IUCN BRIDGE GENDER MAINSTREAMING GRANT · PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Women Leading the Tide

Gender-transformative water governance in Char Lata, Patuakhali

Implemented by: OBHIZATRIK Foundation
in partnership with INDEPTH Limited
Nov 2025 – Jul 2026 | Char Lata, Bangladesh

122	60	3	0→30%	4
BASELINE RESPONDENTS	OBHIZATRI - THE TRAINED WOMEN LEADERS	COMMITTEES FORMED	WOMEN IN GOVERNANCE	EXPERT-LED TRAININGS

THE CRISIS

Char Lata is a river island reachable only by boat, on the tide's own schedule. Women perform **90.2%** of water collection and **83.2%** of household care, yet at baseline, not one resident, of any gender, held a seat in any water governance body.

86.1%
Have access to safe water only in monsoon

97.5%
report coal-ash falling on crops and water sources

82.2%
women never spoke in a meeting

0%
women's committee membership

THE APPROACH

01 **Baseline & Gender Audit:** 122 respondents, FGDs, KIIs, seasonal mapping and a participatory audit built the evidence base.

02 **Four expert-led trainings:** national & international specialists brought to the island in person on finance, leadership, water management, and disaster risk.

03 **Action Plan & Validation Workshop:** co-designed with Union Parishad leadership and the 60 trained women- the "OBHIZATRI".

04 **Three committees formed:** led by the "OBHIZATRI", now running water, disaster, and livelihood governance.

05 **Policy Brief & Dissemination Seminar:** costed roadmap presented to Upazila government to include in their annual plan.

WHAT SUSTAINS IT

The three committees hold quarterly review and annual endorsement commitments built directly into the Action Plan, the project's own safeguard against the risks its Gender Audit named: tokenism, backlash, and donor-dependency. Governance, once vested in the "OBHIZATRI" – the women leaders, stays theirs after the grant ends.

TIMELINE

- **JAN 2026**
  Inception meeting & baseline survey launched
- **MAR 2026**
  Baseline & Gender Audit reports completed
- **APR–MAY 2026**
  Four training modules delivered to 60 women
- **16 MAY 2026**
  Action Plan Validation Workshop
- **JUN 2026**
  Policy Brief finalised & IEC materials installed
- **23 JUN 2026**
  Dissemination Seminar at Rangabali Upazila- Submitted the policy brief
- **BY 31 JUL 2026**
  Bangladesh Water Development Board engagement

COMMUNITY COMMITTEES

WMC	DMC	LC
Water Management: infrastructure & monitoring	Disaster Management: early warning & safety	Livelihood: climate-smart agriculture

INVESTMENT ASK

~$216K
Four-pillar Policy Brief: water infrastructure, erosion resilience, climate-smart livelihoods, and governance capacity for Char Lata.