



## Conflict Dynamics and Conflict Transformation in Three Ecological Zones in the Context of Climate Change

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This study is part of a broader research project titled "Vulnerabilities, Adaptation Capacities, and Conflict Dynamics in the Context of Climate Change in Bangladesh." The broader study identifies three distinct ecosystems within the project area: Coastal areas, the High Barind Tract, and the Northern River Basin. The areas under investigation include:

- **Satkhira District:** Suffering from frequent cyclones, tidal surges, salinity, and water logging.
- **Chapai Nawabganj, Naogaon, and Dinajpur in the Barind Tract:** Facing drought, cold, fog, and localized floods.
- **Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, and Kurigram in the Northern River Basin:** Impacted by frequent monsoon floods, river erosion, drought, Nor'westers (intense summer storms with heavy rain and thunder), and severe cold and fog annually.

The overall aims of this study are to explore:

- 1) The causes of vulnerability and social conflict dynamics in the context of climate change.
- 2) Existing local adaptation capacities to address the impacts of climate change in the program areas.
- 3) Conflict resolution and human rights protection mechanisms to ensure equity and climate justice.

The study also has specific objectives, including:

- Identifying the causes of vulnerability among marginalized communities.
- Assessing existing local adaptation options.
- Analyzing the climate justice situation to understand the role of duty bearers towards marginalized communities.
- Conducting a stakeholder analysis to understand the roles of state and non-state actors.
- Preparing an action plan for advocacy with the government and relevant actors.

Findings revealed that temperature rise, heat stress, changes in seasons, and erratic rainfall are common disasters in all three climate hotspots. Additionally, coastal villages in Satkhira district suffer from cyclones, tidal surges, salinity, and water logging. The districts in the Barind areas (Chapai Nawabganj, Naogaon, and Dinajpur) face drought, cold, fog, and localized floods, while

the Northern River Basin (Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, and Kurigram) experiences frequent monsoon floods, river erosion, and drought.

It has been found that small-scale agriculture and sharecropping activities are highly vulnerable in all the study areas due to multiple climate disasters throughout the year. Wage earnings from agricultural and non-agricultural labor and the income of people living in poverty are also severely affected in these climate hotspots. Livestock and poultry belonging to households who live in poverty are impacted by climate change across all districts. Over 94% of survey respondents believe that women who live in poverty are the most vulnerable, particularly women-headed families and wage earners. Women suffer from a lack of social safety and security during disasters. They are deprived of proper bathing and basic cleaning facilities, increasing their health risks and vulnerability. During disasters, women often consume less food and drinking water, exacerbating their health issues.

Given this background, the aim of this particular section of the study is to identify three case studies of conflict dynamics (community-based or intra-household) that have affected communities in these regions in the context of climate change and to analyze and recommend ways for non-violent conflict transformation.

## **Methodology**

- 1) Three cases of conflict, ideally one from each ecological zone, were selected to illustrate intra-household or inter/intra-community conflicts where climate change is a relevant and immediate factor.
- 2) Each case was chosen from one of the three ecological zones that formed the basis of the quantitative survey: Coastal area, High Barind Tract, and Northern River Basin.
- 3) The details of each case were studied empirically through field visits, including in-depth interviews with the victims and relevant parties. Official representatives were not always accessible for interviews; their perspectives were obtained through the staff of partner organizations familiar with the case and through available legal documents.
- 4) Field observations were then analyzed by triangulating existing models of conflict transformation with data gathered through surveys or literature reviews.
- 5) Lessons from these cases are expected to contribute to a conflict transformation approach to climate change adaptability.

The three cases are outlined separately and analyzed using various models of conflict transformation, such as actor mapping, timelines, the onion method, divides and connectors, problem trees, and conflict transformation (solution) trees.

## CASE 1: THE ATRAI RIVER DREDGING CONFLICT – HIGH BARIND REGION

### a) Brief Narrative Description:

Located in the High Barind Tract, the region typically faces drought, cold, fog, and localized floods. The village in this case study is situated in a low-lying area on the banks of the Atrai River. The ecological problem caused by climate change is particularly the increase in the intensity and frequency of localized floods in recent years. Residents of Amarul Jatopara village in Shahagola Union, Atrai Upazila, Naogaon district, live in constant fear of river erosion caused by frequent flooding, especially those who live on the riverbanks. This low-lying area floods frequently, affecting about 50 to 60 families. According to the residents, the nature of flooding has changed over the years. Previously, it used to flood once a year during the rainy season. Now, it floods three times in one rainy season and at unpredictable times. Siltation of the riverbed has caused water to flood their houses more frequently and unpredictably, leading to the loss of croplands.

On top of this, a private dredging company acquired a lease from the Deputy Commissioner's (DC) office to dredge the riverbed for sand extraction and transportation for construction projects. It is around this issue that the villagers were caught in a conflict in the early months of 2022.

