

RANGPUR DIVISIONAL PLATFORM LAUNCH OF LOCALLY LED ADAPTATION

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RDRS, Rangpur



Background

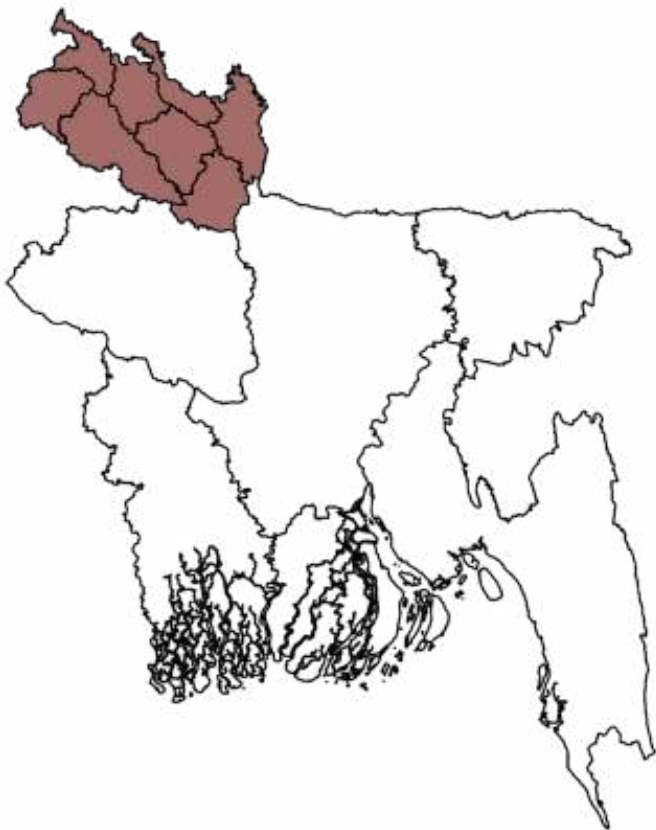
Bangladesh ranks as the 26th country in the [INFORM Risk Index 2025](#), holding the 35th position for Hazard and Exposure, and 30th for Vulnerability. The geographical location, diversity of landscapes, and most importantly the changing climatic scenarios are some major reasons behind such vulnerabilities. In the last three decades, recurring and intensifying climate-induced disasters— such as cyclones, erratic rainfall, floods, flash floods, heatwaves, and droughts exacerbated existing social and economic inequalities. The climate impacts are also hindering local communities’ cultural practices, biodiversity, and mobility of local communities. Nonetheless, Bangladesh is one of the few developing countries known globally for its valuable advancements in climate change adaptation. The country already has a raft of national policies, plans, and programmes related to climate change adaptation that aim to enhance local community resilience.

Climatic Impacts in Rangpur

Located in the North-Western part of Bangladesh, the [Rangpur Division was formed in 2010](#) comprising of eight districts: Rangpur, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, and Panchagarh.

Rangpur division is highly prone to different climatic and hydrological hazards mainly due to the geographical location. The National Adaptation Plan (2030-2050) identifies the Greater Rangpur Region in three categories: rivers, floodplains, and erosion prone areas (FPE), Drought prone and Barind Areas (DBA), and Northern, North-Western Region (NNW).

Rainfall variability, river floods, riverbank erosion, extreme heat and cold waves, and riverbank erosion are some of the prominent climatic hazards observed in the region. With that being said, the average [multi-hazard risk index](#) for the Rangpur division is 4.8, placing it in the medium multi-hazard risk level. In 2020, the region encountered [433 mm of rainfall in just 24](#) hours which was the highest in 60 years. The extensive rainfall and upstream water flow often result in floods affecting all demographics and sectors (agriculture, health, education, livelihoods, etc).



Locally Led Adaptation ÖLLAÜ

Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) is an emerging concept for implementing climate adaptation plans and projects where climate-vulnerable local communities from the frontlines- take the lead, with the support of existing local actors, organizations, businesses, and the government to make the adaptation efforts fruitful and sustainable. It also aims to deliver local climate finance with greater accessibility, accountability, and transparency, and give agency to local communities in managing the adaptation funds. LLA has eight holistic Principles that prioritize the ability of local actors to drive climate action when needed.

