

From Survival to Adaptation: Lived Experiences of Climate Migrants in Urban Slums of Dhaka City

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Abstract

Climate change is increasingly displacing rural populations, compelling them to migrate to urban slums where precarious living conditions challenge both survival and long-term adaptation. This qualitative study explored the lived experiences of climate migrants in Dhaka, Bangladesh, focusing on their vulnerabilities, coping strategies, and pathways toward resilience. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews with 40 migrants residing in slum settlements. The study revealed that migration disrupts livelihoods, social networks, and access to basic services, leaving migrants exposed to precarious housing, economic insecurity, and health risks. Respondents highlighted challenges such as irregular employment, inadequate sanitation, and limited awareness of institutional support programs, reflecting broader structural and policy gaps in urban governance. Despite these challenges, participants demonstrated adaptive capacities through informal labor diversification, social networks, and resource-sharing, gradually transitioning from mere survival to a state of resilience and adaptation. The study highlights institutional gaps, gendered vulnerabilities, and the importance of inclusive urban policies to support climate migrants' integration. By linking empirical narratives with recent study, the study contributes to sociological understandings of vulnerability and resilience in urban contexts and provides actionable insights for climate adaptation planning.

Keywords: Climate migration, urban slums, resilience, adaptation strategies, social networks.

Introduction

Climate change has emerged as one of the most pressing global challenges of the 21st century, profoundly influencing human mobility, urbanization, and social inequality. Low-lying, densely populated countries such as Bangladesh are particularly vulnerable to environmental hazards, including riverbank erosion, recurrent flooding, and cyclones, which increasingly displace rural populations (Amjad, 2024; Mahmud & Salauddin, 2025). These climate-induced migrations disrupt livelihoods, social networks, and access to essential services, forcing households to relocate to urban areas, particularly informal settlements or slums, where they face new vulnerabilities (Roy et al., 2025; Faruk & Juthi, 2025). Research indicates that migration in this context is a multidimensional phenomenon, shaped not only by environmental stressors but also by socioeconomic, political, and institutional factors, including poverty, lack of education, and limited access to social protection mechanisms (Amjad, 2025; Hasan et al., 2024). Urban slums, the primary destinations for climate migrants, are characterized by overcrowding, inadequate housing,

poor sanitation, and limited access to essential services. Slum dwellers are often employed in informal sectors, such as daily labor, street vending, or rickshaw pulling, which provide insecure and low-income livelihoods, leaving migrants highly vulnerable to environmental, economic, and social shocks (Sultana et al., 2025). Social exclusion, marginalization, and institutional neglect further exacerbate their precarious conditions, creating “zones of concentrated disadvantage” where structural inequalities magnify the impacts of displacement (BLAST, 2025).

Despite these challenges, migrants demonstrate significant adaptive capacities. Studies show that reliance on social networks, informal community support, and diversified livelihood strategies enables migrants to navigate urban hardships and gradually transition from survival to adaptation (Mahmud & Salauddin, 2025; Roy et al., 2025; Sultana et al., 2025). However, gendered vulnerabilities persist, with women and children disproportionately affected by domestic responsibilities, health risks, and limited access to education and services (BLAST, 2025). Furthermore, institutional frameworks often fail to protect urban climate migrants adequately, leaving slum communities without formal recognition, security of tenure, or access to social services, highlighting the need for inclusive urban planning and policy interventions (Faruk & Juthi, 2025). While prior research provides valuable insights into climate-induced migration and urban vulnerabilities, there is a notable gap in qualitative studies that examine the lived experiences, coping strategies, and adaptation processes of climate migrants in urban slums. Addressing this gap, the present study aims to explore the experiences of climate migrants in Dhaka’s slum settlements, identify their adaptive strategies and social networks, examine gendered and institutional dimensions of vulnerability, and provide evidence-based recommendations for inclusive urban policies and resilience-building initiatives.