One of the main victims, a 43-year-old woman, complained that the unplanned dredging of the Atrai River was taking a toll on their land. Over the last 10 years, the riverbanks have persistently eroded. The dredging by the private company worsened the situation because the force of the water caused by the machinery eroded the banks, and the vegetation on the riverbanks, such as grasses or kashful, could no longer hold the soil together. Additionally, the villagers were losing fish resources on which their livelihood depended, as the dredging disturbed the sandy riverbed, which used to be the breeding ground for fish, leading to the loss of a valuable economic resource. The woman stated that her husband, who is a person with a disability, found it difficult to catch any fish with his net, which was the only activity he could manage. Their 2 decimals of land were in danger of being lost to the riverbed.

The woman, who was the leader of a local team of a partnering NGO, initiated a discussion within the team regarding this problem. Together, they decided to approach the local administration with their grievances. However, the local administration did not pay any attention to their pleas as the dredging company was supported by local influentials. Before April 2022, some villagers clashed with the dredging company and broke a machine part. In April 2022, the company filed a case at the local police station (Thana) against 10 villagers from Jatopara and the neighboring village, resulting in a halt to dredging until the court reached a verdict. Due to the substantial business losses incurred, the company withdrew the case and instead urged the Upazila Chairman, supported by local influentials, to reach a decision through mutual understanding. However, this understanding was between the local administration and the private company, excluding the

villagers from any say in the matter. The villagers were fined one lakh taka as compensation for the losses suffered by the company, and their complaints went unheard. They continue to complain to the local Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) from time to time, but to no avail.

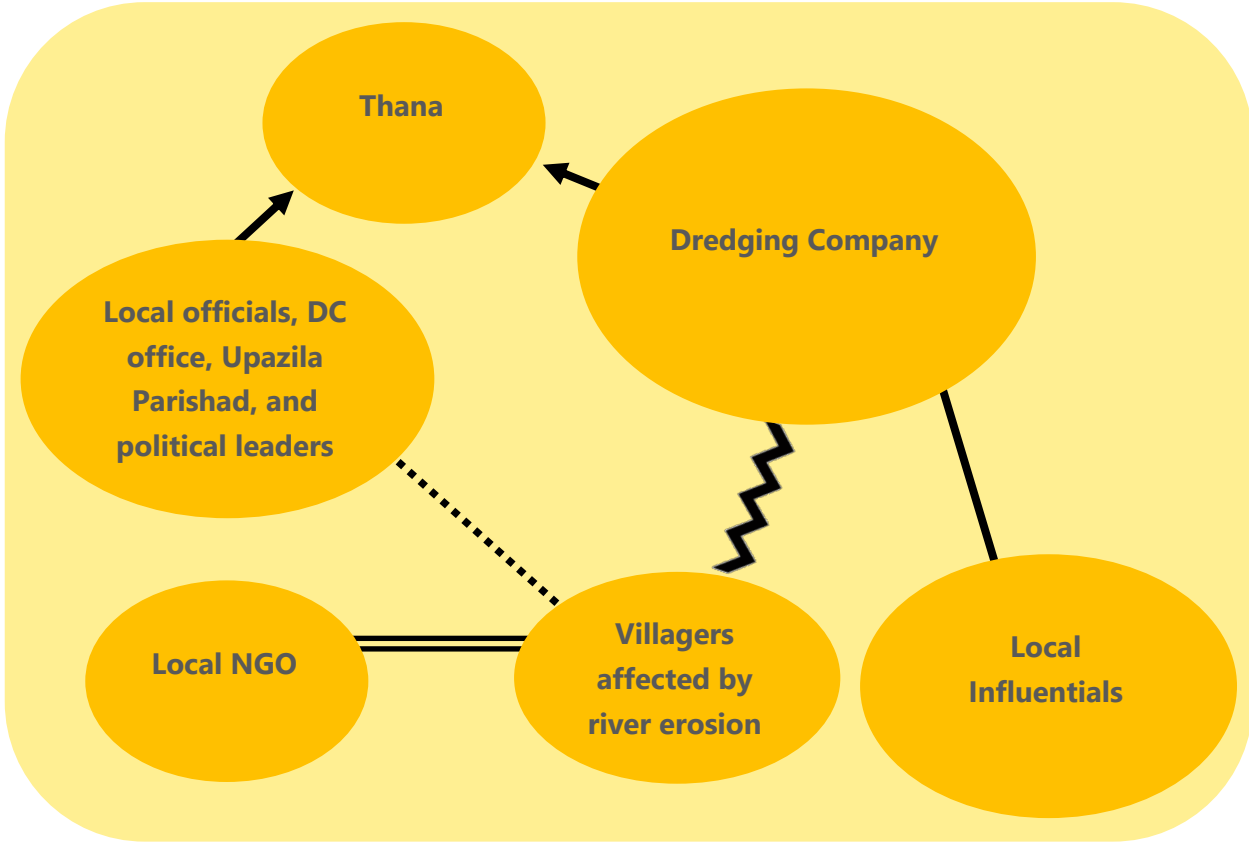
**b) Actor Mapping:**

The actor mapping tool is used to identify the actors involved in the conflict and to explore the relationships between them.

