

FRONTLINE BANGLADESH

*Portfolio of OBHIZATRIK Foundation's Intervention on
Community-Led Climate Action & Resilience*



Bangladesh on the Frontline: Community-Led Answers to the Climate Crisis

Bangladesh sits at the sharp edge of the climate crisis. A low-lying delta of more than 170 million people, it is repeatedly ranked among the most climate-vulnerable nations on earth, yet it contributes a negligible share of global emissions. Rising seas push salt into farmland and drinking water, cyclones strike the coast with growing intensity, and river floods displace hundreds of thousands each year. For the communities living on the chars, the shifting silt islands of the Bay of Bengal, climate change is not a projection. It is the water they drink, the harvest they lose and the distance a woman walks each morning to find something safe to cook with.

OBHIZATRIK Foundation works where that pressure is greatest. Founded in 2010 and now active in 32 districts, we design locally-led responses that put affected people, especially women and youth, at the center of adaptation, disaster risk reduction and green recovery.

This document consolidates six of our flagship climate-related initiatives, demonstrating what **community-led, locally-led adaptation** looks like in practice on the Bangladesh frontline.

A CONNECTED MODEL OF
Resilience



ADAPT & LEAD

Adaptive capacity, food security and green cover led by women and youth.



PROTECT

Saving lives and reducing loss & damage when disaster strikes.



SUSTAIN

Educating the next generation of a resilient Bangladesh.

CLIMATE ACTION AT LOCAL LEVEL (CALL)

CLIMATE-SMART FOOD SYSTEMS

SAVAR, ASHULIA, YEARPUR & GAZIPUR · FUNDED BY GAIN & SDC

CALL wires climate adaptation into local governance and food systems. Farmers piloted BRRI-102 climate-resilient rice and nutrition gardens on vulnerable char land. Sixty youth 'Pushtibondhu' leaders were trained, 96.7% of them directly climate-affected, including climate migrants.

Three Union Multi-Stakeholder Platforms were formed and nine youth representatives inducted into union planning.



WOMEN LEADING THE TIDE

GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE WATER GOVERNANCE

CHAR LATA, RANGABALI, PATUAKHALI · FUNDED BY IUCN BRIDGE GENDER GRANT



On Char Lata, climate shocks land on women first: 95.9% name salinity intrusion as their top water challenge and women perform 90.2% of water collection, up to four hours a day. Yet only 17.8% had ever joined a water or disaster meeting. Sixty women completed four trainings (24 days) in financial literacy, leadership and DRR.

At a validation workshop they presented an evidence-based Community Action Plan to the Union Parishad and won commitment on all seven priority demands, from a cyclone shelter and rainwater harvesting to climate-smart agriculture.

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FROM CARRYING
WATER TO
GOVERNING IT.

For generations the women of Char Lata walked hours each day for water and were expected to keep their families safe through every cyclone and flood; yet were absent from the rooms where water and disaster decisions were made. Through Women Leading the Tide, sixty of them trained, gathered evidence and walked into the Union Parishad not as spectators but as negotiators. They left with all seven of their community's priorities written into a local action plan, and a commitment from elected officials to carry those demands upward. It is the clearest picture of what locally-led adaptation looks like: those who feel the climate crisis first, leading the response.

BOAT AMBULANCE

REACHING THE UNREACHABLE IN DISASTER

REMOTE VILLAGES OF BANGLADESH'S SOUTHERN-MOST COASTAL & RIVER REGIONS · EMERGENCY MEDICAL ACCESS



For the people living in the islands of Southern Bangladesh, clinics are often unreachable, a danger falling hardest on pregnant women, the elderly and children. OBHIZATRIK's Boat Ambulance delivers first aid and medical support to remote southern villages routinely cut off from care.

The purpose-designed medical vessel navigates submerged and riverine terrain, turning proven flood-rescue experience into standing disaster-health infrastructure for the delta.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION & EMERGENCY CLIMATE RESPONSE

CUMILLA · FENI · NOAKHALI · MOULVIBAZAR · SYLHET · HABIGANJ · KHAGRACHHARI · COASTAL CHARS

Disaster response is OBHIZATRIK's oldest capability. During floods, volunteer teams deploy boats for rescue and run round-the-clock relief across affected districts with food, clean water, purification tablets, medicine and sanitary supplies, with volunteer-doctor medical camps for the most vulnerable.

We are shifting toward preparedness: a Training Manual on Women's Leadership in DRR and cyclone-shelter and resilient-housing proposals for exposed coasts.



PROJECT GREEN

PLANT TREES, GO GREEN

SCHOOL GROUNDS & LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Project GREEN turns school children into climate stewards through weekly horticulture classes and hands-on planting. Every student is allocated three trees, two on school grounds (one medicinal, one food-bearing) and one at home.

The result is living green infrastructure that cools campuses, supplies free fruit and herbal medicine and grows climate literacy. Plantation drives with partners have reached across Dhaka communities.

OBHIZATRIK SCHOOL, CHAR LATA

EDUCATION ON THE CLIMATE FRONTLINE

CHAR LATA BRANCH, CHALITABUNIA, RANGABALI, PATUAKHALI · SINCE 2019



Char Lata is one of Bangladesh's most exposed islands, home to an OBHIZATRIK School branch delivering fully free education where climate stress pushes children toward child labour or early marriage. Students receive materials, meals, monthly family grocery support and health check-ups.

Placing a stable, well-resourced school on a frontline char is itself an adaptation strategy, keeping children learning through disaster seasons.



OUR CLIMATE PORTFOLIO AT A GLANCE



10 M

LIVES REACHED IN 16 YEARS
THROUGH OUR SUSTAINABLE
PROGRAMS



3200+

VOLUNTEERS IN 35 DISTRICTS



12,000

TREES PLANTED



15

DISTRICTS REACHED IN FLOODS



60

WOMEN LEADERS



600

CHILDREN CURRENTLY
ENROLLED IN SCHOOL



10,000+

PATIENTS REACHED



120

YOUTH CLIMATE LEADERS

Partner With Us

OBHIZATRIK Foundation invites climate funds, donors, governments and technical partners to scale these community-led models across Bangladesh's coast and beyond.



OBHIZATRIK Foundation

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