Literature Review

Climate change has emerged as a major driver of internal migration, particularly in countries such as Bangladesh, where the majority of rural communities are highly vulnerable to environmental hazards such as riverbank erosion, cyclones, flooding, and salinity intrusion (Amjad, 2024; Faruk & Juthi, 2025; Yasmin, 2016). These environmental stressors destabilize agricultural livelihoods, destroy homesteads, and threaten food security, compelling households to migrate toward urban areas in search of work and safety. Evidence suggests that migration is often not a one-off event but a cumulative process, with successive environmental shocks leading to repeated relocations (ICCCAD, 2015; Mahmud & Salauddin, 2025). Such climate-induced migration is intertwined with pre-existing socioeconomic vulnerabilities, including poverty, landlessness, and limited access to resources, which constrain migrants’ options and push them into informal urban settlements (BRAC Institute of Governance and Development [BIGD], 2024; Hasan et al., 2024). In flood-prone regions such as Sylhet and coastal towns such as Mongla, studies show that recurring flooding and salinity significantly drive migration, while simultaneously affecting urban centers that absorb the displaced populations (Khan, 2022; Roy et al., 2025).

Once displaced individuals settle in urban areas, they often inhabit slums characterized by overcrowding, poor housing, limited access to clean water and sanitation, and weak healthcare infrastructure (Hasan et al., 2024). Vulnerability in these settlements is multidimensional, encompassing physical, social, and economic aspects, with social exclusion and limited access to formal services further amplifying risks (Davis, 2006; Mannan, 2021; Satterthwaite, 2016). Women and children experience additional challenges owing to gendered social norms, restricted mobility, and barriers to healthcare and education (ActionAid Bangladesh, 2025; BLAST, 2025). Urban slums therefore represent environments where multiple vulnerabilities intersect, creating compounded risks for residents exposed to environmental hazards. Migrants’ livelihoods are predominantly tied to the informal economy, including daily-wage labor, street vending, rickshaw pulling, and domestic work, which provide immediate survival but often lack stability, sufficient

income, or social protection (Khan, 2022; Rahman, 2019). These informal employment patterns, while enabling short-term survival, perpetuate economic vulnerability, limit access to formal benefits, and increase dependence on unstable income streams. Research also highlights that migrants often combine multiple income-generating activities to diversify risk and cope with shocks; however, the precarious nature of their work constrains long-term adaptation and livelihood sustainability (Khan, 2022; Standing, 2011).

Despite these challenges, climate migrants demonstrate adaptive capacities grounded in social networks and community ties. Studies indicate that social capital facilitates access to information, financial support, and mutual assistance, allowing migrants to cope with environmental stressors and economic insecurity (Portes, 1998; Sultana et al., 2025). Gender and age influence access to adaptive resources, with women balancing household responsibilities alongside income-generating activities, and older adults facing mobility constraints that limit access to services or adaptive infrastructure (Sultana et al., 2025). Community-driven approaches such as asset-based development, mutual aid, and informal collective savings have been shown to enhance resilience even in resource-poor urban settlements. Frameworks of vulnerability and resilience are commonly used to analyze the experiences of urban climate migrants. Vulnerability is conceptualized as exposure to risk, sensitivity to harm, and limited adaptive capacity, whereas resilience emphasizes the ability to recover, adapt, and transform in response to shocks (Adger, 2006; Blaikie et al., 1994; Folke, 2006). Applying these frameworks to urban slums highlights the dynamic interplay between structural constraints, such as poverty and weak governance, and human agency manifested through adaptive practices and social networks. Research demonstrates that migrants, despite structural disadvantages, actively engage in coping strategies that enhance both individual and community resilience, illustrating the importance of considering both social structures and agency in understanding climate adaptation (Kemarau & Nor, 2025; Sultana et al., 2025).

