



**GENDER**  
IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION  
Bangladesh

# RAPID GENDER ANALYSIS OF NORTH AND SOUTH EASTERN FLOODS

Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group  
Bangladesh

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The North and Southeastern flood has been unprecedented in its nature, severity, and timing affecting 11 districts in August 2024. It claimed 59 lives and affected 5.8 million people. In the affected areas, 3.05 million women and 78,362 pregnant women are most most vulnerable.

GiHA Working Group has undertaken this Rapid Gender Analysis to (i) analyse the differential impacts of the flood on women, men, girls, boys, people with disabilities, and people from gender-diverse groups; (ii) inform the HRP programming and implementation based on the differential needs of different genders and most vulnerable groups; and (iii) facilitate advocacy for a more gender-responsive preparedness, response, and recovery plans.

This RGA focuses on four key areas: 1) Shelter/Housing; 2) WASH; 3) Food security and income 4) Safety and Security of Women and Girls.

## KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**Shelter and Housing:** the flood displaced 502,501 people of whom 3000 were still in shelters until the beginning of September; 153,738 houses were partially damaged and 53,581 fully destroyed. People moved out of the temporary shelters only to find themselves in unlivable houses where all their belongings, including bedding and blankets, were all wet and soiled. They need immediate support with house repair and reconstruction to live with some dignity and protection

- Immediate recommendations - **shelter materials, cash grants** especially to families from charlands and female-headed households and families with adolescent girls; **hosting support** to families sheltering affected families; **'safe spaces'** in shelters for women, girls, and lactating mothers.
- Long Term recommendations – introduce **Build Back better techniques**, to make the repaired and reconstructed houses more resilient to floods through training and in-kind support; Cash for Work (CFW) for raising/repairing plinths and other house repairing/reconstruction work; prioritising female-headed and elderly households.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:** the flood severely damaged the water and sanitation facilities. The care burden has substantially increased for women and girls. In the absence of WASH facilities and contaminated water women and girls are at risk of urinary and reproductive tract infection, while they lack menstrual hygiene management materials. Water sources have been contaminated by fecal waste, oil, agricultural chemicals, industrial waste, and other substances. Women and girls face GBV risks related to accessing toilets and sanitation points outside the home, many times in community places. 7000 schools were closed affecting 1,750,000 primary students across the affected districts; repairing the toilet facilities in those schools is a prerequisite to get the girls back to school.

- Immediate recommendations - Supply water purifying tablets (**WPT**); include **messages on gender inclusivity, and equitable share of WASH chores at HH level** during distribution; ensure **privacy and safety for women and girls bathing spaces**, by ensuring lighting, lock, proper fencing; **hygiene Kits; women and girls' participation** in installation of water points and mobile latrines; **Multipurpose cash** support.
- Long Term recommendations: **flood preparedness programme**; women to receive **relevant knowledge and messages** to maintain proper hygiene during disasters; **changing perception about women** as a potential leaders having representation in decision making. Use WASH interventions for **broader transformational change** towards gender equality.



**Food Security and Income:** Floods have significantly damaged crop lands, with Feni and Noakhali districts alone witnessing 81,675 hectares damaged. This is impacting people's food security as they are reliant on the little humanitarian aid available. Cooking stoves of many households have been damaged beyond usage. Few stoves which were usable were being shared between households to cook food. At places people did not eat a proper cooked meal in ten days. Further, farmers will face difficulty replanting as their fields will continue to be flooded. Livestock has been heavily damaged which deepened the food crisis, as livestock is a source of food and income. The Department of Livestock in the Eastern region estimates a loss of livestock amounting to 26 million USD. The fisheries sector, a major source of both nutrition and income for communities, in 10 districts suffered losses estimated at 121.6 million USD according to the Department of Fisheries (DOF)<sup>3</sup>. On the other hand, women, who form a significant portion of the agricultural workforce, have been disproportionately affected by the destruction of crops and farmlands, and the inability to plant the next crops. In Noakhali, where 24.43% of the agricultural workforce comprises women, the devastation has stripped them of their livelihoods. Along with these market disruptions have isolated communities. Infrastructure damage has hindered transportation of goods, leading to acute shortages of food and other essentials, resulting in a spike in food prices. Women-owned small enterprises, has been particularly hit hard.

