
Climate Adaptation



BRAC

enhances resilience within communities affected by climate change through locally-led adaptation and mitigation practices aimed at improving quality of life, building awareness, and protecting resources.

About BRAC

BRAC acts as a catalyst, creating opportunities for marginalized populations to realize their potential. Founded in 1972, BRAC has been adapting its programs to support people living in Bangladesh, one of the most climate affected countries in the world for almost 50 years. Through this and through work in 11 other countries, BRAC has developed a vast knowledge of the effects of climate change on communities in the Global South, as well as a lived understanding of the resilience and ingenuity shown by the communities most affected. BRAC's strategy focuses on community resilience, disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery, and ensuring strong partnerships with local actors in order to foster effective climate action.

BRAC's Approach to Climate Adaptation Locally-led adaptation is central to BRAC's integrated development approach. Through cutting-edge technology, innovation, and multi-sectoral partnerships, BRAC builds the resilience of poor rural and urban households, with a focus on improving lives for women and girls. BRAC prioritizes strategies that ensure local communities have access to the resources necessary to make informed decisions about current and future adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Disaster Preparedness: BRAC's global humanitarian strategy focuses on disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response, and recovery, as well as local partnerships to provide an effective humanitarian response that is both adaptable and contextually effective.

In Bangladesh, BRAC bridges humanitarian and development work to build the resilience of the most vulnerable communities and provide humanitarian support to communities affected by natural and

human-induced disasters. Examples of disasters that BRAC has responded to include cyclones, storm surges, flooding, tornadoes, landslides, river bank erosion, fires, building collapses, epidemics and pandemics, forced displacement, and civil unrest. In Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, BRAC is the largest civil society responder to the Rohingya refugee crisis, providing humanitarian support through a comprehensive and multi-sectoral approach. Interventions include disaster risk reduction, livelihoods, food security, health, nutrition, shelter, WASH, protection, and education.

As climate-induced disasters become more frequent, BRAC's Humanitarian program has incorporated risk reduction activities to increase communities' resilience to climatic shocks across all programs. This includes community action plans that manage risk and exposure from changing climatic conditions, in addition to raising community awareness.

Climate Resilience Framework: BRAC is committed to building the resilience of poor rural and urban households, with an intersectional focus on women and other marginalized communities, to the shocks and stresses caused by climate change. BRAC's Climate Resilience Framework serves as a cross-sectoral guide for decision makers to assess climate-related risks and prioritize actions that promote climate-resilient development. In Bangladesh for example, BRAC implements programs that provide climate-resilient

climate-vulnerable hot spots, and support climate-smart livelihoods.

housing, enhance drinking water accessibility in

funding for local urban communities to fight climate change in Bangladesh. BRAC serves as the primary fund holder and grant maker. The Fund was seeded with support from KfW (the German Development Bank) and each year the dividends earned are distributed as grants to support adaptation efforts by local partners. Through a grassroots approach, the Fund closes the financial gap from short-term climate adaptation project funding to a sustainable provision of resources for vulnerable communities and climate migrants. The Fund itself acts as a direct climate finance mechanism, operating only with income generated from investments.

Climate-Smart Agriculture: BRAC’s agriculture strategy focuses on increasing farmer productivity while enhancing their resilience to climate-related impacts. Rather than enhancing farmer productivity by increasing the amount of land cultivated, BRAC enables farmers to yield more from their existing fields. In an effort to promote environmental conservation, BRAC’s climate-smart agriculture approach contributes to reduced greenhouse gas emissions per kilogram of food produced and limits expansion of production areas.

BRAC trains community-based agriculture and livestock promoters—a majority of whom are women—to provide advice and vital input support to farmers, including seed, poultry vaccinations, and other extension services.

BRAC also provides access to climate resilient inputs, such as drought-tolerant and disease-resistant seed varieties, and leverages innovative technology, such as use of short duration crop varieties and balanced fertilizer application, to enable farmers to better respond to volatile weather patterns.

BRAC’s Partners in Climate Adaptation

BRAC is working with a number of partners to empower vulnerable communities to take agency in their own climate resilience and adaptation.

The Climate Bridge Fund: Started in 2019, the Climate Bridge Fund (CBF) serves as a sustainable source of

Climate Resilience Early Warning System Network:

The Climate Resilience Early Warning System Network (CREWSnet) is an initiative born out of BRAC’s partnership with MIT that plans to combine leading-edge climate forecasting, socioeconomic analysis, and innovative resilience services to empower communities as they consider options for proactive climate adaptation. CREWSnet will aim to support low-income communities around the world as they grapple with the realities of adapting to climate change. As MIT’s leading regional partner, BRAC’s programs are informing CREWSnet’s methodology and proposal trajectory. The initiative was recently selected as one of the top ideas at the MIT Climate Grand Challenges and has been awarded a seed fund to further research the concept. BRAC plans to integrate CREWSnet into future climate change programming as funding becomes available.