Institutional support for climate migrants in Bangladesh remains limited, with legal frameworks and urban planning policies often failing to recognize climate migrants as a distinct category. This results in insecure tenure, limited access to essential services, and exclusion from formal disaster risk reduction strategies (BLAST, 2025). Studies indicate that inclusive urban planning and policy interventions must integrate climate adaptation, social protection, and livelihood support to address the multidimensional vulnerabilities of climate migrants (UN-Habitat, 2020; World Bank, 2018). The lack of coordinated policy responses exacerbates vulnerabilities, particularly among women, children, and other marginalized groups, highlighting the need for governance mechanisms that facilitate community-led adaptation and resilience. Global literature reinforces the challenges observed in Bangladesh, showing that urban slums in the Global South face similar issues, including inadequate housing, limited infrastructure, and high exposure to environmental risks (Kemarau & Nor, 2025). Comparative studies underscore the importance of context-specific research that considers local social, cultural, and environmental conditions while drawing lessons from global patterns of urban vulnerability and adaptation.

While the existing literature provides insights into climate-induced migration, urban vulnerability, and adaptive strategies, there remain significant research gaps, particularly regarding the qualitative lived experiences of climate migrants. Most studies employ quantitative approaches focusing on hazard exposure, population displacement, or infrastructure deficits, often neglecting the social, cultural, and gendered dimensions of adaptation (Hasan et al., 2024; Sultana et al., 2025). In-depth qualitative research is essential to understand how migrants negotiate vulnerability, exercise agency, and utilize social networks for survival and adaptation in urban slums. Such studies would provide critical evidence to inform inclusive policies and interventions that address both

the immediate and long-term needs of climate migrants, enhancing the resilience of vulnerable urban communities in Bangladesh.

Methodology

Research Design and Nature of the Study

This study employed a qualitative research approach to explore the lived experiences, challenges, and adaptive strategies of climate migrants residing in urban slums. Qualitative research was deemed appropriate because it enables an in-depth understanding of participants' personal narratives, perceptions, and coping mechanisms in the context of climate-induced displacement. Unlike quantitative approaches, which focus on numerical measurement and generalization, qualitative research allows for rich, descriptive insights into the social, economic, and environmental realities shaping migrants' lives. This approach was aligned with the study's objective of understanding context-specific experiences of adaptation and resilience among urban climate migrants.

Research Area

The research was conducted in selected urban slums of Dhaka, Bangladesh. These areas were chosen owing to their high concentration of climate migrants, inadequate infrastructure, and exposure to multiple environmental hazards, including flooding, riverbank erosion, and heat stress. The selected slums provided an appropriate setting to examine the intersection of climate vulnerability, poverty, and urban marginalization, allowing for an understanding of the adaptive strategies adopted by residents in response to environmental and socioeconomic challenges.

Targeted Population

The study targeted adult residents of urban slums who had migrated from rural areas owing to climate-related factors. Participants were selected based on the following criteria:

- Must have migrated to the slum from a rural area due to environmental hazards (flooding, erosion, cyclones, or salinity intrusion).
- Must have been residing in the slum for at least six months to ensure adequate experience of urban life and adaptation processes.
- Must be actively involved in informal income-generating activities or livelihood strategies within the slum.

This population was chosen to capture firsthand accounts of climate-induced migration, the challenges faced in urban slums, and the strategies employed to adapt to new environmental and social conditions.

Sample Size and Sampling

A purposive sampling method was employed to select participants who met the criteria above. The study included 40 participants, providing a manageable sample size for detailed qualitative analysis while ensuring rich and meaningful data. Purposive sampling was appropriate because it allowed the selection of participants with direct experience of climate-induced migration and urban slum life, thereby generating insights relevant to the study objectives.

Data Sources

The study utilized a combination of primary and secondary data sources:

- Primary data were collected through in-depth, semi-structured interviews with participants to capture their narratives, perceptions, and lived experiences regarding migration and adaptation.
- Secondary data were obtained from academic journals, books, government and NGO reports, and credible online sources. These sources provided context on urban

vulnerability, climate migration patterns, disaster risk reduction policies, and adaptation frameworks, supporting the interpretation of primary data.

