



Governing for Resilience

Inter-sectoral Policy Approaches to Urban Health and Climate Risk

*Pre-formed Panel Discussion Theme: Climate Resilience and Urban Health:
Addressing Heat, Floods, and Air Pollution in South-east Asian Cities*

Presenter

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Member Secretary | Bangladesh Urban Health Network



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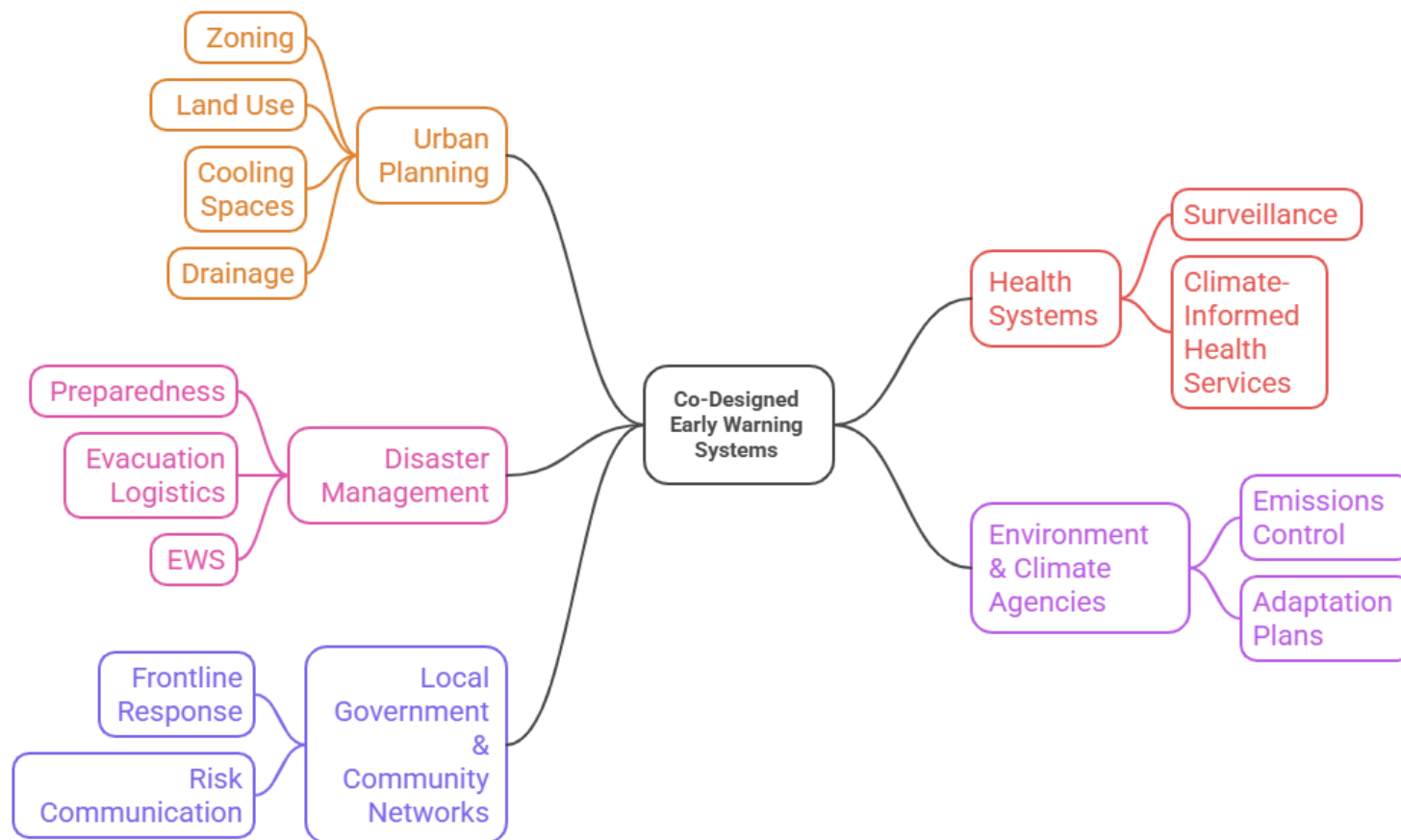


Why Integrated Governance Matters

- Urban climate risks now directly cause heat stress, vector-borne diseases, air pollution deaths, and flood injuries.
- Climate + health impacts converge in cities, demanding cross-sector coordination.
- Fragmented governance = delayed response, duplicated costs, inequitable service reach.
- Intersectoral governance enables coherence, rapid risk reduction, and stronger health system resilience.

