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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

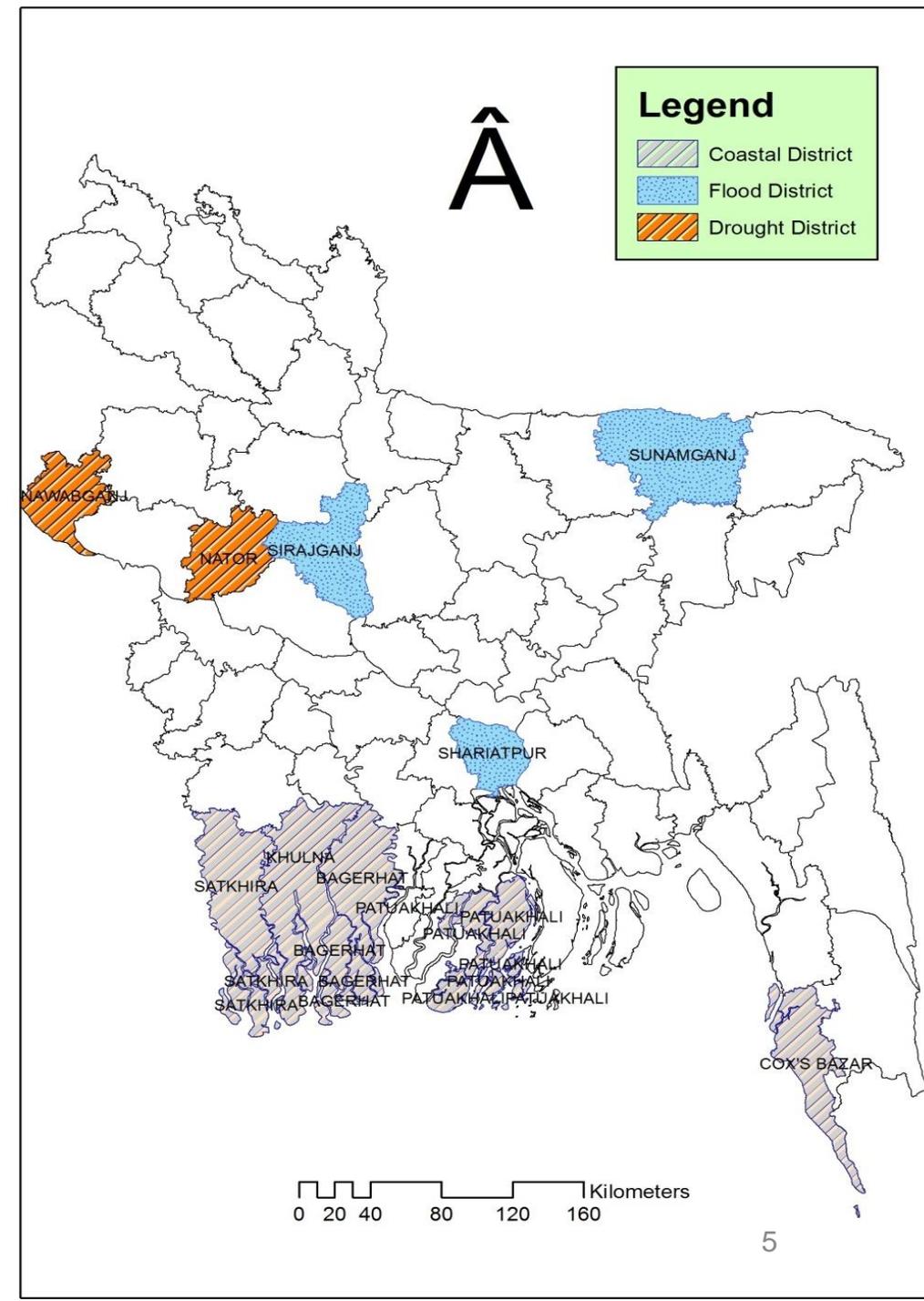
- **Role of women in decision making**
  - ✓ Household level (e.g. disaster preparedness, use of savings, IGA, health care, land mortgage .....
  - ✓ Institutional level (e.g. UPs-participation in meetings)
  - ✓ Disaster Risk Management (UDMC decision making!)
- **Household resource management/control**
  - ✓ 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

