

**Community Based Adaptation: Side Event in COP-13**

**Challenges Towards Implementation of  
Community-based Adaptation: Lessons  
from Bangladesh**

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## Bangladesh has always been vulnerable to climate variability. Why?

Geographic location (within regional setting) & physical features

Highly influenced by monsoon and regional flow patterns

‘Too much water in monsoon’ & ‘too little water in the dry season’

Socioeconomic realities

Population density

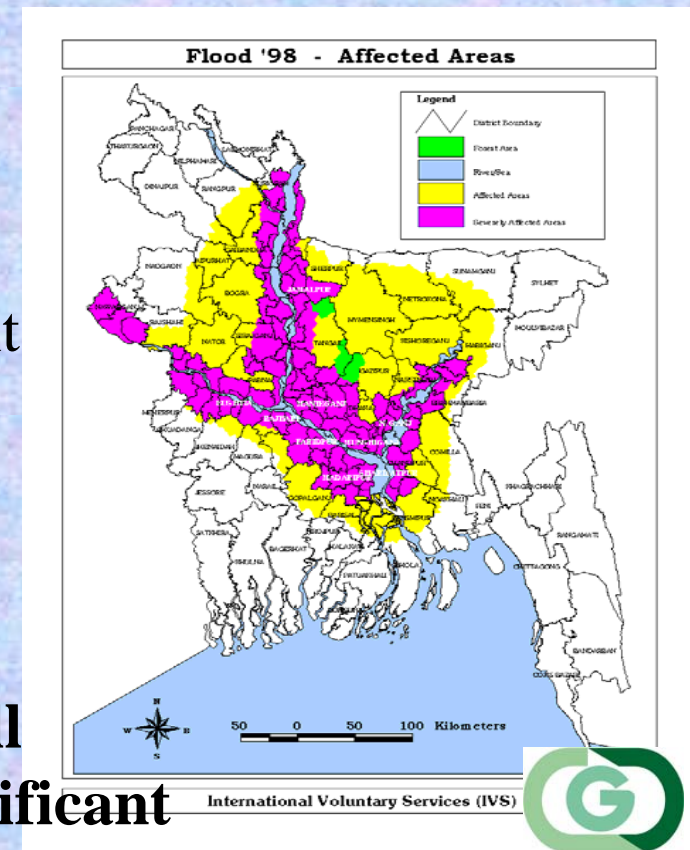
Equity and deprivation

Poverty & per capita resource endowment

Development practices and malpractices

.....

Since climate variability and change will significantly affect the hydrology, **the overall impacts of climate change will also be significant**

