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**Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and
Climate Change (CC) Policy of RDRS
Bangladesh in Northwest Region**

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Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Background

RDRS emerged out of refugee aid program in 1971 and has been operating in the northwest region since its inception in 1972. Over the past decades, its program has continued to evolve but the empowerment of the landless and near landless through their groups and, later Federations remain the focal point. Presently, the Core Development Programme of RDRS has eight linked components: social organisation rights; women's rights; education and training; health; agriculture; credit and income generating activities; employment generation; the environment and disaster-preparedness.

Disaster management has always been a major element of RDRS program intervention. It responded to the floods in 1988/89 and 1998 in the northwest and in 2000 in the southeast, cyclone in 1991 in Chittagong and drought in 1994/95 in the northwest. However, these disaster responses were largely relief and recovery operations. In 2002 RDRS reviewed its disaster preparedness and response policy and strategy emphasizing on disaster risk reduction.

More recently, RDRS has become involved in climate change adaptation and mitigation, although, it has been involved in tree plantation and social forestry program as early as in 1982. RDRS formulated its tree plantation policy in 1991; subsequently, to take advantage of the new Forest Policy in 1994 that aimed to bring 20% land under tree cover with GO-NGO collaboration, RDRS drafted its Social Forestry Policy in 2002. However, this policy had very little orientation towards climate change.

1.2 Purpose and Scope of the Policy

“RDRS works with the rural poor and their organizations in order: to establish and claim their rights as citizens; to build their capacity and confidence to advance their empowerment; and to promote good governance and improved access to opportunities, resources and services”. This policy provides guidance to define the nature and scope RDRS climate change adaptation and mitigation program and align that to its other strategic priorities and development programs.

Objectives of RDRS climate change adaptation and mitigation program are:

- To reduce vulnerabilities of the communities in the Northwest region to climate changes;
- To improve livelihood of the climate change vulnerable communities in the Northwest region.

This policy is supplementary to RDRS other policies, such as the *Disaster Preparedness and Response Policy* and the *Social Forestry Policy*.

1.3 Methodology

A policy research was conducted through document review and consultation. Document review both RDRS documents (e.g. various policies, studies and project reports) and global policies and strategies on poverty, munga, disaster risk reduction and climate change. Consultation included meetings and discussions with community level stakeholders (Federations, UP, VDMC and others); Key Informant Interview (KII) with RDRS senior staff and with national and regional stakeholders (UN, CDMP, CARE and others), meetings DRR and CCA network (CANSA, NIRAPAD, NCCB, EJWG, BNNRC, ECB)

Report of the policy research was shared with RDRS management team and, through a workshop, with the NGOs, UN agencies and GoB departments involved in DRR and CCA. Findings from the research and the views and comments from the workshop participants were further analyzed for drafting this policy document.

1.4 Principles

RDRS Bangladesh programme has developed a distinctive identity and value system, strongly influenced by its past, its place, and its people (see Diagram) – this identity, along with underlying values, underpin RDRS strategies, the Strategy 2001-2005, in particular.

The centrality of the rural poor - primary function of RDRS is to support the emergence of, to give voice to, and to empower the rural poor of the north-west; all actions if RDRS planned and executed in compliance with this fundamental principle.

Integrity and consistency of approach - RDRS must practice what it preaches; the same basic developmental principles and standards should apply in all spheres of its work; promoting awareness and democracy must be developed not only among its constituency, but within the organisation itself and in its wider advocacy and networking tasks..

Building realistically on the present - strategies for RDRS are seldom radical-departures but the logical development of past and present work; it builds on past achievements and present strengths and resources, to overcome weaknesses and setbacks, to address new challenges, adapt and improve in a practical and achievable.

Focus and impact - intensive and integrated area approach, linking of bilateral and core projects to improve impact demonstrate the seriousness and focus with which the organisation approaches its work. RDRS is not concerned with ephemeral tinkering – it is here on a long-term basis to make a difference; strategies are an attempt to further strengthen focus and impact and to make a difference.

Quality and effectiveness - RDRS aspire for improved quality and increased effectiveness and efficiency of work; thus, emphasizes on professionalization, systematization, accountability, cost-effectiveness, improved technical capacity, transparency and critical self-analysis.