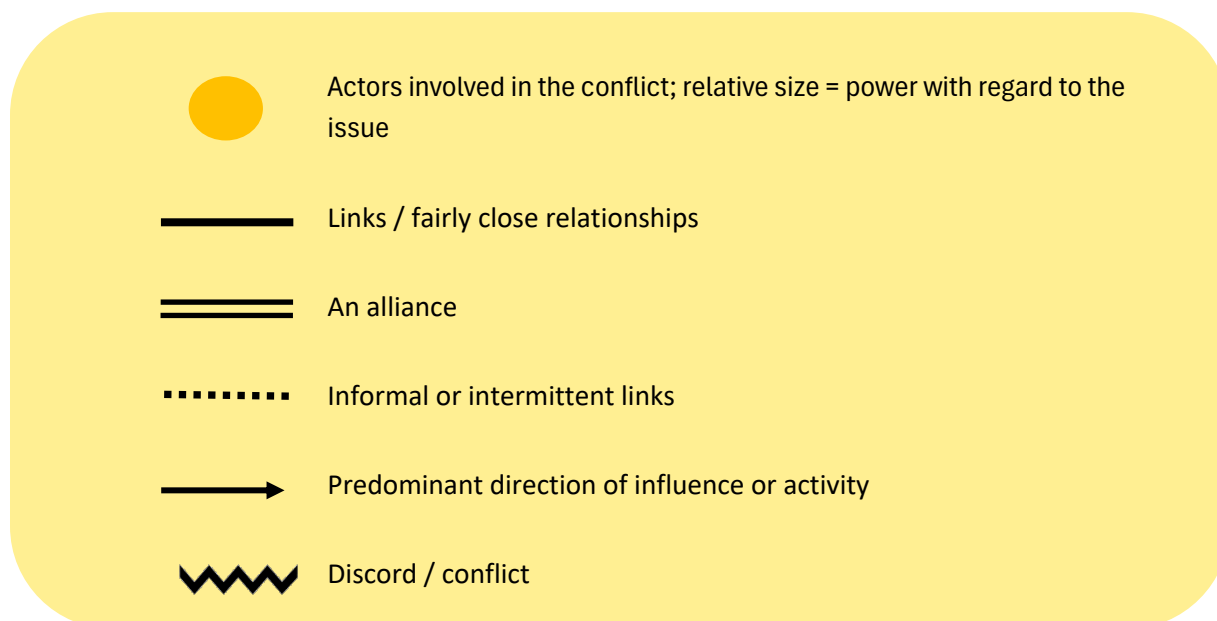
In the Atrai River conflict, the main parties to the conflict were the villagers on one side and the dredging company on the other. The villagers were supported by a local NGO, while the dredging company had the backing of private influentials, the Upazila Chairman, and the local level court.

The villagers also had intermittent exchanges with local administration officials such as the Thana Nirbaho Officer (TNO) and the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), who, according to the villagers, heard their complaints but did not take any action. The officials' ability to respond to the villagers' demands was hindered by the powerful interests of the dredging company and their local administrative supporters. These relationships are illustrated in Diagram 1.

**Diagram 1:** THE CASE OF THE ATRAI RIVER DREDGING CONFLICT



**Key:**



**c) Timeline of the conflict**

Timeline	Villagers' role	Dredging company
2012	Accelerated river erosion causes increasing damages to livelihoods and concern among villagers.	
2017		Leases land from the DC's office and starts dredging causing accelerated river erosion.
April 2022	Protests by villagers resulting in clashes and breaking of machinery.	Files case against 10 villagers.
April 2022	Court declares injunction on dredging activities during the investigation of the case. Villagers enjoy the respite.	Company loses profits.
April 2022		Company withdraws case as the court injunction causes losses in business. Conflict is then resolved through understanding between Upazila Chairman and some political influential persons in favor of the company. The villagers are charged 1 lakh taka in compensation for the losses suffered by the company. Dredging resumes.

#### d) Onion method

The onion method is a tool designed to help understand the needs, interests, and positions of each party involved in a conflict. The table below illustrates this concept.

Parties to the conflict	Needs (what we must have)	Interests (what we really want)	Positions (what we say we want)
<b>Villagers</b>	Livelihood, survival, well-being	Stop accelerated river erosion	River is people's resource
<b>Company</b>	Acquisition of wealth	Access to source of profit	For the interest of development

### CASE 2: FROM ABANDONMENT TO MARGINALIZATION – COASTAL REGION

#### a) Brief Narrative Description:

The coastal region is prone to frequent and severe storms and cyclones, which leave lasting impacts on people's lives for decades. The aftermath of these disasters becomes a daily struggle as residents cope with the damage to lives and property. One of the most severe storms in the region's history, Cyclone Aila, struck in May 2009, and vulnerable communities and households are still recovering from its impact. This is a story of displacement, loss of livelihood, and labor migrations that continue to put people at risk.

