



Climate
Resilience
Alliance



PROGRESS SUMMARY | YEAR 1

June 2025

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Action to *impact* Year 1



The Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance

The Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance (the Alliance) is a collaboration between humanitarian, NGO, research, and private sector partners, working to build resilience to climate hazards in rural and urban contexts.

Formerly the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance, we have over a decade of experience in generating evidence of communities' current levels of climate resilience and identifying appropriate solutions.

Through long-term community programmes, new research, and stakeholder influencing, we strive to deliver systemic change at scale and realise our vision of a world in which communities are more resilient to climate hazards and able to thrive.

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Find out more: ZCRAlliance.org



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Why this report

The Action to Impact series provides an annual overview of the progress, impact, and learning of the Alliance.

This series presents information regarding how we are working with and strengthening the resilience of vulnerable individuals and communities and highlights stories of success.

The information and knowledge presented in this series is drawn from our annual reporting system. This system includes progress tracking, a logic framework for counting and reporting the number of people we have impacted, and an outcome harvesting system to qualitatively track the outcomes and impact achieved by Alliance teams.

The outcome harvesting system, in particular, provides teams a space to talk about the specific outcomes they achieved, how those outcomes were achieved, and the significance of those outcomes to their goals and the contexts they work in.



The village of Simonet in Pekalongan, Indonesia, now permanently inundated by flooding. Photo: Sapta Hudaya/Mercy Corps

Who we are

The Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance (the Alliance) is a self-governed collaboration between humanitarian, NGO, research, and private sector partners, working to build resilience to climate hazards in rural and urban contexts.

The Alliance was launched in 2024 as an evolution and expansion of the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance (2013–2024). Funded by the Z Zurich Foundation, the Alliance is a climate programme designed around a 12-year vision, delivered in a series of four-year cycles. This programme is jointly managed and delivered by the Alliance partners: Concern Worldwide, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), ISET-International (ISET), London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), Mercy Corps, Plan International, Practical Action, and Zurich.

In our previous flood resilience work, Alliance teams set up strong foundations for building community resilience to floods via community programming, knowledge, and advocacy. In this new climate programme, influenced by our teams' most significant successes to date, we build on these foundations to focus more intentionally on systems change.

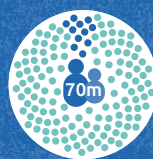
Our aim is to achieve greater impact at scale and deepen resilience to multiple climate hazards.

Our vision



Our vision is a world where communities are **resilient to climate hazards**, enabling them to thrive.

Our goal



By 2035, alongside like-minded organisations, we aspire to **positively impact 70 million people** vulnerable to climate change, and **5.5 million by 2027**.

Our objectives



Enhance and increase the resilience of urban and rural communities to climate hazards.



Promote the widespread **adoption of good climate resilience practices**.