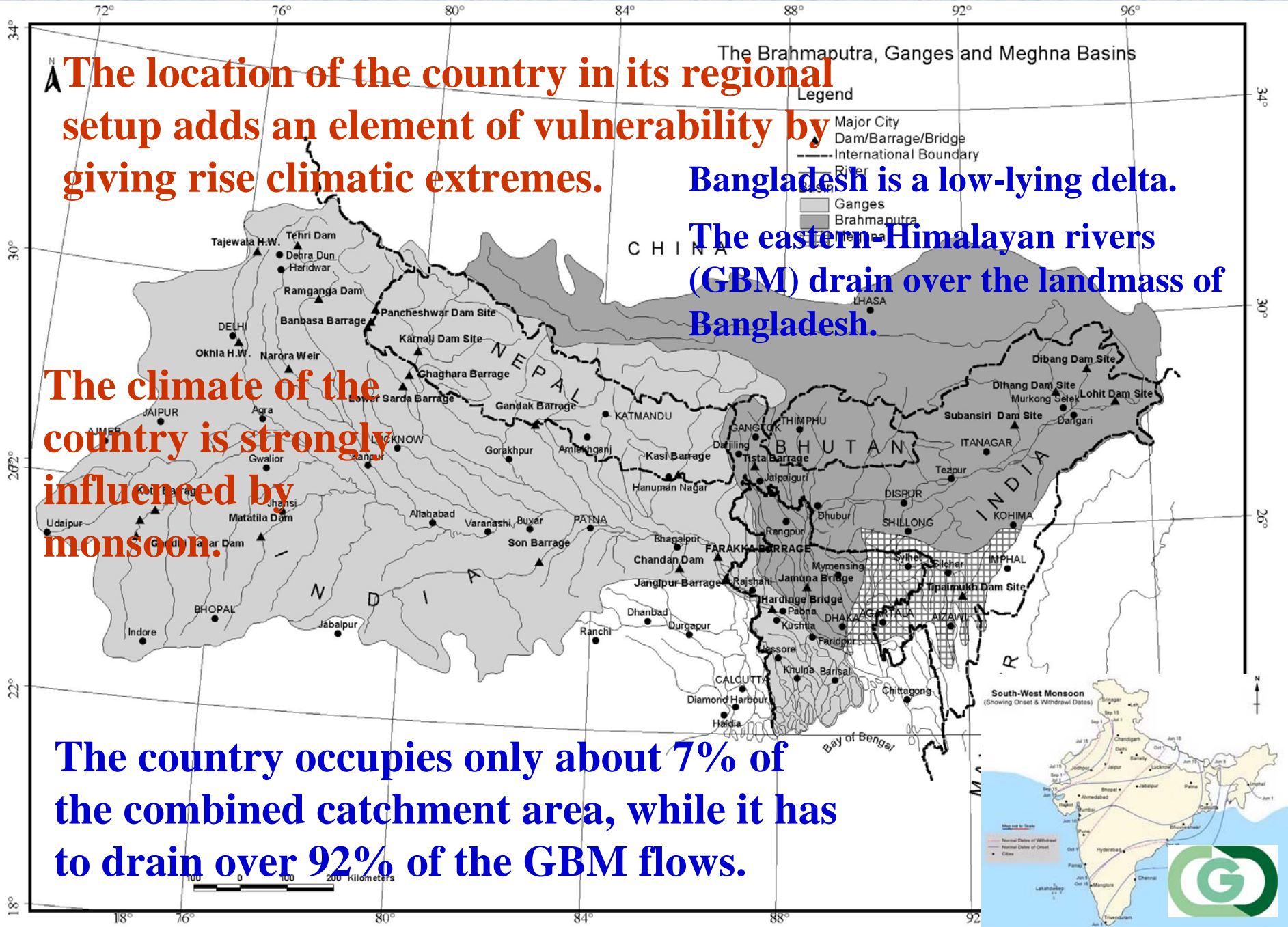


**The location of the country in its regional setup adds an element of vulnerability by giving rise climatic extremes.**

**Bangladesh is a low-lying delta. The eastern-Himalayan rivers (GBM) drain over the landmass of Bangladesh.**

**The climate of the country is strongly influenced by monsoon.**

**The country occupies only about 7% of the combined catchment area, while it has to drain over 92% of the GBM flows.**



## Extent of Change:

There will be a general rise in surface average temperature:  $1.3^{\circ}\text{C}$  by 2030s;  $2.6^{\circ}\text{C}$  by 2070s.

Monsoon rainfall will increase by 10 to 25% by three to seven decades. Winter/ dry-season rainfall will diminish.

