

Bangladesh 2026 - 2029



COUNTRY PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

“A better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world.”



UN-HABITAT

UN-Habitat ROAP Country Programme Overview

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01

OPENING

Bangladesh stands at a unique opportunity to shape resilient, inclusive, and sustainable cities in the face of rapid urbanization and climate risk. UN-Habitat will support this transition by advancing climate-resilient housing, integrated urban systems, and multilevel governance, translating national priorities into investment-ready urban solutions.

This overview presents the national context, summarizes recent and ongoing engagement, and identifies the three programme pillars around which UN-Habitat can support the Government of Bangladesh and partners over the period 2026-2029.





01

COUNTRY ANALYSIS

- Bangladesh is one of the world's most densely populated and climate-exposed countries, with an estimated 175.7 million people in 2025 and over 71.6 million living in urban areas. Rapid urbanization is unfolding alongside increasing exposure to flooding, cyclones, salinity intrusion, riverbank and coastal erosion, and land subsidence, placing pressure on housing, infrastructure, and basic services.

Urbanization is therefore not only demographic but also a climate and development challenge. Informal settlements and low-income areas concentrate vulnerabilities such as insecure tenure, poor housing, inadequate drainage, and limited access to safe sanitation and resilient infrastructure, increasing exposure to risks and reducing the ability of households to recover from shocks.

02

FACTSHEET



175.7 M

POPULATION
(2025, UNFPA)



1.22 %

**POPULATION
GROWTH**
(2025, World
Urbanization Prospects
UN)



2,899 USD

GDP PER CAPITA
(2025, UN DESA)



71.6 M

**URBAN
POPULATION**
(2024, World
Urbanization
Prospects UN)



3.12 %

**URBANIZATION
RATE**
(2024, World Urbanization
Prospects UN)



6 M

**HOUSING
DEFICIT**
(2025, EUAA)



0.685

HDI INDEX
(2023, UNDP)



7%

AGING RATE
(2025, UNFPA)



21 M

**PEOPLE
DISPLACED
DUE TO CLIMATE
(2008-2024)**
(2025, IDMC)

URBAN CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES



RAPID AND UNEVEN URBAN GROWTH

Bangladesh's urban transition is marked by the concentration of people, jobs and services in Dhaka and a smaller number of large cities, while many intermediate and coastal urban centers remain under planned and under-resourced. This pattern creates pressure on land markets, transport systems, public services and municipal management.

CLIMATE RISKS AND DISASTERS

Flooding, waterlogging, salinity intrusion, cyclones, riverbank and coastal erosion and land subsidence are undermining urban resilience. Basic services such as drainage, water supply, sanitation, public space and mobility networks are often not designed or financed to withstand recurrent climate stress.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY AND INFORMALITY

Affordable and adequate housing remains out of reach for a large share of low-income households. Informal settlements continue to absorb migrants and displaced populations, often in hazard-prone areas, with inadequate shelter quality, insecure tenure and weak links to formal finance and regulatory systems.

FRAGMENTED GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS

Local governments need stronger data systems, integrated planning tools and clearer vertical coordination with national institutions. Without interoperable diagnostics, investment prioritization and multilevel governance mechanisms, city-level action remains fragmented and difficult to scale.

04

HOUSING, LAND AND BASIC SERVICES

HOUSING FOR ALL

Bangladesh is increasingly positioning housing at the center of its development and climate agenda, under the “housing for all” commitment, the focus is shifting from simply increasing supply to enabling affordable, climate-resilient and inclusive urban systems.

However, key constraints remain. Land governance challenges – including informal tenure and limited access to serviced land – continue to hinder investment and planned urban growth. At the same time, gaps in basic service delivery persist, particularly in informal settlements, coastal areas and secondary cities. Strengthening the integration between housing, land and resilient basic services is therefore essential to achieve national urban and climate objectives.



HOUSING



LAND



BASIC SERVICES

Housing deficit 6M units;
projected demand 10.5M by 2030

8,000–10,000 hectares of land
are lost annually due to riverbank
erosion

71M people lack
sanitation access

CLIMATE CHANGE

Bangladesh is increasingly prioritising climate action as a central pillar of its development pathway, guided by national frameworks such as the **Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 and its updated NDC 3.0**. These agendas emphasise a shift from vulnerability to resilience and prosperity, with a strong focus on adaptive infrastructure, risk-informed urban planning and locally led climate action. Despite **contributing less than 0.5 per cent of global emissions**, Bangladesh remains **one of the most climate-vulnerable countries** globally (climate vulnerability index: 65.37), facing **annual losses of around US\$3 billion** and affecting approximately 6.3 million people each year. The country is highly exposed to cyclones, flooding, salinity intrusion and riverbank erosion, with around one-third of its land flooded annually, rising to over 60 per cent in extreme years.

