



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

ISSN 2710-1622

NATIONAL GENDER PROFILE OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIVELIHOODS

Bangladesh



**COUNTRY
GENDER
ASSESSMENT
SERIES**

**ASIA AND
THE PACIFIC**

NATIONAL GENDER PROFILE OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIVELIHOODS

COUNTRY GENDER ASSESSMENT SERIES

Bangladesh

Required citation:

FAO. 2023. *National gender profile of agriculture and rural livelihoods – Bangladesh*. Country Gender Assessment Series. Dhaka. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc7938en>

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

ISSN 2710-1622 [Print]
ISSN 2710-1630 [Online]
ISBN 978-92-5-138197-7

© FAO, 2023



Some rights reserved. This work is made available under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 IGO licence (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO; <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/igo/legalcode>).

Under the terms of this licence, this work may be copied, redistributed and adapted for non-commercial purposes, provided that the work is appropriately cited. In any use of this work, there should be no suggestion that FAO endorses any specific organization, products or services. The use of the FAO logo is not permitted. If the work is adapted, then it must be licensed under the same or equivalent Creative Commons licence. If a translation of this work is created, it must include the following disclaimer along with the required citation: "This translation was not created by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). FAO is not responsible for the content or accuracy of this translation. The original [Language] edition shall be the authoritative edition."

Disputes arising under the licence that cannot be settled amicably will be resolved by mediation and arbitration as described in Article 8 of the licence except as otherwise provided herein. The applicable mediation rules will be the mediation rules of the World Intellectual Property Organization <http://www.wipo.int/amc/en/mediation/rules> and any arbitration will be conducted in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

Third-party materials. Users wishing to reuse material from this work that is attributed to a third party, such as tables, figures or images, are responsible for determining whether permission is needed for that reuse and for obtaining permission from the copyright holder. The risk of claims resulting from infringement of any third-party-owned component in the work rests solely with the user.

Sales, rights and licensing. FAO information products are available on the FAO website (www.fao.org/publications) and can be purchased through publications-sales@fao.org. Requests for commercial use should be submitted via: www.fao.org/contact-us/licence-request. Queries regarding rights and licensing should be submitted to: copyright@fao.org.

Cover photograph: © FAO/Fahad Kaizer

Contents

Figures and tables	iv
Acknowledgements	vi
Abbreviations	vii
Unit of measurements	viii
Executive summary	ix
1. Introduction	1
1.1 Background and rationale	2
1.2 FAO's work in Bangladesh	2
1.3 Scope and methodology	3
2. Contextual overview	5
2.1 Demography and population dynamics	6
2.2 National social and economic situation	6
2.3 Agriculture and rural development	7
2.4 Human development	9
3. Policy, legislative and institutional context	15
3.1 National commitments and legal provisions to promote gender equality	16
3.2 Institutional mechanisms for gender equality	16
3.3 Role of civil society organizations	16
3.4 Mapping and assessment of agriculture and rural development policies	19
3.5 Mainstreaming gender across agriculture and rural development sectors	21
4. Gender analysis of agriculture and the rural sector	27
4.1 Demographic and education information	28
4.2 Access to productive capital	30
4.3 Access to credit and financial services	32
4.4 Access to extension services	34
4.5 Role in household decision-making for production and income	39
4.6 Decision-making motivation and autonomy	43
4.7 Mobility	45
4.8 Group membership	46
4.9 Individual leadership and influence in the community	50
4.10 Impact of COVID-19 pandemic, shocks and coping strategies	50
4.11 Food security and nutrition	55
4.12 Life satisfaction	56
4.13 Intrahousehold relationships	58
4.14 Time use	60
4.15 Prevalence of domestic violence	62
4.16 General self-efficacy scale	65

5. Case studies	67
6. Conclusions and recommendations	71
References	76
Annexes	
Annex 1: Sampling distribution of farmers surveyed in 12 districts	82
Annex 2: List of focus group discussions	84
Annex 3: List of key informant interviews	85
Annex 4: Tables referred to in the text	86
Figures and tables	
Figure 1: Map showing the study area for the country gender assessment	4
Figure 2: Map showing where the main agricultural products are grown	8
Figure 3: Male portion of the respondent households against female at 100	28
Figure 4: Percentage of household members at various education levels by gender	29
Figure 5: Distribution of households by category of land	30
Figure 6: Decisions regarding livestock	32
Figure 7: Distribution of accounts women (left) and men (right) for savings	33
Figure 8: Distribution (%) of household members able to borrow cash/in-kind if they wanted to	34
Figure 9: Sources of information on crop production, livestock, or fisheries	36
Figure 10: Distribution of extension agents' visits and contact with male and female farmers (%)	38
Figure 11: Agricultural extension agent by gender	38
Figure 12: Percentage distribution of male and female participation in different activities	40
Figure 13: Input (percentage) for decisions on use of income generated by various activities	42
Figure 14: Distribution of respondents concerning decision-making motivation and autonomy	44
Figure 15: Decisions by women on their mobility and objection from family members	46
Figure 16: Distribution of household visits to different places without objection	47
Figure 17: Group existence and active participation of group members	48
Figure 18: Percentage distribution of women "speaking out" in the community	51
Figure 19: Distribution of households faced disaster/crisis in last 24 months that affected income	52
Figure 20: Distribution of various restrictions due to COVID-19 pandemic	52
Figure 21: Distribution of households facing difficulties related to agricultural activities over the last 24 months and coping strategies	54
Figure 22: Percentage distribution of coping strategies to face the food crisis	57
Figure 23: Percentage distribution of female–male on life satisfaction	58
Figure 24: Respect among family members "most of the time"	59
Figure 25: Distribution of female and male workload	61
Figure 26: Distribution of hours spent working by men and women over 24 hours	61
Figure 27: Distribution of the main reasons for experiencing domestic violence	63
Figure 28: Distribution of respondents' perception about correcting wife's action	63
Figure 29: Percentage distribution of prevalence of violence and mediation process	64
Figure 30: Distribution of respondents' opinions about statements relating to their life	65

Table 1:	Bangladesh's human development index trends based on consistent time series data and new goalposts	10
Table 2:	Percentage distribution of women and men (age 15 years and above) participation in the labour market in different year	11
Table 3:	Institutions working for gender equality	17
Table 4:	Relevant agriculture and rural development policies, strategies and plans	20
Table 5:	Staff ratio for men and women at the Ministry of Agriculture	23
Table 6:	Composition (%) of men and women working at the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock	24
Table 7:	Women's participation in decision-making in the rural development and co-operatives division	25
Table 8:	Average area in decimals of agricultural land owned by a household and percentage of respondents (spouse) with own land and average area in decimals by gender	31
Table 9:	Extent of influence of decisions within the group	49
Table 10:	Household members in a leadership position by the type of group	49
Table 11:	Women's dietary diversity score by district	56
Table 12:	Household dietary diversity scores across study areas	57
Table 13:	Distribution of households by type of childcare	63

Acknowledgements

This Country Gender Assessment (CGA) was commissioned by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as part of the regional programme to promote gender equality through knowledge generation and awareness-raising. This programme aims to support the review and formulation of gender-responsive sectoral policies and strategies and to accelerate the implementation of the FAO Policy on Gender Equality 2020-2030 and the Asia-Pacific Regional Gender Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2025. Md Zulfikar Rahman, Bangladesh Agriculture University, led the study team on behalf of the Centre for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS), which included Rita Sen, Dushtha Shasthya Kendra; Salma Akhter, University of Dhaka; and Md Mofizur Rahman Bappy, Jagannath University. Special thanks go to Mr Ashitava Halder, CNRS for coordinating the study. Thanks also to Mr A.S.M. Saiful Alam, Mr Shahinur Rahman and Mr Mahbubur Rahman Sarker from CNRS for actively contributing to the study and CNRS greatly acknowledges their contributions. We wholeheartedly thank Ms Botagoz Nartayeva, Mr Imtiaz Ahmad, Ms U.S. Rokeya Akhter, Ms Kae Mihara, Ms Nozomi Ide and other colleagues at the FAO for their guidance and help throughout the study. We are also very grateful to the respondent farmers, and officials of the Department of Agricultural Extension, Department of Livestock Services, Department of Fisheries, Department of Women and Children Affairs in the study area for their participation in the survey, focus group discussions and key informant interviews along with representatives from UN Women.

Copy editing and the graphic design of the publication were provided by QUO Bangkok.

Abbreviations

ASA	Association for Social Advancement
BANBEIS	Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BDT	Bangladesh Taka (Currency)
BICRR	Borrowers Implementation Completion Results Report
CGA	Country Gender Assessment
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CNRS	Centre for Natural Resource Studies
CPF	Country Programming Framework
CSOs	civil society organizations
DAE	Department of Agricultural Extension
DAM	Department of Agricultural Marketing
DLS	Department of Livestock Services
DoF	Department of Fisheries
DWA	Department of Women Affairs
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FGD	focus group discussion
GDP	gross domestic product
GII	Gender Inequality Index
GoB	Ministries of Government of Bangladesh
HDDS	household dietary diversity score
HH/HHs	household/households
ICT	information and communications technology
KII	key informant interview
MFI	microfinance institution
MG	marketing group
MICS	multiple indicator cluster survey
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoFL	Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
MOWCA	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
MPI	Multidimensional poverty index
NGO	non-governmental organization
NJLIP	Nuton Jibon Livelihood Improvement Project for Bangladesh
NWDP	National Women Development Policy
OPHI	Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative
PG	producer group
PO	producer organization
RDCD	Rural Development and Co-operatives Division
SAAO	Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer
SACCO	Financial Education through Savings and Credit Cooperatives
SDF	Social Development Foundation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals

SHG	self-help groups
SSC	Secondary school certificate
SUCAHNA	Save the Children in Bangladesh
UAO	Upazila Agriculture Officer
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UHFWC	Union Health and Family Welfare Centre
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNIDO	United Nation Industrial Development Organization
Union	Specific area under Upazila
UN Women	United Nations Women
VSG	village savings groups
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
WHO	World Health Organization

Unit of measurements

1 decimal equals 435.6 square feet or 405 057 square metres

Executive summary

Background and objectives

Women account for about half of the agricultural workforce and over 63 percent of the rural female workforce is engaged in agriculture in Bangladesh (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics [BBS], 2018). Under the leadership of the Government of Bangladesh, the country has made significant progress towards gender equality and advancing the status of women and girls, particularly in education and health care. The country ranked fiftieth among 153 countries in the Global Gender Gap Report for 2020. Bangladesh has adopted many laws and policies to promote gender equality, including the National Women Development Policy 2011. Gender inequality continues to manifest in forms of gender-based discrimination, which includes restrictive social norms, access to and control over resources, barriers to accessing services and involvement in decision-making processes. Beyond the burden of unpaid care work, the lack of economic empowerment is a massive loss for Bangladesh's economy, which could otherwise benefit from the equal participation of women.

FAO recognizes the centrality of gender equality in its mandate to achieve food security for all by raising levels of nutrition, improving agricultural productivity, natural resource management and improving the lives of rural populations. The FAO Policy on Gender Equality 2020–2030 aims to advance equality of voice, agency and access to resources and services between women and men in sustainable agricultural production and rural development, identifying gender mainstreaming and women-targeted interventions as a two-fold strategy.

In line with this policy, the Country Gender Assessment (CGA) aims to inform FAO's country-level planning and programming, especially the Country Programming Framework (CPF).

Specifically, the objectives were to inform the evidence-based development and implementation of the CPF in close collaboration with the national government and United Nations Country Teams. Gauge Bangladesh's progress in achieving gender equality in agriculture and rural development and inform the United Nations Country Team with

up-to-date information. Facilitate FAO's contribution to the United Nations Country Team report on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) with up-to-date information on rural women. Facilitate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) monitoring and reporting on rural women so as to influence agricultural and rural development policies, investment and processes and develop an understanding of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on rural women in the agricultural sector, and suggest corrective measures.

Methodology

The assessment adopted a mixed-method research approach that emphasized participatory research tools to capture the situation of gender equality and empowerment and economic and social dimensions, focusing on the rural sector and women's roles, opportunities and challenges in agriculture, rural livelihood and nutrition sector. Apart from a secondary desk review, primary data were collected on gender mainstreaming, food security, livelihood status and agriculture, policy and institutional development. A multi-staged sampling strategy randomly selected respondents from two villages, unions and upazilas in the nine districts across major hotspots outlined in the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 (Planning Commission, 2018). Data collection tools were developed jointly by the consulting agency Centre for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS), FAO and UN Women. The survey team was comprised of trained male and female enumerator experts; each team had four enumerators and a supervisor.

- Thirty-six focus group discussions (FGD) were conducted at the community level in sampled unions using pre-designed question guides for men, women, youth and producer groups.
- Fourteen key informant interviews (KII) were held using a checklist with development partners, national, international, United Nations agencies and service providers: the Department of Agricultural Extension, (DAE), Department of Livestock Services (DLS), Department of Fisheries (DoF), Department of Women Affairs (DWA).

- 384 Formal household interviews were conducted using a semi-structured questionnaire for a sample of male (n=96) and female (n=288) respondents from 12 districts (24 upazilas/unions and 48 villages) with an emphasis on women's economic empowerment and food security.
- Rural women and men can use financial services at the local level. More than two-thirds of the respondents hold a bank account in their own name: women account for 66.3 percent and men 71.9. Among women, 20.5 percent have a bank account; 31 percent use mobile banking to receive money.

Major findings

- Women living in rural areas play crucial roles in various agricultural income-generating activities. They are the silent and fundamental contributors to the rural economy and to the care of household members. Thus, women's role is vital for household food security and well-being.
- Rural women also substantially contribute to production and marketing of agricultural products. A sharp gender division compels women to work in the household, and take care of children and older people.
- Most rural households reported productive agrarian capital including land to cultivate, cattle, goats, sheep, poultry and fishponds. Men mostly own the productive land, and there is no clear delineation of ownership of livestock between men and women.
- The study indicates that women have minimal access to the decision-making process at the household and community level – usually limited to household resources for their own or family needs. Men make all decisions on agriculture and fish production. Women make the decisions when selling chickens and vegetables. Women's decision-making process is most evident in the education of son or daughter, purchase of household goods, childcare, housework and membership in local groups. Sometimes their involvement depends on decisions made by husbands or male family members. Joint decisions were observed for use of productive capital. Men dominate when decisions are for use of capital outside the home, women for the home and homestead. Women can save and spend money according to their needs, as reported by all female respondents.
- Rural women have access to digital devices for communication and financial transactions. Self-improvement through education, joining groups and income-earning activities, has gained women better decision-making abilities in the family and community.
- Women can participate freely, and lead women's groups formed by government development agencies and the private sector. Women are more organized and coordinated among themselves. They form networks and associations to raise awareness of their needs and opinions. Positive changes have been made within the community where women's contribution is valued, and their voices and leadership are recognized.
- Involvement in women's associations for project design and implementation has increased, along with leadership positions in farmer groups. When women take part in group activities a few reported they make all decisions in the group.
- Women are more mobile than they were. Depending on location, they may find it difficult to reach government offices for agriculture, livestock and fisheries services. Women frequently consult with agriculture and livestock officials, but less so with fisheries. Women participate in training by agriculture departments in their own area and elsewhere. They find training helpful, as they contribute significantly to agriculture and livestock with their labour and finances.
- Women receive limited extension services or other support because of the low number of agricultural extension workers. As women are expected to stay at home, extension workers have to visit the female farmers, yet their mobility is severely limited.
- Men in rural areas monopolize political structures, resulting in unequal distribution of resources and influence. Patriarchal society, low level of education, sociocultural norms and religious misinterpretation enforces rules and laws that affect women, which limits access to resources and information. However, women can vote independently and represent themselves as ward members in the union parishad.

- Sex-disaggregated information on household food distribution shows women are given a lower priority than men when consuming food. There is also less food diversity in rural households than the quantity and quality required. Many households (30 percent) were worried about lack of food and 47 percent of household members were unable to access healthy and nutritious food. Most households still find it difficult to access diversified, healthy and nutritious food; although farming productivity has improved as well as economic development. Rural residents and field level officials report the significant efforts of government organizations (GOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to secure food for rural households.
- Access to climate-related information and early warning systems were found inadequate in rural areas. Women are more vulnerable than men to climate-related impacts and natural disasters because of gender inequalities in social, economic and political institutions. Women have limited access to and control over resources, money, or information. Participants claimed that the loss of agricultural products, as a result of climate induced hazards, results in the malnourishment or starvation of girls and women, as men still eat before women and girls.
- Both men and women consider women to be aware of their rights and access to relevant social institutions. Overall, society has a negative attitude towards violence against women; men are aware they can be punished. A Shalish system, at the union parishad level, deals with domestic violence and related issues. Early marriage has been checked because of the efforts of local administrations, police, NGOs and local leaders' joint ventures.
- There were no significant gender-based incidences related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, respondents reported some under-aged girls were married off when schools and academic institutions closed.
- Women contribute significantly to farming and household activities; therefore they should be able to own productive resources such as land. This can be achieved through legal reforms, where their ensured access should be equal to that of men. Women's roles in agriculture and other rural development sectors remain invisible, as there is scarce sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis across the development sectors. Therefore, it is difficult to assess the value of rural women's contribution to agricultural development and to identify appropriate solutions to support rural development overall. Thus, the availability of a set of sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis across rural sectors is imperative. Statisticians could take steps to collect and publish data regarding these issues, where FAO could provide technical assistance.
- Women's participation in key decision-making positions is an important indicator of the status of gender equality. Thus, awareness should be raised about the importance of men and women being able to make joint decisions in farming and household activities. This issue could be combined with the ongoing development activities of GOs and NGOs. In order to inform policies and strategic planning, the organizations concerned, especially the Ministry of Agriculture, need to assess gender equality; the empowerment of rural women in the agricultural sector; the impacts of legislation and policies; macroeconomic policies; structural reforms; and the impact of aid and trade agreements on women's productive assets and economic empowerment. Monitoring and reporting should be compulsory for all ministries on the impacts of their policies, plans, programmes and services for rural populations and should include age- and sex-disaggregated data and indicators; their capacity to do so needs to be strengthened. FAO, or other allied organizations, could assist through technical support to the organizations.
- From the viewpoint of policy, it is important that diversity in knowledge, behaviour and roles be integrated into data collection mechanisms and programme approaches. Monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation needs strengthening, including regular tracking and auditing of expenses on gender-responsive budgeting to understand changes in the status of the needs of women. The ministries concerned should take steps in these policy matters where FAO can extend technical assistance to strengthen policy.

Recommendations

Based on this study, the following conclusions have been drawn, along with the relevant recommendations to address gender inequality issues and work towards empowering women in agriculture and the rural economy.

- Appropriate measures should be adopted to improve rural women's access to technical support; extension services; technologies; transport; productive resources and financial services, including credit and saving schemes to support the financial inclusion of rural women. The state and local/rural finance institutions, such as microfinance and development banks, should be encouraged to offer special promotional packages that include group collateral, business literacy, insurance schemes with low premiums and assurance of markets for agricultural products to strengthen women's engagement in agriculture and the rural non-farm economy. FAO can contribute to assuring women's participation and motivate members to utilize group dynamics to build a robust rural economy.
- Support should be provided through state institutions at the grassroots level, to mobilize youth clubs, local women's organizations for continuous monitoring and skill development. In addition, the participation of rural women in decision-making could be stimulated through dialogue and collaboration with local institutions; adoption of measures to support women's representation in local and national institutions and natural resource governance mechanisms. Support to rural women's groups would increase their bargaining power when accessing financial resources, technology, markets and land. The relevant programme run by the ministries concerned could receive support from FAO in this regard.
- Accessible communications systems, use of radio, texts and other information and communication technology (ICT)-based media should be supported so that rural women producers and sellers can access agricultural extension, rural advisory services and weather information. Access to ICT would reduce the need for physical contact with service providers. Local extension agents, and other development petitioners, need to be equipped with ICT devices to provide needs-based services to all levels of the community. A strengthened enabling environment would facilitate mainstreaming gender in government agencies and strengthen evidence collection and analysis. It has been acknowledged that field level staff who implement extension programmes are minimally aware of gender analysis and mainstreaming. Thus, the DAE, DLS, DoF and allied organizations should develop mainstream programmes for women in rural communities.
- National-level policy should encourage and support women's participation in local politics and other groups or institutions. FAO and UN Women could support the creation and capacity-building of rural organizations to ensure the logical participation of women.
- Awareness at the household level needs to be raised, so that women and men will be considered equally during emergencies. The ministries concerned could initiate programmes such as motivation campaigns, rallies and group discussions that could seek support through United Nations agencies such as FAO. It is recommended that the needs of rural women be prioritized in relation to their livelihood activities in rural development programmes. Women should be empowered as key actors in food security and nutrition.

1

INTRODUCTION



1.1 Background and rationale

Women account for about half the agricultural work force and over 63 percent of the rural female work force is engaged in agriculture in Bangladesh (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics [BBS], 2018).

Under the leadership of the Government of Bangladesh, the country has made significant progress towards gender equality and advancing the status of women and girls, particularly in education and access to health care. The country ranked fiftieth among 153 countries in the Global Gender Gap Report for 2020. Bangladesh has also adopted many laws and policies to promote gender equality including the national women development policy 2011. Malnutrition among women has declined significantly in the last decade but remains high and gender inequality continues to manifest in forms of gender-based discrimination, restrictive social norms, access to and control over resources, barriers to accessing services and to involvement in decision-making processes. Beyond the burden of unpaid care work, lack of economic empowerment is a massive loss to Bangladesh's economy, which could otherwise benefit from the equal participation of women.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) recognizes the centrality of gender equality to its mandate to achieve food security for all by raising levels of nutrition, improving agricultural productivity and natural resource management and improving the lives of rural populations. The FAO Policy on Gender Equality 2020–2030, adopted in 2020, aims to advance the equality of voice, agency and access to resources and services for women and men in sustainable agricultural production and rural development identifying gender mainstreaming and women-targeted interventions as a twofold strategy. In line with this policy, the Country Gender Assessment (CGA) aims to inform FAO's country-level planning and programming, especially the Country Programming Framework (CPF), and other FAO interventions at the country level.

Specifically, the objectives of the CGA were to:

- Inform the evidence-based development and implementation of the country-programming framework in close collaboration with the national government and United Nations Country Teams.

- Gauge Bangladesh's progress in achieving gender equality in agriculture and rural development in line with national development priorities for planning and programming as well as to inform the United Nations Country Team with up-to-date information.
- Facilitate FAO's contribution to the United Nations Country Team CEDAW Report with up-to-date and objective information on the situation of rural women.
- Facilitate Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) monitoring and reporting on the situation of rural women in the country and influence agricultural and rural development policies, investment and processes.
- Develop an understanding of the current and future impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the lives and livelihoods of rural women engaged in the agricultural sector and to identify corrective measures that could be taken to reduce or minimize the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the lives of rural women.

1.2 FAO's work in Bangladesh

FAO has been working in Bangladesh since 1973. Its current portfolio includes more than 50 active projects, covering sustainable and resilient agriculture, food safety and security, nutrition, environment, forestry, climate change and natural resources management. FAO's most recent Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2022–2026 has four pillars.

- CPF Pillar 1. Productive, diversified, sustainable and inclusive agro-economic growth
- CPF Pillar 2. Healthy, safe and nutritious food for all
- CPF Pillar 3. Climate resilience and nature-based, low-carbon sustainable development
- CPF Pillar 4. Gender equality and youth development

Of these, the crosscutting Pillar 4 explicitly aims to address structural and intersectoral inequalities to foster an environment in which women, girls, sexual minorities and youth live free from discrimination. It is expected that this will be achieved through strengthening policies, strategies, institutional frameworks and capacities to be more gender responsive with enhanced access to specialized information, skill development training and

technological inputs for better employment and income opportunities for women and youth including those from marginalized communities. This is in line with the government's commitment to conform with CEDAW highlighted in the Eighth Five Year Plan as well as the country's United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Strategic Priority 5: Gender equality and eliminating gender-based violence and FAO's programme priority area: Gender equality and rural women's empowerment [Better Life] from its Strategic Framework (2022–2031).

1.3 Scope and methodology

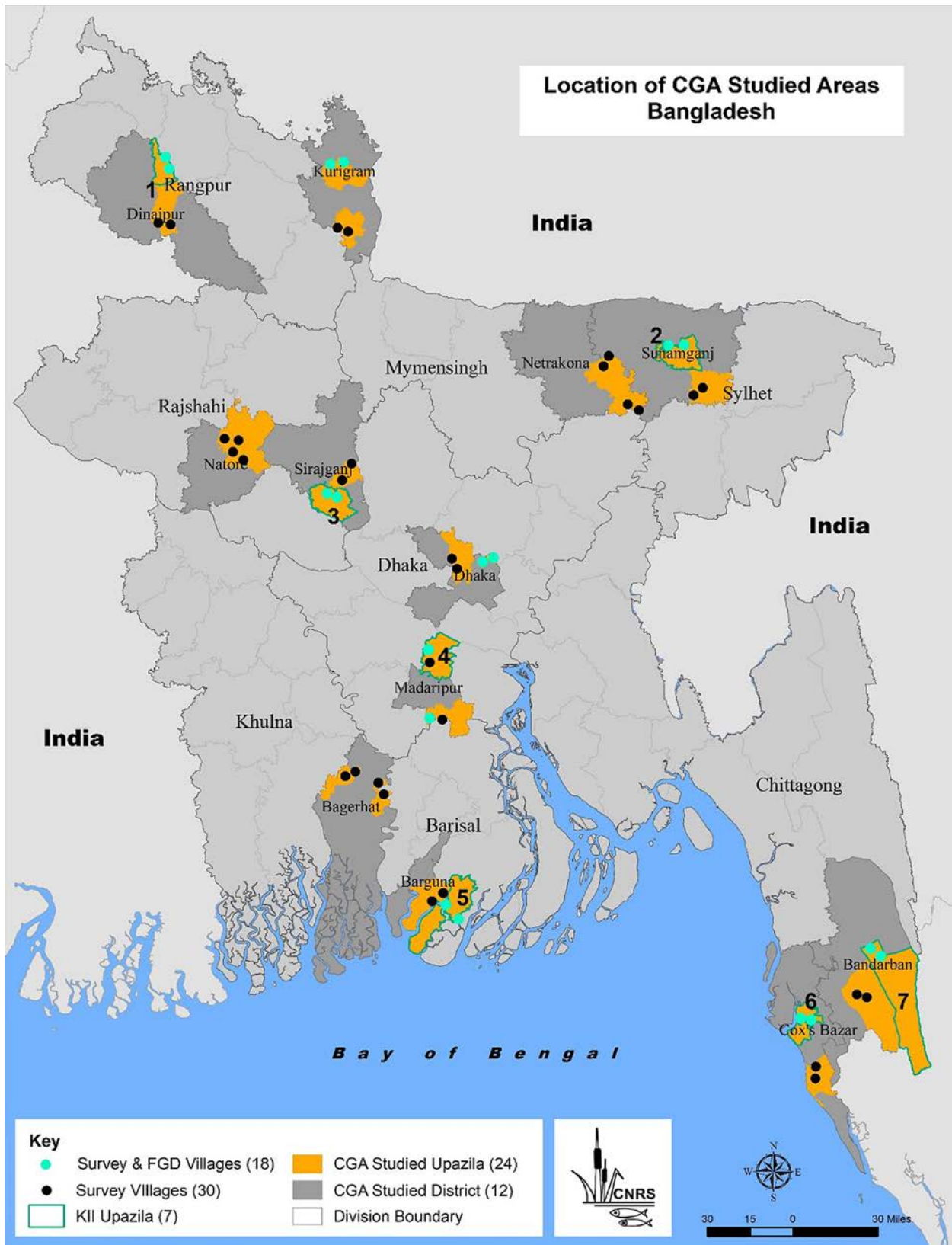
The assessment opted for a mixed method with emphasis on participatory methods to capture the situation of gender equality and empowerment along with economic and social dimensions, focusing on the rural sector and women's roles, opportunities and challenges in agriculture, rural livelihoods and the nutrition sector. Apart from a secondary desk review, primary data were collected to gather insights on gender mainstreaming; food security and livelihood status; opportunities related to agriculture; policy and institutional development. Overall, a multi-staged sampling strategy was adopted to randomly select respondents from villages, unions and upazilas in the nine districts across major hotspots outlined in the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 (Planning Commission, 2018). Data collection tools were jointly developed by the consulting agency Centre for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS), FAO and UN Women and the survey team comprised trained male and female enumerator experts from FAO field teams, academia, think tanks, gender and agricultural development. Each team was composed of four enumerators and a supervisor.

- Thirty-six focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted at the community level in sampled unions through stratified sampling using predesigned question guides specifically for men, women, youth and producer groups. The question guides included modules on livelihood, gender roles and responsibilities in farming; access and utilization of resources; intra-household dynamics and use of farm income; extension service delivery; technology use; resilience to disaster and climate change; participation in the local governance system as well as aspects of women's empowerment, social insecurity, domestic violence, sexual exploitation and abuse.

- Fourteen key informant interviews (KIIs) were conducted involving development partners, national, international, United Nations agencies and service providers (DAE, DLS, DoF, DWA). A predeveloped checklist was used to complement the assessment in terms of institutional setting and capacity; gaps and constraints; food security; nutrition and agricultural growth linkages; progress towards women's empowerment; needs and priorities.
- Formal interviews, using a semistructured questionnaire, were conducted in 384 households for a sample of male (n=96) and female (n=288) respondents from 12 districts (24 upazilas or unions and 48 villages, **Figure 1**) with emphasis on women's economic empowerment and food security. To enhance data quality and speed web-based data collection was applied using Kobo Toolbox, while the analysis was conducted using Excel and the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences. The interviews covered access to basic services; assets; productive capital; credit; financial and extension services; mobility; time use; intra-household relationships; role in decision-making around production and income; self-efficacy; decision-making motivation, autonomy; group membership; leadership; community influence; life satisfaction; household consumption; food security and dietary diversity; the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other shocks and coping strategies.

Tables in the Annexes briefly describe key modules or areas used in each tool.

Figure 1: Map showing the study area for the country gender assessment



Note: focus group discussions (FGD); key informant interview (KII); household survey.

Geographic Information System Unit. 2022. Author's own made based on Bangladesh – Subnational Administrative Boundaries. Humanitarian Data Exchange v1.72.12 PY3. Dhaka, GIS Unit, Centre for Natural Resource Studies. <https://data.humdata.org/dataset/cod-ab-bgd>

2

CONTEXTUAL OVERVIEW



2.1 Demography and population dynamics

Bangladesh is in the Ganges-Brahmaputra delta, between India and Myanmar. The current population 167 794 436 (as of 26 May 2022), is equivalent to 2.11 percent of the total world population.

