



LCA Bangladesh

Sundarban Local Coalition

The Coalition

Launched in 2022

The Sundarban Coalition is a civil-society platform made up of 16 local and national organizations (LNO)/Self Help Groups (SHG) working together to build disaster resilient communities across four of the most vulnerable coastal districts, Satkhira, Khulna, Barguna and Patuakhali. The Sundarbans is considered the most disaster prone area in Bangladesh and is continually affected by cyclones, floods, sea level rise, and storm surges with terrible impacts on lives and livelihoods.

The coalition’s objectives are: (1) to establish a strong regional coalition of community-based organizations; (2) to facilitate a community-led disaster resilience initiative; and (3) to create a cost-effective aid financing model that ensures “as direct as possible” funding access for LNOs/SHGs. The coalition includes organizations that are led by and/or focus on women, ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples, and youth.



Sundarbans
4 coastal districts: Satkhira, Khulna, Barguna, and Patuakhali

Joint Action Plan: Phase 1

The coalition is currently implementing the first phase of their Joint Action Plan (JAP). Their JAP prioritizes the community-led development of climate resilient infrastructure; grants and support for long-term livelihoods; and access to resilient water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) to address the impact of water scarcity and severe salinity intrusion. The coalition successfully coordinated their first emergency response in October 2022 when Cyclone Sitrang made landfall, supporting evacuation, goods and service distribution in shelters and forecasting.

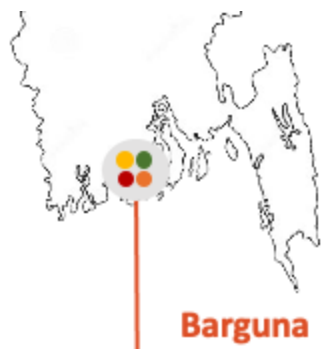
Coalition Members



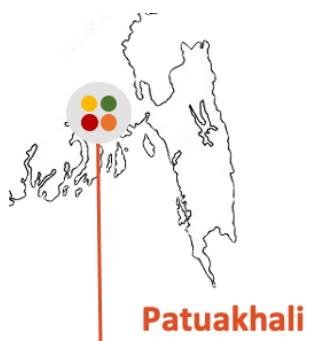
- [Uttaran](#) (coordinating agency) equips disadvantaged people with the tools needed to deal with their social, environmental, health, economic and cultural challenges.
- [PRERONA](#) serves people living in poverty through their human rights-based program of community development, child and mother development, enhancement of leadership, development and empowerment of marginalized people, especially women and girls, about their rights and entitlements.
- [Sundarban Adibashi Munda Sangstha](#) (SAMS) supports the plainlands' indigenous communities, particularly the Munda (one of the most underserved), in obtaining their own fundamental rights and entitlements.
- [Coastal Education and Diversity Improvement Organization \(CEDIO\)](#) is a youth-focused organization to create awareness and build consensus on development issues, policies and concerns at the grassroots, regional and national levels.



- [CNRS](#) (coordinating agency) is a natural resource management organization working on reducing community vulnerability from climate change-induced natural shocks.
- [Mohila O Shishu Shongho](#) works to ensure the rights of women and girls in the aftermath of a disaster. They raise awareness and implement the necessary programs to prevent sexual harassment and gender-based violence and build their resilience.
- [Orarian Development Foundation \(ODF\)](#) carry out philanthropic actions among the underprivileged such as organizing actions to distribute aid supplies to displaced persons, pregnant, lactating mothers, and adolescent girls, and those affected by climate-induced disasters.
- [Patherkhali Miloni Jubo Shangha](#) is a youth-led organisation which offers assistance to underserved low-income young people, ensuring access to quality education, promoting youth leadership, and advocating for decent work and employment.



