

A Short Profile of CDA

Background of the CDA:

Since long historically, the Northern part especially the north Western region of Bangladesh, predominantly Agricultural plain land has been controlling by Landlords (still 69% landless and only 31% belongs to land) resulting different vertical & horizontal conflicts, causing several peasants' movements against the hunger, disparity, discrimination, inequalities and fighting for freedom against the Authoritarianism, fundamentalism and emancipation. Considering the above context, on 4th June 1986 Community Development Association (CDA) is established with a view to eradicate the hunger, poverty and for empowering the disempowered excluded rural resources poor. Ideologically CDA is a highly secular, non-partisan, Non-Government National Development Organization for building an independent, equitable agrarian society having access to the land and natural resources by building community approach. CDA gradually has been shifted its strategic position from charity to human development based on Human Rights charters which is addressing the People centred development approach.

CDA's shared Vision: A People Centered Democratic & Just Society where poverty is eradicated, ecological balance is maintained and the culture of Economic, Social, Civil & political rights is established with good governance towards equalities and peace.

CDA's Mission: Building self-help peoples organizations by the deprived, oppressed and excluded vulnerable community people (Landless men & women, Children, Youth, IPs, Disable, Old age, LGBTQ and other minorities including all ill-health or any disaster affected)

Strategic Objectives:

- **Empowerment and Capacity Building:** Strengthening the capacity of self-help people organizations to enhance their self-reliance, leadership, and decision-making capabilities. Provide training, mentorship, and resources to empower community members to take responsibility of their own development and for creating the influence with access.
- **Livelihood Enhancement:** Facilitating the creation of sustainable livelihood opportunities for community members, with a focus on income generation, entrepreneurship, and skills development. Promote access to markets, financial accessibility and decent work training to uplift economic conditions and reduce poverty.
- **Social Inclusion and Gender Equality:** Promoting inclusivity and gender equality in all aspects of our work. Activating for the rights and representation of marginalized &

excluded groups, women, and children, ensuring their meaningful participation in decision-making processes and equitable access to resources and services.

- **Advocacy and Policy Reform:** Engaging in evidence-based research and analysis to identify key issues affecting the landless vulnerable, poor, and marginalized communities. Advocate for pro-people policy form/reforms at the local, national, and regional levels, emphasizing the importance of participatory approaches and community-driven solutions.
- **Partnerships and Collaboration:** Strengthening strategic partnerships with Peoples Organization, government agencies, other local & national NGOs, civil society organizations, and international development partners to leverage resources, expertise, and knowledge. Foster collaboration to address common challenges, share best practices, and scale up impact through grassroots mobilization for connecting and building influence towards ensuring democracy and good governance and reducing inequalities.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Integrating environmental sustainability into CDA interventions, promoting climate resilience, natural resource management, and sustainable agricultural practices. Raise awareness on climate change adaptation and mitigation, and promote biological solutions within communities.

CDA's Approach:

- Participatory
- Bottom up decision making
- ESC,CIVIL, POLITICAL & HR
- Learning by doing
- Network and linkage

CDA's Values:

- Living with People
- Mutual respect
- Accountability
- Activism
- Team Work

Implementation Strategies:

- Conducting a comprehensive situational analysis to assess the current needs, challenges, and opportunities of the communities we serve.
- Developing targeted programs and interventions based on the findings of the situational analysis and in consultation with community members.
- Establishing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track progress, learn from experiences, and ensure accountability and transparency.
- Strengthening the organizational capacity of CDA by investing in staff development, systems improvement, and knowledge management.
- Fostering a culture of innovation and learning within CDA, encouraging experimentation, adaptive management, and the adoption of new technologies and approaches.
- Continuing engage with stakeholders at all levels, including communities, government authorities, donors, and other development actors, to build.

Prioritizing Program Focus Areas:

1) Land Equity Initiative: Empowering Communities through Secure Land Rights

Legal and Policy Framework Development:

- Analysing existing laws and policies related to land and resource management in the limited access.
- Identifying gaps and proposes necessary amendments or new legislation to ensure equitable access, sustainable use, and conservation of resources.
- Advocating for the adoption and enforcement of sustainable resource management policies at the local, regional, and national levels.

Shifting the Power to the Disempowered:

- Supporting the establishment of community-based people's Organizations (POs) to actively participate in resource stewardship.
- Promoting the development of sustainable livelihood opportunities, such as agroforestry and sustainable agriculture to reduce dependence on resource extraction.

Conflict Transformation and Social Justice:

- Developing conflict transformation mechanisms to address disputes related to land tenure, resource access, and usage rights.
- Promoting social justice and gender equality in resource management, ensuring the inclusion and participation of marginalized groups.
- Facilitating dialogue and negotiation processes among stakeholders to find mutually beneficial solutions and avoid conflicts.

2) Social Inclusion and Human Rights:

- Focusing on promoting social inclusion, combating discrimination, and protection human rights for all.
- Advocating for the rights of marginalized groups, including ethnic and religious minorities and IPs ensuring their equal access to resources, services, and participation in decision-making processes.

3) Advocacy and Policy Influence:

- Strengthening CDA's advocacy efforts to influence pro-people policies, legal reforms, and ensure state accountability towards marginalized communities through people centred advocacy.
- Engaging in strategic partnerships, coalitions, and dialogue with policymakers, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to promote inclusive and people-centred policy reforms and formulation.

4) Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience:

- Prioritizing initiatives that address environmental degradation, climate change impacts, and promote sustainable natural resource management.
- Implementing community-based adaptation strategies, enhance climate resilience, and support environmental conservation efforts in collaboration with local communities.

5) Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

- Strengthening efforts to address gender inequalities and promote women's empowerment at all levels.

- Focusing on programs that enhance women's participation in decision-making, leadership roles, and income-generating activities, ensuring their rights and voices are recognized and valued.

6) Economic Empowerment and Livelihoods:

- Focusing on implementing sustainable livelihood programs that enhance income-generating opportunities for the landless vulnerable, poor, and marginalized people.
- Promoting skills training, entrepreneurship development, and access to financial services to empower individuals and communities economically.

7) Health and Nutrition:

- Developing comprehensive health and nutrition programs that target the specific needs of the landless vulnerable, poor, and marginalized communities.
- Improving access to quality healthcare services, essential medicines, and promote health awareness and preventive measures.

8) Education and Skill Development:

- Prioritizing initiatives that improve access to quality education, particularly for marginalized children and youth.
- Developing vocational training programs that equip individuals with relevant skills for employment and entrepreneurship, enhancing their prospects for a better future.

9) Technology, Innovation and Research:

- Conducting a comprehensive situational analysis to assess the current needs, challenges, and opportunities of the communities we serve.
- Harnessing the potential of technology and innovation to address development challenges and enhance the effectiveness of CDA's programs.
- Explore the use of digital platforms, e-learning, and mobile-based solutions to improve access to information, services, and promote digital inclusion among marginalized communities

INVOLVEMENT OF CDA:

National Level

- The Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh (FNB)
- Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD)
- CAMPE for Quality Education
- Credit and Development Forum (CDF)
- PHM Bangladesh for Right to Health
- People, Land and Agrarian Reform in Northern Ecological Territory (PLANet)

Regional Level:

- Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC), The Philippines
- Asian Farmers Association (AFA), the Philippines
- Asian Health Institute (AHI), Japan.

International Level:

- International Land Coalition (ILC), Rome
- FIAN, Germany
- World Rural Forum (WRF)
- World Forum for Access to Land