Reema Rahman (name changed), aged 50, lives in Burigoalini Union, Shyamnagar, with her two sons, who are in their early twenties. Originally from Munshiganj, she was married in Shatkhira Sadar. However, her in-laws were not well-off, and her husband lacked the resources to support his new wife. Furthermore, he was addicted to gambling and deeply in debt, and he used to beat her.

One day, Reema, her husband, and their children moved to her natal home, which was later destroyed by Cyclone Aila. As a result, the family sought refuge in a government housing project. Unable to find work there, her husband went to work in the brickfields in Comilla, about 200 miles northwest of Reema's homestead. However, he never sent any money home for the children. Reema worked hard to raise the children by herself, working in other people's homes.

One day, a relative informed her that her husband had left for India with more than 70,000 taka, which he had borrowed from the brickfield owner. Reportedly, he had also married and settled in India without notifying Reema. In June 2016, she received a legal notice from the brickfield owner's lawyers, filed in Shatkhira Thana, demanding that Reema and her sons repay the money her husband had taken. Reema could not fathom paying such an amount, especially as her eldest son was barely in his mid-teens.

The Shatkhira police raided her home, attempting to arrest her two sons, but her relatives resisted, and her sons fled and hid in the jungle. Reema sought help from the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), who was managing the housing project. They negotiated with the Union Chairman to leave Reema and her children undisturbed on the condition that they pay the debt. The RAB personnel were sympathetic to their plight as they maintained regular contact with the families in the housing project.

At one point, Reema's eldest son went to work in the brickfield of the brickfield owner to repay the debt through his labor. Unfortunately, he got injured while working and had to return home. He tried to take loans from family and friends to repay some of the debt, but more than half of it remains unpaid. He says he cannot do anything for the welfare of his family because all his earnings go toward repaying the loans.

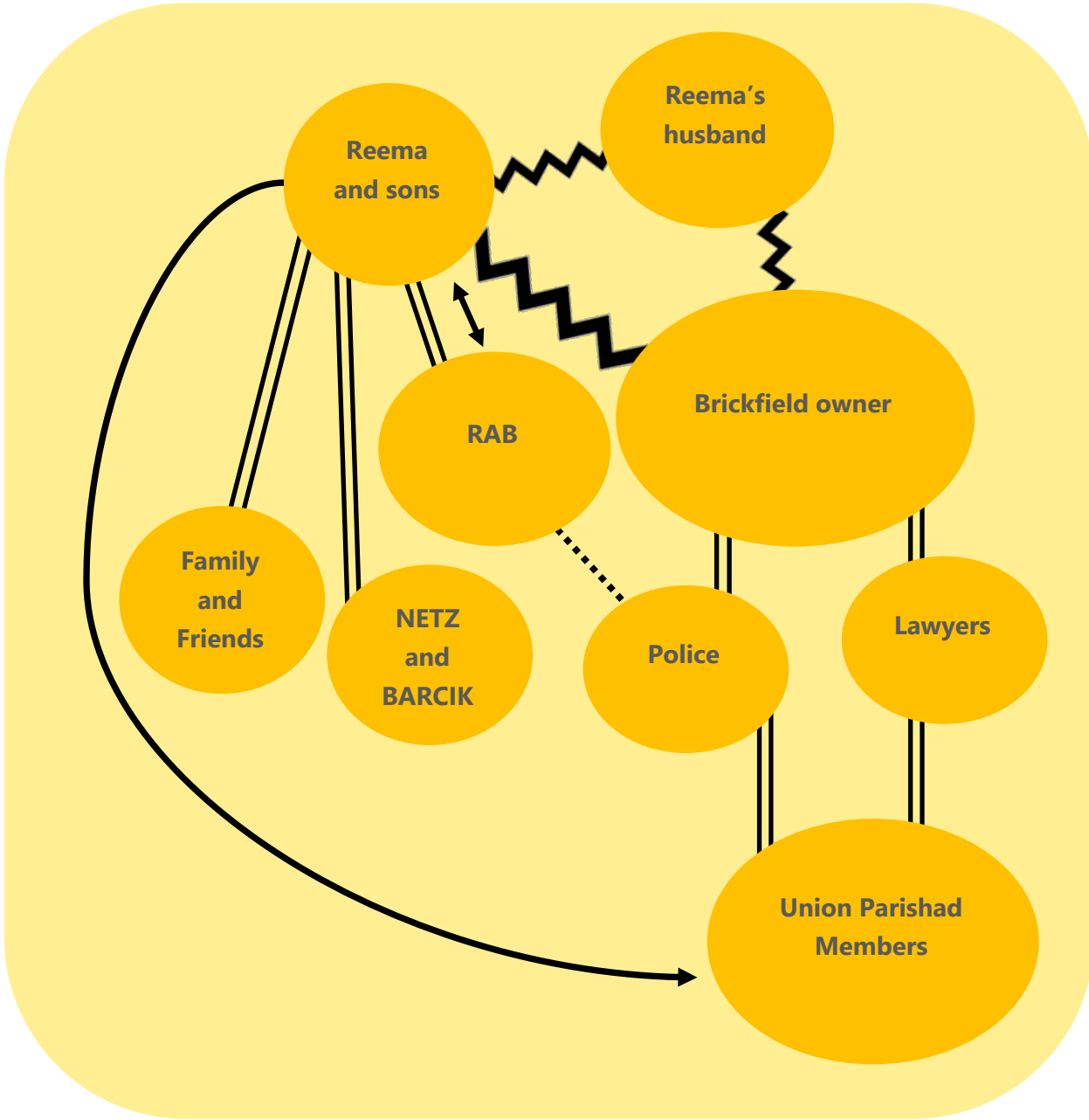
Reema and her two sons now work in the forest, catching fish fingerlings and crabs. The work is hard, risky, and hindered by various restrictions set by the forest office. They feel that their backs are against the wall.