- **Immediate recommendation:** **food packages** including baby food, and cooking fuel (e.g. fuel wood), for pregnant and lactating women, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and female-headed households; **cash assistance**; providing **seeds, and other inputs** including tools to women farmers to restart agricultural works; **cash-for-work** prioritising female-headed households assisting their income earning.
- **Long Term recommendations:** **climate-resilient agriculture** supporting women farmers, introducing flood-resistant crops, and providing training on sustainable practices; **women fish farmers inclusion** in fisheries rehabilitation; rebuilding **infrastructure with gender considerations**.

**Safety and Security of Women and Girls:** An estimated 1.63 million reproductive-age women, including 444,600 adolescent girls aged 10 to 19, have been impacted by the flood<sup>4</sup>. The flood affected physical and mental health of women and children. The risk of child marriage, hazardous child labour, GBV, and different forms of child exploitation has increased significantly. Elders in shelters were reportedly guarding young girls and boys. Many women didn't evacuate to shelters because they were concerned about the community living and family honour. In some cases, people did not get space in shelters either those were overcrowded or some powerful groups preferred some people over others in allocating spaces. Shelters had poor facilities: no separate toilets for women, no electricity, and no privacy for lactating mothers. Roads and other means of communication were severely disrupted, making women's mobility all the more difficult. There is an acute need for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in the affected communities.

- **Immediate recommendation:** Deployment of **trained (in GBV in Emergency) female volunteers**; skilled **midwives** in medical teams; **boats** for pregnant women to reach health facilities; **Psychological First Aid (PFA) trained** social workers; **dignity kits**; **safe and private spaces** for women including breastfeeding mothers, girls, children, and gender diverse groups; **reporting channels for GBV**.
- **Long Term recommendations:** **Specialised law enforcement officers** to assist adolescents, children, women, and persons with disabilities; mental **health and psychosocial support** (MHPSS) for women and children; improved **early warning systems**; **women in school committees** to reduce child marriage, dropout of girls; **community-based protection approaches** (CBP) for child protection and GBV prevention.

**Set up GiHA Chapters in most disaster-prone districts of all divisions**

# I. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. Background

The heavy rainfall combined with the release of water from upstream led to severe flooding in the North-Eastern and southeastern parts of Bangladesh in August 2024, which has been unprecedented for the affected area in terms of its nature, timing, and severity. Some 528 Union of 73 Upazilas in 11 Districts (Moulvibazar, Habiganj, Sylhet, Feni, Cumilla, Noakhali, Khagrachhari, Brahmanbaria, Chattogram, Lakshmipur, and Cox's Bazar) have been affected. Some 5.82 million people have been affected with 59 deaths. In the affected areas, 3.05 million women and more than 78000 pregnant women ARE vulnerable. The flood severely affected shelter/housing; health; food security; water, sanitation and hygiene services; nutrition; education; and child protection in the affected Chittagong and Sylhet Divisions.

## 1.2. Objectives

This rapid gender analysis (RGA) has the following key objectives:

- To analyse and understand the differential impacts of the floods on women, men, girls, boys, people with disabilities, and people from gender-diverse groups in the most affected districts.
- To inform the HRP/cyclone response programming based on the differential needs of women, men, girls, boys, and people with disabilities, and the gender-diverse groups.
- To facilitate advocacy for a more gender-responsive preparedness, response, and recovery plan.

## 1.3. Methodology

The GIHA working group decided to undertake an RGA at an ad hoc meeting held on 2 September with the acting Director General of the Department of Women Affairs as the chair. The objective was to understand the gendered needs of the affected populations including women, girls, people with disabilities and gender diverse groups. The RGA was undertaken from 10 September to 17 September 2024. It's mostly based on field visit reports, and observations and experience from emergency responses of different member agencies. Given the intensity of the flooding and the availability of information, the RGA task team decided not to collect primary data at this point. Based on the RGA framework, experts of the GIHA working group reviewed and analysed the secondary data from the Rapid Assessment (RA) of the Need Assessment Working Group (NAWG) and different reports of various clusters and organisations for preparing this report.

It is expected that the RGA will supplement the needs assessment findings of Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) and appropriate measures will be undertaken by relevant stakeholders to address the specific needs of women girls and gender diverse groups as per the recommendations of the RGA.

