

CEDRA Case study - The danger of overlooking communities' views, Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, rural communities in coastal and riverside areas are regularly hit by cyclones. Without the benefit of a CEDRA Assessment, the community undertook a number of projects to try to cope better with the devastating impact of cyclones. They constructed a cyclone shelter, developed emergency evacuation plans and trained volunteers to help coordinate protecting important assets and evacuating people safely. Gradually, the community's confidence about surviving a cyclone grew. During a recent project assessment, villagers confirmed that the project had been helpful. However, it also became clear that the more pressing priority had always been rather different: addressing the day-by-day erosion of their land due to sea-level rise and the consequent loss of livelihoods. Some community members had been aware of this, but no one had asked them to input into the initial project.