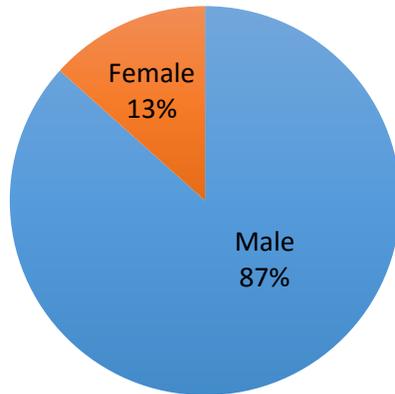
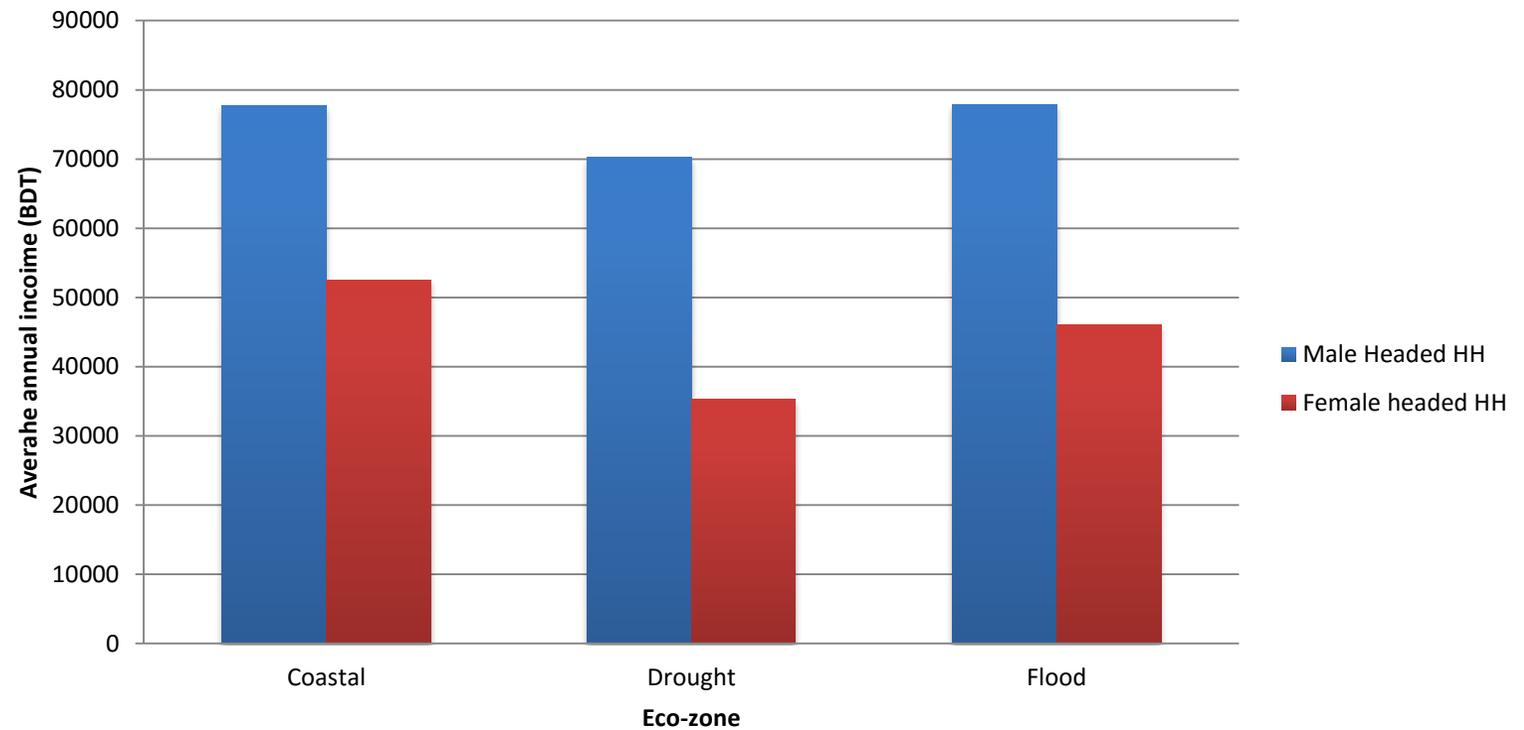
