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Climate Change Impacts on Women: Experiences from Bangladesh

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Background

- Bangladesh is a victim of climate change and disasters. Most of the disasters are hydrological and climate change related. For example, flood, drought, cyclone and storm surge, water logging, salinity intrusion and Sea Level Rise.
- Non-climate factors especially poverty and population density makes the country more vulnerable
- Over the last 35 years, The government of Bangladesh invested over 10 Billion USD to make the country less vulnerable to natural disasters including climate change (Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, 2009)
- Climate change induced hazards differently affect the men and women
- **Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan** recognizes gender issues BUT still there is a need of strengthening implementation mechanism to reduce vulnerability of women to climate change
- A number of studies (Baseline, need assessment, Migration assessment....)were conducted under Norad supported “Reducing vulnerability of women affected by climate change through viable livelihood options” project led by UN Women. BCAS worked as research and technical partner

Key Concerns: The condition that makes women more vulnerable

- **Exposure to climatic hazards**

- ✓ Frequency and intensity of hazards/disaster –cultural constraints in mobility
- ✓ Water stress-increased burden on water collection, uses, taking care of children, domestic works.....
- ✓ Food security – nutritional status of women
- ✓ Sanitation/hygienic practices-waterborne diseases, low productivity



- **Low resilience of women**

- ✓ Education
- ✓ Skills/capacity/training
- ✓ Income
- ✓ Access to market



Key Concerns: The condition that makes women more vulnerable

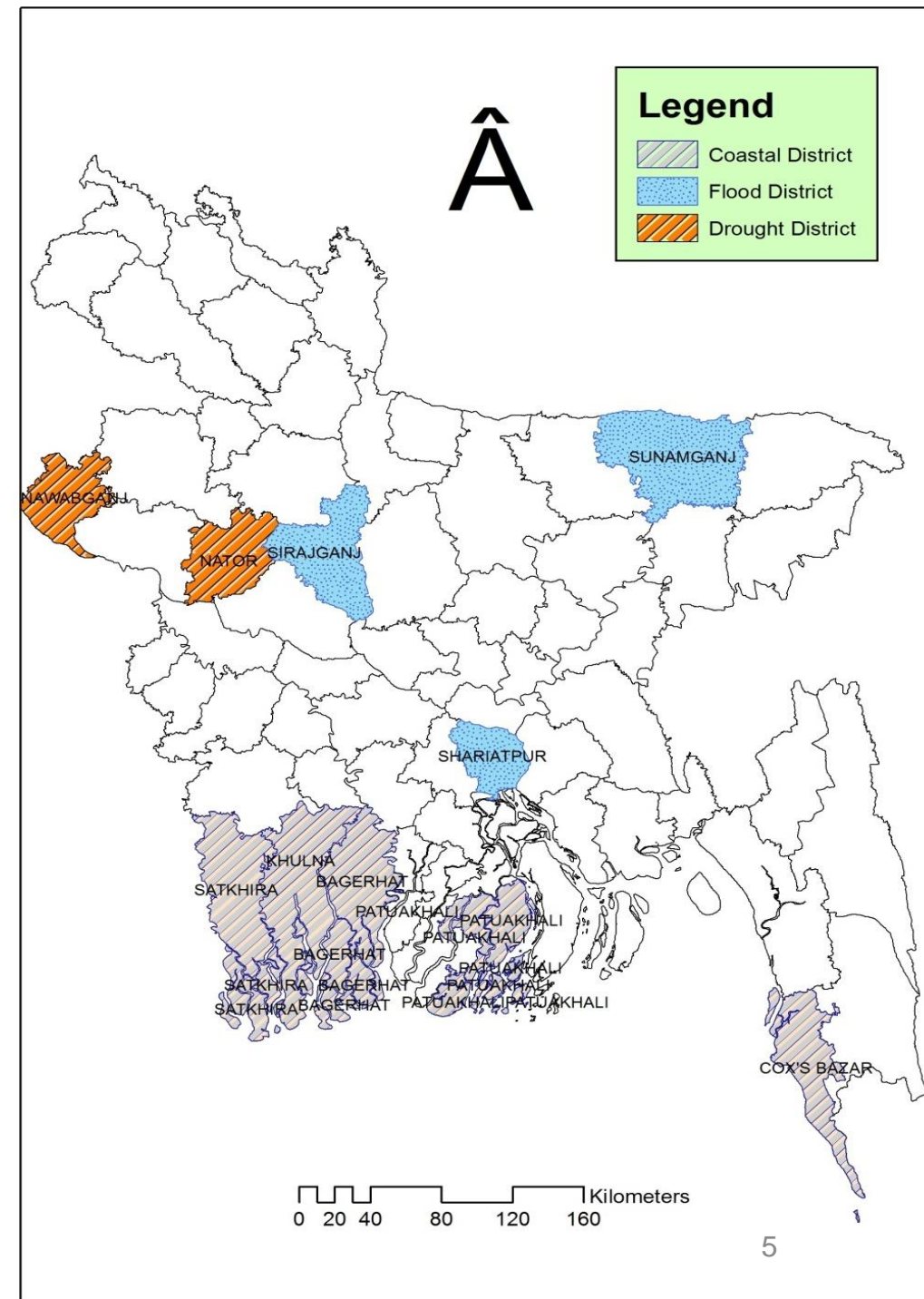
- **Role of women in decision making**
 - ✓ Household level (e.g. disaster preparedness, use of savings, IGA, health care, land mortgage)
 - ✓ Institutional level (e.g. UPs-participation in meetings)
 - ✓ Disaster Risk Management (UDMC decision making!)
- **Household resource management/control**
 - ✓ Financial freedom
 - ✓ Control of assets/resources
 - ✓ Actual price of the goods
- **Social insecurity**
- **Domestic violence**
- **Access and use of technology**



