



Flood waters erode banks Credit: Dipankar Dipu, Practical Action

## Who are we?

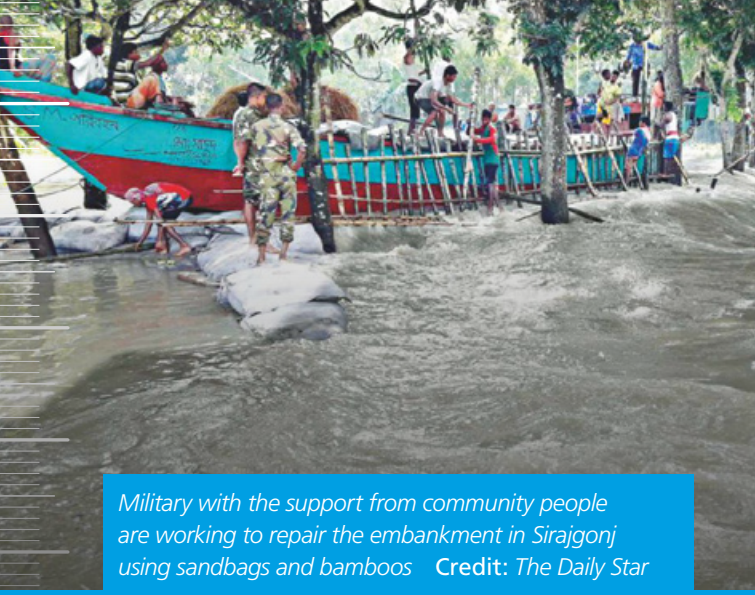
The Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance is a multi-sectoral partnership focusing on finding practical ways to help communities in developed and developing countries strengthen their resilience to flood risk.

### Our definition of resilience:

The ability of a system, community, or society to pursue its social, ecological, and economic development and growth objectives, while managing its disaster risk over time in a mutually reinforcing way.

**Vision:** Floods have no negative impact on people's and businesses' ability to thrive.

**Goal:** To increase social, political, and financial investment in community-based flood resilience-building through public, private, and third sector partnerships.



Military with the support from community people are working to repair the embankment in Sirajgonj using sandbags and bamboos Credit: The Daily Star

## Impact of flooding in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is one of the most flood prone countries in the world. Floods have significantly contributed to the 520,000 deaths caused by natural hazards recorded in the past 40 years in Bangladesh. The devastating floods in 1998 and 2004 caused damage costing US\$2.8 bn and \$2.2 bn, respectively; or about 5 per cent of GDP. Bangladesh consists of many floodplains, and more than two-thirds of the country lies fewer than 5 metres above sea level. Up to 30 per cent of the land faces annual flooding during the monsoon season, while severe flooding occurs every four to five years and covers 60 per cent of the country.

Communities can take steps to become more resilient to flooding and prevent loss of life and livelihoods. Flood disaster risk reduction (DRR) investments largely pay off, with an average of five dollars saved through avoided and reduced losses for every dollar spent. Investments in early warning systems, infrastructure, financial protection, communication methods, adaptive agricultural practices, and community capacity building are necessary to better prepare, mitigate, adapt, and respond to flood events. Yet current investments in flood preparedness and prevention at the local level, where people are most affected by flooding, is inadequate.

## ZFRA partners working in Bangladesh



Concern Worldwide is an international humanitarian organization dedicated to tackling poverty and suffering in the world's poorest countries. With over 50 years of experience, Concern works on the ground with the poorest and most vulnerable people. The organization has been working in Bangladesh since 1972 through long-term development projects and emergency response work.



Since 1979, Mercy Corps has worked in over 40 countries to alleviate suffering, poverty and oppression by helping people build secure, productive and just communities. Mercy Corps began supporting partner NGOs in Bangladesh in 2018 to assist over 1.3 million people who need humanitarian assistance – including Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshis in host communities. Our efforts are focused on providing assistance to communities affected by the crisis as well as laying the foundation for recovery.



Practical Action, a UK-based international development organization, works to reduce poverty through technology, justice and improved wellbeing with regional and country offices in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. In Bangladesh, Practical Action works in the areas of disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, agriculture, extreme poverty, access to markets, water, sanitation, waste management, and energy. The distinctive practical approach includes wellbeing, partnership, specialized knowledge services, and policy engagement.



Raised Tubewell plinth  
Credit: Dipankar Dipu, Practical Action

## ZFRA objectives in Bangladesh:

- Enhance flood resilience in a number of 'demonstration' communities across the *char* (sandbar) and coastal flood contexts;
- Generate new evidence and learning on how community resilience to flooding across different flood hazard contexts can be improved; in order to
- Inform and improve governance and funding to build flood resilience from local to international level; and to
- Influence improved practice of local and national flood resilience entities through knowledge production and uptake.

## The communities we are working with

Many resilience-building actions can be taken at community level, as communities often know best how and where they need to build resilience. Working with communities, we can demonstrate tangible impact on people's lives and learn from best practices which can help to shape policy at a higher level.