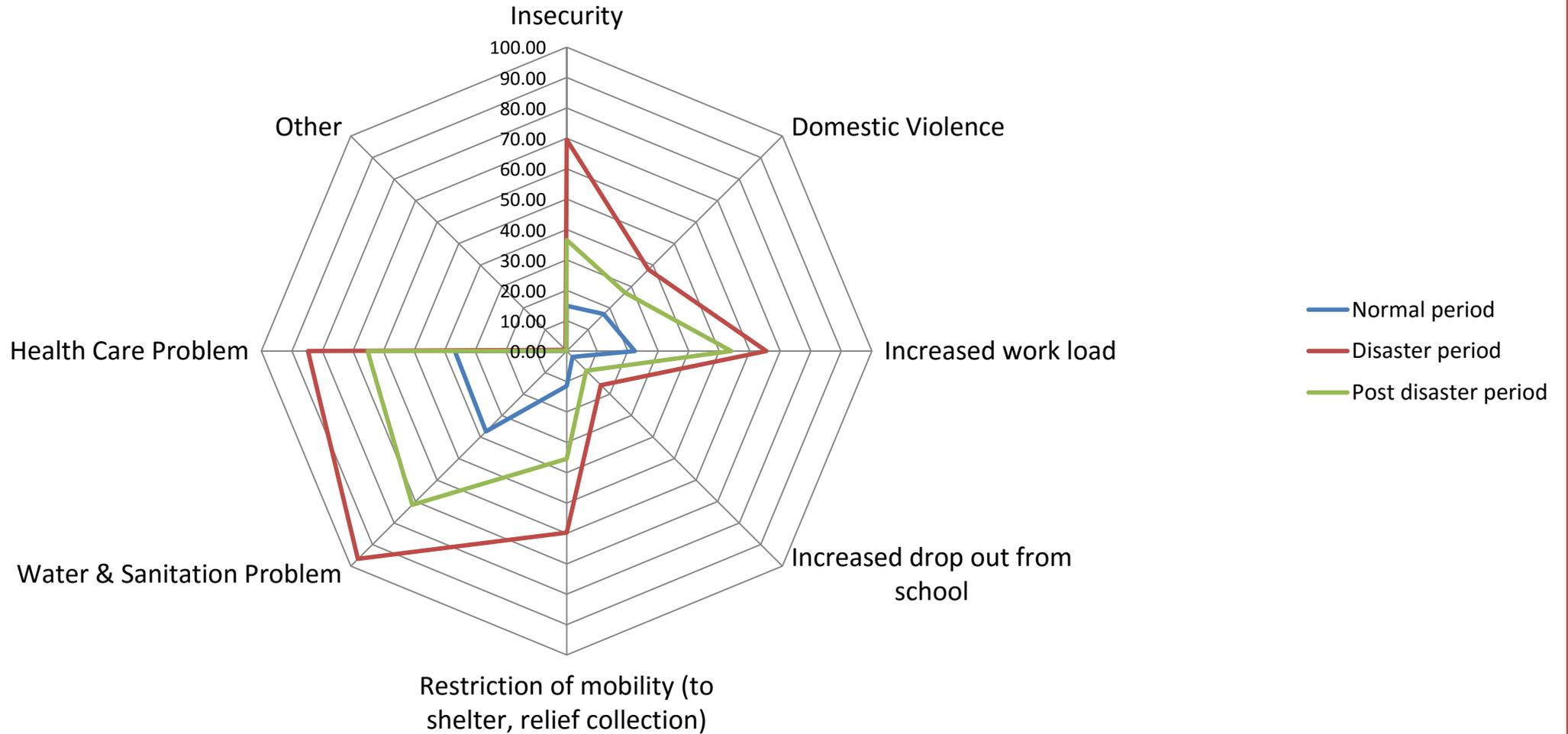