“Reducing vulnerability of women affected by climate change through viable livelihood options” in Bangladesh

Project Areas

- ✓ Three climate prone areas: 10 vulnerable districts
- ✓ Coastal Zone-5 districts
- ✓ Flood zone-3 districts
- ✓ Drought Zone-2 districts



Key Findings of the study

Socio-economic Profile of the study HHs

Male and female headed households of the study population

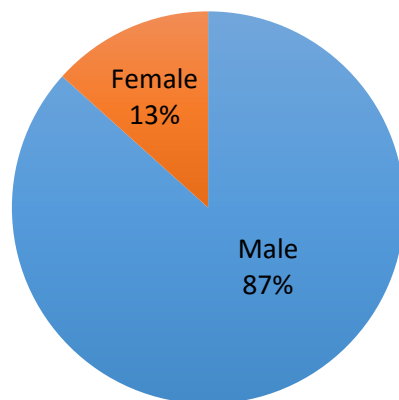
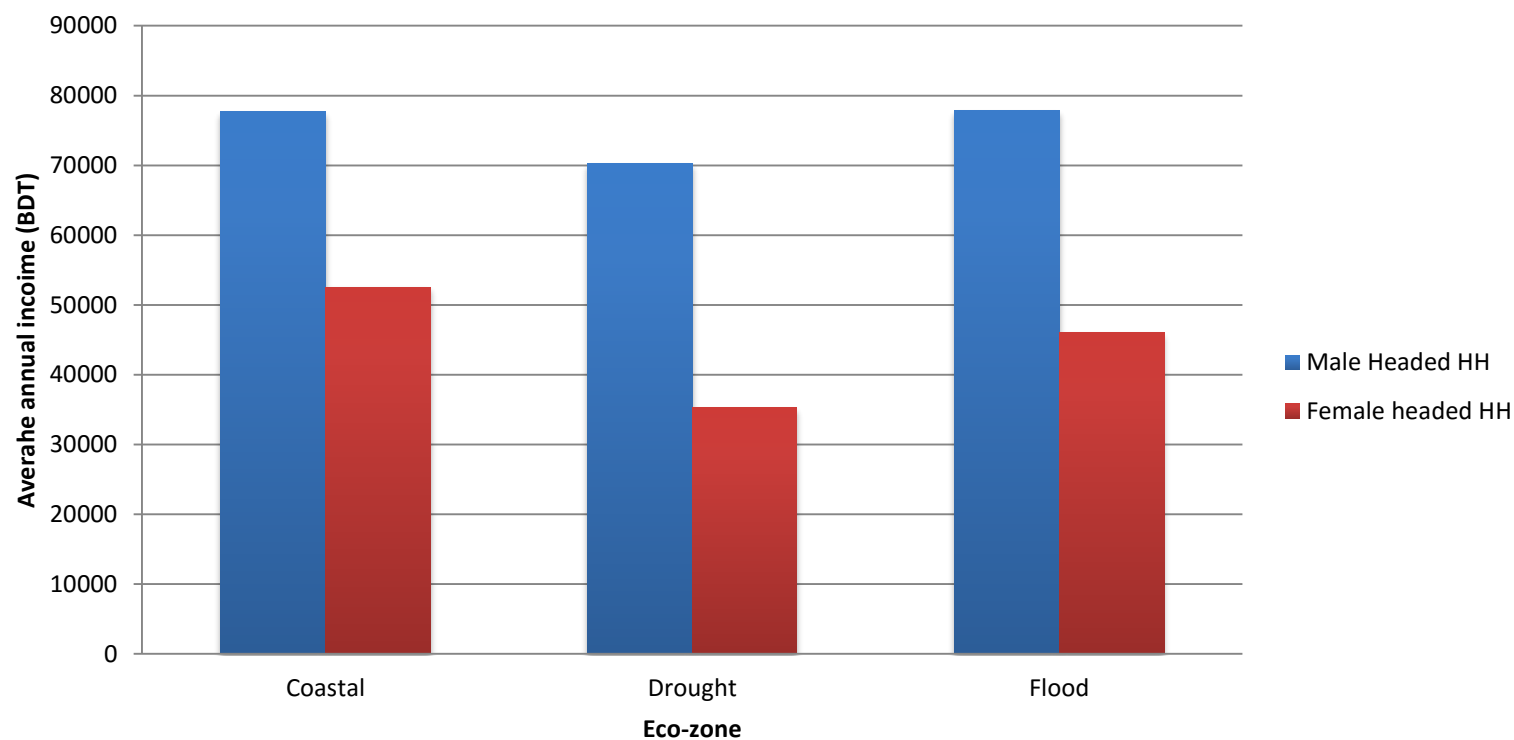
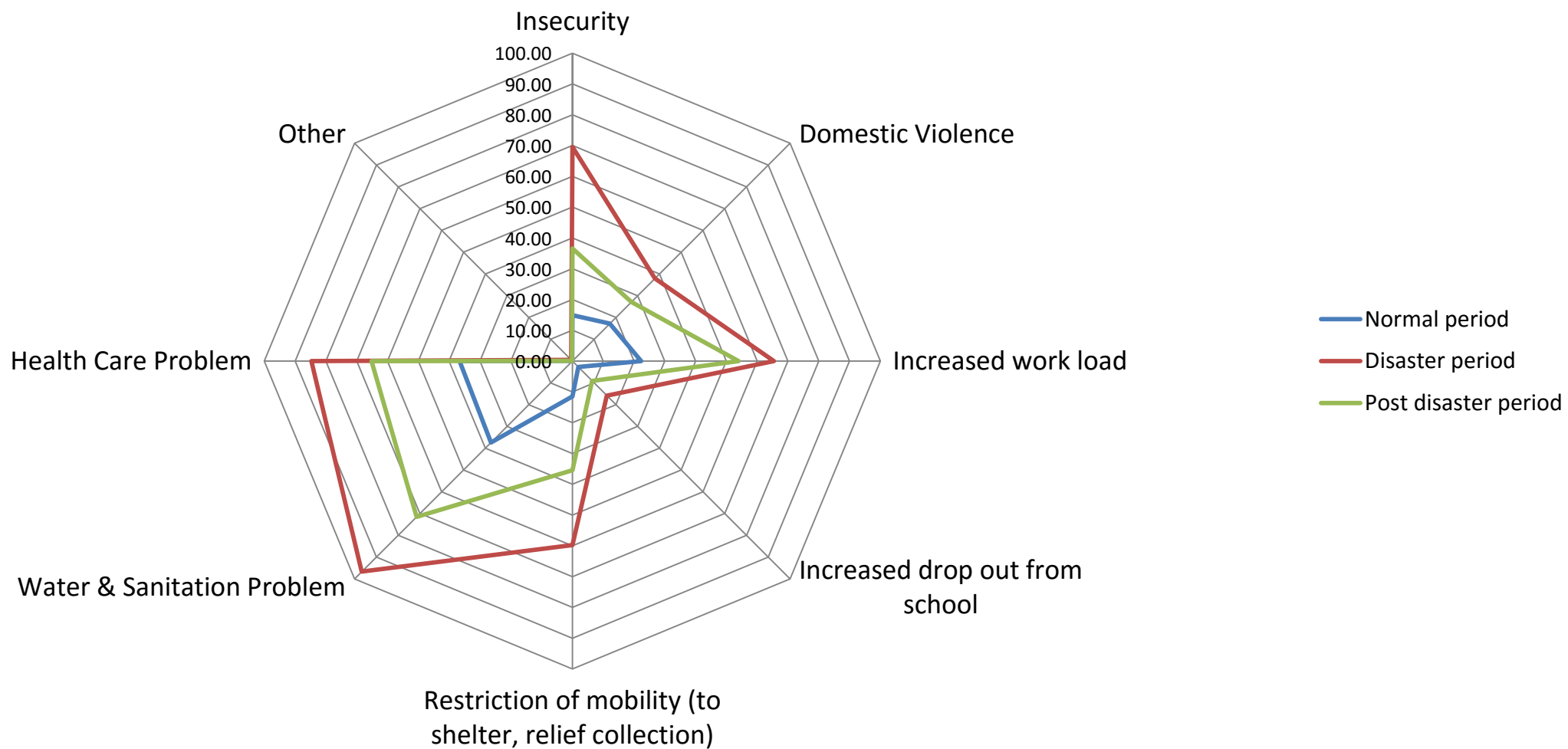


