

COLLECTIVE ACTION ON LAND TENURE AND CLIMATE CHANGE



Global Forum
on Agricultural
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Reform and Rural Development



From insecurity to resilience: The role of land rights in climate change adaptation

This case study has been prepared based on ALRD's ongoing project documents and relevant literature, including Women-led Collective Advocacy for Climate Action and Equal Stake in the Soil project. In addition, focus group discussions were conducted (4 and 8 September 2025) with 24 women (paralegal workers, women farmers and community representatives) from Dhandi and Nimdi villages, under Nazirpur union, Bauphal sub-district of Patuakhali district to gather their perspectives on key questions related to land rights, climate adaptation, and community resilience. The background analysis of the Equal Stake in the Soil project is reviewed to understand the land status of the community, especially women of the villages covered in this case.

This case study aims contribute in mainstreaming land rights in the climate change discourse, undertaken as part of GFAiR's Collective Action on Land Tenure and Climate Change, coordinated by ANGOC and funded by the EC.

Local context and climate change event

Local/Community context: land, people and livelihoods

Bangladesh is considered one of the most vulnerable countries in the world when it comes to climate-related hazards. The country faces several significant climate and disaster risks, particularly high exposure to floods and cyclones. Flash floods, riverine flooding, and coastal flooding are likely to worsen due to intensified extreme rainfall events, tropical cyclones, and associated storm surges. These compounding factors jeopardize ecosystems, biodiversity, human lives and livelihoods, infrastructure, and the overall economy. The livelihoods of communities in Bangladesh's coastal areas, many of which are among the poorest, are particularly threatened by sea level rise, saltwater intrusion, and deteriorating natural resources, all of which are linked to climate change. Furthermore, the increasing frequency of prolonged periods of extreme heat poses a major risk to human health and living standards in the country, especially in urban areas and for outdoor laborers.¹

The literature review highlights that climate risks pose significant challenges to human health, livelihoods, well-being, land, energy, water, natural resources, and infrastructure. Poor and marginalized groups, particularly women and youth, are likely to suffer disproportionately in a changing climate, which exacerbates existing inequalities. This case study focuses on the coastal zone of Bangladesh, a region severely impacted by climate change-induced disasters, such as more frequent cyclones and the heightened risks of sea-level rise. These challenges disrupt communities and can lead to increased instability and conflict. Furthermore, the effects of climate change on the land of poor coastal populations are severe, with women often bearing the greatest burden.

¹ Climate risk memorandum, Bangladesh, a background study under the project "Women-led Collective Advocacy for Climate Action", see- https://alrd.org/public/uploads/217_pg.pdf

Climate induced disaster increases women’s unpaid care work – fetching water, securing food, collecting fuel, caring for children and elders. They often do it with reduced access to reproductive and health services.

Women frequently lack land ownership, credit, and decision-making power, which restricts their ability to adapt or recover from climate shocks.

Displacement and overcrowded shelters during or after disasters heighten risks of sexual and other harassment and violence against women.

Youth are systematically excluded from climate change adaptation decision-making, as their lack of land ownership denies them both voice and agency. Youth voices are rarely institutionalized in national climate strategies, leaving them as “mobilizers” but not “decision-makers.”

Therefore, adaptation and disaster risk reduction are urgent priorities in Bangladesh, with an emphasis on land tenure, as the livelihoods and well-being of millions of people are at stake.

Bauphal is a sub-district located in the Patuakhali district in the southern part of Bangladesh, near the Bay of Bengal. The area is bordered by two major rivers and several char lands. River erosion and natural disasters, such as cyclones and high tides, are common occurrences here, significantly impacting the lives and livelihoods of the residents. This case focuses on three villages within Bauphal: Nimdi, Dhulia, and Dhandi, which are part of the Nazirpur union in Bauphal upazila (sub-district). Approximately 2,000 people reside in these villages. The primary occupations of the inhabitants are agriculture and fishing. Around 30 to 40 percent of the population owns agricultural land, while others either work on others' land or occupy *khas* (public) land without any legal documentation. Those living on *khas* land typically earn their livelihoods as sharecroppers, fishers, or agricultural laborers.²



Map of Bauphal sub-district. Source: www.banglapedia.org

The participants in the focus group discussion (FGD) noted that land is the primary source of life and livelihood for people in these areas. Communities rely significantly on various forms of agricultural production, including rice, mung beans, watermelons, and vegetables. Those without land typically survive through sharecropping, agricultural labor, and fishing. In rural Bangladesh, land is not only essential for survival but also serves as a symbol of social identity and dignity.

