



Gender and Resilience in Bangladesh Coastal Communities

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Background

Estimated that **by 2050, one in every seven people in Bangladesh will be displaced by climate change**. Up to 18 million people may have to move because of sea level rise alone.

Women in coastal areas vulnerable due to lack of access to economic resources; access to clean water and sanitation; migration patterns; socio-religious beliefs that exclude women; and limited access to secure cyclone shelters.

ADB project design included multiple consultations with communities and key stakeholders to ensure issues and concerns of both men and women were reflected in the design.

Project Context

- One of the first projects in Bangladesh which is inclusive of Climate Change Adaptation (CCA).
- Project aims to improve climate resilience of coastal community by improved road network with all-weather-climate-proof roads, climate proof rural markets and multipurpose cyclone shelters.
- Key Gender elements include gender responsive infrastructure, women's decision-making power, economic empowerment and increased knowledge and skills/capacity building.



Gender Achievements

Enhanced Economic Opportunities:

- 15% space allocation for women in the open market sheds and the Women Market
- Women's participation in unskilled labour

Enhanced Decision-Making Capacity:

- 22 cyclone shelter management committees with 26.67% women members
- market management committees (MMC) with women members

Enhanced Knowledge and Skills:

- A series of trainings and workshops on gender and social inclusion in disaster risk reduction and cyclone shelter managements and maintenance were conducted

Gender Responsive Physical Infrastructure:

- Design of toilets in markets
- Design of cyclone shelters and boat landing platforms

Challenges



Governance

Operational Issues

Socio-cultural traditions
and beliefs



Lessons Learned

- Participatory approaches must be used from the beginning to ensure maximum benefit to all vulnerable groups
- New livelihoods for women and other vulnerable groups must be locally relevant and has to consider the time spent by women on them considering their other household duties/responsibilities
- Awareness raising and understanding the relationship between increased GBV and natural disasters and its impact of women and girls, and preventive measures must be integrated in project design