LAND SUBSIDENCE, FLOODS & CYCLONES

Land subsidence, sea-level rise and groundwater extraction are accelerating the degradation of urban and coastal areas, particularly in delta regions. combined with flooding and salinity intrusion, this increases the frequency and severity of urban inundation, damages infrastructure and reduces the resilience of housing and basic services.

HEAT AND DROUGHT

Bangladesh is facing rising temperatures and drought. increasing heat stress and more frequent heatwaves are emerging across urban and rural areas, while prolonged dry spells and rainfall variability are exacerbating water scarcity, particularly in the northwest. These trends are placing growing pressure on livelihoods, health and natural resource systems.



HUMANITARIAN CRISIS



Disasters triggered 2.4 million internal displacements in 2024 alone, and around 21.2 million displacements have been recorded since 2008.

Bangladesh hosts one of the world's largest refugees crisis. As of February 2026, around 1.18 million Rohingya refugees were living in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char.

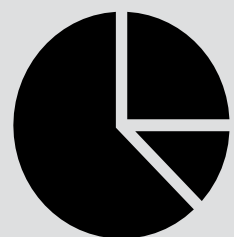
These dynamics have strong urban and territorial implications. Second, cities and host areas must absorb additional pressure on housing, land, infrastructure and social services, while climate-exposed settlements face repeated disruption.

This reinforces the need for displacement-sensitive planning, resilient service delivery and durable, area-based solutions that bridge humanitarian and development approaches.



1.18 M

**HOSTED
REFUGEES**



21.2 M

**CLIMATE
MIGRANTS**

RECENT AND ONGOING INTERVENTIONS

1

2023 - Ongoing

Transforming the Built Environment through Sustainable Materials

The initiative in partnership with UNEP and UNOPS supports the decarbonisation and climate resilience of the buildings and construction sector. In Bangladesh, the project supports the implementation of the national Climate Action Roadmap, aligning National Determined Contributions (NDCs) and urban development priorities with low-carbon, resilient construction pathways.

It focuses on strengthening policy frameworks (including the Bangladesh National Building Code), promoting sustainable and circular materials, and enabling green finance for affordable housing. This includes, UN-Habitat's leadership in developing a national Green Building Certification System and implementation guidelines, and translating them into practical design for local implementation.



Government of Germany, Government of Finland



Ministry of Housing and Public Works, UNEP, UNOPS



2

2024 - Ongoing

Sinking Cities Initiative

This regional initiative, implemented in collaboration with ESCAP, addresses the growing risks of land subsidence and related climate hazards in delta and coastal urban areas.

In Bangladesh, Cox's Bazar has been identified as a pilot location to assess and respond to combined risks of subsidence, flooding and coastal exposure. The initiative focuses on risk assessment, data and knowledge development, and policy dialogue to support integrated responses to slow-onset and hydro-climatic risks, contributing to national resilience priorities and informing future urban and climate interventions.



China-ESCAP Cooperation Programme (CECP) ESCAP



Ministry of Housing and Public Works



08

COUNTRY FOCUS



RESILIENT HOUSING & INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Promote climate-resilient construction, implement risk-informed housing, and support slum upgrading, ensuring tenure security, scaled up partnerships and community-based interventions.



CLIMATE-RESILIENT URBAN SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE

Advance green, efficient, circular systems, ensure equitable resilient services, and develop adaptive water, sanitation, energy infrastructure to reduce carbon emissions due to rapid urbanization.



INTEGRATED & SMART URBAN GOVERNANCE

Strengthen multi-level governance, build institutional capacity, advance evidence-based participatory planning, and integrate smart digital systems for risk-informed urban management.



PLANNED INTERVENTIONS



Enhancing Climate-Resilient and Affordable Housing Systems & Settlement Upgrading in Bangladesh

Project's Aim:

To strengthen Bangladesh's institutional, technical and financial capacities to scale up climate-resilient and affordable housing systems by developing risk-informed housing frameworks, supporting area-based housing pathways and enabling finance-ready investment pipelines aligned with national climate and urban priorities

Relevance to regional implementation plan: resilient, risk-informed and climate-sensitive housing and communities for all

Additional Priorities: climate-sensitive basic services and infrastructure; urban management transformation through integrated planning and governance



TOTAL BUDGET:
10M USD



TIME FRAME:
2027 - 2029



LOCATION:
BANGLADESH

OUTPUT, OUTCOME AND IMPACT:

1. National and local authorities apply standardized, risk-informed frameworks linking housing adequacy, affordability, tenure and climate risk to housing finance decisions
2. Area-based, climate-resilient housing pathways are developed at city and neighborhood levels, informed by community inputs
3. Finance-ready housing investment concepts are developed, enabling structured engagement with public and private financing actors
4. Strengthened institutional capacity supports the transition towards inclusive, circular and climate-resilient housing systems aligned with national framework

PLANNED INTERVENTIONS



Strengthening Urban Systems for Climate-Induced Loss and Damage in Bangladesh

Project's Aim:

To strengthen national and local capacities to assess, plan for and respond to climate-induced loss and damage in urban and settlement contexts through improved data systems, risk analytics and locally led interventions, supporting resilient recovery and long-term adaptation pathways.