Fig. Average HH income by male and female headed households



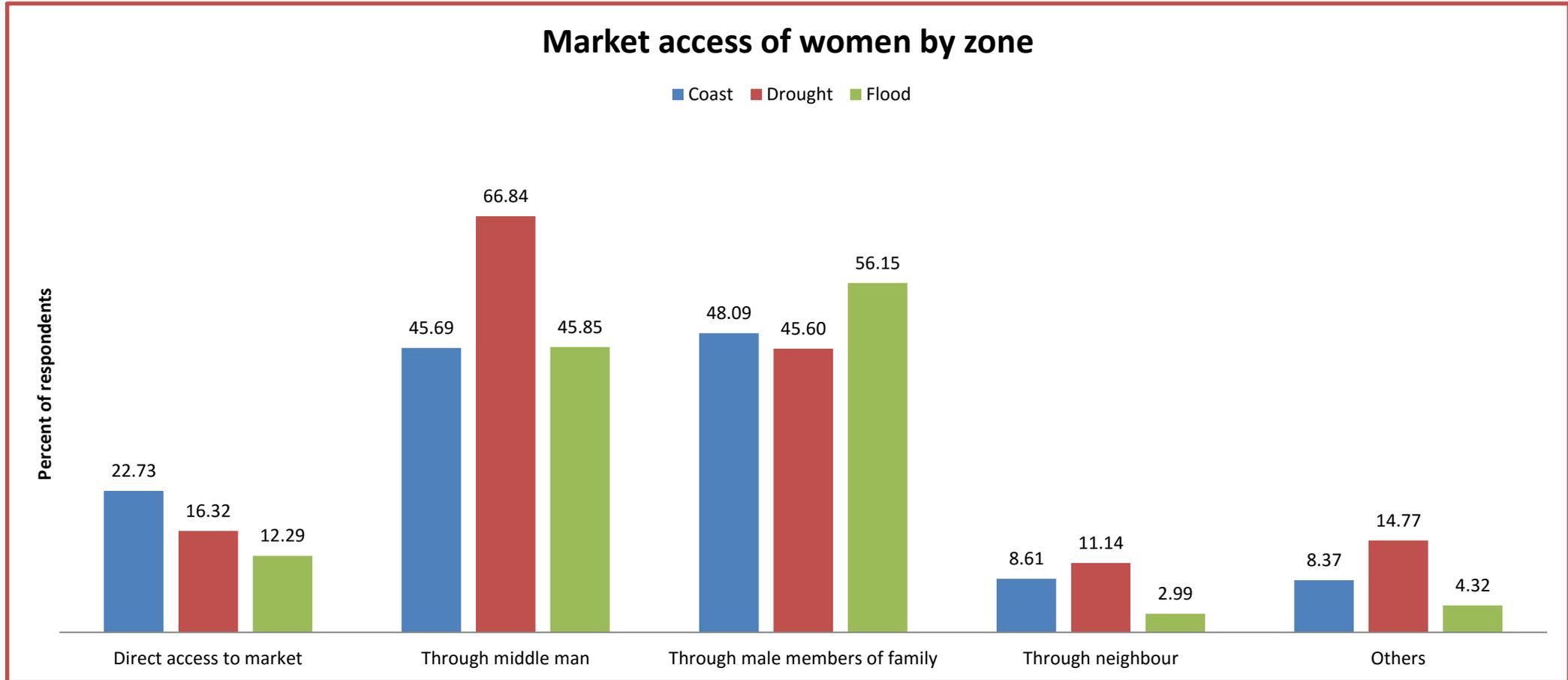
# Key Findings of the study

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



