

COP 29
Side Event on
Advancing the GGA through Leveraging NAPs and LLA in
LDCs: A Bangladesh Case Study



Background

The Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), outlined under Article 7.1 of the Paris Agreement, aims to enhance global climate resilience and adaptive capacity. Despite its importance, the GGA has faced challenges due to its vague targets and indicators, leaving vulnerable communities with insufficient adaptation support. To address this, the UAE–Belém Work Programme, launched at COP28, focuses on creating practical indicators and methodologies to track adaptation progress across critical sectors such as water, health, ecosystems, and infrastructure.

National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) have emerged as essential tools to operationalize the GGA, particularly in Least Developed Countries (LDCs). By aligning national development priorities with community-led initiatives, NAPs and LLA ensure that adaptation is context-specific, measurable, and impactful. In this regard, Bangladesh has taken significant strides, offering valuable lessons for other LDCs through its efforts to integrate locally driven adaptation outcomes into national strategies.



To advance these efforts, the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), with support from the Climate Emergency Collaboration Group (CECG), is working to effectively identify LLA initiatives and develop relevant adaptation indicators aligned with the GGA's goals. As part of this project, ICCCAD organized a side event at COP29 at Baku, Azerbaijan, titled “*Advancing the GGA through Leveraging NAPs and LLA in LDCs: A Bangladesh Case Study.*” The session which was held on the 18th of November, at the Saleemul Huq Action Research Exchange (SHARE) Hub brought together key experts to explore how NAPs and LLA can bridge the gap between local adaptation needs and global adaptation targets.

The session began with a presentation giving an overview of ICCCAD’s ongoing project to develop adaptation indicators grounded in LLA experiences. A short screening of Bangladesh’s case study showcased the country’s approaches to linking community-led initiatives with national adaptation planning, highlighting both challenges and successes.

Key Takeaways from the Panel Discussion

The discussion featured experts, including Kunzang (ICIMOD), Emilie Beuchamp (IISD), Henry Neufeldt (UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre), and Ziaul Haque (Government of Bangladesh). Panelists emphasized the need for actionable, context-specific strategies to drive adaptation progress:

- **Kunzang**, Global Coordinator, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) underscored the critical need to align national

adaptation plans with locally driven priorities, ensuring they mutually reinforce one another. She highlighted that NAPs offer a timely opportunity for countries to incorporate localized indicators into the broader GGA framework. Kunzang stressed the importance of collaboration between regional and national stakeholders to develop measurable, practical indicators that reflect on-the-ground realities. She emphasized that the ongoing nature of NAP formulation allows space to integrate lessons from LLA and build systems that are both adaptable and scalable across regions.



- **Md. Ziaul Haque**, *Director, Department of Environment - Government of Bangladesh*, emphasized Bangladesh's approach of addressing vulnerabilities through thematic and time-bound actions. Bangladesh has developed 113 actions across eight thematic and 11 stress areas, focusing on priorities like water security, food systems, and health. Recognizing the need for communities to coexist with climate adversities, he stressed the importance of time-bound,

adaptable indicators and sustained financing, such as revolving funds, to support locally led initiatives. He highlighted the need for sustainable financing, such as revolving funds, to ensure community-led efforts are embedded and scalable.

- **Emilie Beuchamp**, *Lead, Monitoring & Evaluation (MEL), International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)*, underscored the role of monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) systems in linking local adaptation outcomes with national and global priorities. She stressed that MEL is not just about collecting data but creating a platform for learning and engagement. By embedding MEL systems into adaptation processes, countries can contextualize indicators, address gender and social inclusion, and ensure vulnerable voices are heard. She emphasized that MEL systems must be flexible, starting with small pilots that can be scaled up regionally or by sector, and be aligned with reporting mechanisms like the Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to streamline efforts. Ultimately, MEL provides a dynamic platform for tracking progress, identifying gaps, and creating actionable pathways for future adaptation efforts.



Henry Neufeldt, Head of Section, Impact Assessment and Adaptation Analysis, UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre, addressed the challenges of operationalizing the GGA at scale. He noted that adaptation requires robust integration between local and national decision-making processes, with real-time indicators to assess progress effectively. Henry emphasized the importance of distinguishing between meaningful “signals” and background “noise” in climate data to prioritize adaptation actions. He highlighted the funding gap for adaptation, stressing that

blended finance mechanisms are needed to de-risk private sector investments and create sustainable funding streams. He called for process-oriented indicators and improved climate information systems to guide decision-making and measure progress effectively. Henry also emphasized the need to align adaptation goals with frameworks such as NDCs and BTRs, ensuring transparency and accountability in reporting adaptation outcomes.

Key Challenges and Opportunities

The discussion highlighted several challenges:

- Aligning local and global indicators to ensure measurable progress.
- Sustainable resource mobilization for LLA initiatives.
- Embedding inclusive and gender-responsive frameworks into adaptation strategies.

At the same time, opportunities emerged to:

- Use NAPs as a bridge for integrating LLA approaches into the GGA framework.
- Leverage the UAE–Belém Work Programme indicators to tailor adaptation progress tracking.
- Scale up locally led initiatives through transparent adaptation financing and knowledge-sharing platforms.

Conclusion and Way Forward

The event underscored that achieving the GGA requires a bottom-up approach, where community-driven efforts inform national and global adaptation strategies. Bangladesh's case study demonstrated how NAPs, supported by LLA initiatives, can advance climate resilience through inclusive, practical, and scalable solutions. Panelists called for continued collaboration, sustainable financing, and knowledge exchange to ensure LDCs can meaningfully contribute to the GGA while addressing their unique adaptation challenges.

As ICCCAD continues its work in developing context-specific indicators, the insights from this session will help shape up the organization's work in developing

context-specific indicators that can contribute to future discussions and actions to advance the UAE–Belém Work Programme and the GGA framework.