Principles of Locally Led Adaptation ÖLLAÜ



1 Devolving decision making to the lowest appropriate level



5 Building a robust understanding of climate risk and uncertainty



2 Addressing structural inequalities



6 Flexible programming and learning



3 Providing patient and predictable funding



7 Ensuring transparency and accountability



4 Investing in local capabilities to leave an institutional legacy



8 Collaborative action and investment



Prospects of Locally Led Adaptation in Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, national policies pave the way for scaling up locally led adaptation (LLA) to climate change. However, the government must ensure better coordination between responsible ministries and that local governments comprehensively understand LLA.

Local communities play a vital role in interventions. National and local governments must ensure that they are at the heart of decision-making to ensure local ownership, accountability, and effectiveness. The government can learn from and work with NGOs and INGOs whose interventions have been effective and widely accepted by local communities. These can be replicated and scaled up to achieve national and international targets and commitments. Current adaptation must ensure community resilience through facilitating local leadership, and a collaborative approach within the key ministries; developing better transparency and accountability frameworks that can be contextualized; and having provision of accessible and long-term funding.



Objectives of the Divisional Platforms on Locally Led Adaptation (DPLLA)

The [International Centre for Climate Change and Development \(ICCCAD\)](#) emphasizes disseminating knowledge and research on the concept of LLA to the climate enthusiasts in Bangladesh. In this regard, the divisional platforms on LLA (DPLLA) help to establish a diverse and broader network among different stakeholders, especially the locally led and grassroots organizations across the country. Five DPLLA have been launched to date; these being in Khulna, Chittagong, Sylhet, Mymensingh and now the Rangpur Division.

1

Communicating Local Messages of Good

Facilitating the transmission of local messages from the community level to the regional and national level, ensuring that the voices and experiences of local actors are heard and considered in broader discussions.

2

Highlighting successful LLA practices in Bangladesh, exemplifying its effectiveness in developing sustainable adaptation strategies.

3

Enhancing Capacity

Focusing on enhancing the technical and leadership capacities/capabilities of local communities, empowering them to take more of an active role in shaping and implementing adaptation initiatives.

4

Building a Platform

Providing a space for collaboration among various stakeholders to promote LLA advocacy, research, knowledge management, capacity building, and co-production of knowledge.

Launch of the Rangpur Divisional Platform on Locally Led Adaptation

The Launch of the Rangpur Divisional Platform on Locally Led Adaptation took place on the 10th of December 2024. The launch was attended by thirty representatives from various local NGOs, grassroots organizations, universities, and civil society organizations from Gaibandha, Kurigram, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Nilphamari, and Rangpur districts. Ms. Mourupa Mohima, Research Officer, ICCCAD moderated the event, while the opening remarks were delivered by Ms. Maria Aktar, Assistant Program Manager, ICCCAD. Ms. Aktar welcomed the participants and expressed her gratitude. Shortly after, the participants introduced themselves and Ms. Aktar discussed ICCCAD's overarching activities in the climate change landscape in Bangladesh and beyond.



After the opening remarks Mr. Savio Rousseau Rozario, Programme Coordinator, Locally Led Adaptation (LLA), ICCCAD introduced the concept of LLA. He also remembered the pioneering leadership and contribution of the late Dr. Saleemul Huq, OBE (1952-2023) in establishing the concept of locally led adaptation, both nationally and globally.

Mr. Rozario talked about ICCCAD's vision in launching the LLA platforms across the eight divisions of Bangladesh and discussed the eight principles of LLA citing examples of various adaptation projects.



Mr. Rawnak Jahan Ranon, Research Officer, ICCCAD then took the floor to explain What LLA means for Bangladesh.

By the end of the session, the floor was open for the participants to share their thoughts and views on LLA and associated issues.



