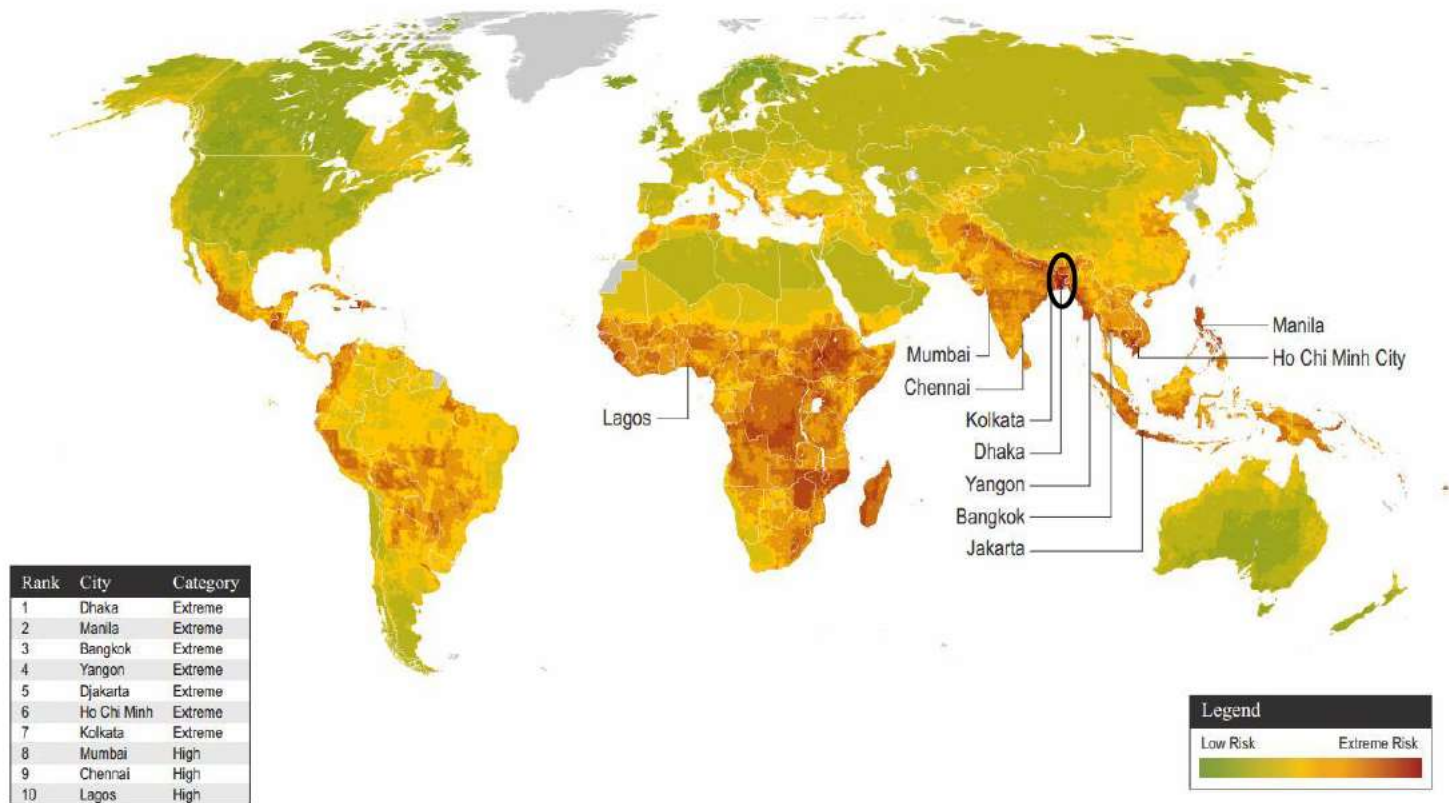
•Cyclone Sidr, 2007

•Cyclone Aila, 2009



# Dhaka City: A major destination of climate-induced migrants

Climate Change Vulnerability Index 2013 – Most at risk cities





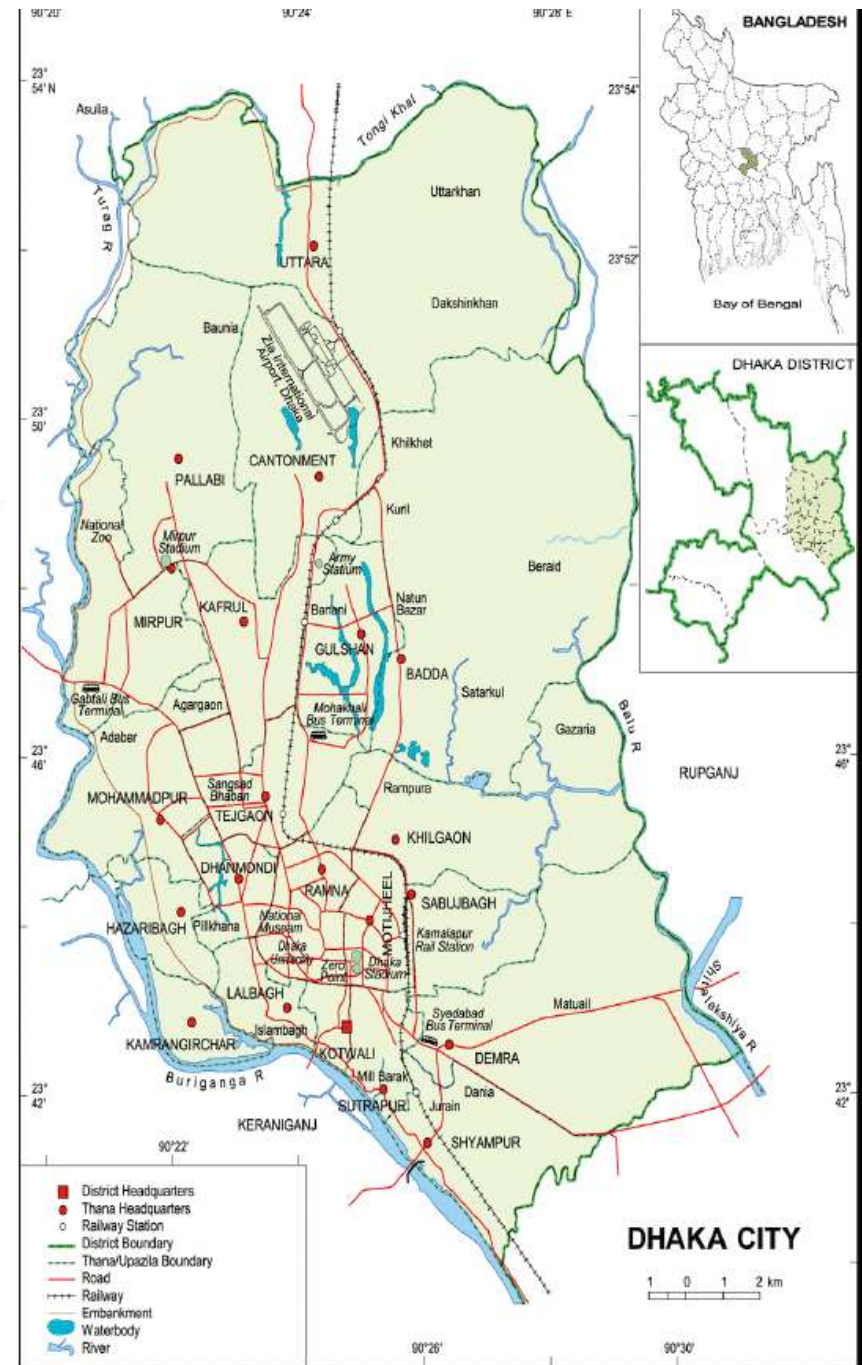
# Dhaka's Vulnerability to Climate Change Impacts:

- Flooding and drainage congestion
- Heat stress

(Alam and Rabbani, 2007).

➤ With an urban growth rate of more than 5% annually, Dhaka, which already hosts more than 14 million people, is one of the fastest growing cities in Southern Asia, and is projected to accommodate more than 20 million by 2025.

(UN-HABITAT, 2009).



*Main Research Question of the Presentation*

Target Group



Are the **climate-induced migrants** differently vulnerable to the various social and environmental hazards in the city than the **non-climate-induced migrants**?

Comparison Group



Photo: Internet

### ***Study Area: Korail Slum***

Situated on approximately 90 acres of land owned by three government agencies, it is one of the largest slums in Dhaka

(Angeles *et. al.*, 2009).

## *Slum Population:*

Over more than 20 years the population has grown to roughly 16,000 families making up a population of more than 100,000 people who have lived in Korail for an average of about 15 years (DSK, 2010).



