

**Review of implementation:
Bangladesh's Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP)**

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Acronyms

ADP	Annual Development Programme
ASPP	Adaptive Social Protection programme
BCCSAP	Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan
CBA	Community Based Adaptation
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CDMP	Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme
CFF	Climate Fiscal Framework
Char	Tract of land surrounded by water (in general terms)
DAE	Department of Agricultural Extension
DoE	Department of Environment
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DWA	Department of Women Affairs
FFW	Food for Work
GED	General Economics Division
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoDMR	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
MoEFCC	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoWCA	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
NAPA	National Adaptation Plan of Action
NPDM	National Plan for Disaster Management
NSSS	National Social Security Strategy
PPP	Public-private partnership
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SOD	Standing Orders on Disaster
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
7FYP	Seventh Five Year Plan (FY2016–2020)

Introduction

The overall economic, social and environmental costs of climate change are substantial; this is particularly true in the case of natural resource dependent countries like Bangladesh. Women are often disproportionately vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and climate change impacts exacerbate gender-based inequalities. Women and men have different vulnerabilities and capacities to adapt to climate change impacts due to differing roles, opportunities, and access to resources. Women and other socially marginalized groups are often hindered by discriminatory social practices and work responsibilities that may increase their exposure to climate hazards. Coupled with less access to financial and productive resources, information and services, women overall have less resources to help them cope with impacts. Further, women are seldom involved in decision-making processes related to long-term planning for climate change adaptation or social protection mechanism. As a result, their needs and priorities, as distinct from men's, are less likely to be addressed in relevant policies. While women specifically face challenges to coping with climate change, they also have unique knowledge and experiences which enables them to serve as powerful advocates to bring about transformative change to address climate-related disasters.

Context and Background

In 2008, the Government of Bangladesh prepared and adopted the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP). The BCCSAP aimed to reflect the changing development priorities of the Government and was revised in 2009, when more areas of action were added. The national Climate Change and Gender Action Plan for Bangladesh (ccGAP) was developed in 2013 with an aim to ensure gender equality and social inclusion into climate change related policies, strategies and interventions. The ccGAP emphasised the Government's intention to empower women and respond to the needs of the often invisible 'other half' of the population in the context of climate change in Bangladesh. The objective of the ccGAP is 'to mainstream gender concerns into climate change related policies, strategies and interventions ensuring access to, participation in, contributions towards and benefits for the diverse group of stakeholders for the sustainable and equitable development of Bangladesh.' The ccGAP was prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (now known as the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change: MoEFCC), with financial support from the Government of Finland and technical support from International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The ccGAP takes into account four key pillars of BCCSAP, namely a) Food Security, Social Protection and Health; b) Comprehensive Disaster Management; c) Infrastructure; and d) Mitigation and Low Carbon Development. The other two pillars of the BCCSAP, Research and Knowledge Management and Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening, have been considered as cross-cutting issues in the ccGAP. The specific contribution of women was highlighted as well as the required interventions necessary to incorporate the role of women effectively over a timeframe of five years.

Rationale for brief progress review and stock taking of ccGAP:

10 years after the development of the ccGAP it's important to take stock of the achievements and to compile the lessons learned. Since 2013, the world has witnessed a paradigm shift from Millennium Development Goals to adopt Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015. Further, at national level the revision of the BCCSAP has just been completed and submitted to the MoEFCC for approval. Hence, it is an optimal time to conduct a stock-taking of the ccGAP implementation to identify and develop a new action plan for gender and climate change. At the sectoral level there is little evidence available about the implementation of the ccGAP. Therefore this rapid appraisal aims to review the progress of ccGAP implementation and identify barriers and opportunities to forward the gender and climate change agenda.

Objectives of the study

The objectives of this study were to:

- Review the integration of gender in ccGAP relevant sectors;
- Compile relevant information and data on the implementation of the ccGAP by key stakeholders including Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoMDR) and Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL);
- To identify barriers to ccGAP implementation and to what extent stakeholders are considering issues of gender in climate change in their own policies and project activities.

Review: the integration of gender in ccGAP relevant sectors

In order to bring about a paradigm shift towards climate resilient development pathways, globally and nationally in Bangladesh, all climate change adaptation and mitigation need to pursue broader environmental, social and economic benefits. In order to make adaptation and mitigation actions – irrespective of scale – more equal and inclusive, assessing and addressing the implications of planned projects, programs and policies on women and men and different social groups is essential. This applies to climate-affected sectors where gender issues are traditionally considered more relevant (such as adaptation interventions focusing on food security, health, or disaster risk reduction) as well as building capacity in mitigation-focused interventions for example in sectors such as energy, infrastructure or transportation where gender issues rarely feature yet are crucially important to consider with respect to, for example, equal access to and deployment of safe, appropriate, environmentally, economically and socially sound technology. The following subsections explore the integration of gender in relevant sectors of the ccGAP: food security, disaster management, social protection and adaptive social protection, health security and infrastructure.