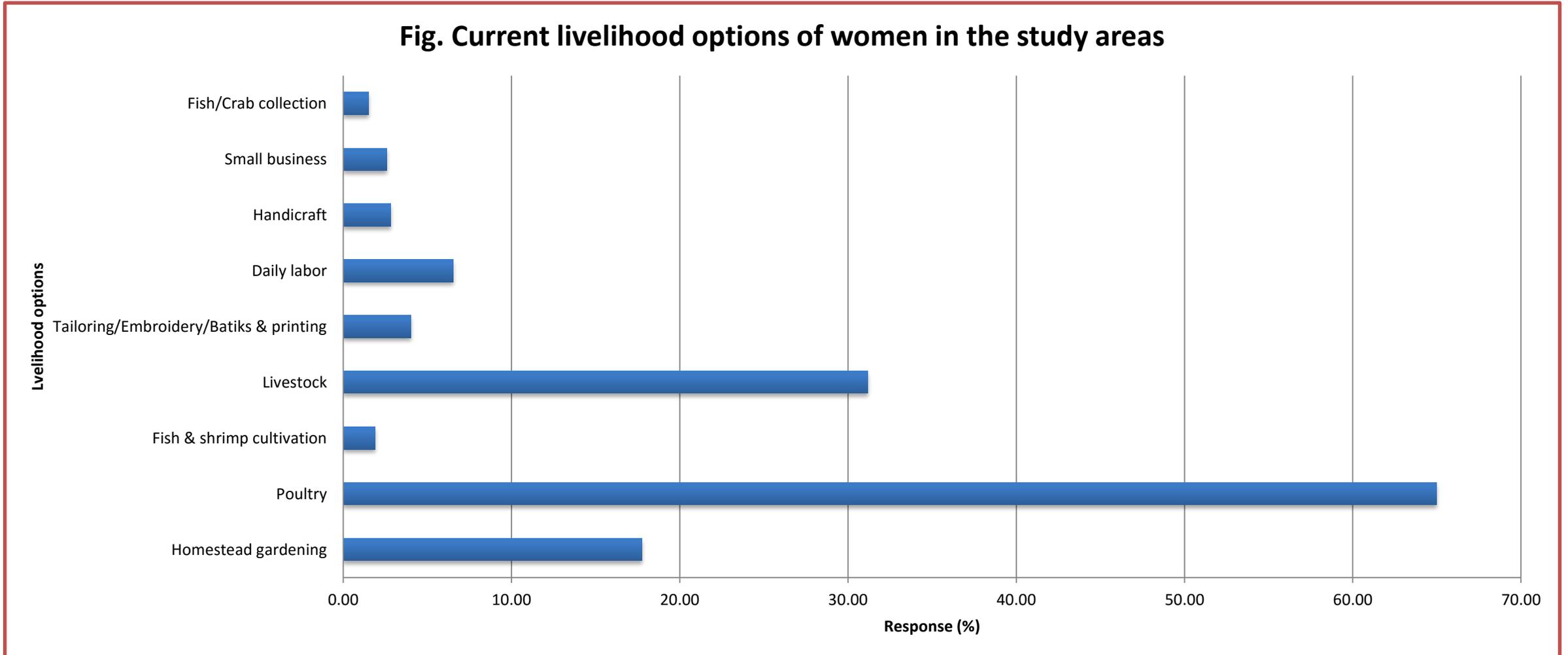
# Key Findings of the study

## Market access of women by zone



# Key Findings of the study

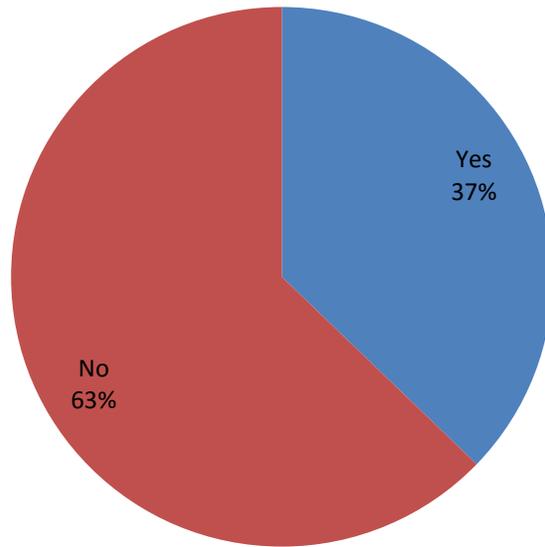
## Livelihood options of women in study areas