Chapter 2: Disaster and Climate Risk in Northwest

2.1 Disaster Risk and Climate Change Scenario

Bangladesh is prone natural hazards and vulnerable to climate change. River basin areas suffer from floods, coastal region is exposed to tropical cyclones and droughts occur in the northwest region recurrently. The IPCC predicted global temperatures rise between 1.80 C and 4.00 C and resulting sea level rise between 0.18 and 0.79 metres by the last decade of the 21st century. The scenario depicts more frequent and sever cyclones, heavier rainfall in monsoon and lower rainfall at other times, melting of Himalayan glaciers, sea level rise and warmer and more humid weather. It increases exposure of the coastal region to tropical storm, storm surge and saline intrusion into rivers and groundwater, Padma-Brahmaoutra and Meghna basin areas to flood and river bank erosion and the northwest region drought (BCCSAP 2009).

The northwest region is classified as dry zone. It is vulnerable to droughts¹. Average annual rainfall in the north-west is 1329 mm compared to 4338 mm in the north-east (Shahid et al., 2005). Average temperature ranges from 35°C to 25°C in the hottest season and 9°C to 15°C in the coolest season, however, in summer, some of the hottest days experience a temperature of about 45°C and in winter temperature falls to about 5°C in some places.

Intense rainfalls in the upper catchments area, added with the elevated nature the landscape, create flash floods. Climate change increases the risk of flash flood. Monsoon precipitation over the basin areas of the Brahmaputra and its major tributaries cause floods in the Char areas. Changes in precipitation regime may lead to a change in the seasonality of the hydrological cycle, increase in the magnitude, depth, and spatial extent of floods and the likelihood of synchronization of flood peaks of major rivers.

Riverbank erosion is a continuous process, in char areas in particular. Since the Assam earthquake in 1950, Brahmaputra-Jamuna continues to widen. It has widened to 11.8 km from 8.3 km in the early 1970s, eroded about 87,790 hectares of land and rendered around one million people have been homeless.

The north-west region of Bangladesh experiences ‘*monga*’ during September–November) – a situation of extreme unemployment and severe food shortage that holds poor households to starvation. *Monga* arises due to (i) inequitable distribution of land; (ii) dependency poor households on agricultural labor; (iii) limited opportunities for sustainable off-farm economic activities, and (iv) natural hazards (M 2008; Rahman; Zug). Climate change will affect agriculture and crop production negatively through natural hazards i.e. flood, draught, riverbank erosion and will be intensify *monga* in the region.

2.2 Risk Perception of the Communities

Hazards:

Char dwelling people consider the primary and secondary consequences of seasonal anomalies in climatic phenomena that adversely affect their livelihoods as hazards. Most common hazards are:

- Floods – seasonal rise in river water that overflows the banks and submerges homesteads or crops in the field;
- Riverbank erosion – a consequence of flood that results in loss of homestead and cropland;
- Drought – absence of rain during plantation and growth period of kharif crops that seriously hampers agriculture.
- Cold wave – spell of low temperature for several subsequent days that hampers normal daily activities.
- Erratic rain – heavy or untimely rain that damages crops or hinders income earning activities.

¹ Spatial and temporal characteristics of droughts in the western part of Bangladesh Shamsuddin Shahid, Department of Geography, Rhodes University, Grahamstown 6140, South Africa

Underlying Causes:

Vulnerability of the people living in char areas to the climatic hazards is rooted in resource scarcity overlaid with bias in the national planning process against poor and peripheral communities. Charlands are very unstable – infrastructures do not last long. It discourages both private and public investments. As a result char areas remain economically depressed and marginalized terms of service provisions (e.g. quality education, health care services, including maternal care and veterinary service).

Dynamic pressure:

- Because of inadequate numbers schools in char area and poor quality of teaching, levels of education and skills that the char dweller could achieve rarely help them secure decent earning jobs; they work as daily waged labour during plantation and harvest seasons, locally, or go to the towns to work in construction sites or to pull rickshaw/van.
- Limited access to services - coverage and quality of healthcare and maternity care are very poor; availability of veterinary service and livestock vaccination is nearly nonexistent; local markets do not function well; capacities of Union Parishad for disaster risk reduction or climate change adaptation is weak.
- Widespread corruption - poor households have to pay speed money to access government services (e.g. health care, maternity care, veterinary service or livestock vaccination) or seek patronage to get supports channelled through Union Parishads.

Unsafe condition:

- Riverbank erosion renders people landless, shelter-less and poor; and in combination with flood, deposit sand on crop land, shrinks fish habitats and raise river beds; thus, diminish soil fertility, natural fish resource and navigability of the local rivers.
- Because of the low productivity and susceptible of agriculture to flood and drought, incomes of the farmers are low and uncertain.
- Employment opportunities, locally, for day labours are seasonal – only during plantation and harvest times; also wage rates for day labours are low (for women, wage rate is about half than that of their male counterparts).