## Extreme water resources distribution.

- High floods
- Salinity ingress
- Agricultural drought

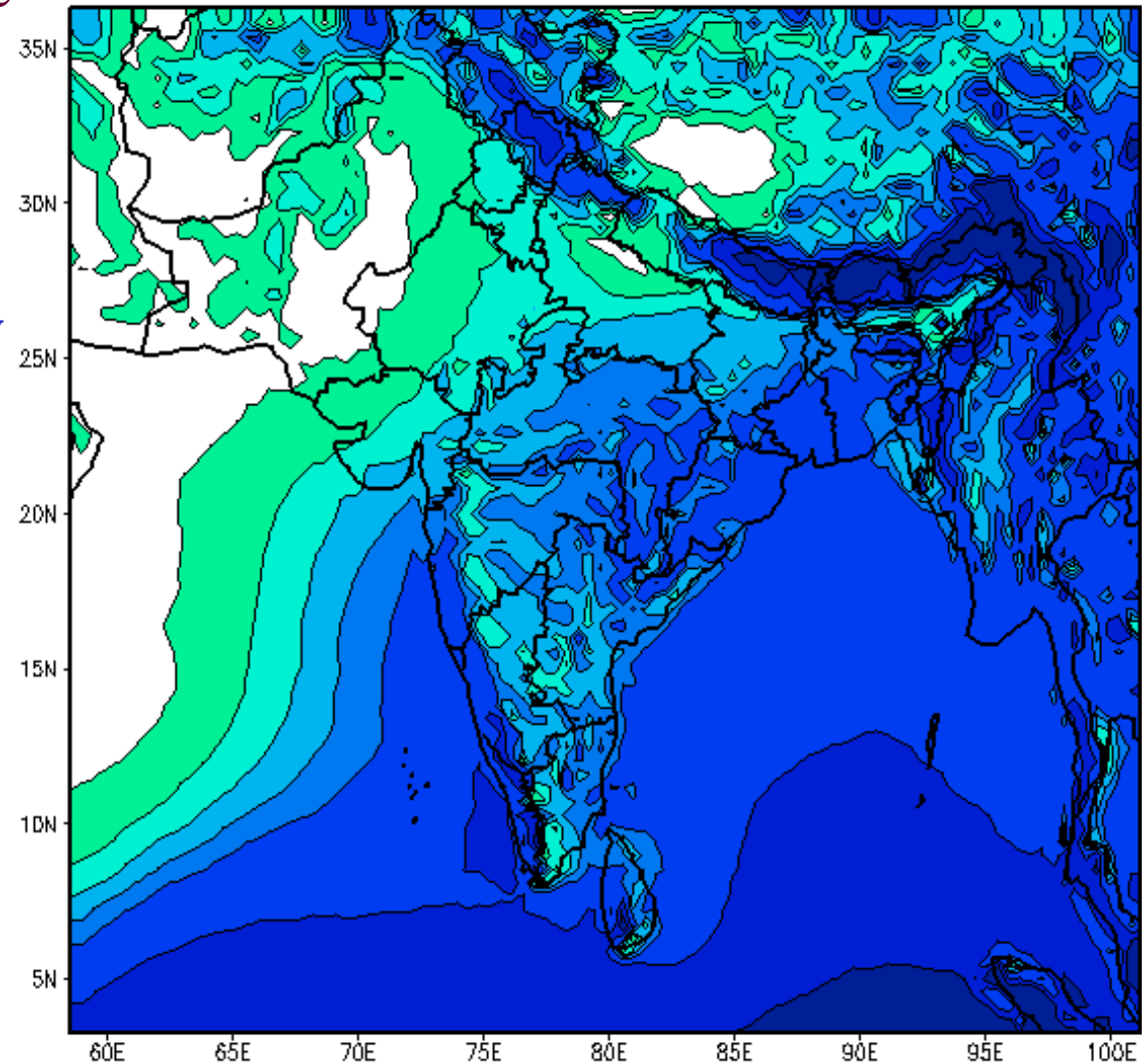
## Water-logging

## Extreme Events

## Cyclone & surge

## Bank/Embankment erosion

HadRM2 Annual Number of Rainydays (CTL)



The project 'Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change (RVCC)' has been the first ever successful CBA pilot project in the world, which was launched in mid-2002 to promote adaptation to Climate Change.

