Adaptation Initiative for Climate Vulnerable Offshore Small Islands and Riverine Charland in Bangladesh Project

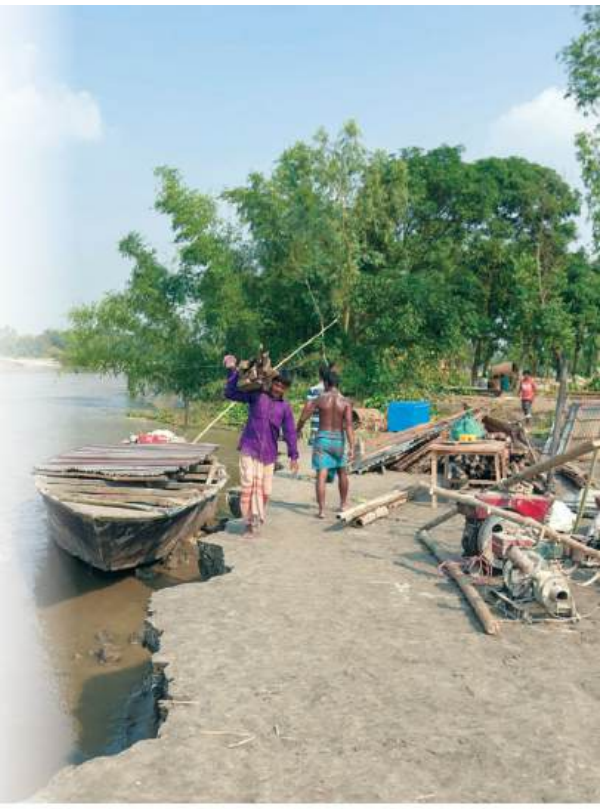
The "Adaptation Initiative for Climate Vulnerable Offshore Small Islands and Riverine Charland in Bangladesh" Project is being implemented by the Department of Environment (DoE) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). The five-year project commenced in January 2023 with the finance of the Adaptation Fund through UNDP Bangladesh. The project will enhance the resilience of small island communities, improve climate-induced disaster preparedness and response, and build the capacity of local government and communities for climate-resilient development. The project interventions will benefit an estimated 341,000 people (31,000 direct and 310,000 indirect beneficiaries) living on riverine chars in Rangpur and small islands in Bhola districts and significantly contribute to achieving multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The project will contribute toward achieving the national priorities of the Government of Bangladesh as outlined in the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, National Adaptation Plan (NAP) (2023-2050) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Project at a Glance

Duration: January 2023 to December 2027
Budget: US$ 9.2 million (grants)
Donor: Adaptation Fund
Development Partner: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Sponsoring Ministry: Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change
Implementing Agency (lead): Department of Environment (DOE)
Supporting Implementing Partners: Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP), Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL) and NGO Forum.
Project Location:
1. Gangachara Upazila of Rangpur District
2. Charfesson Upazila of Bhola District
3. Entire Bhola District for the cyclone preparedness programme intervention

Project Context

Bangladesh is frequently cited as one of the most climate-vulnerable countries and, simultaneously portrayed as one of the most resilient nations in the world. Because of its geographical location, river system, and low-lying deltaic terrain, Bangladesh is highly exposed to the impacts of both slow and rapid-onset climate-driven disasters, including sea-level rise, salinity intrusion, cyclones, storm surges, floods, extreme heat, and droughts. Its vulnerability is increased by local dependency on agriculture and fisheries-based livelihoods. Small islands and charlands (riverine island) communities face a particularly high level of exposure to natural disasters due to higher levels of poverty, remoteness, and limited access to the mainland, limited access to basic services such as water, sanitation and health, limited transportation services, and reliance on agriculture for livelihoods, migration, and climate-induced displacement, inadequate social safety net, etc. Unfortunately, the impacts of climate-related disasters disproportionately affect people with low incomes, especially destitute women and children.