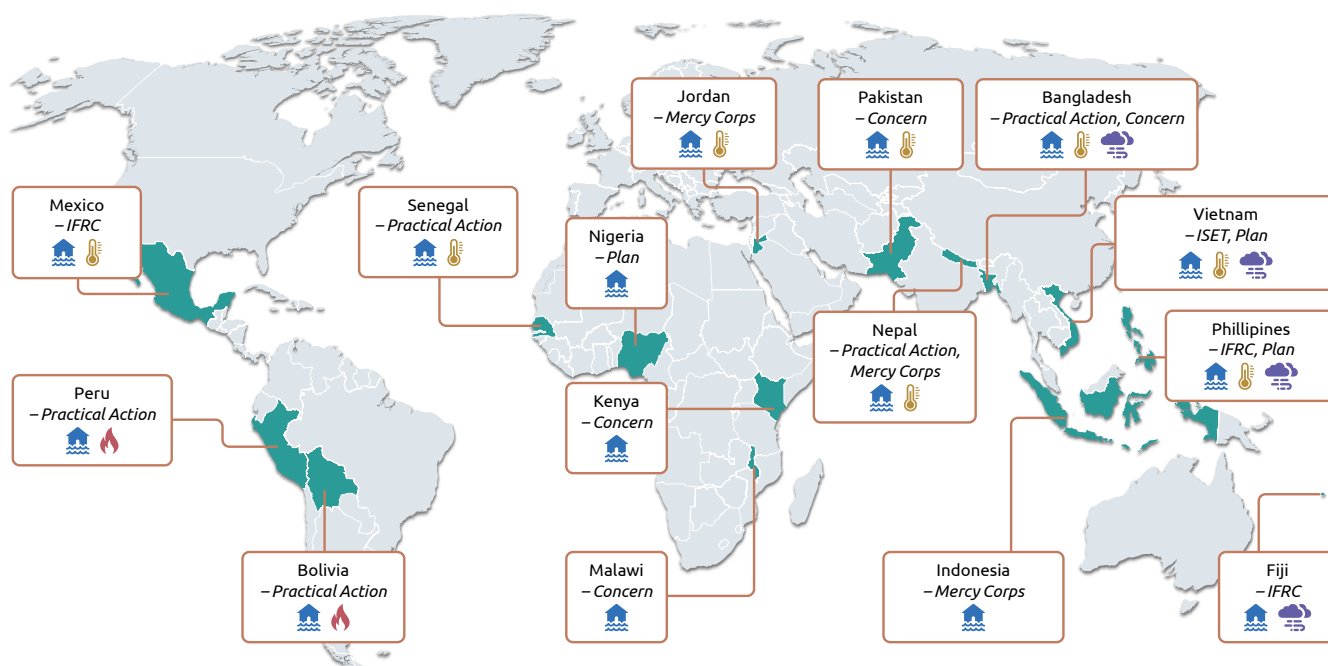
Increase the funding available to communities to improve their climate resilience.



Improve the policy environment for building community resilience to climate hazards.

Where we work

The Alliance works across more than 250 communities in 15 countries, in some of the world's most climate-vulnerable areas.



*Updated in September 2024



Flood



Heatwave



Wildfire



Storm

The work we do in each country varies depending on existing levels of climate resilience, the nature of the climate hazard(s), local and national policy environments, and the expertise of the Alliance partner.

Three of our countries are new to the Alliance: Fiji, Nigeria, and Pakistan. The other programmes are all building on the legacy of their work in the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance.

How we plan to deliver

Alliance teams are developing context-relevant programmes that improve resilience policies, spending, and practices.

The Alliance works to achieve its objectives, and ultimately enhance resilience to multiple hazards through long-term, flexible, community-centered programmes. To do this, Alliance teams conduct evidence-based research, share their knowledge, and influence key stakeholders on resilience to climate hazards. To this end, the Alliance is not funded to deliver specific, pre-determined interventions; rather, the Alliance is funded to deliver a programme that is grounded in evidence of resilience needs, gaps, and priorities.

Though these programmes are tailored to their contexts, there is significant alignment between the different Alliance programmes and their approaches, concepts, and frameworks due to the collaborative nature of the broader Alliance. The vision and approach to the Alliance's long-term resilience programme was jointly developed by the Alliance partners. The Alliance vision and approach are operationalized through a common global Theory of Change.

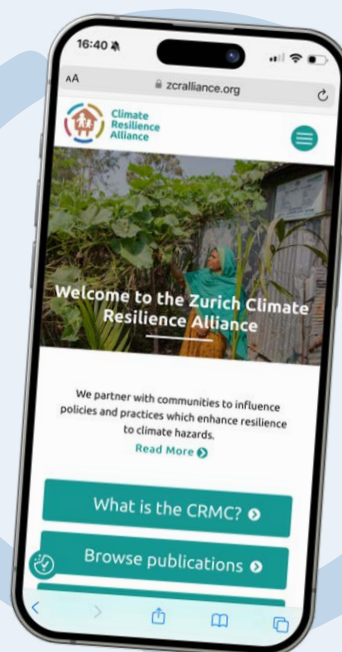
Grounded in resilience measurement

A key aspect of all of our community work is the application of the Climate Resilience Measurement for Communities (CRMC) framework and tool.

The CRMC is a data-driven process, complemented by a web-based tool and mobile app. The CRMC is run by Alliance teams in collaboration with communities to evaluate and measure how resilient the communities are to climate hazards and to identify and implement resilience-building interventions.

The CRMC has evolved from our earlier Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities (FRMC), with the addition of heatwaves, wildfires, and storms, but retains a core aspect of our approach to resilience – that it addresses “resilience of whom, to what, for what purpose”.

