



# TROSA

Trans-boundary Rivers of South Asia



OXFAM

## INCREASING COMMUNITIES' ACCESS TO TRANS-BOUNDARY RIVER RESOURCES

The Ganges, the Brahmaputra, and the Salween rivers are at the heart of culture and religion, and their waters and rich sediment loads support fisheries and agriculture of national and global significance. The waters connect nations and provide the means for trade.

Yet **hundreds of millions of people living on these basins have limited secure access to water** due to growing competition over natural resources caused by infrastructure development, agricultural, urban and industrial expansion and the effects of climate change.





## TROSA PROGRAM

**TROSA** is a five-year regional program (2017-2021) jointly implemented by Oxfam and its partners to understand and address these challenges, and working to create the conditions to reduce poverty in river communities in the Ganges, the Brahmaputra-Meghna, and the Salween basins. Oxfam believes reducing poverty in these trans-boundary basins can be achieved by increasing communities' access to and control over water resources, and is collaborating with governments, private sector, and civil society in the region to reach this goal. Moreover, as women from river communities are disproportionately affected by the way water resources are managed, the TROSA program is working to amplify their perspective to ensure these can influence decision-making processes.

**TROSA** seeks to inform and influence trans-boundary water governance policies and practices at the local, national and regional levels. Through partnership and innovation, the program aims to contribute to progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## TROSA OBJECTIVES

The program focuses on four objectives and pays special attention to engaging poor farmers and fishermen (often from ethnic minorities), vulnerable to water shortages and flooding. These are:

- **Improving policies and practice of governments** that protect the rights of communities along the Ganges, the Brahmaputra-Meghna and the Salween river basins to water resources.
- **Improving policies and practice of private sector and other actors** that respect the rights of river basin communities to water resources.
- **Strengthening capacity of river basin communities and civil society** to influence trans-boundary water resource governance.
- **Strengthening of women's profile and influence** in dialogues and decision-making on water management and water infrastructure.

## TROSA APPROACH

Given decisions on how water resources are shared, developed and managed occur at community, national, and regional levels, and between countries, TROSA's approach is to:

- **Build capacity:** Strengthen the capacity of river basin leaders, communities and networks to engage with, and influence, public and private policy decision makers.
- **Work with women champions:** Work directly with women and women's networks to strengthen their involvement in trans-boundary water governance.
- **Build an evidence base:** Bring together academic research with local knowledge to build on evidence for change.
- **Promote policy standards and safeguards:** Promote compliance and adherence to policies and practices relating to how communities are consulted over water and natural resources.
- **Promote dialogue:** Promote dialogue among interested parties considering policy options, as a way of involving those most directly affected by rivers.

# PROGRAM AREAS

TROSA works across administrative and political borders to positively impact three significant trans-boundary river basins- the Ganges, the Brahmaputra-Meghna, and the Salween.



Proposed target area Ganges River Basin



Proposed target area Brahmaputra River Basin



Proposed target area Salween River Basin



Sweden  
Sverige

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

[INFO.TROSA@OXFAM.ORG](mailto:INFO.TROSA@OXFAM.ORG)

Photo: Masud Al Mamun  
Cover and Inside Photo : Oxfam / AJM Zobaidur Rahman