

Divisional Platforms on Locally Led Adaptation (DPLLA)

Concept Note

Background

The International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) is one of the leading research and capacity-building organizations working on climate change and development in Bangladesh. ICCCAD’s mission is to generate evidence-based knowledge on climate change, specifically on adaptation to climate change with a focus on the global south. Local people and communities affected directly by the impacts of climate change often are the most active and innovative in creating adaptation solutions. However, their limited access to resources, technology, capacity-building opportunities, and funding undermines their capability to implement those innovative and local solutions effectively. This vast potential and the creativity of the local people and communities can be explored and supported through a locally led adaptation (LLA) approach. With the support of IIED and the pioneering leadership and expertise of the late Dr. Saleemul Huq (OBE), the organization started its “Locally Led Adaptation” program in 2021. The goal of the LLA program is to generate research on the success and failures of local actors/communities’ leadership in the climate change arena in global south; enable inclusion; and engage with community of practitioners to understand the practicality of the [8 principles of LLA](#) in their own contexts.

What is Locally Led Adaptation (LLA)?

When local communities, community-based organizations, local businesses, community members, citizen groups, local governments and local private sector entities at the lowest administrative level, are consulted and included as decision-makers in the climate adaptation interventions that affect them, it is Locally led Adaptation (LLA). In the process of LLA, local communities decide what adaptation pathway they want to choose for them. In pursuing LLA, local actors’ leadership and agency are crucial- and need to be actively supported at several stages of an intervention’s design and implementation. Additionally, local knowledge and capacities are incorporated in decision making, and diverse participation aids to avoid duplication, increasing efficiencies to reduce the reliance on systems that increase their vulnerability.

Why do we need Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) in Bangladesh?

Locally led Adaptation (LLA) is different from consultative, participatory, and community-based approaches to adaptation as it is defined by local actors having agency over adaptation practices; rather than allowing them to barely participate in decision-making processes. Hence, it is vital to uptake LLA to ensure that those most affected by climate change have influence over decisions about adaptation finance and programming that affects them. Besides, LLA also addresses structural inequalities faced by women, youth, children, people living with disabilities, people who are displaced, Indigenous Peoples, and ethnic groups.

Bangladesh, a country known both for its vulnerability to climate change impacts and innovative leadership in adapting to the impacts of climate change should also focus on the attributes of LLA. Since 2005 to 2022 the national climate change related policies such as the National Program of Action, Bangladesh Climate Change Strategic Action Plan, Nationally Determined Contributions, Bangladesh Delta Plan, National Adaptation Plan, Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan, etc., has been designed for addressing the impacts of climate change. However, there is an [evident gap in translating national policies and programs to a localized context](#) and limited finance flow to the local actors who need the support urgently. As LLA aims to enhance transparency and accountability at the grassroots level, it could be an effective tool to ensure equal and timely distribution of resources, and value local and traditional knowledge in Bangladesh.

ICCCAD's Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) Program

The Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) program of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) focuses on mainstreaming LLA through conducting ground level research and capacity-building of different stakeholders; promoting the inclusion of the most vulnerable individuals; and facilitating knowledge sharing through national and international partnership and networking. The current work stream of the program includes three major components: 1) action-based research and publications; 2) establishing the national and divisional platform on LLA; 3) supporting locally driven communications and networking. Besides, ICCCAD is one of the endorsers of the eight principles of LLA is also working globally to unfold the effectiveness of LLA in global south.

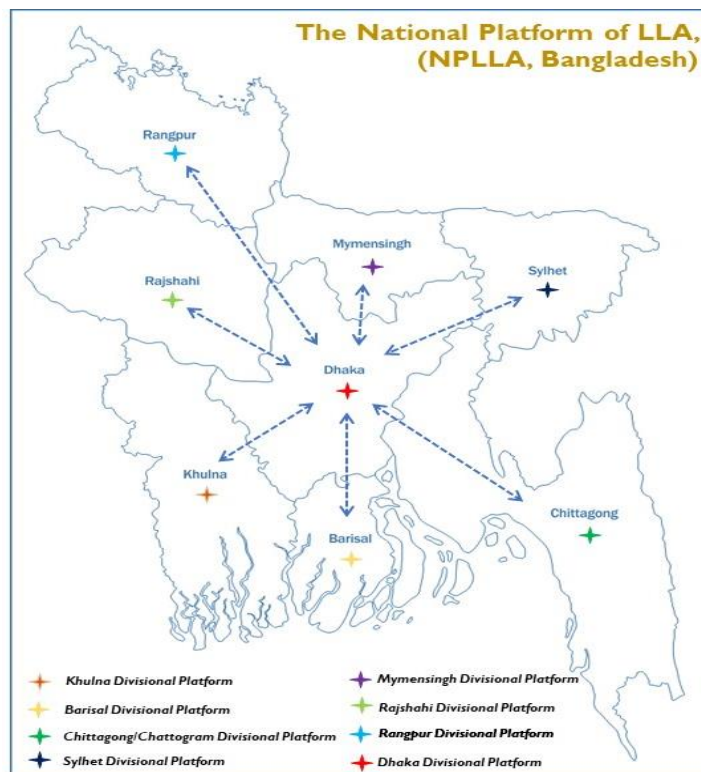
[Overview of the LLA Program of ICCCAD.](#)

National Platform of Locally Led Adaptation (NPLLA)

In May 2022, a two-day national consultation was arranged to assess the knowledge level of diverse stakeholders on comprehending the aspects of locally led adaptation. This consultation helped to gather suggestions on how to integrate LLA in practice and policy-level in Bangladesh. From the consultation a **National Platform on Locally led Adaptation (NPLLA, Bangladesh)** was initiated, which aims:

- To communicate the local messages of LLA from the local to national level
- To identify the good practices of LLA around the country, and enhance the organizational, technical, and leadership capacities of the local communities

The Divisional Platforms of Locally Led Adaptation (DPLLA)



To scale up the activities of the national platform (NPLLA) in a ‘bottom-up approach’ manner, divisional platforms are to be established. The divisional platforms will:

- Support the National Platform (NPLLA) activities
- Stimulate collaboration between stakeholders such as local government entities, local NGOs, local community-based organizations, local community representatives, and educational institutions
- Minimize knowledge gaps on -impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities; importance of promoting local leadership; capacitating the local actors
- Enhance inter-sectoral cooperation and transparency at all levels (i.e., division, district, sub-district, union, and the lowest appropriate levels)
- Identify good practices and failures

Two of the Divisional Platforms have already been launched in Khulna and Chattogram Division. To know more about it, please visit the following links:

[Khulna Divisional Platform](#)

[Chattogram Divisional Platform](#)