Find out more: ZCRAlliance.org/crmc





A community member in Nepal's Paroha municipality participates in a CRMC survey. Photo: Mercy Corps

To support delivery of the Theory of Change, and more specifically the programme design, influence, and scalability of Alliance programmes, the Alliance is organised by *themes* and *functions*.

The *themes* are the broad areas of resilience work that Alliance teams are engaging on, drawing on a multi-year base of technical expertise and community knowledge across multiple countries and regions.

The themes include: Adaptation Governance, Early Warning Systems (EWS), Heat, Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and Urban. Theme leads are creating resources, facilitating knowledge sharing, and supporting collective action.

They also offer targeted capacity support to accelerate progress and connect local experiences and action to global discourses.

Alliance teams are developing complex programmes with interconnected goals that will be achieved through multi-scalar, multi-intervention approaches, across the Alliance's full 12-year time-scale. *Functions* provide operational support for this work, including tools, systems, and ways of working, to all of our country and global programmes.

The functions comprise: Knowledge and Communications; the Country Coordination Group (CCG); the Climate Resilience Measurement for Communities (CRMC); Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI); Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, and Learning (MERL); Post-Event Review Capability (PERC); and Influence.

As a result of the Alliance's new operational structure and thematic focus, Alliance work is already highly coordinated and strategically programmed.

Our themes

While a wide range of diverse programmes are being developed, both country-by-country and also in terms of global engagement and influence, there is significant alignment between Alliance programmes, as conceptualised via our thematic focus.

Partners



Themes



Adaptation governance



Urban



Early warning systems



Heat



Nature-based solutions

Functions



Knowledge and comms



CCG



CRMC



GESI



MERL



PERC



Influence



Adaptation governance

Adaptation governance refers to influencing effective government adaptation policy and practice, and therefore is a part of all Alliance country programmes and global advocacy. Adaptation governance work across the Alliance includes: influencing the development of effective policies, strategies, and plans; increasing access to high quantities of good-quality finance; enhancing technical capacity and expertise; and influencing community and multi-stakeholder collaboration at the national and local levels.



Urban

Alliance teams in nine of our countries are implementing their resilience programmes in urban locations - in Bangladesh, Bolivia, Fiji, Indonesia, Malawi, Nepal, the Philippines, Senegal, and Vietnam. To address the unique resilience challenges that arise in urban areas, they seek to influence urban planning (e.g. through integration of NbS), integrate resilience thinking into disaster risk management governance (i.e. via the introduction of new decision-support tools), and pilot new urban resilience models that address climate vulnerabilities without exacerbating climate risk.



Early warning systems

Alliance teams in 12 countries – Bangladesh, Bolivia, Fiji, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Senegal, and Vietnam – are working to improve some aspect of early warning systems (EWS) (messaging, technical components, timeliness, etc.), making it a particularly salient area of engagement. Given the Alliance’s focus on multiple hazards, many teams will be working on expanding or strengthening multi-hazard EWS. Teams are also working to make EWS more inclusive, and are engaging in global policy platforms and partnerships such as the UN’s Early Warnings for All and the Risk-Informed Early Action Partnership to ensure that early warnings reach the last mile.



Heat

Alliance teams will be developing and improving the use of EWS and weather/climate information services for heat response, and to strengthen anticipatory actions for heat stress. Teams also plan to integrate heat into disaster and climate planning and are exploring index-based insurance¹ schemes for heat events. Teams in seven Alliance countries have indicated plans to work on heat - Bangladesh, Jordan, Mexico, Nepal, the Philippines, Senegal, and Vietnam.



