

GENDER-RELATED DIMENSIONS OF CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE IN THE CONTEXT OF BANGLADESH

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Presentation structure



WOMEN'S
VULNERABILITY TO
SHOCKS & STRESSES



WHY AND HOW
WOMEN ARE
MORE
VULNERABLE?



WHY WOMEN ARE
CRITICAL FOR CLIMATE
AND DISASTER
RESILIENCE, WHAT
POTENTIALS THEY
HAVE?



MOVING FROM
GENDER SENSITIVE
TO GENDER
TRANSFORMATIVE
APPROACHES



GOOD PRACTICES
AND LESSONS
LEARNED



WOMEN AS KEY
ACTORS IN CLIMATE
AND DISASTER
RESILIENCE



LOOKING TO CLIMATE
AND DISASTER
RESILIENCE FROM A
GENDER PERSPECTIVE



WAY FORWARD AND
CHALLENGES

WOMEN ARE MORE VULNERABLE TO SHOCKS & STRESSES

- Women and children are **14 times more likely than men** to die during a disaster (Global study)
- In the 1991 cyclone & flood that killed 140,000 in Bangladesh, **90 per cent of victims were women and girls** (IUCN)
- Women aged 20-44: death rate was 71 per 1000 while Men aged 20-44: death rate was 15 per 1000
- Women constitute up to 80% of refugee and displaced populations
- In emergency situations women and children make up 70 to 80% of those needing assistance



(IUCN)

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY DOUBLE INJUSTICE?

Climate Change & disasters

People living in poverty all over the world are worst affected by climate change and disaster impacts and also have the fewest resources to cope with extreme and erratic weather

Gender Inequality

Gaps in life chances, opportunities, resources and rewards between women, men, girls and boys continue to exist worldwide

Being a man or woman is often a **decisive factor in determining the levels of risk** from climatic shocks, **and the resources and options people have to act** on these shocks and changes/stresses

WHY ARE WOMEN MORE VULNERABLE?

....mainly because of biological, social and economical differences

1. **Being excluded** of planning & decision making
2. **Livelihoods rely on natural resources** highly dependent on natural hazards
3. **Less access to resources** (Strong influence of cultural norms on **unequal distribution and use of rights, resources and power** which determine individuals' livelihoods)
4. **Not recognized as farmers**, and deprived from govt. agricultural allocation

WHY ARE WOMEN MORE VULNERABLE? *Contd.*

5. **Victims of the gendered division of labour** **Primarily responsible for domestic duties, are caregivers** (They collect water, cook, clean & take care of the sick/kids and play vital role in agriculture)
6. **Early warning systems are oriented towards males**
7. After a natural disaster, **women are more likely to become victims of domestic and sexual violence**
8. **Migration of male member puts women and girls overburdened and insecured**
9. **Overwhelm or gender blind approach sometimes create extra burden on women**

HOW RAINFALL VARIABILITY TAKES ITS TOLL ON WOMEN AND GIRLS (A CARE STUDY)

Rainfall variability leads to low productivity, income, employment, food insecurity and resulted to out migration

Mostly men migrate and women and adolescent girls suffer from the social consequences of migration

Migration of male member puts extra-layer of burden of maintaining family & food insecurity

In absence of capable men in house women's potential of sexual abuse is high

To avoid social derogation, migrant parents prefer post-puberty early marriage for the girls, which is contributing to quick rotation of generations and population growth.

“When we need rain - no rain, when we need sun – get too much of water which resulting crop failure and lead us to migrate elsewhere for livelihoods”

A female farmer of NW Bangladesh on erratic rainfall

INITIATIVES TO REDUCE WOMEN'S VULNERABILITIES

Gendered approach to disaster resilience is adequately mentioned in all Govt. policies, plans, and programming...

7th FIVE YEAR PLAN

- Gender sensitivity is recognized as an important issue in climate change adaptation and
- supported MoWCA to take initiative under the BCCTF to integrate gender sensitivity in their respective project designs
- Committed to implement a gendered approach to disaster resilience in all Government planning, policy frameworks and programming



BCCSAP 2009

Prioritized six strategic areas - A common theme throughout of all of these strategic areas is the focus on the poor and vulnerable and in particular women and children

NPDM 2010

One of the seven strategic goals of the plan is 'Empowering at risk communities particularly women'

...but in practice it doesn't reflect that much as should be.