Bangladesh ranks eighth in the list of countries (and dependencies) by population. The population density in Bangladesh is 1 265 per km² (3 277 people per mile²) (Worldometer, 2022). With a high birth rate and a low death rate, the population growth rate is around 1.04 percent. The result of this is over-population because Bangladesh has more people than its resources can support. However, Bangladesh tells the world a remarkable story of poverty reduction and development. From being one of the poorest nations at its creation in 1971, Bangladesh achieved lower-middle income status in 2015. The country is on track to graduate from the United Nation's least developed countries list in 2026.

Worldometer, 2022 also specified that:

- Infant deaths per 1 000 live births is 21.6
- Life expectancy at birth (both sexes) 73.57 years
- Life expectancy at birth, females is 75.6 years
- Life expectancy at birth, males is 71.8 years
- The median age in Bangladesh is 26.7 years.

A total fertility rate of **2.1 represents replacement-level fertility**: the average number of children per woman needed for each generation to replace itself without requiring international immigration. A value below 2.1 will cause the native population to decline. By 2050, the population in Bangladesh is expected to reach 202 million and then decline to around 170 million by 2100. The main reason the population is expected to decline after 2050 is the relatively low fertility rate, with an average of 2.2 children per woman. According to another report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2020), the population of Bangladesh will reach between 230 and 250 million in 2050.

Bangladesh has one of the highest poverty rates in the world. In 2019, 20.5 percent of the population lived below the national poverty line. Again, the proportion of employed population below USD 1.90 purchasing power parity/day in 2021 was 4.0 percent. Even though Bangladesh has the eighth largest population of the world's countries, it is the forty-fifth largest economy with a GDP of

USD 250 billion. Agriculture makes up 15 percent of the economy, industry 29 percent and services 56 percent. Of an estimated labour force of 74.4 million people, 45 percent work in agriculture, 30 percent in the industrial sector and 25 percent in the service sector. Most people in Bangladesh still earn their living from agriculture, with rice and jute being the primary crops.

PricewaterhouseCoopers, in its global economic projection for 2050, estimates that Bangladesh could become the world's twenty-eighth largest economy by 2030, surpassing Australia, Malaysia, Spain and South Africa in economic growth. (The Daily Star, 2022). Considering the consistent economic growth rate, of 8 percent/year, the size of the economy, i.e. GDP, will be more than three times larger – this means that from its current volume of about USD 270 billion, it will shoot up to USD 2.5 trillion in 2050. This will give a per capita GDP of over USD 12 000 in current prices.

2.2 National social and economic situation

The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh states commitment to the overall development of women. The promise of the State to guarantee the rights of women is reflected in Articles 27, 28, 29 and 65 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Especially, Article 28(4), which paves the way for enactment of legislation to facilitate women's development.

Bangladesh is a signatory of almost all international agreements related to women's development including CEDAW.

Several laws have been set in place for women, the Anti-Dowry Prohibition Act of 1980, Cruelty to Women Law of 1983 and the Women and Children Repression Act of 2000 are the main ones that prevent violence against women. The prevention of domestic violence and protection law 2010 is formulated in line with CEDAW. The citizenship law (amended) 2009 provides children's citizenship through their mother. The Mobile Court 2009 law added rule 509 to punish and prevent "Eve teasing" and sexual harassment.

The government has engaged in different initiatives for the development of women and children and implement Vision 2021 and the SDGs.

- Bangladesh ranked 50 out of 153 countries for gender parity and is highest among South Asian nations (World Economic Forum, 2020). Currently, however, the country is 65 out of 156, based on 2021 data, which may be an effect of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Women's participation in the formal labour force was 36 percent, compared to 80.7 for men (World Bank, 2017).
- The state of women is improving in relation to their male counterparts across multiple metrics, including health and education, but women are not yet equal and still face many unique challenges.
- Preprimary education enrolment is 76.1 percent for boys and 78.8 for girls (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey [MICS], UNICEF and BBS, 2019).
- The youth literacy rate for individuals (15 to 24) is 94.4 percent for females and 91.5 for males (BBS, 2017).
- Adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education for girls is 98.3 percent and boys 92.2 (World Bank, 2019).
- Gross enrolment in secondary education is 81.9 percent for girls and 68.6 for boys (Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics [BANBEIS], 2017).
- Gross enrolment rate in tertiary education for women is 24.017 percent and for men 25.705.¹
- The proportion of females among tertiary education of academics is 43.095 percent (UNESCO).²
- In education the gender equality index is improving (BANBEIS; UNICEF and BBS, 2019): Early Childhood Development Index³ for children aged 3 to 4 years is 71 for males and 78 for females, the percentage of children aged 36 to 59 months attending early childhood education is 19 for males and 19 for female; the share of children who are on track developmentally is higher among girls.

2.3 Agriculture and rural development

Background

The economy of Bangladesh was largely dependent on the performance of the rural sector in the early development stage for agricultural input and output. The rural sector before the 2000s was almost synonymous with agriculture as more than 70 percent of the population was engaged in agricultural activities including livestock and fisheries. Despite the declining trend of agricultural share in the GDP, it will remain an important sector in terms of export earnings, employment and food security. Since independence in 1971, agriculture has been a core sector of the economy, which still provides employment to 40.6 percent of the labour force. Moreover, it is the primary source of livelihood and food security for most rural people, provides raw materials to industry and contributes to the country's exports (Bokhtiar, Samsuzzaman and Biswas, 2021).

Bokhtiar, Samsuzzaman and Biswas (2021) further illustrate that although the modern economy is largely dependent on industrialization, agriculture remains the lifeblood of many agrarian economies such as in Bangladesh. It has been proven that there is a positive relation between agriculture and economic growth. Over time, the share of agriculture in GDP has significantly declined. Taking agriculture as a proxy for the rural sector, its importance as the engine for share of GDP was 57.5 percent in 1960 and decreased to 12 percent in 2019, but the contribution of agriculture to non-agricultural growth has maintained an upward trend, and it remains an irreplaceable driving force of the economy.

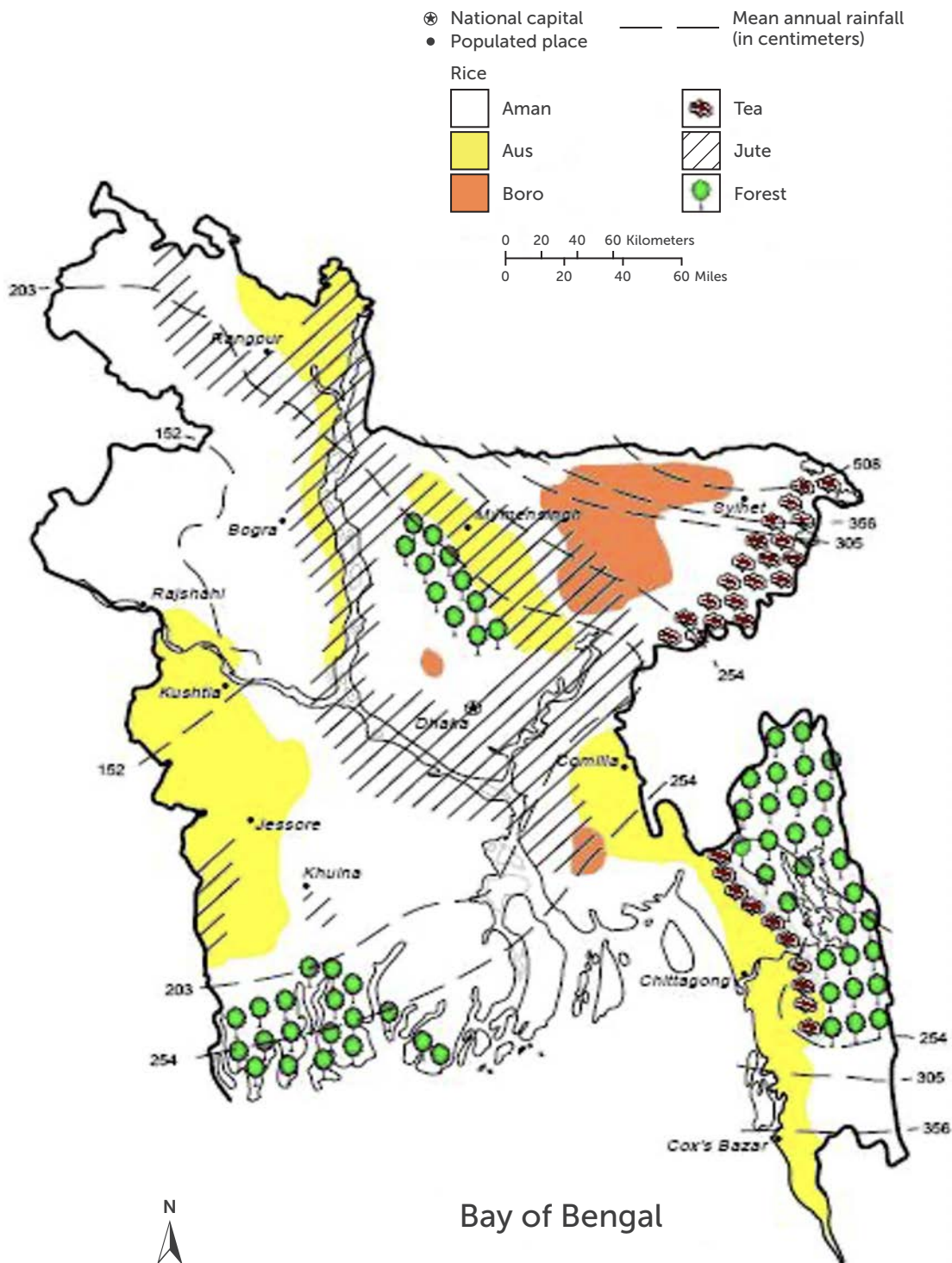
Agricultural land (percentage of land area) was reported to be 70.69 percent in 2018, according to the World Bank development indicators, compiled from officially recognized sources. The average farm size has been reduced to less than 0.6 hectares and the percentage of landless is 58 in a country where nearly 80 percent of the ultra-poor live in rural areas. There are two distinct cropping seasons: Rabi (mid-November to mid-March) and Kharif (mid-March to mid-November). The Kharif season

¹ UNESCO Institute for Statistics. 2022a. *UIS Database, School enrolment, tertiary*. In: SE.TER.ENRR. Updated as of June 2022. New York, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.TER.ENRR?locations=BD>

² UNESCO Institute for Statistics. 2022b. *UIS Database, Distribution of tertiary graduates by field of study*. In: SE.TER.TCHR.FE.ZS. Updated as of June 2022. New York, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.TER.TCHR.FE.ZS>

³ The **Child Development Index (CDI)** is an index combining performance measures specific to children—education, health and nutrition—to produce a score on a scale of 0 to 100. A zero score would be the best. The higher the score, the worse children are faring. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Child_Development_Index

Figure 2: Map showing where the main agricultural products are grown



Armanaziz. 2022. Self-made based on public domain map from Library of Congress, US Government. Agricultural Maps of Bangladesh. Agriculture in Bangladesh. Wikimedia Commons. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:BD_Agriculture_Map.jpg

is further subdivided into two parts namely Kharif-I (mid-March to mid-July) and Kharif-II (mid-July to mid-November). Yet, the crop agriculture in Bangladesh is constrained every year by challenges,

such as loss of arable land; population growth; climate change; inadequate management practices; unfair price of produce and insufficient investment in research (Nasim *et al.*, 2017).

Major portion of agricultural land can be cultivated with various crops. Generally, any surplus is sold to the local market or for export. The main food crops in Bangladesh are potato, paddy, pulse, barley, oilseeds, fruit, vegetables, wheat, spices, maize. Cash crops are grown for profit, where there is a huge demand from local and international markets. The main cash crops are tea, jute, tobacco, sugarcane, silk and rubber. Figure 2 shows the crops grown in Bangladesh (Armanaziz, 2022).

Growth of agriculture

After independence, an impressive growth in agriculture occurred in 1972, primarily related to the massive expansion of high-yielding varieties and irrigation. The accelerated growth in agriculture was related to the crop and non-crop agricultural sectors, particularly livestock and fisheries. In 2000, the livestock and fisheries subsectors experienced a substantial increase in physical output, as well as favourable prices compared to the crop subsector. The fisheries subsector grew by 7.8 percent per year in 2000 and reached a peak, but there was a huge decline of 4.2 percent annual growth in 2010. The livestock sector grew at a strong rate of 7.3 percent in 2000 compared to 1973 (with 5.2 percent annual growth), then fell in 2010 and 2019 at annual growth rates of 3.4 percent and 3.5 percent, respectively. Only the forestry subsector grew at a moderate annual growth rate of about 4.0 percent until 2000 and continued to grow at a higher rate during 2010 (5.2 percent) and 2019 (8.3 percent) (Ministry of Planning [MoP], 2011 and 2020; BBS, 2011 and 2020). In a growing world economy (or a closed national economy), agriculture's shares of GDP and employment are likely to decline because the income elasticity of demand for food is less than one; to prevent this would require a heavy bias in productivity growth towards the non-farm sector. Employment in the agricultural sector is decreasing because income is much lower. Moreover, the increase in population has resulted in decreasing employment in agriculture as most of the population has moved to the cities.

Agricultural sector and gross domestic product

More than 70 percent of Bangladesh's population and 77 percent of its workforce live in rural areas.

Nearly half of all workers, two-thirds in rural areas, are directly employed in agriculture, and 87 percent of rural households rely on agriculture for at least part of their income. The GDP from agriculture averaged BDT 691.5 billion from 1960 until 2019; it was as low as BDT 316.2 billion in 1960 and reached a high of BDT 1 451 billion in 2019 (Bokhtiar, Samsuzzaman and Biswas, 2021).

The share of agriculture in GDP increased to 19.9 percent in 2020–2021 from 17.8 percent in 2019–2020. The last time the contribution of the agricultural sector in GDP was at 20 percent was in 2003–2004 (O'Neil, 2022).

2.4 Human development

Human development index

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) states that: "the human development index (HDI) was created to emphasize that people and their capabilities should be the ultimate criteria for assessing the development of a country, not economic growth alone." Despite Bangladesh's slow progress in human development, it moved up two notches to 133rd place among 189 countries in the Global HDI for 2019 (Table 1).

According to the latest UNDP Human Development Report 2020, the country held fifth position among the eight South Asian countries (Baumann, 2021). Bangladesh secured the medium human development category and has moved up eight places since 2014. Bangladesh's HDI value for 2019 was 0.632, which is 60.4 percent higher than 1990; life expectancy at birth grew by 14.4 years; expected years of schooling doubled; while gross national income (GNI) per capita increased more than three times in real terms. According to the report, mean years of schooling increased by 3.4 years and expected years of schooling increased by six years. Besides, Bangladesh's GNI per capita increased by about 220.1 percent between 1990 and 2019. However, Bangladesh's 2019 HDI value has fallen by 24.4 percent when discounted for inequality in the HDI dimensions. The female HDI value is 10 percent lower than male (Baumann, 2021).

Table 1: Bangladesh's human development index trends based on consistent time series data and new goalposts

Year	Life expectancy at birth	Expected years of schooling	Mean years of schooling	GNI per capita (2017 USD PPP)*	HDI value
1990	58.2	5.6	2.8	1 554	0.394
1995	62.0	6.6	3.3	1 752	0.434
2000	65.4	7.5	4.1	2 002	0.478
2005	67.8	8.4	4.5	2 383	0.514
2010	69.9	9.2	5.3	3 117	0.557
2015	71.5	10.3	5.8	3 936	0.595
2016	71.8	10.8	5.9	4 143	0.606
2017	72.1	11.2	6.1	4 340	0.616
2018	72.3	11.6	6.1	4 643	0.625
2019	72.6	11.6	6.2	4 976	0.632

Note: * USD PPP – Purchasing power parity in USD.

Source: Baumann. 2021. The Next Frontier – Human Development and the Anthropocene: UNDP Human Development Report 2020. *Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development*, 63(3), 34-40.

Although Bangladesh has made impressive strides in human development and is on the right track to achieving its goal, multidimensional poverty may present a crisis. According to the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), globally, a person is identified as multidimensionally poor if deprived of at least one-third of the weighted multidimensional poverty index (MPI) indicators.⁴

According to the OPHI, over 24 percent of people in Bangladesh are MPI poor. Meanwhile, UNDP's Human Development Report 2020 shows that the MPI value for Bangladesh is 0.104, or 24.6 percent are multidimensionally poor, with 18.2 percent classified as vulnerable to multidimensional poverty. Both numbers have fallen markedly in the past decades. Increasing discrimination and inequality among the population is the reason behind the increasing amount of multidimensional poverty (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [UNDESA], 2020). However,

in a fast-developing country, such discrimination has often been observed. Therefore, only an inclusive, sustainable approach should be the key here.

Gender inequality index

The UNDP Human Development Report introduced the gender inequality index (GII) in 2010, which reflects gender-based inequalities in three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment and economic activity. Reproductive health is measured by maternal mortality and adolescent birth rates. Empowerment is measured by the share of parliamentary seats held by women and attainment by each gender in secondary and higher education. Economic activity is measured by the participation rate for women and men in the labour market (Gaye *et al.*, 2010). It should be noted here the GII could be interpreted as the loss in human development because of inequality between female and male achievements in the three GII dimensions.

⁴ The multidimensional poverty index (MPI) is calculated by multiplying the incidence of poverty and the average intensity of poverty following the Alkire-Foster (AF) methodology (Alkire *et al.*, 2020). So, MPI reflects both the share of people in poverty and the degree to which they are deprived.

Table 2: Percentage distribution of women and men (age 15 years and above) participation in the labour market in different year

Gender	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Female	31.3	31.7	32.1	32.5	32.9	36.1	36.2	36.3	34.5	34.9
Male	81.9	81.1	80.3	79.6	78.8	80.1	80.1	80.0	78.6	78.8

Bangladesh has a GII value of 0.537, ranking 133 out of 162 countries in the 2019 index. In Bangladesh, women hold 20.6 percent of parliamentary seats and 39.8 percent of adult women have reached at least a secondary level of education, as compared to 47.5 percent for their male counterparts. For every 100 000 live births, 173.0 women die from pregnancy-related causes; and the adolescent birth rate is 83.0 births per 1 000 women for ages 15 to 19. In last 10 years, female participation (age 15 and overs) in the labour market is low with 36.3 percent (2019) being highest, compared to 81.9 percent (2012) for men. There was an increase in women's labour participation in 2017; however, it has been decreased since 2020.

Health and education

The **health system** in Bangladesh is structured hierarchically and can be compared to a five-layer pyramid (ThinkWell, 2012). First, at the base of the pyramid, there is the ward-level health facility (community clinic), comprised of a health assistant, family welfare assistant and community health care provider. Second, the union health and family welfare centre (UHFWC) provides maternal and child health care and only limited curative care. Third, the upazila health complex (UHC) is the first referral health facility at the primary level of the health services delivery system. The UHCs to meet the health care needs and demands in rural areas. The UHC is responsible for inpatient and outpatient care, maternal and child health services and disease control. Fourth, the district hospital is the first layer of the health services pyramid to have theatre facilities. Finally, medical colleges and postgraduate institutes form the top of the health services pyramid offering a wide-range of specialty services.

Although Bangladesh has made remarkable strides in health care, particularly in public health and the country has become a role model for "good health at low cost", the constraints encountered in the utilization of public health facilities are often associated with both physical accessibility and waiting time for treatment at the facility (Mannan, 2013). These factors tend to facilitate or restrict the use of health services.⁵

It is often reported that the marginalized and vulnerable in society continue to be worried about their health. They face complex health issues but are often unable to access appropriate health care. There is an increased burden of non-communicable diseases and disabilities among older people. Despite their complex health needs, older women and men are often unable to access the healthcare services they need, mainly because of a lack of appropriate services and financial barriers. In addition, existing human resources are inadequate for performing delivery services at the UHFWC. Despite the widespread establishment of the community clinics, ensuring quality, equity and accountability of healthcare service at the local level is constrained by a lack of supplies and logistics, proper monitoring and overall, a lack of accountability.

Gender is a major determinant of health for women and men in Bangladesh. Gender norms, roles and relations interact with biological factors, influencing people's exposure to disease and risk of ill health. In addition, health is significantly determined by social, economic and environmental factors beyond the health sector, such as poverty, education, employment and physical security. Gender inequality, an important determinant of health, remains a challenge (WHO, 2021).

⁵ The three main elements of physical accessibility are distance travelled, travel time, and travel cost to visit the facilities. For example, the health facility is far from home; involves considerable travel time as well as travel costs to get to the facility, depending on the mode of transport. Further, accessibility to services requires waiting time at the facilities that may induce or discourage use.



© FAO/Munir Uz Zaman

Despite substantial progress in primary health care over the last decades, only 21 percent of pregnant women receive at least four antenatal care visits, just 31 percent of births are delivered at health facilities and skilled birth attendants assist only 4 percent of women during childbirth (Jo *et al.*, 2019). On the other hand, the maternal mortality ratio for Bangladesh was 173 deaths per 100 000 live births in 2017. However, between 2003 and 2017, the maternal mortality ratio in Bangladesh declined at a moderate rate to shrink from 395 deaths per 100 000 live births in 2003, to 173 deaths per 100 000 live births in 2017 (MacroTrends, 2022).

Over the last decade, Bangladesh has made notable progress in expanding access to **education**. The formal education system consists of pre-primary (for 5-year-olds), primary (Grades 1–5), secondary (Grades 6–12), technical-vocational education and training and tertiary education.

Currently, primary education up to Grade 5 is free and compulsory. Two ministries share management responsibilities for the education system: the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education for primary education (Grades 1–5), the Ministry of Education for secondary education (Grades 6–12), technical and vocational education and training, higher education, madrasahs and other religious schools.

The 2020 education sector analysis reports that the country has achieved near-universal primary education enrolment with gender parity. The net enrolment rate was 98 percent in 2018. However, despite better enrolment rates, educational outcomes for girls remain inadequate, as low and unequal levels of learning persist. These trends carry through to tertiary education, resulting in low female labour force participation (Sosale, Asaduzzaman and Ramachandran, 2019).

At the national level, repetition and dropout rates are quite low for both primary and secondary education, with some variation. However, both rates increase precipitously in upper secondary education, especially the repetition rate. The highest repetition rate outside of upper secondary education is that of the first year of primary school, at only 8 percent. Repetition rates at the lower secondary level reach a maximum of 5 percent in Grade 8 but then shoot up to 49 percent in the first year of upper secondary school. Although dropout rates exhibit a clearer upward-trend over time spent in school than do repetition rates – which remain relatively flat during primary and lower secondary education but then suddenly spike in upper secondary – there is nonetheless a significant increase in dropouts among upper secondary students. Indeed, the share of students who drop out from upper secondary school reaches 15 percent in Grades 10 and 12, while the next-highest rate is in Grade 8, at only 6 percent (UNICEF Bangladesh, 2020).

Services and basic infrastructure

While the Constitution of Bangladesh provides for a highly decentralized public sector – stating that local governments in every administrative unit of the Republic shall be entrusted to elected councils – in practice, Bangladesh is widely considered to be one of the most centralized countries (Hasan, Sultana and Hasan, 2014). In recent years, however, substantive reforms have supported a more decentralized public sector. The government has also made a solid commitment to achieving SDG objectives by 2030, and to this end it has developed its Eighth Five Year Plan for 2021 to 2025. The Government of Bangladesh (GoB), however, recognizes the many issues and challenges that need to be addressed in order to implement the Eighth Five Year Plan.

The national-level institutions in planning and policymaking (e.g. parliament, party and bureaucracy), as well as institutions directly responsible for delivering services on the ground (e.g. government departments, local councils), do not often function according to citizen's expectations. More precisely, the parliament and other state-oversight institutions do not operate autonomously. Moreover, local government entities have little jurisdiction and only receive a tiny fraction of the development budget (World bank 2020). These inabilities are caused by corruption, weak and dysfunctional institutions, governmental inefficiency, aggressive politics and centralized authority. Democratic cultures, practices and values have not been fostered in political institutions, including the political parties (Quddusi, 2019). Moreover, an ineffective public election administration makes election of competent individuals difficult (Mollah and Jahan, 2018).

Rural infrastructure in Bangladesh has considerably improved, enhancing the quality of life in rural areas. Better rural infrastructure has fostered the balanced development of rural economies through mutually reinforcing growth in the farm and non-farm sectors. The mobility of the rural poor has improved and many have access to health, education and non-government services, as well as to a wide-range of economic opportunities. However, the country lags behind most neighbouring countries. Despite improvements, rural infrastructure remains underdeveloped. For example, only 37 percent of the rural population has access to all-weather roads, compared with 60 percent in India and 61 percent in Pakistan (Asian Development Bank [ADB], 2020). This indicates poor road connectivity, higher vehicle operating costs and the need for significant upgrading of rural infrastructure.

Moreover, much of the infrastructure such as schools, roads, and bridges across the country are in a dilapidated condition. Thousands of cyclone shelters built in the 1990s were damaged within 10 to 15 years (Miyaji *et al.*, 2020). Therefore, women and children, in particular, suffered from a lack of access to needed services, such as health and education, which were available only in larger towns. Inadequate transport infrastructure also meant few livelihood opportunities since most men and women could not take off-farm jobs.

Employment

Bangladesh's labour force is 71 million as of 2020. Of that number, 30.63 percent are women. Employment composition by sector is 38 percent, 21 percent, and 40 percent in the agriculture, industry, and the service sector, respectively (World Bank, 2022). Employment in the agricultural sector has decreased while employment in the service, and industrial sector has increased since 2000. In 2020, the service sector dominated with its largest employment share of 40 percent (Hossain, 2021). In recent years, the ready-made garments sector has contributed significantly to bringing gender parity to employment. However, there is no time to rest on laurels as women still face other social and cultural issues that limit their participation. These include attitudes toward family and physical insecurity.

Bangladesh faces a specific challenge in employment that is not easy to tackle nationwide. This problem is the ever-burgeoning informal employment. With formal sector job availability that has not kept pace with the growth of the labour force, the formalization of employment is procedurally difficult and there is the allure of benefits such as being free of taxation, a staggering 85 percent of total employment is estimated to be informal (Mujeri, 2020).

A large amount of informal employment in Bangladesh is attributed to small shops, household work and private tuition. In rural areas, informal employment can range from subsistence farming to sophisticated craftwork (ADB, 2010). It is also spread out over different demographics and encompasses women and men. Women, however, are more involved in informal activities (91.8 percent) than men 82.1 percent. In both rural and urban areas, females and youths (aged 15 to 29) are more likely to be informally employed (Mujeri, 2020).

Gender equality and women's empowerment

Women in Bangladesh have been struggling to establish their rights in family, society and the state. However, practically, in society and the implementation of law, women still face discrimination, exclusion and injustice and have negligible influence in decision-making processes. Discriminatory laws and policies hinder formal equality, and sociopolitical conditions prevent women

from exercising their rights. Girls are often considered a burden, especially in poor households, where they are at risk of marriage at an early age and where the practice of dowries, though illegal, continues and is burdensome. Women are usually the last to eat at mealtimes and a number of women are chronically malnourished. Furthermore, violence against women means that women are socially vulnerable, which prevents them from fully participating in society.

As women lack proper education and skills, they only participate minimally in gainful economic activities or engage in political movements (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 2009). Despite commendable advances in female education and gender parity in primary and secondary schools, high dropout rates and poor quality of education remain major concerns (Xu *et al.*, 2019). Additionally, women and girls suffer from various health care deficiencies, especially in rural areas. There are disparities in wage structures between women and men in some sectors, even though the law prohibits this practice.

Furthermore, government initiatives to improve the situation of vulnerable women through various social safety net programmes are insufficient in actually meeting their needs (Pradhan and Afrin, 2015). These issues perpetuate and continue to exist because of women's traditionally low level of participation in political activities. Though the situation is steadily improving, as reflected in the increase in successful female electoral candidates, it remains a daunting task to ensure adequate and equitable participation. It appears that much remains to be done to empower women and bring them into the mainstream of developmental activities.

However, women's opportunities and public participation in Bangladesh have changed significantly in recent decades. For example, major progress has been made in closing the gender gap in school enrolments at both primary and secondary levels; the enrolment of girls currently outnumbers boys. Moreover, many women are now members of local government councils with important responsibilities for rural and urban development. In addition, the rapid growth of the garment industry has provided a large number of formal sector jobs for women despite its insecurity and vertical job segregations.

3

POLICY, LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT



3.1 National commitments and legal provisions to promote gender equality

Bangladesh has made broad international, regional, and national commitments to gender equality. The country is a signatory to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and other international human rights instruments, particularly CEDAW, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, and the Declaration on the Right to Development (International Labour Organization [ILO], 2020). By doing so, Bangladesh has made itself an integral part of the ongoing global efforts to ensure gender equality.

Legal framework

At the national level, the Constitution of Bangladesh provides the broad legal framework for government action to promote equality between women and men. The Constitution of Bangladesh stipulates equality of its citizens before the law and bans all discrimination based on gender, caste and creed (Article 28). Article 31 recognizes the equality of all citizens before the law, and as per Article 39, all citizens have freedom of thought, conscience and speech. The State is the ultimate entity responsible for ensuring equality of all its citizens in terms of opportunity and undertaking measures to remove inequality between women and men. Article 27 creates provisions of equality for all before the law and the right to enjoy equal protection under the law.

Policy environment

Bangladesh's commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment are also reflected in a number of specific policies and laws. Most of these policies are sectoral and often formulated at the behest of donors, although there are notable exceptions including development strategies, such as the Five-Year Plans, Vision-2021 and Vision-2041. Nevertheless, these policies serve as guidelines to the government in undertaking specific programmes/projects on socioeconomic and cultural issues (Chakma and Moni, 2016). For example, following the approval of the National Policy for Women's Development the National Action Plan (NAP) for Women's Advancement was approved in 1998. In 2012, another action plan was approved, and the government adopted the national women development policy in 2011 amid much hope and fanfare.

Besides, there are a number of policies that encompass broad areas of socioeconomic development: the national rural development policy, 2011; national agriculture policy, 2018; national agriculture extension policy, 2020; national industrial policy, 2021; national food and nutrition security policy, 2020; national population policy, 2012; national education policy, 2010; national health policy, 2011; are the most relevant to this report. The policies detail the sectoral development objectives and priorities and identify the intervention areas.

3.2 Institutional mechanisms for gender equality

Various national development plans have emphasized the importance of gender mainstreaming in institutions, policies and structures. Since women's empowerment is a crosscutting issue, it is not only the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA) that is responsible for women's empowerment (Centre for Research and Information [CRI], 2019). All government sectors must be equally involved in integrating gender concerns, needs and interests into their policies, plans and programmes. The MOWCA, as part of the national women's machinery, is mandated by the government to act as the focal point and catalyst for action on issues of women's equality and development. It also promotes a broader and more consistent response by all government agencies to the needs and priorities of women. **Table 3** shows that formal institutional mechanisms are in place to ensure women's advancement as well as gender equality (ADB, 2018).