**b) Actor mapping:**

The main parties to the conflict are Reema Rahman and her sons on one side, and the brickfield owners demanding repayment of loans on the other. This conflict arose due to her husband's abandonment and default on the loans, causing financial losses for the brickfield owners.

Reema and her sons receive support from family, friends, and the RAB manager of the housing project where they currently reside. BARCIK and NETZ, two NGOs, are also helping them build their livelihood. In contrast, Reema's husband benefited from the patriarchal system in the country. The brickfield owner used local lawyers and police to demand compensation from Reema and her sons. The police often treated Reema and her sons harshly. The Union Parishad and its members assisted the police but were also approached by Reema and her family for help. However, their appeals for mercy were disregarded.

**Diagram 2:** FROM ABANDONMENT TO MARGINALIZATION- THE CASE OF REEMA RAHMAN



**c) Timeline of the conflict:**

Timeline	Reema's and sons' role	Husband /Brickfield owner's role
1987	Reema is married off in Shatkhira Sadar to a not so well-off family.	Husband is addicted to gambling.
2009 - 2015	Alia occurs and Reema and family moves over to housing project settlement.	Husband works in brickfields but maintains no contact with Reema and family. He takes off to India leaving behind a debt of 76,300 BDT owed to brickfield owners.
27.6.2016		Brickfield owner files a case against Reema and her sons. Shatkhira police raids Reema's house in attempt to arrest her sons.
2016	RAB intervenes in favor of Reema and sons on the condition that they pay the dues.	Uneasy truce between local institution and Reema prevails. Reema's son is pressurized to repay all the loan.
after 2016	Reema's eldest son attempts to repay the loans by working in the brickfield but gets injured in the process and returns home.	
2022	Reema's family still in debt though 30,000 BDT have been paid off through loans from friends and family and their own hard earnings.	

**d) Onion method:**

Parties to the conflict	Needs (what we must have)	Interests (what we really want)	Positions (what we say we want)
<b>Reema and sons</b>	Livelihood, well-being	Sustenance and stability	To stop repaying debt for husband who abandoned their family
<b>Brickfield owner</b>	To be compensated for financial loss	Power and control over his workers	Seeking justice for wrongful action

### CASE 3: ECOLOGICAL RISKS INCITE DOMESTIC CONFLICT – NORTHERN RIVER BASIN

#### a) Brief narrative description:

From her childhood, Sadia Akter (name changed) experienced constant upheaval, having to move their home three times. Living near the banks of the torrential River Dudh Kumar, frequent floods were common in their area, making outmigration a widespread phenomenon.

However, external circumstances were not the only disruptions in Sadia's childhood. She witnessed her father abandoning her mother, who then struggled to raise two children on her own by raising cattle. When Sadia married someone from the next village, she wanted the best for her two children (a boy and a girl), but it was a struggle. Her in-laws did not treat her well, and her husband had to seek work outside the village soon after their marriage due to the lack of employment opportunities in the climate-change-prone region. Living close to the River Dudh Kumar, Sadia's husband initially assisted in his father's business, which eventually collapsed due to frequent flooding of the riverbanks. Currently, he works in Dhaka, driving an auto rickshaw.

Sadia moved to her mother's place to stay, as it was easier for her to care for her children with her mother's support. Her son attended school irregularly and eventually dropped out to become an apprentice in carpentry. Her daughter just passed her primary-level exams. However, her husband does not send money, and Sadia could not earn enough to ensure a proper education for her daughter.

