



THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK AND ACTION PLAN FOR
LOCALLY LED ADAPTATION
IN BANGLADESH





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**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

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Approved by the Cabinet, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on 15 May 2025

LLA Framework Formulation Committee:

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|---|--|---------------------|
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Message



Syeda Rizwana Hasan

Advisor

Ministry of Environment, Forest and
Climate Change

Government of the People's Republic of
Bangladesh

I am delighted that the "Locally Led Adaptation Framework for Bangladesh" is going to be published. The framework was approved by the Cabinet in May 2025.

The Government of Bangladesh has identified climate change as one of the major challenges towards achieving sustainable development goals. In response, adaptation to climate change has been integrated into a range of policies, strategies, and programs, that set out the country's development agenda.

The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2023-2050 "envision building a climate-resilient nation through effective adaptation strategies fostering a robust society and ecosystems and stimulating sustainable economic growth."

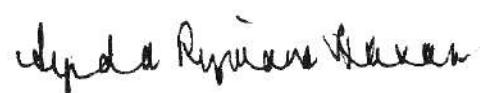
Bangladesh's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) acknowledges and promotes locally led adaptation (LLA). Specifically, the NDC recognizes the importance of engaging local communities, leveraging their knowledge and, expertise towards developing and implementing adaptation strategies. The NDC aims to increase funding for LLA initiatives and ensure that climate finance is accessible to local actors.

The 8th Five-Year Plan of Bangladesh recognizes the importance of empowering local communities and organizations to take ownership of adaptation initiatives and strategies, particularly in climate-vulnerable regions. It focuses on promoting local adaptation planning, capacity-building, and innovative adaptation actions.

Under this policy context, we recognized the need for a national framework for locally led adaptation to support the implementation of the policies. With technical assistance support from the Asian Development Bank, the national framework for local level adaptation (LLA) has been developed, through a rigorous consultation process at national and local levels.

Now it is time to implement the framework. I wish that all the stakeholders would actively contribute in implementing the framework and to translate climate change adaptation support the country's climate change adaptation ambitions a reality.

I wish every success for the implementation of the framework and envision a climate- resilient country through locally led adaptation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Syeda Rizwana Hasan".

Message



Dr. Farhina Ahmed

Secretary

Ministry of Environment, Forest and
Climate Change

Government of the People's Republic
of Bangladesh

It is a matter of immense pleasure that we have developed a national framework for locally led adaptation, which marks a significant milestone in the country's climate policy landscape.

Recognizing climate change as a critical challenge to the sustainable development of our country, Bangladesh has put in place several laws and policies. The Locally led adaptation framework is the newest addition to this policy landscape.

Adaptation has been systematically integrated into national development planning through key policy instruments, including the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2023-2050, the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), and the 8th Five-Year Plan.

Our policy framework emphasizes the centrality of locally led adaptation (LLA) as a strategic approach to building resilience. The NAP articulates a vision of a climate-resilient nation, outlining a programmatic implementation model that enables stakeholders to tailor adaptation actions to local needs, drawing from a menu of 113 identified interventions. Similarly, the updated NDC underscores the role of local communities, calling for increased financing and institutional support to scale LLA initiatives.

The 8th Five-Year Plan further strengthens this direction by prioritizing local empowerment, capacity development, and innovation in adaptation planning, particularly in climate-vulnerable areas.

Against this policy backdrop, the development of a dedicated national framework for LLA was both timely and essential. Supported by technical assistance from the Asian Development Bank taking the UNDP and the World Bank onboard, the framework has been shaped through extensive consultation at both national and sub-national levels, aligning closely with the strategic objectives of the NAP. Its approval by the Cabinet in May 2025 reflects a high-level policy commitment to operationalize LLA across sectors and regions.

With the framework now in place, the focus must shift to effective implementation. Translating policy into action will require coordinated efforts, adequate resources, and the continued engagement of local actors at the heart of adaptation planning and delivery.

I believe under the leadership of the government, all stakeholders together will make the locally led adaptation a reality and contribute to making the country climate resilient.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Farhina Ahmed".



Message



Mohammad Navid Safiullah

Additional Secretary
Climate Change Wing
Ministry of Environment, Forest and
Climate Change
Government of the People's Republic
of Bangladesh

I am pleased to note that the locally led adaptation framework (LLAF) for addressing climate change issues has finally been approved by the Cabinet. It marks a significant milestone that highlight the framework's importance and reaffirms Bangladesh's unwavering commitment to advancing locally led adaptation efforts. I am also very pleased to see this framework formally published as an official document.

Bangladesh has identified climate change as one of the most critical challenges to the sustainable development of our nation. To address this, we have established a robust policy foundation through the National Adaptation Plan (2023–2050), the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), and the Eighth Five-Year Plan. The LLAF is a vital addition to this policy architecture, providing strategic direction to enhance community resilience and strengthen adaptation at all levels.

The development of this framework was guided by an extensive, participatory process involving local and national stakeholders, as well as our development partners. I would like to sincerely acknowledge the valuable technical assistance provided by the Asian Development Bank, and the active support extended by UNDP and the World Bank throughout this process.

As we move towards implementation, we look forward to working collaboratively with all partners including government ministries, local government institutions, NGOs, civil society organizations, the private sector, and development partners. Together, we will translate this framework into concrete action that benefits communities most vulnerable to climate impacts.

I firmly believe that our shared commitment and combined efforts will ensure the successful implementation of the LLAf, further enhancing Bangladesh's standing as a global leader in climate resilience and sustainable development.

2/4-11



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Abbreviations

| | |
|--------|--|
| ADP | Annual Development Program |
| BCCSAP | Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan |
| BPATC | Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre |
| CBF | Climate Bridge Fund |
| CCA | climate change adaptation |
| CCRC | Community Climate Resilience Centre |
| CCTF | Climate Change Trust Fund |
| CCVA | community climate vulnerability assessment |
| CFF | Climate Fiscal Framework |
| CFM | Climate Finance Model |
| CHT | Chittagong Hill Tracts |
| CRA | community risk assessment |
| CREATE | Climate Resilience Evaluation for Adaptation through Empowerment |
| CSA | climate smart agriculture |
| CSO | civil society organization |
| CVI | climate vulnerability index |
| DMC | Disaster Management Committee |
| DOE | Department of Environment |
| ERD | Economic Relations Division |
| EU | European Union |
| FNS | food and nutrition security |
| GCA | Global Center for Adaptation |
| GIS | geographic information system |
| ICCCAD | International Centre for Climate Change and Development |
| IFI | international financial institution |
| IMED | Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division |
| IPCC | Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change |
| IRB | Islamic Relief Bangladesh |
| LAPA | Local Adaptation Plan of Action |



| | |
|--------|---|
| LGD | Local Government Division |
| LGED | Local Government and Engineering Department |
| LGI | Local Government Institution |
| LGRD&C | Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives |
| LLA | Locally Led Adaptation |
| LoGIC | Local Government Initiative on Climate Change |
| M&E | Monitoring and Evaluation |
| MEL | monitoring, evaluation, and learning |
| MOEFCC | Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change |
| MOF | Ministry of Finance |
| NAP | National Adaptation Plan |
| NBS | nature-based solutions |
| NDC | Nationally Determined Contributions |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goals |
| SMEs | small and medium-sized enterprises |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| UP | Union Parishad |
| UZP | Upazila Parishad |
| WASH | water, sanitation, and hygiene |



Executive Summary

The Bangladesh National Adaptation Plan mandates the creation of a framework for climate action that is participatory; locally led; and socially, gender-, disability- and youth-inclusive. This report presents a national locally led adaptation (LLA) framework and an indicative action plan for implementation.

Bangladesh has led the way globally in different forms of climate adaptation and is well placed to pioneer LLA for national priorities. The principles and main building blocks for LLA have been endorsed internationally and provide guidelines for the bespoke development of LLA strategies at the national level.

The main building blocks of LLA include policy and legislative frameworks; budgeting and finance; institutions; climate-resilient planning; and monitoring, evaluation and learning systems. The framework and the action plan proposed address each of these components.

A diagnostic approach was used to develop the framework, thus, benefiting from a wide consultation with key stakeholders, including members of divisional LLA hubs. Visits were made to different climate-vulnerable areas during feasibility assessment to discuss climate change and adaptation with local people and officials.

There are various important initiatives across Bangladesh using LLA approaches. These include government-, development partner- and nongovernment organization-led programs. There is much to learn that can be incorporated into the national framework.

The framework focuses on issues on how to support LLA that is aligned with decentralization in the local government. For adaptation to be effective, appropriate amounts of subsidy in governance and devolved decision-making are necessary. These aspects were considered through the lens provided by the principles of decentralization.

The various scales of prevalent climate risks indicate that different levels of government should coordinate different types of climate action. The Union Parishad and the Upazila Parishad or Upazillas need to be subsidized by the central government to develop and implement local climate action with a designated budget. Climate vulnerability assessments should be coordinated by local government authorities, i.e., the Union Parishad and Upazillas, to develop the plans.

It is envisaged that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change will act as the nodal ministry and coordinate the advisory, technical and implementation activities of the LLA framework. The Local Government Division under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives will implement and supervise the LLA framework at the local level. The Finance Division under the Ministry of Finance will be responsible for ensuring proper fiduciary management. The Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division and the General Economic Division of the Planning Commission will have oversight of the monitoring, evaluation and reporting to the respective authorities.

LLA requires financial resourcing, implementation management, supervision, monitoring and evaluation and others that are accessible and acceptable to and inclusive of local people and communities.

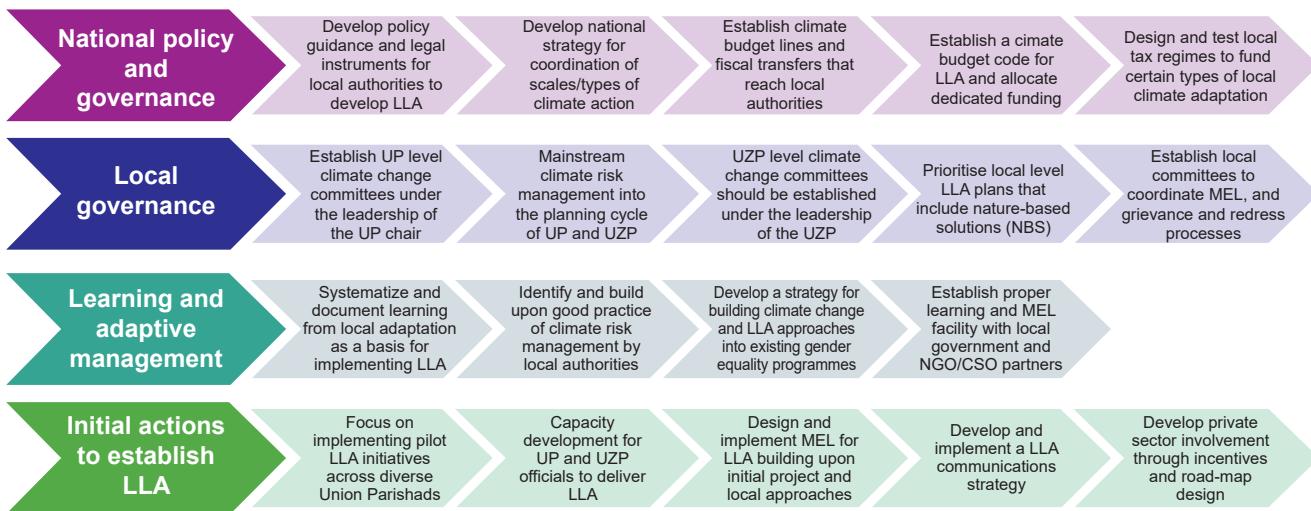
The framework envisages a national cross-sector program whereby local adaptation priorities and plans are generated bottom-up and correspond with the financial and technical support from the central government.



Establishing LLA nationwide has the advantage of many initial experiences to learn from and a wide cohort of civil society organizations (CSOs) already involved in addressing climate vulnerability. Peer-to-peer monitoring, evaluation and learning involving both government and nongovernment organizations will accelerate progress toward effective climate adaptation.

A multistep plan of action is proposed that addresses all LLA building blocks and adherence to principles.

A National Locally Led Adaptation Action Plan



CSO = civil society organization; LLA = locally led adaptation; MEL = monitoring, evaluation, and learning; NGO = nongovernment organization; UP = Union Parishad; UZP = Upazila Parishad.

Source: Compiled by the authors from National Adaptation Plan (NAP)



1. The Bangladesh National Adaptation Plan and the Locally Led Adaptation Framework

The Bangladesh National Adaptation Plan (NAP) mandates the creation of a framework for climate action that is participatory; locally led; and gender-, disability-, youth- and socially -inclusive. In accordance with the NAP, this report presents a national locally led adaptation (LLA) framework and an indicative action plan for implementation.

The NAP states that LLA can unlock, support and leverage the enormous potential and creativity of local people and communities to develop and implement much-needed climate adaptive solutions. The NAP also defines horizontal and vertical linkages to scale up LLA to the national level. The National Council on Environment and Climate Change (or an appropriate body formed by the government) will be responsible for overseeing this and other strategic elements of NAP policy-level progress and the outcomes from implementation.

The LLA framework has been designed to align with the NAP (2023–2050) and other national plans and policies. The LLA framework seeks to decentralize local climate adaptation planning by empowering local governments, communities and stakeholders. This directly supports NAP objectives to mainstream adaptation into sector and local development planning. The NAP emphasizes inclusive, equitable adaptation that considers the most vulnerable groups. The LLA framework will be operationalized following participatory mechanisms that engage women, youth, indigenous groups and marginalized communities in decision-making and implementation.

One of the NAP's goals is to strengthen institutional and human capacity. The LLA framework supports this by investing in local institutions, providing training and fostering knowledge sharing to ensure that local actors can design, implement and monitor adaptation projects effectively.

The NAP calls for mobilizing and managing climate finance effectively and the LLA framework complements this by promoting direct access to climate finance at the local level, with a focus on transparency, accountability and building fiduciary systems within local institutions. Both the NAP and LLA emphasize ecosystem-based adaptation, nature-based solutions (NBS) that enhance community resilience while protecting biodiversity and ecosystems.

The NAP aims to establish a robust monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) framework and the LLA framework supports this through locally embedded learning systems, community-based indicators, and feedback loops to inform policy and improve practices over time.

Finally, the LLA framework acts as the delivery mechanism for many of the NAP's strategic objectives and interventions by bringing adaptation action closer to the people most affected by climate change particularly to the poorest, women, youth, indigenous groups, disabled and marginalized communities.

Table 1 shows how the objectives and principles of the NAP are addressed through the LLA framework.

Table 1: Alignment and Synergies of Locally Led Adaptation Framework with National Adaptation Plan

| Objectives of a National Adaptation Plan | How Locally Led Adaptation Framework Addresses the National Action Plan Objectives |
|--|---|
| NAP Vision and Goals <i>“Building a climate-resilient nation through effective adaptation strategies for fostering a robust society, ecosystem and stimulating sustainable economic growth”</i> | <p>The purpose of the locally led adaptation (LLA) framework is to demonstrate a whole of government and society approach toward achieving objectives set out in the National Action Plan (NAP) and other plans. Since LLA is locally led, the climate adaptation actions are aimed at developing resilience of the most vulnerable communities and, thus, contribute to sustainable economic growth.</p> |
| 1. Ensure protection against climate change variability and induced natural disaster. | <p>Hubs of LLA is expected to operationalize systematic financing to minimize and avert loss and damage and at the same time support high levels of resilience and gender-responsive opportunities to enhance climate adaptation and counteract internal migration.</p> |
| 2. Develop climate-resilient agriculture for food, nutrition and livelihood security. | <p>The LLA framework emphasizes research and innovation for climate-resilient practices using local experiences and knowledge.</p> |
| 3. Develop climate-smart cities for improved urban environment and well-being. | <p>LLA strongly advocates for predictable, stable and accessible funding to support local climate actions—on climate vulnerability assessments, awareness-raising initiatives, adaptation interventions, conservation of climate-sensitive assets and the construction and maintenance of climate-resilient infrastructure and smart city development.</p> |
| 4. Promote nature-based solution (NBS) for the conservation of forestry, biodiversity and well-being of communities. | <p>LLA principles of valuing local, traditional and indigenous knowledge and practice related to climate adaptation—such as care for the environment, NBS, natural resource management, local forms of social mobilization and others.</p> |
| 5. Impart good governance through integration of adaptation into the planning process. | <p>The LLA framework decentralizes adaptation planning by empowering local governments, communities and stakeholders to identify and implement context-specific climate adaptation problems and solutions. This directly supports NAP objectives to mainstream adaptation into sectoral and local development planning.</p> |
| 6. Ensure transformative capacity building and innovation for Climate Change Adaptation. | <p>The scope of the LLA framework helps local government institutions to facilitate LLA by communities and the private sector in their jurisdictions. LLA principles also create opportunity for capacity building by developing curriculum for national program on Climate Change Adaptation.</p> |
| NAP Principles | How LLA Framework Addresses NAP Principles |
| 1. The prioritized sectors are all crosscutting, requiring a multi-disciplinary approach and, thus, are complementary. | <p>LLA framework demonstrates a whole of government and society approach toward achieving objectives set out in the NAP and other plans. It provides a framework under which different government stakeholders can identify how they can advance LLA in their sphere of influence and how sector ministries and local governments can promote LLA through their policies and programs.</p> |