The Gender Perspective of Food security in Bangladesh

Bangladesh has been striving to ensure food security for its population. The term “food security” has been defined in different ways. The most common definition of food security used was formulated at the World Food Summit in 1996 as “when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life” (ReliefWeb, 2013). This section of the report looks at how gender and food security is integrated into relevant national policies and plans.

- The **National Food Policy**, Government of Bangladesh, 2006 (NFP) acknowledges that the food scenario in Bangladesh has undergone major changes moving from a system involving large-scale government interventions to a more market-oriented system, with public food distribution increasingly targeted to those households which are most in need. The focus of the government policy has also gradually expanded to include major efforts to improving the nutritional status of children and women and nutrition education for all; Objective 3 of the NFP focuses on ensuring adequate nutrition for all (especially women and children). Given the nature of the rural economy, food insecurity is directly related to basic food production, increase in population and decrease in cultivable land and given poverty levels in Bangladesh these factors create a complex environment for national food security (National Food Policy of the Government of Bangladesh, 2006).

- The **Gender Policy of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**, 2016 mentions that the Department of Environment (DoE) prioritizes women through its various projects and programmes. The policy notes that women, children and person with disability/excluded group's needs must be articulated in the Development Project Proposals (DPP) of DoE. The aim is to systematically analyze gender relations within a community and identify issues and barriers facing women in the community and to focus on women's access to and control over income and resources, and children and disable/excluded group's needs in terms of security, health care, food security and nutrition (Gender Policy of Ministry of Environment and Forest, 2011).
- The **Bangladesh Seventh Five Year Plan (7FYP)**, includes a specific chapter on gender and food security: Chapter 4 Strategies for agriculture and water resources focused on mainstreaming women in agriculture: Women are crucial in the transformation of agricultural products into food and nutritional security in Bangladesh. This section of the FYP notes that gender-based inequalities along the food production chain must be reduced and the active engagement of women at all levels of decision making is necessary to attain food and nutritional security. Special policies and provisions are often required to ensure that women have control over important income generating activities, these could include: 'Developing women friendly technology and business environment; More women participation in market transaction; Capacity development of women for small-scale entrepreneurships; Collective action and market linkages; Supporting homestead agricultural value addition strategies; Recruit more women agricultural workers and increase their participation in the technology innovation; and Protection of women and children from health hazards during agricultural operation' (pg. 276).
- The **Bangladesh Climate Change Strategic and Action Plan (BCCSAP)**, 2009 states that every effort shall be made to ensure that vulnerable groups will be protected and that all programmes will focus on food security, safe housing, employment and access to basic services, including health for all. Under this pillar the aim is to increase the resilience of vulnerable groups, including women and children, through development of community level adaptation, livelihood diversification, better access to basic services and social protection (eg. Safety nets, insurance) and scaling up.
- The **Perspective Plan of Bangladesh 2010-2021**, under Section 1.5 of development priorities, it is mentioned that to ensure food security, access to food will be assured with particular attention given to addressing the multiple food insecurities that women, disabled, and girl children face. Under Section 11.3: Promoting Improved Nutrition it states that 'from a nutritional standpoint, food security is ensured when all individuals in all households have the resources to obtain adequate, appropriate, and safe food for a balanced diet and good physical condition that enables proper utilization of food'. Changes in nutrition status could take place mainly through decent employment and income generation, as well as improved decision-making by women when they spend the household income.

Key development partners also articulate the relationship between gender and food security in their key policies and documents. Within FAO's Country Programming Framework (2014-2018) for Bangladesh, Priority 1: Reduce poverty and enhance food security and nutrition (access and utilization) states that special focus will be given to women as primary caregivers. Ensuring women's participation as key to tackling food insecurity and under-nutrition is a major part of priority 1. Improving women's access to productive resources has been shown to be particularly effective in increasing agricultural production and reducing poverty. The aim is to create capacity within the GoB to design, implement and monitor policies and programme in food security and nutrition.

