



A Roadmap based on dialogue and evidence

The EU Civil Society Roadmap 2026–2028 sets out how the European Union and Team Europe will engage with civil society in Bangladesh to support inclusive participation, accountability and sustainable development.

The Roadmap drafting process was informed by an extensive consultation and evidence-gathering process. Through this process, the EU Delegation reached over 250 civil society organisations (CSOs) and stakeholders, including national and local organisations, youth- and women-led initiatives, inclusion-focused organisations, labour and professional groups, research and policy actors, media actors, development partners and Team Europe representatives. The consultation process was complemented by a civil society mapping and political economy analysis, which helped identify participation dynamics, structural barriers, coordination mechanisms and practical entry points for CSO engagement across sectors.

The document reflects priorities identified by civil society, including the need for more predictable dialogue, broader participation, clearer feedback, better access to information, and stronger links between civic engagement, reforms and investments. Taken together, the consultations and the civil society mapping and political economy analysis provide the evidence base for a Roadmap that is both grounded in stakeholder perspectives and attentive to the wider political, institutional and civic-space context.

Bangladesh's civil society is one of the country's major assets. It brings community knowledge, technical expertise, service delivery capacity, policy ideas and accountability functions. The Roadmap responds to the current uneven opportunities for civil society to engage in structured dialogue, policy discussions and local-level processes, and promotes a practical, risk-aware and inclusive approach.

Four shared commitments

The Roadmap is not only a framework for support. It also sets out a way of working that is inclusive, predictable and connected to real opportunities for influence. Throughout its implementation, the EU and Team Europe will work through four shared commitments:



Safe and inclusive participation

The Roadmap will support conditions that enable a wider range of civil society actors to engage constructively and confidently. This includes attention to organisational resilience, digital safety, legal and regulatory awareness, safeguarding, inclusive practices, and practical support for actors facing operational constraints.



Evidence linked to reform

Civil society research, policy analysis, implementation feedback and lived experience should inform programme and policy design, reform discussions and public accountability. The Roadmap will support stronger links between evidence generation and practical follow-up. The Roadmap will also draw on the civil society mapping and political economy analysis to keep engagement evidence-based and responsive to Bangladesh's evolving civic-space dynamics.



Structured dialogue and follow-up

The Roadmap will promote consultations with a clear purpose, diverse participation, documented recommendations and meaningful feedback. This will help ensure that dialogue is not a one-off exercise, but a structured and transparent process. The Roadmap will also encourage stronger coordination among CSOs, including through joint engagement and shared positions where appropriate.



Civil society engagement in investments and accountability

The Roadmap will support stronger civil society engagement in relevant policy reforms and, where appropriate, selected infrastructure investments, with a focus on transparency, safeguards, local ownership, grievance mechanisms and public trust.



Three strategic areas for engagement

These shared commitments define Team Europe’s way of working with civil society in Bangladesh. They will be put into practice through three strategic areas where EU–Bangladesh cooperation and civil society’s added value come together most clearly. In each area, the objective is to bring civic engagement closer to the decisions that shape policies and investments, so that community perspectives, transparency and accountability are built into the process from the start. Across all areas, the Roadmap will promote gender equality and the meaningful participation of women-led organisations, young women, and groups facing intersecting forms of exclusion.

Climate and Energy, including Water



Making the green transition transparent, inclusive and locally grounded

Climate, energy and water are central to Bangladesh’s resilience and future growth. They are also areas where reforms and investments can directly affect communities, livelihoods and access to essential services. The Roadmap will therefore focus on strengthening transparency, environmental and social safeguards, community feedback and public trust in climate-, energy- and water-related decisions.

► **What this means in practice**

- More structured civil society engagement in climate, energy and water policy dialogue, including implementation and future policy development.
- Stronger understanding of environmental and social safeguards, including Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA), Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) processes, and relevant national frameworks.
- Stronger civil society contributions to transparency and accountability around major climate, energy and water investments.

Skills, TVET and Higher Education



Connecting learning, jobs and inclusion

Bangladesh’s demographic potential depends on access to relevant skills and decent opportunities, especially for young people, women and marginalised groups. Civil society can help connect education and training with community needs and labour-market realities.

► **What this means in practice**

- Better mapping and engagement of civil society, research and youth actors in the skills ecosystem.
- Local multi-stakeholder dialogue linking learners, training providers, employers, universities and communities.
- Stronger research and evidence-based advocacy on skills, employability, inclusion, and green and digital jobs.



Inclusive Governance and Digital Transformation



Strengthening participation, accountability and trust

Inclusive governance and digital transformation are central to civic participation, access to information, institutional accountability and public trust. This area will support civil society resilience, digital safety, evidence-based advocacy and social accountability.

► **What this means in practice**

- Practical support for civic space, civil society resilience, digital safety and risk-aware participation.
- Structured dialogue on governance and digital transformation issues, including access to information, civic participation, digital safety and accountability in public decision-making, with documented recommendations and follow-up.
- Civil society-led analysis and social accountability initiatives that help improve transparency, inclusion and responsiveness in governance, digital transformation, and reform processes.



From Roadmap to action

The Roadmap is designed as a practical framework for EU and Team Europe engagement with civil society. It will guide future dialogue, help shape funding opportunities and support better coordination across sectors and partners. Implementation will build on existing platforms and instruments, including EU thematic programmes, the Civic Engagement Fund/Nagorikata, sector initiatives and Team Europe coordination. It will also be informed by the civil society mapping and political economy analysis commissioned by the EU

Delegation, so that engagement remains responsive to changing civic-space dynamics and to the diversity of civil society actors across Bangladesh.

Overall, the objectives in this new phase are to move from consultation to meaningful participation, and from participation to more inclusive, accountable and sustainable outcomes for communities across Bangladesh.