| Objectives of a National Adaptation Plan | How Locally Led Adaptation Framework Addresses the National Action Plan Objectives |
|--|--|
| 1. The process is country-driven, fully participatory, gender-responsive, and inclusive. | In accordance with the globally endorsed principles, the LLA development process is definitely country-driven and is all-inclusive—from the sectoral, social, geographical and gender perspective. Building climate change and LLA approaches into existing gender equality programs is a strategic way forward. |
| 2. The process is transparent and incorporates both top-down and bottom-up approaches. | LLA advocates a bottom-up, socially inclusive planning process, as outlined in its core building blocks. Central to the LLA process is the meaningful, sustained engagement of communities and local stakeholders, which forms the foundation for effective and context-sensitive adaptation planning. LLA puts local people at the center of the decision-making processes, also in the design and the implementation of climate actions. Local and technical knowledge are both important and acknowledged in the framework for LLA to be effective. |
| 3. Promote both vertical and horizontal integration in between national and subnational tiers. | The LLA framework aims to support mechanisms for improving horizontal and vertical coordination, strengthening the enabling environment for pursuing multi-sectoral and systems approaches at the local level. It helps local government institutions to facilitate LLA by the communities and the private sector in their jurisdictions. |
| 4. Maintain synergy with national economic and development plans as well as international environment agreements and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). | The LLA framework will function in accordance with the National Environment Policy (2018) and under the overall institutional arrangements of the NAP to ensure that both vertical and horizontal integration from the national toward the local level. On the other hand, it is strongly synergized with Bangladesh's NAP, the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) road map, the national economic and development plans, the relevant international environmental agreements and the SDGs. |
| 5. NAP is built on local evidence of adaptation success and failure, indigenous practices, NBS and the latest scientific knowledge and information. | The LLA framework adheres to the LLA principles of valuing local, traditional and indigenous knowledge and practices that are related to climate adaptation—such as care for the environment, NBS, natural resource management, local forms of social mobilization and others. The LLA framework is built on the lessons and evidence from previous and current practices, which were drawn from rigorous assessment, consultations and validations. |



| Objectives of a National Adaptation Plan | How Locally Led Adaptation Framework Addresses the National Action Plan Objectives |
|---|--|
| <p>6. Investments in adaptation from the private sector, as one of the key actors in linking NAP to economic development process, are encouraged.</p> | <p>The LLA approach emphasizes the vital role of local government institutions in facilitating community- and private sector-led adaptation within their jurisdictions. It calls for enabling and empowering the state, non-state, including the private sector actors to collaboratively design and implement locally relevant solutions.</p> <p>The LLA framework emphasizes bringing the private sector, local business enterprises and companies into the LLA process to provide goods and services for climate action and to explore opportunities for co-investing (private and public) in climate action and adaptation projects.</p> |
| <p>7. Financial integrity through monitoring, evaluation and learning are to be maintained.</p> | <p>The LLA approach seeks to mobilize resources in a programmatic and sustained manner to support locally driven climate action. Rooted in principles of accountability, transparency and equity, LLA aims to confront deep-rooted challenges such as elite capture, entrenched practices and a lack of trust at the local level—barriers that often undermine the effectiveness of adaptation efforts. By placing climate action in the hands of local actors, LLA becomes a powerful leverage to strengthen social accountability and rebuild trust in governance systems.</p> |



2. Purpose and Context

The Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) principles and building blocks have been endorsed by countries and multilateral organizations across the world. The principles signpost how the design and implementation journey need to proceed through different contexts. Different initiatives across Bangladesh already adhere to some of these principles and are testing ways to achieve it.

The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and related policy instruments support the establishment of LLA hubs. These hubs will “operationalize systematic financing to minimize and avert loss and damage. The hubs are to support high levels of resilience and gender-responsive opportunities to enhance climate adaptation. That will eventually counteract internal migration.”

The purpose of the LLA framework is manifold, as follows:

- Demonstrate a whole of government and society approach toward achieving objectives set out in the NAP and other plans.
- Provide a framework under which different government stakeholders can identify how they can advance LLA in their spheres of influence and how sector ministries and local governments can promote LLA through their policies and programs.
- Help local government institutions to facilitate LLA implementation by communities and the private sector in their jurisdictions.
- Support mechanisms for improving horizontal and vertical coordination, strengthening the enabling environment for pursuing multi-sectoral and systems approaches to adaptation at the local level.
- Help mobilize resources for LLA in a programmatic manner.



3. What is Locally Led Adaptation and What is it for?

Locally led adaptation (LLA) approaches have achieved endorsement by many countries and development partner organizations.¹ Operating principles² and necessary building blocks have been developed from learning through testing innovative approaches in different countries. This chapter provides a summarized description of what LLA is and what it is for.

What is Considered as “Local”?

They are people operating below the subnational level. These include local government authorities, local enterprises (small and medium-sized enterprises), community-based and local-level organizations, households and individuals.

What is Locally Led Adaptation?

LLA involves devolving authority and control over resources to the local people and organizations; and strengthening local institutions to be inclusive, agile and responsive to the risks, impacts and uncertainties of climate change. It is, therefore, characterized by the actions of local people —especially those known to be climate-vulnerable like women, youth, children, people with disabilities, displaced people, indigenous peoples and marginalized castes or ethnic groups. They should lead the design, prioritization and/or delivery of adaptation.

LLA is not simply when adaptation benefits are targeted at local actors. It becomes truly locally led when local communities, community-based organizations, small businesses, community members, citizen's groups, local governments and local private sector entities are included and consulted in the development process of the LLA plans and implementation.

Why Use Locally Led Adaptation?

Local people and communities are at the frontline of climate change impacts. However, they rarely have an effective voice in the decision-making, prioritizing and implementing the actions that most affect them. Currently, the sparse funding that does target local levels is delivered through poor quality mechanisms dominated by external and top-down decisions. LLA seeks to constructively resolve these problems.

What are the Locally Led Adaptation Principles?

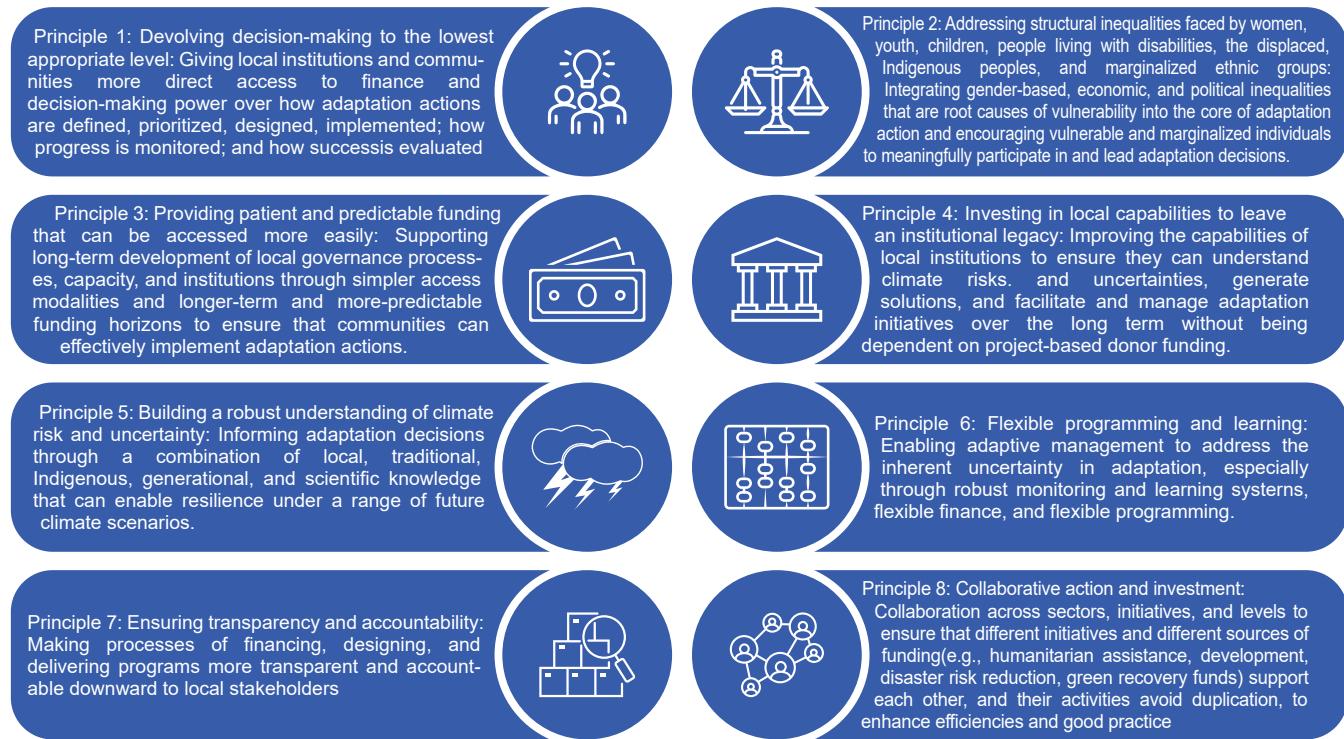
The LLA principles outline what is required to help address the imbalances of power and inequitable distribution of funding for adaptation. The eight principles for LLA are designed to guide a more effective and more equitable adaptation, where local people have a say in the adaptation design, processes and outcomes. Aligning adaptation programming and financing with the LLA principles requires tackling power imbalances and providing a politically astute and patient support. It is not easy. It is important to learn collectively how to do this well. Those currently holding power have a critical role in ensuring adaptation finance and decision-making processes align with the principles. Figure 1 shows the eight LLA principles.

¹International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). LLA Alliance: Join the Endorsers of the Locally Led Adaptation Principles.

²IIED. Principles for Locally Led Adaptation.



Figure 1: The Locally Led Adaptation Principles



Source: Adapted by the authors from Marek Soanes et al. 2021. Principles for Locally Led Adaptation. <https://www.iied.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/2021-01/10211IIED.pdf>.

How to Build Locally Led Adaptation?

Experience so far has shown that LLA is possible by bringing together the key building blocks. While all are necessary for LLA to flourish, none are sufficient on their own. The building blocks can be summarized as follows:

- **Policy and legislative frameworks.** These are the primary building blocks for LLA as they shape the enabling environment and support climate action across different levels. Policies and legislation can help integrate and promote the principles of LLA, e.g., by requiring the integration of climate risks management into national and local development.
- **Budgeting and finance.** These are required for LLA. Countries wanting to support LLA need to have both robust finance systems and processes and climate finance available at different levels. Legal, financial and fiduciary standards must be met to access climate finance from national and international sources so that local government budgets have the capacity to invest in LLA.
- **Institutions.** These are important to support the bottom-up and socially inclusive planning process for LLA. The basis of an effective bottom-up planning is the strong, meaningful and effective engagement of communities and other local actors in the LLA processes. Beyond informing or consulting, LLA needs local people to be central to the decision-making processes and in the design and implementation of climate actions. Local and technical knowledge are both important to LLA effectiveness.

- **Climate-resilient planning.** This means understanding the climate risks and associated uncertainties and integrating those into the decision-making. It is the basis for strategies and actions to reduce climate vulnerability, focusing on adaptation and capacity building to absorb and recover from extreme weather events and other climate risks. Climate information services must meet the diverse needs of the local people. Effective LLA, supported by the local government, builds upon and enhances existing adaptive capacities at the local level. The context-specific risk characteristics where vulnerable people live form the baseline for an LLA.
- **Monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) systems.** These help the national and local governments assess and report the effectiveness of their institutional arrangements for climate risk management and the outcomes of their investments in LLA. This MEL system should be integrated within the existing government monitoring, reporting, and verification processes at local and national levels.

To be most effective, LLA needs to be implemented in genuinely bottom-up ways. Therefore, appropriate levels of subsidiarity in governance and decision-making will recognize that LLA implementation design decisions are taken at the lowest possible level of public authority, closest to the population concerned. Legislation and/or policies that devolve decision-making powers on climate action to the lowest possible levels, as appropriate, need to be in place.



4. The Climate Change Policy Landscape

For Bangladesh to follow a climate-compatible and low-emissions development trajectory, the government has developed a range of plans and frameworks to guide and set targets for key stakeholder groups involved in national development planning. In addition, climate change risks and challenges are well recognized and remedial measures are articulated in the country's long-term vision and multi-year plans like the Perspective Plan of Bangladesh, 2021–2041; the Delta Plan 2100; the Eighth Five-Year Plan, 2021–2025; and others. Current national plans include the following:

- **NAP 2023–2050.³** In alignment with and to fulfill the requirement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Government of Bangladesh prepared its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) with the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change (MOEFCC) as the lead ministry. The NAP outlines strategic guidelines and options, acknowledging that effective medium- and long-term adaptation strategies are crucial to reducing the negative impacts of climate change and promoting sustainable planning for future development routes. With the objective of reducing risks and vulnerabilities to climate change impacts, the NAP envisions building a climate-resilient nation through effective adaptation strategies that foster a robust society and ecosystems and stimulate sustainable economic growth with six national adaptation goals.
- **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) of Bangladesh, 2021.⁴** Bangladesh updated its NDC following the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidelines while incorporating additional sectors. It covers energy, industrial processes and product use, agriculture, forestry and land use and waste sectors. For the NDC, the 2012 update was considered as the base year following the Third National Communication of Bangladesh, detailing a comprehensive national greenhouse gas emission inventory for 2012.
- **Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP), 2012.⁵** BCCSAP is the key climate change national plan and is the basis for climate investment in Bangladesh. BCCSAP provides an overall framework for action, recognizing the need for adaptation and highlighting the willingness of the Government of Bangladesh to follow a low-carbon pathway toward achieving development.
- **National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA), 2009.⁶** The NAPA (2005) identified 15 priority activities, including general awareness raising, capacity building and project implementation in vulnerable regions, with a focus on agriculture and water resources.
- **Climate Change and Gender Action Plan (ccGAP).⁷** The ccGAP integrates gender considerations into four of the six main pillars as identified in the BCCSAP: food security, social protection and health; comprehensive disaster management; infrastructure; and mitigation and low carbon development.
- **The Climate Change Trust Fund Act, 2010.⁸** The Government of Bangladesh prepared and enacted the Climate Change Trust Act 2010 to redress the adverse impacts of climate change by accessing and arranging climate finance from domestic and international sources.

³Government of Bangladesh, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC). 2022. National-Adaptation-Plan-of-bd-2023-2050

⁴United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). 2021. NDC_submission_20210826revised.pdf (unfccc.int).

⁵Government of Bangladesh, Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, 2010. <http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/act-details-1062.html>

⁶Government of Bangladesh, Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, 2010. <http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/act-details-1062.html>

⁷UNEP-LEAP. 2013. Government of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Bangladesh Climate Change and Gender Action Plan (ccGAP).

⁸Government of Bangladesh, Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, 2010. <http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/act-details-1062.html>

- **Bangladesh Climate Fiscal Framework (CFF) 2020.**⁹ Addressing the adverse impacts of climate change requires a framework for tracking climate-related expenditure while estimating potential costs of long-term finance. The CFF provides the principles and tools for climate fiscal policymaking, helping to identify the demand and supply sides of climate funds and to ensure that climate fiscal policies are transparent and sustainable in the longer term.
- **National Environment Policy (2018).**¹⁰ The Environment Policy 2018 was developed based on the spirit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 2030). The policy recognizes the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on soil fertility, the quantity and quality of available water, air quality, forests, wildlife and fisheries and mainstreams climate change considerations into policy and planning processes across all sectors, including water resources, agriculture, energy, transport and urban development.
- **Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100.**¹¹ The Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 is a long-term strategy for the sustainable development of the country's delta region, considering the potential impacts of climate change. The plan aims to achieve a resilient and prosperous delta by integrating climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies into the various sectors.
- **National Water Management Plan, 2000.**¹² The plan is to ensure safe and sustainable water supply, sanitation and hygiene services for all. It also ensures drinking water security through integrated water resource management and recognizes the importance of gender in all water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities.
- **The National Plan for Disaster Management, 2021–2025.**¹³ The National Plan for Disaster Management , 2021–2025 aims to comprehensively address disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation (CCA) in all development plans, programs and policies.

⁹Government of Bangladesh, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance. 2020. Climate Fiscal Framework 2020. <https://climatefinance.erd.gov.bd/publications/5>

¹⁰Government of Bangladesh, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. 2018. National Environment Policy 2018. <https://moef.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/moef.portal.gov.bd/>

¹¹Government of Bangladesh, Ministry of Planning, General Economic Division. Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100.

¹²Government of Bangladesh, Ministry of Water Resources. 1999. National Water Policy 1999.

¹³Government of Bangladesh, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. National Plan for Disaster Management (NPDM) 2021-25. https://modmr.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/modmr.portal.gov.bd/page/a7c2b9e1_6c9d_4ecf_bb53_ec74653e6d05/NPDM2021-25%20Draft- Ver5_23032020.pdf



5. A National Locally Led Adaptation Framework

Climate change affects everybody and everything across the length and breadth of Bangladesh. The officials and agencies across the government systems need to address climate concerns differently depending on the ways that climate change risks and impact affect their decisions, plans and activities. Responsibility for climate action is mandated by the institutional and legal structures of the government system and correspondence and subsidiarity are used to identify the most appropriate level of government for each type and scale of adaptation. Key climate change responses are initiated and managed by the national government, while others originate from subnational governments. Effective climate action requires logical sequencing and synergy of actions and investments where concurrent measures are needed on multiple fronts. Locally led adaptation (LLA) is the mandate of the local government, but this often depends upon concurrent measures at other levels. LLA needs coordination vertically across the government strata and horizontally among neighboring local jurisdictions, organizations and communities they work with and serve.