Data Collection Techniques

Data were collected using semi-structured, in-depth interviews, allowing participants to share detailed accounts of their experiences while enabling the researcher to probe specific issues. The interview guide focused on the following:

- Reasons for migration and experiences of climate-related displacement.
- Challenges faced in urban slum life, including housing, sanitation, health, and livelihoods.
- Adaptive strategies and coping mechanisms adopted to manage environmental and socioeconomic stressors.
- Perceptions of community support networks and institutional assistance.
- Suggestions for improving urban resilience and support for climate migrants.

Interviews were conducted in the local language (Bengali) to ensure clarity and authenticity of responses. Each interview lasted approximately 30–50 minutes and was recorded with participants' informed consent.

Data Type

The study collected qualitative and contextual data:

- **Qualitative data:** Participants' narratives, lived experiences, perceptions, and adaptive strategies regarding climate-induced migration and life in urban slums; and
- **Contextual data:** Secondary sources provided background on climate hazards, urban slum conditions, and relevant policies, enabling triangulation and a deeper understanding of participants' responses.

Data Analysis Techniques

Thematic analysis was employed to systematically analyze the qualitative data. This method allowed the identification of recurring patterns, meanings, and themes within participants' narratives, providing insight into the lived experiences, vulnerabilities, and adaptive strategies of climate migrants. Interviews were transcribed verbatim, coded, and later grouped into major themes.

Ethical Considerations

The following ethical protocols were strictly followed:

- Informed consent was obtained from all participants prior to interviews.
- Privacy and confidentiality were maintained throughout the study, with personal identifiers removed from transcripts.
- Integrity and honesty were upheld in data collection, transcription, and analysis.
- Participation was voluntary, and no pressure was applied on participants.
- No data were altered or manipulated.
- No photographs, videos, or recordings were taken without explicit consent.
- Interviews were not conducted if participants declined consent.

Findings

Climate-Induced Displacement as the Root Cause of Migration

The findings reveal that climate-induced environmental hazards were the primary drivers of migration among the respondents. Recurrent river erosion, flooding, and loss of agricultural land forced participants to leave their places of origin. Respondents reported that these hazards not only destroyed physical assets such as housing and farmland but also disrupted traditional

livelihood systems. One participant explained: *“Every year the river came closer, and finally everything was washed away. I had no land left to farm or house to live in, so we had to move.”*

Another respondent highlighted the livelihood disruption: *“I was a farmer before. Crops failed repeatedly because of floods. I could no longer feed my family or earn any income.”* Agriculture, which had previously ensured subsistence and income security, became increasingly unreliable owing to environmental instability. As a result, migration emerged, not as a choice, but as a survival strategy. Participants emphasized that their decision to migrate was gradual, shaped by repeated exposure to climate risks rather than a single catastrophic event.

Migration Journey and Initial Urban Settlement

Participants described the migration journey as physically and emotionally challenging. Limited financial resources, lack of urban networks, and uncertainty regarding employment made the transition difficult. One migrant shared: *“We came by launch and bus. It was very hard because we had very little money and no place to stay.”*

Many migrants initially migrated alone, aiming to secure income before bringing their families. One participant stated: *“At first, I came alone to find work. After some months, I brought my wife and children once I could manage a small income.”* Upon arrival in the city, respondents settled in slum areas owing to affordability and proximity to informal labor markets. One participant said: *“We lived in a small tin shed with no proper toilet and shared water. During the rain, water would enter the house, and children often fell sick.”*

However, initial living conditions were characterized by overcrowded housing, inadequate sanitation, and poor access to safe water. These early experiences marked a survival phase in which migrants struggled to meet basic needs while adapting to an unfamiliar urban environment.

