GRRIPP
Gender Responsive
Resilience and Intersectionality in
Policy and Practice

South Asia

Strategic Framework for Gender, Disaster and Intersectionality in South Asia (2024-30)

GRRIPP South Asia Network
Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies (IDMVS)
University of Dhaka

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Background and Introduction

This Strategic Framework is formulated based on a collaborative research project 'Gender Responsive Resilience and Intersectionality in Policy and Practice (GRRIPP)', a four-year global collaboration and knowledge-exchange project. With a focus on ODA countries[1], the GRRIPP initiative has been funded by the UKRI Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), and managed by the University College London (UCL), UK. Professor Maureen Fordham, PhD, Centre Director, IRDR Centre for Gender and Disaster at the UCL served as the Principal Investigator of the global GRRIPP. GRRIPP- the Networking Plus Partnering for Resilience was implemented in three regions: Latin America and Caribbean, South Africa and South Asia.

(GRRIPP) South Asia was launched in 2020 through signing a memorandum of understanding between University of Dhaka, Bangladesh and University College London, UK and awarded to the Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies (IDMVS), University of Dhaka. Professor Mahbuba Nasreen, PhD, the Co-Founder and former Director of IDMVS, University of Dhaka and a Visiting Professor of Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction (IRDR), UCL was the Regional Lead of the GRRIPP South Asia. GRRIPP-South Asia's aims were to bring together theory, policy and practice to promote a gender-responsive approach to disaster management and development. GRRIPP South Asia had been awarded to IDMVS as part of activity of Gender and Disaster Network, Bangladesh Country Hub, which was launched in 2018 at IDMVS with the support of UN Women. GRRIPP South Asia have awarded several commissioning projects to researchers in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka to accomplish the goal of making the vulnerable communities resilient through intersectional need-based policies and practices.

At the end of the four years' project, GRRIPP South Asia Team and the project participants from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka agreed to produce a planning guide to carry forward the key messages and tasks generated by their endeavors to future days. The key objective was to exchange knowledge and experience among the people and institutions in these regions on gender responsive disaster risk reduction (DRR). The study projects supported by GRRIPP South Asia resulted in reports, stakeholder consultations, seminars, roundtable discussions, and workshops (organized by the Centre for Disaster Preparedness and Management, Jadavpur University, Kolkata and Netaji Subhash Open University) held in different countries (please see fact sheets at https://www.grripp.net/). Finally, at the "GRRIPP South Asia Seminar 2023", held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, a draft Strategy Paper was circulated among the participants by the GRRIPP South Asia team for discussion and feedback. The current revised and restructured strategic framework reflects the views and recommendations received from all different partners and stakeholders. The

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[1] The DAC List of ODA Recipients shows all countries and territories eligible to receive official development assistance (ODA) https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/daclist.htm

upshot of the deliberations was that a networking platform is to be formed to enable the group of people and organisations that GRRIPP had brought together to continue interacting through a new organizational set-up. The key motivation behind this was to sustain the process of learning and relationship among the people and institutions in the region. Thus, this strategy mainly offers a framework for designing and planning work programmes for the network members. We have also suggested a provisional organisational structure for the Network that will own and oversee the implementation of the strategy.

We have tried to align this *strategy* with the two important UN initiatives of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR), not only in duration, but also with their key targets and goals (please see A-2, p-17 for further details). The last seven years of these important UN initiatives are very crucial, and we feel obligated to contribute to their accomplishments to the extent possible. The seven distinct areas of thematic focus that we have chosen for this strategic framework are also in keeping with the objectives of the outgoing GRRIPP programme and its seven commissioned projects. However, we have made it clear in the relevant section of this document (Section 6, page-8) that these will be used as a point reference (to GRRIPP) only, and each of the priority themes that they represent has much broader and deeper scope and significance.

As we need a home for the strategy to operate from, we have proposed a *provisional arrangement* that will be known as "GRRIPP South Asia Network". The GRRIPP South Asia project was awarded to IDMVS (Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies), Dhaka University, through the Bangladesh Country Hub of GDN (Gender and Disaster Network). It is a global forum with over a thousand members spread across the world (www.gdnonline.org). For details, please see Box-1, Section 8 of this report under Organisational Arrangement. It is an educational and advocacy project hosted at University College London, UK. GRRIPP is directly linked with GDN as both are hosted at University College London. We will temporarily use the name, "GRRIPP South Asia Network", until we agree to a more appropriate title for this network.

1.1   The case of South Asia

It is home to a staggering two billion people and is widely recognized for its vulnerability to a range of natural and human-induced disasters. The region faces a complex combination of socioeconomic and environmental vulnerabilities, which are frequently intensified among marginalised groups. Women and marginalised individuals often face higher degree of vulnerability due to limited access to resources, restricted mobility, and abridged agency roles in decision-making processes. South Asia showcases a rich assortment of varied identities, including those related to gender, social class, caste, ethnicity, religion, and (dis)ability. The convergence of these identities leads to intricate layers of disadvantage, which distinctly shape the vulnerabilities of various groups. For instance, the difficulties experienced by a woman belonging to a lower income or caste group, and has any form of disability is significantly different from the challenges faced by a woman belonging to a higher income/caste group in the context of a disaster situation.

Equitable integration of gender and intersectionality in disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies is often hindered by entrenched gender norms, cultural stereotypes, and prevailing power imbalances. In addition, the lack of gender-disaggregated data hinders the development of specific interventions, while inadequate representation of marginalised voices in decision-making processes worsens the effectiveness of

current policies. However, in the midst of these challenges, there exist a multitude of opportunities. The incorporation of gender-responsive policies within the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) framework can help address the unique vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups. Gender-responsive policies ensure that the needs of all genders are taken into account in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. They also promote the participation of women and marginalised groups in decision-making processes, which can lead to more effective and inclusive policies.

Despite obstacles such as profoundly ingrained unequal gender norms and a paucity of gender-disaggregated data, transformative change opportunities abound. Incorporating gender-responsive policies into the DRR framework can facilitate the development of measures tailored to the requirements of distinct communities. Empowerment and capacity-building initiatives can stimulate the participation of women and marginalised categories in disaster preparation and decision-making. Data disaggregated by gender can shed light on nuanced vulnerabilities, thereby steering precise interventions. Together with advocacy efforts, engaging with communities can cultivate a shared understanding of the role of gender and intersectionality in disaster outcomes

The South Asian Gender and Intersectionality in DRR Framework has the potential to create more inclusive and resilient disaster response and recovery strategies. Recognizing the complex interaction between gender dynamics and intersecting identities, this framework facilitates interventions addressing vulnerabilities in South Asian regions. In order to create a network of resilience that mitigates the unequal impact of disasters on marginalised populations in South Asia, a collaborative approach involving governments, non-governmental organizations, academia, and local communities is essential. Such a framework will ultimately be supportive in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the priorities of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) for the South Asian regions.

We believe that a strategic framework for the region is necessary to help the network members guide their work with different stakeholders, such as government and non-government organizations (NGOs), and local communities on gender and intersectionality in disaster risk reduction (DRR). In all facets of DRR planning and execution, we should put a strong emphasis on incorporating gender perspectives and taking overlapping vulnerabilities into account.

In order to manage, monitor and assess progress of the strategic framework, we need an organisational structure with appropriate procedures. "GRRIPP South Asia Network" hosted by IDMVS, Dhaka University, is the current response to that need. This should ensure continuity of GRRIPP gains and retain the "collective" of the regional and international actors brought together by the project. Further details concerning operational modalities and its governance structure will be worked out in consultation with the key stakeholders. The strategic framework we propose gives the rationale on why need to continue and exist as a group.

1.2   Key objectives and scope

This strategy document is mainly aimed at giving a basic framework for the network members to develop and implement their (proposed) programmes of work. It explains the particular context of our work and highlights the importance of the thematic priorities for intervention. This will also serve as a guide to promote a gender responsive and intersectional approach to disaster risk reduction (DRR). The strategy

will help promote knowledge and experience through research, field action, advocacy and academic discourses. It has an important focus on creation and dissemination of knowledge on DRR and resilience building. Policy advocacy, and capacity building of concerned people and institutions have also received an important focus.

This is a living document to be revised and updated periodically to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness. This should take into account the changing context of our work and be able to address any emerging concerns or issues of the time. As we progress, we need to calibrate and align this with the key global obligations (e.g.,) as set out in SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) and SFDRR (Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction). Hence, the duration of this strategy has been decided from 2024 through to 2030, when the term for both t9hese UN Plans come to an end.

The following graphic (Figure 1) lays out the purpose or functions of the strategy and the network:

Figure 1: Functional scope of the network.

Four interconnected functions comprise the broader scope of this strategy: a) policy advocacy, b) partnership and collaboration, c) communication and awareness building, and d) co-creation of knowledge through research and action. This is intended to offer a conceptual frame within which we will design our particular programmes of work in GRRIPP South Asia Network as well as in different partner organisations utilizing their respective institutional strengths and comparative advantages.

These are briefly explained as follows:

a) **Policy advocacy:** On the basis of our learning through community interaction and studies, the network will promote gender-responsive policies and aim to mainstream Gender and Intersectionality in DRR Policies. We will endeavour to promote integration of intersectional perspectives into national and regional disaster management frameworks. We will support local and national governments to formally adopt gender-sensitive guidelines for disaster preparedness and response by the designated public and private sector agencies.

b) **Partnership:** Collaborative action and research will be pivotal for the network to make a substantial regional impact on the major themes of our focus. Collaboration with governments, non-governmental organizations, community leaders, academia, and international partners is essential to ensure a high quality of implementation of our work. For the purpose, GRRIPP South Asia Network will foster partnerships with NGOs, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Universities, research institutes, and international agencies besides government departments and ministries. Partnership and collaboration will offer opportunities to leverage our collective resources and expertise to elevate the value of the network and facilitate its wider acceptability. GRRIPP South Asia Network will positively exploit and expand its already established contacts and connections in the region through the GRRIPP global project. In fact, this strategy document has the ownership of many regional and international partners who attended the "GRRIPP South Asia Seminar 2023" in Dhaka. This new regional forum of South Asia will also maintain its international linkages including its African and Latin American colleagues who were part of the GRRIPP initiative.

c) **Communication:** Generation and dissemination of information through various communication media and methods will be an important component of work for the network. This will help the network members and its stakeholders enhance their knowledge and understanding about its various activities including work related to policies and actions on gender, intersectionality and disasters. Besides producing information, education and communication (IEC) materials in print, the network will use different digital platforms available in the electronic media, such as Facebook, Website, LinkedIn and YouTube. The awareness-raising component of the work will rely on campaigns, advocacy workshops, dialogues, and webinars to help raise awareness on gender, intersectionality, and disaster risk reduction. Effective communication work will contribute to empowering women and marginalised groups to actively participate in decision-making processes, particularly linked to disaster risk reduction, but also to livelihood skills. Production of attractive and informative communication products should help generate public support to our work, influencing public opinion and also in mobilizing funds for our work.

d) **Knowledge creation:** An important function of the network will be to create knowledge through research and studies to promote, among other objectives, the ideas related to gender and intersectionality to reduce disaster impact. It will involve collaborative processes in which stakeholders including researchers and community members will work together to generate insights, solutions and innovations. Findings based on high quality research will give

legitimacy to our demands and pleas for policy reform in favour of disadvantaged groups of women and men. This will not only give the network participants access to valuable knowledge and information, but also support our 'cases' made to governments for policy change and reform.

Vision & Mission

We envision:

"A safe, resilient and prosperous South Asia where disaster risks for all including women and marginalised groups have been significantly reduced."

South Asia is one of the most disaster-prone areas of the world with a high concentration of poverty. Frequent disasters, impacts of Climate Change and persistent economic and political uncertainties exacerbate the situation. This strategy document reflects the collective aspirations and goals of the network. We envision a transformed South Asian region where poverty and disaster vulnerability have been alleviated, enabling the people to enjoy peace and wellbeing.

Our Mission:

"We endeavor to integrate gender-responsive and intersectional approaches into disaster risk reduction strategies and plans to enhance resilience of vulnerable communities. We promote partnership and collaborative relations between peoples and institutions to help us achieve our objectives of a gender sensitive, just and peaceful South Asia".

Our Mission is to establish productive linkages with concerned people and institutions in the region and exchange knowledge and experiences to reduce disaster risks and gender-based discriminations. The principal focus of this strategy is the promotion of knowledge, research, and academic discourses for enhancing capacities of diverse stakeholders. The scope of work for the network revolves around dissemination of research findings, sharing of information, experiences, and insights on emerging issues related to gender, disaster risk reduction, and intersectionality. It underscores the need for incorporating gender-responsive and intersectional approaches into disaster risk reduction strategies in recognition of the unique challenges faced by different groups of people with different types of vulnerabilities. We work to create inclusive and resilient societies in the region by addressing the complex and varied nature of disaster impacts. We offer help to identify and minimize the factors that make communities susceptible to harm in the face of disasters. This suggests a proactive approach to identifying and addressing vulnerabilities. We will also assist the communities to strengthen their ability to withstand disaster shocks and swiftly recover from disaster impacts.

Values

The network and all its work are governed by the principles that respect inclusiveness, diversity, gender equality, accountability and fairness. These core values help the network and its members shape their behaviour to ensure a healthy and ethical work culture.

By recognizing the unique challenges faced during disasters by women, LGBTQ+ individuals, people with disabilities, and marginalised communities, we can make targeted interventions that not only mitigate risks but also help their empowerment to actively contribute to their own safety and recovery. We know that the region of South

Asia has a high level of socio-political and cultural diversity. Considering this as our strength, we embrace diversity to unlock potentials of innovative solutions that can make our societies resilient and prosperous in the face of adversities.

We give particular emphasis on the following:

- **Gender sensitivity**: All our plans, actions and assessments must reflect gender disaggregated knowledge and information and demonstrate sensitivity to gender-specific vulnerabilities and the intersecting elements in risk reduction plans and actions. An especial focus on gender and intersectionality will help us improve our knowledge and behavior that advance social justice and gender equality in DRR.

- **Inclusion and diversity:** Integration of gender and intersectionality into DRR governance frameworks and in decision-making processes contributes to an enhanced level of diversity and social inclusion. This may entail encouraging policies that cater to the particular requirements of excluded groups and guaranteeing women's participation in DRR planning;

- **Environmental justice:** We commit ourselves to protect the natural environment to enhance its ability to support life of all forms and to build a healthy planet. For the purpose, we will motivate and support people to protect the environment by undertaking systemic and behavioral changes as necessary;

- **Partnership:** We will foster mutual trust and respect among the network partners and ensure transparency and accountability in all our dealings and actions. We commit to work in fair and respectful partnerships to achieve our (strategic) vision and mission.

- **Responsiveness:** Decision making processes must be based on informed needs and feedback from our stakeholders, especially from the people affected by our work or from disaster impact. We must try and remain sensitive to and respectful of local norms and customs that are benign and non-prejudicial.

Goals and objectives

Briefly, the main objectives of this strategy are as follows:

a) **Mainstream Gender and Intersectionality in DRR Policies:** Develop and implement gender-responsive DRR policies across the countries of South Asia to create an enabling environment to make our society safer and resilient. We will try to integrate intersectional perspectives into national and regional disaster management frameworks as well as into projects and programmes undertaken by government and non-government organisations;

b) **Knowledge creation and Research:** GRRIPP South Asia Network being primarily a knowledge network, and its members belonging to different research and academic institutions, we will aim to produce credible and empirical studies. These will be useful for different decision-making, teaching, project implementation and policy formulation purposes;

c) **Capacity building and Training:** In order to gain an enhance understanding of the critical gender and DRR issues, acquire skills, and to help prioritize plans and actions, training programmes for policymakers, students, community groups, and disaster management agencies will be developed and delivered. Among other benefits, this will help women and men from

marginalised groups to attain productive skills and enhance knowledge on disaster preparedness and risk reduction;

d) **Empower community groups:** Studies and actions will be introduced to help vulnerable groups of people become aware of their rights and make the duty bearers and their institutions become responsive to their problems and needs. This may include the following actions:

    I.   Facilitate community-based disaster preparedness initiatives

    II.   Encourage women and marginalised groups to actively participate in decision-making processes related to disaster risk reduction programmes;

    III.   Conduct studies, organize events such as seminars, and rallies to demand Policy and Institutional Changes at the local, national and regional levels to benefit the disadvantaged groups of people. This may involve the following:

- Establish gender-sensitive guidelines for disaster response agencies.

- Foster partnerships with NGOs, civil society organizations, and international agencies, and.

- Collaborate with academic institutions for research and data analysis.

    IV.   Communication and Awareness

- Raise awareness of people about gender, intersectionality, and disaster risk reduction through campaigns, workshops, and advocacy work;

- Utilize social media and digital platforms for outreach and outcome-based education and learning.

Strategic approaches

A successful execution of a strategy demands a 'strategic approach' that aligns itself with its goals, planned outcomes, and values or principles. Collaboration among government and non-governmental organizations, community leaders, academia, and international partners are essential to ensure that an effective implementation is achieved. Implementation of the strategy will involve the following considerations:

a) **Policy Integration:** Advocate to revise existing DRR policies and strategies to explicitly integrate gender and intersectionality perspectives. New policies should reflect a commitment to inclusive disaster management, outlining specific measures to address the particular needs of diverse groups.

b) **Community Engagement:** Engage with local communities, including women and marginalised groups, to develop contextually relevant DRR strategies. Collaborative approaches should ensure that interventions are culturally sensitive, appropriate, and tailored to the specific challenges faced by the concerned communities.

c) **Capacity Enhancement:** Design and deliver gender and intersectionality training programs for disaster management professionals, first responders, and community leaders. These programs should raise awareness, enhance knowledge, and equip stakeholders with the tools needed to integrate these considerations into their roles. Also, where relevant, strengthen physical capacity of the existing shelters and safe spaces to accommodate the diverse needs of vulnerable groups, including women, children, elderly individuals,

and LGBTQ+ individuals. Adequate facilities, protection, and support services should be integral to these spaces

d) **Early Warning Systems:** Advocate and advise to develop and implement inclusive early warning systems that cater to various demographic segments. These systems should consider accessibility, languages, and communication channels that resonate with different groups, ensuring the effective dissemination of crucial information.

e) **Empowerment Initiatives:** Promote women's and marginalised groups' active involvement in DRR decision-making processes. Establish platforms for their participation, ensuring that their voices are heard and their perspectives inform policies, strategies, and interventions.

f) **Data Collection and Analysis:** Develop standardized data collection tools that consider intersectional factors, and ensure that the collection process and gathered data are accurate. Analyze data to inform evidence-based policies and strategies that address specific vulnerabilities.

➔ Engage a variety of stakeholders, such as NGOs, community leaders, women's groups, and underrepresented groups, to ensure inclusive stakeholder engagement. The efficiency of the strategy will be enhanced by their varied viewpoints.

➔ Analyze current DRR, gender equality, and intersectionality laws and policies from a policy and legal perspective. Determine any gaps and places that require improvement or alignment.

➔ Consider gender and intersectionality in all facets of DRR, from risk assessments to action plans. Make sure that these factors are viewed as essential elements rather than as optional.

Thematic focus

The participants of the GRRIPP project have underscored the need for a strategy in South Asia as a follow-up action once the project has phased out. We know that the region has a complex combination of socioeconomic, cultural, and environmental vulnerabilities. These are frequently intensified among marginalised groups, highlighting the crucial significance of understanding gender dynamics in disaster contexts. Women and marginalised people often face higher degrees of vulnerability due to limited access to resources, restricted mobility, and reduced agency in decision-making processes. It is thus very important to specify a particular focus to make the strategy an appropriate and effective instrument of change.

We believe that the use of the intersectional perspective can play a crucial role in formulating an efficient Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) framework for the region. South Asia showcases a rich assortment of varied identities, including those related to gender, social class, caste, ethnicity, religion, and (dis)ability. The convergence of these identities leads to intricate layers of disadvantages, which distinctly shape the vulnerabilities of various groups. For example, the difficulties experienced by a woman belonging to a lower income or low-caste group who has a disability, has much greater challenges to face than a woman belonging to a higher income (or social) group in a disaster situation.

In the midst of these challenges, we also have some opportunities. The incorporation of gender-responsive policies within the DRR framework can contribute to turning the

tide in favour of the weak and vulnerable. Empowerment and capacity-building initiatives have the potential to serve as catalysts. For this strategy, selection of the "focus" was made easy by the experience of GRRIPP. The seven commissioned projects of GRRIPP South Asia offered us a consolidated list of themes that we can adopt as the primary focus of the strategic framework. This should help us utilize the knowledge and experiences gathered by the predecessor project and enable us to expand on those as a way forward. Of course, some additions and adaptations have also been suggested for it to reflect the priorities identified by the project participants from different countries. We have therefore, provisionally chosen the following seven areas of focus:

1. Gender and Disability
2. Violence against Women
3. Reproductive Health
4. Employment
5. Community Based Inclusive DRR
6. Governance
7. Curriculum Development

6.1   Priority themes

We should generate new project concepts under each of the themes and seek financial support for their implementation. They need to be creative and should reflect the ground realities of the concerned country and the implementing institution. Particular attention will be given to the quality of outcome and impacts each idea or action promises to create. Besides, we must ensure that all our work adheres to the values and goals of the strategic frame. This list of themes will be reviewed later to make any additions or subtractions as deemed necessary. These are briefly explained as under:

1) **Gender and Disability:** This should ensure equal access to education, healthcare, employment, and participation in decision-making processes by acknowledging the particular difficulties experienced by women and girls with disabilities and by designing supportive gender-responsive policies and practices. Thus, society is made more inclusive and equitable by incorporating *gender and disability* perspectives into policies, programs, and practices. This should help to address all key challenges and issues faced by women and girls with disabilities. By reducing social inequality, advancing well-being, and enhancing resilience in the face of calamities, this should also help achieving several SDG targets. In this connection, we can refer to the experience of the commissioning project of Tribhuvan University of Nepal, under GRRIPP, which has closely examined how people having multiple and intersecting identities have fared during COVID-19 pandemic and how the government interventions contributed to reducing multidimensional vulnerabilities for these people.

2) **Violence against Women**

Violence against women (VAW) in South Asia is known for disproportionately affecting the lives of many women, and exacerbates gender-based inequalities. Efforts to prevent violence and provide support to the survivors contribute to reducing inequalities through improved access of women to justice and protection. Ensuring violence-free environments in schools and communities is essential for girls' education. We know that eliminating gender-based violence supports equal access to quality education. Collaboration among government bodies, civil society, and international organizations is crucial for developing and implementing strategies to prevent and respond to violence against women effectively. A crucial first step in advancing gender equality and reaching several SDGs is to combat violence against women by fostering safer, more inclusive, and egalitarian societies where women and girls may thrive without having to worry about violence. It helps to increase resilience of disadvantaged women. Beyond being morally right only, ending violence is also a crucial component of sustainable development. A community based local organization in Bangladesh, IEDS, has worked to raise awareness among women and men regarding legal rights and responsibilities to combat violence and promote equality and diversity.

3) **Reproductive Health:** Building peaceful and just societies depends on ensuring reproductive freedom and access to healthcare, including for the victims of gender-based violence. Gender-responsive *reproductive health* services ensure that women and girls have control over their lives and can freely make their "reproductive choices" related to family planning and adoption of birth control methods. This is an empowering process for them to make decisions about their own bodies, and plan their education and careers. Access to quality reproductive health services, including family planning, maternal and postnatal care are essential for reducing the rate of maternal and child mortality, which is an important target of SDG 3. Collaboration between governments, NGOs, and healthcare providers is vital for the delivery of gender-responsive reproductive healthcare services. These partnerships help mobilize resources and expertise to achieve the SDG targets. Reproductive health has a complex impact on several SDGs when viewed from a gender viewpoint. It supports sustainable development, encourages gender equality, and enhances general health and wellbeing. A crucial tactic for attaining several SDGs is to enable people to make informed and educated decisions about investments in reproductive health services and education by the concerned authorities. The research project under the reproductive health theme by the individual researchers of Dhaka University has emphasized the need for developing a particular disaster risk reduction framework (for the healthcare sector) with a provision to deliver essential Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services during emergencies.

4) **Employment:** Under this theme, economic empowerment of women and marginalised groups affected by disasters will receive the focus. We have known that *Employment* policies and practices that promote gender equality help empower women economically by narrowing the gender pay gap and fostering equal opportunities in the workplace. Gender-responsive employment practices help reduce inequalities by ensuring that marginalized and vulnerable groups, including women, have access to decent work, fair wages, and social protection. SEWA Bharat, India has worked with informal women workers to ensure that they have strong social security buffer and thus

avoid destitution. Besides, examples from NGOs and special government programmes in different countries should also inform our efforts to devise creative solutions to advance economic, but also, social empowerment of women.

5) **Community based inclusive DRR:** The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR/UNDRR) that promotes global collaboration and alliances among different countries, is increasingly paying emphasis on community level interventions using inclusive approaches. For example, the post Sendai National Plan for Disaster Management (NPDM, 2021-2025) in Bangladesh (Section 4.4.) refers to Inclusion as the key strategy designed to "ensure incorporation of gender issues in decision making and ensure participation of women and men, girls and boys in all the priority actions of NPDM". Similarly, the revised Standing Orders on Disaster (SOD, 2019) incorporated social inclusion as a separate agenda. Collaborative approaches need to ensure that interventions are culturally sensitive, environmentally appropriate, and are tailored to respond to the specific challenges faced by the concerned community. Hence, engaging local communities, including women and marginalised groups for the purpose of developing contextually relevant DRR strategies is regarded as the best approach.

6) **Governance:** Governance as a thematic area plays a crucial role in promoting gender-responsive resilience and contributes to the achievement of several SDG goals. Effective governance ensures that gender equality is integrated into policies, laws, and decision-making processes. Gender-responsive governance promotes women's participation in political and economic spheres by addressing gender disparities. Urban governance can foster inclusive and accessible cities by ensuring that urban planning and infrastructure take into account the needs of all residents, including women and vulnerable groups. Effective governance may also involve collaboration among governments, civil society groups, private sector organizations, and international partners. These partnerships are often crucial for achieving gender-responsive policies and initiatives. Good governance happens to be an overarching theme that cuts across multiple SDG targets including that related to gender-responsive governance. Reducing inequities, promoting sustainable development, and establishing an inclusive and equitable society depends on effective governance that is based on transparency and accountability. Duryog Nivaran, a South Asian network on DRR and one of the awardees of GRRIPP South Asia, has worked on enhancing public sector accountability and transparency for gender inclusion and developed three policy briefs on India, Nepal and South Asia.

7) **Curriculum Development on Gender, DRR and Intersectionality:** A dedicated process of curriculum development for educational institutions to integrate the principles and perspectives of gender equality into educational materials and teaching methodologies remain an important need in our region. This helps to challenge gender stereotypes and biases, and foster an inclusive and equitable learning environment. Incorporating lessons on gender-based discrimination, gender-based violence, and the significance of gender equality into curricula helps to increase awareness among students and teachers on the subject. It also promotes creation of knowledge and empower all those important actors who can promote gender equality in

society. A gender-responsive curriculum can also contribute to the promotion of critical thinking linked to gender inequality and disaster preparedness. Students acquire skills and abilities to solve problems in the actual world by their improved conceptualization of the issues related to inclusive DRR. Training educators in gender-sensitive pedagogical methods and content delivery ensures that they are well-equipped to create inclusive learning environments and effectively address gender-related issues in the classrooms. The prime objectives of the two commissioning projects in Bangladesh (BUP) and India (JTSDS) were to promote a gender-responsive curriculum using intersectional lens.

Implementation strategy

The successful execution of the Strategy demands a carefully crafted and methodical approach that aligns with its goals and principles. Collaboration among government and, non-governmental organizations, community leaders, academia, and international partners is essential to ensure a comprehensive implementation. Some of the important ways to successfully implement the strategy should include the following:

a) **Capacity Building:** Design, develop and deliver gender and intersectionality training programs for disaster management professionals, first responders, and community leaders. These programs should raise awareness, enhance knowledge, and equip stakeholders with the tools needed to integrate these considerations into their roles.

b) **Policy Integration:** Revise existing DRR policies and strategies to explicitly integrate gender and intersectionality perspectives. New policies should reflect a commitment to inclusive disaster management, outlining specific measures to address the unique needs of diverse groups.

c) **Community Engagement:** Engage with local communities, including women and marginalised groups, to develop contextually relevant DRR strategies. Collaborative approaches ensure that interventions are culturally sensitive, appropriate, and tailored to the specific challenges faced by different communities.

d) **Early Warning Systems:** Develop and implement inclusive early warning systems that cater to various demographic segments. These systems should consider accessibility, languages, and communication channels that resonate with different community groups, ensuring the effective dissemination of crucial information.

e) **Capacity Enhancement:** Strengthen the capacity of existing shelters and safe spaces to accommodate the diverse needs of vulnerable groups, including women, children, elderly individuals, and LGBTQ+ individuals. Adequate facilities, protection, and support services should be integral to these spaces.

f) **Empowerment Initiatives:** Promote women's and marginalised groups' active involvement in DRR decision-making processes. Establish platforms for their participation, ensuring that their voices are heard and their perspectives inform policies, strategies, and interventions.

g) **Private Sector engagement**: South Asia has a vibrant private sector that plays an important role in the economy of the respective countries. While they need to be made aware about their responsibility to treat the environment with

utmost care and respect, they should also be encouraged to participate in different DRR plans and actions. We can also help them tailor their corporate social responsibility initiatives to produce maximum benefit for the people and environment.

h) **Data Collection and Analysis:** Develop standardized data collection tools that consider intersectional factors, ensuring the collection of accurate and representative data. Analyze data to inform evidence-based policies and strategies that address specific vulnerabilities.

- ◆ Engage a variety of stakeholders, such as NGOs, community leaders, women's groups, and underrepresented groups, to ensure an inclusive stakeholder engagement approach. The efficacy of the strategy will be enhanced by their varied viewpoints.

- ◆ Analyze current DRR, gender equality, and intersectionality laws and policies from a policy and legal perspective. Determine any gaps and areas that require improvement or alignment.

- ◆ Consider gender and intersectionality in all facets of DRR, from risk assessments to action plans. Make sure that these factors are viewed as essential elements rather than as optional extras.

7.1   Monitoring and Evaluation

Effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is crucial for assessing the framework's impact, identifying challenges, and making necessary adjustments. This process should involve both qualitative and quantitative indicators to track progress against each outcome. Key elements of the monitoring and evaluation approach will include:

- **Data Collection:** Collect data regularly on the implementation of each outcome, considering gender and intersectionality dimensions. Regular data updates will provide insights into the effectiveness of interventions and help identify areas requiring attention.

- **Stakeholder Feedback:** Solicit feedback from diverse stakeholders, including local communities, NGOs, government agencies, and academia. Their perspectives can provide valuable insights into the ground-level impact of the framework and potential areas for improvement.

- **Outcome Analysis:** Regularly analyze the achieved outcomes against the predetermined targets. This analysis should be conducted with a focus on gender and intersectionality considerations, enabling identification of disparities and successes.

- **Lessons Learned:** Document lessons learned throughout the implementation process, highlighting best practices, challenges, and strategies that have proven effective in integrating gender and intersectionality into DRR efforts.

- **Adaptive Management:** Based on the M&E findings, refine the framework's strategies and interventions to enhance effectiveness, address gaps, and capitalize on successful approaches.

- **Transparency and Accountability:** Ensure transparency in reporting progress and challenges to stakeholders. This fosters accountability among all partners involved in the implementation of the framework.

By employing a comprehensive implementation strategy and a robust monitoring and evaluation process, the strategic framework can facilitate sustainable, equitable, and effective disaster management practices that prioritize the needs and vulnerabilities of all segments of people in society.

Organizational arrangement

When the tenure of the GRRIPP project ends in January 2024, the GRRIPP South Asia Network will have a more formalized management and governance structure to launch new initiatives in partnership with the Gender and Development Network, Bangladesh Country Hub. As noted before, this strategic framework will offer the Network useful directions in its bid to develop new work programmes. Although, GRRIPP South Asia Network does not yet have any resource commitments or a formal pledge of financial support from any 'donors', it has decided to continue its efforts through its Secretariat at IDMVS (the South Asia GRRIPP project office), at Dhaka University. This strategy is expected to help all, including its informal partners and network members to make fresh commitments to continue working through the new network of GRRIPP South Asia. The joint efforts guided by this Strategic Frame are expected to generate different collaborative actions and programmes with the objectives of building resilience of disadvantaged women and men in the region. It will simultaneously focus on strengthening the organizational structure and funding base of the Network.

GRRIPP: has been a 4-year global collaboration and knowledge exchange project, implemented by seven universities based in Bangladesh, Peru, South Africa, and the United Kingdom (UK). GRRIPP is led by the University College London[1], UK, and implemented in three regions of the Global South, i.e., Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and South Asia.

GRRIPP South Asia: The Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies (IDMVS), University of Dhaka, is leading the GRRIPP South Asia region through signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Global GRRIPP. GRRIPP South Asia was awarded to IDMVS as part of the Gender and Disaster Network (GDN) activity, Bangladesh Country Hub, which was launched in 2018 at IDMVS with the support of UN Women.[1] GRRIPP South Asia has awarded a total of nine commissioning projects in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka to accomplish the goal of making vulnerable communities resilient through need-based policies and practices. There are seven thematic areas (i.e. Gender and Disability, Violence against Women, Reproductive Health, Employment, Community Based Inclusive DRR for Voluntarism, Governance in Pandemic and Beyond, Curriculum Development on Gender, DRR and Intersectionality on which the awardees have produced knowledge products, policy briefs, curriculums, gender audits, awareness materials as well as audio-visual documentaries.

Box-1: A profile of GRRIPP project

Conclusions

The formulation of a comprehensive strategy for Gender and Intersectionality in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in South Asia is not only a necessity but also a moral imperative in light of the complex challenges posed by natural disasters in the region. South Asia's vulnerability to a variety of natural and man-made disasters is a well-known fact. A complex interplay of socioeconomic, cultural, and environmental vulnerabilities defines the region's disaster-prone character. Among these vulnerabilities, marginalised groups endure a disproportionate share of the burden, highlighting the centrality of gender dynamics in disaster contexts. Faced with traditional norms and roles, women and marginalised individuals here, are more vulnerable compared to most other regions of the world, with limited access to resources, restricted mobility, and a constrained decision-making autonomy.

Nevertheless, just as the incorporation of a gender perspective is crucial, so too is the incorporation of an intersectional lens when developing a robust Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategy. The rich tapestry of diverse identities in South Asia, which includes social class, caste, ethnicity, religion, and disability, necessitates a strategy that takes into consideration the complexities produced by these intersections. During disasters, the vulnerabilities of a disabled woman from a lower caste are significantly different from those of an able-bodied woman from a higher caste. Despite the apparent obstacles, this framework offers numerous opportunities for transformative change. Incorporating gender-responsive policies lays the groundwork for strategies tailored to the requirements of diverse communities. Empowerment initiatives and capacity development can serve as catalysts for women's and marginalised populations' active participation in disaster management. The collection and analysis of gender-disaggregated data can shed light on nuanced vulnerabilities and inform intervention strategies. Engaging communities with cultural sensitivity can facilitate effective disaster risk reduction by leveraging local knowledge. At the same time, awareness campaigns can motivate stakeholders to comprehend the vital role of gender and intersectionality in disaster outcomes.

This framework has the potential to revolutionize disaster response and recovery strategies. By integrating these principles into every aspect of disaster management, we can increase resiliency, reduce vulnerability, and establish a more inclusive and equitable society in South Asia. This initiative to formulate a **"Strategic Framework for Gender, Disaster and Intersectionality in South Asia (2024-30)"** will go a long way in achieving that vision.

However, the success of the framework depends on the cooperation and dedication of governments, organizations, and communities. Implementation difficulties, such as resource limitations and resistance to change, can impede progress. In addition, cultural sensitivity must be navigated with care in order to avoid imposing external standards. In addition, measuring impact and obtaining dependable data to evaluate outcomes and monitor progress can be difficult.

The South Asian Gender & Intersectionality in DRR Framework essentially provides a visionary path to disaster resilience in achieving goals, plans and policing aligning with international drivers such as SFDRR and SDGs. It addresses vulnerabilities and inequalities, but its implementation is contingent on overcoming real-world obstacles. This framework has the potential to bring about a transformative change that safeguards the most marginalised, empowers the disenfranchised, and builds a future of resilience and equity in the face of adversity if applied with determination, strategic adaptation, and continuous refinement

As of now, the planned South Asian network is yet to be formalized with people and finances. It is hoped that this strategy document will come handy in achieving this objective as well.

Annexure

A-1.   Why Gender, Intersectionality and DRR – a contextual analysis

Within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), gender, intersectionality, and disaster risk reduction (DRR) are significant factors. GRRIPP South Asian thematic areas and projects are directly intertwined with *gender equality* (crosscutting goal for all the commissioning projects), *quality education* (curriculum development), *decent work and economic growth* (employment, violence against women), *reduced inequalities* (cross-cutting; governance), *sustainable cities and communities* (Community Based Inclusive DRR for Voluntarism) and last but not the least *partnerships for the goals* to strengthen the network amidst the global south through regional cooperation, exchange, and scopes for collaboration.

In particular, SDG 5 emphasizes about gender equality and the empowerment of women. It emphasizes how crucial it is to fight gender inequality and advance the rights of women and girls. Other SDGs, such as SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), and SDG 4 (Quality Education), among others, incorporate gender issues. In order to ensure that women and men have equal access to resources, information, and decision-making processes, gender equality must be attained. This is crucial for sustainable development and disaster resilience. *Targets* no *5.1, 5.2, and 5.5* clearly vouch for ending all forms of gender discrimination, and violence by ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels. All the commissioned projects of GRRIPP South Asia have been designed and implemented to fight against gender disparities and bring awareness for equality.

On the other hand*; intersectionality* is not a standalone SDG nonetheless is a concept that underscores the need to consider the intersecting identities and vulnerabilities of individuals. It's particularly relevant when addressing issues related to gender, race, class, and other dimensions of identity. Intersectionality permeates many SDGs, particularly those pertaining to social fairness, education, and healthcare (such as SDG 4 and SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities), even if it isn't mentioned directly in any of them. Given that people may experience multiple forms of discrimination and vulnerability during disasters, intersectionality is important for DRR because it emphasizes the need for specialized strategies to address these complexities. Precisely, *targets no 10.2 and 4.5* stand for empowering and promoting the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status by 2030. Equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in vulnerable situations may increase the need for an intersectional lens in achieving the targets of SDGs.

Although the concept of DRR is not associated with a specific SDG, it does align with a number of other goals including SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure). This is because lowering the risk of disasters helps to promote sustainable development and fight poverty. Moreover, climate change, which is intimately connected to catastrophe risk, is addressed under SDG 13 (Climate Action). To lessen the effects of disasters related to climate change, effective DRR initiatives are crucial. Resilient urban planning and infrastructure are

essential components of DRR in urban settings, and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) underlines their importance. Designing inclusive DRR strategies requires taking gender equality and intersectionality into account, and effective DRR helps to achieve many SDGs by lowering disaster vulnerabilities and fostering sustainable development.

Furthermore, the Sendai Framework and the Strategic Plan for Gender, Disaster Risk Reduction and Intersectionality have substantial and beneficial interactions. The Sendai Framework's priorities and guiding principles should be incorporated into any strategy on gender and intersectionality in disaster risk reduction. This involves focusing on the four action objectives of understanding disaster risk, boosting disaster readiness for efficient response and recovery, strengthening disaster risk governance, and investing in disaster risk reduction.

- By including gender-specific vulnerabilities and intersecting elements in risk assessments, the gender and intersectionality technique could improve knowledge of catastrophe risk. As a result, tailored interventions are made possible, and a more accurate analysis of who is most at risk and why is ensured.
- Strengthening inclusion and diversity in decision-making processes is accomplished by integrating gender and intersectionality into DRR governance frameworks. This may entail encouraging policies that cater to the particular requirements of excluded groups and guaranteeing women's participation in DRR planning.
- By focusing on investments that take into account the varying needs of various groups, a gender and intersectionality strategy is in line with this aim. It promotes funding to be given to initiatives that advance social justice and gender equality in DRR.
- The strategy promotes gender-sensitive early warning systems, and evacuation plans that take various requirements into account and give women and marginalised groups the power to actively participate in disaster response and recovery operations, all of which help to improve preparedness.

The Sendai Framework promotes global collaboration and alliances and countries in South Asia are increasingly providing attention to inclusive approaches to community-level interventions. For example, in the post-Sendai National Plan for Disaster Management (NPDM, 2021-2025) in Bangladesh Section '4.4. Inclusion as an underlying strategy is designed to "ensure incorporation of gender issues in decision making and ensure participation of women and men, girls and boys in all the priority actions of NPDM". Similarly, the revised Standing Orders on Disaster (SOD) 2019 incorporated social inclusion as a separate agenda. By exchanging best practices, obstacles, and lessons learned in integrating gender views and tackling intersectional vulnerabilities, countries can work together more effectively under the gender and intersectionality approach.

A-2. Alignment between thematic priorities and SDGs

Curriculum development can integrate gender equality principles and perspectives into educational materials and teaching methodologies. This helps challenge gender stereotypes and biases, fostering a more inclusive and equitable learning environment. Incorporating lessons on gender-based discrimination, gender-based violence, and the significance of gender equality into curricula helps increase awareness among students and teachers, creating knowledgeable, empowered people who can promote gender equality. A gender-responsive curriculum can promote critical thinking about complicated topics, such as gender inequality and disaster preparedness. Students have the ability to solve problems in the actual world because of this. Training educators in gender-sensitive pedagogical methods and content delivery can ensure that they are well-equipped to create inclusive learning environments and address gender-related issues in the classroom. In addition to SDGs 4 and 5, a gender-responsive curriculum can also correlate with other SDGs. For instance, teaching kids the value of gender equality and sustainable practices can help the world achieve SDGs 1 and 2 (No Poverty and Zero Hunger), among other goals. The prime objectives of the two commissioned projects of GRRIPP South Asia in Bangladesh (BUP) and India (JTSDS) are working to promote a gender-responsive curriculum working towards gender transformability while incorporating an intersectional lens too.

Reproductive health services, when gender-responsive, ensure that women and girls have control over their reproductive choices, including family planning and access to contraceptives. This empowers them to make decisions about their bodies, education, and careers. Access to quality reproductive health services, including maternal care, prenatal and postnatal care, and family planning, is essential for reducing maternal and child mortality, a key target of SDG 3. Collaboration between governments, NGOs, and healthcare providers is vital for the delivery of gender-responsive reproductive health services. These partnerships help mobilize resources and expertise to achieve related SDG targets. Building peaceful and just societies depend on ensuring reproductive freedom and access to healthcare, including for victims of gender-based violence. Reproductive health has a complex impact on several SDGs when viewed from a gender-responsive viewpoint. It supports sustainable development, encourages gender equality, and enhances general health and well-being. A crucial tactic for attaining several SDGs while enabling people to make educated decisions about their reproductive health is to invest in reproductive health services and education. The research project under the reproductive health theme by the individual researchers of Dhaka University emphasizes the need for developing a disaster risk reduction framework for health under the health sectoral plan integrating a provision to deliver minimum essential SRH services during emergencies.

Equal access to education, healthcare, employment, and involvement in decision-making processes is ensured by acknowledging the particular difficulties experienced by women and girls with disabilities and by designing gender-responsive policies and practices. A more inclusive and equitable society is made possible by incorporating a gender and disability perspective into policies, programs, and practices. This helps to address the unique issues faced by women and girls with disabilities. By lowering inequality, advancing well-being, and encouraging resilience in the face of difficulties and calamities, this in turn helps to fulfill several SDG targets. The commissioning project of Tribhuvan University of Nepal assessed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and disasters on the health and well-being of people having multiple and

intersecting identities and examined the role of local government in reducing multidimensional vulnerabilities for those populations at risk.

Employment policies and practices that promote gender equality, such as equal pay for equal work and anti-discrimination measures, help empower women economically, narrowing the gender pay gap and fostering equal opportunities in the workforce. Gender-responsive employment practices help reduce inequalities by ensuring that marginalised and vulnerable groups, including women, have access to decent work, fair wages, and social protection. SEWA Bharat has worked with the informal women workers to ensure women workers need a strong social security buffer to ensure that each crisis does not send them into destitution.

Governance as a thematic area plays a crucial role in promoting gender-responsive resilience and contributing to the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Effective governance ensures that gender equality is integrated into policies, laws, and decision-making processes. Gender-responsive governance promotes women's participation in political and economic spheres, addressing gender disparities. Urban governance can foster inclusive and accessible cities, ensuring that urban planning and infrastructure take into account the needs of all residents, including women and vulnerable groups. Effective governance involves collaboration among governments, civil society, private sector organizations, and international partners. These partnerships are essential for achieving gender-responsive policies and initiatives. Effective governance involves collaboration among governments, civil society, private sector organizations, and international partners. These partnerships are essential for achieving gender-responsive policies and initiatives. An overarching theme that affects the accomplishment of multiple SDGs is gender-responsive governance. It makes ensuring that gender differences are taken into account in policies and practices, empowering women and marginalised groups, and encouraging resilience in the face of difficulties. Reducing inequities, promoting sustainable development, and establishing an inclusive and equitable society all depend on effective governance. Duryog Nivaran, a South Asian network on DRR and one of the awardees of GRRIPP South Asia has worked on enhancing public sector accountability and transparency for gender inclusion and developed three policy briefs on India, Nepal, and South Asia.

Violence disproportionately affects women and exacerbates gender-based inequalities. Efforts to prevent violence and support survivors contribute to reducing inequalities by ensuring that women have equal protection and access to justice. Ensuring safety and a violence-free environment in schools and communities is essential for girls' education. Eliminating gender-based violence supports equal access to quality education. Collaboration among governments, civil society, and international organizations is crucial for developing and implementing strategies to prevent and respond to violence against women effectively. A crucial first step in advancing gender equality and several SDGs is to combat violence against women. By fostering safer, more inclusive, and egalitarian societies where women and girls may thrive without having to worry about violence, it helps to increase resilience. Beyond only being morally right, ending violence is also a crucial component of sustainable development. Therefore, one of the local organizations of Bangladesh; IEDS (Netrokona); working to raise awareness among women and men regarding their legal rights and responsibilities to combat violence and promote a society of equality and diversity.

A-3. Policy Recommendations from the Commissioning Projects:

Enhancing public sector accountability and transparency for gender inclusion in response to natural hazard-induced disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic in India and Nepal (Duryog Nivaran)

➜ Efforts have to be taken towards creating awareness and sensitisation on gender roles, especially during emergencies. Gender transformative action in a community in ordinary times, can be helpful during emergencies.

➜ Government as the lead authority needs to ensure documentation of gender and disability disaggregated data/information - for women/girls, with disability/ senior citizens / marginalised and other at-risk groups. Information of service providers and the right holder's details (type of need, type of disabilities, age, sex) should also be collected and used to improve the country's appropriate response to emergencies.

➜ Mechanisms should be in place to effectively respond to increases in violence. The state police as well as the local police should ensure that people can report domestic violence and abuse during emergencies. If there is a mechanism such as the Special Cell on Gender Violence Management, as in India, such mechanisms should be made active and continue to operate during emergencies. Such systems should be sensitive to the concerns of females, the elderly with disability and the LGBTIQ+.

➜ In relation to health and well-being issues during emergencies, the National and State governments need to prioritise

◆ maternal and child health issues during emergencies so that the health indicators related to mother and child health are not adversely affected. Relevant data, such as that pertaining to pregnant women, also needs to be available with local public health institutes.

◆ sexual and reproductive health needs during emergencies - such as the needs of the women including needs during menstrual periods, prevention from domestic violence, contraceptives etc.

◆ in situations of epidemics, stringent vaccination/inoculation mechanisms including that of the digital registration and offline registrations need to be made available, to deal with hesitation in remote areas.

◆ Social protection nets have to be strengthened by the government for the informal workers, especially the women workers, during emergencies. The way forward in post-pandemic recovery must generate an environment to not only recover any lost status and opportunities but also to facilitate women's participation in all societal functions so that the recovery becomes more resilient in the region. This also requires strengthening the capacities, the contribution and leadership by women for risk management.

Utilization of maternal healthcare services during COVID-19 pandemic in disaster-prone areas of Bangladesh (Dhaka University)

→ Develop disaster risk reduction framework for health under the health sectoral plan integrating a provision to deliver minimum essential SRH services during an emergency.

→ Create more employment opportunities for all, with a particular focus on women. Increase women's participation in the formal labor force so that they can get financial benefits even during pandemics.

→ Create sustained income opportunities for all with a greater emphasis on rural areas in which people were disproportionately affected due to the pandemic.

→ Recruit adequate healthcare providers and provide adequate support services to prevent decreased visits of healthcare providers at home due to the pandemic.

→ Strengthen disaster-related coping strategies and provide adequate financial support to households for a quick return to pre-disaster conditions.

→ Promote public-private partnerships to ensure better access to healthcare services during disasters and pandemics.

→ Provide adequate financial support to all households during pandemics following the need-based approach. Emphasis on prioritizing the needs of children, vulnerable women, and those who are at higher risk of greater vulnerability to disasters such as people with disabilities and others.

→ Adequately prepare local health centers in a planned way to manage pandemics by ensuring required human resources, healthcare providers, medicine, and other support services.

Gender, Disability, and Pandemic: Understanding Intersectional Effect on Health and Wellbeing of Women with Disabilities and the Role of Local Government to Build a More Resilient Society (Tribhuvan University)

→ The impact of disasters and pandemics is not the same for everyone, as it depends on various factors like gender, disability, caste, power, and economic status. Consequently, it is essential to incorporate specific vulnerabilities into disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies, strategies, and planning.

→ Creating awareness among marginalized groups within a community, including duty bearers, right holders, activists, and consumers, is crucial for effective policy implementation. However, it is even more effective to develop policies, practices, and strategies that are based on evidence and are responsive to gender and disability concerns. Involving women, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups in these efforts enhances their sense of ownership and awareness.

→ Furthermore, to enhance resilience, it is beneficial to establish self-help groups at the local level during emergencies and involve them in DRR initiative committees responsible for designing, implementing, and monitoring DRR activities.

→ It's important to note that the effects of disasters vary depending on the type of catastrophe, geographical location, and cultural factors. To build a resilient society, local-level governments and other organizations have a crucial role to play. This involves identifying, utilizing, and preserving local resources while also ensuring the rational allocation and distribution of resources, especially in resource-constrained settings. Additionally, Intersectional

coordination and collaboration are crucial to avoid duplication and effective task performance.

Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Disaster Risk Reduction: developing a Theoretical Model for gender responsive resilience and intersectionality (Centre for Disability in Development- CDD)

➔ A national review meeting/workshop should be organized to assess the progresses made in terms of implementing the Dhaka Declaration 2015+;

➔ Each year, each district should be given target to conduct 10 new CRA/URA and develop 10 RRAP and contingency plan to promote the use of the guidelines. And also should review existing at least 10 existing RRAP and contingency plan to review with lens of gender equality and intersectionality;

➔ To increase the participation of women with and without disability in the DRM, specific measures have to be taken, such as, family counselling to promote active participation of women CPP volunteers, training for the women volunteers on disability inclusive search, rescue and evacuation, enhancing capacity of women members of different committees;

➔ To this end, the existing CRA and URA guidelines need to be updated by incorporating relevant instructions, recommendations, and issues related to gender and intersectionality based on the following crucial steps:

- Include gender and intersectionality in the introductory section;
- Emphasize the significance and relevance of gender and intersectionality in CRA/URA conduction and development of Contingency plan;
- Define the requisite competencies of facilitators to conduct inclusive CRA/URA and developing contingency plan;
- Revise participant selection criteria and offer facilitator tips for participant selection to include also transgender, third gender, sex workers, women with different types of disability;
- Highlight measures to ensure physical and environmental accessibility of the vulnerable groups i.e., women, children, elderly, and those with disabilities for active engagement;
- Update the CRA/URA and Contingency Plan Guidelines execution plan with incorporation of gender and intersectionality;
- Suggest effective participatory methodologies and tools for collecting and analyzing gender and intersectionality related data;
- Include a discussion checklist inclusive of gender and intersectionality issues;
- Provide facilitators with instructions for adapting specific participatory methodology tools;
- Integrate need-based recommendations into the sequential steps of CRA and URA;
- Include data processing and analysis issues;
- Revise the structure of the CRA and URA planning template to align with the Gender Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction.

The many faces of sustainable employment (SEWA Bharat)

➔ In a world which is increasingly becoming prone to disasters due to climate change, there is a need is to recognize the climate resilience strategies that women in the informal economy have defined and constructed themselves

and build a lexicon around it. Women from the informal economy are the most affected by climate change and yet have a limited understanding of climate resilience in the way it is discussed in the larger development discourse.

➔ Owing to the multifaceted nature of resilience, targeted interventions to make women more resilient via focusing on improving individual caliber (through training and mentoring, asset transfer etc.) as well as community level tenacity (through political mobilization, shared resources etc.) can prove helpful in times of crisis.

➔ There could also be attempts to establish small businesses run by and for the women; but that would require the creation of a solid ecosystem - access to capital, business networks and marketing, amongst others.

Towards Human Rights and its Violation and Expulsion (IEDS)

Sustainable employment and human rights are interconnected concepts. Ensuring sustainable employment practices is essential for upholding human rights. IEDS has undertaken following initiatives to maintain the sustainable employment and human rights which can be replicated into strategies for developing policy implications.

➔ To ensure a sustainable employment, IEDS has provided support for the community peoples to education and training opportunities that equipped them with the skills on sewing training needed for the job market;

➔ IEDS developed linkage between community peoples and service providers to create more employment opportunities for all, with a particular focus on women and also increased women's participation in the formal labor force;

➔ IEDS provided support to create a sustainable employment system includes provisions for unemployment benefits and social safety nets to support individuals during job transitions or economic downturns;

➔ IEDS has created a mechanism to respect human rights throughout their operations, including employment practices;

➔ To increase the participation of women for sustainable employment and human rights;

Reimagining the World of Women's Work Post Crises (SEWA Bharat)

➔ With changing times because of factors like technological advancement and climate change, many informal economy trades are becoming obsolete. To ensure dignified and lucrative livelihoods for those who practice these trades, designing policies that help them to shift to alternative modes of livelihood are crucial.

➔ For women who do not want to or cannot shift to alternative sources of livelihood, interventions need to be designed to improve conditions within the women's existing trades.

➔ A significant part of the informal economy comprises of communities that belong to religion and caste-oppressed communities – in which generations are forced to work in precarious conditions for low wages. From a human rights perspective, it is essential to design policies that support these communities to break away from this cycle of oppression.

➔ Accessibility to formal education is essential as education opens up opportunities in the formal workplace for the younger generations.

➔ Skilling opportunities for the younger generations from informal economy communities that suits their needs, interests and capacities is required.

➔ Asset building is very important as mere skilling is not enough. For example, training young girls in computers without providing them with personal computers, laptops etc often leads to the girls losing their skills over time due to lack of practice.

Development of Curriculum on "DRR, Humanitarian Response and Intersectionality (BUP) – Phase I

➔ Design and offer more short-term (certificate, diploma etc.) and long-term (graduate and undergraduate programs) academic and professional programs in which the concepts of Gender Responsive Resilience and Intersectionality are reflected in teaching, learning and assessment (TLA) methods.
➔ Make **adequate consensus** among the curriculum with the **local, regional, and international universities** and **professional organizations** to prepare and encounter **pressing issues** such as disaster risk reduction, climate change, humanitarian response, sustainable development that makes **'intersectionality'** a common agenda across disciplines.
➔ Support the **specialized programs** that specifically address the issue of Gender Responsive Resilience and Intersectionality for receiving **accreditation and professional agencies recognition.**
➔ Increase academic, financial, and professional investment to transform the local academic, training, and professional programs aligned to DRR, Humanitarian Response and Intersectionality issues.
➔ Enhance nationally led capacity development programs for academic, curriculum, and professional development in order to augment curriculum development, implementation, and dissemination.
➔ **Increase collaboration through signing MoU and building partnership** with different universities, government, INGOs, UNO, and professional organizations to transfer, share, and support knowledge, technology, programs, and skills through **innovative curriculum development and implementation.**
➔ Establish proper mechanisms to **incorporate cutting-edge knowledge** and research into disaster pedagogy through regular self-assessment, external review, and quality assurance process.
➔ Make arraignments for establishing proper **curriculum committee** (where necessary) consisting of governments stakeholders, policymakers, donors, and international experts to update **curriculum aligned with professional and job markets.**

Reimagining Disaster Pedagogies: Towards Gender--transformative, Socially inclusive & intersectional South Asian Didactics (BUP) – Phase II

➔ Provide necessary support to disseminate the concept of Gender Responsive Resilience and Intersectionality across diverse disciplines with a special focus on STEM programs.
➔ Use the existing resource pool (created through the GRRIPP project) to enhance the capacity building and resource mobilization initiatives for the academic programs and institutions to implement curriculum and disseminate relevant knowledge, technology, programs, and skills among its audience.
➔ Support academia with technology and resources to transform traditional instruction and pedagogies to cutting-edge practices.

➔ Arrange different training programs for academics to design curriculums and offer programs that are Gender--Transformative, socially Inclusive & Intersectional in nature.
➔ Make it a national mandate led by the Ministry of Education and/or University Grants Committee to increase the number of local, regional and international knowledge sharing programs to promote the concept of inclusive curriculums and inclusive education.

Infusing Gender Consciousness in Disaster Pedagogies: A Systematic Gender Audit & Review towards Developing Intersectional Disaster Management (DM) Curriculum (JTSDS)

➔ Promoting gender sensitivity in disaster management education is essential for ensuring that the needs and vulnerabilities of all individuals are addressed during disasters.

Here are some recommendations directed towards education policy makers, interventionists and trainers in the field of Disaster Management:

➔ Issue a directive through notifications to all Higher Education Institutions teaching Disaster Management & Disaster Research to incorporate gender perspectives, perspectives on social inclusion and intersectionality in their respective curriculum. One may draw attention to the various gender provisions within the Sendai Framework of Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Climate Accord and the Prime Minister's 10-point agenda in India
➔ Gender Responsive Training Materials: Create and distribute gender-responsive training materials and resources for educators and students. These materials should include case studies, examples, and best practices that highlight the gender-specific impacts of disasters
➔ Teacher Training & Capacity Building: Provide training for educators on gender sensitivity and its relevance to disaster management. Encourage teachers to facilitate discussions on gender issues in the classroom and promote critical thinking about gender dynamics during disasters
➔ Increased Representation: Ensure that instructors and guest speakers in disaster management programs represent diverse gender identities. This helps students see role models from different backgrounds and encourages inclusivity
➔ Promote Gender Dimensions of Research in Disaster Management: Introduce Incentives for Research on gender dimensions in disaster studies. Encourage the collection and analysis of gender-disaggregated data to identify specific vulnerabilities and needs of different gender groups
➔ Internships and Field Experiences: Facilitate internships and field experiences that allow students to witness and participate in gender-sensitive disaster management practices.
➔ Foster Safe Learning Environments by issuing suitable guidelines for the inclusion of Transgender & Intersex persons
➔ Increased Public Awareness: Launch public awareness campaigns to emphasize the importance of gender sensitivity in disaster management through media engagement

A4 – Key Takeaways from Strategy Validation Workshop

Gender Responsive Resilience and Intersectionality in Policy and Practice (GRRIPP) South Asia organized the Strategy Validation Workshop on the 'Strategic Framework for Gender, Disaster, and Intersectionality in South Asia (2024-30)' on January 17th, 2024, at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Building, University of Dhaka.

Notable attendees at the workshop for the validation; represented a mix of both international and national organizations. Among the international entities present Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), German Red Cross, Maltesor International, Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) and Terre des Hommes (TDH) provided remarkable contributions.

On the national front, prominent organizations consisting the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Centre for Women and Children Studies (CWCS), Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Center (BDPC), Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), BRAC University, Center for Disability in Development (CDD), Department of Women and Gender Studies (DWGS), Dhaka University (DU), Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (DWASA), International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) have contributed profoundly.

The workshop sought to validate and strengthen it with the following objectives:

- To share and validate the key features of the strategy with the stakeholders in Bangladesh;
- Explain the context of and the processes followed to prepare the South Asian strategy;
- Share the responses received from West Bengal, India, on the strategy and the Network;
- Receive feed-back on the strategic framework and learn how we may adapt it for implementation in Bangladesh, including how to mainstream Gender, Disaster and Intersectionality in the country?

The participants were tasked to brainstorm on what possible recommendations they could make for Bangladesh under the four functional areas of the Strategy. These included, a) Co-creation of Knowledge, b) Communication and awareness building, c) Partnership and collaboration, and d) Policy Advocacy.

Co-creation of Knowledge

- A Baseline survey needs to be conducted first on the thematic areas. Certain indicators can be selected so that progress can be measured overtime and compared.
- Conducting Participatory Action Research: The life of the people and their reality should be better understood from the grass-roots level through active participation with the groups.
- Collaboration between NGOs, stakeholder groups and academicians is desirable.
- Publication: The key findings from different thematic areas should be documented. Success stories, struggles, challenges and hardships should be highlighted. These publications should be shared with researchers at home and abroad.

- Relevant case studies and related policies should be highlighted and reviewed.
- The curriculums must be updated to include changes in the context. Gender and intersectionality must be included in and integrated manner in all different subjects. Primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education in both English and Bangla medium should incorporate gender intersectionality in their text books, so that they can grow up understanding the concepts gradually. Aside from students, teachers must be made aware about "intersectionality" issues. Therefore, training programs should be arranged for teachers as well (school, college and University teachers)
- Production of IEC materials on intersectionality and organizing advocacy workshops
- Youth organizations can be mobilized to promote intersectionality.

Communication and Awareness Building

- Social Media is a great tool/platform. Facebook, YouTube, Instagram should be utilized to highlight the activities and stories.
- Utilizing our own social media pages and those of the partners' to expand online outreach.
- Networking with different organizations working on gender and intersectionality issues.
- Providing training on gender intersectionality; its thematic areas and objectives in different districts through seminars and workshops
- Providing study materials to create/raise awareness about "gender intersectionality" among students.

Partnership and Collaboration

- A need-based implementation plan needs to be formulated with the help of key stakeholders. A comprehensive and detailed need assessment plan should be adopted in view of the gender and intersectionality issues.
- Since there are 7 different thematic areas, with specialized NGO's working on them. An umbrella organization can be created to oversee the progress towards the overarching goals of the thematic areas.
- This will also create opportunities for stakeholders to share knowledge on intersectionality. (i.e. Consortium)
- Stakeholder mapping must be properly executed with members who are genuinely dedicated to the cause
- Involving Ministries relevant to the thematic areas (e.g. The Ministry of Disaster Management, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs etc.)
- Establish linkages with different organizations for promoting gender intersectionality through:
    - *Private Public Partnership (PPP)*
    - *Partnership with INGO's*
    - *Government Departments*
- Identify existing gaps in the Ministry, especially in the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs and address those (in the light of gender intersectionality and its 7 thematic areas)
- The plan should then be implemented in a way that no one is left behind and everyone gets the support they need.

Policy Advocacy

- Share evidence based research outcomes with policy makers
- Devising specific policies (on gender and intersectionality) and implementing them.
- Producing a log-frame for each of the thematic areas with focus on gender intersectionality.
- Integrating Gender Intersectionality in SOD (Standing Order of Disasters) by involving Ministries, DMC Committees and other relevant stakeholders.
- A bottom-up approach to policy formulation should be adopted.
- The main focus should be on integrating intersectionality in existing policies to fill in the gaps/shortcomings.
- The process of development of a particular area of "focus" often gets lost in government organizations, Ministries and even in NGO's with the change or relocation of the key person. Therefore, it must be integrated into the policies and frameworks so that despite
- Policies should follow the SMART approach (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time bound)
- Different Ministries working in different sectors or thematic areas must be made aware about gender intersectionality and integrate it in their policies [e.g., 1) Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. (MODMR), 2) Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MOWCA), AND 3) Local Government Engineering Department. (LGED)]

Bangladesh also has a large number of youth organizations that are actively pursuing a range of social objectives. To put the plans created by GRRIPP South Asia into action, collaborations with these groups are crucial. Through youth involvement and collaboration with their organizations, we may effectively utilize their energy, creativity, and dedication to significantly contribute to the successful implementation of the strategies. This will help to build a more comprehensive and impactful approach to disaster risk reduction that is gender-responsive.

Network Secretariate:

Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

A5 Major Contributors and Network Members

Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR)
Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change (MoFECC)
Department of Disaster Management (DDM)
Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA)
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP)
Local Government Engineering Department (LGED)
Prime Minister's Principal Coordinator for SDG Affairs
Department of Women and Gender Studies (DWGS)
CBM Global Disability Inclusion
Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)
Disaster Management Centre in Sri Lanka
Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)
All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)
Duryog Nivaran
UN Women
Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB)
Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (DWASA)
Center for Disability in Development (CDD)
Centre for Women and Children Studies (CWCS)
University of Lucknow
Kathmandu University
Jadavpur University
Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM), BUET
Netaji Subhash Open University
International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)
Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE)
Terre des Hommes (TDH)