This chapter discusses the components of the proposed national LLA framework. The functions of LLA are described and the interface of climate adaptation with decentralization is examined. The different types of climate adaptation encompassed within LLA are also explained. Key aspects of organizing and coordinating the LLA framework implementation are presented.

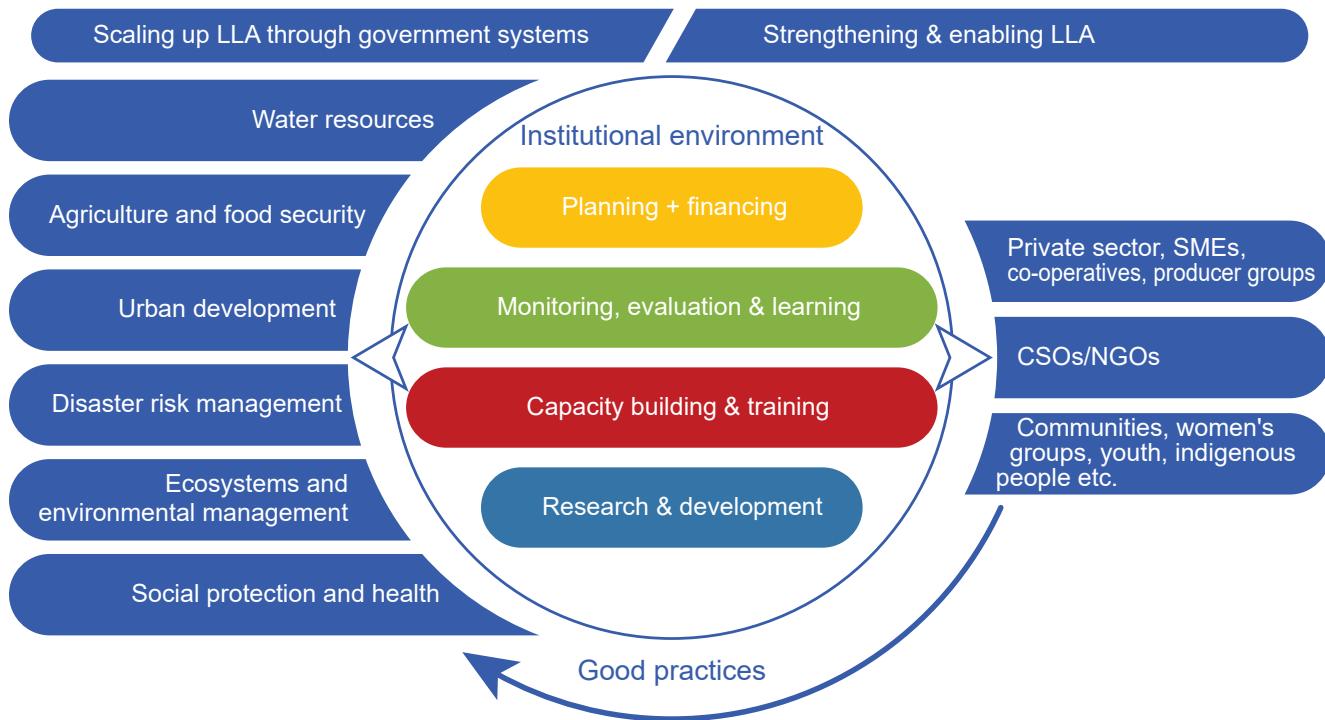
5.1 Functions of the Locally Led Adaptation Framework

Based on the information generated during the preparation of the LLA framework, local people across Bangladesh are investing in local adaptation. However, these efforts are often fragmented and uncoordinated. By implementing the LLA framework, it can help put coherence to the local activities and provide the enabling investment.

The implementation of the LLA framework will be led by the government with the objective of enhancing the capacity of vulnerable communities, local government institutions and civil society organizations (CSOs) for planning and financing climate change adaptation (CCA) solutions. Scaling up LLA will be through government systems from the local to national levels. This will be supported and facilitated by the social and economic sectors including water resources, agriculture and food security, infrastructure, health, urban development, disaster risk management, ecosystems and environmental management and social protection. An enabling environment will also be put in place to strengthen climate adaptation by the private sector; cooperatives; producer groups; CSOs and nongovernment organizations (NGOs); and community groups that include women, men, youth, persons with disability, ethnic groups and indigenous peoples irrespective of sex and religion.

Two high-level functions are central to the LLA framework. These are: (i) scaling up LLA through the government systems; and (ii) strengthening and enabling the local people, organizations and businesses involved in LLA. Figure 2 summarizes the functions and stakeholders to be engaged in the LLA framework. Other functional parts of the framework are planning and finance; monitoring, evaluation, and learning; capacity building and training; and research and development.

Figure 2: Functions and Structure of the Locally Led Adaptation Framework



CSOs = civil society organizations, LLA = locally led adaptation, NGOs = nongovernment organizations, SMEs = small and medium-sized enterprises.

Source: Developed by the authors of this document.

5.2 Decentralization and Local Climate Adaptation—Regional Variations

Integrating climate change considerations in decentralized governance processes, including planning, allocation of resources and monitoring, has been identified as a key entry point for scaling up local adaptation and an opportunity to increase meaningful participation of the most vulnerable groups, women and men alike, in decision-making to ensure that financing for adaptation meet their needs.¹⁴

By decentralizing adaptation planning and decision-making, this can ensure that adaptation interventions are tailored to the local needs and priorities; and that the unique vulnerabilities, exposure and adaptive capacities of the local communities and stakeholders are considered. A potential disadvantage of decentralization may be the ability to achieve economies of scale in the adaptation delivery. However, it is presumed that centralized is more effective than decentralized provision for decarbonization strategies, but not for adaptation interventions across highly diverse territories.

In preparing this LLA framework, the contextual analysis was employed and the action plan drew from the principles of decentralization. These principles, together with the analytical lens provided by the LLA principles and building blocks, have allowed an assessment of how LLA can be integrated into and help to further develop local development planning and delivery.

¹⁴Asian Development Bank. 2023. Community Resilience Partnership Program (CRPP) Brochure | Asian Development Bank



The principles of decentralization are as follows:¹⁵

- **Correspondence principle:** The geographical dimension of the benefits received from climate action should match the geographical dimension of the level of government responsible for its provision.
- **Subsidiarity principle:** The responsibility for climate action that can be provided at different levels should be assigned at the lowest possible level of the government compatible with the size of the “benefit area” associated with those services.
- **Benefit principle:** Wherever possible, utilizing progressive fee structures and charging for adaptation services to those that can pay should be done.
- **Affordability principle:** Subnational authorities should have enough resources to adequately deliver the climate action and expenditure responsibilities assigned to them.
- **Capacity principle:** Subnational governments need to be administratively and technically capable of delivering the climate action functions assigned.

For the feasibility assessment, several Union Parishad (UP) and Upazila Parishads (UZP) in different parts of Bangladesh were visited. Information from these visits were added to those gathered by a World Bank technical assessment team and were analyzed according to the decentralization principles and the principles of LLA. Table 2 presents the findings based on the principles of decentralization.

Table 2: Findings from Locally Led Adaptation Feasibility Assessments Based on the Principles of Decentralization

| Decentralisation principles | Finding from local, UP and UZP assessment |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Correepordence | The varloue scales of prevalent climate risks indicate that different levels of government should coordinate different types or climate action e.g. vulnerability assessments should be coordinated by UPs, and maintenance should be a UPZ responsibility |
| Subsidiarity | Currently UP and UZP do not have subsidiarity from central government for climate action |
| Benefit | UZP do recognise the potential for tax raising to fund climate action, however careful design and testing is required |
| Affordability | No designated budget so far is available to UP and UZP for climate action |
| Capacity | All UP and UZP officials recognize the need for greater technical and administrative capacity to be able to deliver climate action |
| Vertical and horizontal coordination | Little or no evidence of this, as yet, for climate action. Good communications between departments at UZP level on climate need to be established |

UP = Union Parishad, UZP = Upazila Parishad.

Source: Developed for this document by he authors.

¹⁵These decentralization principles were taken from the World Bank publication, as cited in footnote 16 (Martinez-Vazquez 2021).

The following insights from the LLA feasibility assessment are considered critical for an effective yet accountable local governance for LLA:

- The Local Government (Union Parishad) Act 2009 provides the concept of public village meeting or “Ward Shava” to ensure peoples’ participation in local-level decision-making processes. During the preparation of the Annual Development Programme (ADP), an open budget meeting and union coordination committee are also recognized under the Union Parishad rules and procedures. These are considered as important forum where local people can take part, raise their voice and put forward their needs and demands to the local government. For local-level adaptation actions to be identified and planned, budgeted and implemented under the leadership of the Union Parishad/local government, the participation of the climate-vulnerable communities and other stakeholders in the Ward Shava and open budget meeting is crucial.
- The lower tiers of the government—the Union Parishad and Upazila—are the best options for resource allocation and coordination of implementation for climate action through the LLA approach. These local government units would be able to manage the resources efficiently and implement program as per the local peoples’ needs and demands.
- Union Parishad members agree that while climate action and adaptation are priorities, the available resources limit their ability to act. To address climate change impacts, the local government faces budget constraints. There are cases where planned climate action activities remain incomplete. The development budget from the central government is also limited in terms of the flexibility required to address emerging climate risks over the year.
- There is a clear lack of knowledge and skill among the local leaders to assess local-level climate risk and vulnerability. Hence, the need to build their capacity is critical, especially for the local government officials. They need to have the capacity to reallocate the funds across social and economic sectors based on specific needs for climate action. Climate risks and impacts vary across locations and focus should be on current climate impacts and future risks, as prioritized by the local people. Linking local perceptions with updated scientific data and information need to be translated in simpler and understandable language and then use these in risk assessment. Knowledge sharing and social learning for local climate adaptation is happening but only in a few cases.
- Local people, particularly the poorest, marginalized and most climate-vulnerable, must be able to reach out and engage with local government officials through the Union Parishad mechanisms. Their involvement and voices need to be heard through the Ward Shava and through open, participatory budgeting processes. Therefore, effective ways must be explored to achieve this crucial element of LLA.
- The local government should improve its consultations with the local communities when considering the use of natural public resources (e.g., open water bodies and the beel/haor/baor/Char/hill forest). However, a different social engagement approach should be taken for LLA actions in hill tracts and tea garden areas since the social and administrative structures and norms are different from elsewhere. The participation and contribution of youth, women and people with disabilities are not well considered in most cases.



- Currently, NGOs and other development agencies are taking “projectized” approaches to initiating local climate action and versions of LLA. These initiatives are useful tests of what can be achieved, but a significant further step is to integrate these effectively with the local development process so as not to establish parallel systems for local climate action. Some NGOs and community-based organizations develop local communities’ capacities in various aspects, including climate, disaster risk management and related issues (e.g., livelihood development; gender; climate risk management water, sanitation, and hygiene [WASH] and health). In some cases, capacity development is undertaken jointly with the local government and/or other government agencies.
- Using LLA approaches at village, Union Parishad and Upazila levels, Bangladesh can capitalize upon the advantages of decentralized governance in the provision of climate-related functions. This would enable LLA practice to address the varying local needs and preferences and promote much faster action. LLA pilot initiatives—perhaps facilitated through the LLA hubs established under various climate action plans, other adaptation initiatives piloted under the Local Government Division (LGD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (like the Local Government Initiative on Climate Change [LoGIC]), the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) , BRAC and others; and implemented in various climate hot spots—can incubate innovations and test the effectiveness of different local adaptation methods that, if successful, can be scaled up or replicated in other places.¹⁶
- The administrative structure of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) encompasses formal government bodies alongside semiformal traditional offices, including those held by “circle” chiefs (rajas), headmen and village chiefs or elders (karbaries). While the Union Parishad and Upazilla Parishad are the best entry points and locus for LLA implementation, the traditional or customary local governance systems and their representatives (circle chief, headman, karbary) of the CHT districts are also important agencies to be engaged in the entire LLA process.

5.3 Types of Adaptation within the LLA Framework

There have been several attempts to develop typologies of climate adaptation.¹⁷ A recent and helpful categorization¹⁸ was made to understand how private investments in adaptation could be incentivized. The adaptation categories and results identified are shown in Table 3 and the types of adaptation investments are presented in Table 4.

Essentially, adaptation is conceived as resulting in either avoiding hazardous climate events or availing of new opportunities brought about by climate variability and change. Planning, strengthening systems and moving away and reducing exposure to climate effects result in the former; while diversification, technology adoption and warning systems result in the latter. These categories of adaptation can be seen and implemented across different sectors and scales.

Climate adaptation actions include both anticipatory actions to avert and minimize the impacts of climate change and disaster relief and/or post-disaster recovery and reconstruction actions required in the aftermath of a climate shock.

¹⁶J. Martinez-Vazquez. 2021. Adapting Fiscal Decentralization Design to Combat Climate Change. Climate Governance Papers Series. World Bank.

¹⁷B. Biagini, R. Bierbaum, M. Stults, S. Dobardzic, S. M. McNeeley. 2014. A Typology of Adaptation Actions: A Global Look at Climate Adaptation Actions Financed Through the Global Environment Facility. Global Environmental Change. 25. pp. 97–108; and L. Berrang-Ford, A.

R. Siders, A. Lesnikowski, et al. 2021. Systematic Global Stocktake of Evidence on Human Adaptation to Climate Change. Nature Climate Change. 11. pp. 989–1000.

¹⁸S. Barrett and R.S.K. Chaitanya. 2023. Getting Private Investment in Adaptation to Work: Effective Adaptation, Value and Cash Flows.

A national strategy is needed to define what levels of government should coordinate different scales and types of climate adaptation. The LLA approach can be used effectively to determine both climate adaptation priorities at local levels and the capacity required to address these. Aggregating this information across divisions can build into a national system. Following the principle of subsidiarity, evidence from climate science can be used to inform the identification of climate adaptation priorities for investment by both public and private sector organizations. This should be inherent in the system.

Table 3: Adaptation Categories and Results

| Adaptation category | Result |
|--|---|
| Planning for and preempting, uncertain hazard events | Effective avoidance of hazardous climate events |
| Fortification of social and physical systems from climate hazards | |
| Move away from climate sensitive physical dwellings, livelihoods and business operations | |
| Balanced diversification away from uncertain climate risks | Effective availing of new opportunities brought about by climate variability and change |
| Technology adoption that addresses physical and operational uncertain climate risks | |
| Design and application of warning and observation systems | |

Source: Adapted from S. Barrett and R.S.K. Chaitanya. 2023. Getting Private Investment in Adaptation to Work: Effective Adaptation, Value and Cash Flows. *Global Environmental Change*. 83.102761.

Participatory climate risk assessment and resilience planning processes should be used at the local level in interactive ways so that people in communities themselves can identify the climate risks and resilience priorities. However, these priorities are discussed by technical specialists and local government officials who go back to communities to explain which risks will need to be dealt with at a higher level (across upazila, district, or national level, for example). This allows a national system to use an LLA and bottom-up approach but avoids the risk of focusing too much on small, fragmented investments that may not solve the wider problems or aggregate into an effective adaptation.

Table 4: Types of Adaptation Investments

| Investments in adaptation | Examples |
|--|---|
| Planning, prioritizing and implementing adaptation actions | Projects and programmes (e.g. water resources; health; agriculture and food security; infrastructure; socio-economic activities; terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems; and coastal zones). Actions identified in national and subnational adaptation plans and strategies (NAPAs, NAPs of the LDCs and other countries), Technology needs assessments etc. |
| Impact, vulnerability and adaptation assessments | Assessments of financial needs as well as economic, social and environmental evaluation of adaptation options |
| Strengthening institutional capacities and enabling environments | Climate-resilient development and vulnerability reduction |



| Building resilience of socio-economic and ecological landscapes | Economic diversification and sustainable management of natural resources |
|---|--|
| Enhancing climate change related disaster risk reduction strategies | Early warning systems, risk assessment and management and sharing and transfer mechanisms e.g. insurance, at local, national, sub-regional and regional levels. |
| Investments in adaptation | Examples |
| Measures to enhance understanding, coordination and cooperation | Including on induced displacement, migration and planned relocation, where appropriate, at the national, regional and international levels. |
| Research and development | Experimentation and modelling; demonstration, diffusion, deployment and transfer of technologies, practices and processes; and capacity-building for adaptation, with a view to promoting access to technologies |
| Strengthening data, information and knowledge systems, education and public awareness | Weather stations, satellites; databases and information processing; public awareness, schools' curriculum, adult education etc. |
| Improving climate-related research and systematic observation | Climate data collection, archiving, analysis and modelling in order to provide decision makers at the national and regional levels with improved climate-related data and information |

Source: Adapted from B. Biagini, R. Bierbaum, M. Stults, S. Dobardzic and S. M. McNeeley. 2014. A Typology of Adaptation Actions: A Global Look at Climate Adaptation Actions Financed Through the Global Environment Facility. *Global Environmental Change*. 25. pp. 97–108.