CARE Bangladesh implements one of the biggest food security programs in the world - SHOUHARDO II. This project is assisting the poorest, most vulnerable and marginalized households to reduce chronic and transitory food insecurity through increasing and diversifying income opportunities and strengthening institutional linkages. FSUP-H: is another project that was specifically aligned with

CARE Bangladesh's vision by focusing on the economic empowerment of the most marginalized and poorest women and their dependents in the Haor region to alleviate food insecurity (Care Bangladesh, 2018).

BRAC, one of Bangladesh's largest non-government organizations, implements an agriculture and food security programme (AFSP) which works with the government to achieve and sustain food security. To achieve food security, BRAC seeks to increase food production through the development and cultivation of hybrid varieties of different crops. AFSP has been promoting the concept of nutri-gardening by engaging 56 600 rural women on year-round cultivation of nutrient dense and naturally fortified fruits and vegetables within homesteads. Trainings are provided to them for raising awareness of safe and organic food production.

The Gender Perspective of Disaster Management in Bangladesh

Bangladesh has led the way in disaster management across the region and the world for many years. However, there is still evidence that women and socially marginalized groups do not benefit or participate equally in disaster management. There are a number of factors which impede women's ability to cope with climate-related disasters, these include: i. limited access to early warning information; ii. limited access to critical services and facilities (i.e., shelters with adequate spaces for women and with proper sanitation); iii. Lack of access to financial security (i.e., loans provided to women often have highly unfavorable repayment conditions); iv. limited market and communication access; v. limited access to decision-making arenas; vi. social expectations of "appropriateness" for women's actions; vii. increased responsibility for the household; and viii. difficulty in accessing relief items.

The Government of Bangladesh has made significant efforts to include gender issues in disaster management policy. In 2011 the National Women's Development Policy (NEDP) under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) included a section on women and children in disasters. The provision of Rehabilitation of Women affected by Natural Disaster and Armed Conflicts (section 16.16 of NWDP) includes special measures for the protection, safeguarding and empowerment of women and girls before, during and aftermath of any disaster situation by providing awareness raising trainings, skills and other technical support. A project was implemented by the Department of Women Affairs under MoWCA (DWA) to develop a Gender Toolkit on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in 2015 with the support of Comprehensive Disaster Management Plan (CDMP). Sectoral inputs and the chapter on climate change and disaster management as part of the formulation of the Seventh Five Year Plan (2016 –2021) also considers gender issues. Even a Gender Action Plan (ccGAP), prepared in 2013 and aligned with the BCCSAP, includes as the second pillar comprehensive disaster management. The new National Plan on Disaster Management provides enhanced strategic guidance on gender issues for mainstreaming in key sectoral areas in terms of disaster risk reduction; " with sensitivity to gender, disability, age and other vulnerabilities".

Further, the revised Standing Orders on Disaster (SOD), under the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), identifies key gender concerns within disaster management and guidelines to be followed by each responsible government departments, ministries and sub-national bodies including communities. Led by CDMP Phase Two, work is in progress to mainstream gender issues and women's participation in particular in disaster management with the support of DWA. One achievement has been the appointment of approximately 16 500 women (one third out of the 50,000) as part of the Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) volunteers who are actively involved in raising community awareness and preparedness on disasters in rural Bangladesh. In the urban context, the Government has taken initiatives to create a pool of 62,000 Urban Volunteers with one third of the positions allocated for women representatives.

Moreover, many capacity building initiatives of the GoB and other organizations increasingly emphasize gender issues in general and gender in DRR in particular. Academic institutions in Bangladesh have been incorporating gender and DRR issues in their curriculums. Despite these efforts gender and DRR related activities often remain in limited profile and women continue to be viewed from vulnerability lens rather than from a resilience perspective.

The Gender Perspective of Social Protection in Bangladesh

In recent years, Bangladesh has achieved significant socio-economic progress and one remarkable achievement includes the allocation of resources to social protection (SP) which includes food and cash transfers for extremely poor and vulnerable households. However, given the severe impacts of climate change and disasters, increasingly Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) is being embedded into sectoral policies and plans. ASP is where social protection overlaps with elements of climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) to ensure those most vulnerable and marginalized are reached.

Major social protection programmes such as Vulnerable Group Development (VGD), Employment Generation Program for the Poorest (EGPP) and Food For Work/Cash for Work have been essential for promoting employment and reducing poverty among underprivileged women in rural Bangladesh. Through the Department of Social Services, the Ministry of Social Welfare provides interest-free microcredit for different groups of women. The Department of Social Services also provides allowances for the elderly, for widows, deserted wives, and distressed women. MoWCA implements allowances for working lactating mothers; maternity allowances for the ultra-poor and pregnant women; and food assistance to vulnerable women under VGD programmes. Field data show that among low-income urban lactating mothers, most of these allowances are used for family needs, which characterizes this programme as ‘partially ASP’ however there is more explicit focus on CCA and DRR that could be made. The One House One Farm (OHOF) initiatives under the Rural Development and Co-operatives Division, implements women-sensitive programmes that also touch upon DRR and CCA issues. Poultry and cattle farming are the two most important programme activities in which women are directly involved.