² An analysis on women’s land rights in the rural communities of Bangladesh, 2022, published by ALRD and Landesa, <https://s29735.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/National-Community-Dialogue-Report-Bangladesh.pdf>

The respondent noted that frequent cyclones, tidal surges, and river erosion are common in these areas, with river erosion being a major cause of landlessness. Women disproportionately suffer the effects of climate-induced events, yet they are often marginalized when it comes to land ownership. Despite legal provisions, women rarely inherit land in practice. Additionally, young people face challenges in accessing cultivable land, as ownership largely remains with older generations. This unequal distribution of land influences how different groups experience vulnerability and resilience in the face of climate stress.



Community women and men are making people aware to prepare for an upcoming cyclone. Photo by ALRD.

Although Bangladeshi law provides women with inheritance rights under both statutory and religious frameworks, the implementation of these rights is weak, and social norms often override them. According to Muslim family law, daughters are entitled to half the share of sons (1:2). However, this provision is frequently ignored, as families pressure women to give up their inheritance, treating land as a male privilege. Many women lack the financial resources to pursue lengthy legal battles and remain dependent on male relatives for access to land.

Hindu and Buddhist women face even greater exclusion, as they have no legal rights to suitable plots that hinder youth-led farming initiatives. Excluded from family land management decisions, young people are denied opportunities to innovate or adopt climate-resilient practices, further limiting their ability to shape the future of agriculture.

Tenure status and related issues

Land tenure in these villages reflects broader patterns seen throughout Bangladesh – characterized by fragmentation, insecurity, and entrenched patriarchy. The respondents noted that a significant portion of households are landless, which, according to Bangladeshi laws, refers to rural individuals who possess less than 10 decimals of agricultural land. Many landless families survive on borrowed plots, land from relatives, or *khas* land, all without ownership rights. This situation creates uncertainty, as powerful individuals frequently evict families from *khas* land, forcing them to relocate repeatedly. Women's rights to land are particularly limited. Although Muslim women are legally entitled to inherit land, they often do not receive their rightful share. Hindu women, on the other hand, are excluded from inheritance entirely.³

The FGD participants highlighted that, although women play a central role in farming, most of them cultivate land that belongs to their husbands or fathers. As a result, they remain dependent and are often

³ An analysis on women's land rights in the rural communities of Bangladesh, 2022, published by ALRD and Landesa, <https://s29735.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/National-Community-Dialogue-Report-Bangladesh.pdf>

⁴ Alam, G. M. M.: Livelihood Cycle and Vulnerability of Rural Households to Climate Change and Hazards in Bangladesh, *Environ. Manage.*, 59, 777–791, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00267-017-0826-3>, 2017.

excluded from formal ownership and decision-making processes. This dependence is even more pronounced in areas prone to erosion and in char lands. Families frequently lose their land to river erosion, and those who resettle on newly formed land face constant threats of eviction from powerful groups. These overlapping vulnerabilities significantly weaken the community's ability to invest in long-term resilience.

Narrative of the climate change events

Bangladesh, especially in its southern coastal region, experiences violent cyclones almost every year. These storms cause catastrophic damage, resulting in loss of life, destruction of homes, erosion of land, and devastation of crops and livelihoods. The impact of these cyclones is often magnified by tidal surges, leaving communities in ruins. Over the past six years, the country has faced several major cyclones, including Dana (October 2024), Remal (May 2024), Midhili (November 2023), Hamoon (October 2023), Mocha (May 2023), Sitrang (October 2022), Gulab (October 2021), Yaas (May 2021), Amphan (May 2020), Bulbul (November 2019), and Fani (May 2019).