5.4 Organization and Coordination of Locally Led Adaptation Framework Implementation

The NAP advocates a multilevel, inclusive institutional structure for climate adaptation across Bangladesh based on the existing institutional framework. Accordingly, the LLA framework will function in accordance with the National Environment Policy (2018) and under the overall institutional arrangements of the NAP. This will ensure both horizontal and vertical links from the national toward the local level.¹⁹

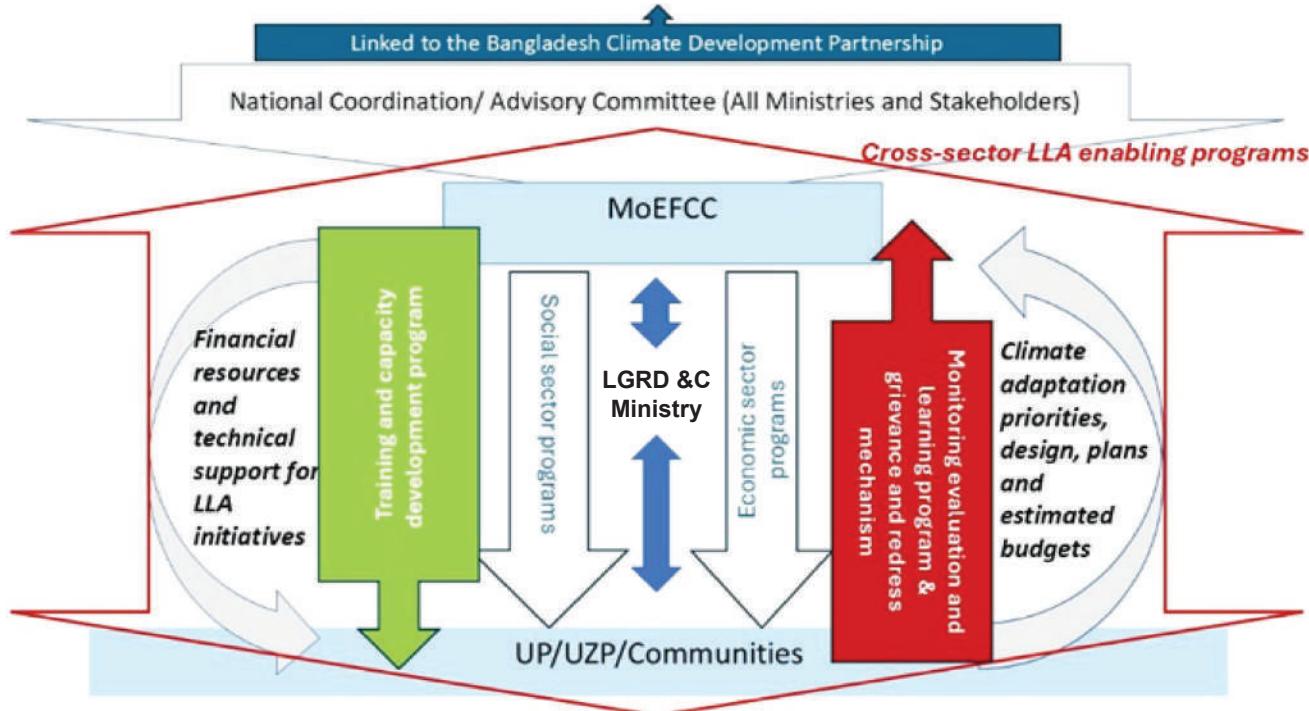
Implementation of the LLA framework through the action plan will be linked to the BCDP. LLA framework implementation will be supported through the BCDP and progress and lessons learned will be reported.

The existing national council, interministerial steering committee and a technical advisory committee at the national level will provide technical advice, while the coordination committees at the district and subdistrict and/or upazila levels will be responsible for implementation, supervision and monitoring and evaluation of the interventions. The LLA framework works in alignment with and contributes to the achievement of the NAP mission, such that it also facilitates institutional support and ensures that resources and/or financing reaches the local level.

¹⁹Government of Bangladesh. 2023. National Action Plan. Institutional Arrangements and Coordination. Section 4.1.2.

In operational terms, the organization and coordination of LLA framework implementation will involve existing coordination mechanisms. The existing committees on environment and climate change may serve as the national coordination for LLA framework implementation. Coordination will be linked to the lower administrative levels through the District Development Coordination Committee and the Upazila Development Coordination Committee. Figure 3 summarizes the organizational structure for LLA framework implementation.

Figure 3: Organizational Structure of the Locally Led Adaptation Framework



LGD = Local Government Division; MOEFCC = Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change; UP = Union Parishad; UZP = Upazilla Parishad.

Source: Developed by the authors of this document.

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change (MOEFCC) will act as the nodal ministry and coordinate the advisory, technical and implementation activities of the LLA framework. The LGD under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives will be responsible for implementing and supervising the LLA framework at the local level and will liaison with the Union Parishad and UZP authorities. It is envisaged that LGD will coordinate the capacity development of local government officials.

The Finance Division under the Ministry of Finance (MOF) will ensure that proper fiduciary management is undertaken. The LLA requires financial resourcing, implementation management, supervision, monitoring and evaluation and others that are accessible and acceptable to and inclusive of local people and communities.

It is anticipated that the implementation of the LLA framework will be supported through interministerial fiscal transfers. This is a versatile and adaptable instrument. Central government funds can be also transferred via different types of subsidies and direct performance contracts or agreements between the central and local government entities to address climate impacts through adaptation approaches, including LLA.



Projects and interventions will be designed and implemented at the local level where authorities and communities will be able to access resources and technical support from the national level. Sectoral ministries and departments will advise, support and contribute to the delivery of results through LLA activities.

Sectoral departments and/or agencies (e.g., in agriculture, water, health and others) will have well-defined roles and responsibilities commensurate to their mandates. Their staff at the local level will provide technical advice and resources for LLA planning and implementation.

Local people, particularly the poorest, marginalized and most climate-vulnerable—especially women—need to be reach out to and should engage with local government representatives through the Union Parishad mechanisms. Their involvement and voices need to be heard through the Ward Shava and through the open participatory budgeting processes. Effective ways need to be explored to achieve this crucial element of LLA. Raising people's awareness and better understanding of what are climate action and adaptation is needed for Union Parishad members and local communities.

Private sector investment and co-investment in climate action and adaptation is not common. Local business enterprises and companies may be brought into the LLA process, in the provision of goods and services for climate action. Their interest in the process could be enhanced by creating favorable policy and support from the government. Opportunities in co-investment (private and public) in climate action and adaptation can be explored, piloted and established. Information, knowledge sharing and motivation are essential for generating such co-investments in the climate actions and adaptation at the local level.

LLA, as an adaptive management process, places strong emphasis on both bottom-up and top-down MEL for social learning, accountability and to support innovation. LLA advocates for investments in “learning by doing” and in establishing collaborative networks among local-tier organizations to lead LLA-focused MEL processes. If done well, this can enhance the quality of local adaptation, promote evidence-based decision-making and reinforce a culture of continuous learning, transparency and accountability. It is proposed that the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED), together with the General Economic Division (GED) of the Planning Commission will oversee and coordinate the LLA monitoring, evaluation and reporting to the relevant authorities.

To ensure compliance and financial transparency, a local-level oversight mechanism should be put in place—comprising representatives from participating communities, public and private sectors, civil society and other stakeholders. This oversight process will focus on the effectiveness of LLA investments.

Capacity building is necessary to operationalize the MEL framework. Relevant personnel from the responsible ministries, local government agencies and public representatives will need to be competent in LLA MEL so that the adoption, implementation and oversight functions are effective.

As indicated in Figure 3, the LLA MEL framework should be linked with the bottom-up grievance and redress mechanism. The design of this and the coupling with the MEL framework will be tested through the LLA pilots envisaged as short-term activities in the action plan.

6. A Plan of Action

The plan of action outlined here is the basis for operationalizing the locally led adaptation (LLA) framework. It was developed to enable a systematic and coherent implementation of LLA in Bangladesh across the different regions and localities and will involve different economic and social sectors.

It is anticipated that the government—from the national to local levels—will adopt and utilize the framework in supporting climate adaptation by the local people, enterprises and organizations. The action plan includes immediate actions to explore how LLA can be formulated and used in the different sectors. The formulation of LLA via the building blocks described in the following subsection are crucial for the adoption of LLA across social and economic sectors.

The plan consists of important considerations for putting into place the key building blocks for LLA, how the LLA principles can be adhered to through implementation and a stepwise description of the actions and component activities of the plan.

Key actions are described in more detail in section 6.3

6.1 Putting the Locally Led Adaptation's Building Blocks in Place

The LLA framework envisions local government institutions—in cooperation with and support from the civil society organizations (CSOs)—taking steps to enhance the capacity of vulnerable communities in planning and resourcing climate change adaptation (CCA) solutions. The private sector is also considered important in taking forward LLA implementation. The LLA framework identifies opportunities and approaches for scaling up LLA through government systems and can act as the basis for actions to strengthen the enabling environment that supports local people in planned and autonomous climate adaptation, according to their contexts and requirements.

The framework sets out a strategic and organizational approach to address the challenges of climate change at the local level. In an LLA, local people decide collectively their priority in addressing climate change challenges, how to implement these climate actions and who will be responsible for these actions. The LLA framework promotes close collaboration with local government authorities.

Opportunities to build LLA across Bangladesh have been identified according to the LLA building blocks. These are set out in the following:

- **Policy and legislative framework.** The National Adaptation Plan (NAP), the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) road map and others are already in place and they provide a robust policy framework for national LLA framework implementation. However, the policy guidance and legal instruments for local authorities to develop LLA is missing. Such guidance will need to be developed.
- **Budgeting and finance.** Both national and international finance for climate action including LLA is available. The Economic Relations Division (ERD) of Bangladesh is the interface between the country and the international sources of climate finance. The recently established Bangladesh Climate Development Partnership represents a route for ERD to negotiate and leverage international financial and technical support to advance LLA in Bangladesh.



- **There are no delivery mechanisms of climate finance to middle and local tiers of the government.** A climate budget code for local action needs to be established and dedicated funds should be allocated. There are relatively few tried and tested models of this and those that are in place elsewhere use performance-based grants to get finance to middle and local tiers. This modality does not fit the LLA principle of stable and predictable funding.
- **Institutional awareness of LLA is emerging.** However, knowledge and capacity of local authorities are insufficient and needs more depth. The analysis here suggests that there are likely to be significant inertia in the ways that local authorities operate and this bodes ill for the scale of changes required for LLA to be effectively implemented across the country. The central government needs to set out clear expectations from the local government in terms of delivering LLA.
- **Climate-resilient planning.** There are some good practice cases to draw from and scale out. The public sector's capacity for climate risk management is weak and also faces a multitude of competing priorities. However, it is possible to use climate change as lever to enhance local development planning (this has been achieved in Kenya, for example) and the seriousness of escalating climate risks mean that adequate adaptive planning mechanisms need to be put in place. Technologies, such as early warning systems, extreme weather event forecasting and medium-term climate change risk projections can be used to strengthen the ways that LLA is implemented.
- **Monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL).** A pilot program for LLA evaluation is being tested in Bangladesh, using a scorecard system based on LLA principles. This is a good start but MEL on climate adaptation has not been institutionalized. Advocates of LLA, including the government, will need to invest in "learning by doing" and establish a network for local-tier organizations to conduct LLA MEL. This will help strengthen learning, aid better practice and ensure transparency and accountability.
- **Grievance and redress mechanisms.** Local authorities will need to use existing or established new mechanisms for local people to be able to express their grievances with LLA processes, which can be assessed and provide adequate redress where necessary. The pilot LLA initiatives proposed in the immediate activities of this action plan can test different approaches to grievance and redress mechanisms.

6.2 Adhering to the Locally Led Adaptation Principles

While getting the LLA building blocks in place is of primary importance, the ways that LLA is conducted according to its principles will determine its effectiveness and how wide the benefit sharing can reach. Ways to achieve adherence with LLA principles include the following:

- **Risk informed decision-making.** While local people know best the current reality of the climate change impacts affecting them, there is less awareness and knowledge of how climate change will evolve over time. Developing the capacities of the local people and officials in local authorities on climate risks and management options is an urgent requirement.
- **Gender and social inclusion.** Negative social norms and gender inequalities will impede LLA benefits from reaching women and girls unless ways of aligning local climate action with women's empowerment are identified. Building climate change and LLA approaches into existing gender equality programs is a strategic way forward.



- **Whole of society approach.** As in achieving the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), LLA should not leave anyone behind. LLA starts from a premise of targeting the most climate-vulnerable people and places, but as LLA is scaled up, everyone should be able to benefit. A socially inclusive approach should be taken by local leaders as an example to others.
- **Training and capacity building.** A national curriculum for LLA can be built from the experiential knowledge that has been generated through many different local adaptation cases—learning from both successes and failures. A national program of LLA capacity development for officials in local government, local civil society, cooperatives and private sector entrepreneurs is needed. There are pilot initiatives already operating on LLA capacity and these could form the basis of a national program.²⁰
- **Accountability and transparency.** Ingrained practice, elite capture and lack of trust at local levels need to be addressed, otherwise, LLA will not be effective. Local people do have expectations of local officials and there are initiatives where downward accountability of local government to citizens is emphasized.²¹ Climate action through LLA can be used as a leverage for better accountability.
- **Appropriate subsidiarity.** Key to this principle is the political willingness of officials at the higher levels of government to acknowledge and empower the local government as the main coordinator of LLA. This can happen once the technical and administrative capacity of the local government becomes sufficient to take up the duties that subsidiarity brings.
- **Valuing local, traditional and indigenous knowledge.** Being based at the grassroots, LLA is well-positioned to identify and give value to local, traditional and indigenous knowledge related to climate adaptation—such as care for the environment, natural resource management and local forms of social mobilization. Climate change can threaten these types of knowledge and the people that are custodians. However, by looking at local, traditional and indigenous knowledge as a potential source of ways to adapt, the value of this knowledge can be established and the knowledge conserved. Systematization and documentation of local, traditional and indigenous knowledge can be achieved through the MEL building block activities.
- **Predictable and stable funding for local action.** LLA works best where local government have both the opportunity and duty to draw down and use finance to support local actions—on climate vulnerability assessment, climate awareness-raising, adaptation actions, protection and conservation of climate-sensitive assets and building and maintaining climate-adaptive infrastructure. Access to predictable and stable funding allows better planning. Climate adaptation needs to be recognized as an iterative action, not a contingency. Adaptation takes time, climate risks are escalating, hence, it is likely that the costs of adaptation at the local level will increase over time. Provision of stable and predictable funding to local authorities is a prerequisite for LLA.

6.3 Activities at Each Step

The actions and component activities are sequential. The intention is to implement the LLA framework in a systematic way where each step builds from the preceding steps and provides a sound basis for subsequent steps. None of the steps are sufficient alone for LLA, but all are necessary.

Table 5 sets out the actions and activities over the short, medium and longer terms and indicates the coordinating and contributing organizations. The action plan was deliberately developed using a short-, medium- and longer- term timeline. Monitoring the progress and the completion of activities under each action in the plan can be used to gauge achievement.

²⁰Both the Global Center for Adaptation (GCA) and the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) are working on LLA capacity development strategies.

²¹For example, the work of The Hunger Project.



