**Thematic Session: Child Marriage Induced By Climate Change Presentations**

# Mapping of Climate Change related Vulnerabilities and Child Marriage in Bangladesh

## Research Team

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# Presentation Outline

- Background

- Objectives

- Methodology

- Links between Climate Vulnerabilities and Child Marriage in Bangladesh

- Mapping Natural Disasters and Child Marriage in Bangladesh

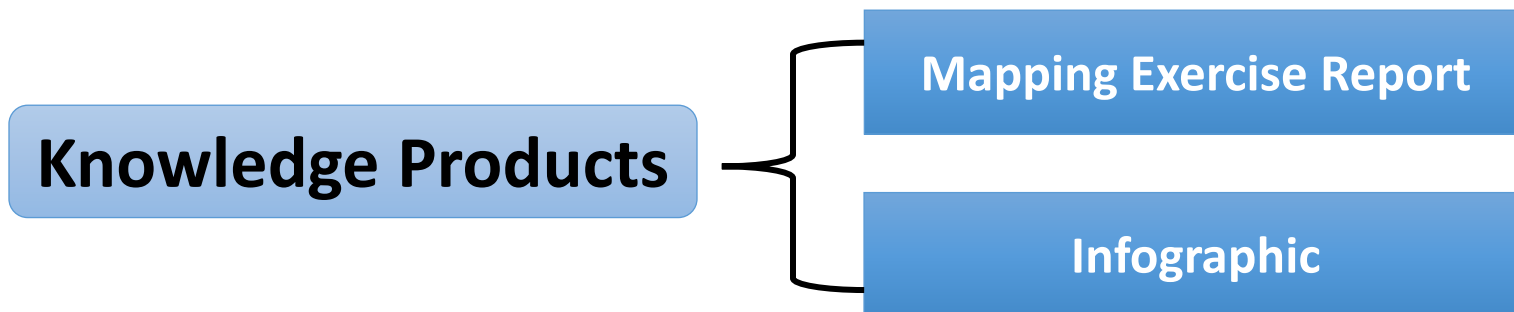- Summary Findings of the Mapping Exercise

- Limitations

# Background

- Bangladesh has the fourth-highest rate of child marriage in the world (58.9%), only out-numbered by Niger (76.3%), Central African Republic (68%), and Chad (66.9%).

- The proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married by age 18 declined from 73% in 1993-94 to 65% in 2011 and 59% in 2014 and 2017-18.

- Besides, natural disasters catalyzed by climate change are increasingly linked with child marriage, especially in disaster-prone countries like Bangladesh.

# Determinants of child marriage

- Child marriage is related to poverty (Bajracharya & Amin, 2012, Erulkar, 2006 )

- Early marriage is associated with less dowry (Suran, Amin, Huq & Chowdhuri, 2004, Amin et al., 2014)

- Child marriage is a response to insecurity ( Massey, 2009, Deen, 2010, Plan International, 2011; Ahmed et At. 2019)

- Child marriage is higher among migrant community (Amin, Rahman & Hossain, 2012)

- Child marriage is a response to climate change (Alston et al , 2014; Asadullah et al. 2020)

# Objectives

- Share-Net Bangladesh (SNB) aimed to bring together the Communities of Practice (CoP) working on the issue of child marriage to find solutions to this problem and gather evidence for national advocacy.