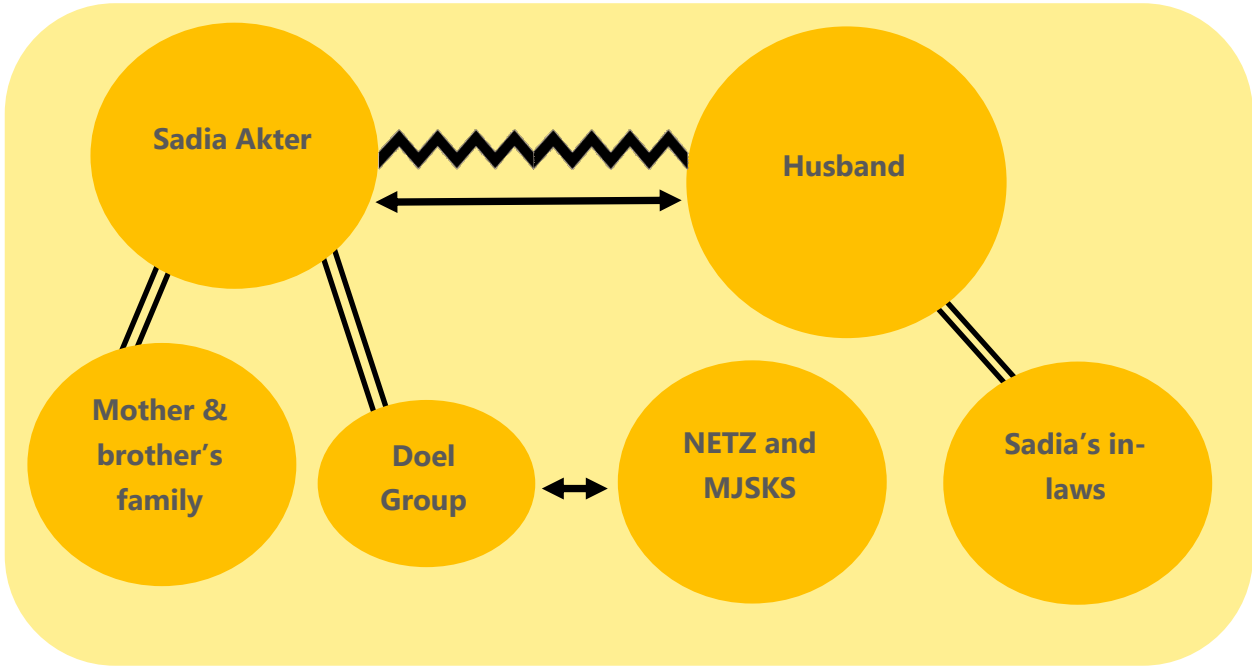
In 2022, her husband insisted that she join him in Dhaka to take care of him. Through a relative, she learned that he was even considering getting married again. Thus, Sadia decided to join him in an attempt to convince him to return to the village. She left her daughter in her mother's care, but she believes a mother's presence in a family is crucial for the children's well-being. Sadia saw how her mother took care of her and did not want the same fate for her children. Her daughter would also need a father for her future, fearing she would lose social dignity, especially regarding marriage. Therefore, Sadia did not want to lose her husband at this point in life.

Dislocations like these were not unusual in her village, as many families had to seek livelihood opportunities outside their locality due to the river eroding their homes.

#### b) Actor mapping

The two conflicting parties are Sadia Akter from Kurigram and her husband. Sadia is supported by her mother, who raised her and her brother single-handedly after being deserted by her own husband. Additionally, Sadia receives assistance from a livelihood project implemented by NETZ and Mahideb Jubo Somaj Kalyan Samiti (MJSKS), where she is a lead member of the Doel group. Sadia's in-laws support her husband.

**Diagram 3: ECOLOGICAL RISKS INCITE DOMESTIC CONFLICT- THE CASE OF SADIA AKTER**



**c) Timeline of the conflict:**

Timeline	Sadia's role	Husband's and his family's role
2008 approx.	Sadia is married at an early age.	Husband assists father-in-law with business, but when loss is suffered in business, there are no opportunities for alternative work due to frequent flooding of riverbanks. Hence, he migrates to Dhaka. In-laws not cooperative.
2010 to 2022	Sadia moves to her mother's place with her children to ensure their welfare by raising cattle with the support of the MJSKS' Doel group.	Husband does not financially support his family.
December 2022	Sadia is pressurized by her husband to come and live with him in Dhaka where he is driving auto rickshaw.	Husband is reported to threaten Sadia by marrying a second time.

Timeline	Sadia's role	Husband's and his family's role
December 2022	Sadia decides to move in with her husband, leaving her children with her mother. She finds work in town but is actually interested in convincing her husband to return home so that she could give better quality of life to her children especially her daughter.	Conflict is ongoing.