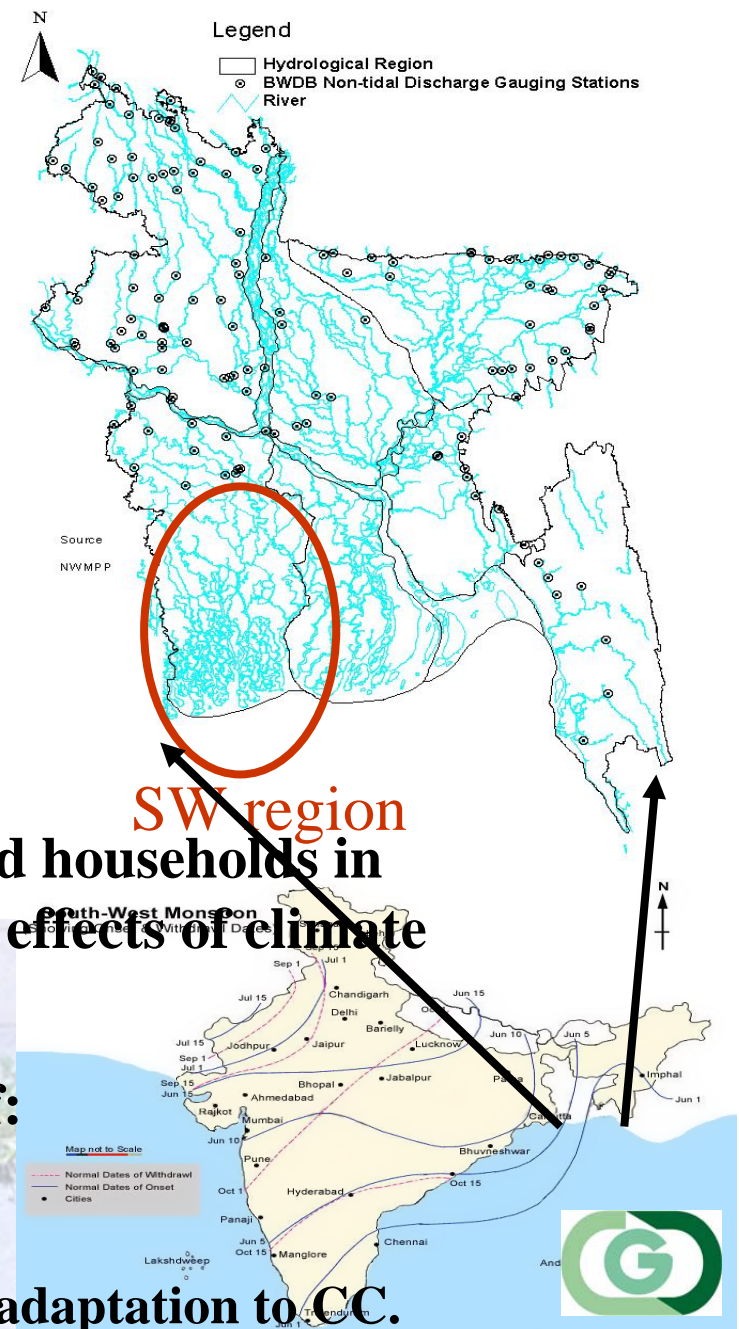
CIDA provided financial assistance via the Canada Climate Change Adaptation Fund

CARE-Bangladesh implemented the project in Southwestern Bangladesh via 16 local partner organizations.

Goal: To increase capacity of communities and households in southwest Bangladesh to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

Enhanced capacity demonstrated by means of:

- Increased awareness
- Increased ability to cope, and
- Policy issues adequately addressed to facilitate adaptation to CC.



## **Vulnerability through the eyes of the vulnerable**

**Initial attempt was made to define ‘vulnerability’ to climate variability and change, as perceived by the target beneficiaries**

**How do people perceive their vulnerability?**

**The VA was designed to answer the following key questions:**

- 1. What impacts of CC are poor households vulnerable to?**
- 2. Which aspects of well-being are affected and to what extent?**
- 3. What adaptive measures are most effective?**
- 4. What are the bottlenecks for implementation of effective adaptive measures?**

**When does a climate-induced phenomenon affect**

- their livelihood / food security / income security**
- their well-being beyond coping ability (health at risk / housing at risk / quality of asset .....)**



## **RVCC Approach**



**78 FGD in 55 communities**

**Separate FGD for women to capture gender sensitivity.**

**Significant gender differences were observed.**

**Females were more concerned with health, housing and water**

**Male gave higher emphasis on income and food security**



## CHALLENGES TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING CBA

Who are the vulnerable people?

What are the contexts of vulnerability faced by these people?

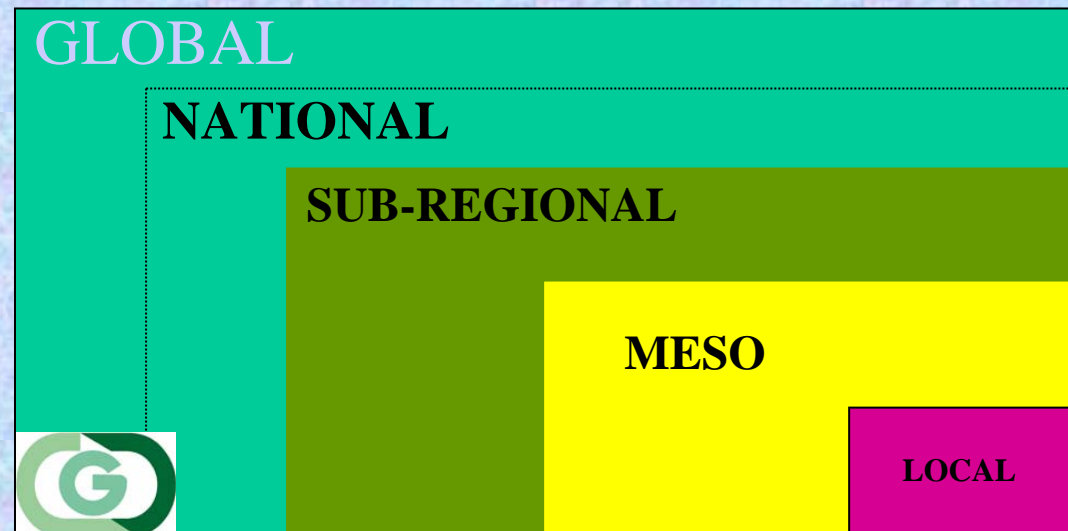
Where do they live?

