

# Building Flood Resilient Communities Reducing Vulnerabilities

## Background

Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to sea-level rise, powerful cyclones, frequent flooding, and many more such events. The country consists of many floodplains, and more than two-thirds of the country lies fewer than 5 metres above sea level. Up to 30 percent of the land faces annual flooding during the monsoon season, while severe flooding occurs every four to five years and covers 60 per cent of the country. Communities are on the front line of the negative impact of climate change; they are the people most affected by and most vulnerable to the climate change crisis.

Concern Worldwide has been implementing **Flood Resilience Programme** with the funding of Z Zurich Foundation under Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance. In Bangladesh, the programme is being implemented by local development partner Assistance for Social Organization and Development.



### Vision:

Floods have no negative impact on people and businesses ability to thrive



### Goal:

To increase social, political and financial investment in community-based flood resilience building through public, private and third sector partnerships.

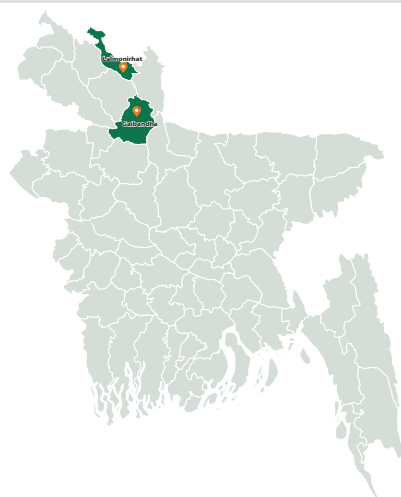


### Objectives:

1. Increase funding for flood resilience
2. Strengthen policy at global, national or sub-national level to support flood resilience
3. Improve flood resilience practice



Community Resilience Action Group in a joint planning meeting Upazila Health and Family Welfare department to ensure health service in flood prone areas.  
Photo: Flood Resilience Programme/Concern Worldwide



## Programme Location:

Concern Worldwide is working with vulnerable communities in 10 villages and one municipality of Sundarganj Upazila in Gaibandha District and in 11 villages of Hatibandha Upazila in Lalmonirhat District.

## Key Approaches:

The programme is following the Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities (FRMC). The FRMC framework comprises two parts: The alliance's framework for measuring community flood resilience and an associated tool for implementing the framework in practice.

- ➔ Measurement of resilience to be applied on a large scale; fully integrated into community programming
- ➔ Help analyse problems before seeking solutions
- ➔ Support impact measurement
- ➔ Generate data for empirical evidence on flood resilience

## Key Elements

-  Community programming to improve flood resilience practices
-  Building knowledge and learning
-  Influence and advocacy
-  Study research and evidence generation

## Best Practice

The Community Resilience Action Group (CRAG) is a community-based organization to carry out the resilience activities at the community level. This community-based group is working closely with the local government institutions and Union Disaster Management Committee (UDMC) and influencing them to function properly for disaster risk reduction.

Being a member in the Union Disaster Management Committee, CRAG is addressing DRR issues and contributing to risk reduction action plan. They are actively working for community preparedness while engaging and coordinating with union, upazila, NGOs and communities.

CRAG is leading the changes in communities to mobilize communities and as first responder to any disaster. They are creating awareness in the community on floods, facilitating gender sensitive Community Action Plan and contributing to adaptive practices for community.

With the joint planning of Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE), they are advocating with the local government and other stakeholders to increase services in the communities for flood resilience.



Community resilience action group is developing action plan addressing flood vulnerabilities at Gaibandha. photo: Ohidul Islam/Concern Worldwide

“We didn’t know where services were available and were afraid to go to government office. Now we have a good relationship with government offices. Most importantly, we have developed joint action plan with government departments Government officers discuss with us before taking any activity in the community. Now government services are helping more to build flood resilience of our community.” Raja Mia, Sundarganj, Gaibandha.

To become flood resilient, communities can take steps against flooding to prevent loss of life and livelihoods. Flood disaster risk reduction (DRR) investments largely pay off, with an average of five dollars saved through avoided and reduced losses for every dollar spent. Investments in early warning systems, infrastructure, financial protection, communication methods, adaptive agricultural practices, and community capacity building are necessary to better prepare, mitigate, adapt, and respond to flood events. Yet current investments in flood preparedness and prevention at the local level, where people are most affected by flooding, is inadequate.



### Going Forward:

Concern Worldwide will continue programme for empowering communities to increase their actions for building resilience in disaster prone areas





#### Our Focuses-

- ➔ Enhance capacity building of Union Disaster Management Committee and increase budget on flood preparedness and increase resilience practice at local level.
- ➔ Strengthen national policy to support flood resilience.
- ➔ Generate actionable results with a focus on pre-event analysis involving different stakeholders across scales to maximize impacts.
- ➔ Capture knowledge from the field to generate the necessary evidence, and provide a platform to effectively share the knowledge.
- ➔ Develop community programme using the flood resilience measurement tool.
- ➔ Work together with alliance partners to mobilize resources and influence policy.

### Working modality of CRAG



### More Information:

-  [www.concern.net](http://www.concern.net)
-  BdConcern
-  Concernworldwide
-  <https://floodresilience.net/>