Chapter 3: Policy and Practices on DRR and CC in Northwest Region

3.1 National Plans and Policies

NSAPR II, primarily, seeks higher growth as well as equity and poverty reduction simultaneously. In this context, it focuses on agriculture and rural life, expansion of social safety nets for the ultra poor and targeted approach towards employment generation. It defines *caring for environment and tackling climate change* as one of its support strategies. Its focus on climate change is limited to bio-diversity, air pollution in major metropolitan, access of the poor to common property resources, solid waste management and industrial pollution.

Basis of the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) endorses the scenario arising from IPCC predicted global temperature rise. However, its program interventions concentrate more on the coastal region and vulnerabilities to tropical cyclone, storm surge and saline water intrusion. Program for the northwest region is limited to improving irrigation facilities and researching to develop drought tolerant crops.

National Plan for Disaster Management (NPDM) acknowledges that “climate change adds a new dimension to community risk and vulnerability”. For risk management it emphasizes on three broad areas:

- Managing both risk and consequences (e.g. prevention, emergency response and post disaster recovery);
- Involving community for preparedness for protecting lives and properties;
- Integrating structural mitigation with non-structural measures.

3.2 NGO Program interventions

Large numbers of NGOs operate in the Northwest region. They often work with and on behalf of the poorest and the most vulnerable, and apply participatory approaches. Generally, they focus on livelihood, food security, emergency response and disaster risk reduction. Many of them associate these with social development and, more specifically, empowerment of the disadvantaged groups. Recently, they introduced donor supported large-budget projects such as Chars Livelihoods Program (CLP) and SHOUHARDO. More recently, they become involved in climate change adaptation and mitigation programme.

3.3 Private Sector Interventions

The private sector can contribute to climate change adaptation as “supplier of innovative goods and services”. However, currently, private sector’s engagement in climate change adaptation in Bangladesh is very insignificant. The International Finance Corporation (IFC) study in 2010 suggests that private sectors are interested to involve in some specific areas in CCA – e.g. crop diversification (drought tolerant, flood tolerant, saline tolerant, shorter cycle or broadcast rice), risk and vulnerability mapping (fisheries, livestock), agricultural products with longer shelf life, high yielding mango, reforestation and solar energy. The IFC’s report however is sceptical about private sector’s participation in climate change adaptation program; largely because of:

- Weak capacity to assess and manage climate risk within private supply chains;
- Limited understanding about the potential commercial opportunities;
- Reliance on short term deposits by the financial institutions limits their ability and willingness to structure financial products with the longer tenure;
- Profit seeking motivation.

Chapter 4: Issues for promoting claims of the vulnerable communities

Protecting drought susceptible livelihoods in northwest region has been marginalized in national climate change strategy

Northwest region is vulnerable to climatic hazards. There are concerns about more erratic rainfall and increasing frequency and intensity of drought. The area is likely to be drier and crop production may decline due moisture stress, resulting in further depression in the economy and serious reduction in the livelihood opportunities of the people. It is however less of a priority in the current Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. It focuses on the coastal region; and is vague about adaptation measures and resource allocations for the northwest region.

Notion of flood proof dwellings is missing in the policies and practices

Inundation of houses during flood causes huge distress to the affected households. Affected people suffer from house damage, loss of household assets and temporary displacement. To deal with the problem of inundation effectively, it requires raising the whole dwelling area. BCCSAP notes that “in an ‘average’ year, approximately one quarter of the country is inundated” and “people living in these areas have adapted by building their houses on raised mounds”, nevertheless, it proposes huge investments on embankment construction and maintenance. It discriminates against *char dwelling communities*. Embankment does not benefit char dwellers as they live outside of it. Also, despite the huge investments, embankments do not sustain tidal surge or riverbank erosion.

Option for climate change adaptations through livestock based agriculture is not explored adequately

Agricultural adjustments to climate change currently center on crop cultivation. Crop based agriculture performs poorly in char areas, and it is susceptible to climatic hazards. Also, improving crop cultivation through diversification and introducing hazard tolerant varieties to cope with *periods of too much of water and too little water and their uncertainties* requires huge investment; and returns from such investment are marginal. In contrast, livestock based agriculture has greater potential to help char communities sustain their livelihood. It is more resilient to and copes better with the climatic hazards. However, knowledge and technologies, as well, resources are not readily available to char communities make this shift. There is a need to mobilize support through influencing the national plan and policies to help char communities widen the scope of agriculture.