Identification of the vulnerable and responding to their needs of adaptation.

Gender dimensions of vulnerability & integration.

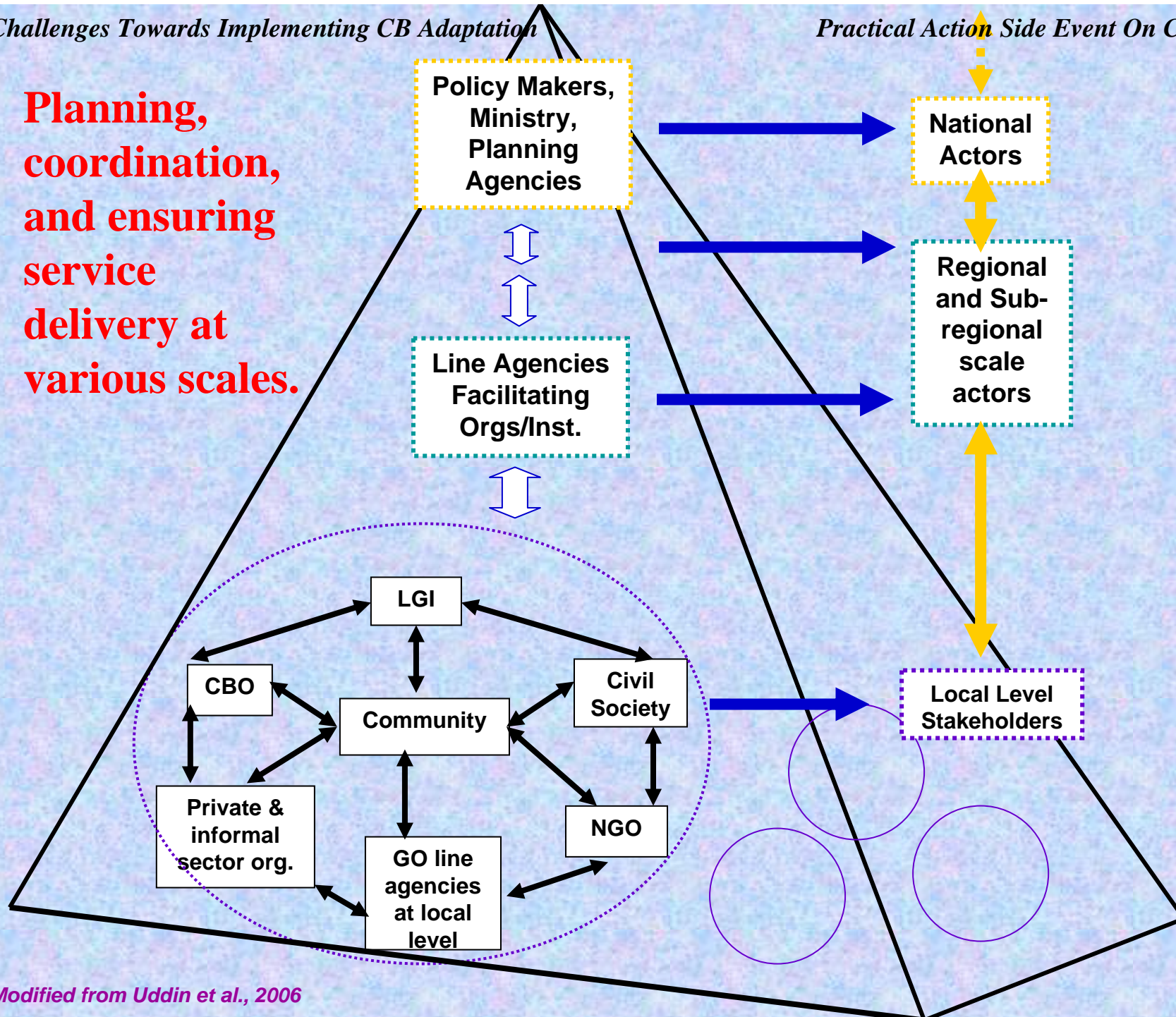
Deciding on scales in a bid to provide adaptation services.