Project Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to enhance the climate resilience of vulnerable communities who live on coastal islands and riverine chars in Bangladesh

Specific Objectives

- To enhance the resilience of the houses and livelihoods of the local people to climate change-induced flooding, cyclones, saline intrusion, and droughts
- To improve community level infrastructure, including embankment with modern climate-resilient technology and effective local management practices
- To enhance activities of the Bangladesh Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) in the remote coastal char targeted by the project to provide timely early warnings and effective emergency response
- To enhance the knowledge and capacity of the communities, government, and policymakers to promote climate-resilient development on riverine and offshore islands

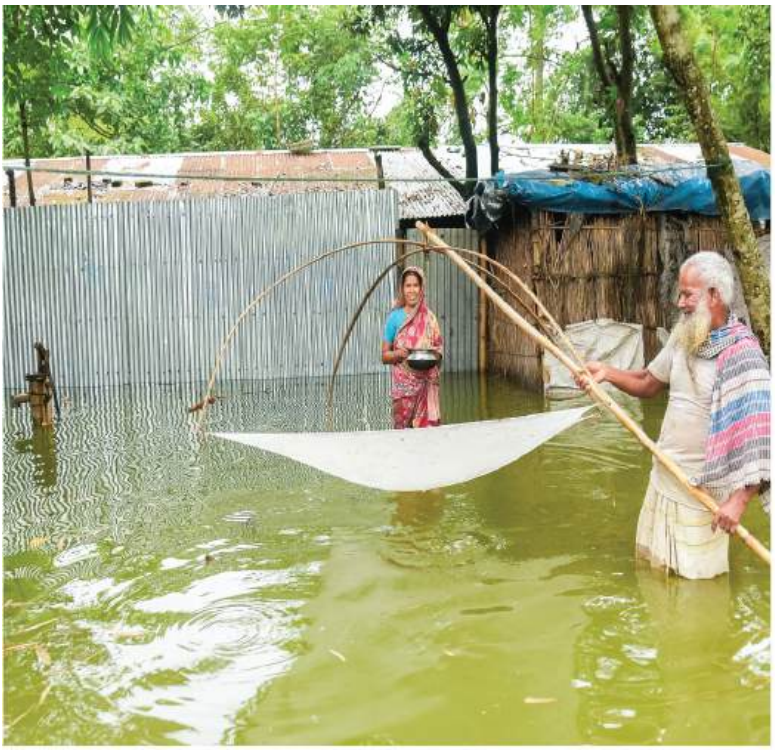
Expected Outcomes

Outcome 1
Community infrastructure improved and adaptive capacity increased for vulnerable small island and riverine char communities to manage and plan for climate change impacts

Outcome 2
Resilience of vulnerable small coastal island communities enhanced against climate-induced disasters through improved infrastructure, management practices, and community-based emergency response

Outcome 3
The adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities improved by disseminating climate-resilient agricultural practices and developing diversified livelihoods

Outcome 4
Increased awareness and availability of information on climate change impacts and adaptation options for vulnerable communities, local-level government, and policymakers



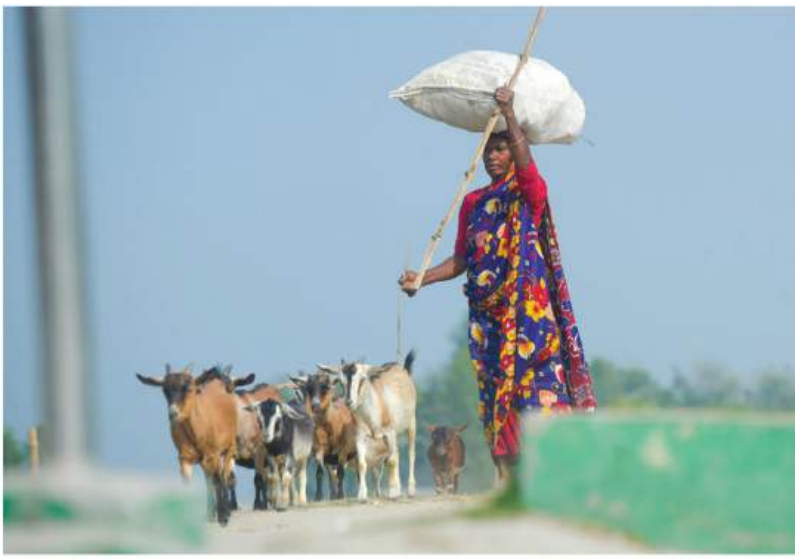
Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of the project are poor and climate-vulnerable people who will be selected based on the following types of vulnerabilities:

- Female-headed households, e.g., widow, divorced, or separated/abandoned; households with a greater number of dependent members (children and elderly) on the women; households with members chronically ill (physically, mentally, or visually impaired or disabled); and households where an adolescent girl is solely responsible for household income
- Households with income of less than US$1.25 per person per day

Project's Key Interventions

- 300 climate-resilient houses constructed to standwith cyclones, storm surges, and floods
- 500 HHs provisioned with a rainwater harvesting system
- 30 solar nano-grids installed and made operational to provide electricity to 300-450 houses
- 10 dual-purpose cluster houses/disaster shelters constructed
- 24 km of damaged embankment repaired/ maintained and strengthened through Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) and geotextile bag
- 8 climate hazard and vulnerability maps developed covering selected islands
- 6,000 CPP volunteers trained and equipped with personal cyclone preparedness equipment
- 8 emergency rescue boat or floating ambulances procured and provisioned

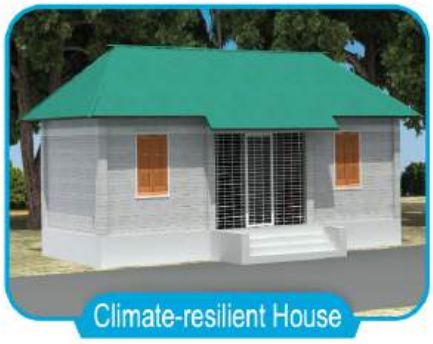


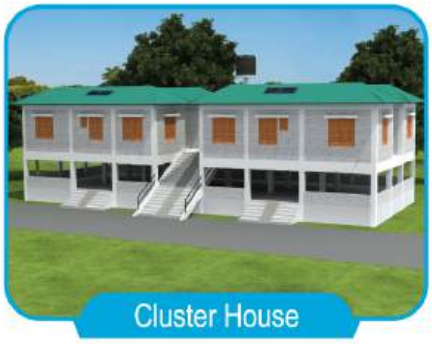
- 6,500 people provided with climate-resilient alternative livelihoods
- 7,500 farmers trained on climate-resilient agricultural practices
- 4 solar cold storage units installed
- 6 solar-powered irrigation pumps installed
- 250 staff from Local Government Institutions, Bangladesh Water Development Board, and Department of Agriculture trained to incorporate climate risk into their operational activities
- 2 Adaptation Learning Centres established
- 75% of the population in the target areas reached by awareness campaigns
- 10 manuals and brochures developed on Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), resilient livelihoods, climate-smart agriculture, etc.

Implementing Partners' Work Overview

Implementing Partners	Scope of Works	LoA Signing Date
CPP	Provide training and equipment to 6,000 volunteers and operationalize 8 floating ambulances	15 October 2023
	Train 7,500 farmers on climate-resilient agricultural practices	30 June 2024
	Repair and strengthen 24 km damaged embankment and one irrigation sluice gate	14 August 2024
IDCOL	Install 30 solar nano-grids, 6 solar irrigation pumps, 4 solar cold storages and conduct training for users	17 October 2024
এলজিইডি	Build 300 climate-resilient houses, 10 cluster houses, and 2 adaptation learning centers	27 October 2024
NGO FORUM FOR PUBLIC HEALTH	Provide support (training, assets, inputs) to 6,500 beneficiaries for alterntive livelihoods	08 May 2025

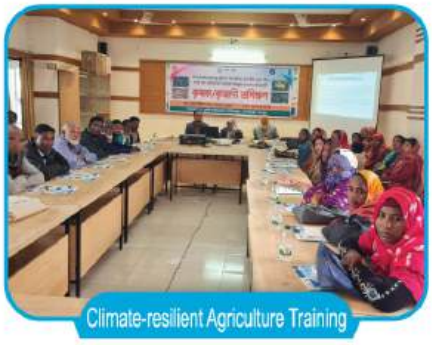
Works in Progress


Climate-resilient House


Cluster House


CPP Equipment Distribution


Embankment Repair & Strengthen Work


Climate-resilient Agriculture Training


CPP Leadership Training

Department of Environment
Paribesh Bhaban, E/16, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
Web: www.doe.gov.bd