Lack of opportunities for enhancing employability through quality education and marketable skills

Socio-economic adjustments focusing on employment is crucial for char communities. This employment-based strategy is anchored on the basic education, skill training, and organization. It helps people determine their potential, attain marketable skills and undertake appropriate economic activities or find appropriate wage employment. Demand may not be a constraint if the choices of activities are with reference to existing and potential domestic demand patterns, complementarities within the production pattern, and opportunities for export. The focus of education on removing *illiteracy* is not at all helpful to achieve it. Instead, char communities need a comprehensive and more investment to shift towards *enhancing employability*.

Limited access to health care services for communities living in the remote areas

Char communities need health care and maternal care to buffer against ill-effects of climate change. However, these are absent in char areas, largely, because of resource constraints, poor motivation of the service providers and remoteness of the area. National plan acknowledges the inadequacy of health and maternal care and leaves to private sector. It is unlikely that profit seeking private sector service providers will extend these services to hard-to-reach and marginalized areas such as the char area. More probable is that *unqualified practitioners* will fill in the gaps, and char communities will end up with service of dubious quality. It is crucial that, the state run services or reasonable alternatives (considering constraints of resource and otherwise) are extended to char communities.

Chapter 5: RDRS Program

5.1 Strategic plan of RDRS (2011-2015)

RDRS envisions “achievement by the rural poor of meaningful political, social and economic empowerment, peace and justice and a sustainable environment through their individual and collective efforts”. Based on that its Strategic Plan 2011-2015 The strategy The strategy sets four program priorities – (i) Civil Society, (ii) Active Citizen and Justice, (iii) Natural Resources and Disaster Management and (v) Quality of Life Economic Opportunity.

The thematic priority Natural Resources and Disaster Management focuses on climate change and disaster risk reduction. The key elements include:

- Climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Disaster risk and vulnerability reduction
- Food security and sovereignty
- Access to livelihoods resources, skills and technologies.

5.2 Scope and challenges in DRR and CCA

Operational area of RDRS, as noted earlier, is susceptible climate change and disaster risks, and the program interventions in this area, inevitably, need to take CCA and DRR consideration into account. RDRS is well aware of that, and aligns many of its program interventions with DRR and CCA (e.g. crop diversification, hazard resistant and climate change resilient crops, and CLP)

RDRS is implementing DRR and CCA project (Alleviating Poverty through Disaster Risk Reduction in North West Bangladesh). It enables RDRS to gain better understanding about disaster and climate change vulnerabilities and expertise to deal with that.

Also, one of the thematic priorities of the new Strategic Plan concentrates on disaster risk reduction and climate change. At outcome level it seeks reduction in climate change vulnerabilities and disaster risk reduction. Some expected outcomes under other thematic priorities overlap with disaster risk reduction and climate change concerns. For example, access to basic health care, ensuring safe water, sanitation and hygiene and quality education for children and adolescents have DRR and CCA connotation.

Over the years, RDRS has gained experience in working at grass root level and mobilizing community. Simultaneously, it has developed sound capacities to work in partnership with the government agencies and maintain strong links with the donors. Also, RDRS undertakes research and lesson learning exercises, and has ability to engage in emerging issues.

Climate change is likely to exacerbate the dry conditions already experienced in North-West region of Bangladesh. And when rainfall does come, it is likely to be in bursts of greater intensity leading to riverbank erosion and flood damage. But these predictions gain comparatively less traction (than south) in the national policy and plans on climate change. There are almost no research (neither scientific prediction modelling nor socio-economic impact) on the impact of climate change in the region. It necessitates collaborative efforts and engaging in search and advocacy to assert the claims of the Northwest region.

Communities, particularly poor and the extreme poor, living in the Barind and Char areas already have started experiencing the impact of climate change that exhibited on the poverty increase and constraints on employment opportunities and declining wages in the region. Participatory and community level analysis and solutions about the problem are, generally, conducted with a *local vision* and very little application of globally accumulated knowledge or advanced methodologies. To benefit from the local knowledge and apply community based analysis more widely, it is necessary to restructure them focusing on the global context.

Chapter 6: Policy Statements

6.1 Drought mitigation measures

RDRS will promote community managed water management systems for drought resilient livelihoods of the rural disadvantaged and marginalized families in northwest region;

This requires RDRS piloting to develop and demonstrate viable model of community managed system for storage and accessing water resources for drinking and agriculture. It is also requires advocacy to promote this approach, because, the dominant model of water management are large scale and top down projects which rarely benefit the disadvantage group in the community.

