



**Preliminary findings from the study  
“How do women’s experiences with  
climate change impact their sexual and  
reproductive health decision-making,  
behavior, and outcomes in  
communities in Bangladesh”**

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# Background

Bangladesh is highly vulnerable to climate change and prone to cyclones, drought, floods, storm surges and high salinity, especially in the coastal regions. Climate change has negative impact on

- Health
- Livelihood
- Social and economic inequalities



# Objective

The objective of this research is to understand how women's experiences with climate change impact their reproductive health decision-making, behavior, and outcomes.



# Method

- Participatory qualitative study
- Study area: Dacope Upazila of Khulna
- Data collection:
  - October to November 2020
  - 10 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with local SRHR/Climate experts
  - 15 In-depth Interviews (IDIs) with married women and girls of reproductive age (18-49)
  - 8 Community dialogue meetings (CDM) with married women and girls of reproductive age (18-49), 4-5 women in each CDM
- Ethical clearance from BMRC (BMRC/NRFC/2019-2022/868)
- Data analysis: Ongoing thematic analysis by independent coders using Dedoose

# Preliminary findings

## Extreme weather events lead to increased risk of GBV

- Sexual harassment at shelter center and while collecting disaster relief.
- Sexual violence including rape.
- Child marriage after extreme weather events
- Intimate partner violence, domestic violence, and reproductive coercion

## Factors increasing risk of GBV

- Overcrowded shelter and relief center
- Lack of separate room and toilet facilities for women.
- Inadequate lighting at shelter center
- Loss of work and financial crisis.
- Lack of access to contraceptives



## **Women face sexual harassment at the shelter center and during collecting disaster relief**

“When we went there (cyclone center), as women we faced different problems. A lot of people went there, men and women, all went there at that time. Women need some privacy and space, but it could not be possible to ensure at that time. It is not possible to ensure all these when there are so many people staying in a place. At that time there is pressure on women. Men usually have a bad eye on women. They have lust on them. They deliberately try to touch the women with bad intention in the crowd. Then women must endure it quietly. I mean, there they could not raise their voice against it. Women must face all these. Then, after cyclone our husbands must go outside in search of work as our previous income sources had been hampered because of the disaster. At their absence we women must go to collect relief and face the hustle of crowd there. We must face all these problems at that situation.”- Women living in Dacope (IDI).

# Concluding remarks

Extreme weather events caused by climate change increase the risk of sexual and gender-based violence.

Main/direct factor increasing the risk

- Structure and crowd at the cyclone center.

Underlying factors

- Existing social, cultural, and religious norms.





THANK YOU  
FOR *WATCHING*