Practical Action is working with eight communities in Faridpur district, focusing on vulnerable populations in Faridpur Sadar and Sadarpur *Upazilas*. The communities were chosen because of their economic vulnerability, their proximity to the flood-prone river, and the vulnerability of the area due to water-logging and salinity. Every year floods occur in these areas; in 2016 the flood situation in different parts of the district was particularly severe with the Padma River level rising fast. Some 50,000 people in the two *upazilas* where we will be working faced devastating flood water.

Concern Worldwide is working with vulnerable communities in 11 villages and one municipality of Sundarganj *Upazila* in Gaibandha District and in 11 villages of Hatibandha *Upazila* in Lalmonirhat District. Lalmonirhat and Gaibandha districts are located in Rangpur Division, in northern Bangladesh. The selected 22 villages, located in the Jamuna and Teesta *chars*, are vulnerable to floods due to their socio-economic context and their proximity to the flood-prone rivers.

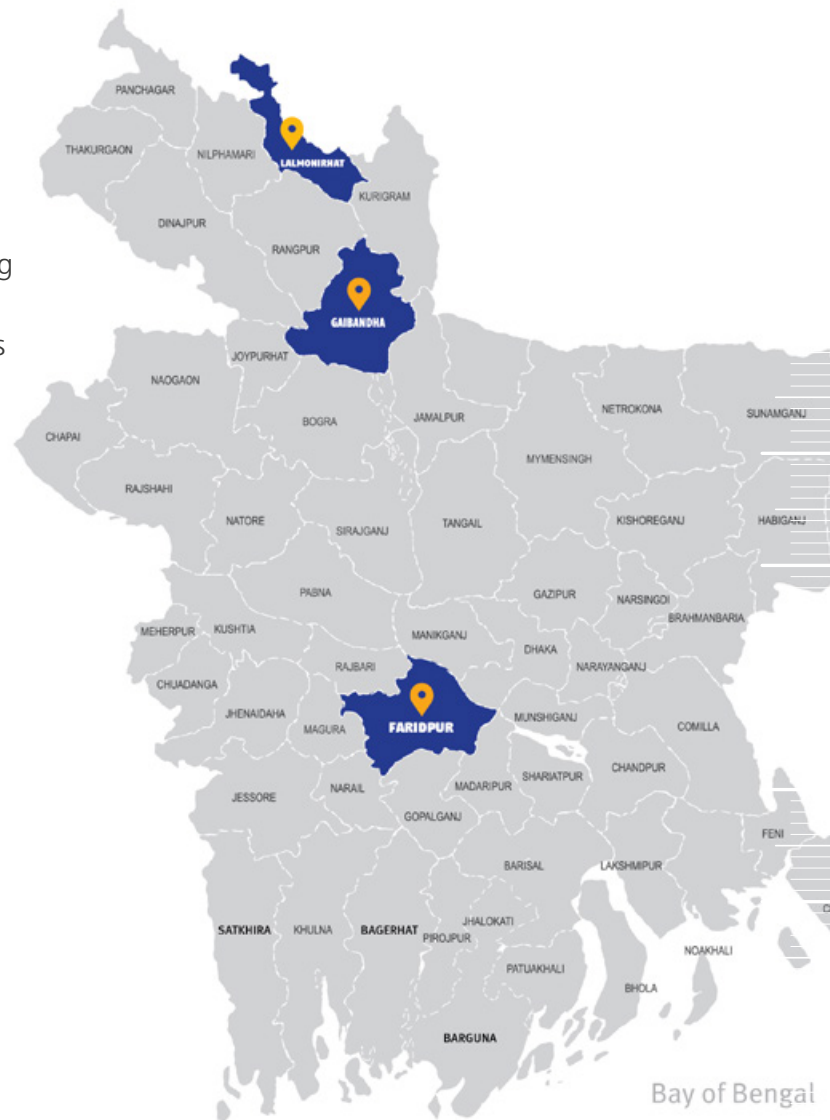
Mercy Corps is conducting research in partnership with the International Centre for Climate Change & Development on innovative forms of finance to help communities strengthen preparedness towards disasters. Mercy Corps is the global lead for advocacy for the ZFRA.



*Flood in Chilmari, Kurigram*

*Credit : Nazmul Islam Chowdhury, Practical Action*

## Duration of the Bangladesh ZFRA programme: July 2018- July 2022



*Flood waters erode banks further*

*Credit : Dipankar Dipu, Practical Action*

## The Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities



The Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities (FRMC) framework comprises two parts: The Alliance's framework for measuring community flood resilience and an associated tool for implementing the framework in practice.

### Uses of the FRMC:

- As the first measurement of resilience to be applied on a large scale; fully integrated into community programming
- To help analyse problems before seeking solutions
- To support impact measurement
- To generate data for empirical evidence on flood resilience

In partnership with:



INTERNATIONAL



FEDERATION



## The Flood Resilience Portals

The Alliance's Flood Resilience Portals are online spaces for sharing practical knowledge about why and how to build community flood resilience. They bring together the knowledge generated and exchanged through the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance and beyond.

 [www.floodresilience.net](http://www.floodresilience.net)

 [@floodalliance](https://twitter.com/floodalliance)



**Practical ACTION**

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