  1. Find/gather the evidence around child marriage that is connected to climate change and vulnerabilities

  2. Conduct a mapping of the NGOs working with child marriage with their project details

**Knowledge Products**

- **Mapping Exercise Report**
- **Infographic**

# Methodology

**Step 1: Identification of NGOs and selection criteria**
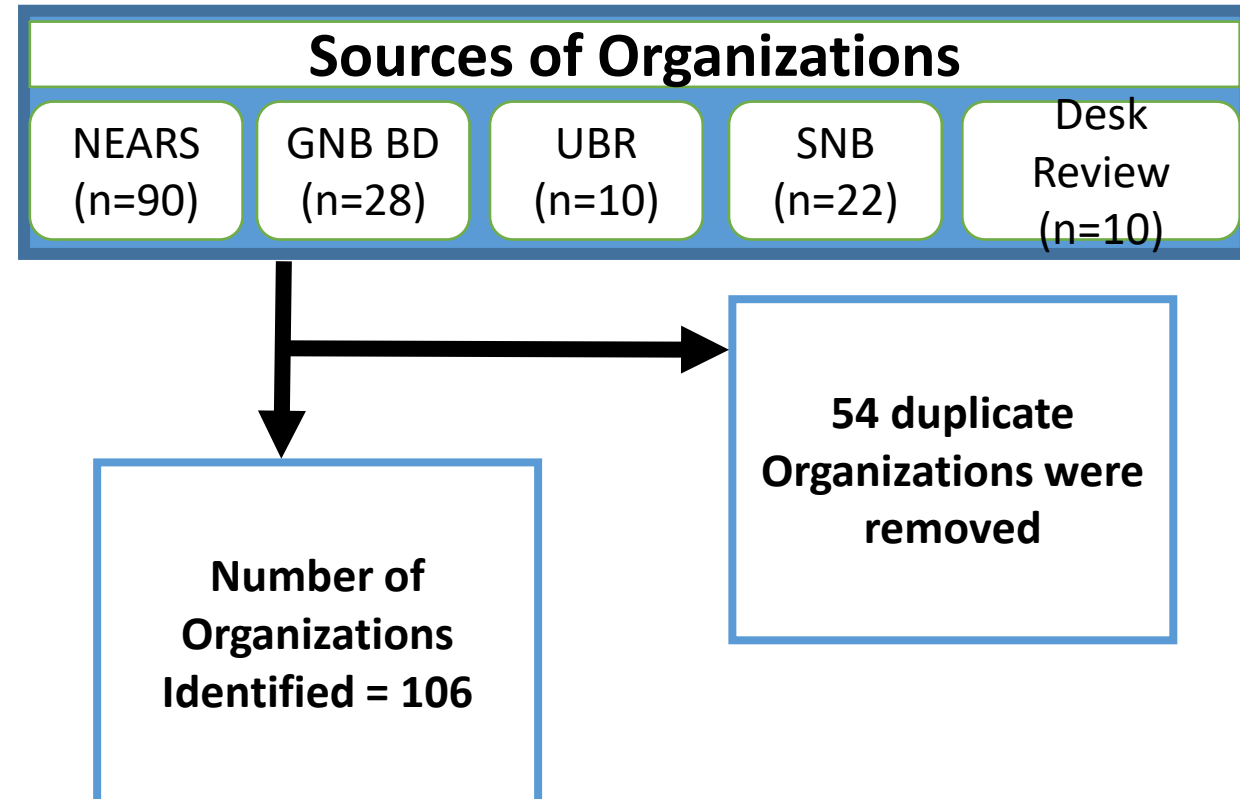
1. Reached out through collaborative networks who works for child marriage, SRHR issues
   - Girls not Brides
   - Share-net
   - NEARS
   - UBR
2. Desk review and online search
3. Selection criteria
   - Current or projects in last 5 years
   - Targeted intervention on child marriage
   - Actively asked for climate vulnerability component

**Sources of Organizations**

| NEARS (n=90) | GNB BD (n=28) | UBR (n=10) | SNB (n=22) | Desk Review (n=10) |

**Number of Organizations Identified = 106**

**54 duplicate Organizations were removed**

# Methodology

**Step 2: Development of Data Collection Tool**

A structured form was developed to collect data systematically
Information collected

- Project/ intervention name
- Program objectives
- Implementation period
- Geographic coverage
- Target population/beneficiary group
- Intervention activities
- Outcome indicators
- Outcome achieved
- Evaluation type and monitoring mechanism and
- Evidence and report
- Implementing partners and donors

# Methodology (cont.)

**Step 3: Data Collection**

- Data collection tool was circulated to the selected NGOs and relevant personnel via Email

- NGO personnel were requested to provide their information and return the filled-in tools.