The newly adopted National Social Security Strategy (2018) NSSS broadens the scope of ‘social security’ from the narrow concept of safety nets to include employment policies and social insurance, thereby addressing the needs of a middle-income country. NSSS adopts a life-cycle approach, consolidating programmes within a small number of priority schemes. NSSS benefits are designed to be non-discriminatory, available to all poor and vulnerable people who satisfy the income and other selection criteria relating to life-cycle or disability, irrespective of religion, ethnicity, profession or location. It seeks to modernize the Bangladesh social security by combining tax-funded safety net programme with contributory social insurance and employment regulations to protect the workers. However, the NSSS fails to consider how climate change or disasters are integrated into the strategies and programmes.

In terms of explicit reference to ASP within climate change and DRR policies, the Government developed the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) in 2005 which includes special attention to better access to basic services and social protection. In 2009, the BCCSAP was adopted which lists ASP as one of the cross-cutting issues among others to be addressed (others include gender, research, education, awareness and communication, monitoring and evaluation, climate financing, and knowledge management). Within Bangladesh’s Seventh Five Year Plan (7FYP), there is an emphasis on human development, social protection and social inclusion as essential elements of a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy and identifies where social protection needs to address women specifically, including with increased protection and resilience from crises and shocks. The 7FYP references women’s vulnerability and needs in post-disaster recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation, in reducing the underlying risks and mitigating the effects of climate change and disasters. However, the overall targets fail to acknowledge the disproportionate impacts on women and men.

The Gender Perspective of Infrastructure Development in Bangladesh

An analysis of gender integration in infrastructure projects in Bangladesh suggests that integrating a gender lens into infrastructure to date has mostly been in partnership with development partners and through project implementation rather than within government policies and strategies. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) for example have supported infrastructure projects in Bangladesh which have been particularly effective in promoting gender equality where results include women's enhanced access to education and health care, and the promotion of women's economic empowerment. The \$206 million Second Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project for example, which aims to improve roads in the Chittagong, Dhaka, and Rajshahi divisions increased livelihood opportunities by building dedicated sections for women market stall operators and training for women in business management and other income-generating skills. The road improvements also contributed to an increase the enrollment of girls in schools near the project site and made it safer and easier for women to go to and from work.

The Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL), an organization promoting public private partnerships for infrastructure development in Bangladesh, also prioritizes gender equality issues in their efforts to improve the standard of living through sustainable and environment-friendly investments. IDCOL has a range of projects which specifically aim to increase women's access to clean technologies which include an Improved Cook Stove programme (see Box 1) and the Solar Home System (SHS) programme both of which aim to free up women's time for pursuing leisure activities and/or income generating activities. Other initiatives through the Bangladesh Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) in conjunction with development partners aim to include women in decision making within the infrastructure project design as well as the benefits of construction. For example, women's needs and priorities were considered in the design of women's market corners, flood shelters and ghats as well as women's involvement in the operations of infrastructure projects through training and employment opportunities.

Box 1: IDCOL's Improved Cook Stove (ICS) Programme

According to World Health Organization estimates, over 4.3 million die annually from Indoor Air Pollution (IAP) related issues globally. In Bangladesh alone - there are over 107,000 deaths annually because of IAP, the prime cause being traditional wood fired stoves. An Improved Cook Stoves (ICS) program in Bangladesh has helped install more than 1.6 million cleaner and more efficient cookstoves in homes around the country, leading to significant health benefits for women and children by helping reduce indoor air pollution drastically. The cookstoves have also helped families spend less on fuel (like firewood and dung) and has led to women spending less time in the kitchen.

Despite health and economic benefits, women were reluctant to make the switch to cleaner, more efficient cookstoves due to a lack of awareness and fear that the quality and taste of their meals change as a result of the stove. But that is changing with sustained efforts through the ICS program, which began addressing the problem holistically in May 2013 by focusing on the gender and health aspects of cleaner cooking. The ICS program also began supporting women as a part of the supply chain for the cleaner cookstoves, helping them generate an income from the sale of stoves and in turn, reducing poverty in rural households.

The ICS program was developed by IDCOL in partnership with the World Bank to mobilize a network of local entrepreneurs, partners and financing which led to the success of the program. The program brings together financing from International Development Association (IDA) and Green Climate Fund (GCF) in Phase II of the program to scale it up.