Photo: Neelopal Adri



Photo: Internet

## *Methodology:*

Tracer Survey: snowballing process

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

Questionnaire Survey: 120 (80 + 40)

Case Studies (through personal interview): 10

Key Informant Interviews: 8

## *Statistical Analysis:*

Chi-square test

Independent samples *t*-test



*Glimpses of  
Focus Groups*



## *Questionnaire Survey:*

Same questionnaire was applied on both groups and survey was designed based on the following indicators:

- Household information
- Environmental condition
- Livelihood
- Housing
- Utility services
- Health
- Food security



- Linkage with village
- Institutional support
- Coping strategies
- Asset base
- Socio-cultural condition

## Major Areas of Difference:

### *1. Financial Conditions*

<b>Climate-induced Migrants</b>	<b>Non-climate-induced Migrants</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mostly unemployed, rickshaw pullers, day labourers, and maid servants.</li><li>• Average monthly household income is 5711.25 BD TK.</li><li>• Low rate of house ownership (2.5%); Inability to afford common public transport such as bus; poor asset base.</li></ul>	<p>Mostly rickshaw pullers, garments workers, shop keepers and businessmen.</p> <p>Average monthly household income is 13325 BD TK.</p> <p>Comparatively better rate of house ownership (12.5%), can generally afford public transport such as bus; better asset base.</p>



## 2. Education and Awareness

Climate-induced Migrants	Non-climate-induced Migrants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mean years of schooling is 1.96</li><li>• 42.5% of the respondents know the necessity of water purification in the city.</li><li>• 61.2% of respondents knows the causes of likely diseases in the urban slum.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mean years of schooling is 3.98</li><li>• Most of the respondents (70%) know that water needs to be purified in the city.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul></li><li>• 85% of respondents knows the causes of likely diseases in the urban slum.</li></ul>

### *3. Family Structure and Pattern of Migration*

<b>Climate-induced Migrants</b>	<b>Non-climate-induced Migrants</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mean family size is 4.20</li><li>• 79% of the migrants brought their parents to the city with them.</li><li>• 98.8% migrated with the whole family.</li><li>• 1.2% are living alone in the city.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mean family size is 3.25</li><li>• Less the 2% of the respondents brought their parents to the city with them.</li><li>• 26.5% of migrants migrated with the whole family.</li><li>• 17.5% are living alone in the city.</li></ul>

## *4. Relationship with the place of origin*

<b>Climate-induced Migrants</b>	<b>Non-climate-induced Migrants</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mean number of visit to the place of origin in a year is 0.39.</li><li>• Reasons of visiting places of origins are mainly 'visiting relatives'.</li><li>• 100% of the climate-induced migrants aspired to permanently return to their own villages</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mean number of visit to the place of origin in a year is 4.00.</li><li>• Reasons of visiting places of origins are mainly taking care of village property, buying new land and administering income from agricultural production.</li><li>• 40% of the non-climate-induced migrants aspired to permanently return to their own villages</li></ul>

## 5. Pre-migration Characteristics

Table: Types of Major Occupations before Migration

Types of Occupation	Percentage from Target Group	Percentage from Comparison Group
Rickshaw puller	2.5	10
Unemployed	0	0
Day Labourer	12.5	12
Maid Servant	3.75	0
House Wife	20	0
Shpkeeper	0	25
Businessman	1.25	18
Farmer	48.75	20
Fisherman	10	0
Student	1.25	0
Truck Driver	0	15

..... Indicates the target group's dependency on agricultural livelihoods.

## *6. Urban politics and governance and their differential impacts on climate-induced migrants:*

Informal actors such as Mastaans, homeowners and influential local leaders, who are mainly non-climate-induced migrants, generally hold the power in every aspect in the slum. Due to the target group's poor educational background, they are often exploited and deceived from their basic rights. The comparatively educated comparison group can at least protest against any discrimination in distributing common resources such as gas and water services. The comparison group's better awareness placed them in a comparatively stronger position than the target group in terms of negotiating with the informal local actors.

## *Other Areas of Differences*

### **□ Access to credit:**

*Rate of taking loan, existence of bank account, institutional affiliation etc.*

### **□ Coping strategies:**

*Coping with unemployment, health related hazards, environmental hazards etc.*

### **□ Food Security:**

*Number of portion each day, variety, protein intake, habit of food exchange, frequency of inviting people for a dinner or receiving such invitation*

## *Conclusion*

This has been an empirical research conducted in the capital city of Bangladesh, which has identified “climate-induced” migrants as an especially vulnerable group by means of primary findings and social and statistical analysis.

This paper sheds light on the problems associated with the unplanned migration and concludes that, if not properly planned, the migration outcome is not likely to improve the quality of life; hence this particular migration cannot be termed as adaptation.

**Thank You**

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