In addition to cyclones, Bangladesh, situated within one of the world's largest river deltas, faces severe riverbank erosion as a significant environmental challenge. Each year, approximately 20 of the country's 64 districts are affected, leading to the loss of around 8,700 hectares of land and displacing nearly 200,000 people due to the destruction of homes and agricultural fields (Alam, 2017).⁴ Large-scale erosion, where several hundred square meters of land can collapse into the river in a matter of moments, occurs predominantly during the monsoon season from June to October. These erosion events are concentrated in hotspot zones along Bangladesh's three major rivers: the Jamuna, Padma, and Meghna. According to the respondents, climate change has intensified tenure-based vulnerabilities through increased frequency of cyclones, tidal surges, and riverbank erosion. During cyclones, families lost their homes, crops were submerged for days, and livestock perished. The resulting loss and damage have not been compensated, as marginalized families lack influence over government processes, allowing powerful actors to often seize the limited aid intended for them. River erosion is the most destructive force impacting life in these villages. Many landless families once owned sufficient land but have lost it to the rivers. Due to limited knowledge about land rights, they often fail to preserve or update necessary documentation. Consequently, when land that has eroded re-emerges after two or three decades, they are unable to reclaim it. Instead, this land is classified as *khas* land and gradually taken over by influential individuals. After losing their land to the rivers, families seek shelter on roadside or riverside *khas* land or on plots borrowed from relatives or neighbors. Youth, witnessing the destruction of their family land, often migrate in search of work, which weakens community resilience.



After losing their land to the river, a woman takes shelter in a relative's house. *Photo by ALRD.*

⁴ Alam, G. M. M.: Livelihood Cycle and Vulnerability of Rural Households to Climate Change and Hazards in Bangladesh, *Environ. Manage.*, 59, 777–791, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00267-017-0826-3>, 2017.

Impacts of climate change or disaster event/s on people's welfare and rights

Impacts on land, settlements and livelihoods, including food security

The FGD respondents highlighted that one of the major impacts of climate-induced disasters on coastal communities is the loss of land due to river erosion. Families lose both their homes and agricultural land, forcing them to seek shelter on embankments, roadsides, or migration to urban areas. The loss of land significantly undermines their livelihoods, leaving many with no choice but to migrate to towns and cities in search of alternative income opportunities. In addition to erosion, repeated cyclones and tidal surges cause extensive damage to houses, embankments, and fisheries. With farmland and livestock lost, households face chronic food insecurity and often rely on irregular wage labor or external aid for survival.

This cycle of displacement and disaster exacerbates poverty, making long-term recovery and resilience increasingly difficult for affected families.

Key affected groups/sectors

- **Marginal farmers:** They repeatedly lose land due to river erosion and cannot afford to buy or secure new land. Additionally, during cyclones, they lose their crops, livestock, homes, and more.
- **Women:** Already at a disadvantage regarding land ownership, women experience even greater marginalization when land is lost. Their unpaid caregiving responsibilities increase during crises.
- **Landless households and tenants:** Sharecroppers and informal tenants quickly lose their livelihoods when land is submerged or taken by others. Without legal contracts, they cannot claim compensation or support.
- **Youth:** The lack of land and opportunities drives youth toward risky migration to cities or abroad. Their exclusion from formal land ownership prevents them from contributing to local adaptation initiatives.

Climate-induced disaster is the main reason for landlessness

Beauty Begum (35), a woman from Dhandi village, has faced lifelong challenges in securing land for her family. Her parents once owned a small piece of agricultural and homestead land, but they lost it to the river due to erosion. She recalls a devastating cyclone that caused the river to swell, swallowing their land and home within a month. Following that event, her parents were forced to relocate. Beauty has experienced her family's loss of land to river erosion three times – once during her childhood and twice during her married life. Currently, her husband is unable to purchase land for their family, and they are living on a relative's property, which is also at risk of erosion. According to her, approximately 40 percent of the population in these villages has become homeless due to river erosion. She expressed concern that whenever a cyclone approaches, many more families fear they may lose their land and become landless.

