

Event Report

# CLIMB Innovation Scaling and National Level LLA Consultation

# About the Event

A two-day long consultation on the CLIMB (Community Led Innovation for Climate Risk Mitigation in Bangladesh) project was organized by CARE Bangladesh on December 18 and 19, 2023, with a specific focus on the Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) components. CLIMB is a four year long initiative undertaken by CARE Bangladesh and the local partners from the coastal regions of Bangladesh. Since July 2022 the project is implementing community led innovation for addressing climate and anthropogenic challenges in 3 unions of 2 districts: Cox's Bazar and Bagerhat. The overarching goal of CLIMB is to enhance the resilience and adaptive capacity of the communities through locally-led green and just innovative solutions, coupled with an accountable service mechanism. The following report includes a brief discussion of the consultation, and an overview of CLIMB's activities through LLA lens.

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Care Bangladesh Office, Dhaka, Bangladesh

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18 and 19 December, 2023

## **Publishing Date**

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# Introduction

Shahab Uddin, KML Coordinator, CARE Bangladesh

The session was inaugurated with a welcome remark from the speaker, Mr. Shahab Uddin, extending greetings to all participants and commencing the meeting with individual participant introductions. Notable attendees included implementing partners and beneficiaries from the two project sites Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar, and Sharankhola, Bagherhat. The Liaison Officer of CARE, who was also present at the event encouraged everyone to work diligently to honor the values of CARE Bangladesh. The program's Deputy Director, Mr. Mrityunjoy Das, provided a comprehensive explanation of the concept of locally-led adaptation (LLA), discussing its historical discourse beginning from over two decades.



## Remembering Dr. Saleemul Huq

A tribute was paid to Late Dr. Saleemul Huq, a pioneer of LLA, showcasing photos of Saleemul Huq Sir and illuminating on his significant contributions. The irreplaceable void left by Dr. Saleem's absence was acknowledged and the imperative of his legacy continuation was highlighted.

# Introduction to Locally Led Adaptation and Principles

Savio Rousseau Rozario, Program Coordinator, ICCCAD

With acknowledgment of Dr. Saleemul Huq's impactful contributions, the session commenced in continuation of the introduction. Engaging participants in a team-building activity, Mr. Savio Rousseau Rozario, illustrated the ripple effect of community actions, emphasizing positive responses to taking the first step towards climate action.

Transitioning to ICCCAD's initiatives, activities like the National Platform on Locally Led Adaptation (LLA), ICCCAD's research, and dissemination efforts were focused on. Stressing collaboration in addressing climate change, the initiative of Divisional Platforms on LLA was discussed. With established platforms in Khulna and Chattogram, the expansion of these platform in Sylhet and Rajshahi is expected in 2024. The planning map and insights showcased from annual planning meetings contributed to comprehend platform effectiveness.



Highlights of specific projects, including collaboration with indigenous communities, participation in a UNDP project assessment in the CHT Hill tracts, and contributions to a migrant-friendly town in Mongla were also discussed to illustrate the practice of Locally led adaption around the country. The purpose of ICCCAD's short courses and publications resulting from ongoing work were elaborated upon. ICCCAD research findings from Sharakhola filed survey on 8 principles of LLA, with a focus on designing and implementing CLIMB was also shared in this session.

# Examples of Locally Led Adaptation

Afsara Binte Mirza, Research Officer, ICCCAD

Ms. Afsara Binte Mirza initiated the session by delving into the creation and conceptualization of a comic book, emphasizing the importance of Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) in climate finance. Good practices from Nepal, India and Africa were highlighted such as the LAPA of Nepal- Adaptation Plan; the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, which focused on the social safety for community members; and the Huairou Commission's Community Resilience Fund dedicated to women's empowerment in South Asia. Participants' engagement was ensured through lessons learned and experiences sharing of CLIMB's implementation of locally-led adaptation. A participant from Cox Bazar shared cultivation experiences, expressing satisfaction despite the challenges posed by salinity and praised the effectiveness of the "Bosta (Sack Bag) Process" and the "Drip Irrigation Process" for water level control. It greatly emphasized the success of drip Irrigation in mitigating salinity issues in the area.