GiHA working group do not have any local (district level) chapter in the areas affected by this flood, which has been a limiting factor in getting grass root information, specific to women and girls.



Pc: Marija Masud, WFP

# II. FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

## 2.1. Shelter and Housing

Due to the flood approximately 5.8 million people are affected by recent flooding with over 1 million individuals have been isolated in flood-impacted areas (NDRCC report, 3 September 2024). Among them, 502,501 people have been displaced and some 3,000 people were still residing in shelter centres (till beginning of September). According to a shelter cluster report (2 September 2024), in 11 districts 153,738 partially damaged Houses 53,581 fully damaged houses and some are washed away. Large areas remain submerged including roads and infrastructures. Power outages and connectivity issues continued to affect communication and coordination efforts. From the different field visit reports, it was found that people are initiating to leave the shelters gradually but due to severe damage to houses most of them are not livable; personal belongings such as clothing, bed sheets, blankets, and pillows are all wet, dirty, and unusable. Many of the women, children and aged persons are residing in flood shelters, or in neighbour or relatives' houses. These makeshift arrangements are not safe for women and adolescent girls. Families living in dilapidated, broken houses are equally unsafe. Thus, this acute problem of lack of safe housing is particularly putting women and girls in the crisis of lack of protection. As such to all the women and girls, repairing and reconstruction of houses is the primary need of the hour.

## 2.2. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Facilities

The floods resulted in severe disruption to water, sanitation and hygiene service for women, girls, children, and gender diverse groups. Thousands of families have been displaced with 3.05 million women, 72,467 people with disability, and 78,362 pregnant and lactating women at risk due to serious damage to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure. Women and girls with their traditional roles as primary caregivers and roles in cooking, cleaning and collecting water, household chores related to washing, bathing, childcare work, etc. are with increased care burden with damaged and destroyed WASH facilities including contaminated water. Women and girls under such circumstances face the risk of urinary and reproductive tract infections along with the generic risks of waterborne diseases. Moreover, women and girls suffer from a lack of menstrual hygiene materials, lack of privacy, and lack of toilet and bathing facilities. As a result, women's and girl's safety and security and the risk of GBV remain a major concern.

According to SitRep 2 of NAWG over 7000 schools are closed due to flooding, affecting 1,750,000 primary students across the affected districts with significant damage to WASH facilities. Given this, ensuring repairs of both boys' and girls' toilets with soap and useable water points are critical for children to get them back to school. Some 163,000 latrines have been damaged and destroyed due to flooding. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services have been severely impacted in 520 unions of 7 districts, where majority of WASH facilities were still (beginning of September) under water. Water sources have also been heavily damaged or destroyed, and many have been contaminated by faecal waste, oil, agricultural chemicals, industrial waste, and other substances. In collaboration with UNICEF, DPHE distributed 3.6 million water purification tablets (WPTs), 3,766 Hygiene Kits in flood-affected districts. More than 160,000 leaflets have been distributed together with WPTs (water purification tablets) with messaging on the usages of WPTs. Temporary water points and mobile latrines have been put in place in the flood shelters.



### 2.3. Food Security and Income

The flood has caused extensive devastation to agricultural land, livestock, and fisheries, severely disrupting the food systems, which has both immediate and long-term implications for food security.

#### Food Security

**Crop Destruction:** In Kurigram (Northern Bangladesh), the floods submerged 7,350 hectares of crops, including paddy and vegetable farms. According to SitRep 1 of the Food security cluster, In the Eastern region, particularly in Feni and Noakhali districts, approximately 81,675<sup>1</sup> hectares of cropland were damaged, including essential rice varieties (Aus and Aman) and vegetables that serve as the primary source of both food and income for local farmers. This has directly affected household food availability, forcing many families to depend on emergency relief, which is very limited. This is undermining longer-term resilience, as many farmers are unable to replant for the next growing season due to water standing flood water in the farmlands, and lack of resources.

**Livestock Losses:** The death of livestock has further exacerbated the food crisis. Department of Livestock in the Eastern region estimates a loss of livestock amounting to 26 million USD<sup>2</sup>. In districts like Noakhali and Feni, floating carcasses of cattle and other livestock indicate widespread devastation of this crucial livelihood source. For many families, livestock represents both food and income. The displacement of families in the Northern region, along with their livestock, has compounded the already dire food insecurity situation. There is a crisis of fodder too, which has made this worse for livestock owners.