Climatic and Environmental Challenges Shared by the Participants

- During severe heat waves in summer, droughts can strike several districts damaging the crops and drying up essential waterbodies leading to WASH-related challenges. Additionally, the extensive usage of groundwater for irrigation purposes causes severe aquifer depletion.
- The erratic rainfall and floods in the monsoon season affect agricultural productivity and the livelihoods of farmers. This leads to loss of income and mental distress.
- Riverbank erosion not only affects the communities but also leads to environmental degradation by altering the flow of the rivers and threatening several species of flora and fauna.
- Climatic hazards are gradually leading to climate migration in the region.



Discussion on Local Leadership and Group Activity

In this segment of the DPLLA, Rangpur launch, the participants were asked to share their opinions on 'Leadership' and the importance of 'Good Leadership in managing a project.' Later, they were divided into six groups to generate adaptation solutions in resolving six different challenges (in agriculture, health, education, livelihood, disaster risk reduction, and ecosystem) under a flood scenario. Additionally, the participants were also asked to align their solutions with the eight principles of LLA.

The participants viewed leadership as the quality of inspiring others to achieve common goals inclusively. It may involve guiding individuals through challenges, fostering creativity, and increasing efficiency. They also opined that leadership is not just about sending orders; it's about mentoring, being approachable, and supporting others. Ultimately, leadership is a quality that inspires and drives collective success. A good leader fosters progress, manages risks, and adapts to changes while guiding communities to success.

The participants also linked the necessity of good leadership in project management as it provides vision, engages communities, and addresses key challenges. It motivates others, allocates resources effectively, and ensures strategically sound decisions.



The six assigned groups shared interesting ideas on integrating the eight principles of locally led adaptation in their organizational programming activities related to environment and climate change. The participants emphasized the importance of conducting vulnerability assessment through an LLA lens; working towards climate-smart agriculture for most vulnerable; establishing context-specific and locally led early warning systems, etc.

The participants also stressed the need for raising awareness amongst the local government and local people on climate action and locally led case studies; working collaboratively on developing climate resilient infrastructure; building institutional legacy through context specific capacity-building schemes; and availing climate finance for education and strengthened local climate action.



Affiliation of the Participants

Participants from various grassroots, local, national, and international NGOs, as well as academicians and youth volunteers, took part in the DPLLA, Rangpur launch event. All the representative organizations have commonalities in the sectors that they are working on such as education, DRR, WASH, climate change, community development, etc.

Table 1 illustrates the different sectors that the participants of the DPLLA, Rangpur, are contributing to.



Table 1: Organization's Sectoral Engage

Organization	In which sector organization	Key climatic environmental identified and
Samayik Kallyan Sangstha (SKS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of inorganic and carcinogenic matter in agricultural land
Gram Unnayan Karma (GUK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Micro-finance • Education • Health • Agriculture • Climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extreme cold wave, drought and floods • Unemployment and less job diversification
Association for Alternative Development (AFAD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender Quality • Climate change adaptation • Disaster risk reduction (DRR) • Gender-based violence • Economic protection • Inclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood/flash flood • River erosion • Thunderstorm • Cold wave • Heat wave
Bangladesh Social Development Academy (BSDA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfinance • Research & development • Knowledge broker • WASH • Disaster risk reduction (DRR) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air pollution • Ground water contamination and depletion • Coal mining • Poor water, sanitation and Hygiene • Lead exposure in water
The Asia Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community challenges • Humanitarian climate change • Gender (women empowerment) • Good governance (local accountability) • Social cohesion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drought • Flood inundation

Organiz	In which sec organization	Key climat environment identified an
Padakhep Manobik Unnayan Kendra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfinance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent floods
Rural Society Development Association (RSDA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change and DRR • Gender-based violence • Education • Land reform • Poverty reduction and food security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cold wave • Heat wave • River erosion • Flash flood • Landslide • Drought
Dustho Unnoyon Songstha (DUS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health • Conservation • Education • Environmental and climate changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community conflict, • Extensive use of plastic polythene polluting ecosystems and people • Lack of initiatives for afforestation and greenery • Air pollution
Debichoudhurani Palli Unnayan Kendra (DCPUK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender • Climate livelihoods • Agriculture • Disaster risk reduction • Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cold wave • Heatwave • Drought • Flood • Severe rainfall
BURO Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfinance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drought-prone area • Excessive heat • Extreme cold • Sudden flood
Social and cultural Development foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family peace and conflict • Women empowerment • Microfinance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic jam • Cleanliness • Gender inequality