3.3 Role of civil society organizations

The contribution of civil society is increasing. Currently, it plays a crucial role in Bangladesh, as civil society contributes considerably to the empowerment of women. Civil society organizations (CSO), especially the NGOs, play a vital role in women's empowerment by increasing female education, strengthening female leadership at the grassroots level, and building capacity and social awareness. These CSOs contribute through a three-stage process of women's empowerment. First, CSOs are engaged in increasing "awareness" regarding women's rights, e.g. socioeconomic and political rights. Second, CSOs encourage women to "participate" in a true sense that includes affiliation and engagement with development activities for their own betterment and society. Third, these lead

Table 3: Institutions working for gender equality

Organization	Functions/responsibilities	Composition	Remarks
Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA)	The ministry is responsible for formulating policies that promote the institutionalization and development of women and children.	MOWCA has two major implementing agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Women Affairs • Jatiya Mahila Sangstha. 	MOWCA has, over the last decade, strengthened national legislation and policies on gender-responsive planning and budgeting.
Department of Women Affairs (DoWA)	DoWA is under the MOWCA, and its main goal is to empower women and children and ensure their development in all spheres of life.	The department is headed by the Director-General.	DoWA undertakes various development activities and implements them at the ground level, including HRD and self-employment, poverty reduction and creation of employment opportunities, prevention of violence against women and children (VAW&C), institutional development and access to service delivery, and awareness-raising and promotion of gender equality.
Jatiya Mahila Sangstha (JMS)	JMS is a statutory organization under MOWCA formed by the Jatiya Mahila Sangstha Act, 1991. JMS works with women's organizations registered with DoWA to promote the implementation of national and international commitments that are part of its mandate.	JMS is headed by a chairperson and has an executive committee.	JMS seeks to increase awareness of women's rights and development, increase their skills, provide resources for socioeconomic development, develop a skilled workforce, and attain sociopolitical rights.
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Women and Children Affairs	The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Women and Children Affairs, headed by a member of Parliament, was established to fulfil the commitments of the National Women Development Policy. It has ten members who meet monthly to review MOWCA activities on behalf of parliament.	The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Women and Children Affairs is involved in the day-to-day activities of parliamentary business and the facilities to be provided members of parliament; control of financial actions of the executive; examination of the functions of the ministry; and scrutiny of specific issues.	The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Women and Children Affairs examines the activities of the ministry and reviews bills and other issues referred to it from time-to-time by the parliament in session. The parliamentary committee plays an important role of scrutiny because the opposition participates in committee meetings.

Table 3. (continued)

Organization	Functions/responsibilities	Composition	Remarks
National Council for Women and Children Development (NCWCD)	The NCWCD is the most high-powered committee for women's development.	Headed by the Prime Minister, the council consists of 14 ministers, secretaries of 13 ministries, a member of the Planning Commission, five members of Parliament, and ten prominent women, nominated by the government. The secretary of MOWCA is the member secretary of NCWCD.	Since the Prime Minister chairs the NCWCD, it does not meet often. The Council deals with women's empowerment, welfare, and improvements to women's condition.
Women's Development Implementation and Evaluation Committee	The committee was formed by different sectors to monitor the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP).	The minister of MOWCA heads the committee. The secretary of MOWCA is the member secretary.	The Committee is supposed to meet on a quarterly basis.
Interministerial Coordination Committee on the National Programmes for the Prevention of Violence and Dowry	The Committee's objective is to coordinate and review programmes of all organizations and committees working on violence against women (VAW).	The Committee includes representatives from ministries and civil society.	The Committee meets twice a year and reviews the activities of law enforcement agencies.
Women in Development (WID) Focal Points Mechanism	Each ministry selects a WID focal point to promote women's concerns system-wide.	An official at the rank of joint secretary works as the WID focal point, chaired by the Prime Minister	While the focal points work as effectively as possible, given their multiple responsibilities, they do not always have enough time or the resources to carry out their tasks properly.
Policy Leadership Advocacy Unit in MOWCA	The Policy Leadership Advocacy Unit in MOWCA plays an analytical role by reviewing sectoral policies to ensure consistency with CEDAW and the National Women Development Policy.	The PLAU of the MOWCA has not been institutionalized yet with technically capable human resource as of December 2022.	It is often reported that this unit is understaffed and under-resourced.
District and Upazila Level WID Coordination Committees	These committees facilitate and ensure gender mainstreaming at the field level.	The committee comprises of civil society stakeholders (teacher, journalists, NGOs etc.) and is chaired by local admin (DC/UNO)	

towards the “action”, which includes positive changes in sociocultural behaviours and attitudes and the mind-sets of men and women (Tonny and Ahmed, 2020).

One issue that the CSOs focus on is to ensure women are equal to men, as well as to advance gender equality, specifically women-led organizations. The roles of CSOs in Bangladesh in empowering women have been remarkable on this point. The CSOs are addressing gender-based violence, breaking gender stereotypes and demanding affirmative action for gender equality (Chakma and Moni 2016). However, the advanced urban group of civil society has articulated the movement for equal rights for women in the postliberation regime in Bangladesh. On the other hand, in rural areas, multilevel citizen platforms are formed by NGOs at the union, upazila and district levels. These groups are oriented towards institutional policies and procedures to facilitate meeting the needs of the poor and marginalized (Hussain, Ahsan and Rahman, 2015). Therefore, multilevel citizen forums are an effective strategy to encourage participation in institutional functions and to advocate effectively for the rights and entitlements of left-behind communities, including women.

There are many instances in Bangladesh where CSOs' continuous activities have resulted in the formation of a national women's advancement policy. Actually, Bangladesh has a significant history of women organizing movements to claim their rights. Over the years, women's groups have mobilized and made sure their voices are heard on various issues, starting with violence against women, gender equality in securing economic opportunities and participation, equal representation in politics, reproductive rights, family law reforms, and gender mainstreaming in public policies (Tasneem *et al.*, 2020). Therefore, it is often inferred that achievements in the movement to empower women were largely the result of the activities of the various CSOs. Women's groups or human rights organizations led to forming NGOs focussed on women's rights, developing networks of like-minded organizations and taking part in the movement for affirmative action such as reserved seats in parliament; local government institutions and in public services; movements against gender discrimination, and building the capacities of women in the different areas of socioeconomic and political contexts in Bangladesh (Panday and Feldman, 2015).

It has already been noted that CSOs in Bangladesh have played multiple roles in empowering women, even in rural areas. The CSOs, on the one hand, work as “think tanks” (public policy research, analysis and engagement organization) to deliver intellectual support to politicians as well as policymakers and to mobilize citizens (Mendizabal, Osborne and Young, 2006). On the other hand, CSOs work to raise the awareness of citizens and to protect and promote the rights of the less privileged citizen (Jaysawal, 2013). Therefore, CSOs play a three-tiered role, micro-meso-macro contributions to ensure the voices and participation of left-behind communities, especially for women in Bangladesh (Tonny and Ahmed, 2020). The women's movement, over the years, reflects such roles of civil society actions.

Civil society, especially some NGOs in Bangladesh, has focused on ensuring women are equal to men and freeing them from all forms of discrimination. These NGOs have the vision and mission that guides organization on what to do and how to create a gender-responsive society and empower women. The initiatives include both economic as well as political empowerment, which ultimately reflects a sense of “inclusiveness” in changing women's lives.

The CSOs have been active in trying to increase women's participation in politics and governance, as well as push for gender equity that essentially enhances their capacities. The CSOs also initiate and take part in public movements to ensure the political empowerment of women. Besides, recently, CSOs have been working to create gender-sensitive workplaces. Mostly, CSOs talk, initiate dialogue, and raise their voice; they have already proven their ability to identify barriers to women's empowerment as well as gender equality. Thus, CSOs are important and contribute significantly to the empowerment of women as well as gender equality in Bangladesh.

3.4. Mapping and assessment of agriculture and rural development policies

Bangladesh's approach toward gender equality has evolved over time from welfare to mainstreaming, and the policies and measures undertaken have yielded significant improvements in human development and gender equality indicators. Successive governments have formulated gender-sensitive policies and programmes to empower women. The policies most relevant to this report are discussed in **Table 4**.

Table 4: Relevant agriculture and rural development policies, strategies and plans

Policy	Significance	Focus on gender dimensions of agricultural and rural development
National Women Development Policy (NWDP) 2011	NWDP is the first such government policy that seeks to “comprehensively” respond to women’s issues in Bangladesh, their rights, and developmental aspirations.	NWDP includes a separate section under “Agriculture and Women”, which recognizes the role of women in agriculture and stipulates “taking the initiative to ensure equal wages for the same job and to remove wage discrimination of women in agriculture” and “to extend all kinds of support and assistance in eliminating bottlenecks created due to climate change and disasters”.
Eighth Five Year Plan (2020-2025)	The Eighth Five Year Plan aims to bring Bangladesh closer to the goals of attaining upper middle-income country status, attaining major Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets, and eliminating extreme poverty by the fiscal year 2031 (GED, 2020).	The policy agenda outlined in the Eighth Five Year Plan makes numerous references to ensuring that extension services reach women in relation to crop production, including high-value and cash crops, and in livestock, fisheries and forestry.
National Agricultural Policy (NAP) 2018	The NAP aims to ensure food security and improve socioeconomic conditions by increasing productivity and crop production, farmers’ income, crop diversification, ensuring nutritious and safe food production, improving the marketing system, and ensuring profitable agriculture and efficient use of natural resources.	NAP 2018 commits to providing necessary assistance to women’s skill development to ensure food and nutrition in the family. The policy also encourages women’s participation in agricultural education, research, extension and training. Efforts will be made to ensure equal rights for women in the management of and access to agriculture inputs (NAP, 2018).
National Agricultural Extension Policy (NAEP) 2015	The NAEP concentrates on a decentralized and demand-led extension to meet farmers’ needs, emphasizes the coordinated delivery of extension services, and encourage effective research-extension-farmer linkages.	The most recent NAEP specifically encourages supporting the participation of women in agriculture through developing women farmer groups, encouraging the development of women’s SME in agribusiness, developing confidence for raising their voice through grassroots level women’s farmer organizations, creating gender awareness of both women and male farmers (NAEP, 2015). The NAEP (2015) also suggests encouraging women farmers to lead and occupy decision-making positions in higher-level farmer organizations.
National Fisheries Policy 1998	This policy aims to increase the production of fisheries resources through optimum use of existing resources. The provision of encouraging women in fish farming, as well as employment-generation for both unemployed male and female youths, has been emphasised in this policy (NFP, 1998).	Women are given priority when selecting beneficiaries under the water body management policy 2009, micro credit policy 2011, national shrimp policy 2014, and training policy in the light of national fisheries policy 1998 and national fisheries strategy 2006 and so on (MOF, 2019).

Table 4. (continued)

Policy	Significance	Focus on gender dimensions of agricultural and rural development
National Livestock Development Policy (Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock [MoFL]) 2007	This policy seeks to provide an enabling environment, open up opportunities, and reduce risks and vulnerabilities by harnessing the full potential of the livestock subsector to accelerate economic growth to reduce rural poverty.	The MoFL has been ensuring the participation of women in ministry programmes and activities, as stated in national policies, including the national poultry development policy, 2008, and microcredit disbursement rules, 2011.
National Rural Development Policy (NRDP) 2001	The NRDP was formulated to meet the constitutional obligations of developing human resources and to bring about positive changes in the standard of living in rural areas and of those who are dependent on natural resources (NRDP, 2001).	The NRDP has been given the social and institutional directive to empower rural women informing both men and women about the laws and rights that concern them.

Despite these progressive policy measures, gender discrimination persists in many areas and is reinforced by discriminatory personal laws, lax enforcement of gender-equitable laws, and traditional norms, practices and bias. In most cases, there is explicit mention of gender issues and the role of women, such as in the national agriculture extension policy 2015. In other cases, although this is not explicitly mentioned, from the overall tone and articulation of the issues, it is safe to presume that the concerns regarding gender and women's rights are recognized implicitly. A few policies have serious loopholes. For example, the agriculture policy 2018 recognizes only the post-harvest role of women, which effectively means women are not recognized as farmers, and the door for them to access government agriculture support services and credit facilities remains shut.

3.5 Mainstreaming gender across agriculture and rural development sectors

Ministry of Agriculture

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) implements different projects and programmes to cultivate agricultural products that will create informal jobs in agricultural. The Ministry of Finance (MoF) identified the following gender gaps in the activities of the MoA in the gender budget document (MoF, 2019).

- Women's participation in decision-making on agriculture management is low and they also lag behind in the areas of management of agricultural inputs and their access.
- There is a lack of regular collection, preservation, and publication of information about the contribution made by women farmers; organization of women agriculture workers is not well-formed.
- Documentaries highlighting the role of women in agriculture and textbooks containing women's contribution to agriculture are not well reflected.
- Women friendly modern agricultural technologies are not easily available to women farmers.

Besides the above, often, sex-disaggregated data is not maintained for programme monitoring, and targets for women's benefits are not monitored. The ministry also needs to build its staff capacity to address gender issues in the sector.

The statistics of male and female officials in different organizations under the Ministry of Agriculture in the 2018–2019 fiscal years show that only 14.27 percent of staff are women, as shown in **Table 5**. The situation is similar in the Department of Agricultural Extension where staff at the ministry and field level, during the fiscal year 2018–2019, were 15 719 men, and only 2 834 (15 percent) women. Women's lower participation in the Ministry of Agriculture activities has negatively influenced the formulation of gender-sensitive policies, programmes and projects in the agricultural sector. Furthermore, the MoA



Table 5: Staff ratio for men and women at the Ministry of Agriculture

Administration	2017 to 2018		2018 to 2019	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Secretariat	159	41	152	37
Department of Agricultural Extension	20 517	2 192	15 719	2 834
Seed Certification Agency	271	57	277	68
Cotton Development Board	613	62	525	57
Agricultural Information Service	185	24	175	25
Department of Agricultural Marketing	385	64	378	57
Soil Resource Development Institute	442	85	435	89
Bangladesh Jute Research Institute	354	59	350	61
Bangladesh Rice Research Institute	550	126	538	117
Barind Multipurpose Authority	852	41	840	41
Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture	324	35	325	46
Bangladesh Institute of Research and Training on Applied Nutrition	59	11	59	11
Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council	170	20	168	19
Bangladesh Wheat and Maize Research Institute	67	08	67	08
Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation	3 278	285	2 960	292
Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute	2 221	433	2 086	422
Bangladesh Sugar Crop Research Institute	256	28	251	27
Total	30 703	3 571	25 305	4 211
Percent	89.58	10.42	85.73	14.27

Source: Ministry of Finance. 2019. Bangladesh Economic Review 2019. Dhaka, MoF, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. <https://mof.gov.bd/site/page/44e399b3-d378-41aa-86ff-8c4277eb0990/Bangladesh-Economic-Review>

recognizes that despite opportunities for agricultural education, training and research at home and abroad, women's participation is lagging behind with respect to equal opportunities in management (Rahman *et al.*, 2017).

Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock

The Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL) is one of the key ministries that ensures food security and nutrition and reduces poverty. This ministry is engaged in different programmes for human development,

Table 6: Composition (%) of men and women working at the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock

Description of function	Officers						Staff					
	2016–2017		2017–2018		2018–2019		2016–2017		2017–2018		2018–2019	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Secretariat	80.0	20.0	70.6	29.4	72.4	27.6	70.6	29.4	76.0	24.0	78.0	22.0
Department of Fisheries	59.1	41.0	84.2	15.8	–	–	82.1	17.9	82.7	17.3	–	–
Upazila offices	88.0	12.0	90.4	9.6	–	–	90.2	9.8	90.2	9.6		
Office of the director general	–	–	–	–	62.3	37.8	–	–	–	–	65.7	34.3
Deputy director's offices	–	–	–	–	83.9	16.1	–	–	–	–	86.4	13.6
District fisheries offices	–	–	–	–	83.1	16.9	–	–	–	–	85.8	14.2
Senior/Upazila fisheries offices	–	–	–	–	79.3	20.8	–	–	–	–	85.7	14.3
Department of Livestock	77.6	22.4	79.2	20.8	79.2	20.8	82.9	17.1	82.9	17.2	82.9	17.2
Divisional offices	88.1	11.9	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	88.1	11.9	91.7	8.3	91.7	8.3
District offices	90.8	9.3	88.8	11.2	88.8	11.2	88.8	11.2	95.5	4.5	96.5	3.5
Upazila offices	90.1	9.9	93.9	6.5	93.9	6.5	95.6	4.4	96.6	3.4	96.6	3.4

Source: Ministry of Finance. 2019. *Bangladesh Economic Review 2019*. Dhaka, MoF, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. <https://mof.gov.bd/site/page/44e399b3-d378-41aa-86ff-8c4277eb0990/Bangladesh-Economic-Review>

livelihood interventions and increasing the production of fish, meat, milk and eggs to attain self-sufficiency in protein. The ministry mandate covers ensuring animal nutrition, disease control, quality fish, dairy and poultry supply. In addition, the MoFL is active in many programmes that ensure the participation of women and support their social security, poverty reduction and employment, thus ensuring their protein consumption and nutrition of their families.

It is often reported that, as a result of the various MoFL interventions, the participation of women has increased in the fisheries and livestock sector (MOF, 2020; Choudhury *et al.*, 2017). However, women lack technical training. The available training for women on livestock and fisheries focuses on rearing and production but would yield better results if empowering elements were incorporated such as leadership, the building of social capital, marketing, etc. In addition, the disaster rehabilitation programme

Table 7: Women's participation in decision-making in the rural development and co-operatives division

Description of function	Officers				Staff			
	2017–2018		2018–2019		2017–2018		2018–2019	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Secretariat	78.4	21.6	76.0	24.0	75.0	25.0	73.1	26.9
Autonomous bodies and other institutions	88.4	11.6	89.4	10.6	69.5	30.5	69.3	30.7
Department of co-operatives	80.7	19.3	87.6	21.4	65.6	34.4	65.7	34.3
District offices	77.7	22.4	82.4	17.6	80.5	19.6	85.7	14.3
Upazila offices	86.9	13.1	88.8	11.2	89.6	10.4	77.3	22.7
Training and education facilities	96.4	3.6	92.0	8.0	78.7	21.3	78.6	21.4

Source: Ministry of Finance. 2019. *Bangladesh Economic Review 2019*. Dhaka, MoF, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. <https://mof.gov.bd/site/page/44e399b3-d378-41aa-86ff-8c4277eb0990/Bangladesh-Economic-Review>

needs to be coordinated with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief so as to address rehabilitation support for women. Often sex-disaggregated data is not maintained for programme monitoring and targets for women's benefits are not monitored. The ministry also requires strengthening of its staff capacity to incorporate gender equality and the empowerment of women in programme design, delivery and monitoring (Table 6) (MoF, 2019).

Rural Development and Co-operative Division

The Rural Development and Co-operatives Division (RDCD) of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives formulates and implements acts and rules related to cooperatives and formal and informal groups for the socioeconomic development of rural people, including youth and women. The Division undertakes development programmes that include activities such as rural employment generation, skills development, awareness-raising, and operation of micro and agricultural credit services to generate productive employment. A number of institutions under this Division have developed several microfinance models for women and men, which have played an important role in poverty reduction and social security, even in remote areas. Facilitating microsavings, cooperative banking, and building small and cottage industries on cooperative basis are also included.

A national workplan 2013 was prepared to implement the national women development policy (2011). According to the policy and workplan, important RDCD activities include:

- Bringing ultra-poor women under the coverage of social safety nets.
- Organizing poor women workforce to enhance their capacity and to create new and alternative economic and social opportunities for women by providing training.
- Involving poor women in the productive process and mainstream economic activities.
- Giving special emphasis to the needs of women in relation to safe drinking water and drainage systems.
- Appointing a significant number of women in the high-level decision-making process.

The RDCD, and its subsidiary entities, involve women in different cooperative activities: granting loans under different projects, providing training to improve their skills, and helping them become involved in income-generating activities. These activities actually ensure women's participation in social development, making them economically self-reliant and helping to bring them out of poverty. These activities should be taken into consideration whether they ensure gender equity or not.



© FAO/Fahad Kaizer

Another main challenge for this Division is to ensure all rural women become conscious of their needs for development, such as developing entrepreneurship through training and loans, and ensuring profitability by marketing their products. Therefore, a detailed workplan should be formulated to address this issue. Under such a plan, it may be useful to organize different motivational training, seminar/workshops for men, as well as an extensive training programme and loans for women.

During the financial year 2018 to 2019, 27 percent of women and 73 percent of male officers worked in this Division. Because of the low percentage, women's participation in the policymaking process in this Division was limited. Despite specific women-friendly policies, only a modest number of women participate in the RDCD as shown in [Table 7](#) (MoF, 2019). In this situation, it is obvious that there is the need for the greater participation of women in policymaking processes at the RDCD.

4

GENDER ANALYSIS OF AGRICULTURE AND THE RURAL SECTOR



4.1 Demographic and education information

This subsection highlights the general characteristics of the respondent households with respect to their demography and educational status.

Sex ratio

The 384 surveyed households had 1 908 household members. The male-female ratio in all the surveyed subdistricts was similar and averaged 101:100 (50.2 percent male and 49.8 percent female). This gender ratio is close to the national figure (102:100) found in the World Bank Report (2020). However, the ratio among districts is varied – the female-male ratio is higher in Bardarban followed by Dinajpur, Dhaka, Natore, Kurigram and Bagerhat districts. In other districts, the male-female ratio is higher, which includes Cox’s Bazar in the lead position followed by Barguna and other districts (Figure 3).

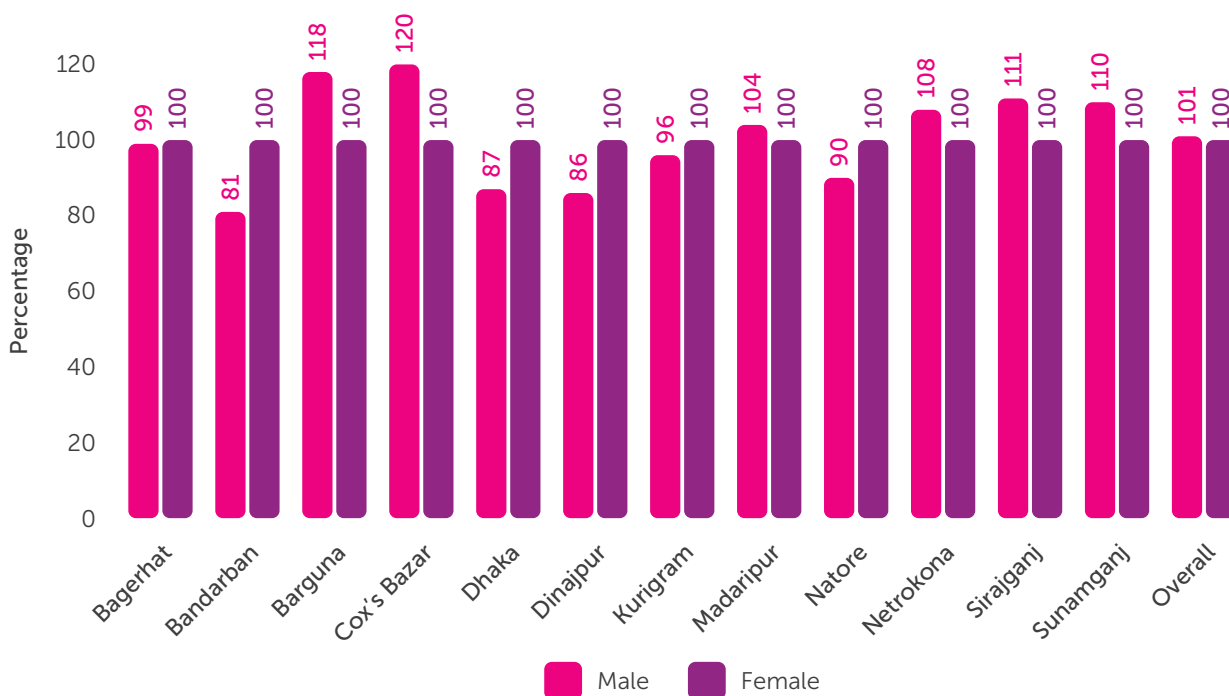
The assessment revealed that 9.2 percent of households are female headed across the study area. According to the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 1996 to 1997, about 9 percent of rural households are headed by women (Mannan, 2000).

Nevertheless, the highest 21.9 percent female headed households, were found in Dhaka district followed by Cox’s Bazar (15.6 percent), Bandarban, Barguna, Sunamganj (each 12.5 percent) and the lowest was found in Dinajpur, Kurigram, Natore and Sunamganj (each 3.1 percent), (Detail in Annex 4, Table A4-1A).

Education level

The literacy rate in Bangladesh has risen remarkably over the past decade and was 72.3 percent in 2017 (BBS, 2018).⁶ Surprisingly, the baseline survey revealed that the literacy rate in the study area was higher (80.6 percent) than the national average. On average, females (79.01 percent) were relatively less literate than males (82.13 percent). Considering the completion of household members’ highest level of education, the education level of males (35.5 percent) is comparatively better until class 5, after that until the secondary school certificate (SSC) the female percentage (35 percent) is better than the male. Data shows that 57.5 percent of females attended school from 1 to 12, which is quite good compared to males (56.5 percent). After that, from SSC and higher, a decreasing trend is observed in female participation in education (Figure 4).

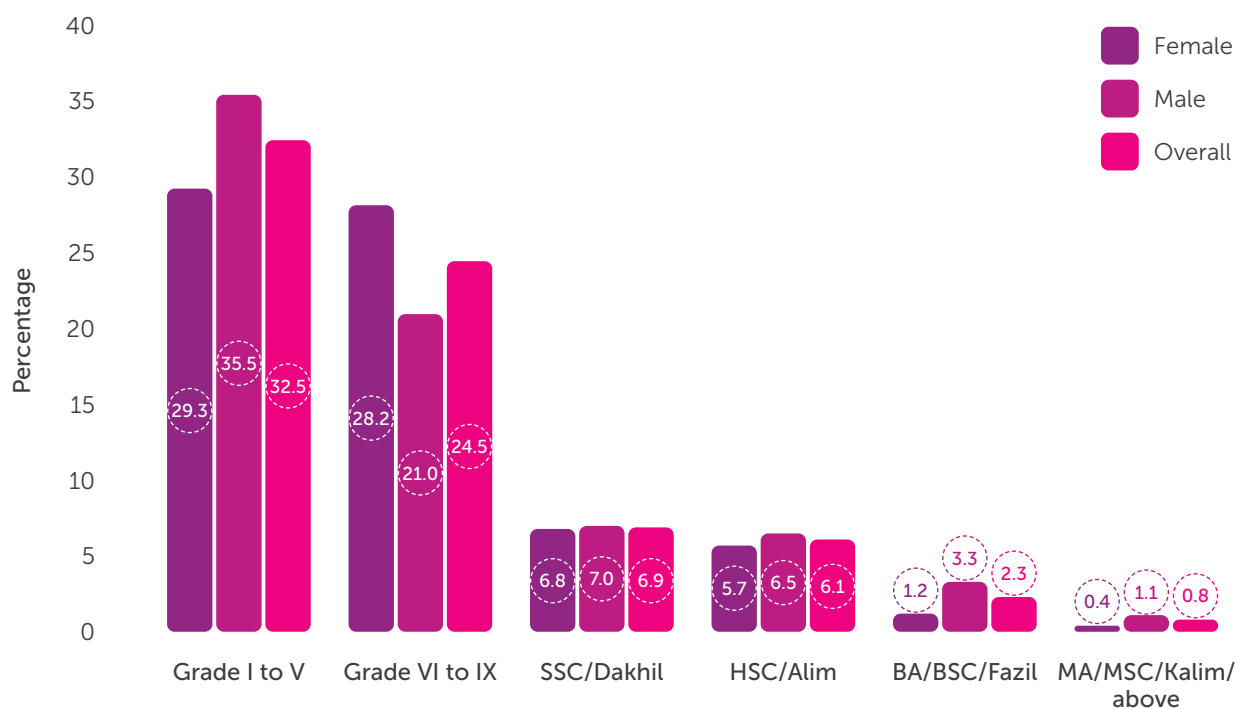
Figure 3: Male portion of the respondent households against female at 100



Source: Author’s own elaboration.

⁶ Defined as the proportion of people aged 7 years and over who have a basic knowledge of reading and writing.

Figure 4: Percentage of household members at various education levels by gender



Source: Author's own elaboration.

Focus group discussions (FGD) in Cox's Bazar revealed there is no college in the local area. Students must travel about 1.5 hours. If there is a bridge over the nearby channel, the time will be reduced to half an hour. As a result of closure of schools and other academic institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic, some under-aged girls were married off (FGD in Dinajpur district).

The study Education Household Survey 2014 also explained the same scenario that the percentage of female (54.81 percent) education up to class nine is more than male (54.05 percent). Again, since SSC level education, there is also a decreasing trend in female participation as compared to male (BBS, 2015). This is mainly because the higher-level educational institute is located at a comparative distance and women get married during any crisis situation, as explored during the focal group discussion (FGD). Therefore, it is necessary to give importance to female higher education (Detail in Annex-4, Table A4-1B).

Farm size

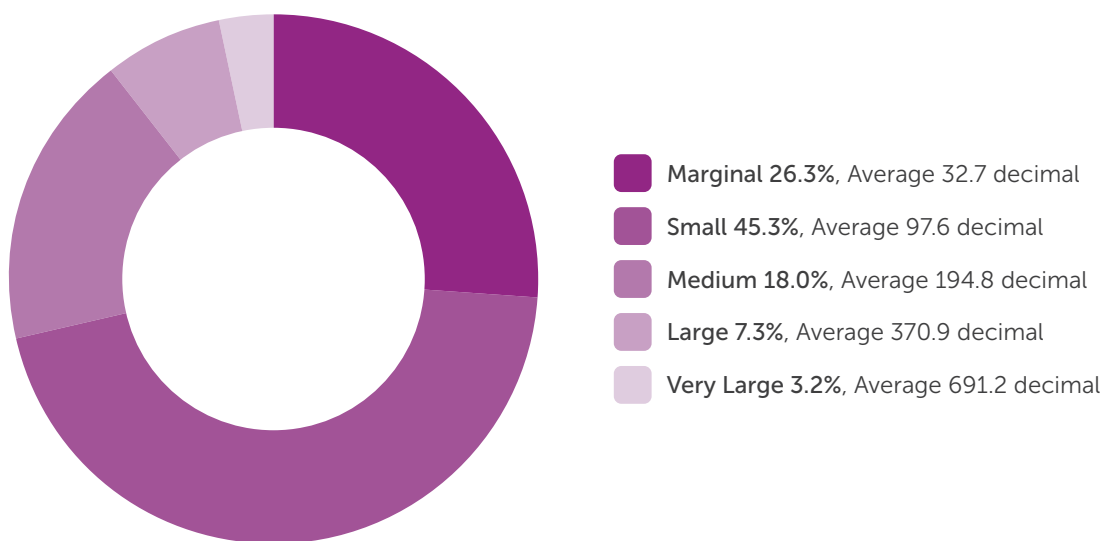
Household categories were defined by farm size,⁷ therefore, reported land holdings are consistent with these definitions.