Impacts on tenure relations (including dispossession), governance, and land rights

- **Dispossession and insecurity:** The FGD respondents noted that families who have lost their land to river erosion often struggle to preserve or update their land documents due to a lack of understanding about land rights. As a result, when new land becomes available (i.e. when eroded land emerged in the river bed and becomes ready for allotment), they are unable to legally claim it, leading to a continuous cycle of dispossession. Women are especially impacted, often losing their inheritance rights, as families with limited land tend to prioritize access for male members.
- **Weak local governance:** Respondents indicated that when families are displaced due to river erosion, the Union Council – the lowest level of local government – often does not maintain formal records. As a result, they are unable to provide effective support to landless households. Meanwhile, corrupt local

officials, in collaboration with influential figures, frequently seize newly emerged land, claiming it as *khas* land since the rightful owners are either absent or lack the necessary documentation to assert their claims. Corruption and reliance on middlemen further worsen the situation, leaving poor households struggling to obtain updated records or digital land certificates.

- **Emergence of disputes or conflicts.** The respondent stated that they did not experience severe tension due to the climate disaster. However, they noted that climate-induced land scarcity increases social tensions within affected communities. Disputes often arise during the allocation of newly emerged land, and conflicts can occur between displaced families and host communities when migrants occupy roadside or government land. Women – especially widows or divorced women – often face resistance from male relatives when attempting to claim land inheritance after shrinking of their land due to river erosion or natural disasters, leading to gender-specific disputes.

Responses by the community to restore environment, build resilience, and enhance livelihoods and food security

Narratives of local responses by the community

According to the respondents, NGOs and CSOs play a crucial role in environmental restoration, building resilience, and promoting alternative livelihoods and food security. They mobilize communities and enhance their capacity for climate resilience, addressing areas such as disaster preparedness and early warning systems. Youth actively participate in these initiatives, bringing energy and innovation.

Additionally, CSOs and NGOs empower women to engage with government institutions, holding them accountable for support and resource allocation. For instance, a women's landless group in Bauphal, facilitated by the Stand for Her Land (S4HL) campaign, conducted rigorous advocacy with the agriculture department. As a result, they successfully secured various forms of agricultural assistance that support climate adaptation, livelihoods, and food security. Specific support includes - providing climate friendly seeds, plants, experimental garden, fertilizers, training and consultation, etc. Women and youth, in particular, have increasingly taken the lead in adaptation initiatives, challenging traditional norms surrounding land ownership and decision-making. The women's group of Bauphal actively engaged with the Union Council to reactivate the Union Disaster Management Committee (UDMC). Through their efforts, the UDMC began holding regular meetings and took concrete steps to address climate-induced disasters. It should be noted that while there are no activities initiated solely by the youth, young women are part of the different women groups like landless, agriculture, and paralegal groups. Young women are actively encouraged to build their capacities and take leadership roles in strengthening community resilience. A significant proportion of women engaged in these initiatives are youth, whose participation not only enhances disaster preparedness and response but also fosters long-term social transformation. Equipping young women with skills, knowledge, and platforms for action ensures that resilience is both inclusive and sustainable

This initiative ensures the active inclusion of women and youth across multiple dimensions of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Women are represented in emergency committees during cyclones, while both women and youth participate directly in disaster preparedness activities. Their involvement extends to DRR training programs, equipping them with the skills needed for resilience and response. Importantly, women and youth are also integrated into the Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP) – a committee established by the UDMC – which is dedicated to early warning dissemination and post-disaster services. By embedding women and youth in these structures, the program strengthens community-based disaster governance, promotes equity, and enhances the effectiveness of early warning and recovery systems.