Table 5: The Action Plan

| Action | Activities | Coordination | Contributions |
|---|--|---|---|
| In the Short Term | | | |
| <i>Develop policy guidance and legal instruments for local authorities to develop locally led adaptation (LLA).</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify existing legal provisions. Identify and address gaps for favorable policy guidance. Identify the local government institutions to support the LLA framework. Prepare climate adaptation action (implementation) policy and rules (as applicable). | Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC) | Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED)/Local Government Division (LGD) and other sector ministries/agencies (agriculture, water, health and others) |
| <i>Systematize and document experience and learning from all forms of local adaptation as a basis for implementing LLA nationwide.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map the institutions and/or stakeholders involved. Stocktaking of adaptation intervention/project/activities undertaken. Document lessons and experiences. | MOEFCC | Sectoral ministries/agencies (agriculture, water, health and others) With the participation of university or research organization/ expert |
| <i>Develop national strategy to define what levels of government should coordinate different scales and/or types of climate action.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map relevant government bodies, authorities and their specific roles in climate action at different scales. Develop a strategy defining the roles and responsibilities of various government agencies responsible for coordinating different scales and/or types of climate action. | MOEFCC | In participation with university or research organization/ expert |
| <i>Consultative process across the government system and with the private sector to formulate how LLA will be adopted across social and economic sectors.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convene sectoral consultations. Identify and document existing climate adaptation practices. Identify and document sector adoption of the steps for LLA. | MOEFCC | Sectoral ministries/agencies (agriculture, water, health and others); sector's lead organization |



| Action | Activities | Coordination | Contributions |
|--|---|---------------------------|---|
| <i>Review and update terms of reference of existing Disaster Management Committee (DMC) from national to Ward levels and include the climate change and LLA aspects.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop guideline for establishing and running the Union Parishad-level climate change committee. Define the specific roles and responsibilities of the Union Parishad and other committees. | MOEFCC | LGED/LGD |
| <i>Establish climate budget lines and fiscal transfers that reach local authorities.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and revise the climate fiscal framework to allow provision for LLA support. | Ministry of Finance (MOF) | MOEFCC and LGD |
| <i>Focus on implementing the set of pilot LLA initiatives across a set of diverse Union Parishads.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify funding from the national and development partners. Identify a set of diverse Union Parishads to act as pilot cases. Engage technical support from nongovernment organizations (NGOs). | MOEFCC | LGED/LGD in coordination with specialist implementing organizations |
| <i>Undertake capacity development for Union Parishad and Upazila Parishad officials in technical and administrative tasks to be able to deliver LLA.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a capacity enhancement needs assessment. Design a road map and entry points for capacity building of local government representatives and community members. Develop training and capacity-building principles based on the needs assessment. Develop a training module and training plan on technical and administrative task for Union Parishad and Upazila Parishad officials following the principles and results of the needs assessment. | MOEFCC | Specialized agency and national training centers including Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC), National Institute of Local Government (NILG), National Agriculture Training Academy (NATA). |
| <i>Design and implement a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework for LLA, building upon initial project and local approaches.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scoping of current MEL approaches used in Bangladesh for assessing climate action effectiveness. Bring in tried and tested approaches of MEL for LLA. Test MEL LLA framework in pilot experiences across different locations. | MOEFCC | In collaboration with specialized implementing organization, university, NGOs and experts |



| Action | Activities | Coordination | Contributions |
|---|---|--------------|---|
| <i>Develop and implement a strategy for the communication of LLA to stakeholders across public and private sectors and the civil society.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collate and systematize LLA information materials from diverse sources. • Develop a digital innovation strategy for promoting LLA. • Identify champions of LLA in the public and private sectors and civil society who can promote and explain the importance of LLA for Bangladesh. • Develop a road map for the private sector and SME co-investment in LLA at the local level. • Develop an awareness campaign on climate change risks for the local communities and the importance of LLA responses. • Ensure cultural sensitivity and accessibility of the communication strategy in the materials, presentations and media to be used. • Leverage community radio and other social media. | MOEFCC | In collaboration with a private sector (communications) company and/or NGO/experts. |
| In the medium term | | | |
| <i>Mainstream climate risk management into the annual planning cycle of Union Parishads and Upazila Parishads.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission climate risks and adaptation assessments at the Union Parishad level. • Utilize the Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI) developed by the LGD with the support from LoGIC program. • Integrate adaptation needs, plans and/or activities in the Annual Development Plan (ADP) of Union Parishads. • Mainstream climate adaptation into the ADP Planning Guide and/or Local Government Planning Guide/Rules for Union Parishads. | MOEFCC | Specialist agency and national training center |
| <i>Establish a climate budget code for LLA and allocate dedicated funding.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Finance Division of the MOF to allow fiscal transfers to most climate-vulnerable Union Parishads and Upazila Parishads. | MOF | MOEFCC and LGD |



| Action | Activities | Coordination | Contributions |
|---|---|--------------|--|
| <i>Identify and build upon good practice of climate risk management by local authorities.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish government and NGO network to identify and share good practices. | MOEFCC | Specialist evaluation organization |
| <i>Prioritize local-level LLA plans that include nature-based solutions (NBS).</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify existing NBS in climate adaptation. Support pilot Union Parishads to incorporate NBS in local adaptation planning and implementation. | MOEFCC | Specialist evaluation organization |
| <i>Develop a strategy for building climate change and LLA approaches into existing gender equality programs.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify effective women's empowerment and gender equality programs in the most climate-vulnerable areas. Identify climate adaptation entry points in gender equality programs. Develop modalities for climate integration and monitor the results. | MOEFCC | In collaboration with the UN Women and other specialist agencies. |
| <i>Establish peer learning and MEL facility with local government and NGO/ civil society organization (CSO) partners.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building on the LLA hubs, convene a national network of organizations working on local adaptation. Invest in knowledge and information system development. Support peer-to-peer learning activities. | MOEFCC | With the participation of NGOs and CSOs, supported by a specialist evaluation organization |
| In the longer term | | | |
| <i>Design and test local tax regimes to fund certain types of local climate adaptation.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review comparable examples from elsewhere. Adapt proven models to different subnational circumstances. Closely monitor the pilot schemes. | MOF | MOEFCC, in participation with a specialist agency |



7. Initial Actions to Establish Locally Led Adaptation

The locally led adaptation (LLA) framework will be aligned, embedded within and built upon existing systems, policies, practices and climate change response investments in the country, which will scale up locally led adaptation actions. The actions enumerated and discussed in this section—piloting; capacity building; monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL); and communicating—provide the guideline for the next steps. These will need to be scoped and refined and, where possible, based on existing activities. These next steps have the potential support from other development partners, including those in the Bangladesh Climate Development Partnership. Adherence to the priorities of the Government of Bangladesh is crucial. This grounding of the next steps within the wider national climate change response will ensure that the implementation of the LLA framework is fully embedded within government processes.

7.1 Pilot Activities to Implement the Framework

A process for piloting and learning from LLA implementation across diverse locations will be formulated once the framework is officially approved. The pilot activities will follow the approaches suggested here and take onboard relevant stakeholders in designing and implementing the same.

The activities will validate the approach and process suggested here and create the opportunity to assess the level of effectiveness of the framework.

Based on the outcomes of the pilot activities and the learnings derived from hands-on implementation on the ground, the framework may be reviewed, as appropriate.

It is anticipated that collaboration during the pilot process will be established with development partners, including those in the Bangladesh Climate Development Partnership .

7.2 Learning from Local Climate Adaptation for Better Implementation

Bangladesh has a wealth of experience and had developed expertise in responding and adapting to the impacts of climate change at different scales. Also, regional hubs have been established to collate and systematize learnings for the purpose of initiating LLA. It will be important to map the institutions and stakeholders involved and to develop a stocktake of adaptation interventions, projects and activities being undertaken. These should be well documented and the lessons and experiences drawn together for wider social learning.

For example, the LGD of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have collaborated on the Local Government Initiative on Climate Change (LoGIC). This project showcases an innovative approach to climate resilience by prioritizing local-level decision-making in climate adaptation strategies. The project has empowered local government institutions (LGIs) to make informed, climate-resilient decisions by integrating climate vulnerability assessments through its Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI). The LGIs support the prioritization of funding to areas most at risk from climate impacts, ensuring that resources are used efficiently where they are needed most. This bottom-up approach ensures that local governments, guided by the insights of their own communities, are in control of decisions that affect their climate resilience.

7.3 Establishing a Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Strategy

An immediate activity in the implementation of the LLA framework is to design and test a monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) framework for LLA. To ensure relevance and fit with the circumstances of localities across Bangladesh, this will build upon the learnings from initial projects and local approaches being utilized already in the country. As stated in the action plan, this work will encompass the scoping of current MEL approaches used in Bangladesh, bring in tried-and-tested approaches of MEL for LLA from elsewhere and test the MEL for LLA framework in pilot experiences across different locations.

MEL can significantly enhance locally led climate action by generating evidence on the effectiveness, social inclusivity and environmental sustainability of the actions taken. While MEL approaches are well established, the usefulness and fit with LLA requires a systemic shift toward a MEL that is locally led, context-aware and adaptive.²² The MEL cycle can be used by local authorities, together with the local people to (re)design, track implementation and assess the outcomes of LLA. MEL approaches are being developed in Bangladesh and elsewhere specifically for use in LLA.

The reasons for using a specifically designed MEL for LLA are as follows:

Support evidence-based decision-making. MEL can be used to gather data to be able to assess the effectiveness of adaptation actions. It can provide evidence on what worked, what did not work and for whom. This information can inform decisions on the next steps and thereby improve future local adaptation strategies.

Ensure socially inclusive participation. MEL for LLA should be driven by local people at the frontline of climate change impacts. Their insights and experiences are central to adaptation planning and implementation and their assessment of the success and failure of climate adaptation need to be emphasized through the MEL process. This can ensure that adaptation measures are locally relevant to the specific needs of local populations.

Build local climate capacity. MEL can be used to identify gaps in knowledge and skills within local communities and thereby guide capacity-building initiatives. MEL can empower local people to appropriate LLA initiatives and manage climate risks independently.

Manage local adaptation responsively. Real-time adjustments to local adaptation strategies are needed to keep pace with escalating climate risks. This flexibility ensures that adaptation measures remain effective under changing climate conditions and evolving local contexts.

Ensure accountability and transparency. MEL can be used to facilitate the accountability of stakeholders by tracking progress and outcomes of adaptation actions. Transparent reporting builds trust among stakeholders and ensures that resources are used efficiently.

Increase learning and knowledge sharing. The lessons learned from successes and failures and the best practices identified by local people and organizations can be shared through the MEL process. Social learning of this type can help to scale-up and scale out successful adaptation strategies and avoid repeating mistakes.

The establishment of a MEL for LLA can benefit from existing tools and methods already used for monitoring and evaluating climate adaptation. Table 6 presents the useful tools and methods to consider.

²² T. Coger, S. Corry and R. Gregorowski. 2021. Reshaping Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning for Locally Led Adaptation. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute.



Table 6: Useful Tools and Methods to Consider

| Tools or Methods | Description |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Indicators and metrics | Used to measure progress and outcomes of adaptation actions. Common indicators include resilience metrics, vulnerability assessments and climate impact measurements. |
| Data collection tools | Surveys, interviews, focus groups and participatory mapping are often used to gather qualitative and quantitative data from local communities. |
| Geospatial tools | Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and remote sensing technologies help in monitoring environmental changes and assessing the impact of adaptation measures. |
| Climate models | These tools simulate future climate scenarios and help in planning and evaluating adaptation strategies. |
| Evaluation frameworks | Frameworks like the Theory of Change and Logical Framework Approach (LogFrame) are used to structure the evaluation process and link activities to outcomes. |
| Knowledge management systems | Platforms for storing and sharing data, reports and lessons learned, such as databases and online repositories. |
| Participatory tools | Methods that involve local communities in the monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) process, ensuring that their perspectives and knowledge are integrated into adaptation planning. |
| Reporting and visualization tools | Dashboards, infographics and other visualization tools help in communicating findings and progress to stakeholders. |

A recent review of how MEL can be reshaped for use in LLA²³ identified some evaluation approaches that are focused on climate adaptation, which can be aligned with the LLA principles. These approaches include the following:

- Tracking Adaptation and Measuring Development. This includes participatory data collection and indicator development that ensures the involvement of the local agencies in the evaluation process.²⁴
- Most Significant Change. This is where practitioners and local stakeholders collate and analyze the narratives of change due to intervention to understand related outcomes.²⁵
- Appreciative inquiry. This focuses on the strengths of an intervention to learn what works and the factors that sustain successful outcomes.²⁶
- Climate Resilience Evaluation for Adaptation through Empowerment (CREATE). This is based on community-based vulnerability assessments and adapted for community self-evaluation. The use of CREATE can help local people to identify pilot activities and strategic adaptation activities.²⁷

²³T. Coger, S. Corry and R. Gregorowski. 2021. Reshaping Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning for Locally Led Adaptation. Chapter 3: MEL Approaches, Methods and Tools to Support LLA. Working Paper. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute. <https://publications.wri.org/reshaping-locally-led-adaptation/mel-approaches-methods-and-tools-to-support-lla>.

²⁴N. Brooks, S. Anderson, I. Burton, S. Fisher, N. Rai and I. Tellam. 2013. An Operational Framework for Tracking Adaptation and Measuring Development (TAMD). International Institute for Environment and Development.

²⁵R. Davies and J. Dart. 2005. The "Most Significant Change" (MSC) Technique: A Guide to Its Use.

²⁶A. S. Acosta and B. Douthwaite. 2005. Appreciative Inquiry: An Approach for Learning and Change Based on Our Own Best Practices. ILAC Brief. 6 (July).

²⁷J. Shott and R. Mather. 2012. Climate Resilience Evaluation for Adaptation through Empowerment (CREATE): Adaptation Made Easy for Everyone. International Union for Conservation of Nature.

New approaches for MEL of LLA are needed to achieve mutual accountability between the agencies providing the financial resources (local governments, nongovernment organization (NGOs), development banks and others) and the local people who undertake LLA. Metrics of effectiveness and outcomes can be elaborated from local measures of success. Defining what success is locally is a very powerful tool to understand what LLA leads to and it can increase local leadership and ownership. MEL for LLA should be a social learning process whereby local people evaluate progress toward their own adaptation objectives and learn lessons about addressing the escalating climate risks—the infamous “moving baseline” that climate change challenges us all with.²⁸ In Bangladesh, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) has been piloting scorecards to assess how well adaptation projects meet the needs of local communities. This approach can be used as a component of MEL for LLA.²⁹

Different approaches for measuring climate resilience at local levels have been collated recently from different experiences around the world.³⁰ This learning can be integrated into a MEL for LLA approach that is suitable for Bangladesh.

7.4 Communicating Locally Led Adaptation to Stakeholders

The need for ways to carry out LLA must be well communicated to stakeholders across public and private sectors, the civil society and to the community people. An effective communications strategy involving multiple media will be able to achieve this.

Component activities for such action include the following: (i) collating and systematizing existing LLA communications materials from diverse sources, (ii) identifying champions of LLA in public and private sectors and the civil society who can promote and explain the importance of LLA for Bangladesh and (iii) developing an awareness campaign on climate change risks and the importance of LLA responses for local communities.

Existing initiatives in Bangladesh are already promoting LLA in different ways.³¹

Table 7 shows the target groups, the specific information and the means to reach these audiences. This has been developed in line with the NAP.

²⁸M. Thazin Aung, A. Bahadur, R. Joshi, F. Pichon, N. Sorsby and P. Mitchel. 2024. Stories of Resilience: Lessons from Local Adaptation Practice. 2024. Chapter 5: Rethinking Accountability To Measure Progress On LLA. Global Center on Adaptation.

²⁹International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). 2023. Interview: New Scorecards Expose What's Going Wrong in the Climate Finance Delivery Chain – and Pilot How to Fix It; IIED. 2022. 360-Degree Accountability: Improving Climate Adaptation Finance.

³⁰Global Center on Adaptation. 2022. Stories of Resilience: Lessons from Local Adaptation Practice. <https://cmsllahub.gca.org/assets/stories-of-resilience.pdf>.

³¹The GCA's Global Hub on LLA launched in December 2022, promotes LLA as a way to reduce climate risks for populations and sections of society that are most vulnerable to climate change. The activities of the hub are guided by the eight LLA principles. In addition to knowledge sharing, peer-to-peer learning and capacity strengthening and communicating LLA, the Global Hub on LLA supports the development of people's adaptation plans in eight secondary cities in Bangladesh. GCA has also supported local journalists and young content creators (<https://llahub.gca.org/capacity-strengthening>) to report on LLA and popularize experiences and learning.



Table 7: Target Groups, Types of Information and Medium to be Used

| Intended Audience | Types of Information | Means |
|---|--|--|
| Policymakers and decision-makers | -Nature and level of vulnerability -Adaptation needs and priorities | Technical paper, report, fact sheets, seminar, workshop, consultation events |
| Vulnerable community and people | Climate change trends and impacts, adaptation options and strategies, adaptation technologies and innovation | IEC/ BCC campaign using leaflets, booklets, posters, awareness-raising audio songs, video docu-drama, use of social media |
| Local government institutions and implementing agencies | Local-level climate change vulnerabilities, climate - development linkages and needs, strengthening awareness and capacity on climate change adaptation, monitoring review and updating of adaptation plan over time | Technical paper, reports, fact sheets, policy brief, databases, seminar workshops, consultation, exposure visits to best practices |
| Mass media | Strengthening awareness and capacity on climate change adaptation and the ability of communicators to handle information on climate change adaptation | Reports, media briefs, outreach documents, visits to successful adaptation projects |
| International and national nongovernment organizations, United Nation (UN) agencies | Climate change needs and priorities, vulnerability and economic impacts of climate change, information about adaptation activities | Reports, data, information, case stories, technical paper, outreach documents, seminar, workshop, consultations |
| Private sector | Enabling factors that facilitate private sector engagement in locally led adaptation (LLA), examples of successful engagement of the private sector in LLA | Reports, data, information, case stories |

BCC = behavior change communication; IEC = information, education and communication.

Source: Developed by the authors of this document

7.5 A Capacity-Building Approach

Capacity development in local climate adaptation is of the highest priority for Union Parishad and Upazila Parishad officials covering technical and administrative tasks to be able to deliver LLA. Activities include (i) conducting capacity enhancement needs assessment, (ii) designing a road map and entry points for the capacity building of local government representatives and community members, (iii) developing training and capacity-building principles based on needs assessment and (iv) consolidating the development of training modules and training plans on technical and administrative tasks for Union Parishad and Upazila Parishad officials following the principles and needs assessment.

A national curriculum for LLA can be built from the experiential knowledge that has been generated through many different local adaptation cases—knowledge from failures as well as successes. A national program of LLA capacity development for officials in the local government, local civil society, cooperatives and private sector entrepreneurs needs to be developed.



There are pilot initiatives already operating on LLA capacity and the following could be the basis of a national program:

- **Institutionalized training on LLA for public administrators**

The Global Center for Adaptation (GCA)³² is currently working with the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC). This is the prime public sector training institute mandated by the Government of Bangladesh to build capacity and provide bespoke training to civil servants at all levels of the government and to develop a comprehensive module on LLA. This is being embedded within the regular and mandatory training provided by BPATC to government officials from different levels. The module will be designed as a compendium of learning materials, including slide decks and case studies, which can be taught as part of existing courses within BPATC. It can also be delivered as a stand-alone short course for a duration of up to 5 days. A comprehensive trainers' manual will accompany the module, describing the learning objectives and teaching approaches for each topic. BPATC faculty will also be trained to deliver the module as part of the project. GCA will be supported by the Center for Participatory Research and Development, Institute of Housing and Urban Development Studies and the Kerala Institute of Local Administration, as implementing partners for the project.

- **Course module for Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology on locally led and gender-responsive adaptation planning for climate-resilient urban informal settlements**

A pilot module created at Department of Urban and Regional Planning of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, in coordination with GCA, is being scaled up to other engineering and technology institutes in Bangladesh with support from the Bangladesh Institute of Planners and the University Grants Commission (footnote 32).