- Observing with low and limited response over email, other methods were adopted
  - identified a short-list of 38 NGOs working with the issue of child marriage and
  - built direct contact over the phone and requested to share the required information through the filled-in tool via email.
  - alternative options for sending project briefs or draft write-ups from which we extracted required information and later on verified information over the phone.
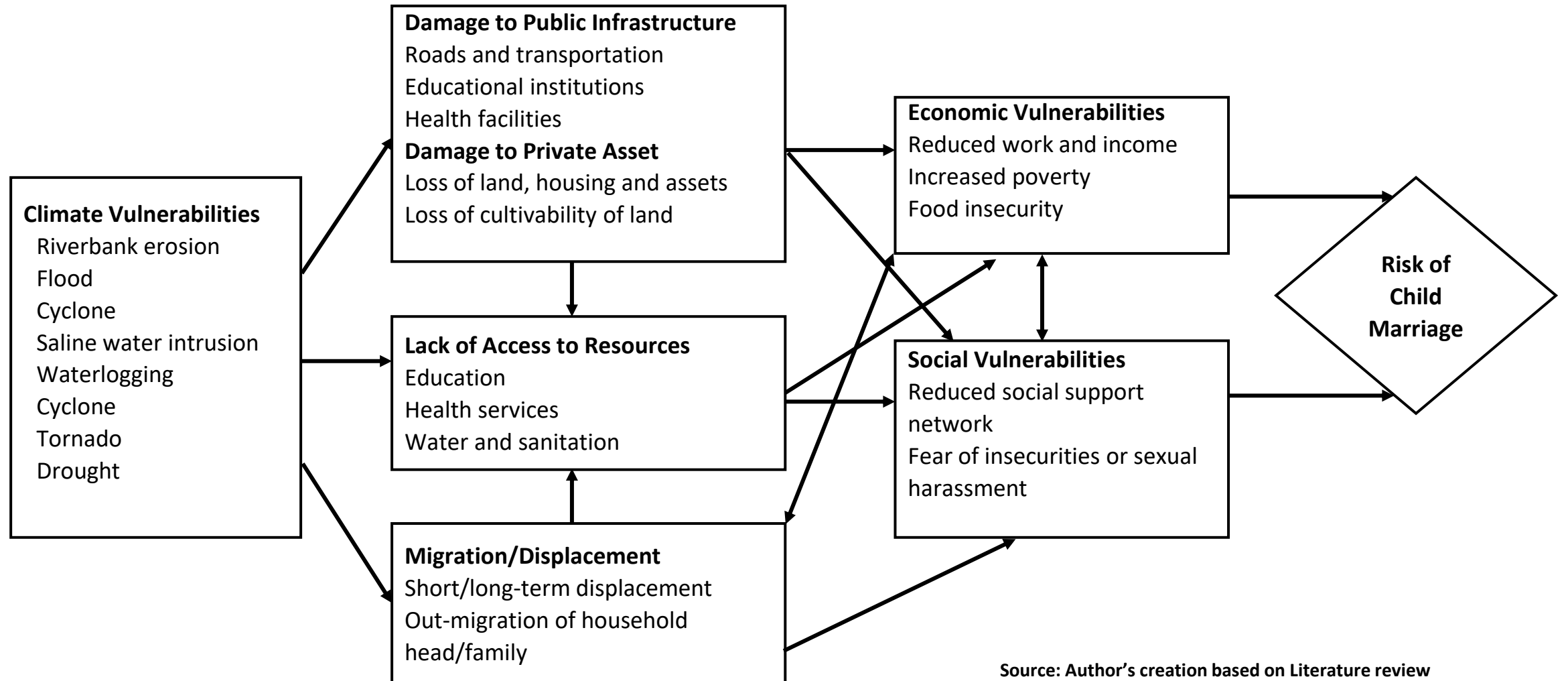
# Methodology (cont.)

**Step 4: Synthesis of the Collected Data & Reporting**

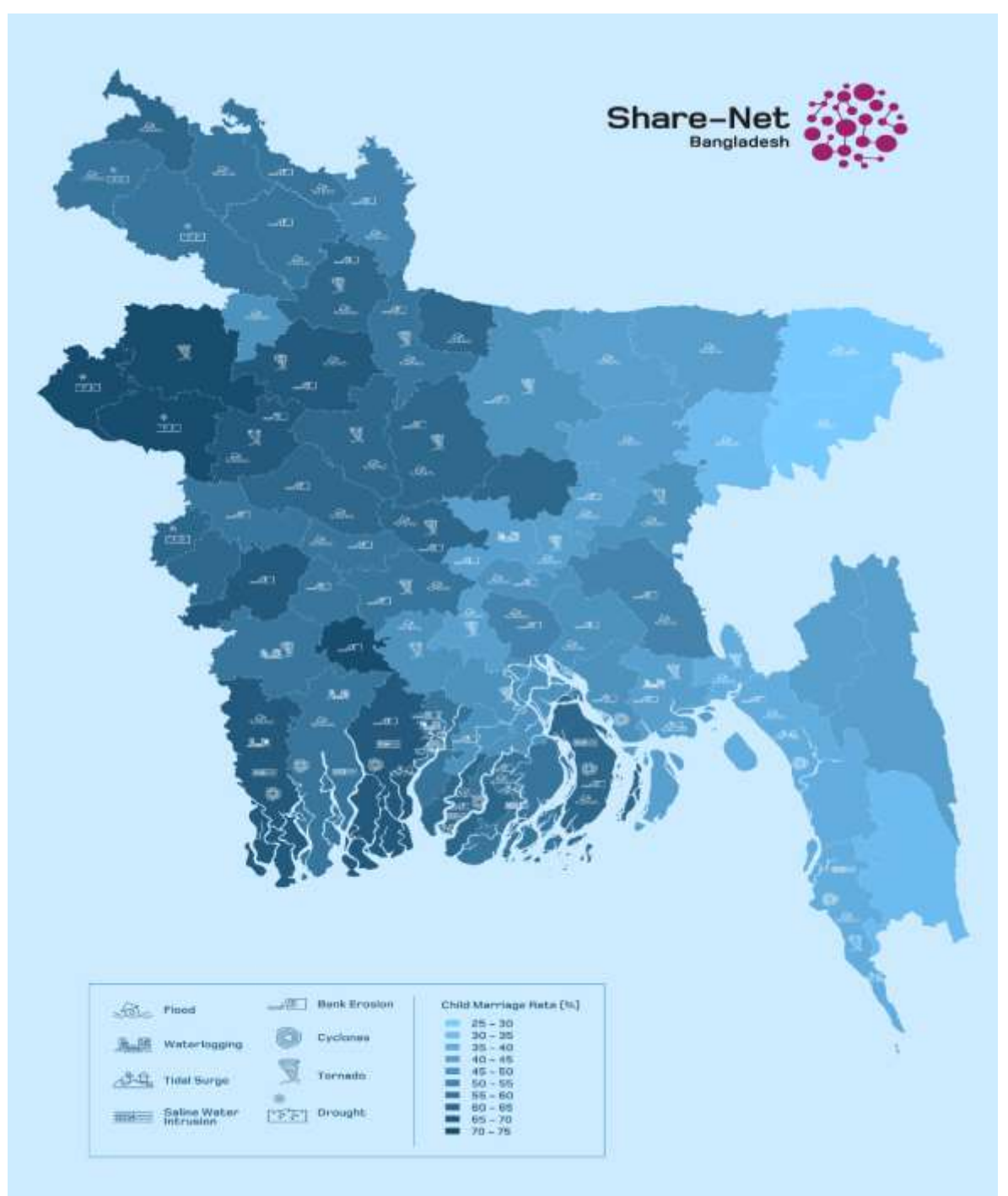- The collected data were thematically arranged in Excel, analyzed and summarized