**d) Onion method:**

Parties to the conflict	Needs (what we must have)	Interests (what we really want)	Positions (what we say we want)
<b>Sadia</b>	Source of stable income and dignified existence	Dignified status in society	Raise her children well
<b>Sadia's husband</b>	Stable income from non-agricultural work	Enjoy privileges of a patriarchal society	Wife should perform tasks for her husband

### TYPES OF VIOLENCE IN THE ABOVE THREE CASES

The following graphic description derives from the triangle method to depict forms of visible violence and less visible violence<sup>1</sup>. Visible violence includes physical forms such as robbery, torture, killing, intimidation, and arson. Less visible violence encompasses cultural violence, such as hate speech, social segregation, dominance by specific groups, and patriarchy, as well as structural violence, which includes lack of legal protection, class-related issues, a culture of impunity, and lack of employment opportunities.

These types of violence, as found in the above case studies, are summarized in the table below:

<sup>1</sup> This model was part of a training module titled "Peace and Conflict," conducted by Bal Kumari Gurung and Shruti Chaturvedi in 2019. It was later adapted by NETZ Bangladesh in its report entitled "Comprehensive Analysis of a Selected Land Conflict" under the project AHIMSA, "Non-violent Transformation of a Land Conflict in Dinajpur District and Capacity-Building from Local to National Level in Bangladesh." This report was published in June 2021 by NETZ Bangladesh.

Cases	Direct Violence (visible)	Cultural Violence (less visible)	Structural Violence (less visible)
Case study 1	Clashes, bickering, destruction of property	Dominance over marginalized groups, intolerance by local administration	Lack of legal protection, immunity, political maneuvering,
Case study 2	Police raids	Patriarchy, dominant group politics	Lack of legal protection impunity, lengthy judicial process
Case study 3	Domestic violence	Patriarchy	Lack of employment, poverty

### DIVIDERS AND CONNECTORS IN THE THREE CASE STUDIES

The dividers and connectors tool helps systematically identify factors that create division in a dispute and those that are common and can be used positively to transform conflict or negatively to trigger it. It also helps identify who or what institution can play the role of the connector.

Here, the case description is structured according to different categories:

- 1) **Systems and Institutions:** This includes local administration, law enforcement agencies, CBOs, etc., which play an important role in the case.
- 2) **Attitudes and Actions:** This category describes the context in which a conflict has arisen or is dealt with in particular cases.
- 3) **Values and Interests:** This encompasses different values and interests at both national and local levels that need addressing in the conflict.
- 4) **Experiences:** This refers to the different experiences among actors in the conflict.
- 5) **Symbols and Occasions:** This outlines the behavioral and representational nature of the actors in conflict, including how each actor behaves, the principles they follow, and who they believe they represent.

For each category, factors, institutions, or actors are listed that create dissension and divisions, forming the roots of the conflict. Similarly, connectors are identified who could promote principles that help address transformative changes in conflict. The commonality phase includes suggestions for achieving conflict transformation in each of these categories.

In the following table, the three cases described above are analyzed using the Dividers and Connectors tool:

### Case 1: The Atrai River Dredging Conflict – High Barind Region

Category	Dividers	Connectors	Commonality
<b>System &amp; Institution</b>	Partisan role of local administration Constrained space for CBOs	Local administration CBOs	Accountability & Transparency of local administration, Role of CBOs in peace building
<b>Attitudes &amp; Actions</b>	Unplanned, environment-unfriendly dredging	Environmental rules of company could be developed to make a positive contribution	Conservation of natural resources by administration and CBOs
<b>Different values &amp; interests</b>	Marginalization of riverbank settlers	Policy makers for Ministry of Environment and Commerce	Pro-poor environmental policy
<b>Different experiences</b>	Social stratifications, sites of residence	Existing CBO groups, company rules and regulations, national policy makers	Dialogue and consultations with local residents
<b>Symbols &amp; occasions</b>	Profit making incentives	Company decision makers	Pro environmental policy making

### Case 2: From abandonment to marginalization – Coastal region

Category	Dividers	Connectors	Commonality
<b>System &amp; Institution</b>	Dominance of powerful interests	Pro-poor effective legal aid system	Legal arbitration by civic representation
<b>Attitudes &amp; Actions</b>	Pro-profit, anti- poor decisions	Private sector regulatory bodies	Solution by dialogue and discussion
<b>Different values &amp; interests</b>	Class interests	Law enforcing agencies	mutual dialogue
<b>Different experiences</b>	Monoculture of shrimp and crab farming	Employers and policy makers	Localization of livelihood practices, eco - professions
<b>Symbols &amp; occasions</b>	Negligence of housing project residents	Local officials, educators & schools in the locality, CBOs	Observing national days, co-creating social capital and cohesiveness with mainstream societies