WHY WOMEN ARE CRITICAL FOR CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE, WHAT POTENTIALS THEY HAVE?



Women play a paramount role in the management, conservation and use of natural resources



Women's primary responsibility for growing food and collecting water, firewood has made them keenly aware of their environments



Women not only victims; well positioned to be agents of change through mitigation, management and adaptive activities in HHs, workplace, communities and institutions

CARE evaluation found - Involvement of women in disaster and climate activities multiplies the benefits

WOMEN AS KEY ACTORS IN CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE

Can respond to disasters



- Building houses; digging wells and ditches; hauling water and building shelters and roads, considered as “male” tasks.
- Forming groups and networks which is essential in disaster preparedness and mitigation.



Can play decision-making roles in disaster issues



Women and young girls play an important role in their families and communities (in health, education and childcare).

GOOD PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED

CARE developed Disaster Volunteers for floods, 50% women (like Govt. CPP prog)

- **Women volunteers can approach other women and access households more easily than males to provide guidance on disaster preparedness**
- But, its being done in limited scale and needs to do at scale

Govt. initiated to sending flood alerts through mobile

- **Some at risk people living on the bank of the Jamuna river getting alerts 5-10 days in advance which helps them to protect moveable assets**
- But, mobile numbers of women are not in the system who needed the information the most



GOOD PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED, *Contd.*

CARE is facilitating women participation to Farmers Field School in NW, where 50% are women

- Victims women became change agents of for the promotion of adaptive variety and agricultural technologies (SuPER)
- At household level : increased men's sensitivity which helps to increase women mobility and taking part in family decision.
- At authorities level: making sure women are recognized as farmers



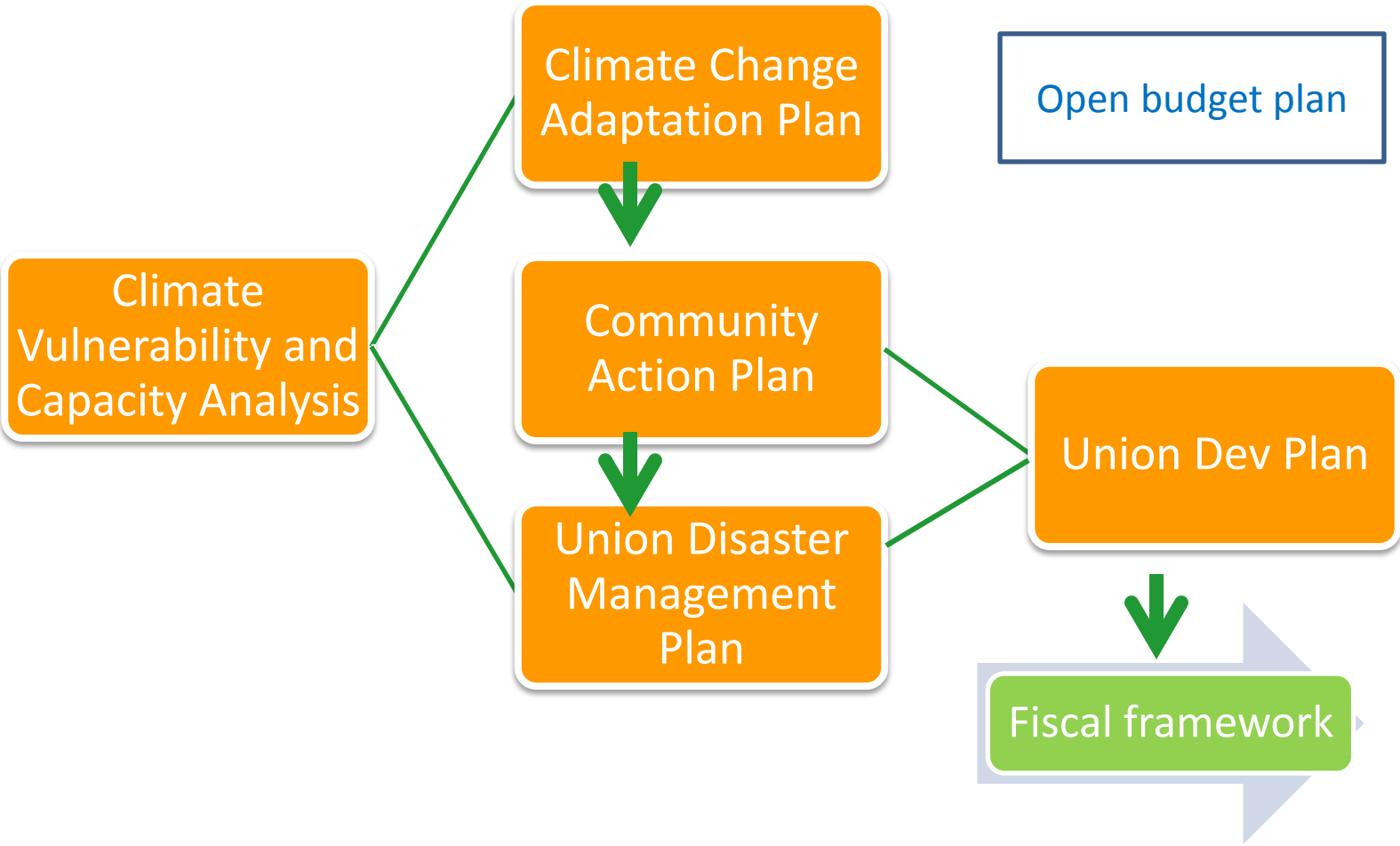
CARE facilitated community led water movement in in SW to solve out water crisis where women were forefront

