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Women's Resilience Index

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Resilience

“the ability of people to recognize, challenge and transform the unjust and unequal power relations that dictate their vulnerability, to adapt positively to changing circumstances, and to mitigate, prepare for and rapidly recover from shocks and stresses such that their wellbeing and enjoyment of human rights is safeguarded”.

The South Asia Women's Resilience Index

Examining the role of
women in preparing for
and recovering from
disasters



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How is 'Resilience' measured?

Disaster types:

National calamities
(e.g. earthquakes,
cyclones)

Localised events
(e.g. landslides, flash-
floods)

Economic
(e.g. crop failures)

Phases:

Planning &
preparation

Response

Recovery

4 categories:

Economic

Infrastructure

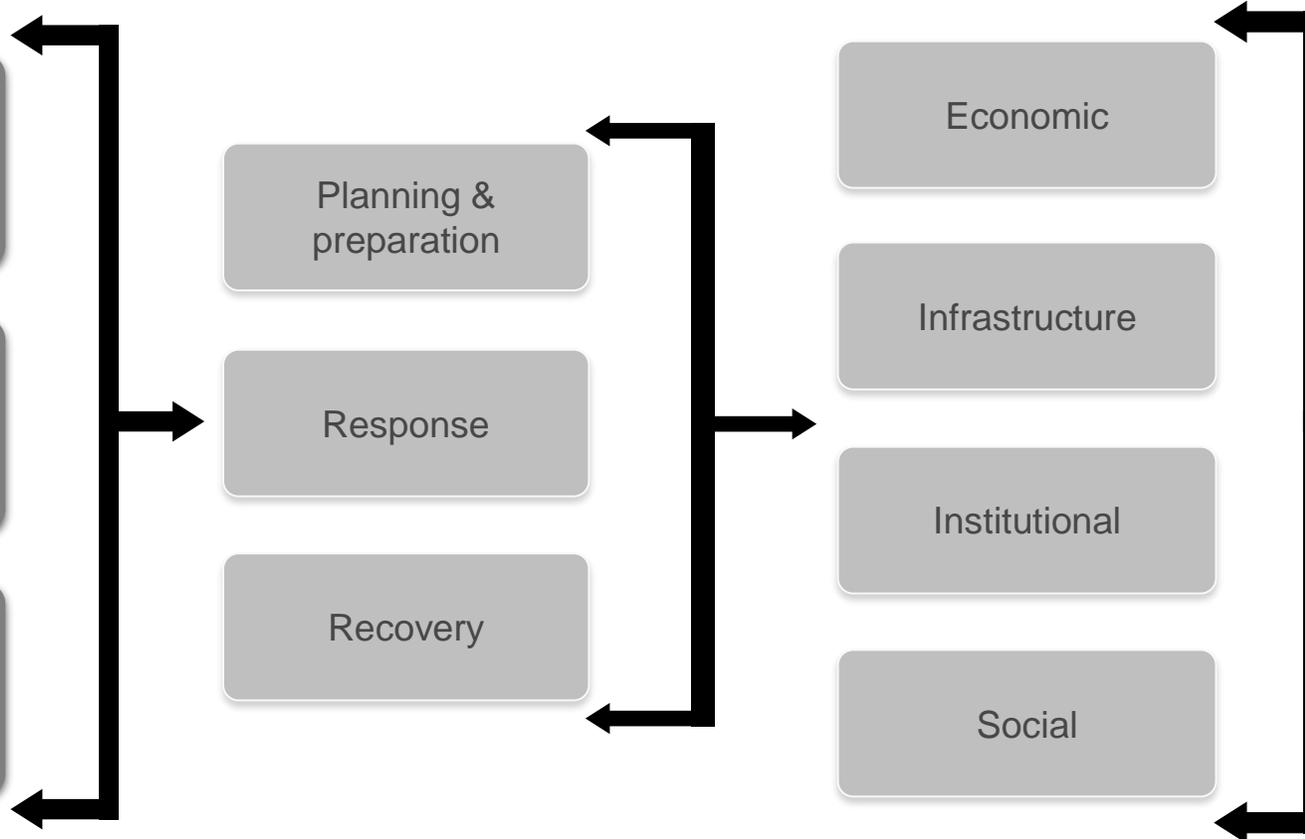
Institutional

Social

68 indicators:

40% gender-
focused

Quantitative and
qualitative



What does it tell us?

- Gaps between policy and practice undermine women's resilience
- Cycle of vulnerability & disempowerment means women's capacity to build resilience is not being realised
- Women are making important contributions to building disaster resilience





Women's Resilience Index

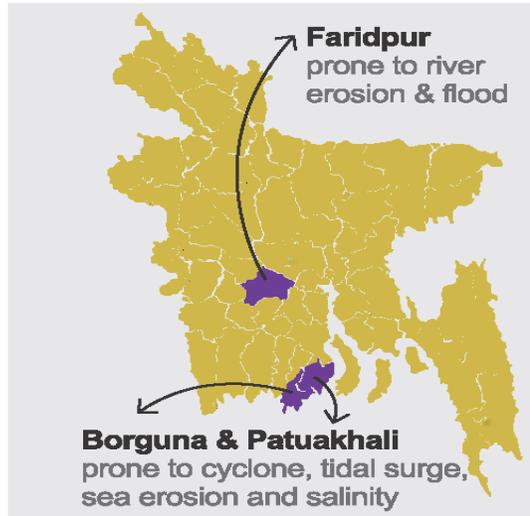
Increasing Resilience of Vulnerable Communities in Asia project

INTRODUCTION

Drawing on the South Asia Women's Resilience Index (WRI), ActionAid is deepening the understanding of women's resilience by assisting rural communities build a gender-aware resilience picture.

ActionAid Bangladesh is piloting a Resilience Toolkit aimed to help the development practitioners measure and compare women's and men's resilience to disasters risks. The Toolkit is based on the following four WRI resilience pillars:

-  Economic
-  Infrastructural
-  Social
-  Institutional



Research was carried out in 4 unions under 3 districts of Bangladesh.

METHODS

1. Household-level survey
2. Focus Group Discussion
3. Key-Informant Interview



FINDINGS & INSIGHTS

In the rural communities surveyed, women are 24% less resilient than men.

Economic



"We do nearly 2.5 times more work compared to what men do. And most of our work are unpaid and household."
(women of Faridpur in FGD)

Infrastructural



"It is sometimes impossible to reach cyclone shelter due to bad roads. we remain at home praying... If we venture out during cyclone, we are likely to die."
(women of Patuakhali in FGD)

Social



"Good women never go to the market or engage with income generating work."
(women of Faridpur in FGD)

Institutional



"Sometimes relief materials are unfairly given to undeserving candidates. Also, one family would be given several times simply because of kinship with the distributor."
(women of Patuakhali in FGD)

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Key Recommendations

- **Empower women to build disaster resilience at the community level:**

Involve women in local planning, have female front line responders, trainers and monitoring officers

- **Shift the narrative from vulnerability to capacity & leadership:**

Recognise women's roles and existing capacities

Key Recommendations

- **Improve monitoring and evaluation, and introduce accountability for gender-specific DRR targets:**
Improve gender appropriate data collection (women's economic livelihoods, etc)
- **Better coordinate and decentralise disaster planning:**
Involve women in the trainings, process and decision making
- **Match resilience-building with poverty reduction and sustainable development:**
Gender-sensitive DRR policy needs to take place alongside broader poverty reduction & gender equality efforts



