



Climate
Resilience
Alliance



 **COUNTRY BRIEF**

Bangladesh
April 2026

 Concern Worldwide and Practical Action

Bangladesh

Who we are

The Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance works with communities to influence policies and practices which enhance resilience to climate hazards.

Our definition of resilience

The Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance understands the concept of climate resilience as: The ability of a system, community, or society to pursue its social, ecological and economic development and growth objectives, while managing its climate risks over time in a mutually reinforcing way.

Our vision

Our vision is a world where communities are resilient to climate hazards, enabling them to thrive.

Our goal

By 2035, alongside like-minded organizations, we aspire to positively impact 70 million people vulnerable to climate change, and 5.5 million by 2027.

Alliance partners working in Bangladesh:

CONCERN
worldwide

**Practical
ACTION**



Find out more about the Alliance's work in Bangladesh 

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Sea level rise and salinity intrusion are posing serious challenges for Bangladesh's delta. In 2013, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicted a rise of 0.2 m to 1 m by 2100. Flooding in the central coastal zone may increase by 6% by 2050 and 8 per cent by 2100, while the western zone could see a 5 per cent increase by 2050 and 6 per cent by 2100. Moreover, cyclones regularly strike here, especially during March to July and September to December, with most storms occurring in May and October, causing storm surges in extreme cases. Low-lying coastal areas are highly vulnerable to these phenomena, which threaten lives and property. Cyclones hit almost annually, with a severe one every three years. Climate change is expected to increase the intensity and extent of storm surges and coastal flooding due to rising sea temperatures and sea levels. By 2050, a cyclone with a 10-year return period in the extreme scenario would be more intense and would affect 43 per cent of the vulnerable area, 17 per cent more than the current extent.

Riverbank erosion along major rivers forces thousands to displace annually. The changing climate is also causing heatwaves every year in Bangladesh. Despite abundant rainfall, droughts occur almost every year in the north-west region. Moreover, the north-east and south-east hilly regions are susceptible to landslides and flash floods.

Impact of floods in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is highly susceptible to a range of natural hazards due to its geographical location, topography, and climatic conditions. It has been ranked seventh in the Climate Risk Index. High population density, poverty, and reliance on climate-sensitive sectors of income generation, in particular agriculture, fisheries, and livestock, increase its vulnerability to climate change.

Bangladesh is one of the most flood-prone countries in the world, with 80 per cent of its surface forming a flood-plain. About 70 per cent of the total land area of the country is less than 1 m above the sea level, and the combination of low-lying topography, excessive siltation, and reduced river flow has led to decreased river capacity being exacerbated by sea level rise, causing widespread floods in the lowlands, with tidal floods being common in the coastal areas. Typically, 20–25 per cent of Bangladesh is flooded due to river overflow and drainage problems. In extreme cases, when the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers flood at the same time, up to 55–60 per cent of the country can be inundated. Floods have significantly contributed to the 520,000 deaths caused by natural hazards recorded in the past 40 years.



For the community of Vati Kapasia, Gaibandha, life is a relentless struggle against the constant threat of losing homes for river erosion for climate impacts. Photo: Saikat Mojumder, Concern Worldwide



Alerts allow farmers to take early action to protect their crops.
Photo: Practical Action

Alliance partners working in Bangladesh

Concern Worldwide is an international humanitarian organization dedicated to the reduction of suffering and working towards the ultimate elimination of extreme poverty in the world’s poorest countries. Its mission is to help people living in extreme poverty to achieve major improvements in their lives, which last and spread without ongoing support from Concern Worldwide. To achieve this, Concern Worldwide engages in long-term development work, builds climate resilience, responds to emergencies, and seeks to address the root causes of poverty.