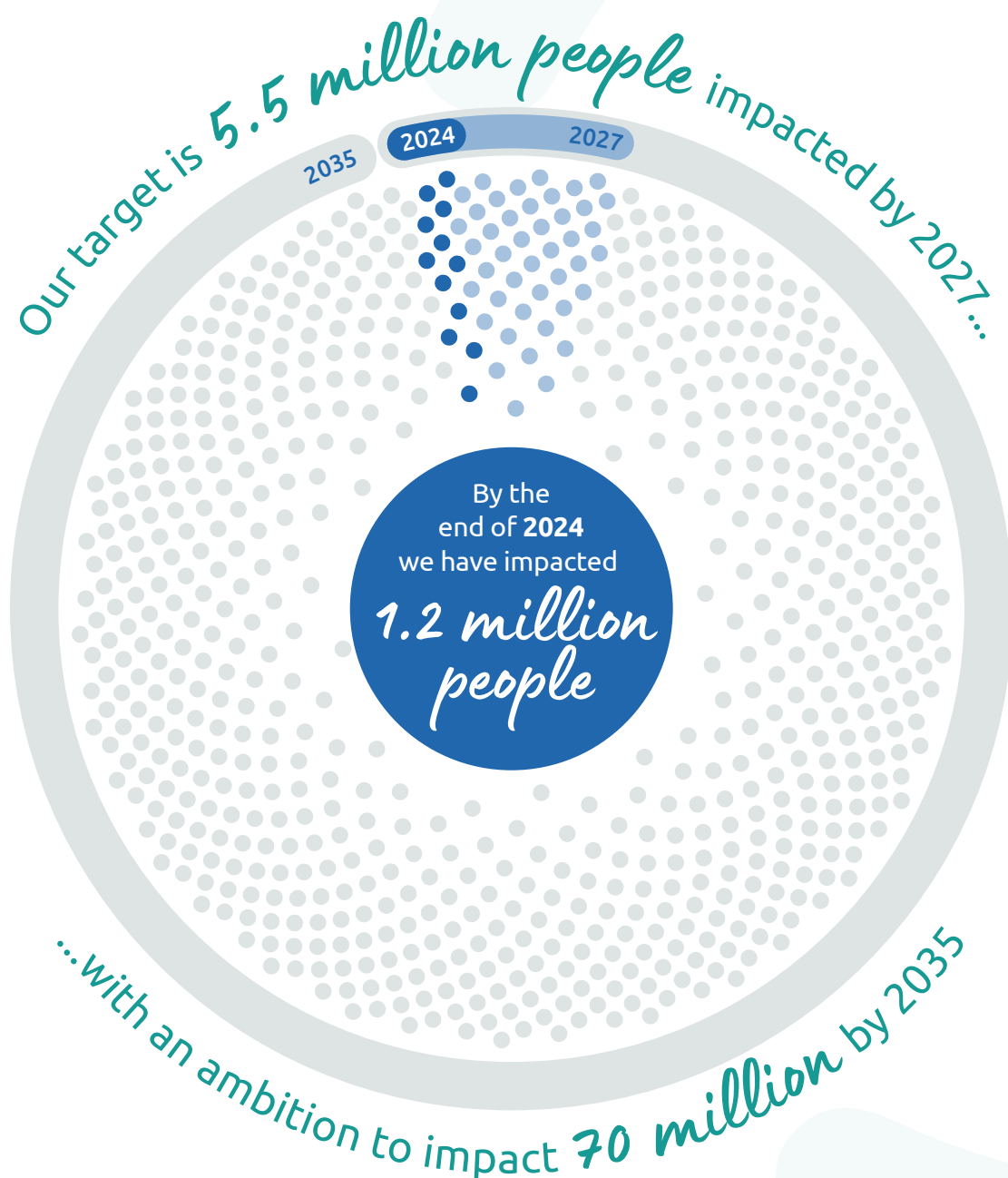
Nature-based solutions

Nature-based solutions (NbS) are an exploratory area of work within the Alliance; the work implemented in this cycle will serve to build clarity around how we define NbS and establish a strategic direction for the Alliance work on this theme. To date, teams are planning to use NbS for conservation, for coastal protection, in land-use planning, to reduce flood risk in communities, to strengthen livelihoods, and to improve urban water and waste management. Teams in nine Alliance countries have mentioned NbS work – Bangladesh, Bolivia, Fiji, Indonesia, Malawi, Nepal, Peru, Senegal, and Vietnam.

¹ Index-based insurance is insurance that is tied to a parameter, like an amount of rainfall over a certain period of time; if the parameter is met or exceeded, the insurance policy compensates policyholders a pre-agreed amount. This type of insurance can provide much needed post-disaster funding very quickly – it does not rely on post-event assessment of loss for individual policyholders, which generally takes months.