Gender Action Plans (GAP) have also been designed and included in infrastructure projects implemented by the United Nations in Bangladesh. UNICEF has developed a Gender Action Plan (GAP) to ensure women's increased participation in planning and also access as users of infrastructure.

There are also quotas for women's participation in construction, management and maintenance and inputs from a gender perspective on the design of spaces such as women only areas, access to lavatories and hygiene facilities.

Findings: ccGAP progress review

This section of the report presents the findings on the ccGAP implementation. It is structured by key agencies (Government ministries and public/private partnership) to uncover to what extent the ccGAP has been implemented, what other efforts the respective agency has made to integrate gender equality (both projects and policy) and an analysis of the institutional capacity for integrating gender in climate change action.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)

Department of Environment (DoE)

Implementation of the ccGAP

According to representatives of DoE, activities and programmes of the Department are not always aligned with the ccGAP. DoE have not taken any systematic approach to implementing the ccGAP, although some gender aspects are included in a number of different projects implemented by DoE. From the consultations and documents reviewed it was not evident if there was any monitoring mechanism in place for ccGAP implementation. Despite the lack of adoption and implementation of the specific activities under the ccGAP, the DoE has some budget for gender-related activities. LGED also reportedly incorporates gender in their work; there is a government mandate that 30% of project beneficiaries are women. There are also a number of climate change projects funded by donor agencies, but gender as a separate and individual element is not common in these projects.

In the consultations, data shortage was highlighted as a major challenge by most government officials, and the representative from DoE mentioned the need to collect disaggregated data to monitor SDG 5 and to implement Bangladesh's National Gender Action Plan. The current vulnerability assessment underway by DoE will collect disaggregated data; however, a system for regular collection of sex, age, disability disaggregated data (SADDD) is not yet in place.

Feedback from DoE representatives regarding how to improve the uptake and effectiveness of the ccGAP included:

- a) Need to be more consistent with global gender and climate change policies and agendas;
- b) Different agencies require capacity building regarding the implementation of the ccGAP and there needs to be coordination amongst all gender focal points in all ministries. Further, gender focal point responsibilities should not only be designated for women but also men; and
- c) The integration of ccGAP with other gender-related and sustainable development priorities is needed. A revised ccGAP needs to be aligned all the thematic areas of the revised BCCSAP and the implementation of the SDGs.

Overall, the ccGAP is not a well-known plan amongst officials of MoEFCC as it was produced ten years ago. Respondents noted that they are not aware if actions under the ccGAP have been taken up by other ministries. While four out of the six thematic pillars of BCCSAP were addressed in the ccGAP, there was no action plan or associated budget to ensure the implementation of the plan within MoEFCC or other ministries.

Policy and Ministerial Capacity

In regard to policy development, DoE aims to incorporate gender within its policy documents. For example, the Environment Policy (2018) has a gender component and the NAP includes reference to vulnerable groups, including women, children and disabled groups (the respondent was not sure about the inclusion of non-binary gender groups). In general, however, the perception of gender issues still means 'women's issues' and this area is usually delegated to a focal point to handle. Within DoE, there

are gender focal points, but this appointment can change and the same person does not represent the department as the gender focal point at all levels within the department or at events. This inconsistency means building the capacity of individuals is insufficient to create change.¹

More effort is being taken to integrate gender into the new environmental policies being developed by the DoE. For example, the original BCCSAP did not sufficiently address gender issues, however the revised document is expected to pay greater attention to gender (the revised BCCSAP is pending finalization within the Ministry). Donors are also playing a role in advocating for the inclusion of gender in programmes in which they fund. This is particularly true for quotas on women's participation in programmes and often these quotas and mandates drive the change in practice within the department.

Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoMDR)

Department of Disaster Management (DDM)

Implementation of the ccGAP

Findings from DRR policy and programme review in conjunction with the consultations suggest that MoMDR have not aligned their work to the ccGAP, as it was not produced by them, neither were they actively engaged in its production. Thus, MoMDR has not reflected ccGAP in any of their existing policies or programmes, although MoMDR has been trying to address gender in some of their disaster/climate change adaptation actions. Respondents from MoMDR pointed out that the ccGAP has not been circulated widely and no practical guidance exists for sectors to be able to take up the actions.