Most (45.3 percent) of the sampled HHs belong to the small farmer category, owning and/or leasing land, on average 97.6 decimals, among the sampled households. The second highest comprised 26.3 percent of HHs categorized as marginal farm holders (owning and/or leasing land with an average 32.7 decimals followed by 18 percent medium farm holders (owning and/or leasing land average 194.8 decimals), 7.3 percent HHs were large farm holders (owning and/or leasing land average 370.9 decimals and 3.2 percent of HHs were categorized as large farm holders (owning and/or leasing average land average 691.2 decimals) (Figure 5).

Comparing districts of sample households, Barguna district has the lowest average 18.3 decimals. The highest average 40.3 decimals of own agricultural land is found in Dinajpur district under marginal farmer

⁷ Marginal: =<50 decimal, small: 151–250 decimal, medium: 151–250 decimals, large: 251–500 decimals, and very large: above 500 decimals.

Figure 5: Distribution of households by category of land



Note: 1 decimal equals 535.6 square feet or 405.057 square metres.
 Source: Author's own elaboration.

households (9.4 and 28.1 percent HH respectively). In the small farmer category, Natore district has the lowest average 85.8 decimals and the highest average 111.2 decimals of own agricultural land is found in Netrokona district, both districts comprise 50.0 and 43.8 percent HH respectively. It was observed that most sampled households are in the small farmer category in all districts.

In the medium farmer group, Cox's Bazar belongs to the highest average 426.7 decimals and lowest, 163.0 decimals of land in Kurigram district. There were no sample households corresponding to Cox's Bazar, Dinajpur, Kurigram in the large farmer category and no farmers in the large farm category in Bagerhat, Dhaka, Kurigram, Madaripur, Netrokona and Sirajganj, as shown in Annex 4, Table A4-1C. Considering the category of own agricultural land for the respondent HHs, Kurigram district has no representative in both large and very large farmer categories, indicating that it is the poorest area among all surveyed districts. It is noted that literally, the sample households in Dhaka district are in an urban area, therefore, the average area of land is small and the value is higher than in other districts.

Land ownership

The interviewees were the adult males and females, particularly wives and husbands, of which 288 respondents were female and 96 were male in 384 households. The main purpose of the survey

was to discover how much agricultural land the female member of a household owns. The average land ownership size per household was calculated based on the total owned agricultural land of the farmer household; on the other hand, the land size per respondent considered only the agricultural land owned by the survey respondent, i.e. either wife or husband separately. Table 8 shows the average size of land holding by household is 136.5 decimals over the study area, where Kurigram district has 55.5 decimals per HH land, which is the lowest and the highest is 231.3 decimals per HH land, found in Bandarban district. Nevertheless, the average area of land belonging to women is only 7.9 decimals, which is significantly less than for men, 76.7 decimals. Only 16.3 percent of women own land (highest 20.8 percent is in the small farmer category), which is much less than men, 74 percent. Women in Dinajpur district have the highest average land size, 21.1 decimals, and the lowest 0.4 decimal is owned by women in Netrokona district.

4.2 Access to productive capital

Mostly men own the productive land (above Section Farm size). The ownership of cattle, goats, poultry, for example, is not defined among male or female HH members. The primary data also shows the response of both male and female is the same as for self-ownership of these items. Both males and females said that all of

Table 8: Average area in decimals of agricultural land owned by a household and percentage of respondents (spouse) with own land and average area in decimals by gender

District	Average area owned/ household	Male		Female	
		Percent (respondent)	Area/ respondent	Percent (respondent)	Area/ respondent
Bagerhat	118.3	62.5	28.9	4.2	2.3
Bandarban	231.3	37.5	168.8	12.5	12.4
Barguna	226.8	100.0	136.5	12.5	7.5
Cox's Bazar	107.7	75.0	76.3	29.2	5.8
Dhaka	90.7	62.5	15.1	29.2	19.9
Dinajpur	119.8	87.5	86.1	29.2	21.1
Kurigram	55.5	37.5	44.6	12.5	4.0
Madaripur	126.4	100.0	69.5	4.2	1.4
Natore	110.6	75.0	90.8	20.8	5.6
Netrokona	137.2	75.0	55.0	4.2	0.4
Sirajganj	117.9	100.0	59.8	25.0	12.8
Sunamganj	195.1	75.0	85.0	12.5	1.9
Overall	136.5	74.0	76.7	16.3	7.9
Land class					
Marginal farmer	32.7	55.0	16.9	12.3	3.4
Small farmer	97.6	72.7	55.3	20.8	9.4
Medium farmer	194.8	95.5	106.0	19.1	16.1
Large farmer	370.9	57.1	167.1	0.0	0.0
Very large farmer	691.2	100.0	343.3	11.1	2.2
Overall	136.5	74.0	76.7	16.3	7.9

Note: Note: 1 decimal equals 535.6 square feet or 405 057 square metres.

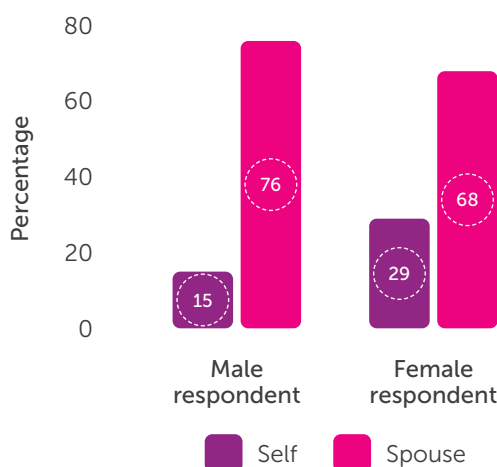
Source: Author's own elaboration.

Figure 6: Decisions regarding livestock

Decisions regarding large livestock, fishponds and fishing equipment



Decisions regarding small livestock and poultry



Source: Author's own elaboration.

these household items are owned by themselves, in other words, there is no difference between “How many does your household currently have?” and “How many does the respondent own?”

The survey shows that both men and women in the household take decisions on cultivation of crops, rearing of livestock and fish culture (details in Annex 4, Table A4-2A). Yet, the man dominates for decisions on large livestock, fishponds and fishing equipment. Figure 6, left, shows the similarity in responses regarding decision-making by male and female. The figure shows that 74 percent of females responded that the husband took the decisions and 66 percent of men agreed they took decisions concerning the reported items. On the other hand, the woman dominates when deciding about small livestock including chickens, ducks, turkeys or pigeons. Figure 6 explains the similarity in information for both types of respondents, 76 percent male stated women decided regarding small livestock and poultry, 68 percent of women agreed.

Regarding the sale of farm products, and related goods or equipment, it was observed that, to a varied extent, both male and female counterparts decided (detail in Annex 4, Table A4-2B). Yet, males dominated in deciding about selling agricultural land, fish and fishing and other farm equipment. On the other hand, women in the HHs mostly made the decisions about the sale of livestock and poultry. Similar findings were observed for taking decisions on a new purchase concerning farming matters.

However, male counterparts dominate in contributing most to decisions regarding a new purchase.

4.3 Access to credit and financial services

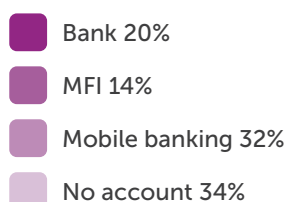
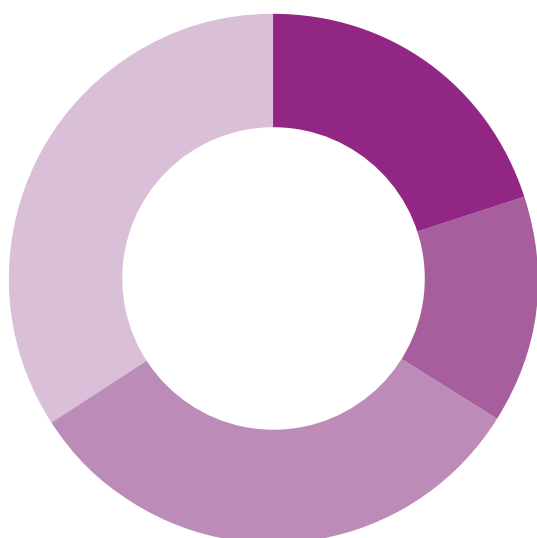
The farmer household survey found that women, along with men, can utilize the financial services available at the local level, although the most common type of account held was mobile banking (women 32 percent and men 31 percent). More than two-thirds of respondents hold their own bank account, of which women account for 66.3 percent and men 71.9 percent. During the field survey and FGD it was reported that, irrespective of gender, mobile banking is not used for savings, but to receive money. Moreover, women were found to have less access to banks (women: 20 percent and men: 29 percent, Figure 7).

Figure 8 shows access to credit from the different sources. The results indicate that rural people, regardless of gender, can borrow independently from various formal and informal sources of money that explicate their free access to financial institutions.

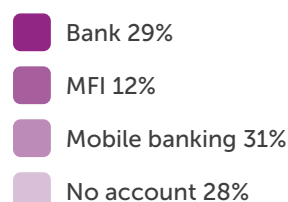
Regarding decision-making when taking out a loan, it is evident that the man or woman can, more or less, borrow independently as and when they need money. Although during the FGD across the study area, it was generally stated that decisions on borrowing and use of money were taken in consultation with the spouse. Mostly, however, it is men who decide. Similarly, women participate in loan repayments, although this is mostly done by men.

Figure 7: Distribution of accounts women (left) and men (right) for savings

Female



Male



Source: Author's own elaboration.

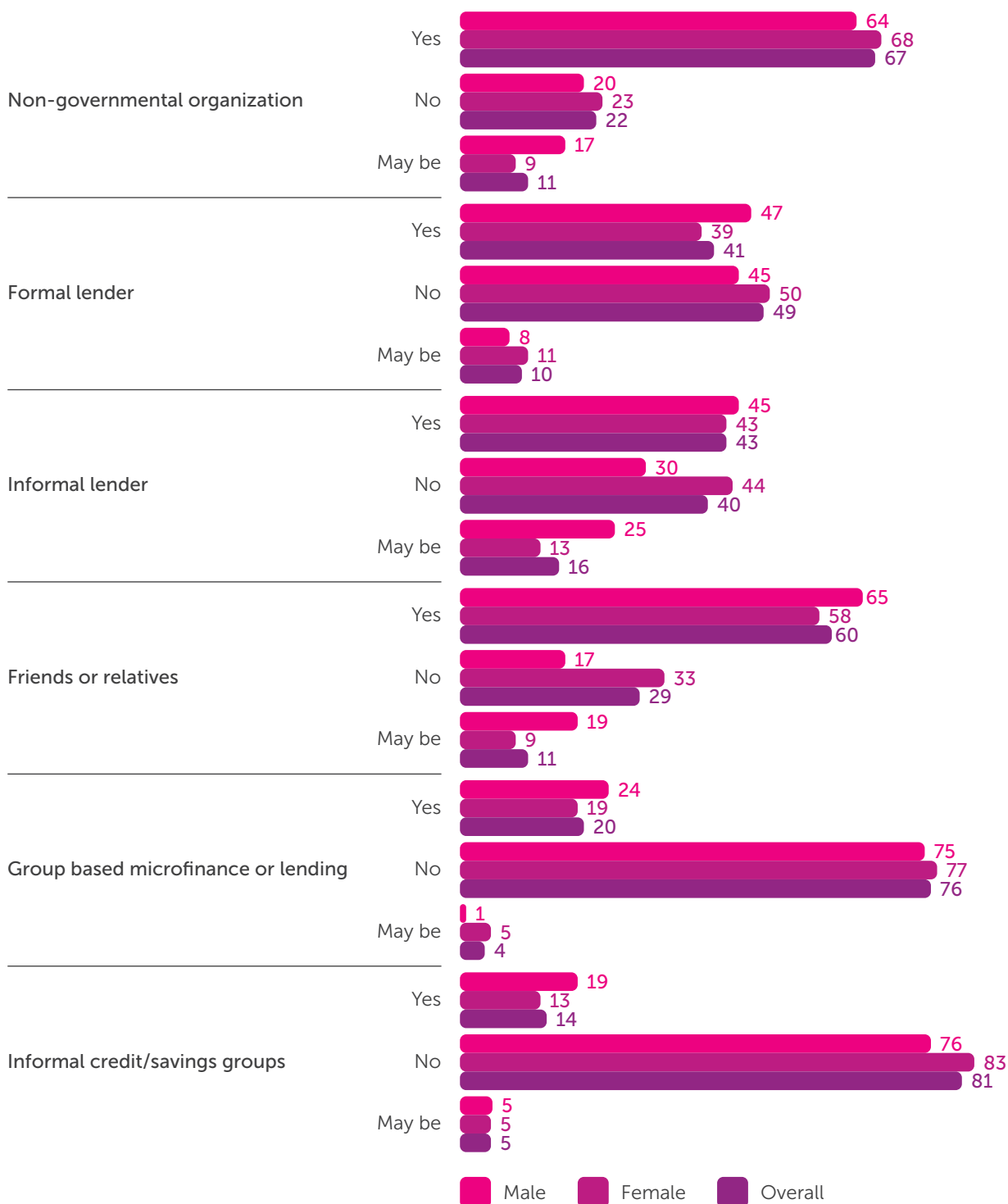
Focus group discussions in Amtali upazila revealed that the *dala* (broker or agent) demanded a bribe to obtain agricultural loans from the government bank. A number of female farmers take loans from non-governmental organizations (NGO). Some have also criticized the NGO debt trap. Without bank accounts, most female farmers miss out on the chance to take control of their money. However, with the rise of digital financial services (DFS), the existing gender gap in accessing formal financial services is being narrowed day-by-day. The female farmers from Amtali categorically mentioned that the online banking system of the "One House, One Farm" project is one example where the government has used DFS to increase women's access to financial services.

Women in rural areas normally save money from the sale of agricultural produce. Women in the households pay for household items such as food, clothing, medicine and cosmetics. While men normally buy farm inputs, pay school fees and wages for labour. Spending is mutual, without any issues arising around agreement. It was found that respondents are able to save money for further investment for their production or business.

Men usually take care of marketing, record keeping, management of sales and maintenance of logistics.

Savings in the bank are minimal. No differences were found in the accessibility of men, women, youth, transgender, persons with disabilities, and people from ethnic minorities in terms of services provided by financial institutions. Regarding financial management, men lead. Men usually negotiate prices, make payments (wages, utilities), receive payments, make financial decisions and go to the bank for loans. But women can take part with men in decision-making and implementing the decisions.

Figure 8: Distribution (%) of household members able to borrow cash/in-kind if they wanted to



Source: Author's own elaboration.

4.4 Access to extension services

Although the extension services in Bangladesh are dynamic and decentralized, with various actors from different sectors, the high plurality leads to difficulties in coordination between the different types of

extension actors: public, private, and NGOs, as well as between different areas of extension services, namely crops, livestock and fisheries (Kruijssen *et al.*, 2019). Actors in the public sector extension service generally act independently of each other but overlook the need to seek input from farmers or measure their satisfaction or impact (Haq, 2013).

The extension departments such as the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), the Department of Fisheries (DoF), Department of Livestock Services (DLS) are supposed to provide quality agricultural inputs and guarantee availability to farmers on their doorsteps. Though the situation in Bangladesh has gradually improved, farmers still face different challenges. For example, many farmers are ready to do their part and they really want to survive, but they have not had the opportunity to receive technical training, which would help them increase their crops and improve their food security.

During the FGD sessions it was observed that farmers were aware of the best applications of agricultural inputs or productivity-enhancing and cost-saving, cultivation and pest control practices. For this, they rely on public extension services to maintain and improve productivity. Extension officials at the upazila level claim that both the field-level extension agencies, and the public service delivery agencies, provide frequent extension services in the form of training, events to raise awareness, or disseminate information through their field-level personnel.

However, there is a lack of quality fundamental training for extension staff in the basics of extension, leadership and group formation. Furthermore, the limited logistic support for field-level extension workers is also a major problem and results in low-quality services.

Agricultural extension service

The front line, Sub-assistant Agricultural Officers (SAAO), under the Department of Agricultural Extension, is designated to provide support services to the rural population. The SAAOs are posted at the block level with duties and responsibilities for agricultural development,⁸ including technology transfer to the farmers. The SAAOs maintain a schedule of fortnightly visits and help farmers identify and overcome problems related to production, farm management and marketing through the exchange of information among farmers, extension staff, input suppliers, credit agencies and marketing agents.

Moreover, agricultural extension services aim to educate the farming community through the extensions system to improve their quality of life through disseminating knowledge, technologies, techniques, methods, ideas and useful information.

It was revealed during key informant interviews that farmers perceive the number of SAAO farm visits play a vital role in enhancing the farmers' technical efficiency. The SAAOs teach farmers how they can use existing technology better, for example through more efficient use of feed, fertilizer and irrigation, which enhances the farmers' technical efficiency and increases environment-friendly agriculture-related knowledge.

Fisheries extension services

The Department of Fisheries provide several extension activities to farmers involved in fish culture, including fishery and prawn demonstrations, fry release, fish sanctuary, and pond and shrimp farm visits. In addition, the DoF applies a variety of extension communication approaches, such as individual and group contact through the upazila fisheries office.

Findings from the FGD sessions confirmed that farmers who are in contact with public fisheries extension services have more sources of communication, increased participation in groups, enhanced knowledge of and better income from fish farming, and have a more positive attitude towards natural resource conservation. It was also observed that contact with extension services influences production, the adoption of new inputs and technologies, farmer-to-farmer diffusion, decision-making capacity and income.

Livestock extension services

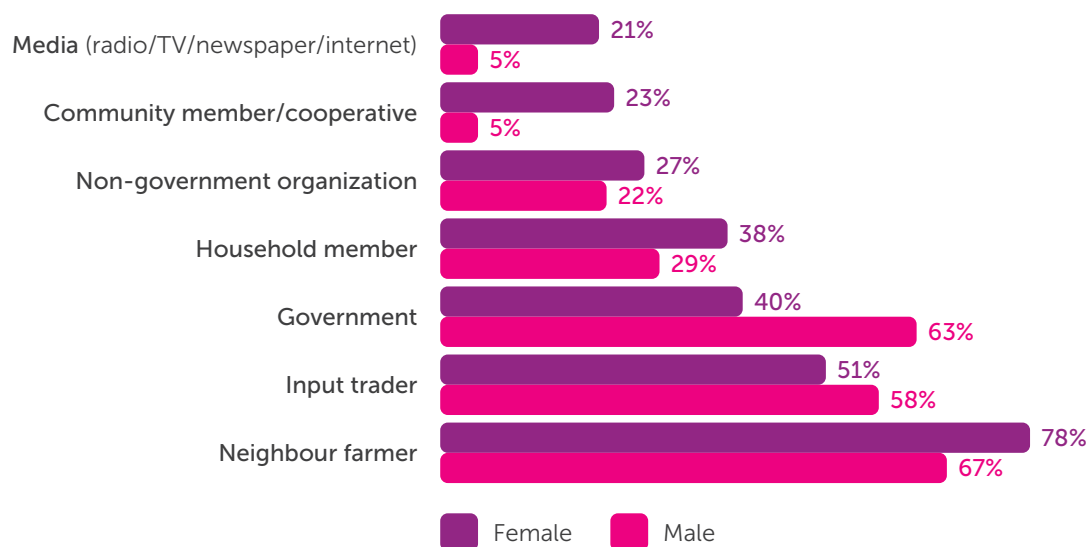
The Department of Livestock Services, under the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, provides livestock services to farmers. The administration at the upazila level is headed by the upazila livestock officer.

Participation in extension services

Extension activities are often biased towards working with men and ignore the significant role of women in agriculture. Due to this, it is difficult to isolate the specific contributions of the extension service, particularly for women farmers, and to measure the impact directly. Moreover, it is often stated that extension services do not consider women farmers as a distinct client, group of beneficiaries or target, therefore, they receive limited assistance. When asked during data collection, many women were found to be unaware of extension programme activities designed for women farmers (Figure 9), or where they could receive information on crop production, livestock, or fisheries.

⁸ The blocks are the "nerve-centres" of agricultural and extension information flow in the country. An upazila is administratively divided into several unions, and for Department of Agriculture extension, each union is non-administratively subdivided into three blocks.

Figure 9: Sources of information on crop production, livestock, or fisheries



Source: Author's own elaboration.

Survey data showed that the contact between male farmers and extension agents is more than that of female farmers. Moreover, both male and female focus group discussion participants stated, "Usually, the Sub-assistant Agricultural Officers (SAAO) make contact with those farmers with a crop demonstration plot, who were largely assisted by the agriculture office. During that time, if any farmer knows about the visit, then they meet with the SAAO for their own interest. In addition, sometimes the SAAO sits with the farmers in a group but always likes to sit in the same place, which means that many farmers in another part of the village can't get in touch with the service providers."

Findings from the analysis of the focus group discussions confirmed a severe shortage of staff to deliver these extension services. Moreover, the services, e.g. vaccinating and treating the ruminant livestock population provided by the Department of Livestock Services, cannot fulfil needs or requirements. Moreover, it is also evident that, as with the Department of Agricultural Extension organogram, no livestock-related staff are employed at the union or village level. The support staff is employed at the upazila veterinary clinics and have to cover about 15 villages or about two to three unions. Consequently, the staff can do very little beyond assisting the upazila veterinary officers at the upazila clinics. In the absence of adequate access to proper, reasonably priced, veterinary care, poor farmers often resort to traditional medicine with poor outcomes.

According to the key informant interview, "The Department of Livestock Services encourages and supports the planning and implementation of all livestock-related extension activities at the grassroots level. The key informants claimed the upazila livestock officer provides services at the field level such as treatment of livestock and poultry, providing vaccines, arranging vaccination camps, and arranging courtyard counselling meetings on livestock improvement.

The primary data revealed that farmers received information from various sources on new/improved varieties, technologies, management practices, health of crop production, livestock, fisheries and marketing (Figure 9). One farmer received information from multiple sources. Except for the government (men 63 percent versus women 40 percent) and input trader sources (men 58 percent and women 51 percent), the percentage of female farmers is higher than male when information is obtained from all other sources. These data also reflect that there is a relation between accessing information from the government and input traders, and farmers' mobility. Among the sources of information, there are fewer ICT, however, it has been observed that most of the family has a mobile phone, in addition to television which is another good source of information for household members. Our survey data showed that 34.4 percent of respondent households have a television and 99.1 percent of the households own a mobile phone. Therefore, ICT could be a good source of information. According to the upazila agricultural officer, Cox's Bazar, the Bangladesh Government has introduced many applications for farmers such as Krishaker Janala, Digital Thikana, Sar Bebothapana, the Bangladesh agricultural meteorological information system. Farmers should be informed of the benefits of these applications and become familiar with their use.

Both male and female FGD participants stated that, usually, in the societal context, men are more mobile than women, even though there has been an increase compared to before. Moreover, Section 4.8 Mobility mentions that a high percentage of women still must ask their spouse permission or be accompanied by any household members when they visit urban places or relatives, or leave the village, or religious centres. As the male farmer has greater scope for contacting the input traders, here men also dominate in accessing information. As women stay in the community or village the sources are easy to reach and available, the percentage of female respondents is higher than male.

Female farmers are very often less mobile than male, and they usually stay at home and perform household chores and other productive activities along with agriculture. So, to maintain contact with female farmers, extension workers need to visit them, which requires them to be highly mobile. Almost half of the respondents (49.48 percent) had come across some

extension service provider in the last 12 months. Of these, 62.50 percent were male, and 45.14 percent female. Of these 20.53 percent of respondents had contact with extension agents more than seven times (Figure 10). Of these, 26.67 percent were male, and 17.69 percent were female; 18.95 percent had come across extension workers four to seven times. More than one-third (30.53 percent) and 21.05 percent had contact with extension agents three times and twice, respectively. Only 8.95 percent mentioned they had contact with extension agents only once.

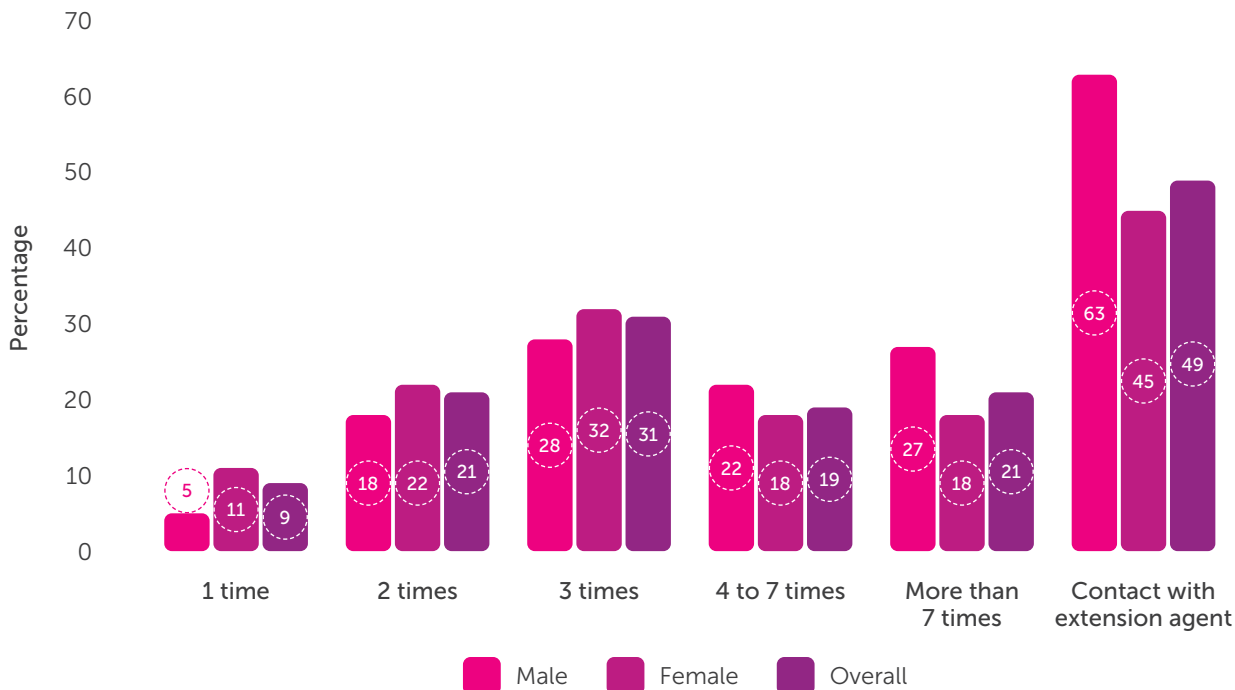
Less than 50 percent of farmers had contact with the extension worker in more than half of the districts. For example, the farmers in Sirajganj district (21.9 percent) had the least contact with the extension workers followed by Natore (25 percent), Netrokona (28.1 percent), Dhaka (31.3 percent), Kurigram and Cox's Bazar (40.6 percent), Sunamganj (43.8 percent). The 96.9 percent of farmers in Bagerhat district responded they had contact with the extension workers followed by Bandarban and Madaripur (71.9 percent), Dinajpur (62.5 percent), Barguna (59.4 percent) (details in Annex 4, Table A4-3).

Women need assistance in improving farming practices, purchasing more productive inputs, reducing their workloads, and improving processing, storage and marketing activities. Social norms of Purdah,⁹ however, often impede women from meeting with agricultural extension services. In addition, men dominate the local level political structures, resulting in an unequal distribution of resources as they act in favour of male farmers, even when women play a significant role in agricultural. Moreover, the lack of female agricultural extension agents is one factor that limits women's access to agricultural extension services. Among the respondents who had contact with the extension providers, only a few (6.84 percent) met with the female extension service provider during their last visit (Figure 11).

One woman in the dairy producer group, Cox's Bazar stated: "The dairy cow is kept inside the shed. It needs treatment when it is sick. Usually, women are involved with rearing livestock. But women do not feel comfortable when the male veterinarian is inside the hut during the treatment. It is very difficult to stay for special types of treatment."

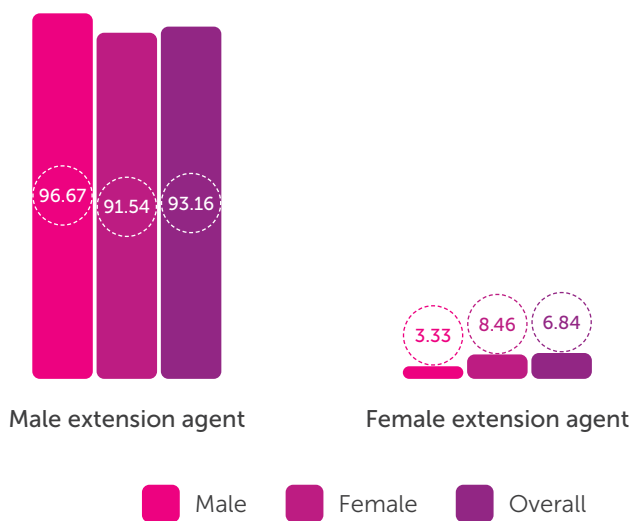
⁹ Purdah is the religious and social practice of female seclusion, which is prevalent in some Muslim communities.

Figure 10: Distribution of extension agents' visits and contact with male and female farmers (%)



Source: Author's own elaboration.

Figure 11: Agricultural extension agent by gender



Source: Author's own elaboration.

Women farmers were interested in accessing agricultural services. They were not happy, however, with the currently available agricultural services. According to the female group FGD discussion in Barguna district, “the government staff members were less helpful when compared to how helpful they were to men. Moreover, they informed that the government prohibited their participation with male participants.

In addition, women farmers are deprived of even the limited training on crop cultivation that men received. The equipment is not woman friendly.” This situation is very common in Bangladesh’s patriarchal society since women have limited mobility, freedom of choice, or decision-making power.

Although the SAAOs are supposed to provide day-to-day extension services in their respective blocks, they usually visit the village just to “observe the formalities”. The participation of women farmers in the extension programme is not a “regular” practice. Specifically, fisheries extension services do not contribute significantly to knowledge of farming as female fish farmers are marginalized.