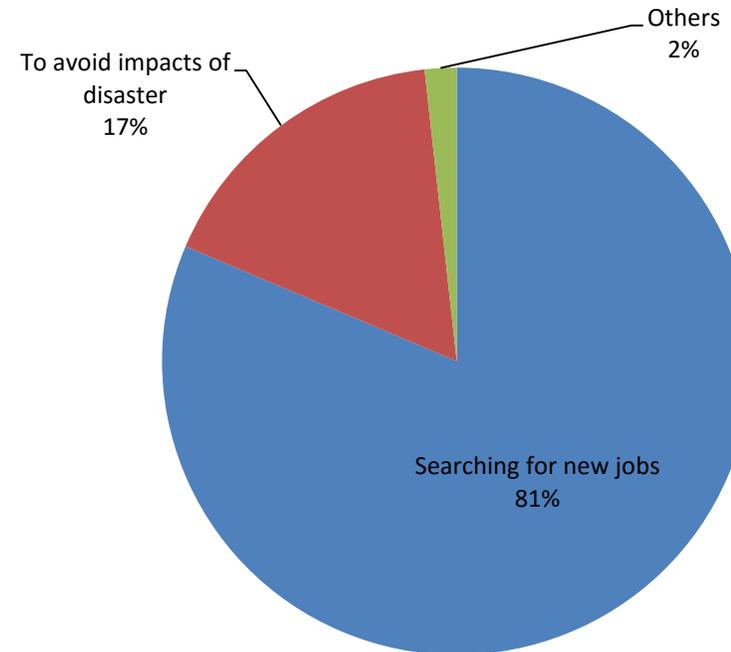
# Key Findings of the Migration study

## Main Reasons of migration

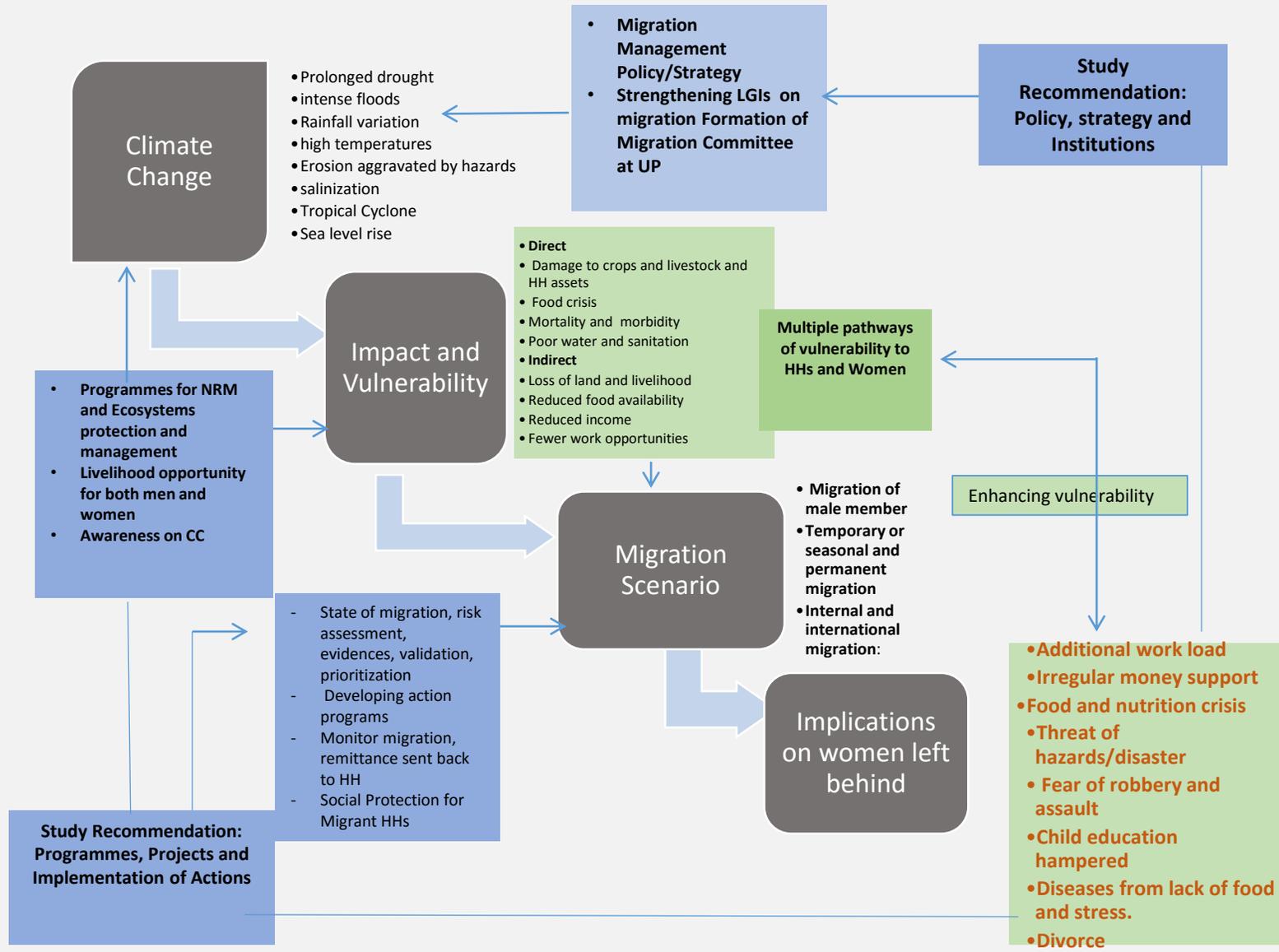
Did any of your HH member migrate in last five year?



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**