MoMDR does however have specific projects that address gender and climate change/disasters. For example, the National Resilience Programme (NRP) under DDM has four components one of which is to incorporate gender responsive actions in DRR. The Department also has an Earthquake Resilient Contingent Plan, where gender is a major consideration. The plan suggests that people of different gender and disadvantaged groups have specific requirements that need to be acknowledged and taken into consideration when planning. The gender consultant under this project reported to be aware of the ccGAP and has integrated components of it into DDM's Plan.

Policy and Ministerial Capacity

According to representatives from the DDM, gender is usually under the umbrella of vulnerable people and when making decisions about disaster management people who fall into the 'vulnerable' category are prioritized. The disabled, the elderly, children and women all fall under the 'vulnerable group' category. Usually MoMDR and DDM have a specific gender focal point and gender components are embedded into projects. Many of the projects have additional gender specialists within project teams. For example, the NRP project has a gender consultant for the project. Gender budgeting is was also raised in the consultation and while gender responsive budgeting (GRB) is not a new concept to DDM, no fund is specifically allocated for gender related activities alone and GRB is not used in practice yet. Some project budgets have a gender component embedded within them and an associated budget and for children, there is special budget allocated by the Ministry of Finance to ensure children's rights and needs are met in DRR.

The Standing Order on Disasters (SODs), a key instrument of MoMDR, is currently being updated and gender issues are included within the existing and revised text according to the respondent. Participation and leadership of all social groups is noted and integrated within the SODs, however current strategies to implement the SODs continue to lack depth within the context and situational analysis. At present MoMDR are taking initiative to conduct DRR impact analysis in key hotspots to mediate this gap. Further in relation to context analysis and specifically data, it was found that similarly to DoE, SADD

¹ DoE also has an internal Gender Policy 2016 which aims to create a comfortable environment for women working in the organization. In that regard DoE plans to establish a childcare center for employees, to relieve the burden of childcare on women. No other information was provided about the gender policy and its application.

is not collected in any systematic way. Data is collected on project basis and only if required, the collection goes beyond the household level. In order to monitor gender or climate change related information within their projects, DDM do not have specific guidelines as they currently use a 'D-form' which is widely completed after all disasters and relevant information is collected. Respondents noted there is a desire and need to collect SADD and at present DDM are working with the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics to develop indicators to monitor the Sendai Framework.

Institutionally, while gender training is usually provided to the staff to sensitize them on gender-related issues. While it was noted there is a lot left to do, it was also acknowledged that the gender agenda has moved forward. Twenty years ago, cyclone shelters did not have separate floors and toilets for women and men; whereas now it has rooms available for lactating mothers and cyclone shelters being built now will have facilities for disability access. This is a big step towards gender-responsive and inclusive disaster management.

Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE)

Implementation of the ccGAP

Respondents of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) noted the major challenges in implementing ccGAP has been the lack of sector specific goals as well as insufficient dissemination of the ccGAP among key ministries. The respondent noted there was an absence of overall guidance and support or follow up from the responsible authorities. Despite food security and agriculture being prioritized under the ccGAP, DAE respondents suggest the ccGAP was not properly owned by sectoral ministries and departments which has led to a lack of implementation.

DAE mentioned that gender has been considered in different livelihood adaptation and mitigation projects in the past however these are not necessarily aligned with or as part of the ccGAP. As women make a significant contribution to the agriculture sector, DAE aims to promote women's participation in projects. For example, a project on climate services in partnership with the World Bank named "Agro-Meteorological Information Systems Development Project" aims to strengthen the capacity of the Government of Bangladesh to deliver reliable weather, water and climate information services and improve access to such services by priority sectors and communities. DAE mentioned that as per the donor requirements of this project they have to ensure a certain percentage of women participate in the project.

Policy and Ministerial Capacity

DAE conceptualize "gender" as "women" in most of their project activities and there is still a ways to go to change the mindsets and the priorities of integrating gender issues into DAE activities. While DAE noted women have been performing a significant role in the agricultural harvesting process, especially in the post harvesting time, their contribution often goes unrecognized. Women can work side by side male farmers to prepare the crops but most of the time are not paid for their work. DAE respondents believe the first step needs to be acknowledgement and respect for women's contribution in agriculture in Bangladesh and then policies and programmes will follow and reflect this change.

DAE as an institution does not have any internal policies on gender or climate change despite acknowledging the importance of gender issues into agriculture sector. The Department does have an appointed person for supervising the gender components and policies in all the actions of DAE but to date, this representative has not worked with ccGAP or integrated any components from the Plan into DAE activities. At this time, DAE does not also have any allocated systematic budget line for gender issues and most of the activities are project based with project activity budgets in place.