Drawdown Lift Advisory Council: Drawdown Lift, an initiative led by Project Drawdown, works to deepen collective understanding of the links between climate change solutions, health, and improving human well-being, particularly in emerging economies in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. As a member of Drawdown Lift’s dynamic, solutions-based advisory council, BRAC shapes, guides, supports, and co-creates Drawdown Lift’s work, which seeks to break down disciplinary walls and find “win-win” solutions that address both climate change and extreme poverty.



Examples of Climate Adaptation Programming across BRAC

Country	Project Partner Description	
Bangladesh	Climate Bridge Fund	KfW Closes the financial gap from short-term climate adaptation projects to the provision of resources. CBF partners with registered NGOs to identify, design and implement long-term adaptation projects in the coastal zone. It acts as a direct climate finance mechanism, operating through grants and investments. BRAC intends to expand on this project to support more long-term, locally-led solutions.
Bangladesh	Sustainable Inclusive Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts (2019-2021)	UNDP Capacity building of project staff from among implementing partners to conduct Community Climate Vulnerability Assessments and to help them engage communities and key stakeholders in the assessment process.
Bangladesh	Capacity Building Training on Risk Financing to Manage Climate and Disaster Shocks	The World Bank Group, IFC. Designing and developing curriculum for a module on “Risk Financing to Manage Climate and Disaster Shocks” for local government authorities, NGOs, INGOs and other relevant stakeholders.
Bangladesh	Composite Actions for Climate Migrants in Urban Slums (2020-2024)	WaterAid Provides WASH services such as construction of water supply systems, building of community members, system strengthening, and improving livelihoods through training and microfinance funding for climate-induced migrants and half being women.
Bangladesh	Enhancing adaptive capacities of coastal communities to cope with climate change induced salinity (2020-2023)	UNDP With support from UNDP, BRAC will benefit an estimated 10,000 people with support and 6,096 households with drinking water supply in the district. The project promotes the following 8 livelihoods: Crab farming, Crab Nursery, Aqua-geoaponics, Horticulture, Fish cultivation, Crab and fish feed processing, and Handicrafts.
Bangladesh	Strengthening community resilience to climate sensitive diseases in city corporations Climate Resilient	Climate Bridge Fund (CBF) Targets over 50,000 people (60% climate-induced) through creating awareness, providing training through health and disease preventive commodities, and developing a database for the project’s locations. FCDO and DFID

	Desalination Plant for Safe Drinking Water in Coastal Region (2019)	through SPA	Installed climate resilient desalination plant that s safe drinking water. To ensure sustainability, the including participatory monitoring and installation and fund.
Liberia	Breaking the Cycle of Poverty and Malnutrition (2018-2024)	King Philanthropies	BRAC developed a model with several interrelated economies to address poverty and chronic maln project included natural resource management, c



			agriculture training, agricultural advisory services markets, and community-level nutrition education Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly all farmer and food consumption scores increased by 5.1% Building on Phase I learnings and successes, the and aims to directly reach an additional 7,500 far and agricultural advisory services, with a focus o work, BRAC is working to strengthen rural marke capacity through its social enterprise Poultry Far product in partnership with BRAC's Microfinance
Liberia	Pro-Resilience Action: Strengthen Food Security Among Poor Households (2016-2018)	European Union	Increased farmers' monthly average income by 37% through climate-smart agriculture training, poultry programs.
Sierra Leone Tanzania	Boosting Agriculture and Food Security: Sustainable Livestock Value Chain Women Entrepreneurship through the Solar Value Chain for Economic	European Union Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Denmark (Danida), Signify	Improve food security and reduce poverty among 4, women, 25% youth) by diversifying the livestock to develop its value chain. The WE SoLVE project involves a unique global p Solar Sister – a non-profit organisation that trains to rural communities together with Signify (forme

	Development (2018-2022)	Foundation, Solar Sister	<p>global company offering high quality, reliable and</p> <p>tackle the twin problem of (1) the lack of employ</p> <p>in rural Tanzania, and (2) the lack of access to cle</p> <p>project pilots and tests an innovative business ar</p> <p>clean, safe jobs for women in rural areas while si</p> <p>rural Tanzania.</p>
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