4.5 Role in household decision-making for production and income

Participation

In the last 12 months, among the surveyed farmer households, 99 percent male and 81.3 percent female reported they had participated in obtaining inputs for agricultural production. Most women (96.2 percent) take part in selection of crops to grow and 94.8 percent take decisions regarding staple food farming, processing and selling the harvest. In horticultural (gardens), cash or high-value crop farming, processing and selling of the harvest, 39.9 percent of women took part. Data also revealed that 67.7 percent of men participated in raising large livestock, and 62.5 percent of women had participated in the last 12 months. However, for raising poultry and other small animal such as chickens, ducks, turkeys or other fowl and processing of egg production and sale, a higher proportion of women were involved (72.2 percent) than men (62.5 percent). Only 22.6 percent of women reported being involved compared to men 32.3 percent in fishing or fish pond culture and sales (Figure 12).

Most men and a few women were found to be involved in decision-making for taking crops to market (90.6 percent versus 80.9 percent); non-farm economic activities (27.1 versus 23.30); wage and salary employment (85.4 versus 69.1) and large, major, occasional household purchases/expenditures (35.4 versus 27.4). Most women (98.6 percent) were involved in regular household purchases or expenditures, which is slightly higher than for men (Figure 12). In Cox’s Bazar and Madaripur men jointly decide with their wives or sometimes with their adult sons, fathers and brothers. However, in Sunamgonj very few women can take part in joint decisions regarding agriculture and fish production. In all types of productive activities, women are involved significantly

in parallel with men, although, in the case of poultry-raising and regular household purchases women’s participation dominates.

Decision-making

In some activities such as: obtaining inputs for agricultural production; types of crops to grow; staple food grain farming; processing and selling of the harvest; grains grown primarily for food consumption; taking crops to the market; non-farm economic activities; and large, major, occasional household purchases or expenditures; the level of female decision-making is less than 15 percent. Also, 76.2 percent of female farmers and 90 percent of male farmers stated that woman decide on activities related to production and sale of poultry and raising other small animals (chickens, ducks, turkeys or other fowl) and the processing of eggs.

Evidence of women’s decision-making is comparatively higher in the education of son or daughter, purchase of household goods for childcare, cooking, dishwashing, cleaning and membership in the local Samitee (developed by NGOs or any government projects).¹⁰ Sometimes the involvement of women in local Samitee depends on the decision of husbands or male members of the family. In fish culture, only few women decide independently on fish stocking and most take joint decisions. The FGD findings revealed that men alone decide on the selection of fish species, fish stocking and pond preparation because they think it is not women’s domain. Men alone decide on harvesting citing two reasons: mainly harvesting with nets is very difficult for women; usually, women harvest using a hook for fun to catch fish for household consumption or to entertain a guest. Women in farm-based households play a significant role in agricultural activities. Moreover, women’s workload has been consistently heavier than that of men, as explained in Section Time use.

According to female farmers, when making a decision, the family usually depends on male members, although women participate in the decision-making process in certain household activities (Figure 12, Section 4.5). Nevertheless, these are activities where the man’s **decision is dominant**: obtaining inputs for agricultural production (79.5 percent); type of crops to grow (80.1 percent); staple food grain farming; processing

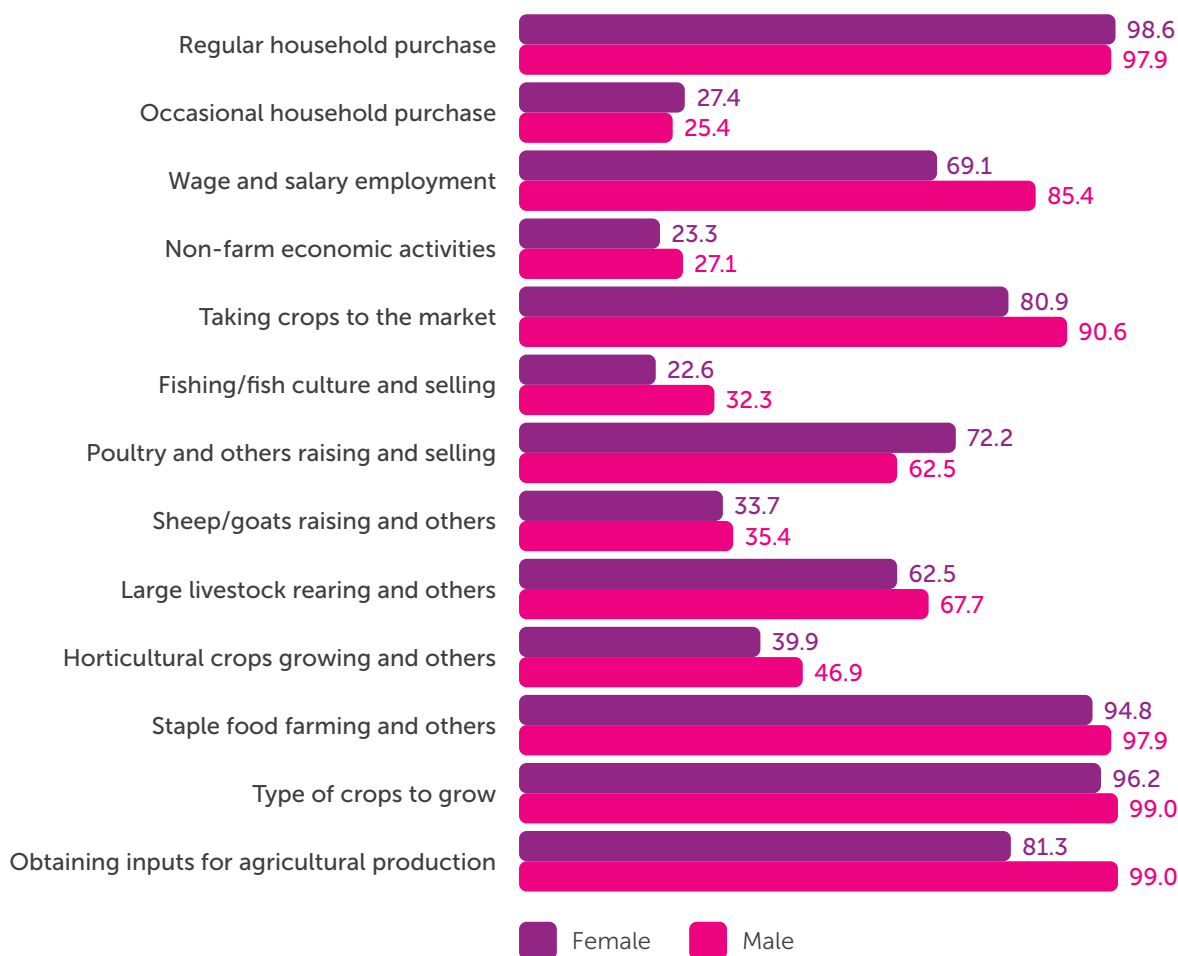
¹⁰ Samitee: local formal or informal groups.

Findings of focus group

Women and men decide during discussions although men implement the final decisions. Women spend most of the income from vegetable farming, cattle rearing and poultry. Generally, men take most of the decisions. Women’s participation in key decision-making positions is an important indicator of the status of gender equality. In studied areas, women have very limited access to the decision-making process at the household and community level.

Focus group discussion explored the situation in the absence of husbands and male guardians within women’s families. Widowed women usually take decisions regarding agriculture and fish production. The farmers decide in consultation with experienced farmers on sorting of seeds, select cattle for raising cattle, purchase of fertilizers and pesticides. In Sunamgonj, during the focus group discussion one male farmer said, “Women cannot say where to buy seeds, or what fertilizer to use or how much it costs. Their knowledge outside the village is limited. So, we do not ask women about these. We rely on experienced farmers or buyers who sell the seeds or fertilizers in the local market.” In Bandarban, the scenario is different – both male and female farmers said, “Women also communicate with the source of seeds, fertilizer and marketing of the products like men. They take decisions jointly about the type of crops that will be cultivated in a year and when the crop will be sold.”

Figure 12: Percentage distribution of male and female participation in different activities



Source: Author’s own elaboration.

and selling of the harvest; grains that are grown primarily for food consumption (78.9 percent); horticultural (gardens); cash or high-value crop farming, processing and selling of the harvest; crops grown primarily for sale in the market (76.2 percent); large livestock raising (cattle, buffaloes); processing and selling of milk and/or meat (74.7 percent); small ruminants rearing (sheep, goats); processing and selling of milk and/or meat (72 percent); fishing or fishpond culture and selling (73.5 percent); taking crops to the market (79.6 percent); non-farm economic activities (running a small business, self-employment, buy-and-sell) (76.7 percent); wage and salary employment (work paid for in cash or in-kind (including both agriculture and other wage work); occasional household purchases and expenditures (bicycles, land, transport vehicles) and minor household purchases and expenditures (food for daily consumption or other household needs) (77.6 percent). Men take all the decisions regarding agriculture and fish production. Women take more significant decisions when selling chickens and vegetables (detailed in [Annex 4, Table A4-4A](#)).

Women were asked to what extent they feel they can participate in decision-making for agricultural activities (crops, livestock, fisheries, etc.). Regarding horticultural (gardens), cash or farming of high-value crops, processing and selling the harvest, crops grown primarily for sale in the market, (to a small extent 55 percent, to a medium extent 40 percent, to a large extent 4 percent); raising large livestock (cattle, buffaloes); processing and selling milk and/or meat, (to a small extent 31 percent, to a medium extent 64.5 percent to a large extent 4 percent) and rearing small animals- (sheep, goats); processing and selling of milk and/or meat (to a small extent 31.1 percent, to a medium extent 64.9 percent, to a large extent 4.1 percent) women feel they could participate in decision-making if they wanted to. In the case of poultry and raising other small animals (chickens, ducks, turkeys or other fowl), processing of eggs: production and selling 84 percent of women feel they could participate in decisions, if they wanted, to a medium extent (More details in [Annex 4, Table A4-4B](#)).

Access to information

The highest number of women (49 percent) have access to a lot of information that is important for making decisions on the activities of poultry and raising other small animals (chickens, ducks, turkeys or other fowl), processing of eggs: production and selling.

The second highest percentage (22.3 percent) is for minor household purchases and expenditures (food for daily consumption or other household needs). On the contrary the highest percentage of men have access to information that is important for decision-making regarding activities for horticultural (gardens), cash or high value crop farming, processing and selling of the harvest: crops grown primarily for sale in the market and taking crops to the market.

Products for consumption

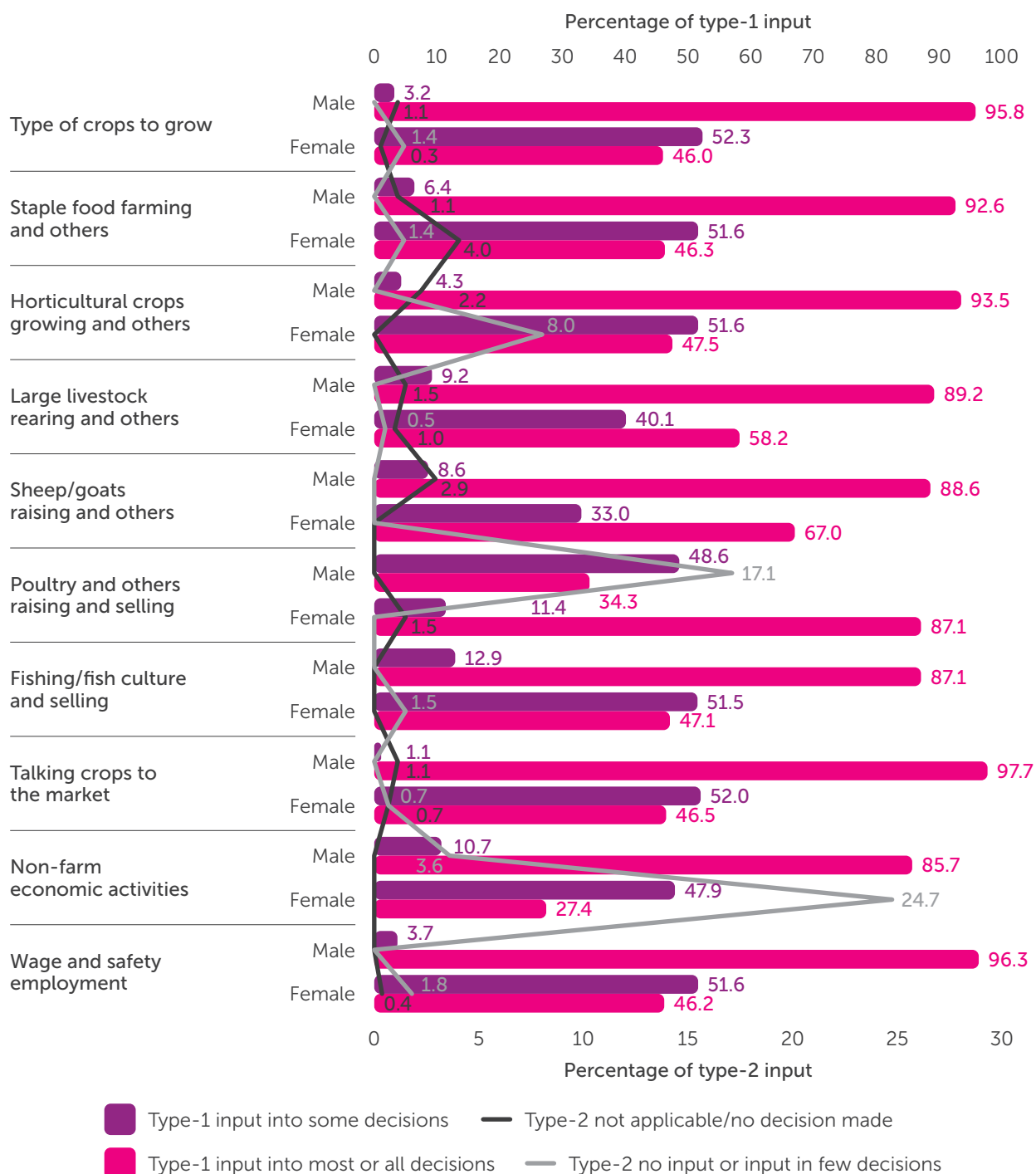
A total of 89 percent of women take decisions on keeping products for consumption after selling the products of poultry and other animals. Additionally, 66 percent can decide to keep products for consumption after selling milk or meat of small ruminants sheep, goats; and 61 percent of women can decide on selling milk and meat from large livestock: cattle, buffaloes. Women have more freedom in livestock and poultry rearing than in any other activity, and they take decisions inside the family compound for feeding livestock, cleaning and securing the shed. (More details in [Annex 4, Table A4-4C](#)).

Income use

Sometimes men keep the money women have earned from selling products and spend the money if necessary. Women take decisions on how to spend and where and what to spend for most income from homestead farming and poultry rearing.

Only the men can take decisions on the use of money from the sale of products from the farm. Sometimes men and women take joint decisions. [Figure 13](#) shows that most men (97.7 percent) sell the crops to the market and take most or all decisions related to the activity about how to use the income generated from sales. On the contrary, 46.5 percent of women take most or all decisions on the same. In all other activities, the percentage of men who take almost all the decisions is higher than the percentage of women. Only when activities are related to poultry and raising other small animals (chickens, ducks, turkeys or other fowl), processing of eggs: production and selling, is the percentage of women (87.1 percent) who make the decisions higher than for men (34.3 percent). The group discussions showed that the male farmers deposit the money obtained from selling the product with their wives; however, they will spend the money obtained from the women when necessary.

Figure 13: Input (percentage) for decisions on use of income generated by various activities



Source: Author's own elaboration.

Women and men decide during discussions; although men mostly implement the final decisions. Women control most of the income from vegetable farming, cattle rearing and poultry. In some places, women's involvement in agriculture and aquaculture is predominantly limited to traditional activities and their contribution has been constrained in terms of these activities. Their participation in activities is

very important for gaining a fuller understanding of women's and men's gender roles. Participation in agriculture and aquaculture, along with decision-making, is not only useful for increasing national production but is important for increasing household consumption.

4.6 Decision-making motivation and autonomy

The nature of a farmer is to either follow their neighbour in whatever they are growing, or traditionally, what their family is growing. Moreover, a farmer is used to growing crops to meet their family food intake requirements, and to generate cash income. The choice of crops may also depend on how far the farmland is from the farmer's residence, soil types are considered, as well as the risk of caring for the crop. Also, the farmer's experience of expected earnings from a particular crop is considered; other farmers may also grow the crop the following year. The survey discussions with respondents covered other farmers and their situations regarding various agricultural activities (crops/livestock/fisheries).

Different types of motivation influence a farmer's decision-making and autonomy. The study explored what the respondent liked, and to what extent they consider themselves to be similar to other farmers. In the process, the interviewer explained the local context and crops grown and asked random questions about each topic, which covered the crops grown, livestock raised, marketing and use of income. The first two topics were divided into five categories and the remaining two into decision-making, motivation and autonomy. Each respondent was asked about each category and the multiple responses were counted.

Although farmers are motivated by different things, the highest percentage for both male (80 percent) and female (81 percent) was that they liked to have the autonomy to make their own decisions: "The farmer chooses the crops that they personally want to grow for consumption and sale in the market and thinks are best for themselves and their family. The farmer values growing these types of crops; if they changed their mind, they could act differently." The study explored how farmers first give importance to consumption and family/community choice, followed by market demand and community groups. The farmer also wants to demonstrate to their family and the community that he/she is a good farmer. On the other hand, both men (55 percent) and women (55 percent) least liked, "the farmer cannot grow other types of crops here for consumption and sale in the market. They only grow common crops that grow here."

The situation is the same for raising livestock. It is interesting to note that the result of the judgment of male and female is the same. They have gained better

decision-making abilities in the family and community through self-improvement and education, joining groups and income-earning activities. As farmers are educated and better informed of the development agenda in the locality, they have improved autonomy to join educational institutions. Side-by-side, they have achieved better access to economic activities and markets especially for farming concerns.

In the case of taking crops or livestock (including eggs or milk) to the market, the highest, 78 percent (female 79 percent and male 76 percent), of respondents approve of the person who takes the crops and livestock to market, who wants to take care of sales personally, and thinks this is best for themselves and their family. The second highest number of respondents approve of the person who takes the crops and livestock to the market, which is expected by the family and community. The lowest percentage (60 percent) of respondents approves of the individual who takes the crops or livestock to the market, but do not explore other ways to take their produce to the market. A lower percentage of respondents (60 percent), also approve of the person who do as the spouse, or community, or group tells them about what to take to the market. In the case of use of income, the result of the assessment is the same.

Moreover, most of the respondents (both 76 percent; female 77 percent, male 72 percent,) approve of the individual who uses their own income in the way they want (see [Figure 14](#)). This type of person also thinks the way they spend their income is best for themselves and their family, and also like using their income in this way. This person can also act differently if they want. The result showed that most respondents, irrespective of gender, appreciate the freedom to use their income. Even the percentage of women respondents is higher than the male counterpart in choosing this type of person. Although women approve of the person who has the freedom to use their money, the study revealed that female participation is significantly less in correspondence to each activity, concerning the use of income-generated from various activities, except for poultry and raising and selling of other small livestock ([Figure 12 Section 4.5](#) Role in household decision-making for production and income).

[Figure 14](#) also shows the income use "liked" by the lowest number of respondents (both 60 percent, female 62 percent, male 54 percent). This is the person whose decision-making motivation and autonomy

Figure 14: Distribution of respondents concerning decision-making motivation and autonomy

A. The types of crops to grow or raise for consumption and sale in market	B. Livestock raising	C. Taking crops or livestock to the market or not (including eggs or milk)	D. How to use income generated from agricultural or non-agricultural activities
<p>1. Cannot grow other types of crops for consumption and sale in market. Can only grow crops commonly grown in area.</p> <p>[F:55%, M:55%, B:55%]</p>	<p>1. Cannot raise any livestock other than what they have. These are the only livestock that do well here.</p> <p>[F:62%, M:60%, B:62%]</p>	<p>1. There is no alternative as to how much or how little crops or livestock can be taken to market. Takes the only amount possible.</p> <p>[F:59%, M:63%, B:60%]</p>	<p>1. There is not alternative to how the individual uses their income. How they use their income is determined by family needs.</p> <p>[F:62%, M:64%, B:63%]</p>
<p>2. Grows common crops because their spouse, or another person or group in the community tells them to grow these crops.</p> <p>[F:66%, M:63%, B:65%]</p>	<p>2. Raises they types of livestock breeds that their spouse, or another person or group in their community tell them they must raise.</p> <p>[F:63%, M:56%, B:62%]</p>	<p>2. Takes crops and livestock to the market because their spouse, or another person or group in the community tells them they must sell them there.</p> <p>[F:63%, M:59%, B:60%]</p>	<p>2. They use their own income as told by their spouse, older family members (mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law) or other person or group in their community.</p> <p>[F:62%, M:54%, B:60%]</p>
<p>3. Grows crops for agricultural production expected by the family or community and wants them to approve of them as being a good farmer.</p> <p>[F:71%, M:71%, B:71%]</p>	<p>3. Raises the kinds of livestock that the family or community expect. They want them to approve of them as being a good livestock raiser.</p> <p>[F:63%, M:56%, B:62%]</p>	<p>3. Takes the crops and livestock to the market that the family or community expect. They want their approval.</p> <p>[F:73%, M:69%, B:72%]</p>	<p>3. They use their own income in a way that is expected by their family or their community. They want their approval.</p> <p>[F:70%, M:70%, B:70%]</p>
<p>4. Chooses crops they personally want to grow for consumption and sale in the market and they think they are best for their own family, they value growing these crops. If they changed their mind, they could act differently.</p> <p>[F:81%, M:80%, B:81%]</p>	<p>4. Chooses the types of livestock that they personally want to raise and thinks are good for themselves and their family. They value raising these types. If they changed their mind, they could act differently.</p> <p>[F:71%, M:68%, B:70%]</p>	<p>4. Chooses to take the crops and livestock to the market that they personally want to sell there, and they think they are best for themselves and family, and value this approach to sales. If they changed their mind they could act differently.</p> <p>[F:79%, M:76%, B:78%]</p>	<p>4. They choose how they want to spend their income personally and in a way they think is best for themselves and family. They express their own values using their income in this way. If they changed their mind, they could act differently.</p> <p>[F:77%, M:72%, B:76%]</p>
<p>5. Grows the crops that are in high demand in the market only and do not seek information or financial support to opt for others.</p> <p>[F:66%, M: 72%, B:67%]</p>	<p>5. Chooses the types with high demand in the market and do not seek information or financial support to opt for others.</p> <p>[F:76%, M:74%, B:76%]</p>		

Note: F=Female, M=Male, B=Both.
Source: Author's own elaboration.

depends on the choice of others such as the decision to use the money received from either the spouse, or older members in the family or group.

In addition to the opinion of the respondents concerning different types of individual autonomy, it was also asked if the respondent considers they are the same as those individuals (detail in [Annex 4, Table A4-5](#)). For four topics, the highest percentage of male and female considered they are exactly the same as the person whose decision-making motivation and autonomy is in accordance with the individual who personally wants to grow crops/livestock for consumption and sale in the market and subsequently uses the income, and thinks it best for themselves and their family. The lowest percentage of respondents accepted that they are the same as the person who takes decisions based on the opinion of others. From the above findings, it is recommended that priority be given to farmers' choices, the requirements of their families and market demand when introducing a new crop or livestock-raising in the area.

4.7 Mobility

The mobility of the rural poor has improved, and many have access to health services, education, and non-governmental services, as well as a wide-range of economic opportunities. However, the country lags behind most neighbouring countries. Despite improvements, rural infrastructure remains underdeveloped. For example, only 37 percent of the rural population has access to all-weather roads, compared with 60 percent in India and 61 percent in Pakistan (ADB, 2020). This indicates poor road connectivity, higher vehicle operating costs, and the need for significant upgrading of rural infrastructure. This study discovered, however, that there are many societal causes that create obstacles to women's mobility. This section describes an overview of the mobility of women across the study area so that decisions can be made as to how the situation can be improved. One-fourth of respondent to this study were male, however, the spouses of adult female household members were interviewed. Therefore, a total of 384 sample respondents were female for this variable.

Self-decision and objection to going out alone

[Figure 17](#) explains that out of all places visited, the lowest 27.3 percentage of women travel to an urban centre after deciding on their own. The women also responded that 15.6 percent receive objections from

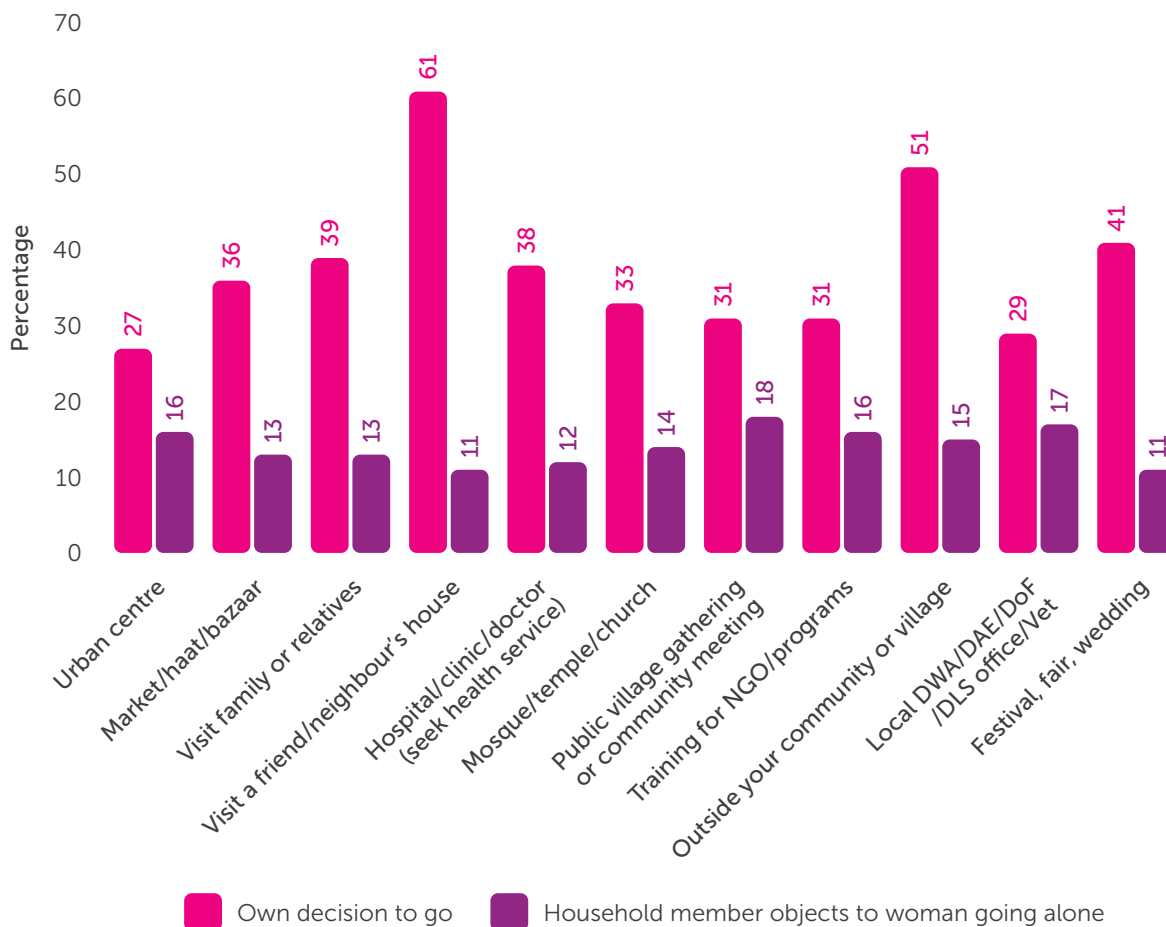
their spouses or other family members if they want to go to the urban centre alone.

The highest 60.7 percent of women can visit friends or a neighbour's house after deciding on their own. The lowest percentage 10.7 percent is for women whose family members object when women visit them alone. The family members object less (11.5 percent) if the woman wants to attend a festival, fair or wedding; interestingly, a significant number of women, about 41 percent, decide on their own if they want to attend such an event.

Also, 36.7 percent of women mentioned that they go to the market or bazaar after deciding on their own. For around 87 percent the spouse objected. Another 38.6 percent of women go to hospitals, clinics after deciding on their own, and 57.6 percent go after their spouse has made the decision. Also, 33.3 percent of women can go to religious institutions such as mosques, temples or churches after deciding on their own, while for another 86 percent spouses do not object. Only 31.3 percent can attend training after deciding on their own, while 83.6 percent do not receive any objection from their spouses. Women can move outside the community or village without objection (85.4 percent), women can go to a village community gathering or meeting without objection (85.4 percent) and 30.76 percent mentioned they did so after deciding on their own. Women can go to local DWA/DAE/DOF/DLS/veterinary offices without objection (82.81 percent), 29.17 percent said they had decided on their own.

The above discussion explains whether a woman can decide for herself, and whether household members will object, which depends on where she wants to visit. For example, the highest number of women can decide to visit friends and relatives on her own, whereas this is lowest in the case of visits to an urban centre. The objection to attending public gatherings and community meetings, NGO training programmes and visiting the offices of service providers (for example: DAE/DLS/DoF/veterinary) is high. A cross-cutting finding (Section 4.4, Access to extension services) reports that the highest 78 percent of women receive information on agriculture from neighbours, which is substantially less in the case of service providers, NGOs, and community members or cooperatives: 40, 27, and 23 percent respectively, which also indicates that there is a correlation between "Family members object to women going out alone" and "Sources of information for agriculture".

Figure 15: Decisions by women on their mobility and objection from family members



Source: Author's own elaboration.

Accompanying and prevention

The bar in the graph (Figure 18) explains the percentage distribution of women receiving no objection if they maintain the family or religious code. The line in the graph explains the percentage of women visiting different places if accompanied by family members, and how objection influences the decision not to visit. Most women can visit any location without objection, if a family member accompanies them.

