

Hi, I'm Mukta Akter. Please forgive my speaking as English is not my first language. I am from Bangladesh which is one of the most climate vulnerable countries in the world.

The changing climate, driven by accumulating greenhouse gases, has in just 40 years doubled the number of category 4 & 5 storms in South Asia. The destructive force of storms striking my country has increased 50%. Bangladesh is mainly a low elevation country and the combination of sea level rise and powerful storms is already contaminating our drinking water with salinity. The affects are devastating.

Bangladesh has contributed less than 0.03% of global greenhouse gases. It is your country that has contributed the most yet you are taking only small actions while still adding a lot of carbon to the atmosphere. Though we produce almost no carbon emissions, climate change has the biggest impact in my country which directly hits the agriculture, environment & water sector and has become a severe threat to food security and livelihood. Climate disruption is not something coming in the future. It is already here.

A recent NOAA study estimates a potential sea level rise of 1 meter in the next 20 years which will displace 15-20 million people in Bangladesh. It has become a huge challenge for us how to resettle our climate refugees. Even though the policy you are working towards to ban new fossil fuel terminals is a good thing, much more needs to be done to secure the globe from the devastating climate calamities.

I work in my country on water and climate issues. I'm currently in the US on an exchange program through the U.S. government and working with 350pdx. If you want to know more about Bangladesh, our severe the climate impacts or would like links to the studies quoted above, please feel free to contact me.

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