

Supporting the Localization of National Climate Adaptation Targets (LOCAT)

Background

Climate change and rapid urbanisation pose significant challenges for Bangladesh. Frequent floods, river erosion, heat waves, and cyclones threaten urban areas. Especially in informal settlements, people have limited means to protect themselves from these hazards.

To address these risks, the government has included climate adaptation into important strategic frameworks like the National Adaptation Plan (NAP). The NAP highlights the critical role of cities in reducing the impacts of climate change and calls for the development of City Climate Action Plans (City CAPs). However, clear guidelines for developing and implementing these plans locally are lacking. Cities struggle with limited expertise and resources to assess climate risks and plan effective measures. Similar obstacles exist nationally, further hindering the realization of the urban adaptation goals set out in the NAP.

Effective implementation of climate adaptation measures at the local level requires well-coordinated national procedures aligned with the NAP and strengthened local capacities. However, the centralised budgetary system and the limited capacity of national public entities hinder the provision of essential technical and financial assistance to city administrations to develop and implement City CAPs. Additionally, the absence of standardised procedures for risk assessment, stakeholder participation, funding and implementation coupled with insufficient inter-agency collaboration complicates these efforts further.

Objectives

The German-Bangladesh Technical Cooperation project “Supporting the Localization of National Climate Adaptation Targets (LOCAT)” aims to improve the structural requirements for implementing City Climate Action Plans in line with the National Adaptation Plan in selected national and urban local administration

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| Project name | Supporting the Localization of National Climate Adaptation Targets (LOCAT) |
| Commissioned by | German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) |
| Commission value | 3.0 million Euros |
| Project region | Bangladesh |
| Partner ministry | Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (MoLGRD&C) |
| Implementing partner | Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) |
| SDG contribution | No poverty (SDG - 1), Gender equality (SDG - 5), Reducing inequalities (SDG - 10), Sustainable cities and communities (SDG - 11), Climate action (SDG - 13) |
| Duration | July 2024 to June 2027 |



Rubber dam to reserve water for household supply and irrigation during dry seasons



Community made bamboo bridge constructed over canal



Water logging in the municipality

Approach

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, through The LOCAT TC project supports the efforts of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to implement the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) by strengthening institutional and technical capacities at national and local levels. In collaboration with MoLGRD&C, MoEFCC, LGED, and key partners, a harmonised national methodology for preparing City Climate Action Plans (CCAPs) is being developed. Two pilot cities, Sirajganj and Chapai Nawabganj, are preparing gender-responsive CCAPs and implementing small-scale demonstration measures. These efforts are complemented by IEC materials, procedural guidelines, and digital learning tools, offering practical insights for eight additional multiplier cities. The project delivers three outputs: (1) improved technical capacity for CCAP preparation and implementation in pilot cities; (2) development of national tools/working aids based on field experiences in the cities; and (3) promotion of multi-level learning. Key activities include local climate risks and vulnerability assessments, participatory climate action planning, need-based advisory support, and city-to-city exchange. Through structured training, stakeholder engagement, and alignment with NAP, LOCAT aims to embed climate adaptation at the city levels and further support partner ministries to scale-up effective CCAP models nationwide.

Intended Outcome

The LOCAT aims to generate lasting impact by strengthening local capacities, institutionalising supportive national frameworks, and fostering multi-level learning. These efforts enable cities to take the lead on climate adaptation while ensuring alignment with national priorities-supporting scalable, inclusive, and sustainable urban resilience.

Outcome 1: Strengthened Local Capacity on CCAP

City administrations are being equipped to assess vulnerabilities, define adaptation priorities, and prepare City Climate Action Plans (CCAPs) using standardised tools and participatory approaches. Model CCAPs, developed in pilot cities, along with practical tools and capacity development materials, are being scaled up and mainstreamed to help municipalities across Bangladesh plan and implement effective adaptation measures.

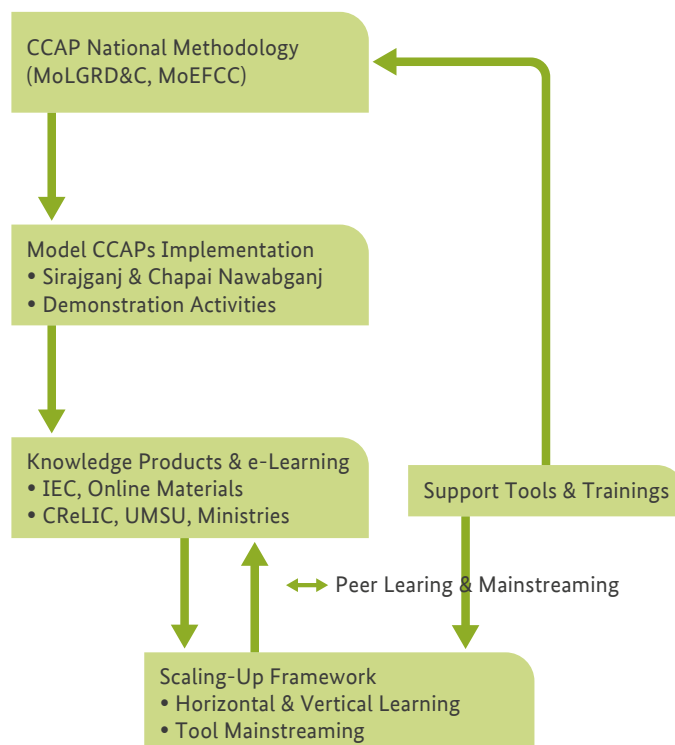
Outcome 2: Mainstreaming National Frameworks

National institutions, such as MoLGRD&C, MoEFCC, are integrating lessons from local implementation into national tools, policies, and procedures. Climate risks and the needs of vulnerable groups are being systematically incorporated into urban development planning and financing processes.

Outcome 3: Multi-Level Learning and Knowledge Exchange

A sustainable learning system is being established to promote horizontal and vertical exchange across institutions. Through structured peer learning, digital training, and institutional collaboration, city officials are sharing knowledge and scaling-up successful models, enabling more municipalities to formulate and implement their own CCAPs.

LOCAT Activities in a nutshell



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