



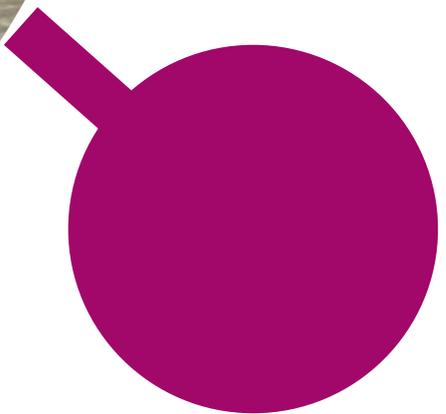
Share-Net
Bangladesh

The Knowledge Platform on
Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights



Gender Based Violence- Induced by Climate Change

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Objective

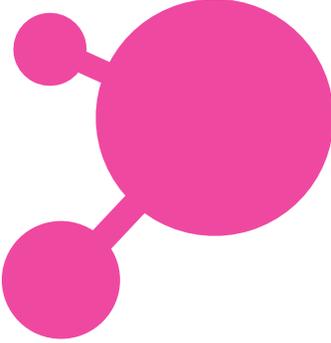
- To bring out the evidences around GBV associated with climate change
- To generate an evidence based illustration for awareness and advocacy



Methodology

- Desk research
- Scanning of Relevant government portal
- Communication with relevant Govt. agencies and non Govt. organizations working on GBV & Climate Change
- Communications with helplines administered by the government and NGOs to find the hands on information on GVB





COP 26: Gender & Climate Change

- Recognizing and celebrating gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in climate policy and action, COP 26 also marked 9th Nov as the **Gender Day** during the conference
- COP 26 strongly marked that gender equality must be at the center of the world's response to the climate crisis.

- Ending gender-based violence and securing environmental sustainability are each global priorities.
- Those two global priorities are seldom addressed together
- Understanding and addressing the linkages of these two issues is crucial for achieving global goals.





Findings from desk review

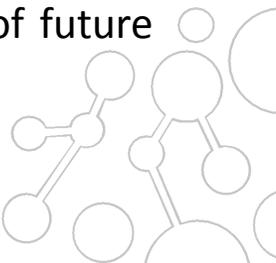
- Climate change is not gender-neutral—it affects women and men differently . Women are generally more vulnerable.
- There is a complex relationship between gender and climate change. Gender issues interface with different facets of climate change.
- Climate change exacerbate existing gender inequalities, often resulting in more negative impacts for women
- During and after disasters, women are at greater risk of GBV, including rape, sexual exploitation, and assault.
- As a demographic group, women also have low adaptive capacity, wherein their vulnerability to climate change is increased because
 - lower levels of access to financial information and productive resources
 - having few assets and inadequate resource bases
 - Women face gender-based discrimination on ownership of land and other resources, such as access to credit and technology
 - Women and girls are more exposed to and vulnerable to climate change induced disasters on account of socially constraining norms and values
 - Women’s gender roles (e.g. collecting water and fuel wood) make them more dependent on natural resources that are vulnerable to climate change
 - Culturally imposed attire constrains women’s mobility, potentially exposing them to dangers during disasters, particularly floods.





Findings from desk review Cont.

- Sexual exploitation in the form of human trafficking has notably increased in the region following natural disasters. After Cyclone Sidr in 2007, criminal networks forced number of women and girls into prostitution along the Indian border.
- Child marriages increased after Cyclone Sidr, as a means of reducing families' financial burdens.
- During flood 2020, 3.3 million people affected in 21 districts, more than 50% are women and girls (1.7 million); of them 84,195 are Female Headed Households and 101,000 are pregnant women; and 1.6 lac are girls aged between 5 and 18.
- Flood shelters accommodating around 25,377 women, likely for a prolonged period of stay, are inadequately equipped to offer protection measures for women and girls. Inadequate safety provisions remain in shelters, such as absence of separate toilet, unavailability of sanitary napkins and soaps, inadequate lights etc.
- The COVID-19 consequences alarmingly increased GBV. 4,249 women and 456 girl child in total experienced GBV in the first two months of COVID-19 appeared in Bangladesh. 672 women and 424 children who participated in the survey never experienced violence before. (MJF)
- BRAC found that CM increased by 13% due to Corona pandemic, 85% marriage conducted due to uncertainty of future with girls, 71% for closure of schools and 62% for getting good match for the girls.



GBV induced by Climate Change: Framework

During prolonged drought, women and girls experience longer journeys to obtain food or water

Frequent to sexual assault

Poor earning of men during disaster make them angry and disagreement happens in family life

Turns men violent upon the women

Food scarcity during disaster is common

Child marriage is considered as the better coping mechanism

Intensive and long-term poverty due to climate change and disaster

Insist trading of sex to escape, frequent trafficking

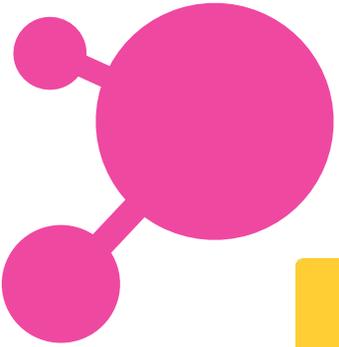
Discontinuation of education/school drop