- A report of the mapping exercise has been prepared along with the contents of the Infographic

- Draft shared with Share-Net and CoP members for their feedback and input

- Feedback incorporated and finalized

- **Review of pertinent literature to develop a framework on how CC vulnerabilities affect the risk of CM in Bangladesh**

# Links between Climate Vulnerabilities and Child Marriage in Bangladesh

**Climate Vulnerabilities**
- Riverbank erosion
- Flood
- Cyclone
- Saline water intrusion
- Waterlogging
- Cyclone
- Tornado
- Drought

**Damage to Public Infrastructure**
Roads and transportation
Educational institutions
Health facilities
**Damage to Private Asset**
Loss of land, housing and assets
Loss of cultivability of land

**Lack of Access to Resources**
Education
Health services
Water and sanitation

**Migration/Displacement**
Short/long-term displacement
Out-migration of household
head/family

**Economic Vulnerabilities**
Reduced work and income
Increased poverty
Food insecurity

**Social Vulnerabilities**
Reduced social support network
Fear of insecurities or sexual harassment

**Risk of Child Marriage**

Source: Author's creation based on Literature review

# Mapping Natural Disasters and Child Marriage in Bangladesh

- The map presents the district-wise distribution of various natural disasters induced by climate change along with the prevalence of CM rates (among women aged 20-24 years)

- Literature is scanty!

- No correlation was possible due to lack of granular data on district-wise disaster risks.

# Summary Findings of Mapping Exercise

- We mapped 24 program/projects by 16 organizations working with the issue of CM in Bangladesh (current and last 5 years)
  - 14 were completed, and ten were still ongoing
- Fourteen of the 24 projects or programs explicitly aimed to reduce child marriages as narrated in the project/program objectives
- Among the 24 mapped program/projects,
- For the majority of the primary beneficiaries included adolescents (10-19), adults (18 and above) of both sexes. Fourteen programs/projects had secondary beneficiaries, including parents, service providers, community people-like religious leaders, and other gatekeepers.
- Creating awareness is the mostly followed strategies- followed by education and skill building/livelihood intervention
- Community approach is commonly followed; only two of the intervention involves school. Men involvement and Youth participation is also limited.
- Child marriage with climate vulnerability lens is also limited- only 2 of the projects
- Limited evaluation of the implemented projects

# What next

- Evidence is scant on link of Child marriage and climate vulnerability.

- Invest on evaluation and evidence

- Mindful use of resources so that resources are well utilized on effective approaches

**Limitations of the mapping exercise**

- There were many challenges of organizations, such as many organizations did not have a project brief or document that they could provide coupled with response delay due to the pandemic and unavailability.

- Given the time and resource constraints and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, physical data collection was not possible, which might increase the number of mapped programs/projects.

# Thank you

**<span style="color:red">Questions/Comments???</span>**

**For further Queries:**

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