Importantly, women's advocacy also motivated the UDMC to recognize land issues as a critical part of disaster mitigation and adaptation. Following the UDMC's recommendations, the Union Council initiated the process of providing landlessness certificates to affected men and women, helping them secure recognition and support in the aftermath of displacement. Their efforts demonstrate that local resilience is achievable. However, the depth and sustainability of these actions heavily depend on the security of tenure rights.⁵

Key actors involved

- **Community members:** Landowners, sharecroppers, landless laborers, women's groups, youth associations
- **Local paralegals and grassroots leaders:** Facilitating land literacy, conflict mediation, and women's access to inheritance rights
- **Local government bodies (Union Parishad, land offices):** Involved in distributing *khas* land, relief, and rehabilitation programs
- **Civil society organizations (CSOs) and NGOs:** Providing training on climate-smart agriculture, and linking communities with government services
- **Women and youth leaders:** Acting as frontline actors in mobilizing collective adaptation measures and diversifying livelihoods

Actions taken by the community to restore the environment, build resilience to climate change and enhance livelihoods and food security

The findings from the FGD indicate that communities, with support from NGOs and CSOs, have taken proactive measures to restore the environment, enhance resilience to climate change, and improve livelihoods and food security. Through collective mobilization, they engage in various activities, including restoring irrigation channels, repairing river embankments and roads, conserving soil, and establishing early warning systems for disasters. Training and capacity-building programs have equipped community members with the knowledge and skills necessary for climate-resilient agriculture, sustainable resource management, and disaster preparedness. Youth participation has been particularly significant, as younger generations contribute innovative ideas, labor, and leadership, ensuring that these initiatives remain both dynamic and sustainable.

The community took action to reactivate the UDMC under the Union Council. This committee is crucial for addressing DRR issues at the union level. Traditionally, the UDMC has focused on early warning systems, relief distribution, and rehabilitation activities. However, the group from ALRD continued to advocate for the inclusion of land issues in rehabilitation and adaptation programs, emphasizing its vital role in achieving long-term resilience.⁶

Women, particularly those from marginalized and landless communities, have been empowered to engage with government institutions to claim resources and receive support. For example, in Bauphal, a group of landless women advocated effectively with the agriculture department and successfully secured various forms of agricultural assistance. This support not only boosted their agricultural productivity but also contributed to climate adaptation, improved food security, and strengthened women's roles in community decision-making. Overall, these combined efforts have resulted in measurable impacts: restored local ecosystems, increased resilience to climate-induced challenges, and improved livelihoods, especially for vulnerable groups such as women and youth.

⁵ Bangladesh: Increasing Community Participation and Strengthening Union Disaster Management Committees; published by Landesa, 2025, <https://www.landesa.org/wp-content/uploads/Landesa-Report-on-WLR-Climate-and-WPS-Web.pdf>

⁶ Ibid

Nexus of tenure security to decisions and ability of the community to undertake climate response actions

Participants noted that when families have secure tenure, they are more willing to invest in sustainable resilience measures. These measures include protecting their homes, ensuring safe shelters for livestock, installing tube wells, creating irrigation channels, and improving soil fertility. Women who have recognized land rights feel confident in participating in family and community planning and decision-making. Secure land tenure also allows households to access agricultural loans, government subsidies, and disaster relief schemes, which enhances the effectiveness of their local resilience initiatives.

Conversely, in situations of tenure insecurity, landless households, informal tenants, and displaced families are hesitant to invest in land restoration or long-term adaptation strategies due to the fear of eviction or losing their land. Women without recognized ownership are often excluded from family decision-making, credit programs, and government compensation, which limits their ability to recover. In areas prone to erosion, insecurity leads to land disputes, drains community energy, and undermines collective action. As a result, resilience measures tend to be short-term and fragmented, leaving communities vulnerable to recurring cycles of hardship.

Land is important for the climate vulnerable communities

“I participated in a training program on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation organized by ALRD, where I learned practical ways to address the impacts of climate change. After the program, instead of relying solely on the Union Council or government authorities during cyclones, we took initiative and traveled between villages to raise awareness. We encouraged people to seek shelter in safe locations.