Everyday Challenges and Urban Vulnerability

Life in urban slums exposed climate migrants to multiple and overlapping vulnerabilities. Economic insecurity emerged as a dominant challenge, as most respondents were engaged in informal and unstable employment. Daily wage labor, rickshaw pulling, and domestic work provided irregular income, making it difficult to cover rent, food, and healthcare expenses. One participant explained: *“Finding regular work is the biggest problem. Rent is high, food is expensive, and healthcare costs are difficult to manage.”* Poor housing infrastructure further increased exposure to health risks, particularly during the monsoon season when waterlogging and flooding were common. Respondents also reported experiences of social exclusion, noting that slum residents were often marginalized in urban governance and overlooked in service provision. One stated: *“City people look down on slum residents. We are ignored by authorities and treated like we don’t exist.”*

Coping Mechanisms and Social Support Networks

Despite structural vulnerabilities, respondents demonstrated significant agency through diverse coping strategies. Informal employment diversification, collective saving practices, and reliance on family and neighborhood networks were key mechanisms for managing economic and social stress. One participant said: *“We take any work we can find. My wife does housework for neighbors. Sometimes we borrow food or money from friends in the slum when things get bad.”* Women’s participation in income-generating activities, such as domestic work, played a critical role in household survival. Community-based support, including borrowing food or money during crises, helped mitigate immediate hardships. One participant said: *“NGOs helped during COVID and floods, but government support is almost nonexistent. You cannot rely on them.”* Limited support from non-governmental organizations was acknowledged, particularly during emergency periods, although respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the absence of sustained government assistance.

Transition from Survival to Adaptation

Over time, migrants gradually moved from immediate survival toward adaptation. Respondents reported improved familiarity with urban labor markets, better navigation of social networks, and increased confidence in managing urban life. Over time, respondents described moving from mere survival toward adaptation: *“I know how to manage day-to-day life better than when I first arrived. Things are not easy, but we are coping. Life is still hard, but we have learned how to find work and where to go for help. Children now go to school, and that gives me hope.”* Children’s access to informal or low-cost schooling was seen as a significant marker of adaptation and hope for intergenerational mobility. Although economic stability remained fragile, participants noted that their ability to cope with urban challenges had strengthened. Adaptation was thus understood as a process rather than a fixed outcome, shaped by continuous adjustment to uncertain conditions.

Perceptions of Vulnerability, Resilience, and the Future

Participants defined vulnerability as living without security—characterized by unstable income, insecure housing, and exclusion from formal support systems. One participant said: *“Vulnerability means you never know if you will have food tomorrow, or if the rent will be paid. But we have to survive, so we work together and keep trying.”* However, alongside vulnerability, narratives of resilience were evident. Respondents emphasized endurance, hard work, and collective solidarity as sources of strength. Most participants expressed limited intention to return to their places of origin owing to permanent environmental degradation. Instead, they aspired to achieve a dignified life in the city, emphasizing the need for secure housing, stable employment, healthcare, and education. One stated: *“Going back is not possible. There is no land left. We just hope for a better life here in the city.”* They expressed aspirations for secure housing, steady income, and access to education, reflecting the importance of social and structural support in long-term adaptation.

Institutional Gaps and Policy Exclusion

The findings indicate a significant gap between policy frameworks and migrants’ lived realities. One participant stated: *“I don’t know of any government program for people like us. NGOs sometimes help, but it’s not enough.”* Most respondents lacked awareness of government programs targeting climate migrants, suggesting weak communication and implementation. Participants perceived urban planning processes as exclusionary, with little consideration of slum dwellers’ needs. One said: *“Authorities never ask about our needs. Slum people are always ignored in city planning.”* This exclusion reinforced feelings of invisibility and neglect among climate migrants. Respondents stressed that meaningful policy interventions must recognize climate migrants as legitimate urban residents and integrate their needs into housing, labor, and social protection policies.