Relevance to regional implementation plan: climate-sensitive basic services and infrastructure

Additional Priorities: Resilient, risk-informed and climate-sensitive housing and communities for all



TOTAL BUDGET:
8M USD



TIME FRAME:
2027 - 2029



LOCATION:
BANGLADESH

OUTPUT, OUTCOME AND IMPACT:

1. National and local systems strengthened to assess and monitor loss and damage in urban and settlement contexts, including data and risk mapping tools
2. Locally led mechanisms established to support inclusive, community-based responses to climate impacts, particularly for vulnerable and displaced populations
3. Pilot interventions implemented to demonstrate resilient recovery, including housing, infrastructure and basic services in climate-affected areas
4. Improved coordination and institutional frameworks enable more effective integration of loss and damage into national and local planning processes

PLANNED INTERVENTIONS



Enhancing Integrated Frameworks for Sustainable Local Development and Multilevel Governance in Bangladesh

Project's Aim:

To strengthen integrated urban governance, data-driven planning and multilevel coordination, enabling cities to align local development priorities with national climate, SDG and urban development frameworks while generating investment-ready urban transformation pathways

Relevance to regional implementation plan: urban management transformation through integrated planning, participatory governance and advanced technology

Additional Priorities: climate-sensitive basic services and infrastructure; resilient, risk-informed housing and communities



TOTAL BUDGET:
2-5M USD



TIME FRAME:
2027 - 2029



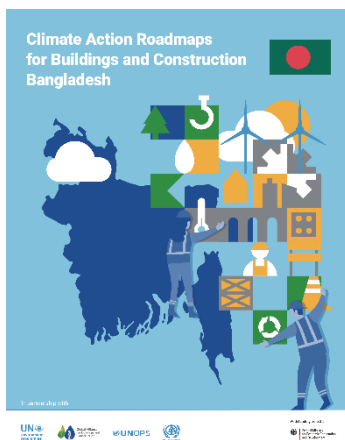
LOCATION:
BANGLADESH

OUTPUT, OUTCOME AND IMPACT:

1. Pilot cities apply integrated urban diagnostics combining climate, service delivery and socio-economic data to inform planning and investment decisions
2. Sustainable city plans and investment pathways are developed, aligned with national priorities, including NDCs and SDG frameworks
3. Strengthened multilevel governance mechanisms improve coordination between local and national institutions
4. Digital and data platforms support integrated planning, monitoring and participatory urban

PUBLICITY AND OUTREACH

Climate Action Roadmaps for Buildings and Construction Bangladesh (2025)



HIGHLIGHTS:

- The roadmap targets emissions reduction and resilience across the full building life cycle, aligning the sector with national climate commitments such as the NDCs and the Delta Plan 2100.
- It is structured around four core objectives: zero embodied carbon, zero operational carbon, climate adaptation, and well-being and inclusion.
- It sets a clear long-term pathway towards a zero-carbon, climate-resilient built environment by 2050.
- It promotes a system-wide transformation of the sector, addressing policy frameworks, construction materials, finance, and institutional coordination.

Mainstreaming Climate Change into Urban-Related Policies

UNEP



Country Case Study: Bangladesh Project On Mainstreaming Climate Change into Urban-Related Policies

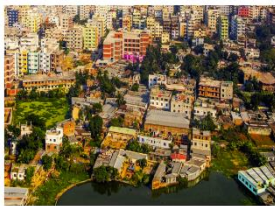


Figure 1: View of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Bangladesh is a country of approximately 165 million people, which is projected to rise to 200 million by 2027. It is a densely populated country, with a high population density of approximately 1,200 people per square kilometre. The country is a member of the United Nations, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund. It is a developing country, with a low GDP per capita of approximately \$1,200. The country is a member of the United Nations, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund. It is a developing country, with a low GDP per capita of approximately \$1,200. The country is a member of the United Nations, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund. It is a developing country, with a low GDP per capita of approximately \$1,200.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Emphasizes localizing the SDGs through city-level action, positioning cities as key drivers of national development and global agendas.
- Promotes integrated urban diagnostics and planning frameworks that connect data, policy, and investment prioritization.
- Demonstrates how evidence-based planning tools can translate into investment-ready urban actions, supporting sustainable and resilient city development.



UN-HABITAT

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