



# LEDARS Climate Action



## 1. Context of LEDARS's Climate Action:

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges for humanity. Though Bangladesh's contribution to global warming is the lowest (only 0.3%) (Elahi & Khan, 2015), Bangladesh ranked third among the most affected countries. Between 1991 and 2020, Bangladesh faced 197 (Mahmud, 2019) major catastrophes due to climate change, which has created different crisis for livelihoods, resources, food, water and shelters. This crisis is more evident in the south-west coastal region, the most disaster prone and vulnerable climate hotspot of the country. There are 16.62% people completely landless and 67.08% belongs under 50 decimal lands that also treated as land less according to the Government policy.

The area faces frequent devastating disasters like cyclone, heavy downpour, river erosion, storm surges, and slow onset disasters like salinization, dryness, ecosystem degradation, etc. that have disrupted the scope of income. The frequent disaster signals in a year, uncertainty, fragile ecosystems, etc. increasing anxiety of the community people. The economic crisis is engulfing the people of the south-west coast, including the food and drinking water crisis, declining livelihoods, malnutrition, and increasing diseases. Marginalized farmers, fishers, tiger widows, destitute women, day laborers are struggling to cope with the adverse effect of climate change for survival. As a result, people are being forced to migrate from the area. In this context, LEDARS started its climate action since 2003.

**Goal:** Contribute to the establishment of rights of the climate victim peoples.

**Overall Objective:** To improve the resilient livelihood of the targeted beneficiaries in the project area.

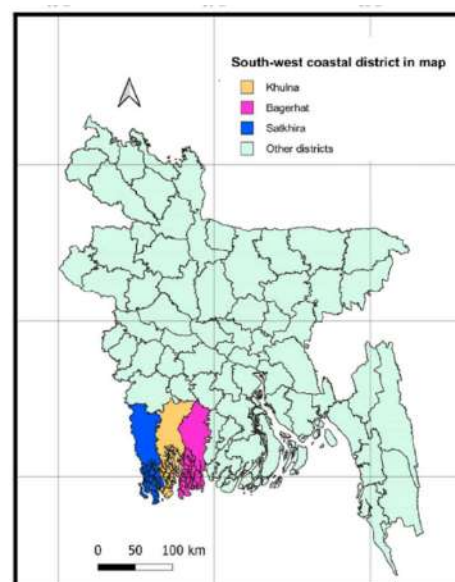
**Major intervention:**

- \* Increase resilience of agricultural through climate change adaptation.
- \* Reduce the water related disease among the women of the working area.
- \* Increase capacity of community people and civil society actors to influence the policy makers to act in inaction to the coastal crisis.

**Population Coverage:** Our initiative provided support to 26,793 vulnerable people who are at risk for climate change.

## 2. Geographical coverage:

Name and District	Name of Subdistrict
Satkhira	Shyamnagar, Asasuni, Kaligonj and Satkhira Sadar
Khulna	Koyra, Paikgacha, Batiaghata, Dacope and Khulna Municipality
Bagerhat	Bagerhat Sadar and Mongla



### 3. Major interventions:

#### A. People organization formation and capacity development:

Climate change is a very scientific subject, and it needs very organized and long-term initiative to build the capacity of community people to adopt with impact of Climate Change. To initiate a life changing program LEDARS mobilized 3,751 marginal families by forming 91 Climate Resilient Group (CRG), 00 Union Climate Resilient Forum (UCRF) Sub-district and District level Climate Advocacy Forum. LEDARS also provided training to sustain the people's organization. Following activities has been implemented:

- Formation of Climate Resilient Group (CRG) in village/cluster level
- Formation of Self-help Group with vulnerable women
- Formation of Union Climate Resilient Forum (UCRF)
- Formation of Climate Action Forum
- Quarterly coordination meeting of UCRF and Advocacy Forum
- Organization management and leadership development training to the leaders of different level groups/forums of people's organization
- Provide support to organize local level action and demonstration.