Additionally, some women in our community received paralegal training, and together we began advocating for the government to allocate *khas* land to landless families, particularly women who lost their land due to climate-induced disasters. One of our significant achievements was obtaining landlessness certificates, and the local administration has recognized that *khas* land is available. They have assured us that this land will be distributed as soon as they receive instructions from higher authorities.”
(Mita Rani, a paralegal worker from Nimdi village)

Responses by the authorities, including actions or policies that may impact on tenure rights of the rural poor, or how land/resources are allocated, used and governed

- **Distribution of khas (State) land.** Policies concerning agricultural *khas* land and its distribution have been utilized as tools to assist the landless population. The Agricultural Khas Land Management and Settlement Policy (1997) and related programs, including char settlement initiatives, have historically included measures to improve access to land for poor individuals. However, recent changes in policy and practices, along with temporary halts in distribution, have raised concerns among civil society regarding the pace and targeting of *khas* land distribution, which appear insufficient to reach the most vulnerable populations. In many areas in Bauphal, the government has also unofficially halted the annual leasing of *khas* land to vulnerable individuals for one year or more.⁷
- **Ashrayan Project in Bauphal.** The previous government launched a major project aimed at providing houses to impoverished rural families on 2 to 5 decimals of agricultural *khas* land. However, rather than allocating cultivable agricultural land, the project only distributed houses. As a result, the government claimed that nearly 50 percent of the population was free from landlessness. In response,

⁷ “Zero Landlessness” declarations erase Bangladesh’s rural landless women and men’s right to access *khas* (public) land, published by Stand for Her Land; https://stand4herland.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Zero-Landlessness-Brief_ALRD_S4HL.pdf

the ALRD conducted a study that revealed a different reality. A substantial number of individuals still remain landless, and simply providing housing does not guarantee the security of life and livelihood for these rural landless families. Without access to cultivable land, these households continue to struggle to sustain themselves and are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate-induced shocks.⁸

Assessment and recommendations

Key issues related to land tenure and climate change

- **Land loss and displacement:** River erosion, sea-level rise, and flooding are destroying homesteads and agricultural land, leaving families landless. Displaced households often resettle on roadside or *khas* land without secure tenure, making them vulnerable to eviction.
- **Tenure insecurity:** Families often lack proper land records or fail to update documents, preventing them from reclaiming newly emerged land. Weak documentation systems and corruption in local governance worsen tenure insecurity.
- **Gender inequality in land rights:** Women face systemic barriers in claiming land inheritance, particularly after disasters, as male relatives dominate access to scarce land. Widows and divorced women are especially vulnerable to exclusion.
- **Social conflicts:** Tensions grow between displaced families and host communities, as well as between generations when youth are excluded from land access and decision-making.
- **Governance and corruption:** Local government bodies often fail to record displaced households, leaving them invisible in land distribution processes. Influential groups and corrupt officials capture newly emerged land, excluding rightful but undocumented owners.
- **Impact on livelihoods and food security:** Loss of cultivable land undermines rural livelihoods and reduces food production. Tenure insecurity discourages long-term investments in climate-resilient agriculture and natural resource management.

Taslima believes a piece of land can reduce many actions of climate mitigation

Taslima Begum (40), a paralegal from Nimdi village, has experienced river erosion three times, during which her family lost a total of 120 decimals of land. She recalls that in her life, every cyclone was followed by devastating erosion. Today, she, her husband, and children live on a piece of land provided by relatives. At one point, she believed it was her destiny to move from place to place because of river erosion.

However, after joining S4HL, Taslima's perspective changed. Now an active paralegal, she realizes that land is her right, and as a victim of climate disasters, she has a strong claim to land ownership. "Being a paralegal, I challenged the zero-landlessness declaration. Along with my fellow paralegals, I frequently met with the land officer to secure access to *khas* land, and I have even seen the *khas* land list in my union," she explained. Taslima further added, "I argued with the UDMC of my union, and raised the issue that if we are provided *khas* land, we will not need any relief support, which is a favorite action of the Union Council."