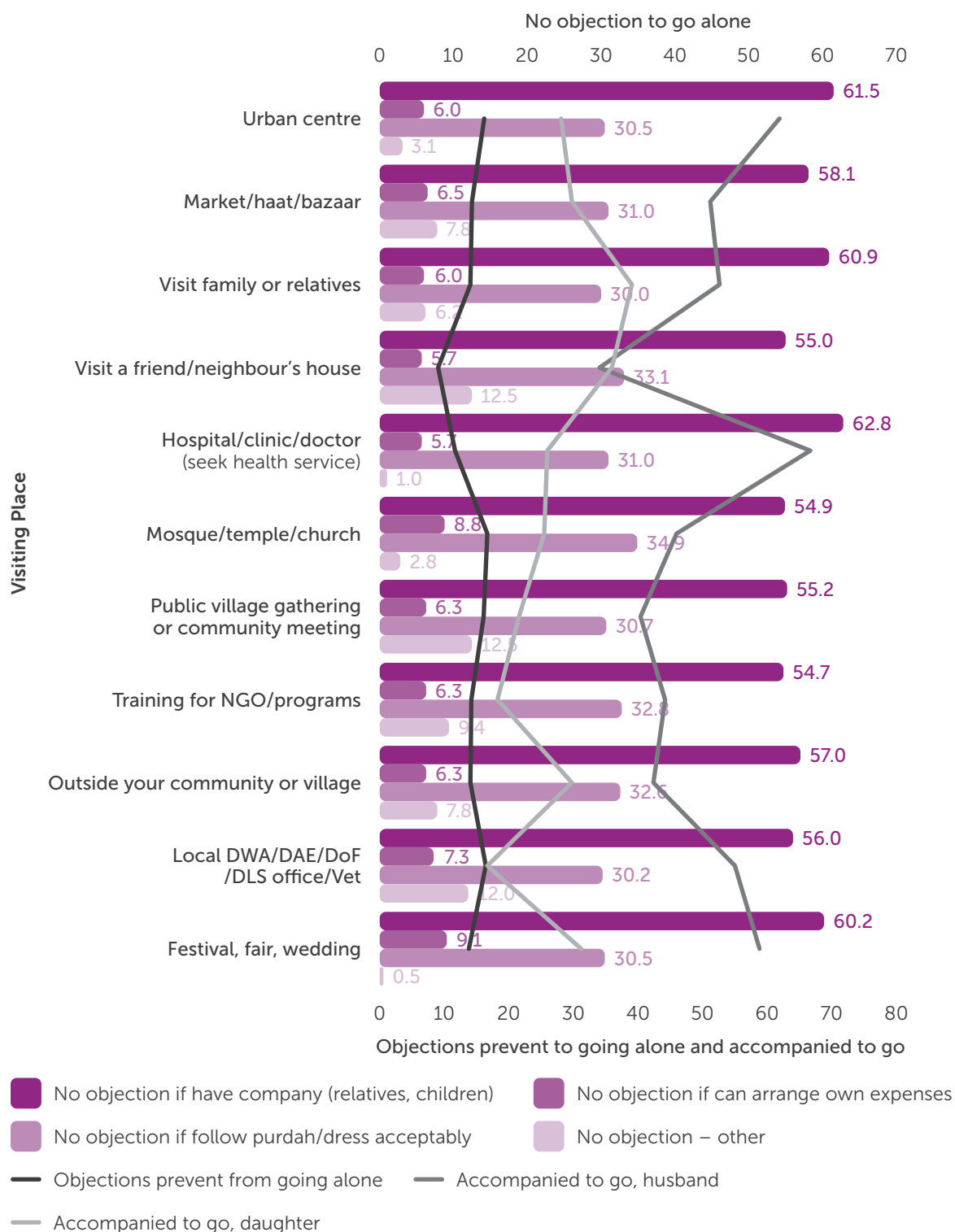
Objection is higher if the woman goes alone and the destination is an urban centre (61.5 percent); family or relatives (60.9 percent); hospital/clinic/doctor (seek health service) (62.8 percent); and festival, fair, wedding (60.2 percent). If family or a personal matter is involved, the percentage of no objection is higher if a family member accompanies the woman. Destinations related to people in the community or neighbours, such as market/haat/bazaar; place of prayer; public or community gathering; training and local service provider's office; the percentage of no objection is lower (55 to 58 percent) if a relative accompanies the

woman. However, Purdah/acceptable dress for women is the second highest priority when visiting different places without objection. Almost 85 percent of women reported they can visit all the above-mentioned destinations without objection if a family member accompanies them and they wear acceptable clothing. If women can bear their own expense to visit the above-mentioned places, 6 to 9 percent of women received no objection. (See Annex 4, Table A4-9 for detailed information on mobility)

4.8 Group membership

This section indicates the existence of groups in the studied areas, group composition, level of participation in the groups, level of decision-making and if there are any other members of the household in a leadership position (Figure 19). Out of all respondents, 40.62 percent are active members of agricultural producer groups and 41.32 percent of women are active members. Only 6.25 percent male

Figure 16: Distribution of household visits to different places without objection



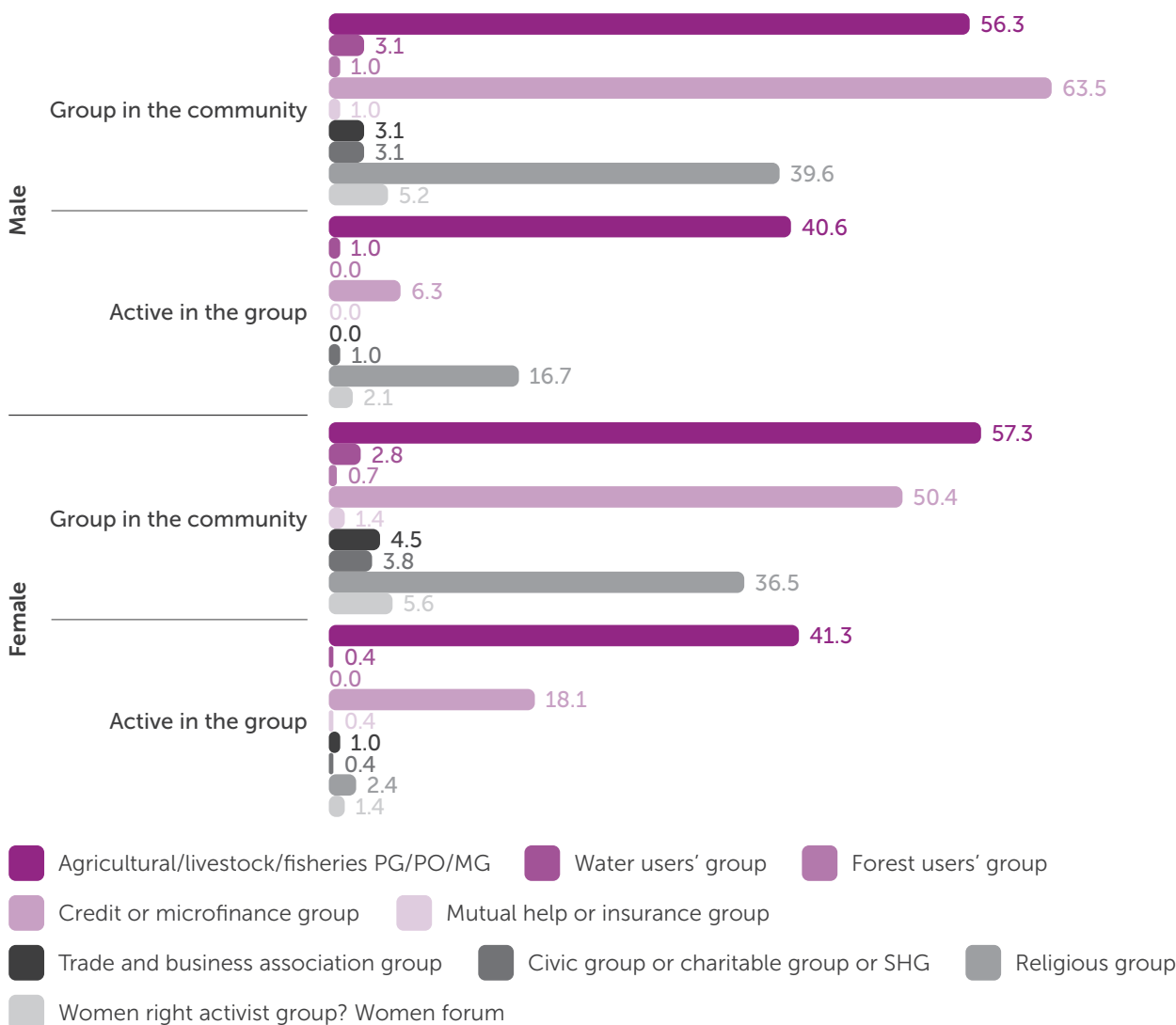
Source: Author's own elaboration.

and 0.35 percent female are active members of water users' group.

Majority of the respondents were found to be members of credit and microfinance groups. Many NGOs

implement programmes in microfinance, and their prime concern is for women. Also, NGOs form small microfinance groups with women and implement microfinance programmes by women. However, there are very few active members in the groups.

Figure 17: Group existence and active participation of group members



Note: producer group (PG)/producer organization (PO)/marketing group (MG).
 Source: Author's own elaboration.

Only 6.3 percent male reported that they are also active members of a microcredit group, which is significantly less than women (18.1 percent).

Out of the total participants, none of the male members are active and only 1.04 percent of women are active in the traders' group. Although men were found to be more active members than women (1.04 percent male verses 0.35 percent female) in terms of civic groups. However, regarding religious groups in their community, males are significantly more active (16.67 percent) than females (2.4 percent). Only a small proportion of women, 1.39 percent, are active members of a women's rights activist group/women's forum in their community.

Influence on decision-making

Male and female groups mentioned that they can influence the agricultural/livestock/fisheries producers' groups or producers' organizations to a small, medium and high extent. A large number of men (23.96 percent) and women (21.18 percent) can influence the group to a medium extent.

Male respondents said that in groups, such as credit or microfinance, mutual help or insurance, trade and business association and civic or charitable, they could not influence the group to a small extent. In addition, 3.12 percent and 2.08 percent of men can influence the credit or microfinance group to a medium extent and highly respectively (Table 9).

Table 9: Extent of influence of decisions within the group

Type of group	Male (%)			Female (%)		
	To a small extent	Medium extent	High extent	To a small extent	Medium extent	High extent
Crop/livestock/fisheries producers' or producers' organizations or marketing	6.25	23.96	10.42	16.67	21.18	3.12
Water users'	1.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.04	0.00
Credit or microfinance group	0.00	3.12	2.08	10.76	6.25	1.04
Mutual help or insurance group	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.35
Trade and business association group	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.04	0.00
Civic, charitable or self-help (SHG)	0.00	1.04	0.00	0.00	0.35	0.00
Religious	3.12	9.38	4.17	0.69	1.74	0.00
Women's rights activist/women's forum	1.04	1.04	0.00	0.35	0.69	0.35

Source: Author's own elaboration.

Table 10: Household members in a leadership position by the type of group

Type of group	Male (%)				Female (%)			
	Self	Spouse	Other household member	Other non-household member	Self	Spouse	Other household member	Other non-household member
Agricultural/livestock/fisheries producers' or producers' organizations (including marketing groups)	5.2	3.1	0.0	28.1	1.0	5.9	1.0	27.8
Water users	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
Credit or microfinance (including SACCOs/merry-go-rounds/VSLAs/VSG)	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.3	0.4	1.0	0.4	13.5
Trade and business association	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	9.4
Women's rights activist/women's forum	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.4

Source: Author's own elaboration.

Women were confident that they could influence the credit or microfinance group to small extent (10.76 percent) and medium extent (6.25 percent). An insignificant percentage of women showed they have some influence on the group.

Table 10 shows that, in groups such as agricultural/livestock/fisheries producers' or producers' organizations, 5.21 percent of men are in a leadership position, while 1.04 women are in a leadership position in the group. Moreover, 3.12 percent of men said their spouse is in a leadership position of the said group. Then, 5.90 percent of women said their spouses are in a leadership position in the agricultural/livestock/fisheries producers' group or producers' organizations. Very few females (0.35 percent) said they are in a leadership position in the credit or microfinance group. The number of those in the leadership position in other groups is insignificant among those interviewed.

4.9 Individual leadership and influence in the community

Women can lead significantly in attaining household targets such as nutrition for children and adults, education for children, maintenance of homestead activities for poultry, cattle, goat-rearing and vegetable cultivation. In a way, they perform their key role in maintaining household leadership. They can vote independently and can represent themselves as ward members in the union parishad. However, women are more organized and coordinated with each other, form networks to raise awareness of their needs and opinions through their own associations. Positive changes have occurred within communities where the contribution of women is valued, recognized and where women's opinions and leadership are accepted. The survey shows that all women are informed of their role in speaking up in public to help decide on the infrastructure in the locality.

Women can participate freely, and even lead women's groups formed by development agencies associated with the government and private sector. About one-third (35 percent) of women (and 55 percent of men) feel comfortable speaking up in public to help decide on infrastructure (such as small wells, roads and water supplies) to be built in their community and to ensure proper payment of wages for public works or other similar programmes. The survey also revealed that another one-third (34 percent) of women face difficulty in speaking freely in the community (**Figure 20**).

There are no family or social barriers to wives joining development activities. Rather, their good works are duly recognized. Women play their important roles in awareness campaigns during crises, vaccination programmes and community mobilization through joining development groups. Their groups also play a vital role in reducing violence against women, raising awareness about the impacts of child marriage, adolescent diseases and the dowry system on the community. Advisory and legal support from government organizations and NGOs have enhanced their capabilities and leadership abilities. The study revealed that less than one-third (27 percent) of women feel comfortable, or have a slight difficulty, speaking up in public to protest the misbehaviour of authorities or elected officials.

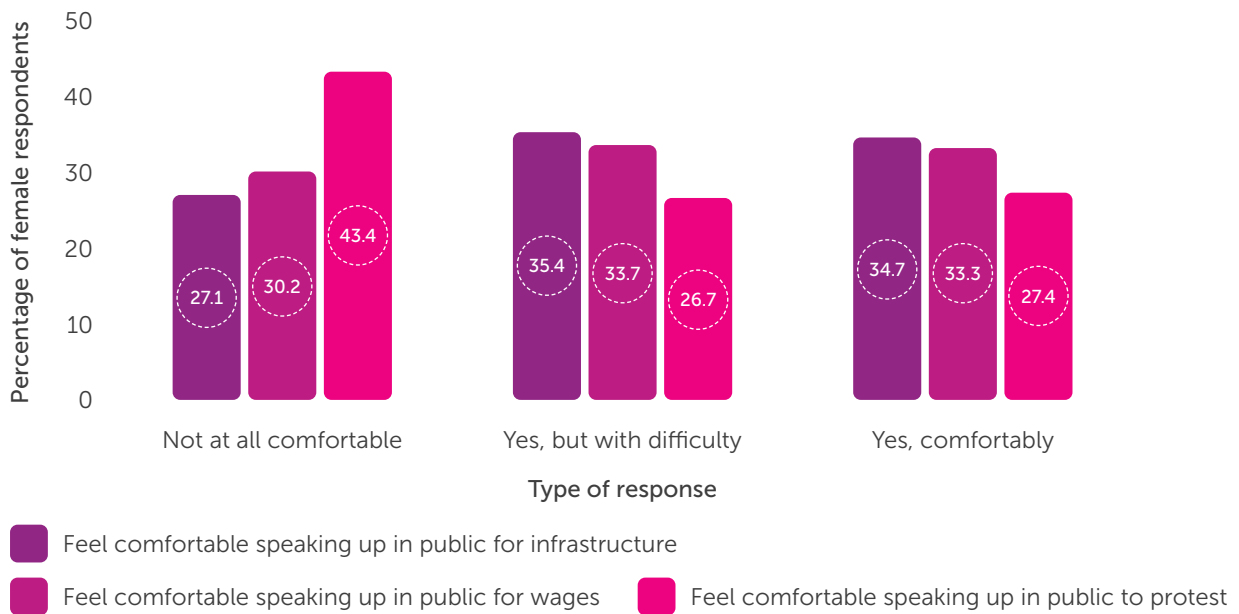
4.10 Impact of COVID-19 pandemic, shocks and coping strategies

The COVID-19 pandemic is a global health crisis that was declared officially on 8 March 2020 by the Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and Research. As Bangladesh is a least developed country, besides the devastating impact on the health sector, the pandemic triggered a grave and unfolding economic crisis that particularly affected the poor and vulnerable.

According to the Borrowers Implementation Completion Results Report (BICRR), Social Development Foundation (SDF), 2021, the pandemic not only affected savings group members, because the family of group members had been facing different types of problems such as reduced income/wage loss (95 percent of respondents), food shortages (57 percent), problems with their children's education (32 percent) and sickness (5 percent).

The COVID-19 pandemic has a strong impact on producer groups (PG). With widespread enforcement of social distancing, reduced mobility is leading to disruption between PGs and buyers. The PGs are still struggling to transport and sell their products. Food and perishable products are spoiling and wasted. The PGs have suffered immense losses, as they did not get a fair price for their products. They are distressed. Lost income and shortages of food are most severely felt by those already at risk. This is true particularly for women, the landless, and daily wage workers. But it is also true for producers with very small holdings and those not linked to the Nuton Jibon Livelihood Improvement

Figure 18: Percentage distribution of women “speaking out” in the community



Source: Author’s own elaboration.

According to the focus group discussions (FGD), inhabitants reported that information on the weather and natural disasters such as flood, thunderstorms, rainfall, droughts could be useful. They wanted to receive this information through mass media, cell phones, the internet and even through interpersonal contacts.

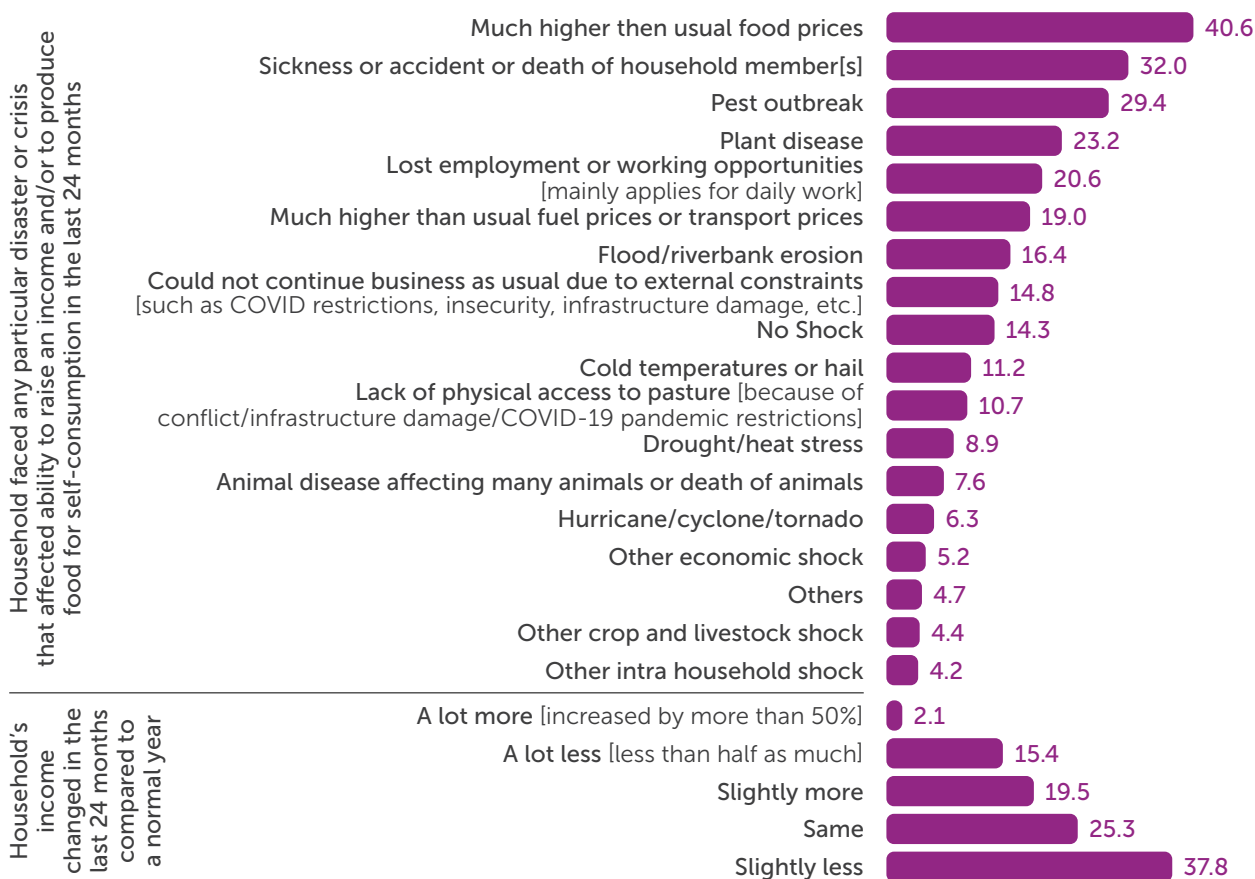
Few deaths were recorded in rural areas, including the non-reporting of COVID-19 pandemic incidences. However, because of the closure of schools, and other academic institutions, some under-aged girls were married off. Mostly women were affected in households facing adversities, as reported in the FGDs. During the COVID-19 pandemic there were no significant changes in status in terms of gender-based violence in the community.

Women play a crucial role when the household faces crises during disaster. They have almost total control of the management of the family when coping with the disaster. However, most people are unaware that they could receive early warnings of disasters and emergencies from various sources through different organizations. In addition, access to climate-related information and disaster early warning systems were found to be inadequate in rural areas, given that Bangladesh faces high risks from natural disasters and the impacts of climate change. Although there were limited services for early warning systems for agrarian communities, women, children, youth, older people, and people from the indigenous community did not face any obstacles when accessing the early warning system for disaster information.

Project for Bangladesh or strong social and economic networks. On top of these challenges, many producers are already highly vulnerable to climate and market-related risks. It is evident that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a disruption in group savings, loan disbursement and recovery. Loan recipients could not continue their business according to their plan, causing some of the middle-class to become poor and poultry feeds were priced higher” (SDF, 2021).

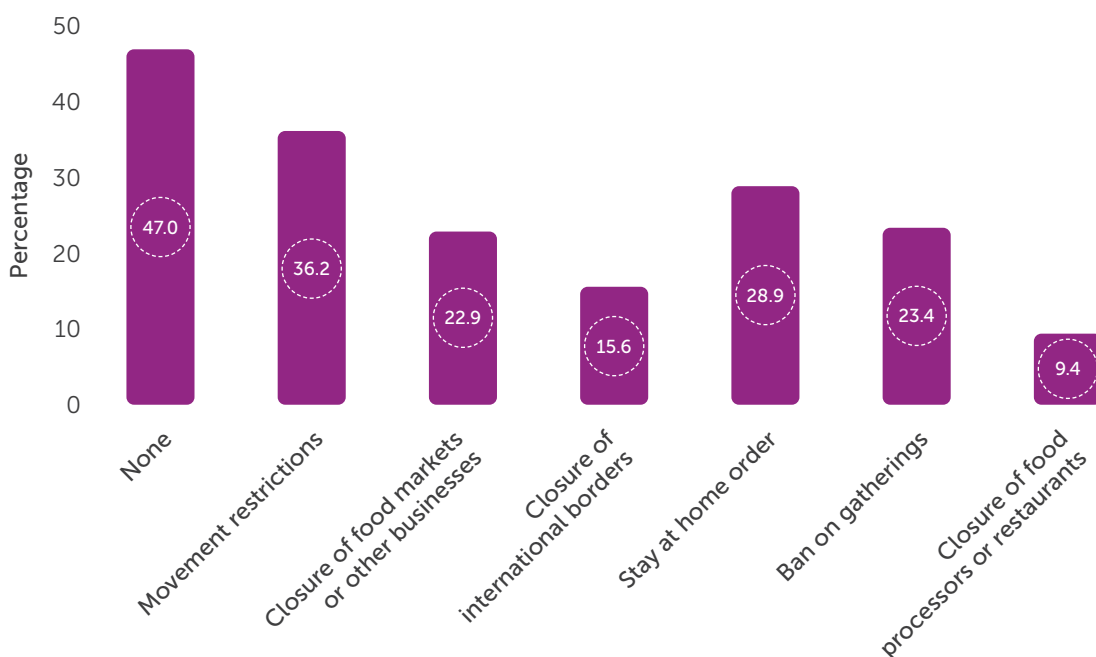
During the pandemic, the Save the Children in Bangladesh (SUCAHNA) project conducted a rapid assessment to explore the major problems faced by rural residents: shortage/unavailability of cash; shortage/unavailability of labour; collapse/disruption of agriculture/livestock production supply chain; stalled livelihood; no or reduction in income/salary; collapse/disruption of agriculture/livestock product selling facility; collapse/disruption of business; lost job.

Figure 19: Distribution of households faced disaster/crisis in last 24 months that affected income



Source: Author's own elaboration.

Figure 20: Distribution of various restrictions due to COVID-19 pandemic



Source: Author's own elaboration.

Interestingly, five major coping strategies were explored in this study during the food crisis, namely borrowing money, spending savings, reducing food intake and consumption, selling livestock and selling assets, which were the same as for the SUCAHNA project study findings about facing the crisis during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The primary data explored are shown in **Figure 21**: the situation over the last 24 months of the (1) household's income as compared to a normal year (single response); and (2) households facing any particular disaster or crisis that affected the ability to earn income or produce food for self-consumption (multiple response).

For 53.2 percent of HHs that had less income (15.4 percent income was less than half as much and 37.8 percent was slightly less) a good percentage, 21.6, of HHs had more income. About one-third of HHs had the same income as in a normal year. In parallel, although a substantial number of HHs' income was reduced, however, food prices had increased more than usual, as reported by the highest number of HHs 40.6 percent. About 20.6 percent HHs that depend on daily work had lost employment or work opportunities, 14.8 percent also mentioned that business was stopped because of the COVID-19 pandemic and or other constraints. People were also affected by natural disasters, disease outbreak among animals, sickness/death of HH members, were all regular phenomena.

Nevertheless, higher food prices, reduced income, lost working opportunities and business closures collectively shows the extent of the ability of the households to face crises situations.

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic

Figure 22 shows that 47 percent of the respondents or household members did not face any problem related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The remainder faced different types of problems, such as restricted movement, belongs to the highest 36.2 percent followed by those who stayed at home (28.9 percent); bans on gatherings; closure of food markets or other business; closure of international borders; and food processors or restaurants (slaughterhouse, dairy cooperatives etc.). Movement restrictions sometimes caused product scarcity or price hikes, closure of international borders affected the purchase of imported inputs or the sale of goods for export or transhumance.

Difficulties in agricultural activities and greatest needs

The data were collected by agricultural categories on the difficulties faced by the households over the last 24 months. The entire period of the COVID-19 pandemic was covered, since it began before the survey. The households were asked about crops, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture production and marketing. It should be mentioned that, out of the total households surveyed, only 25 percent have the facilities for fisheries and aquaculture production, so that the percentage of various difficulties under this category is minimal, **Figure 23**. The figure shows, only a few of the major difficulties, for details over a 24-month period (see **Annex 4, Table A4-10**). In relation to the sale of agroproducts, 51.6 percent of farmers are not satisfied with the market price. Moreover, the marketing cost including transportation is their second concern.

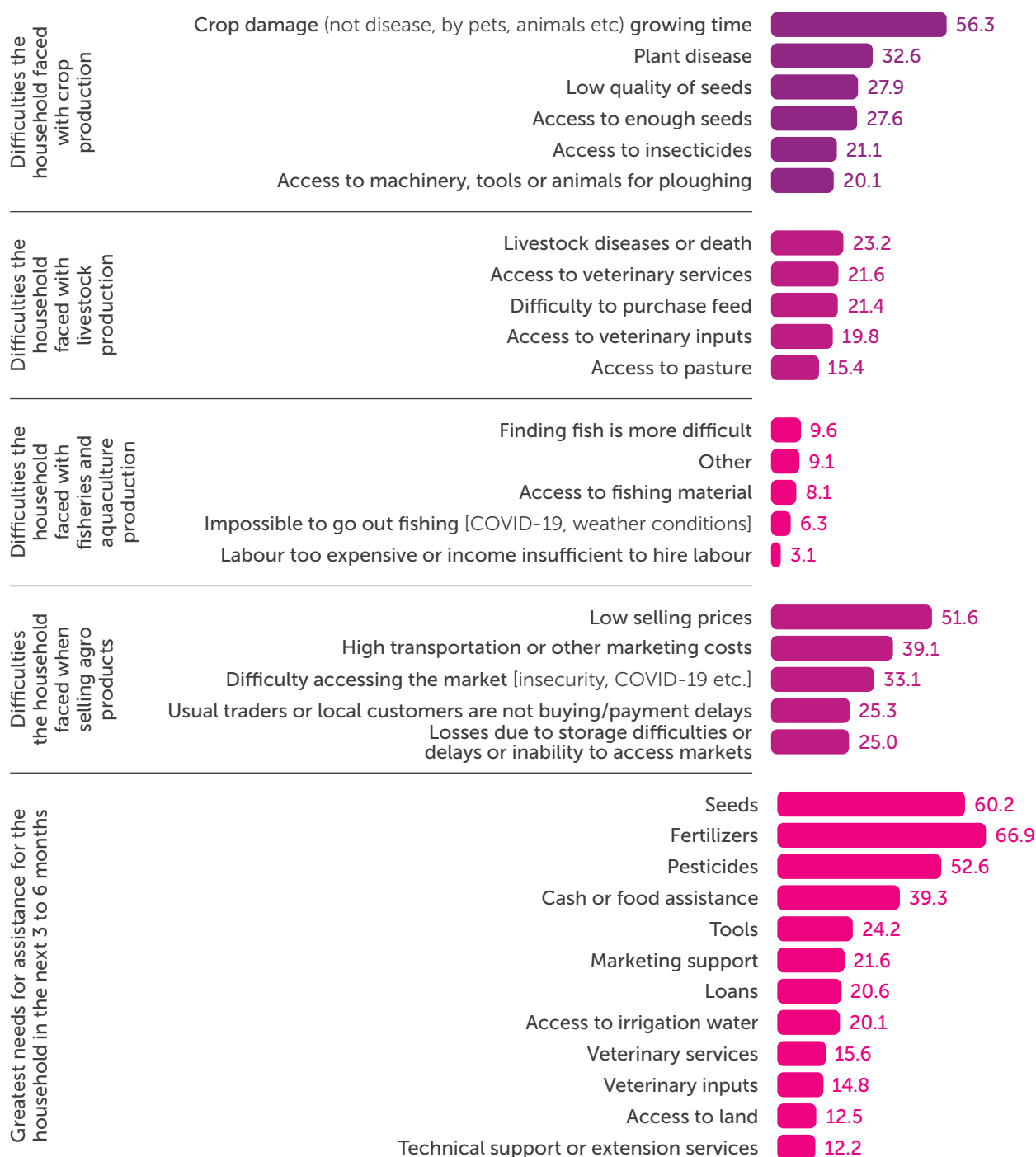
Out of the 24 greatest needs for assistance to households over the next 3 to 6 months, **Figure 23** shows twelve options; the remainder are below the percentage for technical support or extension services (12.2 percent). Seeds, fertilizers and pesticides are of highest concern to farmers.

