

CLIMATE ACTIONS

Serise One

Climate Actions: Why matters

Bangladesh stands on the frontline of the global climate crisis. From droughts in the Barind region and salinity intrusion in coastal areas to floods, river erosion, heatwaves, and cyclones, climate change is increasingly threatening livelihoods, food security, health, and local economies. While national policies provide important direction, the impacts of climate change are experienced most acutely at the local level. **Therefore, effective climate action must begin where communities live, work, and adapt.**

The Climate Action at Local Level (CALL) Programme recognises that communities are not merely victims of climate change; they are core actors in building resilience. Local people possess valuable knowledge of their environment, risks, priorities and locally-led solutions.

Climate Actions: How CALL defines

CALL's climate actions enable the most climate-vulnerable communities to anticipate, manage, and recover from climate- and disaster-related risks through practical, locally appropriate nature-based solutions. These range from climate-smart agriculture and resilient livelihoods to disaster preparedness, health, nutrition, WASH, green private sector practices, and economic & non economic loss and damage. The CALL Theory of Change (ToC) suggests that Climate Action is not a one-off project but a logical flow, defining:

If vulnerable communities have skills + **If** local actors and systems are strengthened + **If** voices and resources are united to advocate

Then the result is a Climate Smart and Disaster-Resilient Bangladesh.

Because localised, joint forces are the only way to achieve a just society in a changing climate.

Climate Action, therefore, under the CALL programme is the process of aligning individual skills, institutional capacities, and collective advocacy to ensure that the most vulnerable communities can transition to adapted livelihoods and benefit from climate-smart services within a just and governed local system.

Together, these actions are helping build a more climate-smart, inclusive, and disaster-resilient Bangladesh.

Local Actors: Who are involved in actions



Key Features: What climate action looks like



Localisation-centred, climate action on local priorities, knowledge, community-led decisions, and locally-led solutions.



Adaptation and mitigation-focused, strengthening resilience while supporting low-carbon development.



Inclusive and Rights-Based, guided by a Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI).



Systems-focused, strengthen institutions, markets, and governance systems.

Synergy: Climate action as integrated solution



CALL Climate Actions: 2025 experience



262 Improved Climate Actions in 2025

Implemented across 18 CALL Programme districts

by local governments, service providers, private sector actors, community organisations, implementing and consortium partners

Key highlights from the actions

Climate-smart agriculture practices

Climate change puts growing pressure on agriculture in drought-prone, erosion-affected, and coastal areas, where water is scarce.

CALL supported the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in promoting **Alternative Wetting and Drying (AWD) for Boro rice cultivation**. By using less water while maintaining productivity, AWD reduces production costs and strengthens resilience to water scarcity. Nearly all participating farmers reported improved capacity to cope with climate-related challenges through this locally appropriate farming practice.

Climate-resilient seed systems

For many smallholder farmers, climate change is making agriculture uncertain. Drought, salinity, and erratic weather are reducing crop yields and leaving farming communities more vulnerable to losses.

Private sector actors, including private seed companies, supplied **drought- and salinity-tolerant varieties and demonstration plots**. By connecting farmers with climate-resilient technologies through local market systems, the initiative improved productivity, while reducing climate-related crop losses.

Climate-responsive health materials

Climate change is intensifying health risks, particularly for vulnerable populations exposed to extreme heat, unsafe water, and climate-related maternal health complications.

To help communities stay safe and informed, the programme developed and disseminated **11 government-approved health education modules and visual materials** on climate-related health risks helping vulnerable communities better understand and respond to climate-related health risks.

Climate-resilient inclusive livelihood

Climate change disrupts traditional livelihoods that has greater impact on persons with disabilities, indigenous people who are frequently excluded from climate adaptation opportunities and economic support.

CALL promoted **diversified livelihood options** e.g. fisheries, livestock, poultry, climate-smart agriculture, and small green enterprises. Complemented by a pioneering study on disability-inclusive livelihoods, the initiative is helping ensure that persons with disabilities can access practical income opportunities and participate fully in building resilience to climate change.

Climate and DRR action planning

The local communities struggle to ensure their climate-related priorities and experiences are reflected in local development decisions.

To address this, through participatory climate and disaster risk assessments, communities and Union Parishads jointly developed a total of **13 climate and disaster risk reduction (DRR) action plans**. These plans translate local knowledge into formal development and budgeting processes, increasing ownership and helping institutionalise climate resilience within local governance systems.

Youth-led climate action

In CALL, the youths are the one of the key actors leading climate actions to protect their communities and environment.

Youth groups led **114 community actions** addressing waste management, plastic reduction, water conservation, sanitation, and disaster preparedness and established **31 nutrition gardens**. Youth are emerging as influential local actors who mobilise communities, collaborate with authorities, and implement low-cost, high-impact solutions. Remarkably, youth groups conducted 20 tree-planting campaigns, planting **500 trees** to support green initiatives.

Environmental, Social, and Governance

CALL continue to engage private sector to comply ESG compliance to reduce emissions, improve resource efficiency, and remain competitive in international markets.

Private sector actors adopted sustainability reporting (GRI), ESG practice, and energy assessments. **14 factories completed carbon accounting, 06 factories developed the climate action roadmaps, and 23 factories enhanced green skills**. These efforts helps factories becoming more climate-resilient and meeting rising international climate and compliance standards while reducing emissions, and strengthening long-term economic resilience.

Cold Wave Early Action Protocol (EAP)

In June 2025, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies approved the **Cold Wave Early Action Protocol** for the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), institutionalising forecast-based anticipatory action in Bangladesh e.g. for Flood, Heatwave, and Cold Wave.

To support early actions, CALL conducted awareness campaigns and pre-positioned 7,500 blankets during the cold season. By acting before the crisis unfolds, these measures help ensure timely assistance, reduce administrative delays, and protect vulnerable households from the impacts of extreme cold.

Nutrition and climate services

For many woman garment workers, climate change is adding new challenges. Limited access to health and nutrition information can affect their well-being, productivity, and ability to cope with climate-related stresses.

To support these workers, 06 RMG factories established **community nutrition centres** and introduced climate and nutrition counselling services. Through trained nutritionists, women received practical guidance on healthy diets and adapting to climate-related health risks, helping them strengthen both their nutritional well-being and resilience.