8. Conclusions

A diagnostic approach was taken for the development of the locally led adaptation (LLA) framework. The existing climate policy framework was reviewed and found to provide a comprehensive basis for the development and establishment of LLA across the country.

Reviews of current climate adaptation initiatives were undertaken. These provided the range of knowledge on how to operationalize climate adaptation in the different contexts of Bangladesh. This knowledge is valuable and needs to be properly systematized and documented. Establishing LLA nationwide has the advantage of many initial experiences to learn from and a wide cohort of civil society organizations (CSOs) already involved in addressing climate vulnerability. Peer-to- peer monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) involving both government and nongovernment organizations (NGOs) will accelerate progress toward effective climate adaptation.

There have been wide consultations with key stakeholders, including with members of divisional LLA hubs. Feasibility assessment visits were made to different climate-vulnerable areas to discuss climate change and adaptation with local people and officials.

There was focus on issues on how to support LLA that is aligned with decentralization in the local government. Appropriate levels of subsidiarity in governance and devolved decision-making are necessary for LLA to be effective. These aspects were considered through the lens provided by the principles of decentralization.

There is a significant need for comprehensive awareness-raising and capacity development among local government officials and other local leaders. The LLA should serve as a fulcrum to leverage investments in enhancing local capabilities for climate-resilient local development planning.

LLA includes robust climate risk management with a focus on extreme vulnerability. Flexible programming and learning will be necessary and can feed into programmatic capacity development to elevate local capabilities so they can sufficiently address the escalating climate impacts. In accordance with the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and other government-led climate frameworks, the emphasis on gender-responsiveness ways through which LLA can address. Gendered climate vulnerability have been identified.

The LLA framework envisages a national cross-sector program whereby local adaptation priorities and plans are generated bottom-up with corresponding provision of financial and technical support from the central Government of Bangladesh.

ANNEXES

I. The Process to Generate the Framework

A diagnostic approach was taken for the preparation of the locally led adaptation (LLA) framework. This entailed a review of the secondary information, a feasibility assessment and stakeholder consultation, which are briefly described below.

Review of Secondary Information

Preparation of the LLA framework involved a rigorous review of secondary information. The review findings are presented in Chapter 1: What is LLA and What is it for and Chapter 2: Climate Adaptation in Bangladesh.

The review identified several important precedents for LLA in Bangladesh. The community-based adaptation approach has been tested at the project level, the adaptation needs of climate-displaced people have been recognized and addressed in destination cities and more recently, local climate adaptation by local government authorities has been supported.

These and other experiences of local adaptation embody a wealth of learning that once properly systematized and documented can form a basis for implementing LLA nationwide.

Feasibility Assessment

Feasibility assessment was conducted to generate evidence of how LLA could be supported as part of local development planning, budgeting and implementation. The planning and design of the assessments were in consultation with other interested parties (e.g., the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme [UNDP], Global Center for Adaptation [GCA], research organizations and others). The information generated were shared for wider interpretation and combined with evidence from similarly focused appraisals.

The feasibility assessments involved interviews and group discussions to collect information from vulnerable communities, schools, local leaders, the local government authorities and officials or other representatives involved in climate adaptation. Information was gathered on current local practices and aspirations and how the local people participate in development planning. Specifically, the feasibility assessment aimed to undertake the following:

- Identify how well climate adaptation actions are supported by local and national governments.
- Explore the availability, access and management of finance and other resources for climate adaptation.
- Identify the current practice and suggest alternatives for climate action at the local levels.
- Determine the local capacity for planning, implementation and monitoring; and scaling of climate adaptation activities, interventions, or projects.

Assessment areas (districts, *upazilas* and Union Parishads) were chosen from the most climate-vulnerable areas of the country (Hotspots identified in the National Adaptation Plan [NAP]).³³ The feasibility assessments were

³³ Government of Bangladesh, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. 2022. *National Adaptation Plan of Bangladesh (2023–2050. Microsoft Word - Bangladesh NAP-main volume-Eng-October 2022-Cabinet Approved.docx (portal.gov.bd).*



conducted in the southwestern, cyclone- and saline-prone districts of Bagerhat and Khulna during February 2024 and in flood- and drought-prone areas of Rangpur and Gaibandha during March 2024. Places visited included the Mithakhali and Chandpai Unions of Mongla Upazila, Bagerhat district; and Tildanga and Kamarkhola Unions of Dacope Upazila, Khulna district. Also visited were Pirganj Union of Pirganj Upazila under Rangpur district; and Uria and Burail Union of Fulchari Upazilla, Gaibandha district. Other regions or areas of the country were covered through a virtual consultation with the GCA hub members who were active across the country.

Stakeholder Consultation

In addition to the engagement with local people through the feasibility assessment visits, consultation meetings and workshops were organized at the national level with key stakeholders and institutions involved in addressing climate change impacts through adaptation interventions.

The consultation workshops mainly comprised the presentation, question-and-answer and discussion sessions with an introductory and closing sessions. Consultation meetings and/or workshops were facilitated in a hybrid mode with both physical attendance and virtual connection. There was close liaison with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC) in this process.

As part of the consultation process for the preparation of the LLA framework and action plan, meetings were held with members of LLA divisional hubs, other organizations and nongovernment organizations (NGOs). During these discussions, evidence was gathered on how well current local climate adaptation adheres to the LLA principles.

Key stakeholders consulted include the following:

- Local Government Division
- Department of Agricultural Extension
- Directorate General of Health Services
- Bangladesh Water Development Board
- Development partners (e.g., United Nations Development Programme [UNDP], The World Bank, UN Women, United Nations Industrial Development Organization [UNIDO], Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office [FCDO], International Centre for Climate Change and Development [ICCCAD], BRAC, CARE, Islamic Relief, Practical Action, Friendship, GCA and others)
- Divisional LLA Hub members
- Youth groups
- Unions and municipalities

Consultation workshops were used to present and share the Draft, Updated and Final LLA framework and to collect and document feedback and suggestions from all participating agencies and organizations.

II. Findings from the Feasibility Assessments

Findings from the feasibility assessments that were conducted are presented in Table A2.1. The analysis used the planning tool that measures the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and constraints (SWOC) of current practices that will support the implementation of locally led adaptation (LLA).

Table A2.1: Analysis of Current Practices Using the Principles of Locally Led Adaptation

| SWOC analysis of current practices through LLA principles lens | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| LLA principles | Strengths | Weaknesses | Opportunities | Constraints |
| Risk informed decision making | <i>Local people know current climate risks best</i> | Climate projections not understood | <i>Build capacity at local and middle tiers</i> | Awareness of need for climate planning |
| Gender and social inclusion | <i>Good experiences in women's empowerment</i> | Negative social norms | <i>Build climate into gender equality programmes</i> | Technical expertise |
| Whole of society approach | <i>Climate affects everybody and is a common fight</i> | Some face greater risks than others | <i>Involve UZPs, UPs and local groups in adaptation</i> | Institutional priorities |
| Training and capacity building | <i>National experiences and know how</i> | Processes not in place | <i>Build curriculum for national programme</i> | Resources |
| Accountability and transparency | <i>Local peoples' expectations</i> | Direction of travel | <i>Climate action as a lever for better accountability</i> | Ingrained practice, lack of trust |
| Appropriate subsidiarity | Options available | Lack of capacity at local tier | <i>Climate action as a lever for subsidiarity</i> | Political willingness |
| Valuing local, traditional & indigenous knowledge | <i>A wealth of diverse knowledge</i> | Institutional attitudes | <i>Establish national programme</i> | Resources |
| Predictable and regular funding for local action | <i>Good practice cases available, global recognition</i> | Current funding trends in opposite direction | <i>Build into local tier initiatives</i> | Inflexible funders |

LLA = locally led adaptation; SWOC = strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, constraints; UP = Union Parishad; UZP = Upazila Parishad.

Source: Developed based on the outcome of the consultation by the authors.

Table A2.2: Analysis of Current Practices Using the Building Blocks of Locally Led Adaptation

| SWOC analysis of current through LLA building blocks lens | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| LLA building blocks | Strengths | Weaknesses | Opportunities | Constraints |
| Policy and legislative framework | <i>NAP, NDC roadmap, etc. in place</i> | Guidance for SNGs not available | <i>Develop LLA guidance for LGs</i> | Resources |
| Budgeting and finance | <i>National and international finance available</i> | Delivery mechanisms of climate finance to middle and local tiers absent | <i>Use performance-based grants to get finance to middle and local tiers</i> | Tried and tested models not available |
| Institutions | <i>Institutional awareness emerging</i> | Knowledge and capacity very shallow | <i>LLA as a national programme to build institutions</i> | Inertia and scale of changes required |
| Climate resilient planning | <i>Good practice to draw from and scale-out</i> | Escalating risks ahead of capacity to address them | <i>Use climate as lever to enhance local development planning</i> | Public sector capacity and competing priorities |
| Monitoring, evaluation and learning | <i>Pilot programme for LLA evaluation being tested in Bangladesh</i> | MEL not institutionalised | <i>Invest in learning from doing network for local tier organisations – focus on LLA principles</i> | Competent coordination required |

LG = local government; LLA = locally led adaptation; SNG = sub-national government; MEL = monitoring, evaluation, and learning; NAP = national adaptation plan; NDC = nationally determined contributions; SWOC = strength, weaknesses, opportunities, constraints.

Source: Developed based on the outcome of the consultation by the authors.



III. Addressing Climate Vulnerability

People are vulnerable when they are unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation. This can be due to many factors, including age, disability, health and social circumstances. People are most vulnerable to climate change when they are young, old, have disabilities, or are in poverty. They may also be at risk if they live in areas with less green space or are in places that are prone to extreme weather.

Vulnerability is a concept used to express the complex interaction of climate change effects and the susceptibility of a system to its impacts. There exist manifold definitions and methods of operationalizing this concept. The IPCC sought to elaborate and advance an approach for understanding vulnerability in its Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) as: the degree to which a system is susceptible to and unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes. Vulnerability is a function of the character, magnitude and rate of climate change and variation to which a system is exposed, its sensitivity and its adaptive capacity.

People are vulnerable when they face risks (including from climate change) but cannot easily cope or adapt and unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation. Those most dependent upon weather and climate-sensitive livelihoods are liable to be most climate-vulnerable. Gender, age, social status, social norms, poverty, power, access to and control over resources in the household, the community and society are all determining factors. These multiple dimensions interact, both spatially and temporally, hence, analysis and understanding must be both comprehensive and intersectional.

Vulnerability can be used as a framework for understanding and addressing the stresses and processes that fundamentally alter people's well-being. Like social vulnerability, climate vulnerability is hard to recognize and to understand. Socioeconomic marginalization, displacement and migration, neglected ill health and uneven climatic monitoring and forecasting all systematically affect the understanding of climate risks. Too often, the views and situations of marginalized people are overlooked.

The government's actions on climate change adaptation should aim to eradicate extreme climate vulnerability. This requires *recognizing* who experiences extreme vulnerability and *understanding* why; then *including* vulnerable people in processes that foster greater resilience and *allocating resources and creating opportunities* for redistributive impact.

IV. Gendered Climate Vulnerability

Women are often more vulnerable than men to the adverse effects of climate change. Inequalities in the ownership and control of household assets, increasing duties of care for family due to male out-migration, declining food and water access and increased disaster exposure undermine women's ability to achieve economic independence and resilience. The consequences of gender inequality and discrimination mean that women find it difficult to generate income. This puts them in a vulnerable position. Besides that, the societal norms of gender discrimination and gender power imbalances exaggerate the barriers there are to women's participation in formal labor markets, joining civil society organizations, or collectively mobilizing for political change.



Research shows that climate shocks and disasters exert broad negative impacts on gender equality. Deviations from long-term mean temperatures and increasing incidence of climatological and hydro-meteorological disasters are associated with declines in women's economic and social rights. These effects are most apparent where democracy is weak and where people rely on agriculture for livelihoods.³⁴

The feasibility assessments conducted in the preparation of this framework study in the southern coastal belt region (Khulna and Bagerhat districts) and in the drought- and flood-prone region (Rangpur and Gaibandha districts) of northern Bangladesh corroborated the consequences of climate change on women's vulnerability and the need to prioritize gender equality and social inclusion issues in planning, designing and implementing climate adaptation interventions.

Table A4 summarizes the evidence from different sectors on gendered climate vulnerability.

Table A4: Examples of Gendered Climate Vulnerability

| Sector | Evidence | Sources |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Climate-related disasters | In the event of cyclone and floods, women face physical and social barriers to act or move away from the effects of such disasters. Their dress, family and household liabilities confine them in such hazardous situations. During the flood and water logging period they suffer from lack of drinking water, poor sanitation and lack of safety from sexual harassment and exploitation. | D. van Schie, R. Ranon, A. Mirza and S. Anderson. 2022. Local responses to climate-related non-economic losses and damages: a case study in Burigoalini and Gabura Union, Southwest Bangladesh . IIED. |
| Agriculture and food security | Climate impacts on food production result in women facing loss of income, increases the food prices and lead to food insecurity. Women and girls' health has been found to decline more than males' health in times of food shortages. Women are too often excluded from decision-making on access to and the use of land and resources critical to their food security. | http://www.fao.org/FOCUS/E/Women/Sustin-e.htm |
| Water | Women and girls bear the burden of fetching water for their families and they can spend significant amounts of time daily hauling water from distant sources. This water is rarely enough to meet the needs of the household and is often contaminated and women and girls pay the heaviest price for poor sanitation and hygiene. | http://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/Arsenic.pdf |

³⁴ J. Eastin. 2018. [Climate Change and Gender Equality in Developing States](#). World Development. 107(July). pp. 289–305.



| Sector | Evidence | Sources |
|---|--|--|
| Mobility and settlements | <p>Rising sea levels, tropical cyclones, flash floods, soil salinity, river erosion and agricultural disruption have emerged as the environmental or climatic push factors that have forced people in highly exposed and vulnerable coastal communities to migrate. In most cases, people abandoned their settlements in rural and coastal areas and moved to towns and cities. Overall, the number of Bangladeshis displaced by the impacts of climate change could reach 13.3 million by 2050, making it the country's number one driver of internal migration. Whether left in places of origin or facing new climate risks in new destinations, women and girls are more vulnerable than men and boys.</p> | <p>R. Bharadwaj and S. Huq. 2022. Climate-induced migration and health issues: a toolkit for policymakers. IIED.</p> |
| Women, gender equality and biodiversity | <p>Changes in natural ecosystems threaten biodiversity worldwide, including Bangladesh. The damages of mangroves (vulnerable to increased sea level and salinity) and the absence of adequate drought-resistant crops magnifies the impacts of climate change. In rural areas, people are highly dependent on biomass, such as wood, agricultural crops, wastes and forest resources for their fuel or cooking needs and others. In the face of climate change, the ability of women and men to obtain these indispensable resources is reduced. The declining biodiversity hampers access to security, resiliency, social relations, health and freedom of choices and actions.</p> | <p>Y. Lambrou et al. 2006. Energy and Gender in Rural Sustainable Development. FAO.</p> <p>United Nations Environment Programme. 2005. Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Biodiversity Synthesis, Millennium Ecosystem Assessment-A Framework for Assessment.</p> |
| Women and lack of decision-making abilities | <p>Losses and damages following climate change-induced hazards and disasters will be disproportionately greater among women than men in developing countries, particularly in Bangladesh. More women than men die in disasters, not just because they do not receive early warning information in time, but due to their limited decision-making abilities on how to respond when disasters hit.</p> | <p>A. U. Ahmed, S. R. Hassan, B. Etzold and S. Neelormi. 2012. Rainfall, Food Security and Human Mobility – Case Study: Bangladesh, United Nations University, Institute for Environment and Human Security. pp. 156.</p> <p>A. U. Ahmed, S. Neelormi, N. Adri, M. S. Alam and K. Nuruzzaman. 2007, Climate Change, Gender and Special Vulnerable Groups in Bangladesh, Final report, BASTOB and Centre for Global Change.</p> |

Source: Compiled by authors.

The consequences of climate change impacts are disproportionate for women. Increased violence against women



during and after disasters have been recorded. There is often an increase in unpaid care work for women, such as collection of water and fuel. Extreme weather events can cause greater marginalization of women in the labor market and lead to girls dropping out of schools, or even forced into early marriage. Climate change risks are associated with deterioration of reproductive health due to reduced food and water security. Also, increases in unplanned migration and trafficking of women and girls have been observed.³⁵

In addition to women lacking access to productive resources, in particular, land, they are more often affected than men by climate impacts in their multiple roles as food producers and providers, as guardians of health and as caregivers to the family and community. As access to basic assets and natural resources, such as shelter, food, fertile land, water and fuel are hampered by climate risks or other effects, women's workload increases. Climate change impacts—be these caused by flooding, drought and erratic rainfall—impair women's well-being and that of their households.³⁶

V. The Need for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Climate Adaptation

In the 2024 Global Gender Gap Index, Bangladesh ranked 99th out of 146 countries. It has a Gender Inequality Index value of 0.689. To address gender inequality in climate action, the Government of Bangladesh recognizes people's own initiatives and coping strategies in facing the adverse impacts of climate change and other hazards. The government invested in institutions and measures to assist people's coping capacities including early warning systems and during- and post-hazards relief and recovery.

Responses to climate impacts are very seldom gender-neutral. Gender-responsive measures are needed.

Existing gender-responsive budget reporting must be strengthened to ensure that allocations of public funds address the needs of women, men, girls, boys and people with nonbinary genders. This process may involve tracking gender-specific expenditures to ensure that targeted resources are indeed allocated for women and groups with diverse gender identities. The process should also promote equal employment in the public services and tracking is mainstreamed into the national, sectoral and local adaptation budgeting systems.

Policies and legal frameworks need to be formulated toward reducing gendered and socially inequitable risks arising from disasters and climate change. The Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) have been formulated to include gendered and socially inclusive strategies. Gender equality and social inclusion needs to be pursued as prime considerations in implementing these plans and policies.

The lower participation of women in decision-making due to sociocultural factors renders them more vulnerable to risks despite their demonstrated capability to act on and adapt to climate stresses. Therefore, a robust and effective locally led adaptation (LLA) framework is needed.

In its 8th five-year plan, the Government of Bangladesh pointed to the need to establish a culture of integrating climate adaptation into all development projects so that benefits may be accrued from development spending, with or without international assistance. It also emphasized that the prevailing knowledge gaps between central government institutions and the local government must be addressed by building the capacities of local government officials and staff.

³⁵ A. U. Ahmed, S. Neelormi, N. Adri, M. S. Alam and K. Nuruzzaman. 2007. Climate Change, Gender and Special Vulnerable Groups in Bangladesh. Final report. BASTOB and Centre for Global Change; A. U. Ahmed, S. R. Hassan, B. Etzold and S. Neelormi. 2012. Rainfall, Food Security and Human Mobility – Case Study: Bangladesh. United Nations University, Institute for Environment and Human Security. pp. 156.

³⁶ I. Dankelman. 2010. Gender and Climate Change: An Introduction. Earthscan.



Greater efforts must be made to understand and respond to gender-differentiated impacts of climate change and enhance the adaptive capacity of both women and men. Adaptation must be devised based on gender-differentiated vulnerability, while geographical differences are analyzed in a way that it will address the varying issues of gender equality. Women's adaptive capacity must be recognized and enhanced as key actors in the implementation of climate adaptation activities.

The 8th five-year plan also mentions that gender equality issues will be integrated into all disaster risk management policies, plans and decision-making processes, including risk assessment, early warning, information management and education and training. Budgetary allocations will be needed to achieve this objective.³⁷

The adverse impacts of climate change are disproportionately felt across the country, with the women, the elderly and the disabled, the geographically and culturally different groups and the poorer among the community members, suffering the most. Therefore, addressing climate adaptation using LLA and disaster risk reduction—in collaboration with the citizens—becomes an important element of resilience. This approach has the potential to yield opportunities to transform development activities as pathways toward making the country more resilient.

Areas with distinct features in terms of ecological diversity have a different level of vulnerability to climate change impacts due to their geographical location (e.g., tea garden areas, Chattogram Hill Tracts areas, the southern coastal region, char and island areas, beel, *haor*, low-lying areas and others). These areas need particular consideration in LLA.

The NAP emphasized on the impactful engagement of women and other vulnerable groups, including youth, the elderly, diverse ethnic communities, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups in decision-making. An effective monitoring and evaluation system requires to keep building and generating data and indicators that are disaggregated by sex, age and disabilities.

VI. Examples of Climate Adaptation in Practice

High levels of climate vulnerability means that Bangladesh requires coordinated and concerted finance, technology transfer and capacity building for climate action. For an effective climate adaptation to meet the increasing climate risks and impacts, it will involve the participation of the local people, along with the local government and support organizations practicing technologies and methods suitable for the different regions and ecosystems of the country.

While the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC) has been leading climate action initiatives, other ministries and agencies are also contributing to climate adaptation. To implement the programs outlined in the BCCSAP (2009), the Climate Change Trust Fund (CCTF) was created from the revenue budget of the government in fiscal year (FY) 2009–2010. From 2009–2010 to the current fiscal year, the government has allocated Tk 4.05 million for the CCTF. Some 877 projects have been undertaken by CCTF, both in climate change adaptation and mitigation to address the adverse impact of climate change. Of those projects, 628 were already successfully accomplished. On average, about 200 crore taka per year is being allocated to new projects. The projects are being implemented by different government agencies at the local level. Major adaptation activities of the CCTF are the following: (i) construction of riverbank protection work, (ii) school-cum-cyclone shelter, (iii) river and canal excavation and re-excavation, (iv) built rubber dam, (v) water reservoir constructed for agriculture production, (vi) mobile water

³⁷ A. U. Ahmed, S. Haq, M. Nasreen and A. W. R. Hassan. 2015. Sectoral Inputs Towards the Formulation of Seventh Five Year Plan (2016 – 2021) Climate Change and Disaster Management (Final Report). 6c53bd88_ad69_4ccf_bbae_d45b70dbc0bf/017%207th%20FYP%20and%202021%20Climate-Change-and-Disaster-Management.pdf.

treatment plant, (vii) rural road development, (viii) cyclone-resistant houses, (ix) installation of deep tube well and others, both in coastal and urban areas. Examples of other projects and/or initiatives include the following:

- Led by the MOEFCC, with technical support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the 5-year project Adaptation Initiative for Climate-Vulnerable Offshore Small Islands and Riverine Charland in Bangladesh is rolling out cyclone- and flood-resistant homes and livelihood projects for vulnerable households living on the target chars (islands).
- Projects and initiatives were implemented by various agencies under the ministry, like the Department of Environment (DOE), which include (i) Building Climate-Resilient Livelihoods in Vulnerable Landscapes in Bangladesh, July 2023–June 2028; (ii) Adaptation Initiative for Climate-Vulnerable Offshore Small Islands and Riverine Charland in Bangladesh, January 2023–December 2027; and (iii) Ecosystem-Based Approaches to Adaptation in the drought- prone Barind Tract and Haor Wetland area, July 2019–December 2025.
- Under the MOEFCC, the Department of Forest is implementing the following: (i) Nursery Development for Countrywide Plantation to Combat Climate Change Impact (Fourth Phase), July 2022–June 2024; (ii) Afforestation to Protect Embankment and Char Area Along the Jamuna River in Kazipara, Sirajganj, November 2018–December 2024; (iii) Reforestation and Infrastructure Development in Sylhet Division to Combat Negative Impact of Climate Change, July 2019–June 2025; and (iv) Protection of the Environment of the Rajshahi Barind Tract through Social Forestry, Mach 2021–June 2025.
- With the support of the MOEFCC/Trust Fund, the Bangladesh Water Development Board has implemented the River Bank Protection Project in the Village under the Charsubuddi Union, Raypura Upazila of Narsingdi district to protect the vulnerable community due to the impact of climate change.
- With the MOEFCC/Trust Fund's support, the Department of Public Health and Engineering has implemented the Water Supply and Sanitation Projects in the Mongla, Rampal and Morelganj Upazilas under the Bagerhat district.
- With MOEFCC/Trust Fund's support, the Noakhali Science and Technology University has undertaken a research project, the Climate Adaptive Crop Selection, with a view to increasing yield and ensuring food security along the Meghna River estuary.
- The Local Government Division (LGD) of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, with support from the UNDP and the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), have implemented the Local Government Initiative on Climate Change (LoGIC) initiative. It works in 72 unions across seven districts. LoGIC aims to strengthen the capacity of local governments, households and other relevant stakeholders to develop local development plans that integrate climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster-resilience measures. With guidance from the project, vulnerable communities have worked together with the local government to develop participatory community risk assessments, hazard maps and risk atlases. These local Risk Reduction Action Plans that are integrated into local development planning processes and are regularly screened against current and emerging environmental, climate-related and disaster risk priorities.
- The Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED), with support from Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), has implemented the Climate-Resilient Inclusive and Smart Cities



project that prepared master plans for two municipalities (Sirajganj and Satkhira) using climate technology, data and information. The project introduced a national approach for a climate-resilient and socially inclusive planning at the local/municipality/Paurasava level. Urban development plans were developed with local communities and with representation from all development sectors.

- The Ministry of Planning of the Government of Bangladesh, with financial and technical support from GIZ GmbH, has implemented the Adaptation to Climate Change into the National and Local Development Planning Project (ACCNLDP I&II) to enable the Bangladesh Planning Commission to use climate risk information more effectively in national planning and project appraisal processes. This will strengthen the climate resilience element of public investment. The use of climate information was introduced to determine climate risks and local adaptation needs in sectoral plans and in the specific chapters of national plans, as well as in investment projects. Officials involved in development planning have enhanced their capacities for considering climate risks in planning and appraisal work.
- The Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs has implemented the Climate Change Resilient Project (CCRP), 2018–2021 with UNDP's support. The project focused on developing community-led, water-related adaptation solutions. Its design was based on the capacities and leadership qualities of local indigenous communities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). The project formed Climate Resilience Committees (CRCs), ensuring that half of the committee members were women. The CRCs helped to incorporate local and traditional knowledge and facilitated the communities' involvement in designing, planning, implementing, coordinating and monitoring climate adaptation-related interventions. The CRCs also managed and disbursed funds for adaptation interventions and developed Local Resilience Plans.
- The Government of Bangladesh has partnership programs with the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) in four aspects related to climate adaptation. These include (i) Restoration and protection of the ecologically critical areas; (ii) National- level policy influencing, political economy analysis focusing on climate adaptive flagship program; (iii) Multisector LLA project; and (iv) Urban poverty reduction program through climate-resilient infrastructure working in 19 cities across the country. This is being implemented under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives.
- Since November 2019, the Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF-Bangladesh) is implementing a Green Climate Fund-supported project, Increasing the Resilience of Poor, Marginalized and Climate-Vulnerable Communities in Flood-Prone Areas of Bangladesh. The project focused on community-led and gender-sensitive adaptation to reduce the impacts of flood and associated hazards. Based in five flood-prone districts, it works with female-led households. The project activities are based on the adaptation models, which have already been proved successful.

To complement the government initiatives, many national and international nongovernment organizations (NGOs), civil service organizations (CSOs) and technical agencies are implementing various types of adaptation projects and interventions across the vulnerable districts of the country. These include the following:

- The Climate Bridge Fund (CBF) is a trust fund established by BRAC with support from the Government of Germany through KfW bank. It supports projects implemented by NGOs in Bangladesh to strengthen the resilience of people displaced, or at risk of being displaced, by climate impacts. CBF has two funding windows that support climate adaptation and/or mitigation and disaster risk reduction. Climate-induced migrants are supported in the slum areas of Barishal, Khulna, Rajshahi, Satkhira and Sirajganj city corporations and/or municipality areas. People displaced by the impacts of climate-related events experience losses and damages and may also face climate risks in the destinations they have moved to. Among the projects supported by CBF are (i) improving water access and sanitation, (ii) providing better housing, (iii) investing in skills training and (iv) supporting assets building and starting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Household solar systems and improved cookstoves are provided. Bridges and raised walkways are being built for access to work and schools during floods. Drainage systems and solid waste collection and management are being installed. The CBF's monitoring indicates that income and savings of beneficiary households have increased.
- UN Women works with grassroot-level women's groups to develop capacity on women's rights and to identify the adaptation needs and responses. Climate change resilience programs focus on small-scale farming, waste management and energy access. These initiatives use participatory planning with the community and with the local institutions. For agriculture and climate change resilience, the work is with Union Parishads and for urban management the work is with the municipalities. Disaster early warning systems are being established, involving community volunteers who do probability map and community planning decision-making program with the Union Parishad. The initial focus was on flood early warning, but this is now expanded to include more climate hazards, such as prolonged drought.
- Several climate adaptive practices were also introduced in the southwestern areas of Bangladesh under the project, Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change of the CARE. To adapt to the increased level of salinity, farmers are cultivating salinity-tolerant rice, switching to different varieties, trying different planting dates, converting paddy to fish production and practicing crop rotation.
- Practical Action has strengthened local women's leadership by establishing them as local resilience agents (LRAs). LRAs are responsible for transmitting early warnings and mobilizing their communities during floods. These women leaders have increased their visibility in their communities through regular community meetings. This project has also motivated more women to stand in local government elections and contribute to their communities' well-being.
- The Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh created the Community Climate Resilience Centre (CCRC), an innovative cyclone shelter in southwest Bangladesh. Every 2 years, community members elect an executive committee (with at least 30% women and 10% youth). The CCRC's funding mechanism is supported by small local businesses. Funds are spent on activities prioritized by the committee. Local government officials also use the center to provide regular services to local communities, including weather-related information and accessible technological solutions for adaptive agriculture. The center also provides health care and supports the diversification of household incomes, e.g., 60 women entrepreneurs commercially producing organic fertilizer.



- The Global Commission on Adaptation's (GCA) Global Hub on Locally Led Adaptation was launched in December 2022, together with the Government of Bangladesh, to promote LLA at scale, with speed and to reduce climate risks for populations and sections of society that are most vulnerable to climate change. The activities of the hub are guided by the eight principles for LLA, endorsed by the GCA. In addition to knowledge sharing, peer-to-peer learning and capacity strengthening, the Global Hub on LLA supports the development of People's Adaptation Plans to inform project design and investments by international financial institutions (IFIs). The hub is currently supporting People's Adaptation Plans in eight secondary cities in Bangladesh. These plans are produced by vulnerable communities, with facilitation by the local CSOs, to inform the investments by the IFI projects.

VII. Consultation Outputs (with Locally Led Adaptation Hubs and Others)

As part of the consultation process for the preparation of the locally led adaptation (LLA) framework and action plan, meetings were held with members of LLA divisional hubs and other organizations and nongovernment organizations (NGOs). During these discussions, evidence was gathered on how well current local climate adaptation adheres to the LLA principles, as summarized and described in Table A7.

Table A7: Evidence from Locally Led Adaptation Hub Members on Current Local Climate Adaptation

| LLA Principle | Evidence from LLA Hub Members |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Devolved decision-making | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most LLA hub member organizations work with the local government and agree to take official permission/ approval from the local government for their adaptation activities. Climate- and disaster-related activities involve the local government and work with the affected communities, especially in assessment, planning, validation, endorsement and execution. |
| Addressing inequalities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women's development and social welfare departments coordinate various initiatives in collaboration with local NGOs and CBOs. LLA approaches could be integrated into these initiatives. Youthnet is working with groups of organized youth to help raise their awareness and involvement in climate actions at the local level. |
| Stable and predictable funding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National government funding and development partner project funds are available. LLA requires significant further funding to achieve effective scale. NGOs and CBOs are aware of these and some take part in the open budget meeting arranged by the Union Parishads in the annual budget cycle. |
| Investing in local capabilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some NGOs and CBOs undertake capacity development activities for the local communities on various aspects, including climate, disaster risk management and related issues, e.g., livelihood development, gender, climate risk management, WASH and health. In some cases, capacity development is undertaken jointly with the local government and/or other government agencies. |
| Understanding climate risks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate risks and impacts vary across locations and LLA hub members focus on those current climate effects prioritized by the local people. |

| | |
|--|--|
| Flexible programming and learning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge sharing and social learning for local climate adaptation is happening but in few cases. The participation and contribution of the local government in this process is not well understood. |
| Transparency and accountability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are some good examples of local government accountability to be built upon. |
| Collaborative actions and co-investments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGO and CBOs do undertake collaborative initiatives with the local government and other government agencies, e.g., tree planting, seed distribution, health campaigns, wildfire safety awareness and drinking water supply during floods and cyclones. |

CBO = community-based organization; LLA = locally led adaptation; NGO = nongovernment organization; WASH = water, sanitation and hygiene.

The LLA hub members raised concerns that need to be addressed in any future LLA initiatives. The local government should improve its consultation with the local communities when considering the use of natural public resources (open water bodies, *beel/haor/baor/Char*). Different social engagement approach should be taken for LLA actions in hill tracts and tea garden areas since the social and administrative structures and norms are different from elsewhere. The participation and contribution of the youth, women and people with disabilities are not well considered in most cases.

As found through the feasibility assessment visits, the LLA hub members believe that Union Parishad members want to work with LLA approaches, but they do not have enough knowledge, capacity and budget to do so. Also, there are little if any incentives for Union Parishads to invest in LLA. Finally and of relevance to the decentralization principles, LLA hub members see a lack of coordination among government departments with regards to local climate adaptation.

VIII. Locally Led Adaptation-Related Works by Development Partners and Civil Society Organizations

Table A8.1 presents the locally led adaptation (LLA)-related work of the European Union, including seven underlying projects.