Progress and impact in Year 1

In this first year, 2024, teams largely reported transitioning into and launching the Climate Resilience Alliance programme. Teams also reported a surprising amount of progress and impact at multiple scales. As of December 2024, we have impacted 1.2 million people through our community programming, influence, and knowledge work.



● People impacted ● 2027 target ● 2035 ambition | 1 dot = 100,000 people

How we count people impacted

The Z Zurich Foundation has asked the Alliance to focus on understanding the impact of our work, beyond the direct and indirect reach of our activities.



Elvi Rufino, an Indigenous Bolivian woman who fought against wildfires in 2023, now helps her community increase its resilience against future climate hazards. Photo: Freddy Barragan

Assessing impact has required a new way of thinking and reporting. Our country programmes are designed to increase community resilience and deliver systems change through direct activities, research, knowledge sharing, influence, and scaling. In many cases, our biggest successes have resulted from working in collaboration with multiple other actors to influence changes in understanding and lead others to act differently. This type of impact is difficult to quantify using standard monitoring and evaluation practices.

How we quantify people impacted needs to be flexible. Alliance programmes are very different country-to-country, with different systems change goals and different pathways to achieve those goals. No one-size-fits-all approach is appropriate.

Nonetheless, we are beginning to see some common approaches emerging:

- a) Defining at what point we can consider a collection of different activities conducted at the community level to have impacted a significant percentage or all of the community. Teams will validate this via surveys, key informant interviews, and/or observation.
 - b) Identifying where specific interventions have been scaled and counting the people impacted via that scaling. We see this, for example, in disaster response brigades set up in collaboration with the government using the Mexican Red Cross community brigades model. Each brigade is estimated to consist of 10 people, and each brigade member is considered to benefit 40 community members. Therefore, each brigade newly registered with the government is counted as impacting 400 people.
 - c) Identifying geographies that will benefit from scaled pilot activities and/or influencing and defining at what point we will count specific people within the geography as impacted. For example, Mercy Corps Nepal successfully influenced the inclusion and disbursement of a 5% budget provision for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in Sudurpaschim Province in Nepal. Using government census data for total provincial population, coupled with census data that indicated that 20% of the residents of the province were flood vulnerable, the Mercy Corps Nepal team calculated the impact of their influence activities as 20% of the total provincial population.
- Teams plan to conduct an additional evaluation and validation of their impact numbers towards the end of our first cycle of work.

Progress highlights

Much of our progress this year, has resulted where teams have continued and built on their work from the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance.

In particular, teams have used evidence of successful interventions to influence additional funding and programme expansion, leveraged strong relationships with governments and donors to influence policy and funding, and built on years of consistent and continued community and local government engagement to embed practices that enhance resilience.

Specific wins where we can clearly identify the number of people impacted include:

- The broad public adoption of a Disaster Alert App piloted by Practical Action in Bangladesh. Practical Action has recorded 38,643 users of the app (as of the time of reporting in late 2024). Assuming that there will be one user per household who will share information with the household, and using an average household size of 4.38 people, this results in 169,256 people impacted.
- The disbursement of increased government funding towards resilience activities in Sudurpaschim Province. As a part of the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance, Mercy Corps Nepal together with UNDP influenced the inclusion of a 5% budget provision for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the Sudurpaschim Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management plan (2020-2025). Mercy Corps also helped the provincial government allocate that money towards resilience priorities identified with communities. The allocation of this funding has impacted 510,503 people; this reflects the 20% of the total population of Sudurpaschim Province that is estimated by the government in their census data to be at risk of flooding.
- The implementation of the Navotas City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Plan which includes community-based resilience provisions influenced by Plan's work with communities in the Philippines (see the [Improved local DRRM plans impact story](#)). The plan was ratified on 12 December 2023 (Resolution 8, 2024) and its Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) was approved on 14 December 2024 (City Ordinance 2023-047). The full population of Navotas City – 227,135 people – has been impacted by this success.