The participant detailed CLIMB's project results and field initiatives, highlighting active community engagement during field visits. Emphasizing the formation of committees to enhance local innovation, collaboration, knowledge management, and financial mechanisms, metrics for measuring local innovation, capacity building for beneficiaries, and knowledge transfer to non-beneficiaries were discussed. Adopting local indicators and employing evidence-generation methods resonating with local realities, such as storytelling, art, and drama, were also emphasized.



# Piloting Local Leadership Project

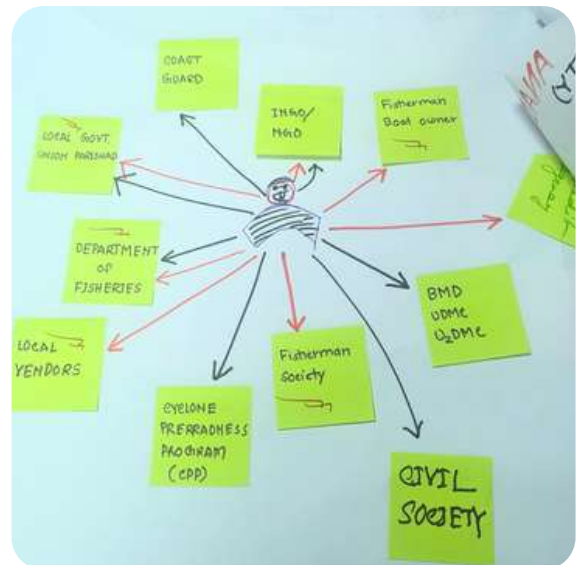
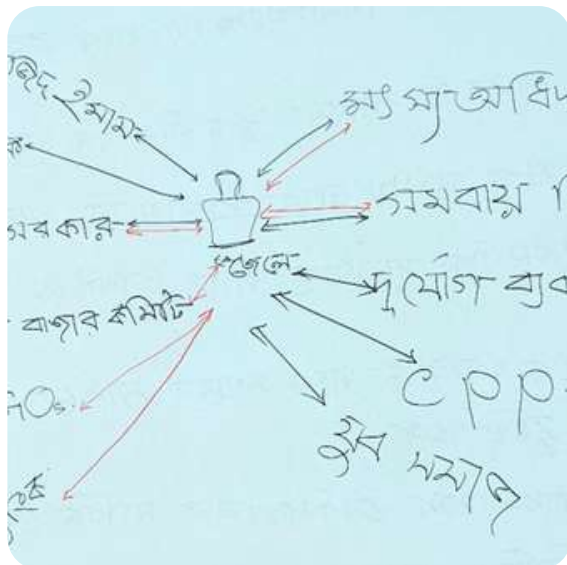
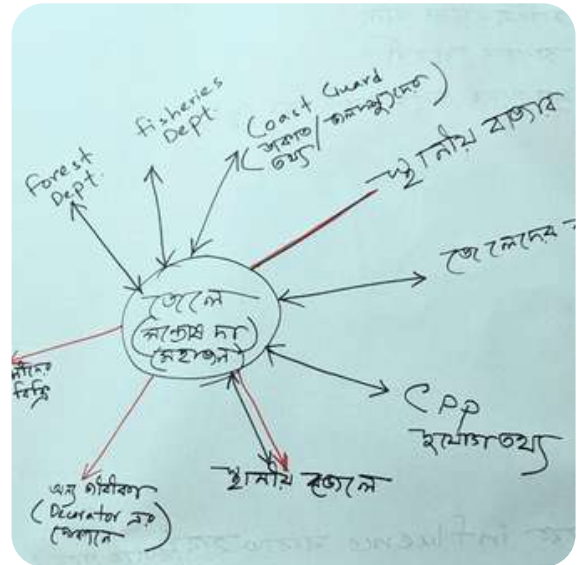
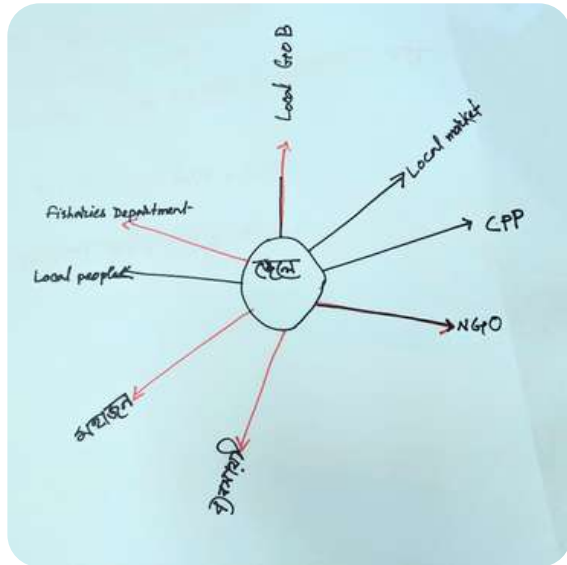
Rawnak Jahan Khan, Research Officer, ICCCAD



The session started with an introduction to the practical implementation of Locally Led Adaptation (LLA). The facilitator then presented a game aimed at conceptualizing a project to support a local community confronting challenges such as cyclones and salinity intrusion, which have a significant impact on their socioeconomic status. Participants were instructed to envision a village with 50 households of fishermen. Each participant received flip charts for planning the project, with the specific task of identifying key actors and relationships among the fishermen. To visually represent information and communication flow, participants were provided with blue markers, while red markers were designated for indicating financial flow. As participants engaged in the game, questions arose regarding the rules, prompting the facilitator to provide clarifications and ensure a comprehensive understanding of the game's context. This interactive game aimed to enhance participants' understanding of the practical aspects of LLA implementation in addressing real-world challenges faced by local communities.

# Stakeholder Mapping

Through Rich Picture Method



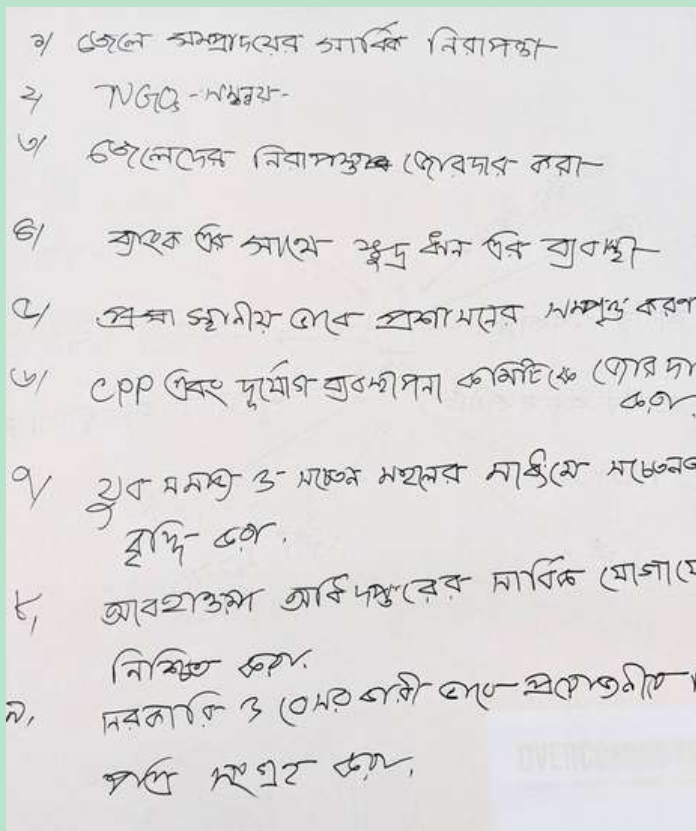
After being granted time to map stakeholders within the imaginary village of 50 fisherman households, participants identified several key stakeholders, including the Fisheries Department, CPP, Local People, Local market, Local Government, Businessmen/Local Vendors, Mohajan, Coast Guard, Forest Department, Teachers, Disaster Management Committee, Banks, Teachers, Imams, BMD, and UDMC.

# Interest and Expectations

## Definition of Actors' Roles

Subsequently, participants adopted new identities within distinct groups, including donors, implementers (NGOs), local government representatives, and members of the community. Each group was then prompted to define their respective roles in the context of the planned project. This structured approach facilitated a comprehensive understanding of the diverse roles and contributions of different stakeholders in the envisioned project within the simulated scenario.

