



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women



NORWEGIAN EMBASSY

Gender Sensitive Adaptation: Rights Based Approach to Gender Equality in Climate Change Adaptation

Session 2.1

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Bangladesh

- ▶ Situated in Ganges Brahmaputra belt
- ▶ land area: 147,570 square kilometers, 710 kms of cyclone prone coastline
- ▶ Most parts are less than 12 m (39.4 ft) above sea level
- ▶ Scientists estimated that 10% of the land would be inundated with SLR of 1 m (3.28 ft)
- ▶ Population: 160 million
- ▶ One of the countries to be **MOST AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE**



Developmental Achievements:

1. Human Development Index (HDI), Bangladesh in a group of highlighted 18 countries
2. Life expectancy for males: 67.9; females 70.3 years-2011
3. primary education enrolment Boys: 95.4%; Girls: 98.18% 2012
4. Girls constituted 53.28% of all secondary students in 2012
5. Women MPs: 19.7%;
6. Mobile phones reach: 63.8%, 2012 and increasing.
7. Internet use expanded to 6.3% population, 2012
8. National Policy on Women's Advancement, 2011; National Action Plan (NAP) for Women's Advancement 2012
9. Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy & Action Plan, (BCCSAP) 2009
10. Climate Change and Gender Action Plan (ccGAP) 2013

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Why is GENDER EQUALITY an issue?

1. The gendered division of labour
2. Gender differences in access to resources 'Male' traits are valued; female ones often ridiculed or devalued
3. Women/girls are often marginalized in decision-making in the home, community and governments
4. Women are often seen as less capable to manage resources
5. Women are often not recognized as having the right to control their own bodies or lives.



Gendered Impacts in the Region

- ▶ Women and children are 14 times likely to die of climate related disasters than men - LSE study on 141 countries

Country	Disaster	% of deaths (women)
Bangladesh	1991 Cyclone	90%
Burma	Cyclone Nargis	61%

- ▶ Women' livelihoods more dependent on natural resources than men
- ▶ Nearly 70 % of employed women in SA work in the ***agriculture sector***- vulnerable to sudden and slow on set CC impacts
- ▶ CC adaptation programmes continue to be gender blind
- ▶ This inequality becomes less prominent in societies with high levels of gender equality

Rights-Based Approach

- ▶ **Gender Equality = Human Right: Women and Men are both equal rights holders**
- ▶ **Moving** from (solely) ‘vulnerability’ approach → addressing more structural problems of inequities/injustices in CC impacts and strategies.
- ▶ **Moving** from essentialist approach (emphasis on women’s vulnerabilities/victims/focus on reproductive roles) → social responsibilities to and for others.
- ▶ **Moving** from (solely) basic needs → strategic interests.

Addressing women's interests:

Practical Interests (Condition)

- ▶ Providing right to food
- ▶ Access/right to clean water and sanitation
- ▶ Access to energy for women
- ▶ Access to shelters
- ▶ Training women in new agriculture technologies and other non-traditional livelihood practices, e.g. solar panel repairing
- ▶ Technical training for women in the maintenance of micro-hydro powered rice milling facility

Strategic Interests (Position)

- ▶ Access to and control over forest resources
- ▶ Increasing women's access to financial services
- ▶ Registering land or property titles in name of women or women & men

Climate Change Adaptation is *not* Gender Neutral

Women and men have diverse capacities and contribute differently to adaptation, and women, like men, can be powerful agents of change and leaders.

Women, like men, have different bodies of knowledge, skills and experiences.

Often, women's participation critical to family and community survival, and makes CC efforts more effective .



Reducing Vulnerability of Women Affected by Climate Change through Viable Livelihood Options



Sustainable Livelihoods:

- ▶ 16,000 women in cyclone and flood prone - trained in alternative livelihood skills
- ▶ Of them most vulnerable 3200 women provided alternative livelihood support
- ▶ Another 4000 women to be supported soon in drought prone zone, of whom 800 to receive livelihood support
- ▶ Livelihoods selected based on needs assessment and livelihoods study
- ▶ Strengthen women's organizational capacity
- ▶ Empowerment: leadership and psycho-social training (640 women for each training)
- ▶ All women given fruit tree saplings

Towards Policy Advocacy:

- ✓ National Social Safety Net Programmes review, and inputs for the draft of NSPS
- ✓ Opportunities for women to carry out policy advocacy
- ✓ Inputs for the 7th International Conference on Community-based Adaption
- ✓ A Climate Change Gender Action Plan and training modules for government officials
- ✓ Policy Review (e.g. environmental, CC, Women's dev: NAPA, BCCSAP, Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, disaster management plan, and 6th 5 yr plan)
- ✓ Analytical Framework on Gender and Climate Change

Challenges :

- ▶ Rights based approach as opposed to humanitarian approach
- ▶ Lack of understanding- policy makers and practitioners about the gendered impacts of CC and environmental degradation: how inequality increases vulnerability, and that reducing inequality can reduce vulnerability
- ▶ Ambiguity at the field level about DM/CCA;
- ▶ Lack of analytical tools
- ▶ Climate resilient livelihood options for women in specific eco zones are under researched;

THANK YOU



dilruba.haider@unwomen.org

UN Women, House Rd 113, Gulshan 2,
Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh