CLIMATE CRISIS AND UPHOLDING THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN BANGLADESH
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Climate Crisis and Upholding the Rights of Women and Girls in Bangladesh

Women and girls face increased risks during disasters. UNFPA is on the ground before, during and after crises across the world, working closely with governments, UN agencies, and local partners to ensure that the sexual and reproductive health and rights and safety of women and girls are upheld.

As the climate crisis intensifies across Asia, the Pacific and the world, UNFPA, together with the Australian Government, is calling for increased investments in upholding the rights of women and girls.

This collection of photos provides a glimpse into the struggles that women, girls, and vulnerable groups of people face during disasters across Bangladesh, as well as the support provided by UNFPA through our partners and donors to ensure no one is left behind.

#Dignity #Disasters
The rising sea level is causes salt intrusion into coastal area. Due to cyclones and floods, salt water enters the agricultural land by breaking or overflowing the dam, increasing the salinity of the land and disrupting the normal production capacity. As a result of the brackish water, women in these areas suffer from various uterine diseases, which affects their sexual and reproductive health.

UNFPA, together with the Government of Australia, supports the Government of Bangladesh to ensure that women and girls from remote areas of the country have access to sexual and reproductive health services.
These residents of this village in Khulna were relocating their village before the high tide waves in their area began. The people of Khulna are repeatedly losing their homes due to cyclones and floods, displacing hundreds, including women, girls, and vulnerable populations. At least once a year, the high tide floods the town well above its normal height.

In emergency situations, women and girls are often most threatened. As access to hospitals, privacy, food and water are restricted, women and girls become increasingly vulnerable to violence and health risks.
The images of people affected by cyclones Aila, Sidor and Ampan remind us how vulnerable people are in the face of nature’s vengeance.

Due to its geographical location, Bangladesh is one of the most cyclone-prone areas in the world. Experts believe that the number and intensity of cyclones will increase with global warming, putting coastlines at greater risk. Warming will not only increase the speed and severity of cyclones but also increase the amount of rain. Many people, especially women and children, have lost their lives and their houses to these cyclones and are still bearing the scars.

In times of crisis, women’s and girls’ needs are often neglected. UNFPA and partners uphold the dignity of women and girls by ensuring their protection and well-being.
Bangladesh ranks second to Afghanistan among South Asian countries where women and girls are at high risk of the negative impacts of climate change. While women and girls alone are not responsible for global warming or climate change, they bear the brunt of the cost of flooding, river erosion, sea-level rise and other adverse weather impacts. Women and children are increasingly displaced from their homes and are deprived of the right to education and access to healthcare. Due to the economic and physical insecurities in the aftermath of disasters the prevalence of child marriage can also increase.
Deforestation in the upper reaches of the hills is causing silt to accumulate in the northern part of Bangladesh, resulting in higher riverbeds in the Haor region. On the other hand, due to the reduction of coastal forests and small canals, the big river is losing its natural course. Therefore, the people of this region are constantly facing floods and river bank erosion, accompanied by strong tidal waves. Women and girls from these regions are most vulnerable during such disasters. They face reproductive health problems, as well as issues concerning insecurity due to the destruction of their houses and other facilities.
More than 6 percent of people in Bangladesh live in urban slums. People are generally thought to be moving to the capital in search of work. A large number of people who move to the cities are climate refugees that see no way for survival without changing their homes.

Displaced people have settled in Bhola Basti of Mirpur from the Bhola district along the Meghna and Tentulia rivers. Usually, men of those families come first to find out whether there is a source of livelihood and a place to live. Women and children remain behind the affected areas and are more likely to be missing, subject to trafficking, and sexual abuse, especially when social support systems break down.
Statistics show that climate change is affecting women and children the most. In areas affected by climate change, due to a lack of trained birth attendants and midwives, pregnant mothers and newborns face complications during delivery.

UNFPA and partners train midwives and strengthen sexual and reproductive health services in remote areas across Bangladesh affected by climate change.
LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

কেউ পিছিয়ে থাকবে না
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