## The Role of Local Government

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- ৩/ জেলে সম্প্রদায়ের সার্বিক নিবাসিতা
  - ২/ NGO-সম্পর্কিত
  - ৩/ জেলেনদের নিবাসিতা জোরদার করা
  - ৬/ স্বাস্থ্য ক্ষেত্রে সামগ্রিক স্বাস্থ্য কর্ম পরিকল্পনা
  - ৫/ সশস্ত্র স্থানীয় লোক প্রশাসনের সম্প্রসারণ
  - ৬/ CPP এবং দুর্ভোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা কর্মসূচিতে যোগ দা  
করে।
  - ৭/ যুব সমস্যা ও মজল মজলর মাধ্যমে মজল  
বৃদ্ধি করে।
  - ৫/ আবহাওয়া জরিপের মাধ্যমে যোগাযোগ  
নিশ্চিত করে।
  - ৮/ সরকারি ও বেসরকারি লোক-সংগঠনিক  
সংগঠন গঠন করে।

The Local Government is expected to play a multifaceted role in overall strengthening the security of fishermen. This includes coordinating with NGOs, facilitating micro-finance and loans, strengthening local administration, enhancing the Community Policing Program (CPP) and the Local District Disaster Management Committee. Additionally, the Local Government engages in awareness-building initiatives for young people, maintains communication with the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), and provides necessary goods to ensure the well-being of the community.

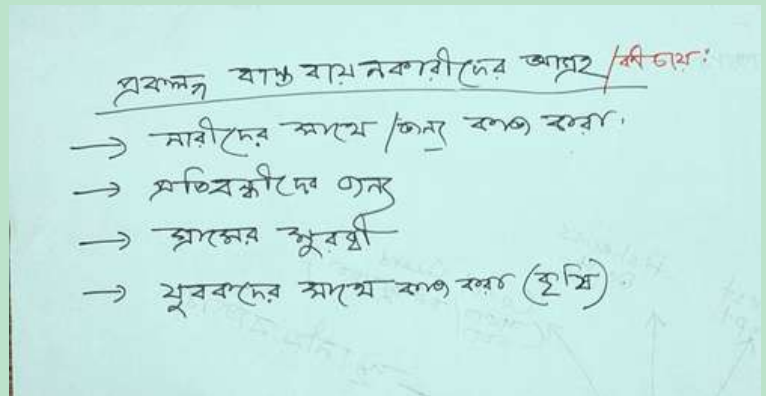


# Interest and Expectations

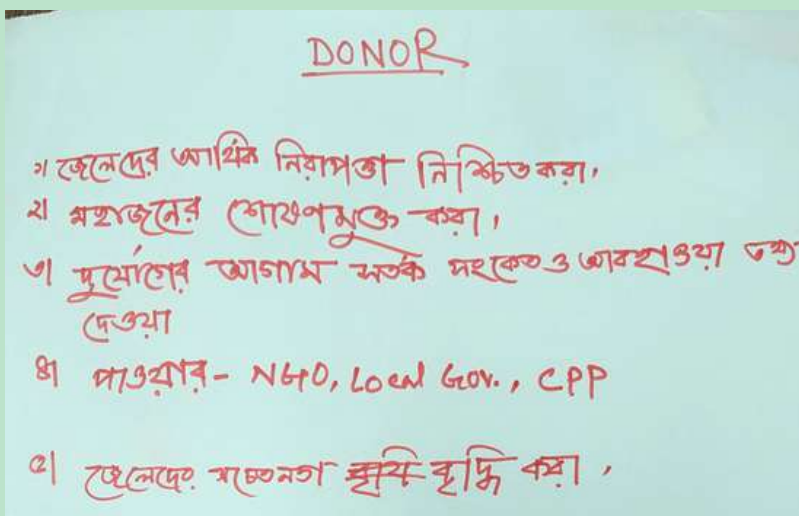
Definition of Actors' Roles

## The Role of Project Implementers

The Project Implementors focused on inclusivity by actively including girls, women, disabled, and elderly individuals in their initiatives. They also prioritized working with young people, recognizing the importance of involving diverse demographics in the project.



## The Role of Donor



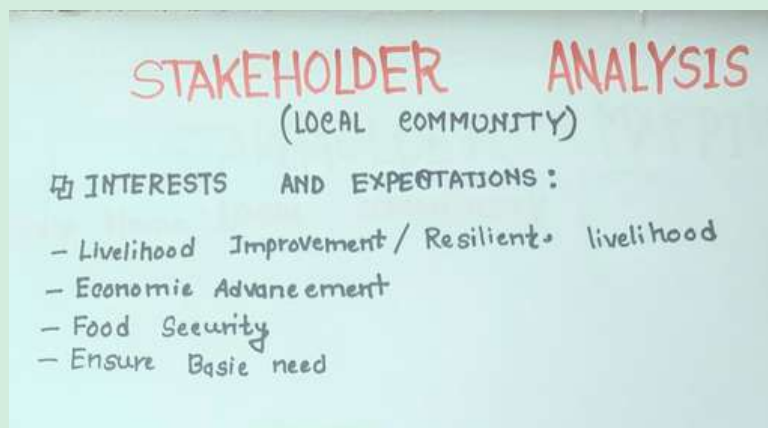
The Donor contributes to the project by strengthening economic security, reducing the influence of local power practices, implementing an early warning system, and fostering awareness among the fishermen.

# Interest and Expectations

Definition of Actors' Roles

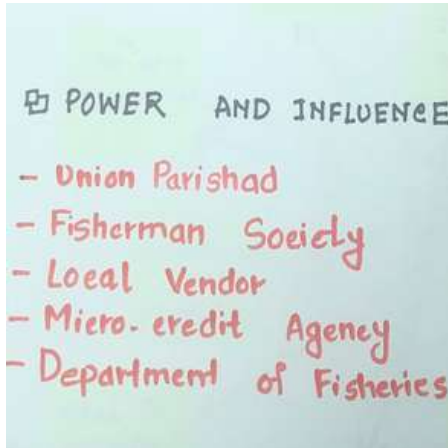
## The Role of Local Community

The Local Community aimed for livelihood improvement and resilience, economic advancement, food security, and ensuring basic needs are met.



# Budget Planning

Power and Influences of Actors



The actors with power and influence were identified to play a role in the negotiation and planning the budget.

Following this exercise, participants collaboratively developed a proposal where the donor was provided 100 Taka for disbursement. After a thorough discussion, four activities were approved for the budget allocation: fishing boats and fishing nets (50%), alternative livelihood (25%), institutional capacity (5%), and operational costs (20%). This structured approach ensured a comprehensive understanding of the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder in the project implementation process.

Activities/Items	Qty	Amount (BDT)
1. Fishing boat and fishing net	= 50 HH	50T (1 * 50 HH)
2. Alternative livelihood	= 50 HH	25T
3. Institutional capacity	=	5T
4. Operation cost	=	20T
Total		= 100T



# Closing Remarks

In concluding remarks, a question was posed regarding the feasibility of directing financial support directly from donors to the local community. It was determined that such a direct flow was not viable due to the absence of local leadership. The responsibility falls on NGOs to build capacity within the local community, enabling them to be self sufficient, without constant reliance on donor funds. The host emphasized the importance of establishing a sustainable system within the community, highlighting the need for a hierarchical structure to enhance efficiency. Furthermore, he clarified that Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) does not advocate for the removal of NGOs or local government but rather aims to establish transparency in the overall process.





# Key Takeaways

- Participants of the CLIMB Project came to know about Dr. Saleemul Huq and his contribution to the field of adaptation, mainly locally led adaptation (LLA).
- Participants shared their perspectives on innovative gardening and farming benefits of CLIMB Project.
- Participants learned about the LLA practices from the Global South.
- Participants identified key local actors of a hypothetical upcoming project to understand the importance of stakeholder mapping and its implications during project planning
  - Local government was identified as one of the most important actors who have influence over other stakeholders in their locality
- Local community group expressed their needs and expectations from the implementers and expects the messages to reach to the donors for a better flexibility of the project.
- Discussion among the local community, implementers and local government helped to plan a project holistically by considering everyone's interests in a transparent manner.
- The local community, with the help of implementers, ensured local government's involvement during the project period.
- While the donor proposed alternative activities and changes in the plan, the local community confronted these changes successfully by expressing their actual needs and rationale for particular activities.
- Finally, the participants established a project plan where 80% of the money will be going to the ground-level.
- All of the participants hope to reach to this ideal scenario someday, when local community will be well capacitated and the leader in taking forward the adaptation efforts.