

**Example on gender-sensitive approaches and tools, including good practices for the application of these approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change<sup>1</sup>**

**Inputs provided by:**

*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH*

**Title of practice/tool**

***Practice/Tool: „Gender-sensitive Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change” – Improvement of Communication between Men and Women in Disaster Risk Reduction in Bangladesh***

*Project Title: Adaptation to climate change and regeneration of people’s livelihoods in south-west Bangladesh, commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)*

**Description of practice/tool**

***Overall description of project:*** *The project’s focus is on training in the fields of disaster prevention, first aid, search and rescue and on the targeted promotion of small businesses in the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors. Households, municipalities and schools make disaster protection plans and prepare for the effects of climate change. Women and children are more vulnerable and die more often during cyclones than men, but have a lower decision-making power at the same time. For this reason, the project pays **particular attention to improving communication and cooperation between men and women in connection with disaster prevention and adaptation to climate change. A training module was established and applied in a pilot project for that matter, before up scaling was started.** In cooperation with governmental and non-governmental actors, support is given in particular to households headed by women, to small-scale farmers and landless households.*

***Best practices in terms of gender as well as cultural sensitivity:***

*Women are disadvantaged due to several factors, including socio-cultural gender stereotypes, less access to information, lack of knowledge of the cyclone warning signals, responsibility for weaker family members and cattle, as well as a lack of decision-making power (e.g. regarding evacuation). In order for both men and women to understand each other’s current roles, the training module integrates an enhanced **communication and understanding between men and women while training them in the field of disaster prevention and first aid.** Experiences with a pilot project in the Bagerhat District show the following best practices and lessons learned:*

- *Training should be provided to all the partner organizations so as to sensitize them for the different practical and strategic needs of men and women (was conducted for 3 days in 2012);*
- *Partners should employ both male and female program officers, technical staff, and field*

<sup>1</sup> Please use this template for providing inputs related with one example. If you have more than one example, please provide them in separate files using this template.

organizers to better reach women before the intervention takes place;

- Training/other interventions for women must consider appropriate timing, length and location, as women have other duties to perform;
- Training/interventions for women should offer provision for **child care**;
- Interventions related to disaster risk reduction (DRR) should be integrated with Climate Change Adaptation and Livelihood activities. Thus, the program should be targeted towards **women's participation** in disaster management committees and facilitate knowledge sharing among women within communities;
- **Hardware** (e.g. cyclone shelters with facilities for animals, drinking water, separate space and toilets **for women**) is required besides software activities. This is for the reason that women are often excluded from or denied access to shelters after cyclones or other catastrophes.
- Awareness raising activities (like awareness sessions, folk songs, drama, etc.) should be in the **local dialect**;
- Training modules need to be suitable for **illiterate and semi-literate** people (e.g. by using clear pictures and flash cards to describe the traditional roles of men and women);
- Training modules should be conceptually comprehensible and well-documented for appropriate large-scale application (see module here: <http://www.gender-in-german-development.net/files/climate-change.html>).
- Flexibility and gender-sensitivity in development **budgets** and project plans is necessary (to allow participation of people);
- Change in attitudes and behavioral patterns takes time (and longer term interventions!);
- Men/boys need to be targeted in order to change status of women.

### Region

Please select a region/regions where the practice/tool took place/developed or applied from the ones below, as applicable:

- Asia-Pacific

### Country

Bangladesh

### Sector

- Food security, agriculture and fisheries
- Marine and coastal ecosystems
- Transport, infrastructure and human settlements

### Name of implementing institution/s

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH  
INCIDIN (Integrated Community and Industrial Development Initiative); Bangladesh

#### Further information

Please see **Gender Knowledge Platform of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development**: <http://www.gender-in-german-development.net/>

Particularly, see: **Gender Action for Living Life: Training Manual. Improvement of Communication and Cooperation between Men and Women in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction in Bangladesh**. November 2011.

Available at: <http://www.gender-in-german-development.net/files/climate-change.html>

See also: GIZ Website (2013): **Adaptation to climate change and regeneration of people's livelihoods in south-west Bangladesh**. Available at: <http://www.giz.de/themen/en/36918.htm>

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