⁸ *ibid*

Insights

When communities – especially women and marginalized groups – have secure land rights, they are more likely to invest in sustainable land management practices. These practices include soil conservation, agroforestry, and the cultivation of climate-resilient crops, all of which help communities adapt to changing climate conditions.

Recognizing land rights enhances communities' ability to adapt because it provides them access to resources, credit, and government support schemes that are often linked to land ownership.

Secure land tenure for women increases their decision-making power regarding land use and adaptation measures, ensuring that climate-resilient practices are inclusive and equitable.

Strengthening land documentation and records can prevent influential individuals from seizing climate-affected land and promote fair redistribution.

Ensuring secure tenure for marginalized groups – particularly landless families, women, and indigenous peoples—makes climate policies more equitable and effective.

Additionally, the effective functioning of the UDMC amplifies organized support for community members, ensures coordinated efforts, facilitates the development of accurate databases of affected individuals, and helps deliver assistance to the most vulnerable households.

Secure tenure empowers young women and men to participate in decision-making processes about land use and adaptation strategies. Their participation ensures that resilience strategies are inclusive, future-oriented, and grounded in intergenerational equity – strengthening community resilience for the long term.

Recommendations

Strengthen awareness and knowledge

- Train community paralegals (preferably women and youth) to assist with land documentation, claim *khas* land for the most vulnerable population, inheritance claims, and dispute mediation.
- Train community members (especially women and youth) on climate change, DRR (DRR), early warning systems, and Sustainable Land Management (SLM).
- Conduct community-based awareness campaigns on climate risks, adaptation, and mitigation.
- Translate climate information into local languages and use culturally relevant communication methods.

Promote inclusive participation

- Institutionalize community representation in UDMCs and local climate planning bodies.
- Support women and youth-led organizations to take leadership roles in resilience initiatives.

Secure land and resource rights

- Advocate for resumption of *khas* land distribution to landless families, especially climate victims and women-headed households.
- Ensure climate funds and other support directly reach the vulnerable population.

Strengthen community networks and advocacy

- Reactivate and strengthen UDMCs to integrate land, livelihoods, and adaptation into their disaster management plans.
- Encourage collective action, such as cooperatives for resilient agriculture or community-based early warning systems.
- Link grassroots movements with national and global climate justice platforms.

Favorable law and policy

- Laws and policies related to climate adaptation and mitigation – such as the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)⁹ – should explicitly recognize the critical role of land for affected communities and include provisions to ensure secure access and tenure.

For the Government

- Resume *khas* land distribution, including establishing fair, participatory mechanisms for allocating *khas* land, prioritizing landless and climate-affected households.
- Mainstream land rights into climate change policies (NAP, NDC, Delta Plan) and disaster risk reduction strategies.
- Strengthen UDMCs with resources and capacity to address land, livelihoods, and adaptation.
- Enforce inheritance laws and promote joint land titling for spouses to enhance gender equity in land access.

For Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) & NGOs

- Train communities – especially women and youth – on climate change impact mitigation and adaptation, DRR, early warning systems, land rights, and the process of applying for and claiming *khas* land.
- Raise awareness among community members about the importance of protecting and updating land documents in both digital and offline systems.
- Mobilize and strengthen paralegals, community-based organizations, especially women and youth groups, to advocate for land rights and climate justice.
- Facilitate dialogue between communities and government institutions to ensure inclusive policy implementation.

For the International Community and Development Partners:

- Support financing for community-led adaptation initiatives, with a focus on secure land tenure.
- Promote exchange of best practices on land governance and climate resilience from other contexts.
- Ensure climate finance mechanisms are accessible to grassroots women's groups and landless communities. 💧

⁹ Vulnerability of poor, women, marginal groups and indigenous people is high in all the climate affected zones (in the coast, plain-land, hills and high land); These have been reflected in NAP and NDC (2021), but there is no clear strategy to ensure their participation in planning of adaptation and mitigation.

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