**Fisheries:** The fisheries sector, a major source of both nutrition and income for communities, in 10 districts suffered losses estimated at 121.6 million USD according to the Department of Fisheries (DOF)<sup>3</sup>. The destruction of fish farms poses long-term consequences for both income generation and local food availability, threatening the nutritional security of affected communities.

#### Income Crisis:

The flood has severely reduced income-generating activities, particularly for those engaged in agriculture, fisheries, and the informal labour market. The widespread destruction of farmlands and fisheries has led to immediate income losses, with long-term economic repercussions expected for vulnerable populations, particularly women and marginalised groups.

**Agricultural Workers and Farmers:** Women, who form a significant portion of the agricultural workforce, have been disproportionately affected by the destruction of crops and farmlands. In Kurigram, for example, the flooding has prevented the planting of the next crop, leaving families without a primary source of income. In Noakhali, relatively conservative area, 24.43% of the agricultural workforce is comprised of women; the flood devastation has stripped them of their livelihoods. Women are disproportionately impacted because they lack the resources (access to capital, insurance schemes, less savings than men, etc.) to recover from the shocks. Women who rely on small-scale farming are facing enormous difficulties, as they are now unable to provide for their families. The uncertainty of agricultural activities places these women in an increasingly precarious position.

**Market Disruptions:** The flood has caused extensive market disruptions in the affected districts, effectively incapacitating local markets and isolating communities. Damage to infrastructure has significantly hindered supply chains, transportation of goods, leading to acute shortages of food and

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<sup>1</sup> Food Security Cluster Sitrep Overview #1

<sup>2</sup> ibid

<sup>3</sup> ibid

other essentials. As a result, food prices have surged, rendering basic necessities unaffordable for many families. Farmers and small business owners are unable to access markets, further exacerbating the revenue crisis and deepening the economic instability in flood-affected areas.

**Small Enterprises and Informal Labour:** The destruction of small businesses, many of which are owned and operated by women, has significantly worsened financial insecurity in affected households. Cottage industries, local traders, and informal labourers in agriculture, fisheries, and construction have been unable to resume work due to the widespread damage. This has weakened the income stability of families, placing them in an increasingly precarious financial situation as the crisis continues.

**Impact on women:** The floods have disproportionately affected women and girls, particularly pregnant or lactating women. These groups face extreme difficulties in accessing food. The destruction of livelihoods in informal sectors, such as small-scale agriculture and handicrafts, where many women are employed, has increased their economic vulnerability, compounding their hardships during the ongoing crisis.

#### 2.4. Safety and Security for Women and Girls

In many places, the flood water has gone down, but the aftermath resulted in rising concerns about safety and security of women and girls. Floods have also significantly impacted children's emotional well-being. It has worsened people's financial struggles, increasing the risk of child marriage, hazardous child labour, and other forms of child exploitation. An estimated 1.63 million reproductive-age women, including 444,600 adolescent girls aged 10 to 19, have been impacted by the flood<sup>4</sup>.

There is a greater chance of violence, abuse, and exploitation—including child labour, human trafficking, and gender-based violence—as a result of displacement, overcrowded temporary shelters, and destroyed or damaged dwellings. Elders in shelters have said that they took turns watching over young girls and boys to make sure they were safe. In some places women said that if GBV occurrences happened in their communities, they would report to local leaders and government officers; however, they were unaware of any other reporting mechanisms given the existing social situation.<sup>5</sup>

A few women residing in flooded homesteads disclosed that they chose not to go to shelters. Firstly, they were concerned about the community living without barriers between men and women, which they believe is against family honour. In some cases, people realized that to save themselves they needed to go to shelters, however, by that time it was too late as the shelters were overcrowded by then. In other cases, people expressed dismay as they tried to secure a spot in the shelters, some community power dynamics came into play, and the spaces were being allocated to other people. There was little shelter management system at the place. There were insufficient facilities in the shelters anyway, there were no separate toilets for men and women and no electricity. People with disabilities, the elderly, and pregnant women face many challenges, especially in light of their reduced mobility and restricted access to basic services. It is difficult for lactating women to nurse their young infants as there is no separate space in the overcrowded shelters to do so. Neither is there any appropriate accommodation for people with disabilities in the shelters.