Practical Action is a global development charity with a vision of a world that works better for everyone. Working together with communities and global partners, Practical Action is developing innovative real-world solutions to build sustainable lives and livelihoods for people living on the front line of poverty and climate change. Practical Action is turning surviving into thriving and is overcoming injustice,

Climate Resilience Measurement for Communities (CRMC)

The Climate Resilience Measurement for Communities (CRMC) is a data-driven process, complemented by a web-based tool and mobile app, which helps communities to evaluate and measure how resilient they are to climate hazards. Using the results, they can identify and implement resilience-building interventions and run additional measurements to track improvements.

Find out more: ZCRAlliance.org/crmc

Alliance objectives in Bangladesh



Target improving disaster risk management, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and climate change adaptation (CCA) planning and increased finance/improved spending for DRR/CCA at the local level.



Target improved multi-hazard, early warning, and early action for climate-induced hazards to avert and minimize losses and damages of livelihoods and assets.



Increase local-level financing and activate union disaster management committees for climate-induced disaster management.



Benefit communities through innovative disaster risk financing services.



Support communities to enhance early action and work closely with governments to produce standard operating procedures/multi-hazard early action protocols.

especially for women and vulnerable groups. Practical Action has been working in Bangladesh since 1990, with a focus on making changes to the lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable people living under the poverty line in both urban and rural areas. In Bangladesh, Practical Action is working on sustainable agricultural solutions, energy access, affordable and accessible clean-cooking solutions, building climate resilience, and climate-resilient waste and sanitation programmes.



Community Resilience Action Group (CRAG) convene monthly meeting to discuss community issues, particularly the needs essential for building resilience. Photo: Saikat Mojumder, Concern Worldwide

The communities we are working with

Practical Action, in partnership with Uttaran, is working in 15 communities across the districts of Khulna, Satkhira, and Faridpur to implement the CRMC tool. The vulnerable communities that we work with are not only exposed to hazards such as floods, heatwaves, cyclones, storm surges, and riverbank erosion, but also have very limited capacity to cope with these events on their own. Moreover, women, elderly people, and young children face further complexities, such as limited access to modern technology, resulting in a lack of awareness of early warning systems.

Concern Worldwide is working in the districts of Gaibandha and Lalmonirhat, in partnership with Gana Unnayan Kendra, to strengthen the resilience of 35 communities, with a focus on increased funding for flood and heat preparedness and improved implementation of relevant policies. The unique element of the programme is also applying the CRMC, which allows partners to generate evidence about the ways in which a given area or community is already resilient to floods and heat, as well as supporting the

process of deciding what steps to take to further develop this resilience. Concern Worldwide is supporting these communities in the implementation of interventions that help enhance resilience based on the jointly developed community action plans, including early warning systems, enhancing the capacity of local institutions and key stakeholders to support the community in their multi-hazard preparedness.



Community members use Vella, a locally produced method of transport made of the stem of a banana tree, during a flood. Photo: Practical Action

The Alliance website

- Our website shares practical knowledge alongside the latest evidence and research about how to build community resilience to climate hazards.
- We share knowledge generated through the Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance’s work across the world, as well as from many other sources of evidence.

Find out more: ZCRAlliance.org

Get in touch

If you have any questions, contact:
Tamanna Rahman, Thematic Lead,
Climate and Resilience Programme,
Practical Action in Bangladesh

tamanna.rahman@practicalaction.org.bd

Moshiur Rahman, Programme Manager,
Climate Adaptation and Resilience,
Concern Worldwide Bangladesh

moshiur.rahman@concern.net

For more information, visit

ZCRAlliance.org/countries/bangladesh

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Duration of the Bangladesh Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance programme: January 2024–December 2027



The Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance is a multi-sectoral partnership, powered by the Z Zurich Foundation, focused on enhancing resilience to climate hazards in both rural and urban communities. By implementing solutions, promoting good practice, influencing policy and facilitating systemic change, we aim to ensure that all communities facing climate hazards are able to thrive. [Find out more at ZCRAlliance.org](https://ZCRAlliance.org)

In partnership with:



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