Fig. Average HH income by male and female headed households



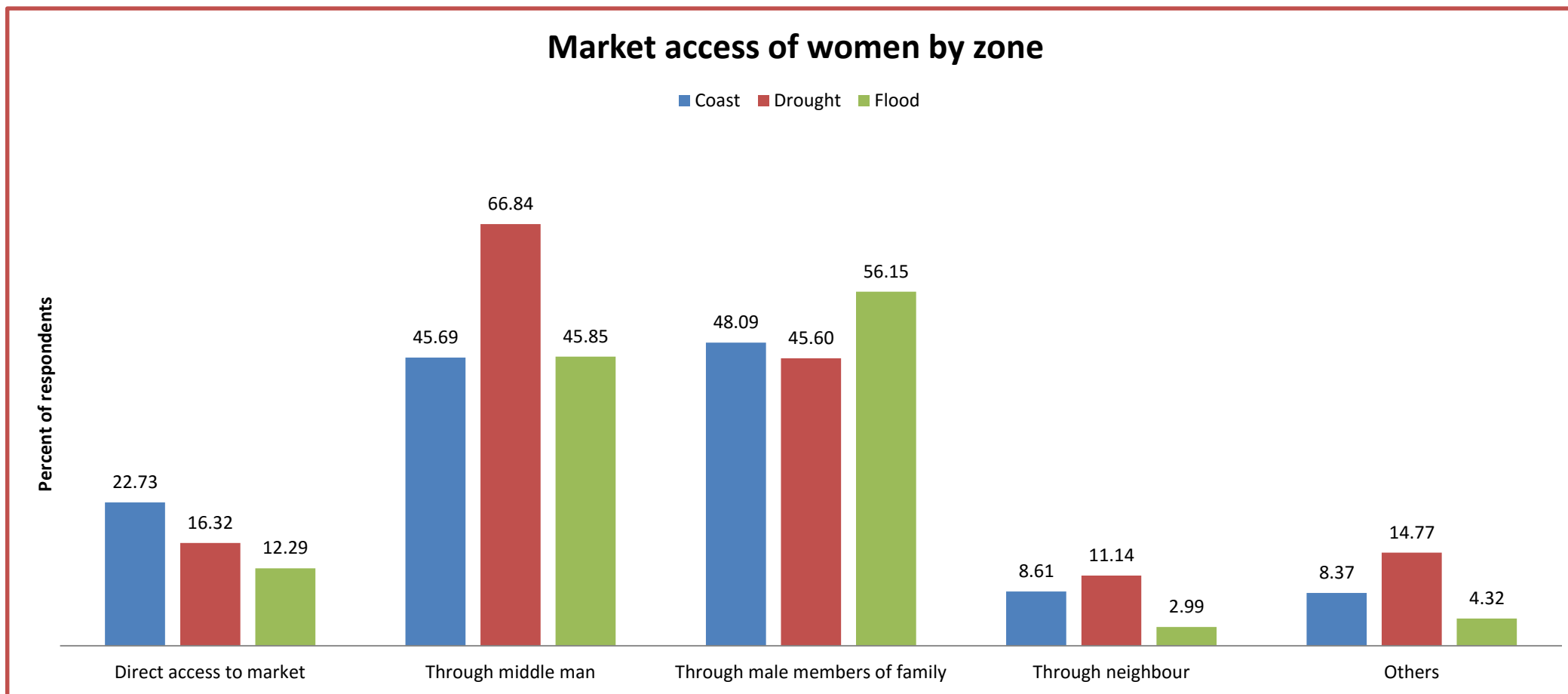
Key Findings of the study

Problem faced by women during normal, disaster and post disaster period