Table A8.1: Food and Nutrition Security Programme

| Programs at Local Tier | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|---|
| Tier | Locally Led Adaptation Function | Program Activities | Geographic Location (Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad, municipality and others) |
| Local | Climate vulnerability and risks assessments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct of Disaster Impact Assessments (at the union level) | The Food and Nutrition Security Programme was designed for the most climate-vulnerable areas of the country (district of Rangpur, Sylhet, Mymensingh, Khulna and Chittagong Hill Tracts), reaching 61 Upazilas and 403 Unions |



| | Awareness raising | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informative sessions on climate-related issues | |
|--|---|--|---|
| | Capacity development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building of subnational authorities on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation (development of related plans) Trainings on Climate Smart Agriculture for farmers | |
| | Funding adaptation–stable and predictable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy with the subnational authorities to allocate specific funds on adaptation | |
| | Gender equality and social inclusion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of female members in the climate-related committees (e.g., Disaster Management Committees) Promoting the leadership of women to assess disaster and climate change risk, develop planned strategies and priorities, use of resources, implement measures and monitor the progress | |
| | Monitoring, evaluation and learning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training on monitoring activities to assess the outcomes of climate change-related adaptation intervention | |
| Other Programs at National Tier | | | |
| Tier | Locally Led Adaptation Function | Program Activities | Geographic Location (Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad, Municipality and others) |
| National | Policy influencing | Although the primary objective of the Food and Nutrition Security Programme is food and nutrition security, climate change adaptation is inevitably a crosscutting issue that the European Union has raised with the government partners. The aim was to advocate for better planning, budgeting and implementing the climate change adaptation interventions. | Ministry of LGRD&C, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs |

Table A8.2: Pathway to Prosperity for Extremely Poor People Project and the Partnerships for Resilient Livelihoods Project

| Tier | Locally Led Adaptation Function | Program Activities |
|-------|---|---|
| Local | Climate vulnerability and risks assessments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The resilient livelihoods projects targeted the regions where the prevalence of extreme poverty is high and the regions are situated in the most climate-vulnerable areas. From the targeted regions, potential districts and the poverty-prone <i>upazilas</i> were identified and the unions were then selected using the random sampling. |
| | Awareness raising | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The projects focus on raising awareness on services related to livelihoods, nutrition and primary health care services, social mobilization, climate and disaster management related services and services related to gender integration and disability inclusion issues. |
| | Capacity development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial capacity development of targeted households on Income generating activities (farm and non-farm) homestead farming; counselling; vocational training and exposure visit. |
| | Funding adaptation – stable and predictable | Not applicable |
| | Gender equality and social inclusion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of the project participants, 98% are women. Almost all the livelihood activities are women-focused and women-managed. The project is also sensitizing the male partners and other key members of the households about the importance of women's empowerment and the negative consequences of gender disparity. The project also includes Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) sessions for adolescent girls through the Adolescent Girls' Club. This latter focuses on issues related to child marriage; school dropout; access to basic services; nutrition; primary health care; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); climate change adaptation; and disasters. |
| | Accountability and transparency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The organization like Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) that is implementing the Pathway to Prosperity for Extremely Poor People Project (PPEPP) project has robust recruitment processes and employment satisfaction practices for staff, which reduce the risk of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH). The organization has an accountable standard operating procedures for addressing SEAH allegations. The organization implementing the Partnerships for Resilient Livelihoods Project and its partner nongovernment organization also follow robust recruitment processes. |



| | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| | Monitoring, evaluation and learning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PPEPP-EU's internal monitoring system works at two levels – at the project implementing unit (PIU) level (at PKSF) and downstream at the partner organization level, using both on-site and off-site options. The financial issues are monitored monthly through the Accounting Information System of the PPEPP-EU. The Integrated Information System manages the official reporting of the overall operational issues of the PPEPP-EU monthly. PPEPP uses Result Based Management (RBM) tool and have the PPEPP-EU logframe as its core of monitoring and evaluation criteria. It not only provided project progress over time but also identified the potential bottlenecks that needed to be addressed during project implementation. Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), implementing the PRLC project, has a robust (MEAL) system in place and they also developed a MEAL Plan. |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|

Table A8.3: The Local Government Initiative on Climate Change

| Tier | Locally Led Adaptation Function | Program Activities | Geographic Location (Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad, municipality and others) |
|-------|---|--|--|
| Local | Climate vulnerability and risks assessments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Local Government Initiative on Climate Change (LoGIC) is a collaboration between the Government of Bangladesh, the United Nations Development Programm (UNDP), the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the European Union (EU) and the Government of Sweden. It aims to aid climate-vulnerable individuals in 72 Unions across seven districts in Bangladesh. Under the LoGIC project, a Climate Vulnerability Index was created at the union level and is utilized by the Local Government Division to allocate resources to local government institutions for climate adaptation initiatives. The major focus of LoGIC is locally led adaptation. | 72 unions across seven districts in Bangladesh. |

Source: Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh. 2021. Support for Enhancing Communities' Resilience to Climate Change and Related Disasters-Local Government Initiative on Climate Change (LoGIC). https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/bangladesh/support-enhancing-communities-resilience-climate-change-and-related-disasters-local-government_and_en

Table A8.4: Locally Led Adaptation Programs of the Global Center on Adaptation

| Tier | Locally Led Adaptation Function | Program Activities | Geographic Location (Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad, municipality and others) |
|-------|---|---|--|
| Local | Climate vulnerability and risks assessments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Global Center for Adaptation (GCA), together with downstream partners such as BRAC, are facilitating a locally led process in which local communities of urban informal settlements are capacitated to assess their own climate vulnerability through the Community Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) and come up with priority adaptation solutions through the People's Adaptation Plan that inform large-scale investments. The CCVA follows a thorough settlement mapping, profiling and house-to-house enumeration conducted by the community members to get an understanding of the different climate-related risks and challenges faced by local communities. | Municipality: Mongla, Patuakhali Sadar, Kuakata Sadar, Burhanuddin, City Corporation: Chattogram City Corporation |
| | Awareness raising | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the settlement profiling, mapping and CCVA exercise, the community leaders raise awareness within their broader community on the climate risks and community-led adaptation solutions. | |
| | Capacity development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local communities. Local residents from the most vulnerable informal settlements are trained on participatory climate vulnerability assessment tools, data collection methods and techniques to work as co-researchers and community mobilizers who will undertake data collection in collaboration with local actors. Mobilizing residents for this activity is essential as it helps foster trust with the local community and thereby facilitate entry into the settlement. Training is also delivered for community-led implementation and long-term operation and maintenance of municipal infrastructure. Local government. Local government officials, including the city mayors and municipality staff, are sensitized on the need for community-led planning and infrastructure development and capacitated to integrate interventions from the People's Plans to the Municipality's Annual Development Plan. | |



| Tier | Locally Led Adaptation Function | Program Activities | Geographic Location (Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad, municipality and others) |
|----------|---|---|--|
| | Funding adaptation – stable and predictable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to the facilitation of the development of People's Plans, the GCA also provide seed funding in Mongla to invest on priority adaptation solutions identified by the most vulnerable groups. The communities, with support from the municipality, decide which interventions to fund, when to start construction and how they will be engaged in implementation and maintenance of the infrastructure. | |
| | Gender equality and social inclusion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throughout the People's Planning exercise, a sharper focus is given on women and socially excluded groups who are trained in profiling their climate vulnerabilities and finding contextualized solutions. | |
| | Accountability and transparency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GCA, together with its downstream partners, are building the capacity of the local communities to understand their climate risks, needs and priority adaptation solutions in such a way that it prepares them to keep track of the municipal investments and hold the duty bearers accountable. | |
| Middle | Climate vulnerability and risks assessments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once the informal level local plans are done, consultations are held with the ward- and town-level stakeholders, including government officials and private sector representatives, to develop and finalize the ward-level and town-level plans. Locally led informal settlement-level "People's Plans" are aggregated into city-level investment plans that are at a scale and size that can be financed under investment projects to be financed by the international financial institutions. | |
| National | Policy influencing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the activities under the Global Hub on LLA, GCA targets to create political leverage and better buy-in from the government in investing on LLA initiatives. For example, the launch of the Global Hub on LLA by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh got huge traction for LLA in Bangladesh and reconfirmed the Government of Bangladesh's leadership and commitment toward scaling up LLA initiatives. | National government ministries, departments, agencies |

| Tier | Locally Led Adaptation Function | Program Activities | Geographic Location (Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad, municipality and others) |
|------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| | Capacity development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public administrators. At the national level, GCA is supporting institutionalized training for public administrators through the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Center (BPATC) on Localizing the Implementation of the National Adaptation Plan, 2023–2050. The GCA and BPATC have discussed an approach (yet to be started) to design a course module on localizing the implementation of NAP. The course can be delivered frequently by the BPATC faculty as part of the training courses for new and senior civil servants. Faculty members nominated by BPATC will be supported to develop a module that fits the center's course delivery model and to also develop a “Training of Trainers” module so that other faculty members can also deliver the course. Incorporating the module in the BPATC curriculum will institutionalize it, ensuring its sustainability beyond project completion. | |
| | Capacity development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban planners. The GCA will also support (to be started soon) institutionalized capacity-building efforts for urban planners by codeveloping a course module for Urban Planning for the students of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology on Locally Led Planning for Climate-Resilient Urban Informal Settlements. This can be scaled up to other engineering universities in Bangladesh and potentially to other countries in South Asia. Media and young people. The GCA, together with BBC Media Action, is supporting selected television journalists and youth leaders from climate-vulnerable regions of Bangladesh. The objective is to increase media coverage of existing locally led adaptation (LLA) efforts in Bangladesh while training young people for employment opportunities related to <u>communicating</u> LLA. A year-long training and mentoring support resulted in 120 brilliant stories on LLA captured by the trainees and aired by respective media outlets. Efforts were also made to sensitize the national desk in-charge of leading media agencies to support and guide local journalists in reporting LLA initiatives. | |



Table A8.5: Locally Led Adaptation Programs of the Islamic Relief Bangladesh

| Tier | Locally Led Adaptation Function | Program Activities (Weblinks to information) | Geographic Location (Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad, municipality and others) |
|-------------|---|---|---|
| Local | Climate vulnerability and risks assessments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IRB developed locally led adaptation (LLA) tools Training modules on LLA Developed a pool of master trainers, including government service providers, local government institutions (LGIs), youth and local leaders The master trainers facilitated training on climate vulnerability, risk assessment, adaptation need and priority, | <p>Burigoalini and Ramjan Nagar Union, Shyamnagar, Satkhira</p> <p>Koyra and Moharajpur Union, Koyra, Khulna</p> <p>Horidashkati and Kultia Union under Monirampur Upazilla, Jashore</p> <p>Ward No. 34,35,36,37 of Sylhet city,</p> <p>Companigonj of Sylhet and Fulbaria of Kurigram are yet to done.</p> |
| | Awareness raising | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with self-help groups (SHGs) Day observation Campaign engaging the youth Weekly awareness session on climate, health and social issues is conducted with SHGs. | |
| | Capacity development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training to the rights holder on leadership, Climate-adaptive IGA skill training, SOD orientation of LGIs, training on facilitation skill in climate vulnerability, risk assessment, adaptation need and priority. Training on scoping cofinancing mechanism in adaptation for the LGIs. Training for the youth group on climate activism, climate journalism, monitoring of climate actions, community volunteering and entrepreneurship on climate adaptive technologies. Form the Youth Climate Adaptation Lab and (LAPA)Knowledge / Information Center to promote and practice LLA | |
| | Funding adaptation – stable and predictable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$7 million Implementation of local action plan through cofinancing with local authority based on CRA/LAPA | |

| Tier | Locally Led Adaptation Function | Program Activities (Weblinks to information) | Geographic Location (Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad, municipality and others) |
|-------------|---|--|--|
| | Gender equality and social inclusion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure gender equality and inclusion of the most vulnerable households, they should be identified as project beneficiaries. Women are given priority as project beneficiary. Elderly, disable, widow, single headed household were given priority | |
| | Accountability and transparency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is effective CFM mechanism. CFM mobile number given to the community as well as in public places One can complain directly to the IRB county office through designated hotline numbers. CFM box in the premise of Union Parishad and marketplaces at field. CFM actions are taken accordingly | |
| | Monitoring, evaluation and learning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The youth's capacity in monitoring the project activity have been developed. Project has built-in monitoring system. Lesson learned are documented, maintained and reported to the country management and fund donor on a monthly basis. Learning and sharing meeting is undertaken by the LGIs and local administration. It is shared in the regular district and Upazilla level nongovernment organization (NGO) coordination meetings Organize 12 climate adaptation fairs at the upazila/city level to be managed by the youth groups | |
| Middle | Climate vulnerability and risks assessments | LLA report is produced and shared at the Upazilla, district and ministry levels | Shyamnagar-Satkhira Koyra-Khulna Monirampur-Jessore Sylhet city Companigonj-Sylhet Kurigram |



| Tier | Locally Led Adaptation Function | Program Activities (Weblinks to information) | Geographic Location (Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad, municipality and others) |
|------|--|--|---|
| | Awareness raising | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign to engage the youth • Media publication • Formation of divisional LLA hub • Workshop, seminar, meeting | |
| | Capacity development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop and seminar at the divisional level • Memorandum of understanding with regional universities and research stations • 72 developing member countries formation/activation • Orientation on SOD at Disaster Management Committees (DMCs) level • Prepare LLA, DPP and CRA plans • Capacity-building training/workshop of local actors/community-based organizations and self-help groups (SHGs) to raise awareness on how to access adaptation funding • Participatory planning exercise (with community) on resilient livelihood, including validation (with local expert/civil service organizations/ actors) and linking them to the development process | |
| | Funding adaptation – stable, predictable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize a workshop at the Upazila/ city /Union Parishad level to identify fund sources for LAPA and LLA | |
| | Gender equality and social inclusion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apex body is formed by women | |
| | Accountability and transparency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct regular NGO coordination meeting, budget meeting with LGIs • LLA schemes are identified by the local people • Schemes are implemented through the cofinancing mechanism • Youth groups act as watchdog, by reporting • Active CFM mechanism | |

| Tier | Locally Led Adaptation Function | Program Activities (Weblinks to information) | Geographic Location (Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad, municipality and others) |
|-------------|---|---|--|
| | Monitoring, evaluation and learning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process monitoring, result monitoring, quality monitoring, baseline, midterm and endline evaluation. Lessons learned are documented and shared with the wider community through various channels. | |
| National | Policy analysis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop joint national LLA policy and advocacy strategy (local-, district- and national-level workshops, expertise involvement, national-level validation, publication) | |
| | Policy influencing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize workshop, conduct meeting at local, national and global level for policy support and raising voice for mainstreaming LLA at development initiatives Exposure visits of policy makers and practitioners and share their experiences (Ministry of Environment, Dept. of Environment and others) | |
| | Awareness raising | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize meetings with national and international organizations working on LLA (Government offices, NGOs, research organizations) Participation in the Gobeshona platform | |
| | Capacity development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish LLA working group and conduct regular meeting Participate and share LLA practices at global, regional and national platforms Contribution in developing national LLA framework | Exposure visits of line ministry in COP, GNDR, AMCDR |
| | Funding adaptation – stable and predictable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$7 million | |
| | Gender equality and social inclusion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In each event, ensure the participation of women, youth and the disabled | |



| Tier | Locally Led Adaptation Function | Program Activities (Weblinks to information) | Geographic Location (Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad, municipality and others) |
|------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| | Accountability and transparency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close coordination with the Department of Environment and Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change • Reporting to the NGO affairs bureau; internal and external audit • Submit reports to the donor • Establish an active CFM mechanism | |
| | Monitoring, evaluation and learning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing LLA website for knowledge sharing • Journal publication • Media coverage | |

Locally Led Adaptation-Related Programs of Friendship

Friendship is a local NGO. It recruited community people into the organization. It has also developed some LLA tools. The NGO raise the awareness and educate people about climate change and adaptation. The communities submit their needs to Friendship and based on those needs, the NGO decides when and where to invest the funds.

The staff of Friendship are also from the communities, so it included the community within the organization. Since its policies and impact have been known by the people for almost decade or more, the community is quite familiar with what it is providing for them. Hence, it is easier to build a strong relationship with those communities. They understand their needs and way of thinking and these provide the NGO with the insights on how to go about their community work, even beyond the LLA framework.

Locally Led Adaptation-Related Programs of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development

The International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) works in support of divisional and district level hubs to share LLA knowledge and good practices. At national level, ICCCAD offers masteral programs and short courses on LLA. ICCCAD also organizes LLA sessions at the annual Gobeshona conference.



IX. Glossary of Terms and Acronyms on Local Governance

| Term | Definitions |
|------------------------------|--|
| Adaptive capacity | The ability of systems, institutions, humans and other organisms to adjust to potential climate change induced hazards and damages, take advantage of opportunities or respond to consequences. |
| Climate Change | Climate change refers to a change in the state of the climate that can be identified (e.g., by using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer. Climate change may be due to natural internal processes or external forces such as modulations of the solar cycles, volcanic eruptions and persistent anthropogenic changes in atmospheric composition or land use. |
| Climate resilience | The capacity of a socioecological system to cope with a hazardous climate event, responding or reorganizing in ways that maintain its essential function, identity and structure while also maintaining the capacity for adaptation, learning and transformation. |
| Climate vulnerability | The degree to which a system is susceptible to and unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes. Vulnerability is a function of the character, magnitude and rate of climate change and the variation to which a system is exposed, its sensitivity and its adaptive capacity. |
| Locally led adaptation (LLA) | LLA can unlock, support and leverage the enormous potential and creativity of communities to develop and implement solutions. Shifting power to local stakeholders, without expecting them to shoulder the burdens of adaptation, can catalyze adaptation that is effective, equitable and transparent. |

Acronyms Related to Local Governance

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Union | The lowest tier of administration in Bangladesh |
| Parishad | Council |
| <i>Union Parishad</i> | Union Council, a local government institution |
| <i>Upazila</i> | Subdistrict, the second tier of administration in Bangladesh |
| <i>Upazila Parishad (UZP)</i> | Upazila Council, a local government institution |
| <i>Zila</i> | District, the administrative tier above subdistrict in Bangladesh |
| <i>Zila Parishad</i> | District Council, a local government institution |
| <i>Pourashava</i> | Municipality, an urban local government institution |
| City Corporation | Local government institution in a large city |
| <i>Swanirvar Gram Sarker</i> | Self-reliant Village Government |
| <i>Upazila Nirbahi Officer</i> | <i>Upazila Executive Officer</i> |



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