Aim of the advocacy is to establish drought mitigation measures as priority interventions in the nation climate change adaptations action plan. National plan has acknowledged drought as major concern for northwest region. It is likely that the region will be drier and crop cultivation may suffer severely. It will adversely affect livelihoods of the people in northwest region. However the plan is very vague about protecting livelihoods and grossly inadequate in allocating resources.

6.2. Flood proof housing

RDRS will support flood prone communities to have elevated habitat for improving flood resilient livelihoods in the river basin areas;

RDRS and many other NGOs already have recognized that raised dwelling area is crucial for communities living in flood prone locations. Flood-proof habitat is essentially ‘rural real state development’ intervention. It requires community mobilization as well resources which the communities do not have at present. RDRS can use its experiences of micro finance program and community mobilization and apply social business approach to help communities raise their villages. The intervention includes (i) action research or piloting to determine program contents, modality and cost-effectiveness and (ii) influencing policy and planning level stakeholders. Piloting intervention may apply *social business* approach and microfinance support program. Advocacy target will be Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Land and Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation.

Aim of the intervention is to promote the rights of hazard vulnerable communities to have safe shelter. Specific objective is establishing *housing on elevated ground* as a key strategy for flood proofing. BCCS recognizes it as an effective flood proofing measure, and to fulfill the vision *Housing for all by 2015* NSAPR includes “house building by NGOs and CBOs as supplementary to private developers for certain category of housing development”.

6.3 Adaptive cropping practices

Promote adaptive cropping practices to cope better with the changing patterns of the hazards.

RDRS will work, through action research, agriculture extension and farmers field schools, to introduce and promote adaptive cropping practices. It aims at helping farmers in hazard prone areas – e.g. char areas, minimize crop losses and sustain their crop production. It includes crop intensification – e.g. ‘rice-potato-bean cropping pattern’ and crop diversification – e.g. grow peanut, pumpkin and vegetables as well, short duration rice that can be harvested before the flood period and drought or flood tolerant varieties of rice and vegetables. Adaptive cropping practices also include introducing updated technologies and better crop cycle management – in particular, to reduce crop losses. It helps increasing overall production of crops – food, in particular, and improving rural livelihood.

6.4 Livestock based agriculture

RDRS will explore livestock based agriculture for adapting to climate change in char areas;

Hazard resistant crop is an option for climate change adaptation. However, it sometimes fails to sustain because the dynamic nature of the climate variables. Therefore, it is essential that RDRS need to expand its existing

agriculture support system incorporating animal based agriculture. Promoting livestock based agriculture requires research, community education and engagement with private sector considering the backward and forward linkages.

Specific objective is establishing livestock based agriculture as climate change adaptation measure for char areas. Although utilizing land for crop production is viewed as priority, poverty reduction strategies and disaster recovery plans include livestock rearing to supplement. NSAPR acknowledges the importance of poultry and dairy farming and cattle development for meat production; and an element of the strategy focuses on quality feed supply and providing technical support and disease mitigation. Both char dwelling households and NGOs operating in char areas already have experience in livestock rearing. Piloting interventions concentrate on demonstrating its advantage over the traditional crop cultivation, in char context. The advocacy targets the Ministry of Livestock.

6.5. Employment oriented education

RDRS will arrange providing technical education to improve employability of the marginalized people in collaboration with the ministry of education;

RDRS can set up technical education centres in remote areas where the government system can not reach. This will fill in the gaps in the coverage of the state run education system and help hard to reach communities achieve marketable skill.

Both the Education Policy and acknowledge the need for employ oriented education. NSAPR proposes upgrade and reorient the quality and content of vocational training, especially for women, under the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Labour and Employment; and establishing public sector technical schools and colleges in all upzilas. Advocacy element of the intervention targets these ministries aiming at extending the facilities to char areas and GO-NGO collaboration for ensuring adequate spread and depth of coverage.

6.6. Health services for char communities

Explore alternative community based health care service in remote areas to complement with the mainstream statutory health system;

RDRS can provide premedical training to some local people and arrange with the communities to use the services of these trained local paramedics. This also requires RDRS to engage with the department of health to integrate this approach in the National Health Service system.