Heatwave in Dodhara Chandani, Nepal. Photo: Mercy Corps



School children cool off at a handpump to beat the heat in Sudurpaschim Province, Nepal. Photo: Mercy Corps

Beyond these specific, 'countable' achievements, we have seen progress in less quantifiable, but important areas of work:

- Alliance messaging was taken up in COP29 negotiations on the New Collective Quantified Goal for climate finance and Loss and Damage. This advocacy was supported by conducting and disseminating Alliance research² to global negotiators, governments, and civil society groups, and through direct engagement with key stakeholders.
- Alliance credibility and reputation both at the country and global levels continues to grow in resilience, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and climate finance. At COP29, for example, Alliance organisations were seen as key resources on climate finance and garnered significant attention from media, including the Financial Times, various Indian media, World Economic Forum's Thought Leadership Platform, the Irish Independent, Associated Press, Agence France-Presse, and Nepal News.
- Several Alliance teams gained new donor funding for Alliance-backed initiatives and approaches, with a particular focus on expanding EWS to reach the last mile.
- Communities and local partners are acting to reduce the impact of climate hazards. They are proactively implementing new solutions related to EWS (see *Cross-province installation of sirens* impact story), NbS (see *Strengthened canal banks* impact story), and resilient livelihoods.

² Five tests to achieve an ambitious NCQG; Collective aspects of the NCQG; and legal advice on including L&D in the NCQG.



IMPACT STORY

Vietnam
June 2025
ISET

Cross-province installation of sirens for early warning in Hue City, Vietnam

In November 2024, the Hue Provincial Government in Vietnam endorsed and provided funding for the widespread installation of high-powered early warning system (EWS) sirens for the entire province.

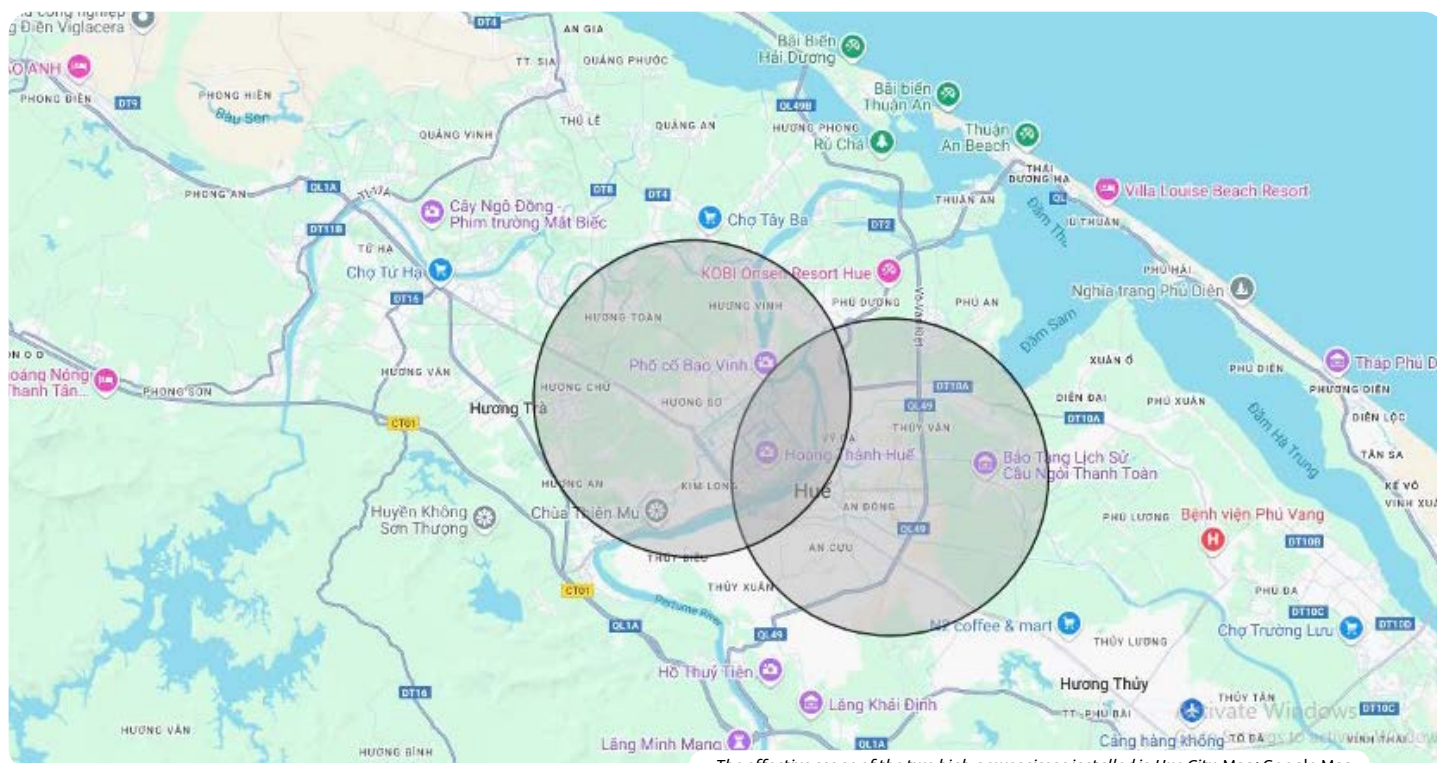
The decision was made after two high-powered sirens installed through the Alliance programme were effectively used for the first time on 27 October 2024 for warning of Storm No. 6 (Trami) in Hue City.