#### B. Social Mobilization and awareness education:

Awareness education on climate change and sustainable development is required among the community people and encouraging them to adopt resilient livelihoods and a sustainable coastal zone development. But awareness of climate change at the community is insufficient to cope with climate change impacts. LEDARS created awareness education through:

- Organizing CRG based fortnightly Climate Filed School Sessions
- Observing World Food Day and Rural agricultural fair
- Organizing pot song and Drama on climate change
- Mass gathering to declare climate hotspot or climate emergency
- Human Chain
- Letters campaign
- Awareness materials development and dissemination
- Quarterly newsletter publication and dissemination



### C. Resilient Agriculture Promotion:

The agricultural sector of the coastal area is mostly affected by the adverse effect of the climate change. People have rare knowledge to cultivate resilient agriculture in the changing situation and to adopt new agriculture practices. LEDARS is working to promote resilient agriculture in the coastal area and trying to establish a resilient agricultural model. Following activities implemented:

- Training on stress tolerant agriculture
- Training on organic fertilizer and pesticide management
- Training on seed preservation and seed store management
- Seeds and fertilizer support for saline tolerant Rice and vegetable
- Mini pond and canal excavation to preserve rainwater
- Installed deep tube wells for irrigation
- Established resilient agriculture model house in the community
- Establishment a technology park



### D. Promoting health and resilience WASH:

The climate change badly affected the health sector. Due to sea level rise and climatic disasters, drinking water get contaminating with salinity. Increasing salt intaking has substantial negative impacts on human health and well-being. Drinking water sodium (DWS) can affect women, especially pregnant women, to an increased risk of (pre) eclampsia, hypertension, as well as infant mortality. There is a scarcity of resilient WASH facilities at the area. The projects have taken initiative to reduce the health hazards and providing safe drinking water which has been given bellow:

- Operating health camps in island area where members of 3,600 families received medical support



- Operating special Gynecological services camp for women in island area
- Installed rainwater harvesting system
- Installed of Reverse Osmosis (RO) technology
- Re-excavated drinking water ponds and installed new Pond Sand Filters (PSF)
- Activated of malfunctioned PSFs (Pond Sand Filter)
- Installed 5200 bio-sand filters
- Installed 10 Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR)
- Installed 750 Flood Resistance toilets.



### E. Promoting Resilient Livelihoods

Due to fragile ecosystem, salinity, frequent disasters, livelihoods opportunities are declining day by day. The poor people and women headed families like tiger widows and abandoned women area facing severe livelihoods crisis what force the climate induced migration. LEDARS is promoting resilience livelihoods through:

- Formation and activation of Self-Help Groups
- Capacity building training on sustainable Income Generating Activities (IGA),
- Provide seed grants to operate their IGA
- Establish Small cottage
- Enhance marketing facilities, value chain



## F. Enhancing Climate Justice:

People of southwestern coastal zone are suffering due to diverse climatic problem, though they are rare responsible for climate change. They have right to get a safer life as human. The global leaders are not so much careful about it. Even the financial capacity of Bangladesh has been increased; but there has no action to reduce the

climatic problem of southwest. People are suffering most and migrating from the coast for safe life. In these circumstances, LEDARS has been initiating climate justice campaign from grassroots to national level. We are drawing attention to the global leaders to be responsible to Bangladesh. As well as we are demanding government

initiative to mitigate this vulnerability. To depict the ground reality and to mobilize the local administration and legislator the following initiative have been conducted.

- Formation of youth forum and climate advocacy forum from union to district level
- Building capacity of youth and advocacy forums to organize different demonstrations for climate justice
- Providing support to forums to organize demonstrations
- Organize human chain, mass gathering, procession, memorandum submission, dialogue, letter campaign, press conference, etc.
- Engaging national level actors to the campaign
- Initiate to form a national level platform
- Awareness materials like posters, leaflets, flyer and digital contains published and dissemination to appeal.



## G. Protection from Climate-Induced Loss and Damage

Bangladesh is one of the most climate-vulnerable countries, with its southwest coastal region—near the Sundarbans—facing frequent cyclones, flooding, and salinity intrusion. These hazards are driving loss of livelihoods and increasing climate-induced migration. In response, LEDARS is implementing **PROTECT L&D (Promoting Resilience and Outreach for Community Transformation with Loss and Damage Mitigation)** to reduce both economic and non-economic losses through community-based resilience actions. Major intervention of the initiative are;

- Awareness and anticipatory action builds community capacity to understand climate risks and take early measures to minimize loss and damage.

