



# Concept Note on Adaptation Component

For Project On-  
Adaptation and Loss & Damage Support

## Context and Purpose

The Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), established under Article 7.1 of the Paris Agreement, aims to enhance the resilience and adaptive capacity of communities and ecosystems to climate change impacts. However, it has struggled to produce tangible outcomes due to vague targets and undefined indicators, leaving vulnerable communities without the necessary support for effective adaptation. For the GGA to be truly impactful, it must translate into actionable strategies grounded in national and local priorities.

At COP28, the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience was adopted, and the UAE–Belém Work Programme was launched to address these challenges. This program focuses on developing up to 100 globally applicable indicators – as decided at COP 30 – to track adaptation progress across critical areas such as water security, food systems, health, ecosystems, infrastructure, and poverty eradication. The program is tasked with developing forward-looking, fit-for-purpose indicators that are assigned to each target in the UAE framework. At COP29, additional guidance was provided to refine these indicators and include those focused on the “Means of Implementation” (MOI) — finance, technology transfer, and capacity building — which are essential for successful adaptation efforts. The final set of indicators is expected to be ready by COP30 to enable consistent tracking of global adaptation efforts.

As the UAE–Belém Work Programme and the GGA process moves forward, the importance of context-specific and inclusive adaptation strategies is highlighted for building resilience across regions particularly from the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) are crucial in aligning climate adaptation efforts with each country’s development goals, mobilizing resources, and engaging local stakeholders. In vulnerable countries like Bangladesh, Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) initiatives empower communities to address local risks through bottom-up approaches, ensuring that adaptation strategies are directly relevant to their needs and priorities. These initiatives are vital for refining and developing complementary indicators that can help operationalize the GGA, providing a more nuanced understanding of adaptation progress by incorporating local knowledge and experiences.



To explore the intersection of GGA, LLA, and the NAP, the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), supported by the Climate Emergency Collaboration Group (CECG), is developing adaptation indicators grounded in successful LLA projects that align with NAP strategies. Starting in Bangladesh, ICCAD aims to support Least Developed Countries (LDCs) through its partnerships with the Least Developed Countries (LDC) organizations, creating locally tailored indicators to guide national adaptation strategies.

These locally derived indicators will be aligned with the GGA's goals, facilitating their integration into national adaptation strategies. While Bangladesh serves as a starting point, ICCAD will also lend support to organizations from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to develop and disseminate country-specific indicators, through using the methodologies and enablers created by ICCAD initially. This collaborative effort will ensure that the indicators are relevant, measurable, and impactful, contributing to the overall effectiveness of global and national adaptation strategies.

## Methodology

### *Enablers and Indicators of Adaptation*

One of the main objectives of the project is to introduce measurable indicators to operationalize the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA). These indicators must align with the GGA's core aims: enhancing adaptive capacity, building resilience, and reducing vulnerability to climate change, while contributing to sustainable development. To systematically quantify these aims, key aspects such as resilience, adaptive capacity, climate change impact minimization, and sustainable development need to be clearly defined and measurable.

ICCCAD developed enablers as a foundational framework to guide the development and finalization of these adaptation indicators. Enablers establish the conditions under which adaptation efforts can be evaluated, ensuring that the indicators are both relevant and realistic. Before defining any indicators, ICCAD identified key enablers—such as policies, institutional frameworks, and available resources—that create the foundation for successful adaptation strategies. Field research played a crucial role in drawing from local realities and challenges, ensuring that these enablers reflected the unique circumstances on the ground.

Enablers provide the necessary dimensions for shaping the indicators, ensuring they are measurable, actionable, and context-sensitive. This approach ensures that the indicators are not developed in isolation but are closely linked to the conditions that influence the success of adaptation efforts. As a result, meaningful indicators are created that can accurately track progress and support effective climate adaptation planning.

The impacts of climate change are broad and affect ecosystems, human systems, and infrastructure. Identifying indicators that address these impacts, in line with the Sustainable



Development Goals (SDGs), ensures that local communities can project future risks and design localized adaptation responses. Key areas include policy support, financial resource allocation, stakeholder engagement, and investments in infrastructure.

Enablers, such as policy support, institutional frameworks, financial resources, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement, facilitate the successful implementation of adaptation strategies. They help establish an environment where adaptation measures can be planned, executed, and sustained effectively.

Indicators, on the other hand, are measurable elements used to track progress, assess the effectiveness of adaptation actions, and evaluate how well resilience, adaptive capacity, and climate change impacts are being addressed. Indicators provide concrete data on various aspects of adaptation, such as the number of local adaptation plans developed, the percentage of marginalized groups involved in decision-making, or the level of financial resources allocated to adaptation initiatives. These indicators enable stakeholders to monitor and evaluate the outcomes of adaptation projects, informing future strategies to enhance resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change.