Micro-, meso-, sub-regional-, and macro-level adaptation





**Planning,  
coordination,  
and ensuring  
service  
delivery at  
various scales.**



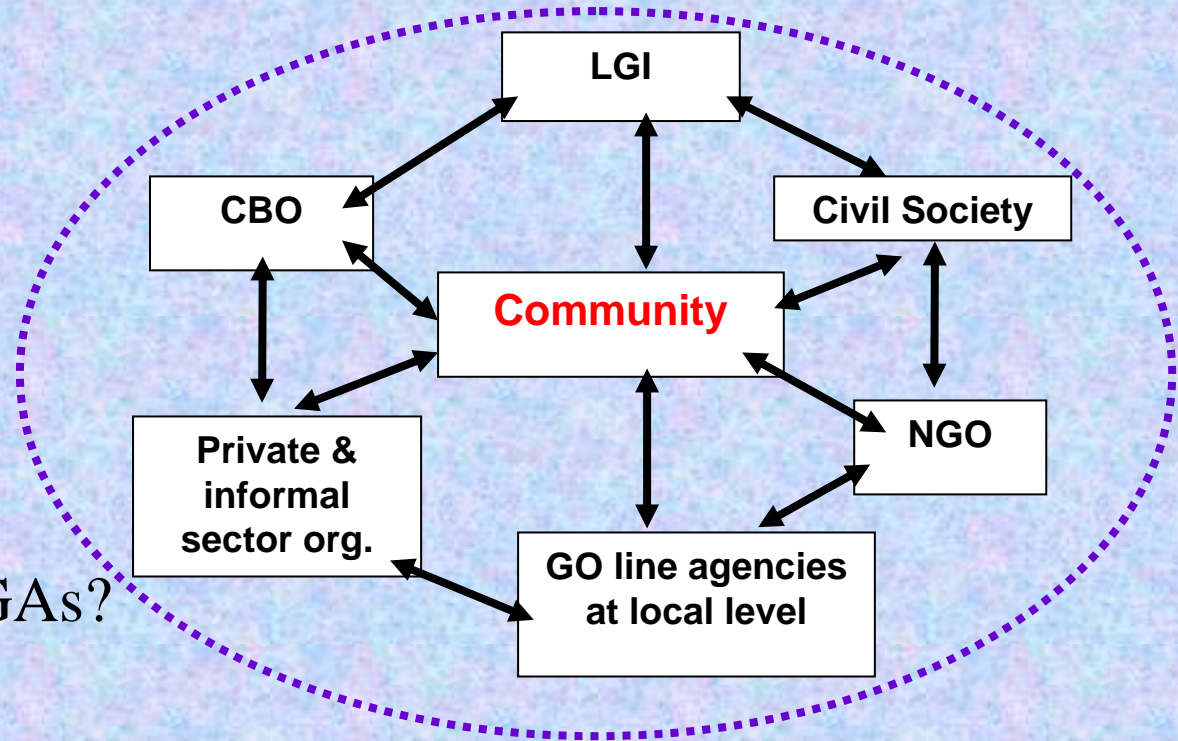
# CHALLENGES TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING CBA (contd.)

## Financing Adaptation



Service delivery. Whose business will it be?

Individuals? Households?  
Communities? WMAs? LGAs?  
Individual agency?



Deciding/identifying middle (interest) groups.



## **CHALLENGES TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING CBA** *(contd.)*

### **Responding to the needs for capacity building**

From awareness raising (KAB) to continued education.

Capacity building of whom?

Recipients of targeted adaptation services (i.e., community)

Service delivery personnel (including LGI leaders)

### **Building Institutions and Organizations to facilitating planned adaptation**

Rights based approach (ensuring equity)

Practicing good governance

Vertical integration & horizontal conflict resolution

Policy harmonization and adjustment (hierarchy, policy barriers, .



## **CHALLENGES TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING CBA** *(contd.)*

### **Other Institutional issues**

Inter-agency collaboration, coordination & integration

Safeguarding development schemes in water resources sector

Towards a climate resilient development



**Thank you very much**

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