Objective of the intervention is to ensure reasonable quality of health care and maternal care for char dwellers. Considering the poor connectivity of remote areas and resource constraints, it is crucial to find an alternative to the current delivery system. Therefore, large element of this intervention will be advocacy that includes experimental intervention to develop community based health care delivery system. This advocacy targets the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

6.7. Tree plantation

Promote social forestry to ensure supply of fuel, enhance incomes of poor households and minimize environmental degradation.

RDRS will continue to engage in social forestry applying its current Social Forest Policy. It will pursue a sustained production system targeting the poor households. Tree plantation includes homestead plantation as well roadside plantation. This aims at production of bio-mass in the form of wood and non-wood products, protection against wind and soil erosion. In addition, it seeks improvement environment by absorbing green house gases and creating more suitable micro-climate at community levels.

6.8. Renewable energy

Ensure access of the rural households to renewable energy source.

In the context of growing threat from changing climate and declining energy sources, RDRS will support rural households accessing energy sources for cooking, lighting and irrigation. In particular, RDRS will supply cost effective and affordable technologies such as bio-gas plant, solar power unit for lighting and wind driven irrigation plants.

6.9. Community participation

Ensure community participation in all stages of the programming.

RDRS is primarily concerned about giving voice to rural poor and ensuring that the development interventions do not become additional burden on the poor or introduce latent risks to the communities. Therefore, RDRS will endeavor for participation of the communities in all stages of the program cycle. RDRS will update and develop process and procedures to ensure meaningful and effective participation of the communities – women and poor, in particular.

6.6 Plan for reorientation RDRS policy centre

Advocacy has always been an integral part of RDRS program intervention. Policy Advocacy Unit is primarily responsible for advocacy related activities. The new Program Strategy and the findings from this research may give reason for reviewing and updating the nature and focus of RDRS advocacy initiatives. Therefore, it is necessary for RDRS look at the followings.

- **Program Strategy** – assess critically the advocacy issues suggested in this report; whether or to what extent these could be aligned with the strategy or the scope and opportunities to accommodate them in content of the program intervention; then, develop or update the advocacy strategy as an integral part of the program strategy.
- **Advocacy Unit** – review and update the *terms of reference* mandate and its structure; ensure that the roles and accountabilities of the unit and the individual members and their reporting and communication lines clearly defined.
- **Action research and influencing** – define the specific objectives of *action research* and *influencing activities*, and they are interrelated.
- **Cross-functional team** – determine mandate, decision making authority and communication channel for each individual team responsible for different elements of the advocacy program.
- **Monitoring** – determine monitoring processes and define indicators, analytical framework and success criteria.
- **Federation** – review and redefine the terms of reference focusing on advocacy role instead of using it *for service delivery*.
- **Orientation sessions** – several workshops or meetings with the staff team for briefing, discussing and agreeing on the issues, strategy, objectives and operational procedures.

Orientation sessions

The orientation session should be interactive and the discussions should include the following questions:

- Why is RDRS going ahead with advocacy interventions and what drivers leading this?
- What are the objectives and the expectations for the interventions?
- What are the terms of reference for different teams and are they interrelated and complements one another?
- How the different teams and their members interact together?
- What decisions are made, by whom, and under what authority levels?
- How the team reports back to the management?
- What practices the team adopts as rules of engagement?
- How RDRS interact with other stakeholders and engage with Federation?

Person responsible and schedule

RDRS management should delegate responsibilities to some selected individuals from the staff team or *working groups* to initiate and complete the tasks noted above and set a timeline for that.

6.5. Conclusions

The vulnerability of Bangladesh to climate change is the result of a complex interrelationship among biophysical, social, economic and technological characteristics of the country. Consequences of climate change are unavoidable to the community. The debate to determine the degree of susceptibility of climate change is less of a concern to the community. They need our prompt actions based on our current understanding and knowledge towards reducing their vulnerability. It has already been established that mainstreaming of climate change is the key. Managing climate change should be integrated into policy like water management, disaster preparedness, or land use planning at every level of decision-making. These policy needs to consider regional differences.

Most of the policies have been prepared with emphasizing on a general treatment to climate change risk reduction rather than considering regional differences, though there are well-marked regional differences between the southwest and northwest regions of the country to climate change induced impact. NSAPR II and BCCSAP focus on coastal region in climate change consideration; they did not consider the *char* vulnerability; they only consider the North-west region as vulnerable to flood and drought in general. So, a policy on DRR and CCA for the North-west region is needed to address specific vulnerability of the area, especially *char* area. This policy would provide headway of the RDRS to focus how it can be establish the claim of the north-west vulnerable people. RDRS need to align this policy by incorporating it into its existing strategic plan.