DAE has not previously help any capacity building initiatives in the Department on gender and climate change issues but government mandates exist on mainstreaming gender and ensuring women's

participation in all activities. As per the new revised strategic plan of DAE, there will be initiatives on mainstreaming gender aspects and climate change issues in the department. DAE representatives also mentioned that under the National Agricultural Technology Program- Phase ii there are two new safeguard policies on environment and social security. But this document does not elaborately discuss the issues of climate change, women and marginalized groups.

Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA)

Department of Women's Affairs (DWA)

Implementation of the ccGAP

The MoWCA respondent reported they had not implemented the ccGAP as they were not aware of or been given any orientation to the Plan. The respondent felt there would be no challenges to integrate the ccGAP into DWA projects as there are numerous policies at the national level that acknowledge gender issues in climate change action and work in this area has already begun. However, a lack of implementation of the existing national and sectoral policies on gender issues in climate change along with the capacity of individuals remains a challenge.

DWA implement a number of social safety net programmes that cross over with the gender and climate change agenda. The Investment Component for Vulnerable Group Development (ICVGD) is one of the largest safety net programmes in Bangladesh targeting extremely poor and vulnerable women, many of whom would be based in climate affected regions. The programme aims to increase the earning potential and social empowerment of the most disadvantaged rural women.

DWA also has a few projects which are working with the vulnerable communities to address the issues of climate change. "Enhancing adaptive capacities of coastal communities, especially women, to cope with climate change induced salinity" funded by the Green Climate Fund is implemented in coastal communities. The project aims to enhance the adaptive capacities of extremely poor, coastal communities, especially women, who are most vulnerable to climate change, to cope with the increasing impacts of climate change induced salinity on their freshwater-reliant lives and livelihoods.

Policy and Ministerial Capacity

MoWCA does not have any internal policy on gender or climate change rather they follow the national mandates or policies such as the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, the National Plan of Action to implement the National Women Development Policy, the GoB 7FYP and others. Further, MoWCA currently has one representative who deals with gender integration into project designs and at this time, there is no specific allocated budget for gender and climate change activities. As with other Departments interviewed, most activities are project based which have their specific budget allocations.

At this time, MoWCA does not keep collect or store SADDD and the respondent notes that in fact monitoring systems in general remain weak. A lack of gender responsive indicators at the national level for ministries to adopt is one barrier that exists for MoWCA; BBS also identified this gap in the data gap analysis of SDGs. In terms of gender responsive budgeting, more activities are underway as MoWCA is assisting in the preparation of a gender responsive budget where 5-6 ministries will collaborate and pilot the initiative. They aim to maintain a 40%-60% budget allocation for gender related activities and will pursue transparency and accountability of this budget.

Public/Private Institution

Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL)

Implementation of the ccGAP

Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL) noted that similar to other stakeholders, they were not aware of the ccGAP and therefore have not considered the Plan in the design of their projects. Respondents noted the ccGAP is somewhat vague and not linked to on the ground realities for women in Bangladesh. IDCOL do however implement a number of their own gender and climate related projects with a focus mainly on mitigation. The representative noted that the ccGAP needs to be result oriented and sector specific for implementing its objectives in private sector. IDCOL noted that being a private/public organization, the challenges for them are different from the development sector actors. They felt that there is also a lack of accountability mechanisms for the private sector to implement rights-based and empowerment approaches and this needs to be considered in national policies going forward.

Currently, IDCOL mentioned a number of their renewable energy projects are implemented with local communities, such as the “Improved Cook Stove Program” (presented in Box 1) which works towards reducing GHG emissions, solid fuel use cooking and to decrease the impact of indoor air pollution creating positive benefits for women and children. Alongside this, IDCOL’s other flagship programme, the “Solar Home System Program” also includes several gender components and aims to improve women’s condition through safety and security provisions and alternative livelihood opportunities. They have reached over 5 million women through this project.

Policy and Capacity

IDCOL is a government owned non-banking financial institution that finances renewable infrastructure projects in Bangladesh. They conceptualize “gender” as both “men and women” and aim to promote gender equality in their work. Due to the nature of hard infrastructure jobs in IDCOL, they acknowledge the difference of capabilities between men and women and aim to offer job opportunities accordingly. To date, IDCOL does not seek out or include any non-binary groups into their project activities. They believe as the Government of Bangladesh recently acknowledged the ‘third gender’, future opportunities may exist to explicitly support these different social groups in IDCOL’s project activities.