While socio-cultural and gender norms limit the movement of women and girls to seek crucial services like shelter and other assistance, the roads and other communication systems are also severely disrupted. Feni and Noakhali are areas where a sizable community of migrants, mostly men, live overseas. Because of the prevailing situation, many of the households rely on women to handle day-to-day affairs. However, these women frequently encounter socio-cultural limitations on their

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<sup>4</sup> PIB INTERNAL SITUATION REPORT: Gender-Transformative Flash Flood Response in Bangladesh; SitRep 12/09/2024

<sup>5</sup> Feni Noakhali, Oxfam Rapid Gender Analysis, Eastern Flash Flood, 2024

mobility and on their capacity to take decisions during emergencies to protect themselves and their children.

There is also an acute need for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in the affected communities. In addition to increasing the number of social workers working in the impacted areas to provide services in a timely and appropriate manner, law enforcement agencies, such as child advisers, GBV case workers, and police officers, need to be stationed there to continue helping women, children, and people with disabilities.

## III. RECOMMENDATIONS

### 3.1. Shelter and Housing

#### Immediate

- Provide emergency shelter materials: Tarpaulins, tents, toolkits, and fixing materials to the affected households whose houses have been completely washed out, e.g. families near the riverbank, and those living in charlands. The support should be prioritised for female-headed households and families with adolescent girls.
- Cash Grants to the most vulnerable groups, especially female-headed households and families with adolescent girls for shelter repair and reconstruction.
- Families sheltering families, whose houses have been completely destroyed, to be provided with hosting support with essential household item kits, cooking equipment, relocation aid, cash support, and assistance in expanding living spaces.
- In flood shelters create 'safe spaces' for women, children and adolescent girls to protect them from abuse, exploitation, violence, and psychosocial distress. Create a private space for lactating mothers to nurse their babies.

#### Long Term

- Technical house repairing assistance with 'Build Back Better' techniques to ensure that the repaired or reconstructed houses are protected from future flooding, upholding the dignity of its residents through in-kind support and necessary training to households needing to repair and rebuild their damaged houses.
- Cash for Work (CFW) at household level for raising/repairing plinth (floor) and undertaking masonry and other manual works of the highly damaged or destroyed houses especially of

female-headed or elderly households; reconstruction of the access roads to households through CFW, preferably with female workers participation.

### 3.2. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Facilities

#### Immediate

- Provide safe drinking water: supply Water Purifying Tablets (WPTs), and repair tubewells in areas where the water has gone down.
- During distribution, messages on gender inclusivity by the responders will add value; e.g. messages to male family members on equitable share of WASH-related household chores in the displaced and temporary shelter.
- Restore basic sanitation facilities: emergency latrines/ mobile latrines/ floating latrines
- Ensure privacy and safety for women and girls bathing spaces, ensuring lighting, lock, proper fencing, and related facilities. Hygiene Kits with Sanitary napkins or clean cloth to be made available to women and adolescent girls in affected areas and in remainder of flood shelters.
- Need to ensure women and girls' participation during the installation of temporary water points and mobile latrines in flood shelters so that they can voice their requirements related to their protection aspects
- Multipurpose cash support to meet a variety of essential needs such as disinfecting and securing housing and shelters, including water and sanitation points.

#### Long Term

- Considering the fact that flooding in the eastern area is a new experience for many residents of the areas, DPHE, the Ministry of Disaster Management, the UN system along with other stakeholders should continue the flood preparedness programme in the affected districts. Women, the primary managers of water resources at household levels even during crisis, should receive relevant knowledge and messages to avoid risk and maintain hygiene and healthy practices related to WASH.
- Changing perception towards women and girls from 'vulnerable group to potential leader group' and ensuring their representation, and involvement in decision-making for a long-term sustainable programme for all, women and girls' meaningful representation at every level of design, implementation and monitoring the WASH facilities.
- Use WASH interventions to spark broader transformational change towards gender equality by engaging women and girls in the planning, implementation and monitoring stages.

### 3.3. Food Security and Income

#### Immediate

- Distribute emergency food packages prioritising vulnerable groups, including pregnant and lactating women, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and female-headed households. Including baby food, cooking fuel (e.g. fuel wood), and culturally appropriate rations, ensuring equitable access for women and girls who often face barriers to relief, e.g. elderly women, women with young babies, females without any male member in the family, and so on.



