



Dinajpur, Bangladesh. Photo credit: Landesa

WOMEN-LED COLLECTIVE ADVOCACY FOR CLIMATE ACTION

PURPOSE

To strengthen and sustain the capacity of networked, women-driven civil society organizations (CSOs) in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Maldives to advance local climate resilience, effective advocacy at all levels of governance, and gender-equitable land rights.

Overview

Climate change and land inequities pervade South Asia's Bangladesh, Nepal, and Maldives. In Bangladesh, women suffer disproportionately from climate induced disasters including excessive heat, flooding, frequent cyclones, and tidal surges particularly in the coastal regions of the country. These climate risks intersect with insecure livelihoods and land rights which further exacerbate issues of food insecurity, displacement, and peace and security. In Nepal, natural hazards such as flooding from glacial lake outbursts amplify existing land issues particularly for landless populations. Impacts are especially felt by women, who hold land rights in fewer than 20% of households. In Maldives, warming temperatures and rising humidity are reaching life-threatening levels, while sea level rise presents an existential threat to those most marginalized.

To respond to the disproportionate climate change impacts that women face in the region, there is a critical need to:

- forge strong networks of relevant stakeholders, and
- develop and implement strategies that advance women-led interventions and advocacy efforts to build local climate resilience and emergency preparedness.

Strengthening women's land rights is a powerful foundation to increase communities' adaptive capacities, food security, and health—and increase women's participation in decision-making, political processes, and sustainable natural resource governance.





Participants hold certificates from the Advocacy Capacity Building Training held in Nepal from Sept 30-Oct 3, 2023. Photo credit: NLRF



Thoddoo, Maldives, March 2023. Photo credit: Shain Yoosuf/Land Sea Maldives

Project Goals

1. **Coalition building & national strategies:** Form and **strengthen coalitions** of women-led or women-focused organizations and **develop national strategies** and monitoring, evaluation, and learning plans with an emphasis on the role of women's land rights, livelihoods, and wellbeing for strengthening climate resilience in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Maldives.
2. **Capacity building:** Implement country coalitions' strategies to **strengthen capacity** and knowledge sharing among women-led and women-focused CSOs for innovative approaches to securing gender-equitable and socially inclusive land rights and building climate resilience to: spur local implementation of sustainable land management and livelihood practices (including in forests and coastal ecosystems), build adaptive capacity and emergency preparedness, and ensure human security.
3. **Advocacy:** Create or support **fora for information-sharing and scaled advocacy** efforts led by country coalitions and partners at the local, national, and regional levels for effective emergency preparedness, climate action, and gender-equitable and socially inclusive land rights.

Partners

This project leverages the organizational strengths and partnerships of Landesa, International Land Coalition (ILC), the Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD), National Land Rights Forum-Nepal (NLRF), and Land Sea Maldives (LSM). Landesa provides overall project coordination and technical support and ILC offers regional coordination and technical support. Project strategies and activities are grounded and driven at the country-level through the leadership and efforts of ALRD, NLRF, and LSM. The project is supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs and links to the [Women, Peace, and Security](#) agenda to address themes of women's participation and climate crisis adaptation. Moving forward, project partners are interested in opportunities that allow for the strengthening and deepening of current efforts, as well as opportunities to further amplify the approach and expand the positive impacts in additional geographies.