Discussion

The lived experiences of climate migrants in urban slums, as revealed in this study, underscore the complex interplay between structural vulnerability and adaptive resilience. Respondents’ narratives consistently pointed to environmental hazards—notably river erosion and recurrent floods—as the immediate triggers for migration. Such findings align with literature showing that climate-related events act as significant push factors in South Asian contexts, particularly in Bangladesh’s low-lying coastal and riverine districts. One participant’s reflection—*“Every year the river came closer, and finally everything was washed away...”*—captures this cumulative process of loss, illustrating how gradual environmental degradation erodes socioeconomic stability over time. The relevance of vulnerability theory in interpreting these experiences became evident when considering how structural inequalities amplified migrants’ exposure to risk. Vulnerability scholars argue that vulnerability is shaped not solely by ecological hazards but by social, economic, and political systems that predispose certain populations to harm (Adger, 2006; Blaikie et al., 1994). The experiences shared by migrants—such as loss of agricultural land, lack of formal education, and limited access to resources—echo this framework: environmental change alone did not force

migration, but its intersection with poverty and marginalization did. A respondent's comment, *"I was a farmer before. Crops failed repeatedly because of floods..."*, reflects how climate shocks are deeply entwined with livelihood insecurity, confirming that vulnerability is multidimensional.

Upon arrival in the urban slum, participants encountered everyday struggles that resonate with broader research on slum conditions. Urban poverty literature describes slums as settings of insecure housing, inadequate sanitation, and limited public services (Davis, 2006; UN-Habitat, 2020). One participant's account—*"We lived in a small tin shed with no proper toilet..."*—mirrors these structural deficits and reinforces how urban environments can perpetuate vulnerability rather than ameliorate it. Similarly, research on slum livelihoods highlights the precariousness of informal work and the absence of social safety nets, issues that migrants in this study also emphasized (Satterthwaite, 2016). Despite these hardships, the findings also highlighted migrants' adaptive capacities, which are central to resilience theory. Resilience scholars emphasize that individuals and communities can develop coping strategies that enable them to negotiate risk and reconstruct livelihoods after disruption (Folke, 2006). Respondents described diverse survival tactics, such as engaging in multiple forms of informal labor and relying on neighborhood support networks. As one interviewee explained, *"We take any work we can find. My wife does housework..."*, demonstrating agency in the face of structural constraints. This resonates with studies on migrant resilience in cities across the Global South, which show that social capital and informal economic activities frequently serve as critical mechanisms for survival and adaptation (Amin, 2014; Tacoli, 2019).

The transition from "survival" to "adaptation" that respondents described reflects a processual understanding of resilience, wherein individuals gradually accumulate experience, social connections, and coping strategies that improve their capacity to manage uncertainty. The narrative, *"Life is still hard, but we have learned how to find work..."*, illustrates this gradual adaptation, aligning with research that views resilience as dynamic and negotiated rather than static (Cutter et al., 2008). It also challenges deficit-based portrayals that cast climate migrants solely as victims, instead highlighting their active engagement with urban life and aspirations for stability. However, the study also revealed significant institutional gaps. Many migrants were unaware of government programs aimed at climate adaptation or urban welfare, and they perceived urban governance processes as exclusionary. A participant's view that, *"Authorities never ask about our needs..."*, points to a disconnect between policy frameworks and lived realities. This is consistent with critical research on policy exclusion, which argues that marginalized urban residents—including slum dwellers and climate migrants—often lack meaningful representation in planning and service provision (Mitlin & Satterthwaite, 2013; Roy, 2009). Such exclusion not only reinforces vulnerability but also limits the scope of resilience by restricting access to formal support systems.

The aspirational dimensions of migrants' accounts, particularly their emphasis on education and better livelihoods for their children, reflect a forward-looking orientation that is increasingly recognized in climate migration studies. Rather than seeking return to ecologically degraded homelands, many respondents expressed a desire to remain in the city, viewing urban life as a pathway to improved opportunities. This echoes research in Bangladesh showing that climate migrants often prefer urban settlement owing to perceived socioeconomic benefits, despite persistent challenges (Mallick & Vogt, 2014).