- Expand cash assistance programs targeting female-headed households, women who were engaged in informal labour, and marginalised groups like the elderly and people with disabilities.
- Prioritise women farmers in agricultural recovery initiatives by providing seeds, and other inputs including tools where necessary for replanting and restoring income, as water has gone down in many places and farmers including women farmers are trying to restart agricultural works.
- Implement cash-for-work programs prioritising vulnerable families, including female-headed households to help them secure an income. Ensure women receive equal opportunities, and equitable wages, and access to work.
- Engage community members and local staffs of local CSOs including women-led organisations to identify the most affected, most vulnerable and most deserving members of the community and women for receiving assistance.

### Long Term

- The flood highlights the need for climate-resilient agriculture that supports women, often excluded from mainstream agricultural assistance. Introduce flood-resistant crops and provide training on sustainable practices for women farmers. Empower women to participate in agricultural recovery decision-making, ensuring access to land, resources, and technologies towards climate adaptation.
- Ensure women fish farmers and those in related activities, like fish processing and selling, are included in fisheries rehabilitation. Provide technical assistance and financial grants that address gender-specific barriers, ensuring women's equal access to training, finance, equipment, and markets, which are vital for restoring income and food security.
- Rebuild infrastructure with gender considerations, ensuring flood-resistant roads, markets, and storage facilities are safe and accessible for women traders. Engage women in the planning and implementation of infrastructure projects. Prioritise their mobility, safety, and economic needs. Rebuilding efforts should also address women's transportation and safety concerns for secure access to markets and economic opportunities.
- Making sure that women farmers receive Farmer's Cards from the Department of Agriculture, which would enable them to access government's agricultural support post disasters.

### 3.4. Safety and Security of Women and Girls

#### Immediate

- Deployment of volunteers, especially females, trained in GBV response in an emergency.
- Ensure that skilled midwives join district level medical teams to ensure that pregnant women have safe deliveries.
- Assure the provision of boats and other vehicles for pregnant women to reach health facilities.
- Deploying social workers in the impacted areas trained in PFA (psychological first aid) to provide services to women and children who have been distressed due to enduring losses from the flood.
- Establish Gender-segregated accommodation and sanitation facilities in the remainder of the flood shelters.

- Establishing safe spaces for women, girls, children and gender-diverse groups who are still displaced and living in flood shelters.
- Enabling breastfeeding spaces and other gender-friendly areas for pregnant and lactating mothers in flood shelters.
- Establishment of reporting channels for Gender-based violence, and child protection concerns.
- The Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) to repair and rehabilitate tube wells.

### Long term

- Law enforcement agencies, including child-specialized police officers, should be present in affected areas to assist vulnerable adolescents, children, women, and persons with disabilities.
- Establishment of community volunteers and formal reporting channels for addressing GBV and child protection during emergencies.
- During the flood, children are being left to deal with stress and trauma on their own. Considering the vulnerability of displaced children, the response area urgently needs more mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).
- It is necessary to establish community-based protection approaches (CBP) to involve them in child protection and GBV prevention initiatives and help to build supportive environments in preventing harmful coping mechanisms like child labour, child marriage, and sexual exploitation.
- Focusing on improving community-based early warning systems that are inclusive and accessible to all, especially women, girls, and individuals with disabilities.
- Strengthened women's involvement in school committees to reduce child marriage and dropout rates of girl students.

**A non-sectoral recommendation:** set up local chapters of GiHA WG in most disaster prone districts in all divisions of the country.

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Rapid Gender Analysis produced by OXFAM for Feni and Noakhali Districts

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The **Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) working group Bangladesh**, under the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT), is comprised of focal points from thematic clusters, and a few gender experts from national and international NGOs and local CSOs. The aim of the group is to support the realization of gender responsive programming by mainstreaming gender equality in the work of each of the thematic clusters, inter-cluster working groups and the overall joint response and preparedness efforts throughout the humanitarian action phase (emergency response preparedness, assessment, analysis, strategic planning, resource mobilization, implementation, monitoring, review, and lesson learning). The focus areas of the GiHA WG are Coordination, Technical Advice and Guidance, Advocacy, Assessment, Analysis and Monitoring, Information Sharing and Management. The working group is chaired by the Department of Women Affairs of Bangladesh and co-chaired by UN Women.

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