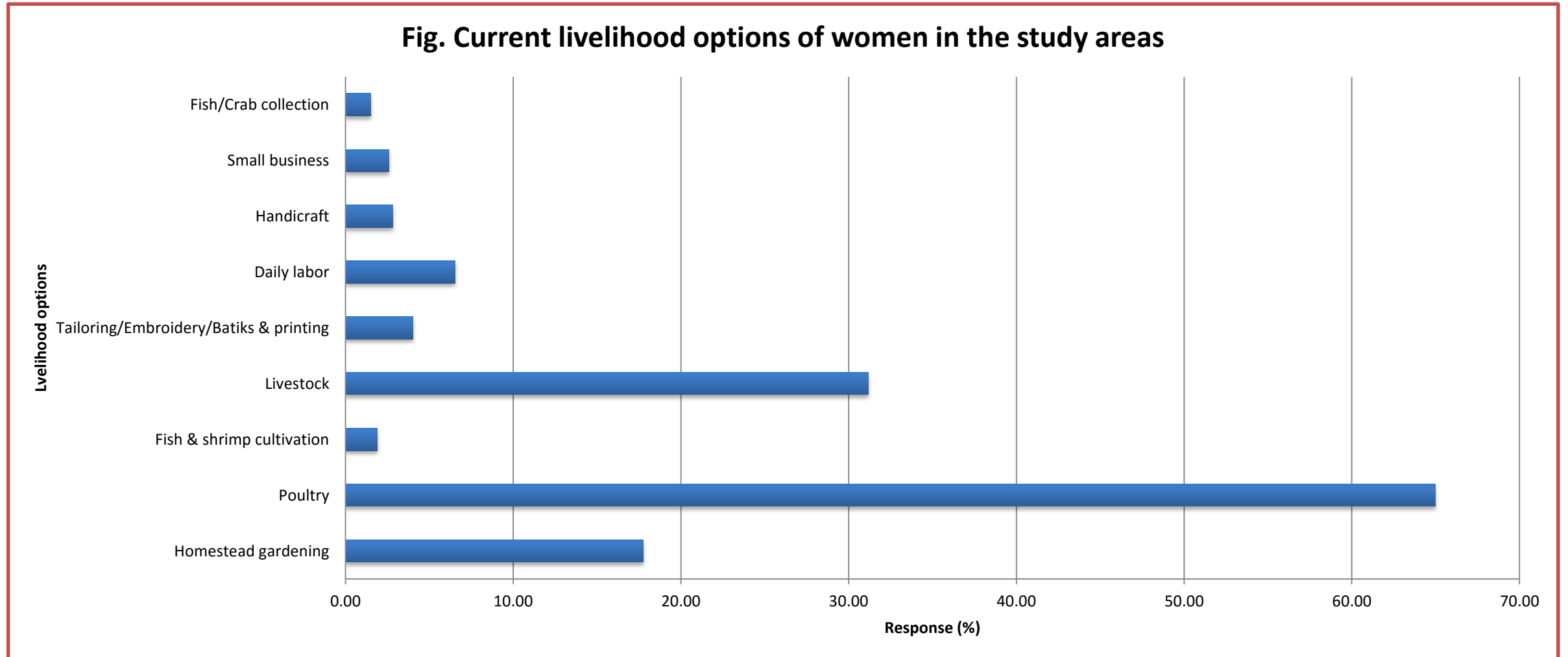
Key Findings of the study

Market access of women by zone



Key Findings of the study

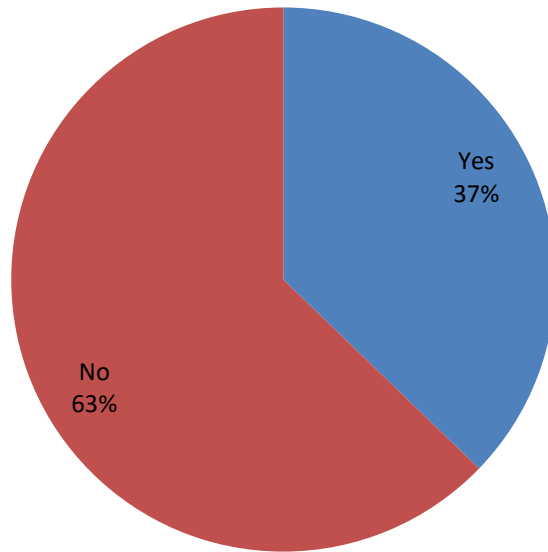
Livelihood options of women in study areas



