Towards a Climate-Resilient Health Sector in Bangladesh’s Cities: Khulna and Chattogram

What can be done to address climate risks to health?

- **Pilot integrated health and environmental management interventions**
  - Promote public health awareness on climate impacts, sanitation, and hygiene to officials and practitioners
  - Improve strategies for urban environmental management
  - Expand access to safe water and improved sanitation
  - Enhance surveillance and expand diagnostic and treatment options during high-risk seasons
  - Improve access to health care among populations vulnerable to climate-sensitive diseases
  - Expand health services for those exposed to injury from natural disasters
  - Conduct multisectoral interventions that include experts from the urban planning, public works, engineering, and health sectors

Science and analysis to inform decision-making

- Improve understanding and awareness of health risks to slum dwellers
- Conduct detailed climate vulnerability assessments in slums to identify specific health care needs and immediate actions to reduce risks
- Expand air quality monitoring networks to improve awareness and reduce exposure

Improve Governance and Capacity

- Reserve and allocate funding to address climate risks
- Develop strategic climate-focused action plans
- Develop long-term vision for infrastructure investment and land use development to build climate resilience

Climate and Non-Climate Stressors in Khulna and Chattogram

**Water**

- Increased risk of landslides (Chattogram)
- Increased floods and waterlogging in low-lying areas
- Increased saltwater inundation and intrusion
- Increased burden and resources necessary for agricultural production and safe drinking water
- Reduced water availability and quality from both ground and surface water resources

**Health**

- Increased incidence and spread of waterborne diseases (e.g. cholera, diarrhea, typhoid, and hepatitis)
- Reduced access to health services
- Exacerbation of urban heat islands leading to higher temperatures and air pollution levels
- Increased heat stress and heat stroke
- Increased demands for fossil fuel-powered, energy-inefficient cooling services

Khulna

BANGLADESH

Chattogram