WHO Urban Health Initiative: <https://www.who.int/initiatives/urban-health> IPCC AR6 Cities Chapter: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/>

What Intersectoral Governance Looks Like



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Southeast Asia: Climate–Health Hotspot

- SEA cities face 3-4 times faster urban warming than the global average.
- Flooding + heat + dengue outbreaks increasingly simultaneous.
- Informal settlements face the highest exposure and, lowest adaptive capacity.
- Multi-sector governance examples emerging from Bangkok, Manila, Jakarta.

ASEAN State of Climate Change Report (2021): https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/ASCCR-e-publication-Correction_8-June.pdf
ADB Urban Climate Resilience Studies: <https://www.adb.org/publications/urban-climate-change-resilience-synopsis>

Bangladesh: High Vulnerability, High Opportunity

- Dhaka & Chattogram are ranked among the world's most climate-vulnerable megacities.
- Heatwaves, flash floods, air pollution, and dengue surges are now year-round health threats.
- The governance landscape involves the MoHFW, MoDMR, DoE, Ministry of LGRDC, and City Corporations, which must coordinate for resilience.
- Urban health gaps persist due to fragmented jurisdiction.

Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy & Action Plan (BCCSAP): <https://policy.asiapacificenergy.org/sites/default/files/Bangladesh%20Climate%20Change%20Strategy%20and%20Action%20Plan%202009.pdf>
WHO Bangladesh Urban Health Profile: <https://data.who.int/countries/050>



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Bangladesh: Ground Zero for Urban Climate–Health Risks

- Dhaka among the world's most climate-stressed megacities.
- Rising heat index, waterlogging, air pollution, dengue outbreaks.
- Rapid urbanization → infrastructure, governance, and health system strain.
- Climate risks now intersect with public health, WASH, housing, and disaster response.

Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy (BCCSAP):
<https://policy.asiapacificenergy.org/sites/default/files/Bangladesh%20Climate%20Change%20Strategy%20and%20Action%20Plan%202009.pdf>
Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0): <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2025-09/Bangladesh%20Third%20Nationally%20Determined%20Contribution%20%28NDC%203.0%29.pdf>
WHO Bangladesh Climate & Health Profile: https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/searo/wsh-och-searo/ban-c-h-profile.pdf?sfvrsn=8b172763_2



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Lessons Learned: Effective Intersectoral Models

Southeast Asia

Bangkok: Integrated heat-health guidelines across municipal and health sectors.

Jakarta: Flood risk zoning + community early warning linked to public health outreach.

Manila: Climate-resilient health facilities initiative (ADB-supported).

SEARO WHO Regional Climate–Health Reports: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/sea-eh-586>
ADB Urban Climate Resilience Studies: <https://www.adb.org/publications/urban-climate-change-resilience-synopsis>

Bangladesh: Emerging Good Practices

- Dengue Early Warning & ICT Surveillance (DGHS + Meteorology).
- Urban Tree Cover & Cooling Projects (City Corporations + DoE).
- Community health volunteers integrated into heat/flood response.
- Waterlogging & drainage mapping integrated with health-risk hotspots.

DGHS Dengue Surveillance Reports: <https://old.dghs.gov.bd/index.php/bd/home/5200-daily-dengue-status-report>

Dhaka North & South Climate Adaptation Plans:

https://dscportal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/dscportal.gov.bd/page/089f17d2_a3ec_4309_a171_5dcd2d25b13f/2024-06-13-05-17-88d5cb2246c32a2f9f94c43f8337d977.pdf;

<https://www.sanirepo.com/publication/climate-action-plan-for-dhaka-north-city-corporation>



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Policy: Tools and Coherence

- ❑ Mitigation: clean transport, green buildings → reduces air pollution + heat.
- ❑ Adaptation: flood control, heat shelters → direct health protection.
- ❑ Health sector gains from alignment: fewer emergencies, lower disease burden.
- ❑ Integrated policies prevent contradictions across ministries.
- ❑ Reference

Lancet Countdown South Asia Report: <https://lancetcountdown.org/asia>

WHO Health & Climate Change Country Profiles: <https://www.who.int/teams/environment-climate-change-and-health/climate-change-and-health/evidence-monitoring/country-profiles> UN Habitat City Resilience Framework: <https://unhabitat.org/guide-to-the-city-resilience-profiling-tool>