Child marriage

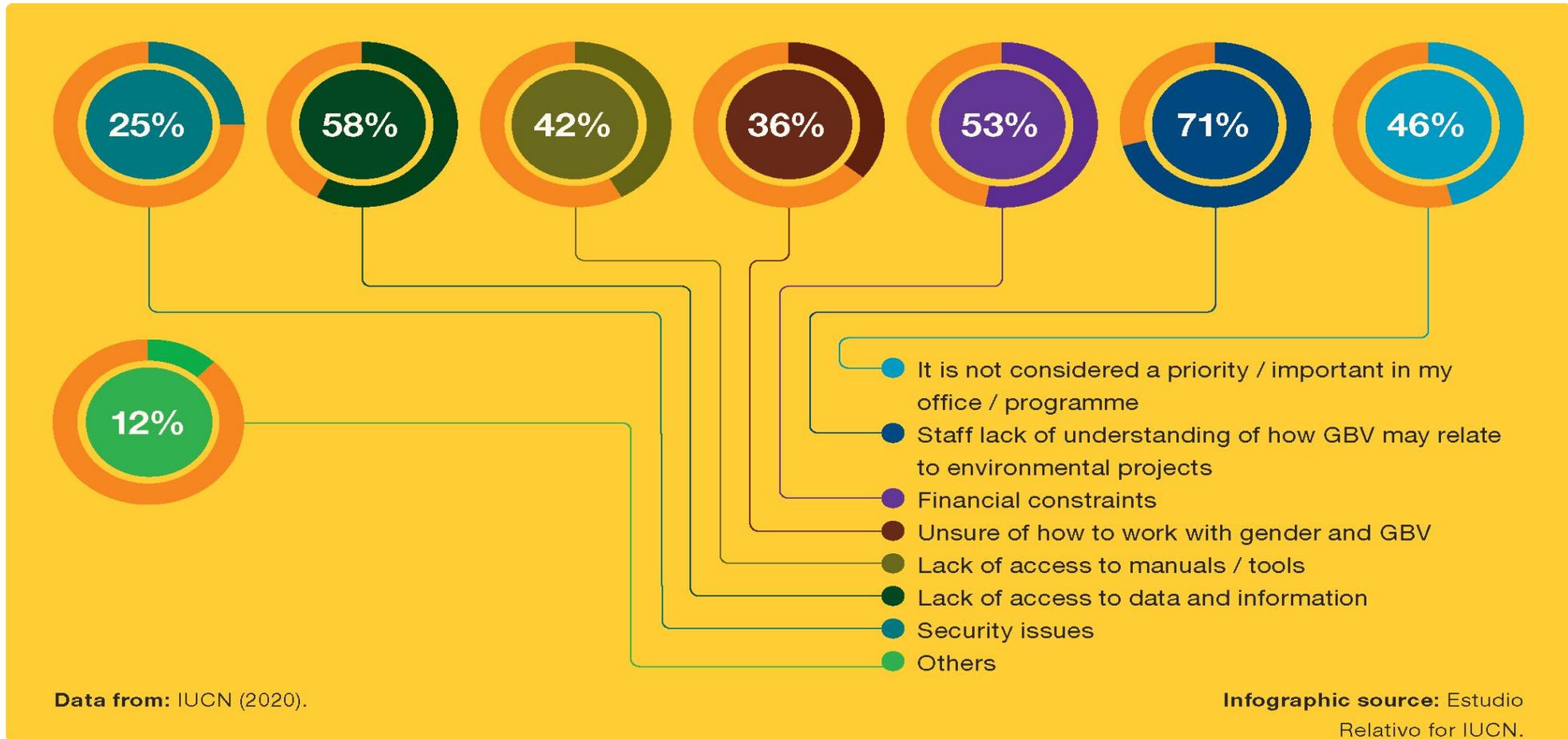
Men living outside/ accept migration for livelihood.

Women and children staying at home become vulnerable and become the target of violence and sexual exploitation.





Challenges to addressing gender-based violence



Climate change, migration and gender-based violence in refugee camps

Women and girls spend more than 200 million hours finding and collecting water every day



Climate change/ weather disasters lead to increased migration and refugees



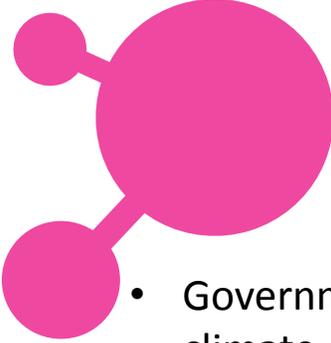
In refugee camps, limited access to resources mean women and girls must go outside shelters to collect water, fuel and food



Data from: UNICEF (2016); UNHCR (2011).

Infographic source: Estudio Relativo for IUCN.





Recommendations

- Governments and environmental organizations need to better understand the linkage between gender-based violence and climate change
 - Continuous effort needed for raising awareness on the intersections between climate change and SRHR
 - Need to apply a human rights and social-justice based approach to climate action that includes the full range of SRHR
- Need advanced legal protections and to take gender-specific risks into account in the policies and interventions
- Address GBV in environmental work... policies, standards and safeguards should include GBV feedback
- Throughout project cycles of any climate change related project, gender analyses should be conducted to identify GBV and develop preventative and responsive measures
- Governments and environmental organizations should partner with humanitarian and health organizations that have knowledge and expertise on GBV to develop environmental policies and projects
- Invest in knowledge and solutions. While we know that GBV is exacerbated by environmental degradation and environmental crime, many gaps in our understanding remain
- Public and private environment and gender-focused funders should prioritize research that enables evidence-based action, investing in promising practices that can be developed, replicated and scaled up.