### *Testing Enablers Through Local Adaptation Interventions*

To test the enablers developed for adaptation indicator creation, ICCCAD selected three distinct regions in Bangladesh, each representing different local contexts—North-eastern wetland region of Sylhet, Northern dry region of Nilphamari, and South coastal region of Shyamnagar. These regions were chosen for their alignment with the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and their implementation of locally led adaptation (LLA) interventions. By capturing the diverse geographical and socio-economic conditions of these areas, ICCCAD aimed to understand how the enablers can be applied across varied contexts and create relevant, context-specific indicators.

In each region, beneficiaries of local adaptation interventions were interviewed to gather insights into the outcomes of these initiatives. This was achieved through Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), utilizing semi-structured questionnaires to gather in-depth quantitative and qualitative data. Over 370 data points were collected from these interactions, providing a comprehensive view of the local experiences, challenges, and successes of adaptation efforts.

Analysis of collected would be help test the enablers against real-world conditions, examining how well the enablers performed across different contexts and critically assess the alignment of these enablers with LLA principles and the broader themes of the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA. This process allows for a nuanced understanding of how enablers support adaptation



initiatives at the local level and whether they effectively capture the diverse needs of different regions.

The insights drawn from these findings would serve as a foundation for finalizing the adaptation indicators, ensuring that they are both context-specific and grounded in local realities. To ensure their robustness, these indicators will be further verified and validated through consultations with key stakeholders, ensuring their effectiveness and applicability for future adaptation planning and interventions.

### **Supporting LDCs to Develop Adaptation Indicators & Knowledge Sharing**

ICCCAD will assist a Least Developed Country (LDC) organization in designing locally tailored indicators that are contextually relevant and aligned with national adaptation plans (NAPs). This support will involve key activities to ensure the indicators reflect local needs and contribute to broader adaptation goals.

ICCCAD will provide technical assistance and training LDC partners, guiding them to build on the research methodologies and enablers used by ICCCAD to be tailored to local contexts, ensuring that the indicators align with the LDC's NAP and the global GGA goals. Field-testing and feedback from local stakeholders will refine the indicators to ensure they reflect real-world needs and priorities.

After finalizing the indicators, ICCCAD will assist in disseminating the findings through accessible resource and workshop, and other global platforms, ensuring local insights contribute to global policy discussions. This collaborative approach will foster sustainable, locally grounded adaptation measures while ensuring alignment with international adaptation goals.

By providing these comprehensive support mechanisms, ICCCAD will help LDC organizations tailor adaptation indicators to their specific local contexts while ensuring alignment with broader international adaptation goals. This will enable more effective adaptation actions that are both globally relevant and locally appropriate.

### **Knowledge Sharing and Stakeholder Engagement**

The project also emphasizes the importance of knowledge-sharing mechanisms and stakeholder engagement. Bottom-up mechanisms that enable the effective implementation of global and national adaptation strategies will be established, providing new insights into challenges, best practices, and innovative adaptation approaches. The processes, methodologies, and outcomes of the identified LLA initiatives will be documented through knowledge products. These resources will be based on a repository of case studies and best practices and will be accessible to a wide range of stakeholders, including policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and communities.



Active engagement of stakeholders in research and knowledge-sharing activities will be documented by tracking the names and details of participants. These knowledge and evidence products will help shape the outcomes of the GGA workshops and negotiations and support the agreement of the GGA, as per feedback from LDC delegations supported through the grant.

## Expected outcomes

- Strengthened operationalization of the GGA through the use of LLA approaches and the development of complementary indicators reflecting the realities and priorities of vulnerable communities.
- Documentation of processes, methodologies, and outcomes of identified LLA initiatives to provide insights into challenges, best practices, innovative adaptation approaches, and their impacts on vulnerable communities and ecosystems.
- Collaboration and ownership at the grassroots level fostered through the engagement of local stakeholders, including communities, civil society organizations, and government representatives, in research and knowledge-sharing activities, incorporating their perspectives on locally led adaptation.
- Generation of knowledge and evidence through the development of knowledge products, including case studies, best practices, and innovative approaches, made accessible to a wide range of stakeholders, including policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and communities.
- Advocacy for the integration of LLA into global climate change negotiations, achieved through engagement with national delegates representing Bangladesh in international forums, presenting evidence from pilot projects, and influencing policy and decision-making processes.
- Promotion of locally led adaptation for LDCs through the expansion of the pilot work to other LDCs, bridging the gap between local-level evidence and global negotiations.