Policy Tools for Integrated Urban Climate–Health Governance



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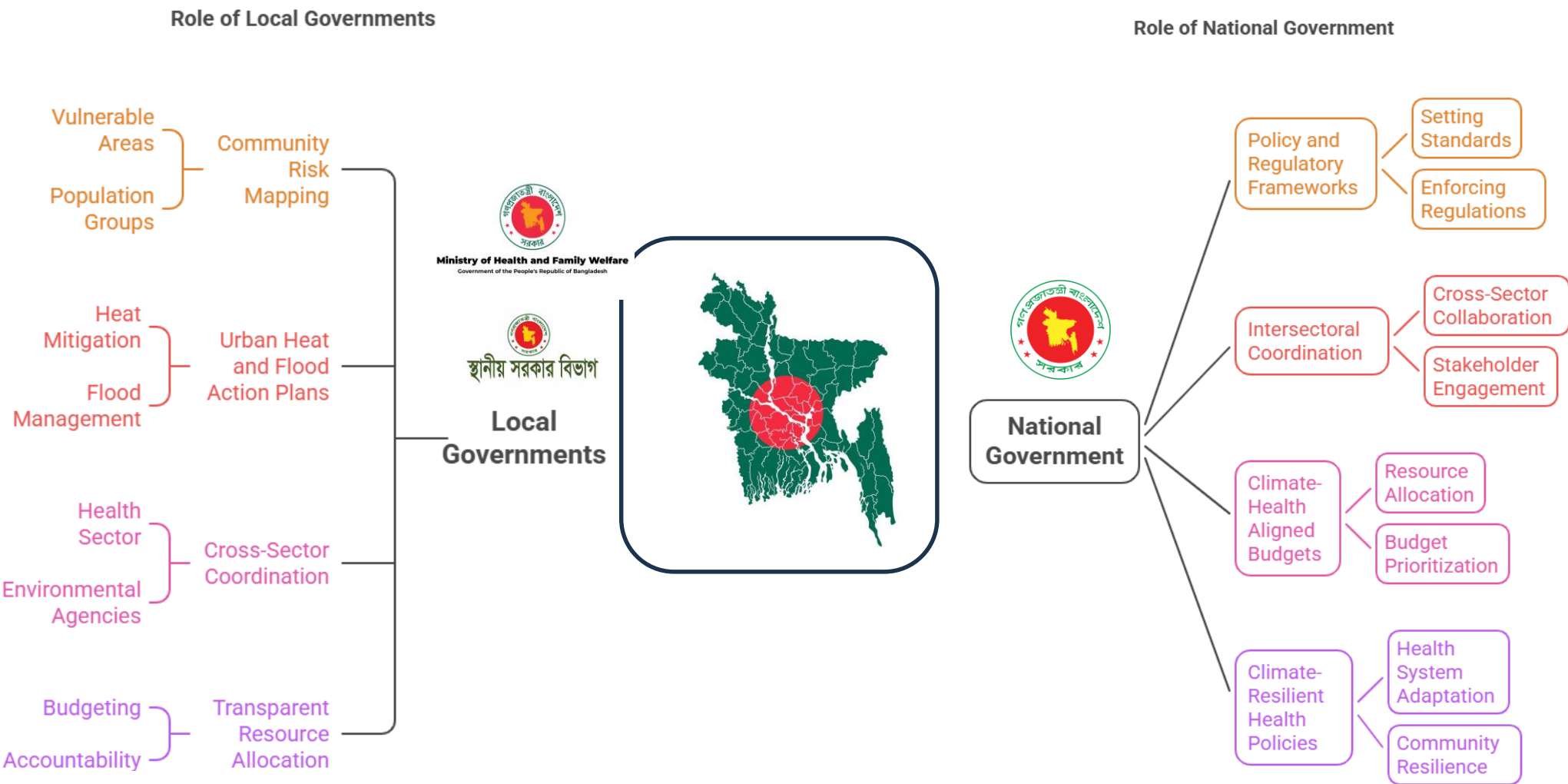
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Roles of Local Government & National Agencies



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What Bangladesh Needs: Health System Readiness and Community-Driven Approaches

