

Module 6 Animation

When a community is affected by climate change impacts, people may choose to adapt locally or move out of harm's way.

However, not all households and individuals have the same abilities to cope with these impacts.

This is illustrated by an example of two families in Bangladesh.

Dalbanga South is a village located in the southern coastal area of Bangladesh.

It lies along the Bishkali River and experiences several climatic stressors like cyclones, flooding, saltwater intrusion, and riverbank erosion.

Due to slowly rising water levels and wave impacts from ships, riverbanks gradually erode and sometimes bigger chunks break off.

This is a serious problem because land is scarce and houses are swallowed by the river.

Abhi and his family of four earn a living by cultivating rice on the family's land and rearing cows.

They also have a boat and nets which they use for fishing.

They sell some of the catch to local traders and families nearby.

Compared to other families in the village, they are relatively well-off.

Not far from the Abhi family lives Salima and her three children.

She moved to the village after she got married, but she lost her husband during a cyclone.

Salima and her children make a living in Dalbanga South by working as day laborers on other people's rice farms.

They don't have much livestock, just a goat and a few chickens.

When there is no work on other people's farms, the sons sometimes look for work as construction labourers in the nearest city.

As the riverbank gets closer to their house, Abhi's family decides to sell four cows and use the money to buy a small plot of land and rebuild their house 500 meters from the river.

Although the move has been costly, they are now safe and no longer have to live in fear of losing their home and properties.

Unfortunately, it is a different situation with Salima family.

They know the river is closing in and they want to move, but they lack the resources to buy land and build a house elsewhere.

They are trapped.

The river is at their doorsteps, and one day, new cracks appear in the ground.

The river is about to swallow the house and they have no choice but to move away.

They have no relatives in the village where they can stay, so they move to a nearby town where they live on the street, trying to survive.

Though the two families live in the same village and face the same climate related hazard, their situations are quite different.

One family is able to escape for safety in time and the other becomes trapped in an extremely dangerous situation because they lack the means to buy land and rebuild their house on safer ground.

Finally, they are forced to leave their home and lose the little property they had.