Coping mechanism

General coping mechanisms, followed by rural residents, are mentioned in Section 4.12 Food security and nutrition. During the questionnaire survey 22 coping mechanisms were discussed regarding the experiences faced over the past 30 days because of lack of food or money. This study explored the sale of casual labour; the borrowing of money from formal lenders, banks or non-relatives; food purchased on credit or borrowed; reduced essential non-food expenses for health or education; use of savings and skipped debt payment; sale of animals; sale of household assets, all were the main coping strategies while facing food scarcity. On the other hand, 39.3 percent of the households mentioned they needed cash or food assistance in the following 3 to 6 months and most stated the greatest needs were for agricultural inputs (**Figure 23**). The coping mechanisms set up by individuals were based on what they actually needed immediately.

Again, a recent study (SDF, 2021) explained that people, particularly different group members in rural areas, adopted multiple strategies to cope with adverse situations, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was reported that 60.4 percent HHs consumed less protein; 33.3 percent HHs used savings; 31.5 percent

Figure 21: Distribution of households facing difficulties related to agricultural activities over the last 24 months and coping strategies



Source: Author's own elaboration.

HHs ate three meals daily but fewer: 11.7 percent HHs ate two meals daily; 23.4 percent HHs took loans from friends/relatives (Source: SDF, 2021).

Moreover, a rapid assessment conducted by the Suchana project in 2020 explored coping mechanisms related to COVID-19. A few measures taken in rural

areas included: borrowing money from others; using household savings; receiving support from friends, neighbours or relatives; reducing food intake and consumption; receiving government support or relief; selling livestock; receiving NGO support or relief and selling assets.

Therefore, from the above findings, it can be seen that people followed almost all the most common strategies when facing any kind of disaster or difficulties when coping with the adverse situation.

4.11 Food security and nutrition

Food security

Most rural households (70 percent) did not need to worry about finding enough food to eat over the last 12 months. Even, more than half (53 percent) were able to eat healthy and nutritious food. However, a substantial percentage of HHs (30 percent) were worried about the lack of food and 47 percent of HH members were not able to eat healthy and nutritious food. Moreover, 36 percent HHs ate only a few kinds of foods because of lack of money or other resources (detail in [Annex 4, Table A4-11A](#)). A significant number of HHs still have difficulties accessing diversified, healthy and nutritious food; although improvement in productivity of farming and overall economic development are present in the country. The section "Agricultural sector and gross domestic product" under section 2.3 explained, "The share of agriculture in GDP increased to 19.9 percent in 2020–2021 from 17.8 percent in 2019–2020". Although there is a lack of nutritious food across the country, however, 91 percent of the respondents did not need to skip a meal because of a lack of money and almost all (97 percent) did not go without eating for a whole day. The survey concludes that a satisfactory food situation prevails in the rural communities. Yet, more concerted efforts are deemed necessary to improve the situation. the situation.

Dietary diversity score for women

Dietary diversity is a proxy for nutrient adequacy of the diet of individuals (Kennedy, Ballard and Dop, 2013), and may be impacted by factors such as income, knowledge, local ecosystems and local markets. A household dietary diversity score (HDDS) was calculated as the number of food groups that a household had consumed over the 24 hours preceding the interview (see Kennedy, Ballard and Dop, 2013). In this study ten food groups were considered in the calculation: (i) grains/white roots and tubers and plantains; (ii) pulses [beans/peas and lentils]; (iii) nuts and seeds; (iv) dairy; (v) meat/poultry and fish; (vi) eggs; (vii) dark green leafy vegetables; (viii) other vitamin a-rich fruits and vegetables (such as carrots, pumpkins, mangoes, etc.); (ix) other vegetables; (x) other fruits.

Hence HDDS ranged from 0 to 10, and these scores were classified into three groups: low dietary diversity (HDDS from 0 to 3); (ii) medium dietary diversity (HDDS from 4 to 5); and (iii) high dietary diversity (HDDS from 6 to 10). Only 9.11 percent of women aged 15 to 49 years old, consumed up to three types of food over the last 24 hours. More than half of the HHs had high dietary diversity. Among all districts, the highest percentage of women (25 percent) in Kurigram district consumed fewer nutrients ([Table 11](#)) whereas all women in Cox's Bazar district had more than three types of food at the same time. The highest percentage of women (68.75 percent) in Dinajpur district had high dietary diversity, i.e. more than five items of food had been consumed over previous 24 hours.

Most HHs scored only 5 (20.6 percent HHs) or 6 (20.8 percent HHs) for dietary diversity. The highest percentage of households scored 6 for their HDDS as well as the highest, 34.4 percent of households in Bandarban scored 6. The frequency distribution pattern of HDDS was broadly similar in each district except for Kurigram, where the diet is less diversified as compared to other districts ([Figure 24](#)).

The HDDS is meant to reflect, in a snapshot, the economic ability of a household to access a variety of foods. Previous studies have shown that an increase in dietary diversity is associated with socioeconomic status and household food security (Hoddinot and Yohannes, 2002; Hatløy *et al.*, 2000).

The data from the 2010 Household Income and Expenditure Survey of Bangladesh, analysed by Rabbani (2014), can be interpreted as a national average HDDS of 5.7, whereas this study estimated an average HDDS in the 12 districts as 5.9. The situation in Sunamganj is poorer than other districts. It is located in a hoar area where people largely depend on a single crop, rice. This less diverse diet indicates poorer access to diverse food types in the study area compared to the national average.

Coping strategies

Twenty-two coping mechanisms were discussed in the questionnaire survey. The percentage distribution of these can be seen in [Annex 4, Table A4-11B](#) for the households referring to experiences when facing the food crisis over the past 30 days from the time of reporting. During the crisis, one household selected one or more coping mechanism if required. Although the study discussed 22 coping strategies, the main ones are to borrow money; purchase food on credit; sell

Table 11: Women's dietary diversity score by district

District	Dietary diversity score						Total Number
	Low dietary diversity (0-3)		Medium dietary diversity (4-5)		High dietary diversity (>5)		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Bagerhat	2	6.25	10	31.25	20	62.50	32
Bandarban	1	3.12	10	31.25	21	65.62	32
Barguna	3	9.38	8	25.00	21	65.62	32
Cox's Bazar	0	0.00	16	50.00	16	50.00	32
Dhaka	4	12.50	9	28.12	19	59.38	32
Dinajpur	2	6.25	8	25.00	22	68.75	32
Kurigram	8	25.00	12	37.50	12	37.50	32
Madaripu	2	6.25	11	34.38	19	59.38	32
Natore	2	6.25	10	31.25	20	62.50	32
Netrokona	4	12.50	15	46.88	13	40.62	32
Sirajganj	1	3.12	11	34.38	20	62.50	32
Sunamganj	6	18.75	15	46.88	11	34.38	32
Total	35	9.11	135	35.16	214	55.73	384

Source: Author's own elaboration.

casual labour or piecework; spend savings and skip a debt payment; reduce expenditures on agricultural inputs (fertilizer, pesticide, fodder, animal feed, veterinary care, water for livestock, fishing nets, etc.) (Figure 21). The result shows that selling casual labour takes priority in the household; followed by borrowing money; reducing expenditures on agricultural input, purchasing food on credit, and so on. This indicates that employment generation and cash support during the crisis period gains priority to cope with the situation.

4.12 Life satisfaction

Patriarchal norms and values have long been institutionalized in rural Bangladesh, hence women face greater social barriers and more restrictive gender norms and social customs than elsewhere. Very often they lack having a voice or say in family matters and household spending decisions (Klugman, *et al.*, 2014) which can have an adverse affect.

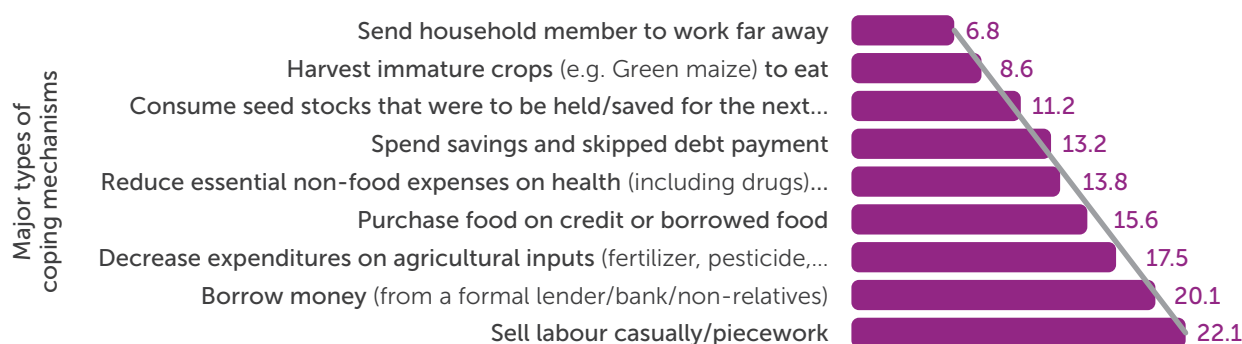
Of respondents, 63.54 percent of males are currently satisfied with their lives, whereas 55.21 percent of males were satisfied with their lives prior to 5 years ago.

Table 12: Household dietary diversity scores across study areas

District	Average HDDS	District	Average HDDS	District	Average HDDS
Bagerhat	6.7	Dhaka	5.8	Natore	6.4
Bandarban	5.9	Dinajpur	6.8	Netrokona	5.3
Barguna	6.2	Kurigram	5.4	Sirajganj	6.5
Cox's Bazar	5.5	Madaripu	5.8	Sunamganj	4.8
				Overall	5.9

According to the focus group discussion in Kurigram, Dinajpur districts, regarding the impacts of disasters and climate change on women and food security, lower food production on the farm and less food supply to the family were observed. Thus, there was lower income from the sale of farm produce. In order to cope with the adversities, women restricted themselves to eating less food and using fewer household resources. Organizational supports such as early warning before disasters and relief, food for work, credit, inputs, etc. for after disasters were mentioned as perceived needs.

Figure 22: Percentage distribution of coping strategies to face the food crisis

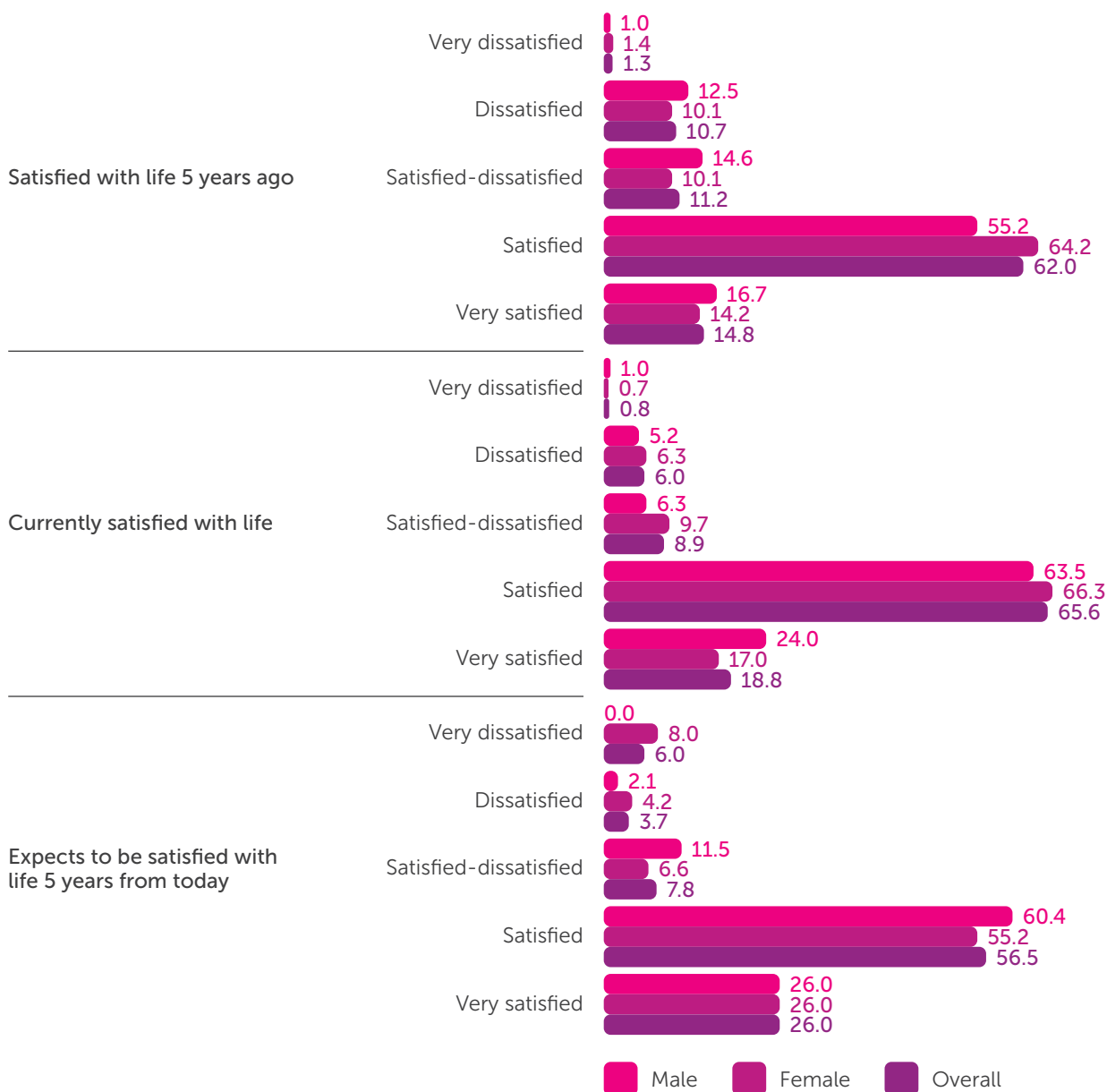


Source: Author's own elaboration.

Moreover, 23.96 percent of men were currently very satisfied with their lives and 16.67 percent were very satisfied with their lives. The level of satisfaction has gradually increased over the past five years. A total of 60 percent of men expect they would be satisfied with their lives five years on from today.

The percentages of women who are satisfied (66.32 percent) with their lives are better than males (63.54 percent). The satisfaction level of women at present has increased (66.32 percent) from 5 years ago. The percentage of women who are currently very satisfied is 17.01 percent, which has increased from 14.24 percent. In addition, 55.21 percent of women stated they would be satisfied with their lives 5 years on from today. Combined, "Satisfied" and "Very satisfied", irrespective of gender has gradually increased along with hope in the future (Figure 23).

Figure 23: Percentage distribution of female–male on life satisfaction



Source: Author's own elaboration.

4.13 Intra-household relationships

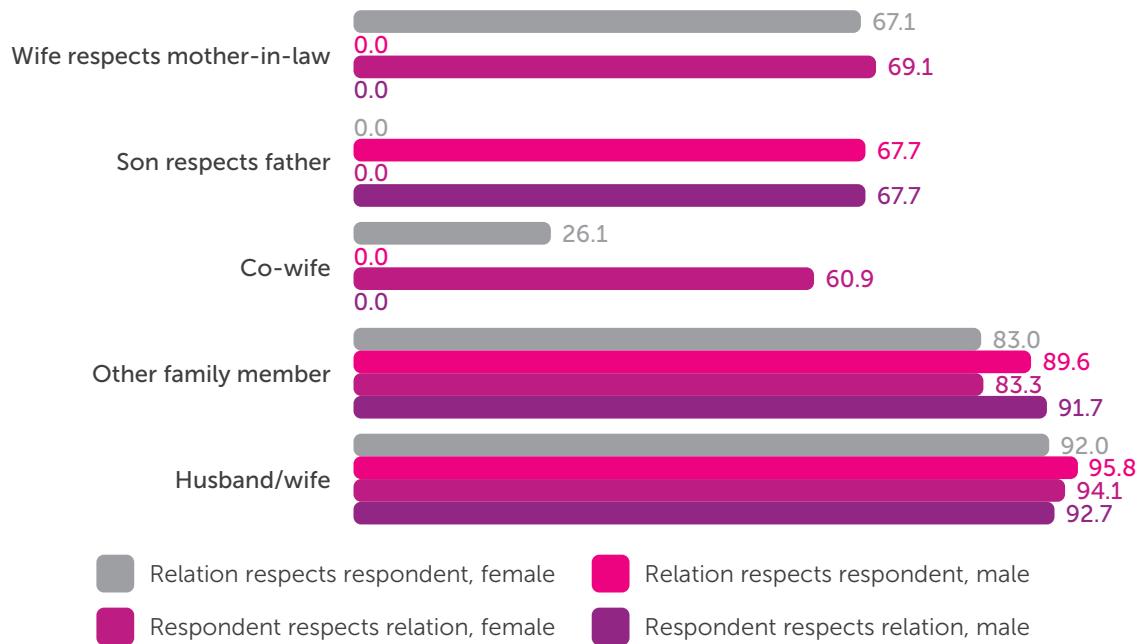
The term intra-household relationships describes the relationship among the members of one's own family. This section describes to what extent the respondents respect other family members and the other way around. It should be mentioned that not all families have all relations. For example, all male respondents do not have a father and women may not have a mother-in-law. Therefore, the analysis was made for those who have all family relations.

Respect towards family members/Relation

Figure 24 shows that 92.7 percent men respect their wives and 94.1 percent of women mentioned they respect their husbands most of the time. In response to the question "do you respect other members within the household", 91.7 percent men and 83.33 percent women responded most of the time.

Moreover, 67.7 percent of men responded they respect their father most of the time and 69.1 percent of women responded they respect their mother-in-law most of the time. The most senior co-wives were also respected most of the time (60.9 percent).

Figure 24: Respect among family members "most of the time"



Source: Author's own elaboration.

Family members' and their relationship with the respondent

Figure 24 shows that 95.8 percent of men and 92.0 percent of women consider that they respect their wives and husbands most of the time. Regarding if other members in the household respected them, 89.6 percent men and 83.0 percent women considered they respected them most of the time. In the case of father, 67.7 percent of men and for mother-in-law, 67.1 percent of women considered that the respondent respected them. Of the co-wives 26.1 percent respected the respondent most of the time.

Trust your relation to do things

The survey revealed that 92.7 percent men and 88.9 percent women responded "most of the time" concerning their wives/husbands. Regarding other members in the household, 82.3 percent men and 78.8 percent women responded, "most of the time". In the case of father, 60.4 percent and for mother-in-law, 62.2 percent women responded, "most of the time". Regarding co-wives, 47.8 percent responded "sometimes" and 34.8 percent "responded most of the time".

Feel comfortable with disagreeing with relation

In this regard, 68.8 percent men feel comfortable with disagreeing with wives and 63.9 percent women with husbands "most of the time". Furthermore, 61.5 percent men and 61.1 percent women stated

they feel comfortable with other family members "most of the time". In the case of father, 51.0 percent men and for mother-in-law, 41.7 percent women feel comfortable "most of the time". Regarding co-wives 56.5 percent responded "sometimes" and 26.1 percent responded they feel comfortable with disagreeing "most of the time".

Moreover, 84.38 percent men and 75 percent women considered they receive the same respect "most of the time" from their wives and husbands respectfully. For other family members, 83.3 percent men and 73.6 percent women felt they were respected "most of the time". In the case of father, 58.3 percent men and for mother-in-law, 51.4 percent women responded, "most of the time". In the case of co-wives, 60.9 percent responded, "most of the time". It is noted that 2.8 percent of the families among the studied population.

- Intrahousehold relations and women's decision-making in the family has changed significantly in some areas though there are still variations.
- Women and men take joint decisions regarding household expenditure, children's education and health issues.
- Concerning agricultural, livestock and household activities, both men and women stated they consult each other.

- Crop selection, livestock selection for rearing, feeding, treatment/caring, weeding, grading/ husking, gathering/collecting produces (milk, egg, fish) are decided jointly by women and men.
- Purchasing seed/fertilizer/pesticide, seed collection and preservation, maintaining farm equipment, land preparation (ploughing), pond preparation, shed preparation, irrigation/de-watering, fertilizer application, pesticide application, harvesting, transportation (from farm to road), marketing, record keeping, managing sales are mostly decided and carried out by men.
- Decisions are made jointly concerning agriculture, livestock, fisheries, except in a few cases.
- Regarding household work, women mostly do the cooking, collecting water, child rearing, caregiving to family members, rearing livestock, agricultural activities of mostly storing of crops, supporting men in other work at and around the home.
- Men briefly take part in household chores, mostly to take care of children or livestock.
- Women invest their money in household expenditure or asset building but do not own any property.

Findings from the qualitative data

A Thanchi woman (Bandarban district) stated that, "Both men and women participate in decision-making, we can say 50 percent each, but men take the serious decisions about big issues and women usually take small decisions."

She also informed that women have bank accounts and receive government benefits. Women receive BDT 30 000 in agricultural loans, women also lease agricultural land. She says there is no significant gender discrimination; women have access to work and the labour market.

The upazila agriculture officer for Cox's Bazar stated, "We are providing women different types of training so they can adapt to modern and commercial agriculture especially for homestead gardening, vegetable production and different nutritional issues. Most women are engaged in small-scale agriculture for nutrition and income at the household level. We have ten entrepreneurs who sell their crops directly in markets."

The above comments indicate that women are actively involved in agriculture and income-generating activities, which is expected to have a positive impact on their household relationships.

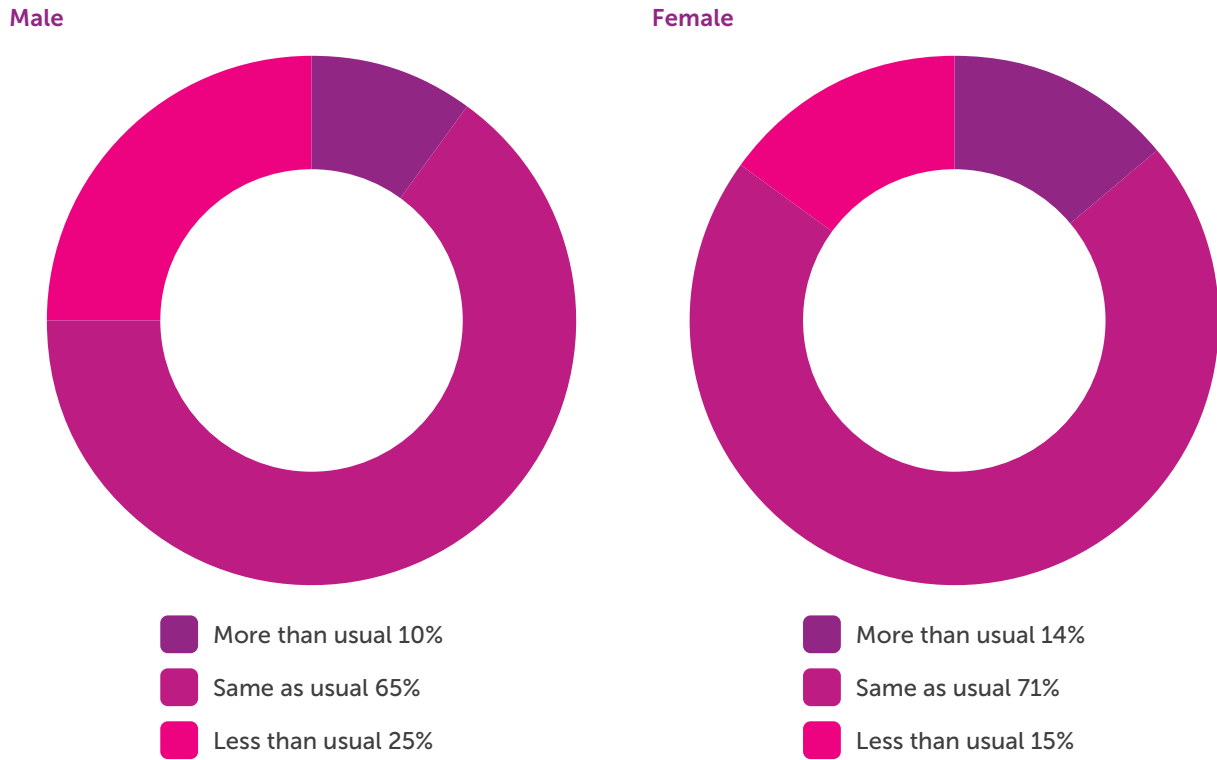
4.14 Time use

In Bangladesh women are generally perceived as caregivers and carry out the unpaid work in the household while men are perceived as the providers and income-earners. There is a total disregard for women who also contribute significantly to income-earning tasks who are never acknowledged for the same. This unequal treatment restricts women from acquiring the necessary human capital skills such as an education and critical livelihood skills that can holistically improve the family's life and well-being. Often women are confined within the households to perform various activities. These complicated roles depend on multiple factors such as household composition, age, relationship to household members, marital status, religion, cultural beliefs and livelihood opportunities.

In response to the question on whether the respondent worked in the previous 24 hours (at home or outside the home including chores or other domestic activities) "less than usual", "about the same as usual", or "more than usual", Figure 28 explains that most men (64.58 percent) and women (70.83 percent) reported their workload as the same as usual. Out of the women surveyed, more respondents (14.24 percent) reported their workload as being more than usual, which is higher than for men (10.42 percent).

Figure 26 shows the distribution of time use in different activities. The boxplot explains the extent of colony, spread and skewness of the time spent over 24 hours by women and men respondent farmers. It shows, sex-disaggregated, the minimum, first quartile, median, third quartile and maximum value of each activity. The median, cross-line in the box, indicates 50 percent values (time spent over 24 hours) lies below the line

Figure 25: Distribution of female and male workload



Source: Author's own elaboration.

Figure 26: Distribution of hours spent working by men and women over 24 hours



Source: Author's own elaboration.

and 50 percent above the line. When resting, the female-hour is more skewed than the male, this means, compared to men, there is a distortion or asymmetry in the resting hours among female

respondents. Moreover, the lower Whisker bar, which is the line from the box to the minimum and maximum value, shows a good number of women have minimum hours of rest compared to men.

Also, women spend significantly more time than men in childcare. Interestingly, both women and men make an almost equal contribution in terms of spending time in productive work.

In response to the question about how satisfied women are with the time they have for themselves to do things they enjoy, and how satisfied they are with the time available for leisure activities such as visiting neighbours, watching television, listening to the radio, seeing movies or engaging in sports the responses are as follows:

Responses were captured on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 means "are not satisfied" and 10 means "are very satisfied", 5 means they are "neither satisfied nor dissatisfied". Here 26.04 percent of women were neither "satisfied nor dissatisfied", which means 5 on the scale, followed by 22.22 percent on the scale 6; 17.71 responses satisfied on 7 on the scale; 13.89 percent on the scale 8, and 5.21 percent expresses satisfied on the scale 9 and 9.38 percent responded with 10 on the scale, which means very satisfied with their leisure time. The percentage of strongly dissatisfied (0.35 percent), dissatisfied (0.35 percent) and mostly dissatisfied (0.35 percent) is insignificant.

Childcare and leisure

Out of the total of women respondents in the study, 19.79 percent women have children under 5 years old. If the respondents are busy with other activities such as livelihood or training related and self-care then 17.01 percent of women respondents said that someone takes care of their children, and 2.78 percent said "No". A total of 10.42 percent said their spouse looks after their children and 1.04 percent replied that other members of the household look after their children (Table 13).

4.15 Prevalence of domestic violence

Regarding domestic violence, both men and women perceive that domestic violence has been reduced significantly and consider that women are aware of their rights and have access to the relevant social institutions. Consequently, men are also concerned about not being punished and shamed if women complain to the formal relevant institutions. Socially, there is a growing negative attitude towards violence against women. There is Shalish, which is

the traditional system of adjudication at the union parishad level, which deals with domestic violence and related issues. However, dowry practices vary; although reduced, the practice is still spreading. Early marriage has significantly been reduced because of the efforts of United Nations Organizations, the police, NGOs and local leaders' joint ventures. Parents are becoming more aware of a female child's education and economic independence, as girls are becoming involved in income-generating activities and supporting their families.

Nevertheless, the primary data explains the opinion of respondents, whether the husband can beat his wife in specific situations. The percentage of women respondents for each situation is higher than for men (Figure 27).

The above indicates a couple of things: there is still a knowledge gap concerning women and their rights and with men knowing about women's rights. Control and decisions about the important issues are taken by men, for example, the mobility of women and objection from family members explains the extent of control the spouse or other family members have over women (Section: Self-decision and objection to going out alone, Figure 17), FGD in Section 4.5 highlights: "Generally, most of the important decisions are taken by the men. Women's [lower] participation in key decision-making processes is an important indicator of the status of gender equality."

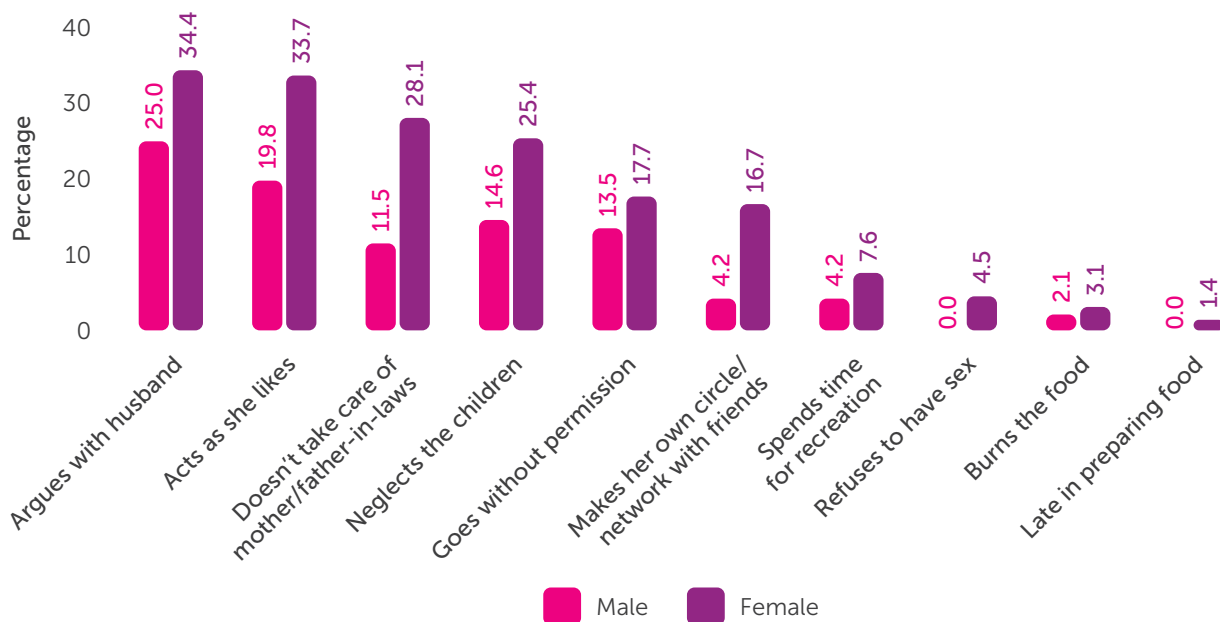
The survey explored (Figure 28), the highest 68 percent respondent (female 63, male 82) stated that the man has the right to correct his wife; and that the society accepts social violence (11 percent: male 0 and female 15). These findings may also relate to the above opinion that a husband can beat his wife.