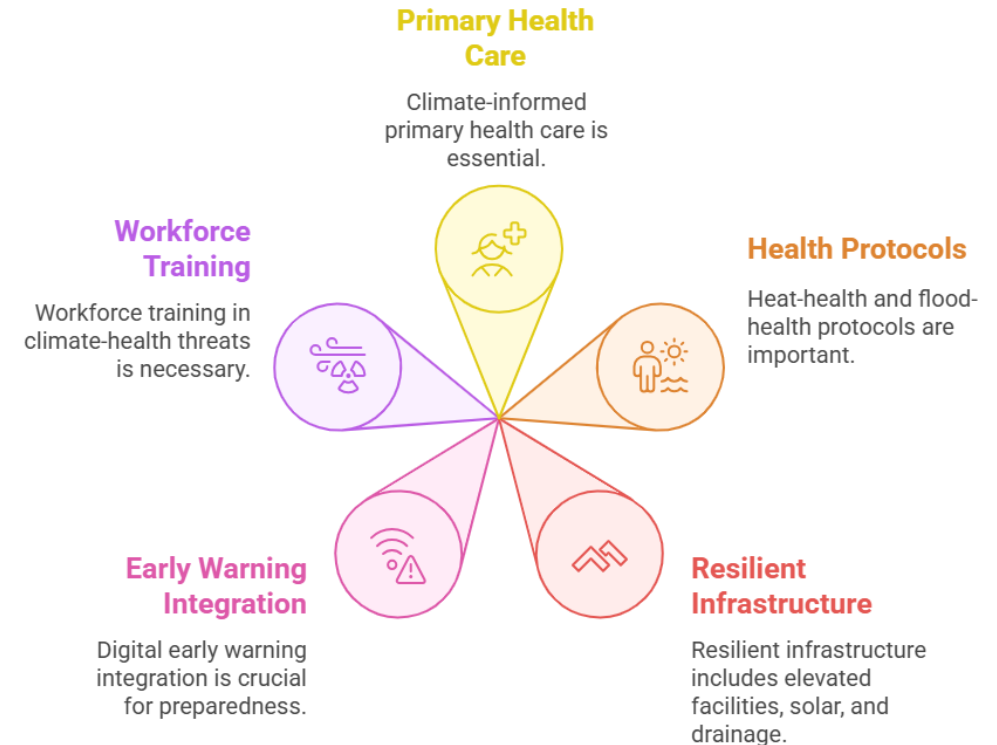
Bangladesh & Southeast Asia show:

- ❑ Communities detect risks faster than formal institutions
- ❑ Women and youth lead early warnings
- ❑ Local committees ensure continuous adaptation
- ❑ Participation builds ownership and sustainability

BRAC Urban Development Programme:
https://www.brac.net/program/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/UDP_Annual-Highlights_2018.pdf
Asian Coalition for Housing Rights: <http://www.achr.net/>

https://www.brac.net/program/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/UDP_Annual-Highlights_2018.pdf

Health System Readiness



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Policy & Investment Priorities for Donors

Strategic investment areas to unlock urban climate-health resilience

- ❑ **Community-based early warning systems:** Enable Rapid, trusted local alerts to save lives and reduce disease.
- ❑ **Integrated climate-health data platforms:** Foster real-time, cross-sectoral risk monitoring and evidence-based decision-making.
- ❑ **Climate-resilient primary healthcare:** Strengthen frontline services to withstand climate shocks and deliver continuous care.
- ❑ **Urban heat and flood action plans:** Drive multisector coordination to reduce morbidity and protect vulnerable populations.
- ❑ **Upgrading informal settlements:** Address systemic vulnerabilities through safer housing, infrastructure, and services.
- ❑ **Workforce capacity building:** Equip health and urban planners with climate and health adaptation skills.
- ❑ **Intersectoral governance strengthening:** Promote policy coherence and institutional collaboration for sustainable resilience.



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Why Invest in Bangladesh Now

- ❑ **High climate vulnerability:** Faces severe urban health risks from floods, heat, and disease outbreaks.
- ❑ **Rapid urbanization with high density:** Amplifies the urgency and potential returns of resilience investments.
- ❑ **Strong national commitment:** Progressive climate and health policies (e.g., BCCSAP, NDC).
- ❑ **Innovative ecosystem:** Dynamic actors like Urban Health units and community NGOs driving adaptation.
- ❑ **Proven Impact:** Donor-supported interventions demonstrate scalable, sustainable solutions for other vulnerable cities.

Investing accelerates equitable climate resilience, protects millions, and builds models replicable regionally and globally.



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Takeaways

1.

Urban climate-health risks are intersectoral challenges.

2.

Integrated governance is essential for resilience

3.

Bangladesh presents compelling, scalable models

4.

Community participation is the backbone of sustainability

5.

Donor investment can drive rapid, equitable transformation



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Thank You

Questions?

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WHO ARE WE

Established in 2009, the **Bangladesh Urban Health Network (BUHN)** is a civil society network dedicated to advancing health equity in urban areas. Secretarial support for Social Development is provided by Eminence Associates, facilitating the network's operations. BUHN serves as a platform that unites diverse stakeholders in the urban health sector, fostering effective collaboration. Moreover, it collaborates with other organizations to host conferences aimed at addressing challenges within the urban health sector and seeking potential solutions.

Affiliated with the International Society for Urban Health (ISUH), BUHN has its well-developed website. The site serves as a comprehensive repository featuring resources, articles, and insights, facilitating information sharing within the community. Additionally, the website includes blogs and monthly e-newsletters to enhance communication and knowledge dissemination among its members.

BUHN Thematic Areas:

The following thematic focus areas are included for the activities of BUHN, but it will not be limited to these, and can extend beyond the following:



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