Conclusions and Implications

This study highlighted the multifaceted challenges faced by climate migrants residing in urban slums in Bangladesh, demonstrating that environmental hazards, socioeconomic vulnerability, and inadequate infrastructure intersect to create conditions of compounded risk. Climate-induced migration is not only a response to environmental stressors such as floods, cyclones, and riverbank erosion but also a reflection of structural inequalities, including poverty, insecure livelihoods, and

social marginalization. Migrants often settled in informal urban settlements where limited access to safe housing, healthcare, clean water, and sanitation exacerbated their vulnerability. Despite these challenges, the findings revealed that social networks, community solidarity, and informal coping mechanisms play a crucial role in fostering resilience, allowing migrants to navigate economic precarity and environmental stress. These lived experiences underscore the agency of climate migrants, demonstrating that adaptation is not solely a matter of individual effort but is shaped by social, economic, and institutional contexts.

To enhance the resilience of climate migrants and reduce vulnerability in urban slums, several recommendations emerge. First, urban planning and policy frameworks should explicitly recognize climate migrants as a distinct vulnerable group, ensuring secure tenure and equitable access to public services such as healthcare, education, and sanitation. Second, targeted livelihood programs, including skills training, microfinance, and access to formal employment opportunities, can reduce economic precarity and strengthen adaptive capacity. Third, community-based approaches that leverage social capital—such as collective savings groups, neighborhood disaster preparedness programs, and women-led initiatives—should be supported and integrated into broader urban resilience strategies. Fourth, gender-sensitive interventions are essential, addressing the unique vulnerabilities of women and children who bear disproportionate burdens in slum environments. Finally, collaboration between government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and local communities is critical to design context-specific policies and interventions that respond to both immediate needs and long-term adaptation goals. By combining structural support with community-driven resilience strategies, policymakers and practitioners can create more inclusive urban environments where climate migrants are better protected, empowered, and able to thrive despite environmental challenges.

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Appendix A: Data Collection: Semi-Structured Interview Questions

1. What environmental or climate-related events forced you to leave your place of origin? (*e.g., flood, river erosion, cyclone, salinity, drought*)
2. How many times were you displaced due to these events?
3. Can you describe how climate change affected your livelihood in your previous location?
4. What were the main reasons for choosing this city/slum as your destination?
5. How did you travel from your place of origin to the city?
6. What challenges did you face during the migration process?
7. Did you migrate alone or with family members? Why?
8. What expectations did you have about urban life before migrating?
9. What were your initial living conditions when you arrived in the slum?
10. What difficulties did you face in terms of:
 11. Housing
 12. Employment
 13. Food security
 14. Health services
 15. Water and sanitation
16. How do these challenges affect your daily life?
17. Do you feel socially excluded or discriminated against in the city? Why or why not?
18. How do you manage income and livelihood in the urban setting?
19. What coping strategies do you use during financial or environmental stress?
20. Do you rely on family, neighbors, or community networks for support?
21. Have you received help from NGOs, government programs, or local organizations?
22. Over time, how has your life changed since settling in the slum?
23. What skills or strategies have helped you adapt to urban life?
24. Do you feel more stable now compared to when you first arrived? Why?
25. How do you define “a better life” in the city?
26. What does vulnerability mean to you in your current living situation?
27. Do you feel secure about your future in the city?
28. Do you plan to stay here permanently or return to your place of origin? Why?
29. What kind of support would help improve your life and adaptation process?

30. Are you aware of any government or NGO programs for climate migrants?
31. Have you benefited from any such programs? If not, why?
32. What problems do you think policymakers overlook regarding climate migrants?
33. What changes would you suggest to improve living conditions for climate migrants?