

A Swiss NGO initiative in Bangladesh

WHY CALL?

Bangladesh is one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world. Cyclones, floods, salinity intrusion, and extreme heat threaten lives, livelihoods, health, and food security — especially for marginalized groups. While strong national strategies exist, local communities often lack the resources, tools, and voice to adapt or influence decisions.

WHAT IS CALL?

Climate Action at Local Level (CALL) is a multi-year programme supported by Switzerland and implemented by a consortium of nine Swiss NGOs in collaboration with 18 local partner organisations. With a vision of building a climate-smart and disaster-resilient Bangladesh where local voices lead solutions, CALL follows a Human Rights-Based and community-driven approach that emphasises inclusivity, collaboration, and locally led climate action. Communities and the private sector drive the process, while local partners provide critical support.

Led by Helvetas (lead) and Swisscontact (co-lead), and coordinated by a Dhaka-based Programme Management Unit, CALL was launched in November 2024 and is initially designed for two years. It leverages 12 ongoing projects to generate collective impact across Bangladesh by connecting diverse local experiences into a shared platform for resilience and innovation. Through this, CALL aims to develop scalable models of climate action, strengthen local leadership and community voices, and advance collaborative action, knowledge sharing, and evidence-based advocacy for climate justice.

WHO WE REACH

Climate-vulnerable rural & urban communities

Climate-linked migrants

Indigenous groups, persons with disabilities, women & children

Factory workers in high-emission industries (garments and leather sector)

Small enterprises & youth groups

Local governments, civil society, and private sector

WHERE WE WORK

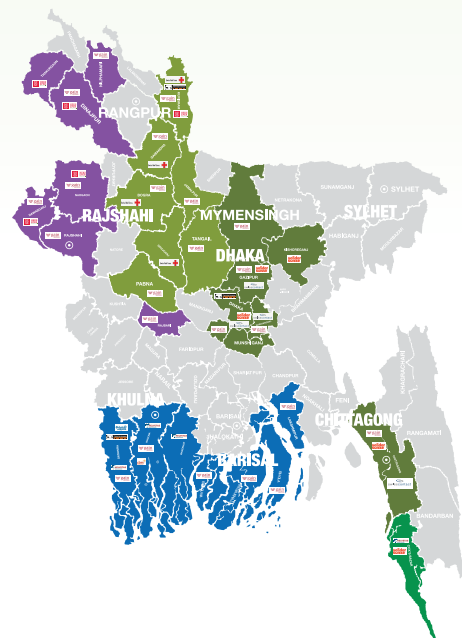
Southwest coast: salinity, cyclones, water crisis

Northwest river basins: floods, droughts, erosion

Jamuna basin: riverbank erosion, displacement

Cox's Bazar: disaster-prone host & refugee communities

Urban/industrial zones: green transition



KEY OUTCOMES

PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES

Improved knowledge, skills, and access to climate-smart livelihoods, early warnings, and essential services (WASH, health, nutrition etc).

LOCAL SYSTEMS

Strengthened capacity of local governments, civil society, and businesses to deliver inclusive, sustainable climate action.

GOVERNANCE & ADVOCACY

Evidence-based advocacy, knowledge sharing, and stronger frameworks for climate justice from local to national level.

SIGNATURE FEATURES

Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) & inclusive Disaster Risk Management (DRM)

Green jobs, skills & entrepreneurship

Gender equality & disability inclusion

Private sector engagement for low-carbon transition

Early warning systems & anticipatory action

Evidence for policy & replication

Resilient health & food systems

ALIGNMENT & SUPPORT

CALL aligns with Bangladesh's national climate strategies and Switzerland's cooperation priorities, bridging grassroots resilience with policy reform so that local voices shape systemic change. Funded by the Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh, CALL gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the European Union, Sweden, Olympic Refugee Foundation, IFAD, and consortium partners.

CALL Consortium Members