The two original sirens were installed by the Thua Thien Hue Provincial Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Office in August 2024 at two locations in the city, providing 100% coverage of the project's urban communities and surrounding areas. ISET Vietnam provided funding for the DRM Office to install the sirens and the Wi-Fi system, and contributed to the advocacy effort of the DRM Office to the provincial government for their approval of the installation as well as annual funding for operation and maintenance.

"Both our team and provincial leaders are highly satisfied with the outcomes. The solution strengthens Hue's resilience to extreme storms and floods by delivering fast and timely warnings to residents during emergencies – especially at night or when other communication channels, such as loudspeakers, television, and mobile networks, are disrupted."

Mr. Dang Van Hoa, Head of Thua Thien Hue Provincial DRM Office





The effective range of the two high-power sirens installed in Hue City. Map: Google Map

This is the first time that this type of tool has been used for early hazard warning in Vietnam. Adding to the unusual nature of this scaling win, typically activities involving community-driven innovative solutions only occur within a project context, with project funding. Receiving government funding for such a project is highly uncommon.

The quick government endorsement of the tool for widespread application means that the provincial government has an increased appreciation of the disaster resilience approach, particularly the need to build redundancy for EWS.



A high-power siren installed in the north of Hue City. Photo: Hue City DRM office

"These sirens proved highly effective during the October 2024 flood in our ward. This solution is especially beneficial for vulnerable groups, such as the elderly who are unfamiliar with or do not use smartphones, as well as individuals who may not regularly receive warning information from the neighbourhood or local authorities."

Mr. Le Quoc Thang, DRM Officer of An Dong Commune, Hue City

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IMPACT STORY

Philippines

June 2025



Plan International

Improved local DRRM plans in the Philippines

As of December 2024, Alliance involvement has improved Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) planning at the local level, with barangays (communities) as well as the city. All seven barangays that Plan International Philippines worked with have improved their DRRM Plans based on information from Alliance community-led risk assessments; this includes improvements to the structures and committees governing DRRM within their communities.

In particular, the Navotas City DRRM Plan has mainstreamed Alliance interventions (e.g. family preparedness plans and youth risk maps) and ensured youth participation. The Navotas School Contingency Plans, Navotas City Local Climate Action Plan, and Manila Camp Coordination and Camp Management Plan also contain Alliance inputs.

“The training was of great help for us young people, especially since we are just starting to learn about having environmental advocacies so we can help in developing this barangay into a safe and peaceful place.

Youth leaders need to be stronger; it is not only a requirement, but a responsibility to the community.”