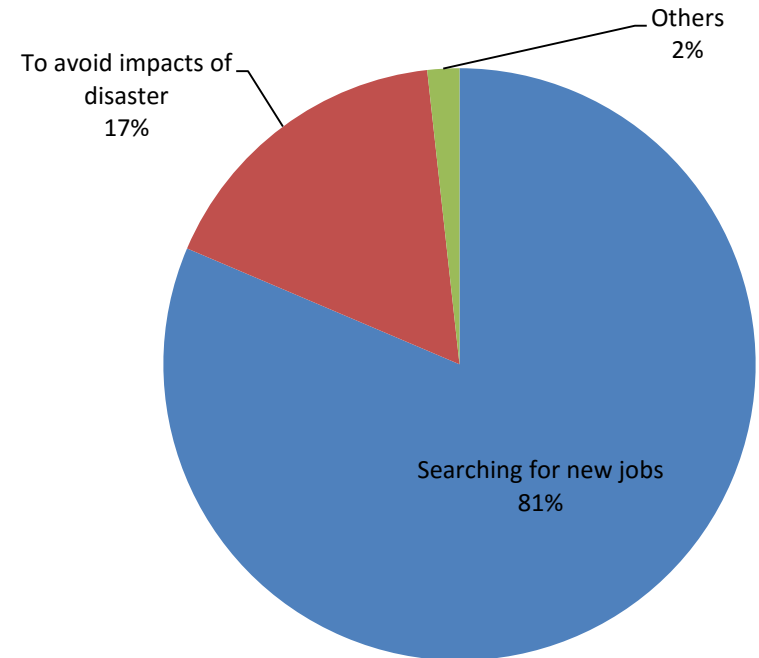
Key Findings of the Migration study

Main Reasons of migration

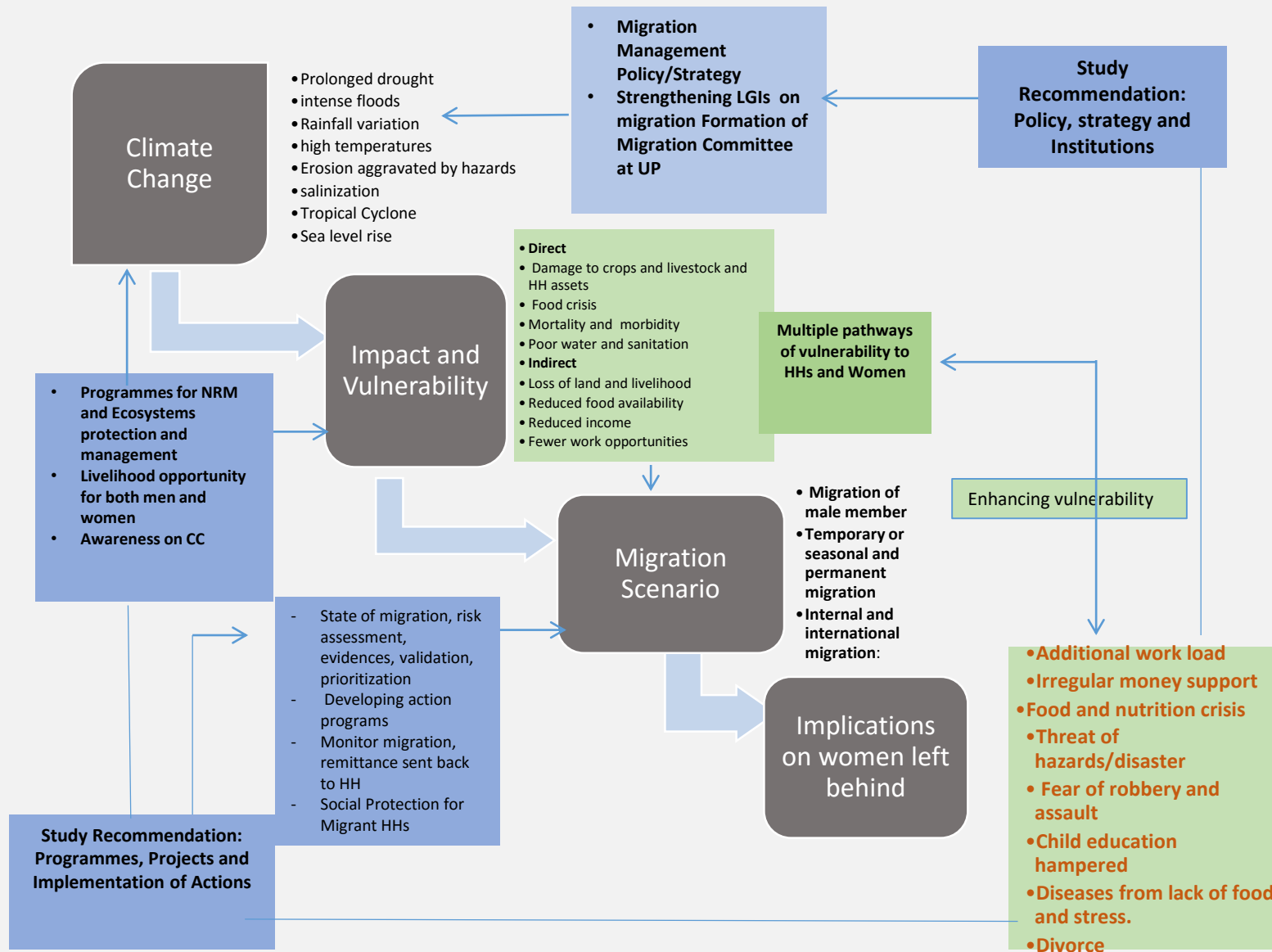
Did any of your HH member migrate in last five year?



Main reasons of migration



Climate Change, Migration – A Gender Perspective for Bangladesh



Key Findings of the study

SL	Potential Adaptation Measure for women in Bangladesh	% of respondents
I	Increase women aware about the climate change impact	66
II	Participation of women in climate risk management plan	27
III	Supporting new small entrepreneurship for alternate income	35
IV	Participation of women in local government activities	11
V	Managing new livelihood options for women (e.g. homestead gardening)	42
VI	Running new income generating project for women	59
VII	Forming local people based organization (C.B.O) in participation of women	8
VIII	Others	3

**Women's Livelihoods and
Resilience to climate change
and
Disasters in the study areas of
Bangladesh**

