

Bangladesh: Enhancing Resilience of Urban Poor

Background

Bangladesh, having one of the highest urbanisation rates of Asia and being at the same time at high risk against impacts of climate change, is a country with urgent need of intervention. Urban population is expected to double until 2050, with then 112 million people living in cities. Many of the new urban dwellers are expected to be living in the new, unplanned, and most likely informal neighbourhoods of the fast-growing cities.

In these, overall problems are lacking access to basic infrastructure. Construction and management of buildings, roads, power and telecommunication transmission lines, drainage and sewerage and waste management are very difficult and vulnerable to climate change disasters.

Besides that, conventional building design and methods, unplanned construction and destruction of green spaces foster the emergence of urban heat islands, further intensified due to climate change impacts.

Project Intervention

To protect inhabitants in urban areas against the effects of climate change, necessary steps against urban heat islands within a neighbourhood in Satkhira Pourashava were taken by the project "Enhancing Resilience of Urban Poor" (ERUP). The aim was to not only improve the quality of life of individual residents of the urban poor community, but also increase the quality of life for the entire community.



- 62.9 million** people live in urban areas
- 50** per cent or more of the urban population lives in the four largest cities: Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshasi
- 532** urban centres, housing each 100.000 or more inhabitants, exist in Bangladesh
- 47** per cent of Bangladesh's urban population live in informal settlements
- 3-5°C** is the loss of temperature inside informal residential buildings to be achieved through the project

Results

First of all, the heat island effect within the community was reduced – represented by temperature loss inside buildings and also a lower temperature of the surroundings due to the cold air sink effect of urban green.

To promote food self-sufficiency of the urban poor, trainings and workshops were provided for urban dwellers to transform their rooftops and backyards into vegetable gardens. This solution not only provided families with nutritious food which they now either consume themselves, distribute among their relatives or even



Building Vibrant and Resilient Neighbourhoods

sell to their neighbours. Homestead gardening also helped them to reduce home temperatures. The ERUP project selected a total of 150 beneficiaries to grow different types of vegetables at their small houses – either in the front yard, backyard or on the rooftop. Previously, they participated in a comprehensive training course from the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) on climate-resilient technologies for home-based horticulture. The vegetables grown by the beneficiaries are also sold to the community of Satkhira. An important subproject within the framework of ERUP was therefore the creation of a new “Sales cum Display Centre” (SDC) that was built on a plot of land near a local market in Pakka Pole. Here, the beneficiaries are able to sell the surplus from their vegetable production at practically set-up market stalls made of regional building materials. The centre is mainly managed by young women, people with disabilities and elderly. The selling of vegetables and crop through the centre enables them to generate income and improves their livelihoods. In the framework of ERUP, it was also observed that often in spite of urban development, many urban spaces remain abandoned and unused – like the local Razzak Park in Satkhira. Therefore, ERUP took the opportunity to develop a “Climate Change and Digital Learning Hub” (CDLH) next to the public open green space. In this Learning Hub young people are educated on climate change impacts and home-based gardening.

The upgrading of an area into a public green space, a rainwater harvesting facility being included, not only functions as a new space for information on climate change. It also serves as an educational opportunity for urban greening and water management options at household and public space level. This results in the community having knowledge of municipal services, climate adaptation and mitigation measures and a collective awareness on impact reduction and early warning systems.

Implementation partner

[Anando](#), a national, Dhaka based NGO, is the implementing body and lead technical and coordinating partner, providing methodological and technical solutions, contributing financially and capturing lessons learned and reporting to GIZ. Anando has as well supported Satkhira Pourashava on community trainings and workshops. Political support, the provision of spaces for the public green space and the sales-cum-display centre were given by the municipality.

Financing

The project implementation took place from January 2022 to March 2023. BMZ provided EUR 95.000 through the GIZ Sector Project “Cities”; additional EUR 5.000 were contributed by the BMZ-funded GIZ “Climate Resilient Inclusive Smart Cities (CRISC)” project. Furthermore, Anando supported the project with EUR 10.000.

Published by:
Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices
Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 32 + 36
53113 Bonn, Germany
T +49 61 96 79-0
F +49 61 96 79-11 15
E info@giz.de
I www.giz.de/en

Bonn, 2023