Organiz	In which sec organization	Key climat environment identified an
SKS Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family planning and development • Community based capacity building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood, • Household inundation
National Development Programme - NDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social economic livelihoods • Agriculture • Energy and environment • Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation (DRRCCA) • Rights and governance institutional development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication and transportation
Ashrai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture • Education • Health • Training environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of agricultural productivity • Ground water layer depletion • Heatwaves and cold waves • Excess use of chemical fertilizers
BURO Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfinance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drought-prone area • Excessive heat • Extreme cold • Sudden flood
DYDF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youths • Women empowerment • Climate change • Income-generating activities • Providing training Human rights, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood, • Earthquake, • Drought • River erosion, etc.

Organiz	In which sec organization	Key climati environmental identified an
SEECTO Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable urban agriculture • Sustainable eco-tourism • Equitable climate action • Renewable energy promotion • Community empowerment • Plastic pollution of river waters • Fostering collaboration at local and national levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood risk, • River erosion, and • Prone to hazards of climate change.
Gram Bikash Kendro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profitable eco-friendly agriculture • Economic growth • Climate change • Human resource development • WASH and nutrition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood • Riverbank erosion • Drought • Water Scarcity
Self Help and Advanced Development Organization (SHADO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change • Environmental development • Child and women • Youth and gender development • Non-communicable diseases prevention • Awareness-raising activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of awareness and responsibility • Effective role • Capability development

Organiz	In which sec organization	Key climati environmental identified an
Department of Geography and Environmental Science, Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical geography • Cultural geography • Environment geo-information science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extreme weather (heat waves, cold waves, floods), • Environmental problems such as pollution
Social Equality for Effective Development (SEED) Rangpur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Climate change and adaptation awareness and training (IGAs and awareness) • Rights and governance issues microfinance programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness and adaptation • Migration • Unemployment
Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change adaptation • Gender-based violence • Inclusive education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cold wave • Heat wave • Flood • River erosion • Storm • Flash flood Drought
Pollisree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating scope for women empowerment • Ensuring women participation in the social activity • Environmental development • Empowerment of CSO • Climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conceptual problem, • Not knowing about the adaptation strategies

Organiz	In which sec organization	Key climati environmental identified an
Dept. of Sociology, Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Gender equality • Social inclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate vulnerability • Reducing agricultural productivity • Gender inequality due to poverty • Air and water pollution • Health hazards
Self-help and Rehabilitation Program (SHARP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microcredit • Education • Disabilities • Climate change • Capacity building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riverbank erosion • Flood poverty • Limited educational program
Lal Sabuj Society, Rangpur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change • Environment • Conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change • Deforestation • Pollution • Water scarcity
Noboprovat Foundation, Rangpur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving rights and voices of youth, women, transgenders, etc. • Conservation and environmental protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited frameworks and guidelines to protect nature and biodiversity • Limited awareness among the community members on environmental safety

Organiz	In which sec organization	Key climati environmental identified an
Grassroot Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of innovative stoves with unique design and technology to reduce carbon emission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drought, • Riverbank erosion
Eco-Social Devlopment organization (ESDO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microcredit • Food security • DRR • Agriculture • Livestock, fisheries and water resources management • Human rights • Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood • Riverbank erosion • Water pollution
The Hunger Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic development • Peace and security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flash flood • Drought
Dinajpur Region, Caritas Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic development • Vocational training for youth • Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of knowledge and skill related to climate change • Deforestation • Environmental pollution • Lack of policy implementation

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[1st Meeting of the National Platform on Locally Led Adaptation: September 2022](#)



[Khulna Divisional Platform on Locally Led Adaptation: February, 2023](#)



[2nd meeting of the National Platform on Locally Led Adaptation: August 2023](#)



[Chattogram Divisional Platform on Locally Led Adaptation: September 2023](#)



[Sylhet Divisional Platform on Locally Led Adaptation: September 2023](#)



[Mymensingh Divisional Platform on Locally Led Adaptation: September 2023](#)

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