### Case 3: Ecological risks incite domestic conflict – Northern River Basin

Category	Dividers	Connectors	Commonality
<b>System &amp; Institution</b>	Patriarchy	Counselors CBOs, Family dispute resolution mechanisms	Strengthened family arbitration, mechanisms in the light of climate change
<b>Attitudes &amp; Actions</b>	Male dominance, gender stereotypes	Family, CBOs	Generate gender equality
<b>Different values &amp; interests</b>	Male stereotyping	Gendered approach in CBOs livelihood practices	Gender equality, promoting education for girls
<b>Different experiences</b>	Dislocation, outmigration	CBO's livelihood training in the light of climate change	Generating new skills training relevant to changes situation
<b>Symbols &amp; occasions</b>	Loss of livelihood through climate displacement	Government policymakers, CBOs	Observe new activities for climate and gender solidarity

## SUMMARY ANALYSIS AND WAYS FORWARD

The comparative analysis of the three cases reviewed reveals that two cases manifested at the state and societal levels, where marginalized communities were affected or targeted, while one conflict occurred at the household level, influenced by societal factors resulting from climate change.

### **Dividers**

The dividers detected in these conflicts include the partisan role of local administration, constrained spaces for civil society, dominance of powerful interests, and systemic patriarchy. This aligns with survey findings pointing to institutional weaknesses at the local level, lack of responsiveness and accountability of Local Government Institutions (LGIs) and local actors, poor governance, and the dominance of power-elite relations as major causes of vulnerability in climate change situations. Patriarchy emerges as a significant factor, with women being the primary victims of violence at both the community and household levels, as seen in the cases of Reema and Sadia (cases 2 and 3).

In terms of attitudes and actions, environmentally unfriendly behavior, pro-profit, anti-poor decisions by private companies and local authorities, and male-dominant attitudes in the household were key elements of conflict in the first two cases.

Differences in values and interests in the three cases emerged from class stratifications, sites of residence (the survey revealed that marginalized communities lived in fringe lands, e.g., riverbanks), and male stereotyping of gender roles.

Different experiences varied according to the localization of the conflicts, with sites of residence in Naogaon, monoculture of shrimp and crab farming in Satkhira, and out-migration and dislocation in Kurigram.

Symbols and occasions of dividers were noted in profit incentives for companies, negligence by local authorities in providing proper rehabilitation measures for displaced persons and addressing livelihood loss caused by climate displacement.

### **Connectors and Common Ground Leading to Solutions**

The connectors identified in the three cases include private companies, local authorities, government officials/policymakers, civil society (both local and national), and arbitration mechanisms. While both the private sector and public domain have played divisive roles in conflict dynamics, they can also play a reformative role in conflict transformation if certain practices are followed at local, national, and systemic levels. This is consistent with the survey findings as well.

The fragmentation of social capital, driven by competition over resources, occupations, and food collection, has been noted as a primary cause of conflicts due to climate change. Climate change has affected livelihoods, particularly those dependent on the environment (e.g., cultivation, forestry, animal husbandry), challenging existing social capital and networks that have been the mainstay of survival in rural areas. Traditional community or family values of sharing have often been overtaken by ruthless market economics. The survey reveals that around 51% of people from all study regions reported not having good relations with their relatives and neighbors, with this being most pronounced in the High Barind region (56%). Relationships with duty bearers also determine access to social safety-net supports from relevant authorities.

Both regulatory bodies in the public domain and civil society organizations have an important role in restructuring society to mitigate climate disasters and co-create social capital and cohesiveness with mainstream societies. Private companies must also adopt pro-environment policies to sustain their profits in the long run.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION**

### **Recommendations to Government**

- 1) Strengthen conservation of natural resources in localities, especially ensuring women's accessibility.
- 2) Strengthen mechanisms for consultation with local people.
- 3) Enhance family arbitration mechanisms in light of climate change.
- 4) Promote pro-environment policy-making at the national level.
- 5) Observe national days to co-create social capital and cohesiveness with mainstream societies.
- 6) Given the increasing trend of outmigration, generate new skills training relevant to the changing climate change situation

### **Recommendations to Civil Society**

- 1) Ensure accountability and transparency of local administration.
- 2) Encourage the role of CBOs in peacebuilding.
- 3) Foster dialogue with local and national level officials.
- 4) Encourage localization of livelihood practices and eco-professions.

- 5) Observe national days to co-create social capital and cohesiveness with mainstream societies.
- 6) Promote gender equality to mitigate intra-household conflict in climate change situations by incorporating climate change perspectives in all gender courses.

### **Recommendations to Private Companies**

- 1) Engage in dialogue and consultation with local residents before starting business activities.
- 2) Adopt pro-environment planning.
- 3) Implement localization strategies for livelihood practices.
- 4) Encourage eco-professions to survive, such as ensuring local fishing practices while dredging rivers.

Since 1989, NETZ Partnership for Development and Justice, a non-profit registered in Germany and Bangladesh, has partnered with local NGOs to fight poverty, build climate-resilient livelihoods, provide primary education, and promote human rights in Bangladesh.

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