



**Share-Net**  
Bangladesh



The Knowledge Platform on  
Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights

# Prevalence of child marriage among the climate vulnerable char communities of northern Bangladesh

Presented by  
Friendship

# CONTENTS



## Background

The situation analysis of child marriage in Bangladesh, with a focus on the northern char communities of Bangladesh with Friendship intervention



## Objective of the study

Purpose, rationale and importance of the study



## Methods

Details on target population selection, methodological tools used and other considerations



## Results and discussion

Study results and analysis of the implication of the results



## Conclusion

Takeaways



# Background /Situation Analysis

- Bangladesh is the 8<sup>th</sup> country with the highest rate of child marriage; with a child marriage rate of 51% (UNICEF, 2020)
- Bangladesh is the 7th most affected country in terms of long-term climate risk exposure, with over 60% of the country covered during severe floods
- A [note](#) published by European Parliament revealed that the impacts of climate change like higher temperature, rising sea level and precipitation extreme leads to higher intensity and frequency of flooding in Bangladesh
- A [study](#) published in 2020 revealed that more than 66% of the child marriage among the climate impacted populations is associated with shock of a natural disasters like flooding



# Situation Analysis

- Child marriage increased by 40% in Bangladesh in 2020-compared to 2019
- 2,925 child marriages have been reported in Kurigram district during the lockdown which is one of the most climate vulnerable districts-prone to flooding
- Friendship has been working in northern Bangladesh (Kurigram and Gaibandha districts) since 2002- currently with intervention in 80 riverine islands with around 250,000 population
- Friendship's data shows that approximately 215 child marriages were attempted in these 80 chars in 2020



# Study Objective

To identify the prevalence of child marriage among the climate vulnerable char communities of northern Bangladesh



# Methodology

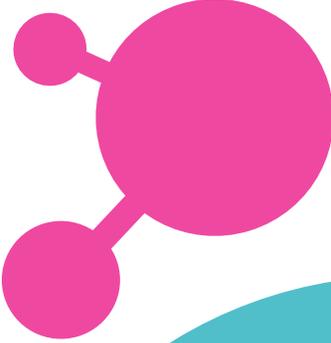
Study Period: December, 2020-February, 2021.

Location: 10 chars of Kurigram Sadar and Chilmari sub-districts of Kurigram district

Sample size: 327: 300 representatives from the char families, 27 representatives from local government, law enforcement, marriage officiants, and Women and Child Affairs department.

Data collection method: Interview and Focused Group Discussion

Analysis method: Qualitative and Quantitative analysis



## Study Results

Child marriage increased 65% in the climate vulnerable northern char communities as opposed to 40% national increase in 2020. COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the vulnerability of these areas in terms of mobility and means of livelihood and the amplified increase can be attributed to the higher climatic impact on these regions.

Among the char inhabitants, incidents of child marriage are 30% higher in the migratory families living in the perimeter of the chars, who are most vulnerable to climate change negative impacts. The intensified migratory nature of these people is a direct result of climate change induced land and property erosion.

As opposed to the urban population of the mainland sub-districts of the northern region, child marriage is 50% higher among the climate vulnerable char population. This is a direct result of a lack of access to education and other rights-based services in the char communities and this unavailability is a result of climate change induced challenges

# Discussion

- The factors impacting the disparity in the rate of child marriage in the climate vulnerable northern char communities and national rates
- The impact of COVID-19 as a strong influencer and an additional factor
- Potential factors influencing the difference in child marriage even within the char residents
- Impact of factors like educational level and economic condition





## CONCLUSION



A community meeting is taking place in a rural village. A group of people, including men and women, are gathered around a central area. Some are standing and talking, while others are sitting on the ground. The background shows a simple building with a corrugated metal roof and trees. A large graphic overlay is present on the left side of the image, consisting of several overlapping circles in shades of purple, blue, and yellow. The text "THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!" is written in white on the largest purple circle.

THANK YOU  
FOR *LISTENING!*