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PROJECT BRIEF

EMPOWERING CIVIL SOCIETY FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE & ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION



Duration: February 2026 - January 2030

Funded by: The European Union

Consortium Lead: Welthungerhilfe

Partners: Educo, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Uttaran

CONTEXT

Bangladesh is among the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, facing increasing impacts from floods, cyclones, salinity intrusion, river erosion, and waterlogging. These impacts disproportionately affect marginalized groups, including Indigenous Peoples, landless communities, women, and youth.

While Bangladesh has established strong climate policy frameworks, including BCCSAP, CCGAP, NAP, and the updated NDC, significant gaps remain in translating national commitments into effective local action. Grassroots Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Community-Based Organisations (CBOs), Environmental Human Rights Defenders (EHRDs), and community actors often face limited capacity, resources, and opportunities to influence climate planning and decision-making.

The project addresses these gaps by strengthening civil society capacity, collaboration, and engagement to promote inclusive climate justice, environmental protection, and community-led solutions.

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PROJECT DURATION AND GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The project is being implemented over a period of **48 months,** from **February 2026 to January 2030,** across six climate-vulnerable districts of Bangladesh: **Rangpur, Gaibandha, Khulna, Satkhira, Bandarban and Rangamati.**

These districts represent diverse climate risks and are among the country's most vulnerable regions, making them critical areas for building resilience and strengthening community-led climate action.



OVERALL OBJECTIVE

To enhance the contribution of Civil Society Organizations and Environmental Human Rights Defenders in promoting a healthy, clean, safe, and sustainable environment while advancing a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy and society in Bangladesh.

TARGET GROUPS

90 Community-Based Organizations
Comprising 2,700 localised members (30% women/minorities) organised to initiate base-level village environmental vigilance loops.

15 Local Advocacy Networks
450 aggregated focal points unified under a shared campaign framework to influence district-level budget allocations.

12 Marginalized Group CSOs
Directly split to target institutional intersectionality: 4 Dalit CSOs, 4 Indigenous Peoples' Organizations (CHT/plain), and 4 Youth-Led Organizations.

788 Local Government Duty-Bearers
Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNOS), line department heads, and Union Parishad members targeted to ensure policy enforcement.

20 Civil Society Groups
400 members organised into accountability platforms, specifically Paani (Water) and Bhumi (Land) Committees to monitor public resources.

6 Women-Led Grassroots CSOs
Targeted sub-grant entities tackling climate displacement impacts on rural households and building localized female climate leadership.

180 Frontline EHRDs
Individual community defenders systematically trained to report environmental infractions. Includes structured 1:1 mentorship for 20 young women.

720,000 Final Macro Beneficiaries
Broad-scale rural populations (40%+ vulnerable women/households) benefiting from enhanced governance, land safety, and ecosystem recovery.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The project aims to achieve the following outcomes:

1. Increased CSOs (especially women and youth CSOs) community mobilization of disadvantaged, vulnerable, and excluded communities impacted by climate change and environmental hazards to develop locally led models on climate actions.

2. Improved advocacy of trained CSOs and environmental human rights defenders for systematic changes in policies and procedures related to environmental degradation and mitigate the impacts of climate change at local and national levels (proactive leadership).

3. Increased engagement of trained CSOs and EHRDs in monitoring and documenting human rights implications, resulting from maladaptation, environmental degradation, and interactions with climate change (act as a watchdog).

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