Aires Cavalida, participant



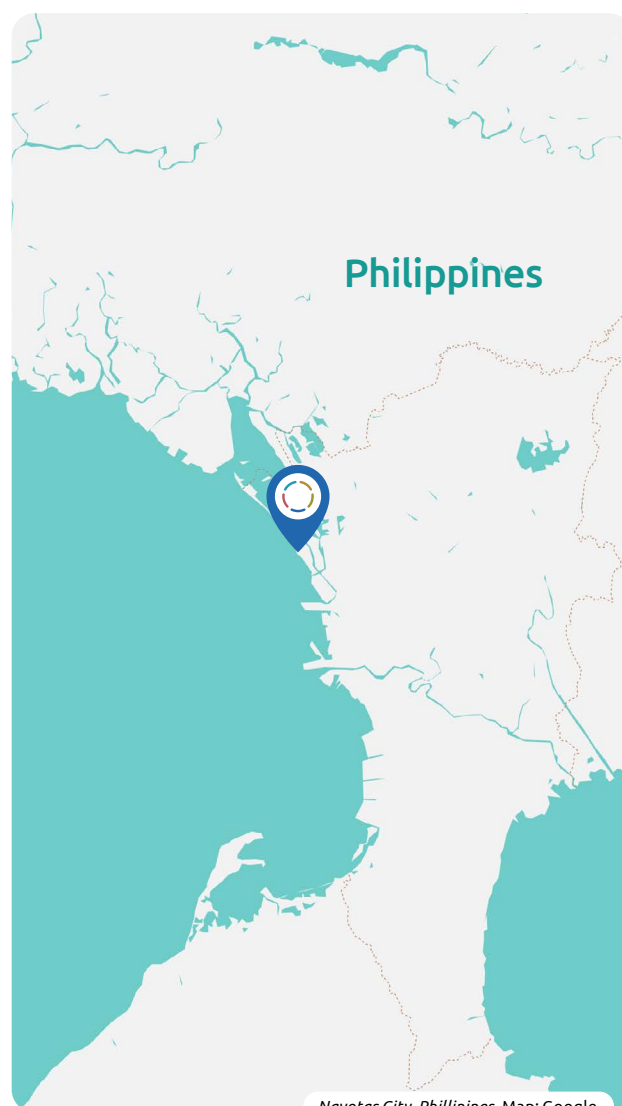


Risk and resource mapping workshop. Manila City, Philippines. 2023. Photo: Isabelle Baguisi, Plan International Philippines.

In some barangays, leaders updated their resilience planning after a Plan International Philippines capacity training on human rights, children's rights, gender and inclusion, and participatory planning. Leaders' reported an increase in drive to support members of their communities, a shift in thinking, and changes in policy in the direction of climate resilience.

"I believe that the Flood Resilience Alliance has created a big impact for me, not just as a young woman but also as a student-leader. It helped me to widen my perspective when it comes to the never-ending struggles of women, children, and youth in times of calamity and giving me the opportunity to be part of the change that we demand and the climate justice that we deserve."

Rinoa, participant



Navotas City, Philippines. Map: Google

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IMPACT STORY

Bangladesh

June 2025

Concern

Strengthened canal banks in Hatibandha, Bangladesh

During the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance programme, Concern Bangladesh led a study to assess Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for flood management in Hatibandha, shared this information with the community, and then led a collaborative planning process with community and local government representatives to identify solutions that could be locally applied.

One of the prioritised solutions included interplanting banana trees with two other local plants on canal banks. These efforts strengthened soil structures, mitigated canal bank erosion, and ensured fodder availability during floods or waterlogging, while also providing livelihood benefits.

"If this solution had not been implemented, I would have lost my home, along with my three goats and my small child, and would have been forced to move from place to place in search of shelter. But now, I no longer have to worry. For the past two years, there has been no canal bank erosion because of this nature-based solution. My house is safe, and I can live peacefully with my family. This initiative has truly been a blessing in our lives."

Mst. Tapuli Begum, Resident, Vati Kapasia, Kapasia, Sundarganj



CONCERN
worldwide



The community of Vati Kapasia, Sundarganj, face a relentless struggle against the threat of losing homes and croplands to riverbank erosion. Map: Saikat Mojumder/Concern Worldwide

Drawing from this experience, throughout 2023-2024, communities living along a canal in Hatibandha, Bangladesh strengthened an additional 1 km stretch of canal bank using this approach and with technical support from Concern and technical government agencies. As a result, 1,260 families, 90 shops, two mosques, a madrasah (an educational institution), a primary school, and 400 acres of farmland have been protected from flood damage.

This community effort is significant because it demonstrates the community's increased knowledge on NbS, and their growing independence and empowerment in managing their own flood protection in a proactive way.

"On behalf of Kapasia Union Parishad, we sincerely thank Concern Worldwide's Flood Resilience Project for their invaluable contribution to strengthening flood resilience in our community."

Mr. Monju Mia, UP Chairmen, Kapasia Union Parishad, Sundarganj

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Disclaimer:

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Front cover image: A community meeting in Dodhara Chandani, Nepal. Photo: Mercy Corps

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