- The communities worked to put forward the issue of potable water due to salinity and arsenic contamination as an immediate issue
- Over 32000 letters sent out to Prime Minister from communities
- The huge heap of letters moved the PM so much that she issued an order "...to take steps towards solving the issue on an emergency basis".



GOOD PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED, *Contd.*

INTEGRATING DRR-CCA INTO DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



GOOD PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED, *Contd.*

Support that goes directly
to women brings better
results

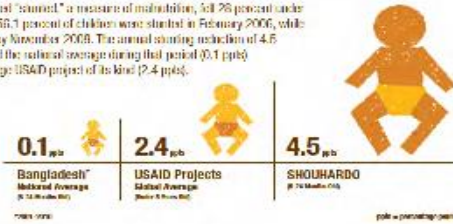
Reaching New Heights

Funded by USAID and implemented by CARE, the \$126 million SHOUHARDO project was designed to fight poverty and improve nutrition among more than 2 million of Bangladesh's poorest people. Direct nutrition-focused interventions such as child feeding were combined with indirect interventions — most notably the empowerment of women and girls — to produce great impact, including an unusually large reduction in child stunting.

To see the full report go to: www.care-international.org

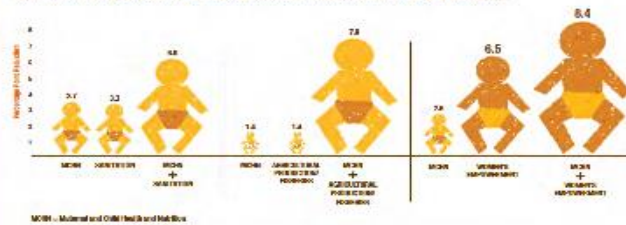
What: Big Increase in Healthier, Taller Children

The number of children considered "stunted," a measure of malnutrition, fell 26 percent under SHOUHARDO. Put another way, 88.1 percent of children were stunted in February 2006, while just 40.4 percent were stunted by November 2008. The annual stunting reduction of 4.6 percentage points (pts) exceeded the national average during that period (0.1 pts) and was nearly double the average USAID project of its kind (2.4 pts).



Why: Women's Empowerment

Using a statistical method called "propensity score matching," researchers found that women's empowerment led to greater reductions in stunting than any other intervention. While this method could not determine the exact reduction attributable to each intervention, it does serve as a tool to assess the relative impact of each one. It also revealed the effectiveness of combining interventions.