IDCOL has their own gender policy, formulated by their HR department. The policy acknowledges that everyone in the company has equal rights regardless of their gender. Gender discrimination is not tolerated and equal opportunities are provided to all. Their HR policy also follows the international standard for a non-bias working environment and has rigid protocols against sexual harassment. IDCOL also has two gender focal points within in the company. They aim to ensure the gender and social-environmental safeguard issues are considered in project activities. However, IDCOL also outsources these tasks to ensure that relevant and up to date policies are in place. Policies related to financing and monitoring and human resources, all demonstrate a high participation rate of women, which is very visible in the company. The IDCOL representative noted despite such policies, it is still challenging to ensure equal participation of women and men in this industry.

IDCOL does not gather SADD and they noted it is difficult to keep the track of laborers hired on daily basis within their infrastructure projects. They do however have disaggregated data on their cook stove projects and solar home system project. When needed, IDCOL mostly acquire data from the population census or appoints local NGO’s to gathered the required information. IDCOL also does not have any allocated systematic budget line for gender or climate change issues. As discussed by the government departments, most often funding partners determine the budget and IDCOL are required to implement and adhere to it. While IDCOL arranges several training and capacity building workshop for its

employees, they do not provide any training or workshop specifically gender and climate change issues. The representative did express their desire to have these types of training in the future, as part of their bi-annual and safeguard briefings for employees.

Barriers and Opportunities: ccGAP

While the implementation of the ccGAP has been extremely limited, due to a variety of barriers, based on this report's findings a number of opportunities exist. With increased coordination and buy-in from different ministries in the inception of any revised or new ccGAP, the appetite and demand for pursuing gender equality in climate action exists. This matches with the need for an increased focus on the most marginalized and vulnerable populations to ensure inclusive gender-responsive resilience building for all in Bangladesh. Based on the document review and the key informant interviews, the following barriers and opportunities have been identified.

Barriers to ccGAP uptake and implementation:

- A lack of alignment with other national policies such as the FYP and other sectoral policies;
- A lack of orientation and guidance on how to implement the plan, including step-by-step instructions for relevant stakeholders and follow up support;
- Limited coordination between ministries in general and specifically on the ccGAP ambition and activities;
- Limitedly based on the ground realities for women and few concrete actions to address these realities;
- Insufficient monitoring framework to track implementation;
- Limited in-depth understanding of gender issues by stakeholders results in gender still being conceptualised as 'women's issues' and hence, limited prioritisation of gender equality programming.

Opportunities for forwarding the gender and climate change agenda:

- A number of stakeholders agreed that gender and climate change issues need to be prioritised as Bangladesh continues to face the impacts of climate-related events;
- Linking the international gender and climate change agenda, including the SDGs, the Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework and Bangladesh's FYP may serve to increase the uptake and implementation of any revised or future ccGAP;
- The development of a capacity building program and learning platform to support policymakers and civil society in the design and implementation of gender-responsive policies and actions: capacity building mechanisms should ensure outreach to and participation of women and women's organizations, and gender experts in, for example, partnership dialogues, to ensure gender-responsive approaches and tools are incorporated into scientific and technological advice.

ANNEX: I

Key Informant Interviews: schedule of questions

Below is a list of general questions that were posed in the interview. In addition to these, specific questions for each Ministry were also formulated and posed.

General questions

1. What is the institutional arrangements in your Ministry/Department to work on gender and climate change issues?
2. Have you heard of or your work aligned to the ccGAP?
3. Is there any specific projects in your ministry/department addressing the area of gender and climate change?
4. If yes, what is the name of the project (s)? What are the key objectives and working areas of the project?
5. Is it linked with MoEFCC or ccGAP in any way?
6. Who is the focal person to look after gender and CC in your ministry/department?
7. Do you allocate systematic budget line for gender and CC? What is the budget portion right now?
8. Do you have any specific indicators that you use to monitor gender and CC in your project?
9. Please mention some of the indicators or monitoring methods that you use in your respective department?
10. Do you have any success stories on gender and CC?
11. What are the existing policies/business regulations in your Ministry/Department for integration of gender and CC?
12. Do you consult with national level women machineries/mechanisms for any work related to gender and CC?
13. How do you report the progress on gender and CC in your project/work?
14. Do you face any challenges for integrating the gender and CC in your projects?
15. What are the lessons learned from your experiences?
16. What are the mechanisms to connect national level to local level/local government work under your Ministry for gender and CC related work?
17. How do you collect sex and age disaggregated data in your project on gender and CC?
18. Do you have any internal capacity building initiatives in your Dept/Ministries on gender and CC?
19. Do you have any social security/protection/safety-net programme delivered by your department/ministry and how do they incorporate the issues of women, gender and CC?
20. Any specific recommendations?