- Restoration of homes and infrastructure supports rebuilding of climate-resilient housing and essential community facilities.
- Resilient agriculture in saline areas promotes salt-tolerant crops and restores soil productivity for sustainable farming.
- Low-cost disaster-resilient shelter demonstrates affordable and durable housing models suitable for hazard-prone areas.
- Livelihood and enterprise restoration provides financial support to restart income-generating activities after disasters.
- Addressing non-economic loss and damage for improves physical and mental well-being through health support and awareness.
- Community food banks establish local food reserves to ensure food security during and after disasters.
- Knowledge sharing and stakeholder engagement strengthens collaboration and learning among communities, government, and partners.



## H. Promoting Blue Carbon for Upholding Rights Marine Tenure and Justice of Forest Resource User.

Bangladesh, though a low carbon emitter, is highly vulnerable to climate change, with its coastal ecosystems—especially around the Sundarbans—playing a critical role in storing “blue carbon” and protecting communities from sea-level rise, salinity, and storm surges, while degradation of these ecosystems increases both climate risks and livelihood insecurity, prompting LEDARS to promote blue carbon conservation with a focus on human rights and gender equity.

- Strengthening community institutions enables local groups, especially women, to manage blue carbon ecosystems effectively.
- Mangrove afforestation and restoration promote planting of indigenous species to enhance carbon storage and coastal protection.
- Rights campaigns on marine tenure ensure equitable access and secure community rights over marine resources.
- Capacity building for blue carbon monitoring equips communities to track carbon systems and manage resources sustainably.



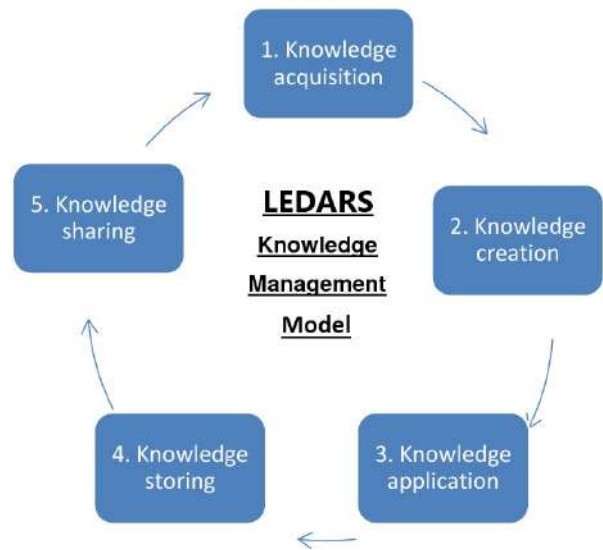
- Action research and policy advocacy informs policies for equitable and community-centered blue carbon governance.
- Support for alternative livelihoods promotes sustainable income options to reduce pressure on fragile ecosystems.



## I. Knowledge Management for Climate Resilience:

Knowledge, the most important tools to create awareness on climate adaptation, resilience, mitigation to combat climate change, but no initiative to manage the knowledge. There is huge knowledge globally what is important to the people. Even their knowledge of community people can be disseminated to the other community. Also there have no research facilities in remote coastal Bangladesh to conduct need base research. To faster the climate resilience, make a knowledge hub and enabling research facilities, LEDARS has been taken following initiatives:

- Established Knowledge Management Facilities with library, physical and digital bookshelf, reading center, conference and meeting spaces
- Established research facilities for researchers with laboratory and dormitory
- Training module developed for students, youth and development activist
- Conducted education sessions with youths
- Conducted needs-based study and research on important local issues
- Established working relations with universities at home and abroad
- Established Climate Technology Park
- Development of Center for Coastal Climate Resilience (C3R)



## Recognition:

1. LEDARS win Zayed Sustainability Prize 2023 in water category.
2. LEDARS awarded excellent 3<sup>rd</sup> prize of World Water Showcase in 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, 2015 organized in Korea.
3. LEDARS got Channel I-Standard Charted Award 2020 Best Community as Disaster Fighter.
4. Finalist for Local Adaptation Champion Award 2022



For more information,



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