How: Substantial Gains in Women's Decision-Making Power

The percentage of women reporting that they participate in various types of decisions rose sharply in several categories during the course of SHOUHARDO. The program promoted female entrepreneurship, encouraged greater participation by mothers in their children's education and supported the creation of women's groups to confront early marriage, violence against women and limits on their mobility.



MOVING FROM GENDER SENSITIVE TO GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACHES

Gender-sensitive

- Taking into account the different effects of climate change on women, men, boys and girls

Gender-responsive

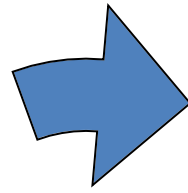
- Creating dialogue and platforms to critically evaluate the fairness and value of gender roles and norm

Gender-transformative

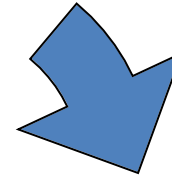
- Addressing structural barriers to gender equality in policies and practices

LOOKING TO CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE FROM A GENDER PERSPECTIVE

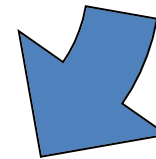
Ensure women's access to policy-making,
information and knowledge on
disaster reduction



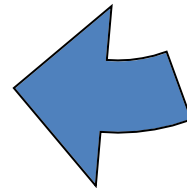
Respond to women's
needs and concerns



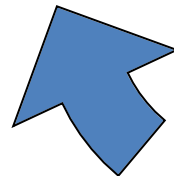
Acknowledge women's
vulnerable status and
potentials



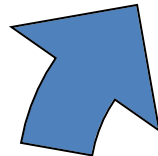
Assure women's access
to DRR/CCA resources



Strengthen the dialogue
within & between communities
and the national government
& capacity-building



Increase efforts in
promoting gender equalities



**Gender-based approach
to the study on
natural disasters**

WAY FORWARD AND CHALLENGES

Towards women as a force in resilience building and gender equality in climate and disaster resilience



গ্রাম পরিষদ
গ্রাম উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচি
উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচি

কর্মসূচির তালিকা

ক্রমিক নং	কর্মসূচির নাম	কর্মসূচির বিবরণ	কর্মসূচির উদ্দেশ্য	কর্মসূচির কার্যক্রম	কর্মসূচির স্থান	কর্মসূচির সময়সীমা
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০৪	গ্রাম পরিষদ	গ্রাম পরিষদ	গ্রাম পরিষদ	গ্রাম পরিষদ	গ্রাম পরিষদ	গ্রাম পরিষদ
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সংস্করণ: ২০১৫

- ❑ **Support communities in making gender smart adaptation plans** based on climate science and local observation of climate change.
- ❑ **Build the capacity of local civil society and government institutions** to support communities' adaptation efforts.
- ❑ **Influence the policy and enabling environment to address the underlying causes of vulnerability**, such as poor governance, and gender inequalities in resource use and access to basic services.
- ❑ **Lead a strong boost in support for climate justice and gender equality** in all post-2015 agreements (SFA, CoP21, SDG).
- ❑ **Address climate change effectively at the local level**

WAY FORWARD AND CHALLENGES, *Contd.*

Towards women as a force in resilience building and gender equality in climate and disaster resilience

- ❑ **Build resilience in agricultural livelihoods** and ensuring food and nutrition security for all
- ❑ **Boost women 's income** towards better economic security
- ❑ **Strengthening women and girls' reproductive rights**
- ❑ **Ensure gender-equitable efforts build people's resilience in the face of disasters** and address structural inequalities lying behind unequal risks
- ❑ **Develop DVs for floods like CPP** with men and women



WAY FORWARD AND CHALLENGES, *Contd.*

Towards women as a force in resilience building and gender equality
in climate and disaster resilience

-Separating men-women is critical during prioritization of hazards and development actions.

“If men and women, during CVCA analysis, were asked separately to list the hazards affecting their community, women may have identified the need for better lighting.”

- Engaging men in household chores, i.e., fresh water management should take into account the needs and role both of men and women through an *equitable approach*

Thank You!