- [Jago Nari](#) (coordinating agency) is a women-headed and rights-based organization focusing on women's empowerment and disaster risk reduction in the coastal belt.
- [Isana Nari Foundation](#) focuses on strengthening the knowledge capacity and leadership of women and young people, women's economic empowerment and their access to resources and the decision-making process as well as preventing early girl child marriage, and other sexist approaches that hinder women's growth.
- [Rakhain Social Development Organization \(RSDO\)](#) focuses on the development of the marginalized Rakhain ethnic community, providing support around protection, safety, livelihood opportunities, Rakhain cultural preservation and creating an enabling environment for practicing their religious norms (mostly Buddhist).
- [Community-Based Development Project \(CBDP\)](#) works to create a society that values gender equality, human rights, and democracy by empowering women, educating children, and ensuring that their economic concerns are resolved while also reducing the impact of disasters through training and awareness-raising.



- [AVAS](#) (coordinating agency) is a woman-headed organization that uses a unique women-led emergency response mechanism to reach distressed communities.
- [Dhulasar Upokul Sarbik Gram Unnyan Samabay Samiti L.T.D](#) is a grassroots organization for women's rights that has committed itself to fostering community resilience by assuring measurement for disaster risk reduction, addressing climate change, and providing humanitarian aid to the most marginalized people.
- [Sheree Alternative Way of Women Empowerment](#) is an indigenous, women-headed organization that focuses on women's rights, particularly Rakhine, preventing violence against indigenous women and girls; building women's knowledge and leadership; and women's empowerment and access to societal and political decision-making.
- [Golap Protibondi Unnyan Songstha](#) works to uphold the rights of disabled people, risk reduction of disabled people in disasters, and ensure their inclusion by addressing prejudice and inclusion in service institutions and leadership development.

Governance

The coalition has a host agency which works in collaboration with three coordinating national organizations in the four coastal districts. Each of the four coordination organizations is responsible for providing technical and mentoring support to the additional 12 members. In each district there is a coordinating organization and three local organizations (one with a primary focus on women's rights, one focused on indigenous/socially excluded minorities, and one youth-led organization). The governance is as follows:

- **Coalition Governance Council:** 17 members total (16 representatives, one from each member organization, and the Coalition Manager). This committee of 17 members will be considered as the supreme council of the coalition.
- The **Secretariat** shall undertake all responsibilities relating to the organization, invitation, and management of all Coalition Governance Council meetings.

Community Engagement

The coalition is collaborating extensively with the community to develop and implement their JAP.

Focus group discussions and interviews were conducted in 2022 to identify the three JAP priority areas (small scale infrastructure, livelihoods support and WASH/SRHR), and community consultations were held in 2023 to further select the projects. 3,729 people from diverse socioeconomic, cultural, and religious backgrounds attended the community consultations, including 507 members of ethnic minorities and 305 people living with disabilities. Local government representatives, members of the Disaster Management Committee (DMC), social influencers and 716 members of various SHG organizations also participated. Many coalition members are working closely with and through community-based groups such as SHGs to ensure that community voices are centered throughout the JAP design and implementation process, with many coalition members themselves identifying as SHGs.

Supporting Partners

- **Local Coalition Accelerator (LCA):** an initiative of the [Share Trust](#) and the [Warande Advisory Centre](#) in Kenya to support coalitions of LNOs to lead in the design and execution of large-scale systems change, and directly access the significant bilateral and multilateral financing that is currently channeled almost exclusively to and through UN or INGO vehicles. The LCA aims to build the infrastructure to shift greater funding and power to local actors, while also changing donor processes and systems to be more equipped to accompany and complement community driven initiatives.
- **Start Fund Bangladesh,** a local hub of the [Start Network](#). The Start Network is made up of more than 50 organizations working to transform humanitarian action by tackling systemic issues in the global aid system. Start Fund Bangladesh was founded in 2017 and currently includes 26 LNOs as equal members in decision-making and accessing funds. It is the fastest humanitarian pooled funding mechanism in the world responding to small and medium scale crises.