As reported in the box, according to the FGD, "now men know that women are aware of the laws and punishments for domestic violence." And as women are much more mobile, they can make a complaint against the men, so men have become more concerned about the issue of not being violent with their wives." The data show, however, that most violence (94.4 percent) is carried out by either mutually (54.1) or at the union parishad level (40.3)/local government institution. Moreover, 99 percent of those in the community extend their support to the victim. Around 94.4 percent of victims report the violence, which at the union parishad level is 83.5 percent.

Table 13: Distribution of households by type of childcare

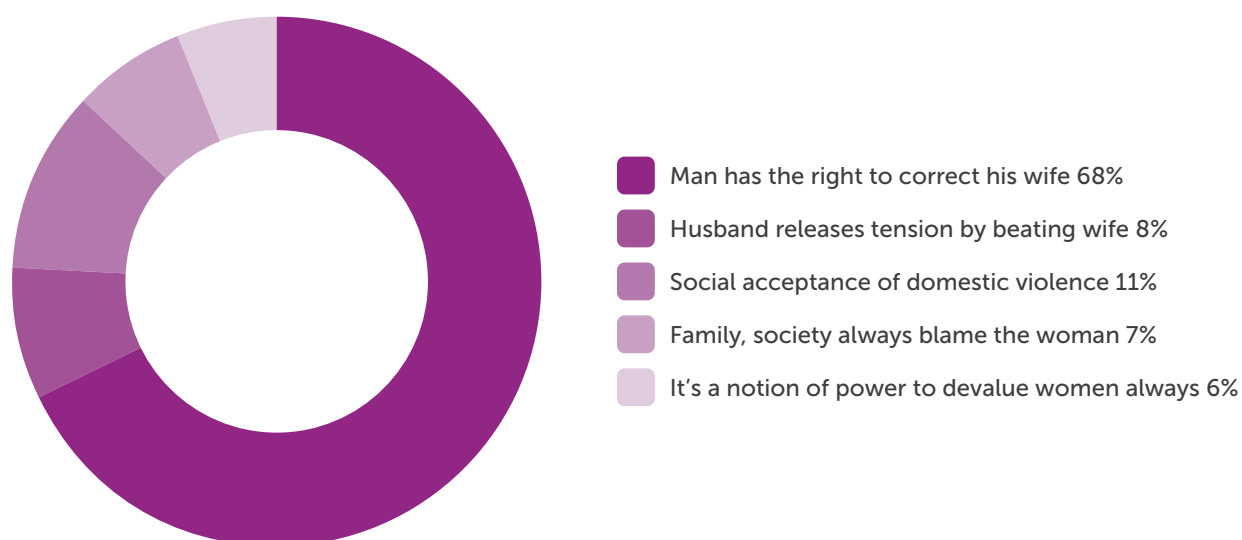
Female with child under five years old percentage	Someone cares for the female respondent's child in absence percentage	Who		
		Self percentage	Spouse percentage	Other members percentage
19.79	17.01	5.56	10.42	1.04

Figure 27: Distribution of the main reasons for experiencing domestic violence



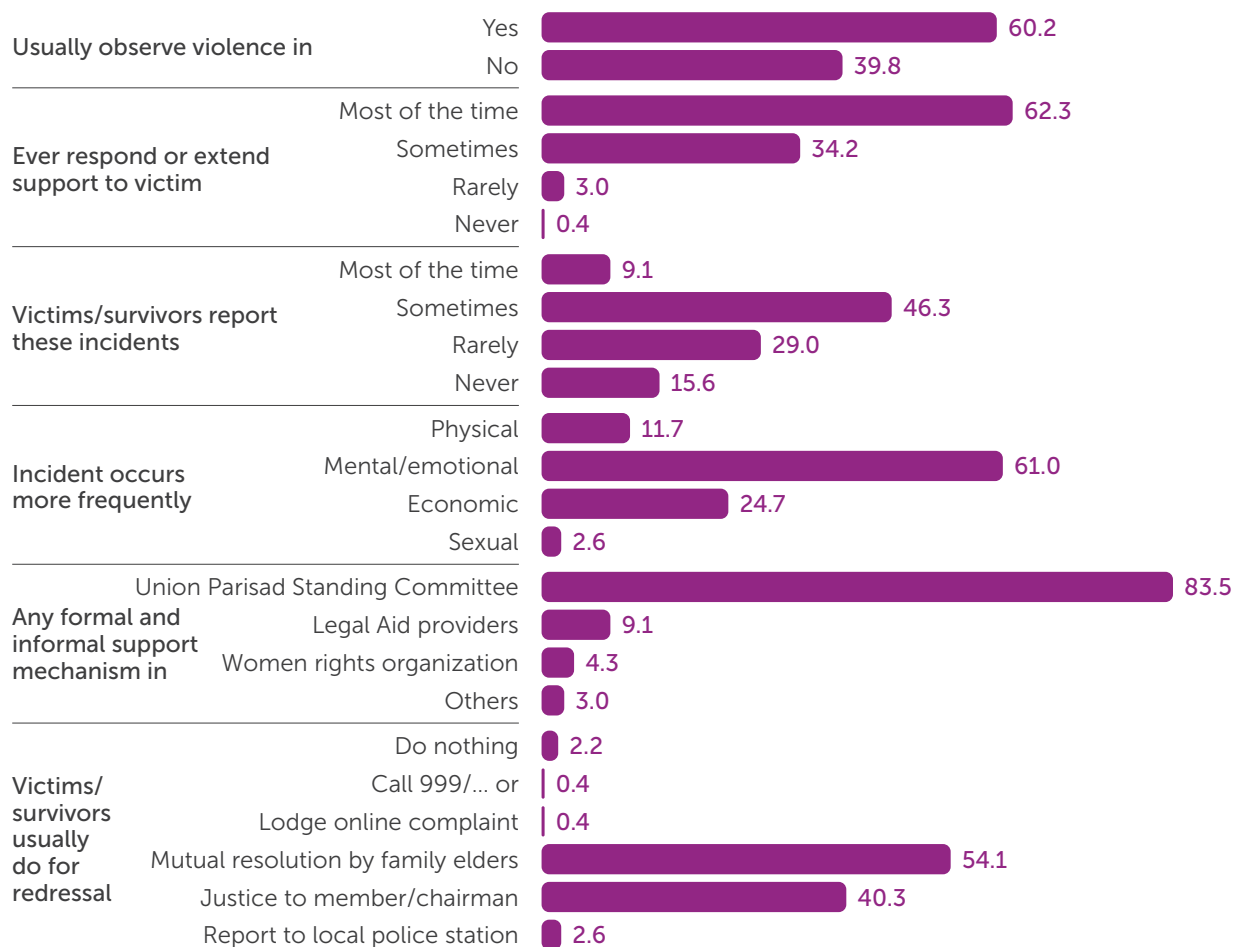
Source: Author's own elaboration.

Figure 28: Distribution of respondents' perception about correcting wife's action



Source: Author's own elaboration.

Figure 29: Percentage distribution of prevalence of violence and mediation process



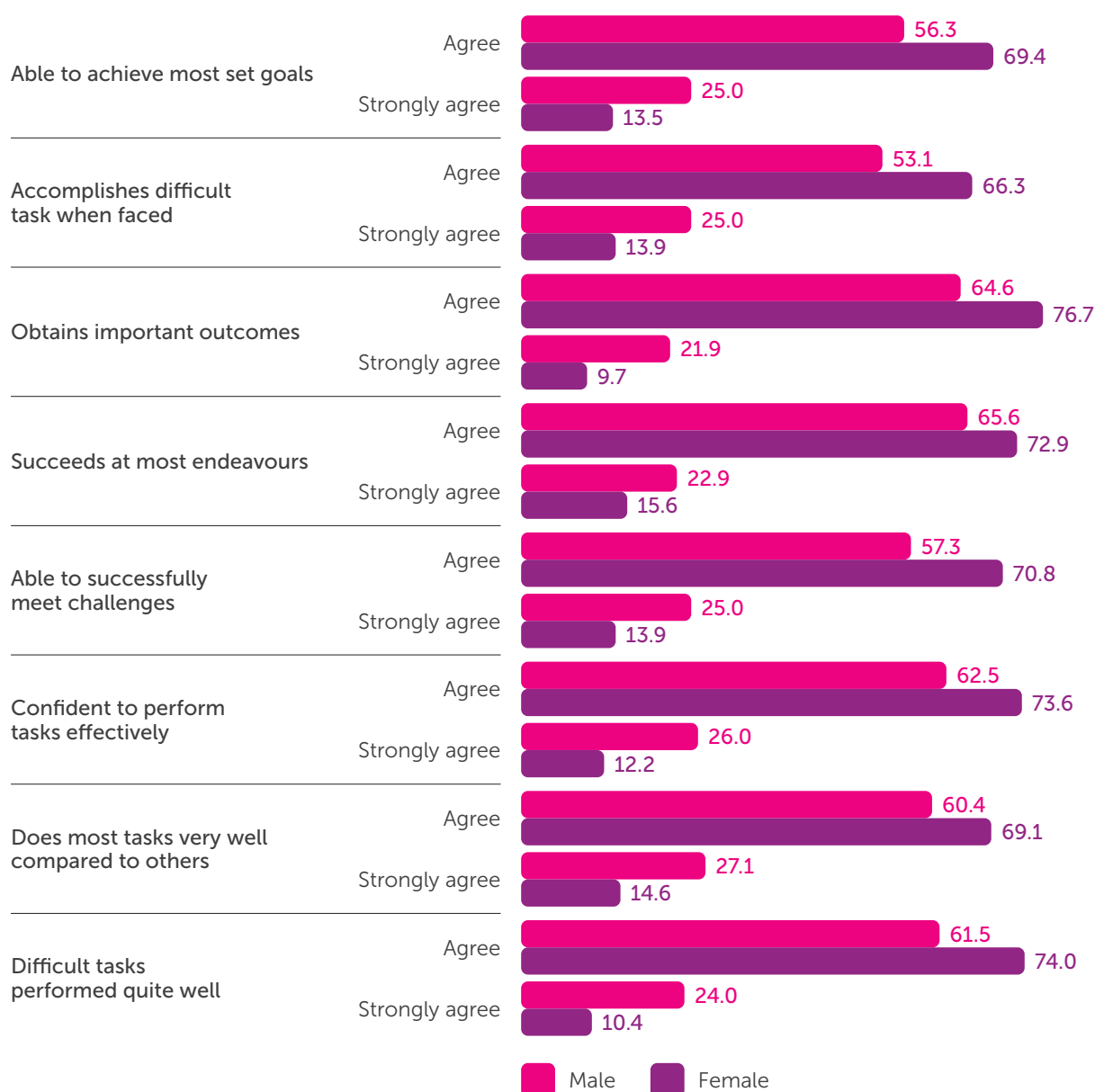
Source: Author's own elaboration.

A woman farmer in the focus group discussion (FGD) in Madaripur said, "Women are much more aware about domestic violence now," when asked about the status of domestic violence in the area. She continued, "now men know that women are aware of the laws and punishments for domestic violence. And as women are much more mobile now, they can make a complaint against the men, so men have become more concerned about the issue of not being violent with their wives." Women participating in the FGD also mentioned, "men's respect towards women has increased due to women's contribution to the families, thus gender violence has reduced significantly."

Hindu women participants in the FGD with a producer organization (PO) in Madaripur said the same, adding that the dowry, in its current form of demanding and pressuring the bride's family, has been reduced; although according to a Muslim farmer in the group, the practice of the dowry still exists in the form of gifts.

"Once domestic violence was a common phenomenon in society. The reason behind this type of violence is lack of money, unemployment, etc. Currently, the family income has increased; the living standard has changed and, consequently, domestic violence has been reduced. In the last 12 months, there has been no instance of violence in the community," said a woman in the producer group, Cox's Bazar.

Figure 30: Distribution of respondents' opinions about statements relating to their life



Source: Author's own elaboration.

4.16 General self-efficacy scale

Both men (56.3 percent) and women (69.4 percent) responded highest with "agree" followed by "strongly agree" and then "neither disagree nor agree" with achieving most of the goals set, which means they are conscious and confident about achieving their goals. "When facing difficult tasks, I am certain that I will accomplish them" in response to this statement 53.1 percent men and 66.3 percent women agree followed by strongly agree, which also means they think they are capable of accomplishing their tasks.

"In general, I think that I can obtain outcomes that are important to me" for this statement 64.58 percent men and 76.75 percent women agree with this issue, which also shows their high level of confidence.

"I believe I can succeed at most any endeavour that I set my mind," 65.92 percent men and 72.92 percent agree with this statement.



© FAO/Munir Uz Zaman

“I will be able to successfully overcome many challenges” 57.29 percent men and 70.83 percent women agree with this statement. Furthermore, 25 percent men and around 14 percent women strongly agree with this.

“I am confident that I can perform many different tasks effectively,” 62.50 percent men and 73.61 percent women agree with this. In addition, 26 percent men and 13 percent women strongly agree with this statement.

“Compared to other people, I can do most tasks very well,” 60.42 percent men and 69.10 percent women agree with this statement. Moreover, 27 percent men and around 15 percent women strongly agree with this.

“Even when things are tough, I can perform quite well” 61.46 percent men and 74 percent women agree with this. Also, 24 percent men and 10.42 percent women strongly agree with this statement.

For all the issues a higher percentage of women positively agreed with the issues, while men showed a higher percentage for “strongly agree” categories.

This data depicts a high level of confidence and compatibility between men and women in the study areas according to their perceptions (detail in [Annex 4, Table A4-12](#)).

5

CASE STUDIES



Participation of women as members in the producer group has changed their lives. Family members and the community recognize women as skilled individuals. They have acquired various skills during training provided by the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), the Association for Social Advancement (ASA), Cooperative Credit Union and government officials. Men and women in the community have come to them to learn the process of cultivation and discuss fish species. In Sirajgonj one woman said, **“We have learned many new things regarding agriculture, livestock and fisheries. We have learned how to plant seeds, about the cultivation of fish species and the process of rearing cattle. They provided us with practical training in how to sow seeds, how to plant seedlings and how to fatten cows.”**

Members of the producer’s group invited various government officials such as the upazilla agriculture officer, livestock officer, and cooperative officer and fisheries officers to different events. The producer’s group has built coordination and cooperation between its members and government officials. In order to improve the economic condition and build leadership skills among female members, the producer group has taken the initiative to involve women in income-generating and training in leadership skills. Not all members of the producer group received training. Two or three members from each group were trained and when they returned home, they discussed the content of their course with the other group members. In this way, the trained members disseminated the training to all other members in the group.

Regarding the decision-making role when carrying out the activities as a group member, a few of the women stated they can make all the decisions in the group. Some cited that sometimes they take the decision, or their decisions are valued for some activities. Others said they have no power to make decisions. The quantitative finding revealed that, in the agriculture group, 21.18 percent of the women felt they influenced decisions in the producer’s group to a medium extent. Except for the credit group, in the other groups such as water user, insurance, trade, civic and women’s rights group, women felt they could not influence the producer group significantly.

The fishers’ group in Sunamgonj is comprised of male members. The Government of Bangladesh has established this group for the betterment of poor fish farmers in the local area. Through this organization, the farmers take a lease out on the beels (lake-like wetlands with still water) through the upazila parishad where they catch the fish. In Sunamgonj, the farmer group leases three beels for three years for BDT 33 000. The group has 25 members who raise money by subscription. In the future, the farmers expect the government to supply:

- seed and fertilizer in season;
- agricultural equipment; and
- offer government incentives during paddy cultivation.

In Varuakhali village, in Cox’s Bazar sadar upazila, both women and men are involved in the dairy cow and beef fattening farm group. The group is not registered and is made up of people who rear cows. There are 20 members in the group, of which five form a special committee. The vice president and general secretary are women, and the preconditions for membership are:

- own at least four cows;
- have access to an area of 40 decimals; and
- cultivate land.

The members do not have links to other like-minded institutions. Moreover, one FAO front line worker has been working in this area for two months, but the producer group members reported they have not received any kind of facilitation support.

Members of the producer group deposit their own savings in a group fund. Each member saves BDT 100 monthly through the cashier. The producer group does not have any account or legal identity. Recently, two members of the Bangladesh Mahila Samitee (an organization that assists women) received training on rearing cattle. This was to ensure they could take proper care of their cows before joining the group. The producer group said that the situation of women regarding early marriage and other social issues has improved. Currently, this kind of violence has decreased. Participants believe that this is because of improved education of girls, including the increased tendency of girls to go to school and college.



The members do not have linkages with other like-minded institutions. Members of the producer group have their own savings in the group fund. Each member saves BDT 100 monthly, which they give to the cashier for safekeeping. They do not have any account or legal identity. Recently, two members of this Samitee received training on rearing cows. They had been unable to take proper care of their cows before joining the group.



© INTO POSITIVE

6

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



The Government of Bangladesh has progressed, with the help of various national and international initiatives, with minimizing gender gaps and is progressing with agricultural and rural development. Specifically, general advancement has been made in the areas of education, health care, basic infrastructure, employment and participation of women in decision-making. Yet, challenges remain in relation to rural remoteness, economic crises, societal values, norms and public support services.

Based on this gender study, the following conclusions have been drawn, along with the relevant recommendations to address issues related to gender inequality, and the work to empower women in agriculture and the rural economy.

- Women living in rural areas have played a crucial role in various income-generating activities through agriculture, ranging from fieldwork to homestead chores. Women contribute more than men to the production and marketing of agricultural products. Moreover, a sharp gender division in household roles compels women to do household activities, including childcare and care of older people. Men mostly own the productive land, and women receive a minimum share of land from their parents and from her husband after his death. As women have contributed significantly to farming and household activities, they should be able to own productive resources such as land through legal reforms. Their access to productive resources should be ensured equally to men.
- In most surveys, women's roles in agriculture, and other rural development sectors, remains largely unaccounted for and invisible. There is a scarcity of sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis across the development sectors. This makes it difficult to assess the value of rural women's contributions to agricultural development and to identify the appropriate solutions that would support rural development overall. Thus, the availability of a set of sex- and age- disaggregated data and gender analysis across rural sectors is imperative. The statistical sector in Bangladesh could take steps to collect and publish data on women's contributions to agricultural development where FAO can provide technical or financial assistance.
- Regarding decision-making to utilize productive capital, it was observed that men and women make joint decisions. Yet, decisions that relate to the

use of capital outside the home are dominated by men, and women decide on how resources are used in the home and homestead. The study also concludes that women have very limited access to the decision-making process at the community level. Men make almost all the necessary decisions regarding agriculture and fish production. However, women make the more important decisions when selling chickens and deciding on which vegetables they will grow. Women's participation in key decision-making positions is an important indicator of the status of gender equality. Thus, the rural population should be made aware of having men and women make joint decisions in farming and household activities. The development activities of the government and non-government organizations concerned could work on this issue. In addition, the organizations may need to assess the impacts of legislation and policies, including macroeconomic policies, structural reforms, and aid agreements, on women's productive assets and economic empowerment. FAO, or other allied organizations, could provide technical support.

- Women are more vulnerable than men to climate-related impacts and climate-induced natural disasters because of gender inequalities in various social, economic and political institutions. Women have limited access to and control over natural resources or money, and more importantly, are less mobile with limited access to information. Survey participants claimed that the loss of agricultural products due to climate change resulted in the malnourishment or starvation of girls and women, as men are still used to eating before women and girls.
- Women and men fulfil different roles in farming, use different types of equipment, and often have different sets of knowledge and experience. These factors present implications for policy and programming, since women and men have different skills in relation to managing environmental resources, which can be combined for effective adaptation and response to climate change and related disasters. From the viewpoint of policy, it is important that such diversity in knowledge, behaviour, and roles be integrated into data collection mechanisms and programme approaches. Moreover, awareness needs to be raised at the household level so that members of the household consider women and men equally when faced with adversity. The ministries

concerned may already be engaged in the relevant programmes, including motivation campaigns, rallies and group discussions, which may be admissible for support by United Nations agencies such as FAO. The needs of rural women need to be prioritized in relation to their livelihood activities in disaster recovery programmes, and women should be empowered as key actors in food security and nutrition.

- Women have almost free access to digital devices for communication and financial transactions. 32 percent of female respondents are familiar with mobile banking. Self-improvement has been attained through education and joining groups and income-earning activities, and women have improved their decision-making skills in the family and community. Involvement in women's associations in project design and implementation has increased significantly along with women taking up leadership positions in farmer groups.
- Appropriate measures are to be adopted to improve rural women's access to technical support, extension services, technologies, transport productive resources and financial services, including credit and saving schemes that support the financial inclusion of rural women. The state and local/rural finance institutions, such as microfinance and development banks, are to be encouraged to offer special promotional packages that include group collateral, business literacy, insurance schemes with low premiums, and assurance of markets for agricultural products to strengthen women's engagement in agriculture and in the rural non-farm economy. FAO can contribute by assuring women's participation in groups and by motivating members to utilize the dynamics of the group to build a robust rural economy.
- A limited number of local groups or CSOs are observed in rural communities; most are minimally functional. Other than the exclusive women's groups, some producer groups in the studied areas are mixed groups, namely, members are both men and women. In some mixed groups, women are in higher positions such as vice president and general secretary. Regarding the decision-making role in carrying out the activities of the group as a member, few women said they could take all the decisions in the group. Various state institutions working at the grassroots level could consider mobilization of youth clubs, women's organizations and fora at the local level. Women should be supported through continuous monitoring and skill development initiatives. In addition, the participation of rural women in decision-making could be stimulated through dialogue and collaboration with local institutions, and measures adopted that support women's representation in local and national institutions and in natural resource governance mechanisms. Support should also be considered for rural women's groups so as to increase their bargaining power when accessing financial resources, technology, markets and land. In this regard, relevant programmes that are already being implemented by the ministries concerned should be considered for support by FAO.
- Women still receive limited extension services or other support. This is because there are insufficient agricultural extension workers, and many of the posts allocated remain vacant at all levels in the field where a huge number of clients need to be served. In addition, female farmers are very often less mobile than male farmers, and usually stay at home to perform household chores and other productive activities along with agriculture. Therefore, to maintain contact with female farmers, extension workers need to visit them, which requires them to be mobile. Currently, extension workers have minimal mobility. Moreover, the limited number of female agricultural extension agents is one factor that limits women's access to agricultural extension services.
- Accessible communications systems and the use of radio, texts, and other ICT-based media should be promoted as a way for rural women producers and sellers to access agricultural extension, rural advisory services, and weather information for rural communities. This will reduce the need for physical contact with service providers. Local extension agents and other development petitioners need to be equipped with ICT devices to provide needs-based services to all members in the community.
- The enabling environment for gender mainstreaming will need to be strengthened in government agencies as well as evidence collection and analysis. In some cases, it has been acknowledged that there is minimal awareness of gender analysis and gender mainstreaming among staff working at the field level where they implement extension programmes. The DAE, DLS, DoF and allied organizations could consider the development of mainstream programmes for women in rural communities.

- In rural areas, men monopolize political participation. The patriarchal society, a lower level of education, sociocultural norms, and religious misinterpretation can enforce rules and laws in such a way that they affect the self-confidence of women and their access to resources and information. All of which keeps them in a lower status in relation to men in political participation. Men also dominate local level political structures, which results in an unequal distribution of resources and influence in favour of male farmers, even when women play significant roles in agricultural. The national-level policy should encourage and support women's participation in local politics and other groups or institutions. Women's voices must be raised to address female-related problems and critiques. To this end, UN Women and FAO could provide their support in creating and strengthening the capacity of rural organizations so they can ensure the logical participation of women.
- The gender-disaggregated information on household food distribution shows that women in the household are given a lower priority than men when enjoying food. Similar information is found in relation to the diversity of foods eaten by women. It is also a fact that rural households have less food diversity overall than the quantity and quality required. Rural residents and field level officials have reported the significant efforts made by government and non-governmental organizations in securing food for rural households. The intrahousehold food distribution systems and nutrition awareness, in general, needs to be promoted at the community level. Prior to this, steps should be taken by government organizations such as DAE, DLS and DoF and NGOs like BRAC, ASA, etc. at the grassroots level to ensure food availability. Additionally, donor/international organizations such as FAO and WFP could provide support to the ministries concerned for policy and research at the state level. During emergencies and crises, social safety net programmes may be launched. In such times, the needs of rural women should be prioritized in relation to their livelihood activities in disaster recovery programmes. In addition, women should be encouraged and empowered to take on the roles of key actors in food and nutrition security systems.
- Men and women have stated that domestic violence has been significantly reduced. Both men and women consider that women are now aware of their rights and have access to the relevant

social institutions. Society has a negative attitude to violence against women, and there is a Shalish system at the Union parishad level that handles domestic violence and related issues. Moreover, early marriage has been significantly curtailed because of the joint efforts of local administration, police, NGOs, and local leaders. Furthermore, parents are more aware of the importance of girls' education and economic independence, as girls become more involved in income-generating activities and supporting families. Overall, awareness campaigns through different media need to be launched to help people become aware of the ethics of life in general and issues of violence against women, specifically. Additionally, improvements are required in general education to achieve a better scenario for women. For example, rural women's access to programmes and services could be increased to include support to survivors of domestic violence and facilitate their access to justice.

- Few deaths are recorded in rural areas, and some are even unreported. Gender-based incidences as a result of COVID-19 were much less. Yet, with the closure of schools and other academic institutions, some under-aged girls were married off. Mostly women were affected in households facing adversity. During the COVID-19 pandemic, there were no significant changes in status in terms of gender-based violence in the community.

The database of COVID-19 issues, including death tolls, were supposed to be appropriately recorded. But inadequate information on COVID-19 matters and their consequences has constrained the drawing up of conclusions. The after-effects of COVID-19 need to be assessed, and financial and production support adopted in timely fashion to avert future shocks. Local-level administrations can play a functional role in this regard, with directives and support at the national level. The WHO could support the government in combating COVID-19 issues and FAO could provide support to farming to boost production.

Finally, in order to address cross-cutting issues and ensure rural women's contributions to households and rural economies are recognized, and gender equality is adequately reflected in policies, strategies, plans and programmes, some of the following policy recommendations should be considered for adoption by the ministries concerned, where FAO could extend technical assistance to strengthen programme efficacy:

- Improve the generation and analysis of sex-, age- and rural/urban- disaggregated data relevant for gender equality and rural women's empowerment in agricultural rural development policies, strategies, plans and programmes.
- Promote policy research and analysis on gender equality and rural women's empowerment in the agricultural sector to inform policies and strategic planning, and conduct systematic gender analyses on legislation and policies, including macroeconomic policies, structural reforms and aid and trade agreements.
- Mandate all ministries to monitor and report on the impacts of their policies, plans, programmes, and services for rural populations with age- and sex- disaggregated data and indicators, and strengthen their capacity to do so.
- Strengthen monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation, including regular tracking and auditing of expenses on gender-responsive budgeting in order to understand changes in women's status.
- Implement a comprehensive monitoring framework on gender equality and rural women's empowerment in agriculture to cover key economic, social and political aspects.
- Facilitate ICT mediated techniques when providing services to rural communities.
- Improve statistical surveys to adequately quantify the complexity of rural women's activities.
- Contribute to the rural and national economies, including the informal economy.



© FAO/Fahad Kaizer

REFERENCES

- Asian Development Bank (ADB). 2010. *The informal sector and informal employment in Bangladesh*. Country Report 2010. Philippines, Asian Development Bank.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB). 2018. *Bangladesh Gender Equality Diagnostic of Selected Sectors*. Philippines, Asian Development Bank.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB). 2020. Bangladesh: Sustainable Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project, Philippines, Asian Development Bank. <https://www.adb.org/projects/40515-013/main>
- Afrad, S.I., Wadud, F. & Babu, S.C. 2019. Reforms in agricultural extension service system in Bangladesh. In: *Agricultural extension reforms in South Asia*. Academic Press. 27p. (pp. 13-40). <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-818752-4.00002-3>
- Ahmed, N.U. (ed.). 2020. *Public service delivery in Bangladesh: Parliament, public policy and local government*. Dhaka, University Press Limited. 423 p. <http://www.uplbooks.com/book/public-service-delivery-bangladesh-parliament-public-policy-and-local-government>.
- Alkire, S., Kovesdi, F., Scheja, E. & Vollmer, F. 2020. *Moderate Multidimensional Poverty Index: Paving the way out of poverty, OPHI Research in Progress Research Paper: 59a*. Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), UK, University of Oxford. <https://ophi.org.uk/rp59a/Armanaziz>. 2022. Self-made based on public domain map from Library of Congress, US Government source. Wikipedia. Agriculture in Bangladesh. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agriculture_in_Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANBEIS). 2017. BANBEIS – *Educational Database*. Dhaka, Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics.. <http://www.banbeis.gov.bd>
- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). 2009. *Report on monitoring of employment survey-2009*, Dhaka, BBS, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). 2011. *Statistical Yearbook of Bangladesh*, Dhaka, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). 2015. *Report on education household survey 2014*, Dhaka, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). 2017. *Bangladesh statistics 2017*. Dhaka, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Statistics and Informatics Division, Ministry of Planning. 66. http://bbs.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bbs.portal.gov.bd/page/a1d32f13_8553_44f1_92e6_8ff80a4ff82e/Bangladesh%20%20Statistics-2017.pdf
- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). 2018. *Labour Force Survey*. Dhaka, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). 2020. *Statistical Yearbook of Bangladesh*. Dhaka, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
- Baumann, F. 2021. The next frontier—human development and the Anthropocene: UNDP Human Development Report 2020. *Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development*, 63(3), 34-40.
- Bhanojirao, V. V. 1991. *Human development report 1990: review and assessment*. *World Development*, 19(10), 1451-1460.

- Bokhtiar S.M., Samsuzzaman, S. & Biswas, J.K. 2021. *100 Years of agricultural development in Bangladesh*. Dhaka, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council.
- Brody, C., de Hoop, T., Vojtkova, M., Warnock, R., Dunbar, M., Murthy, P. & L. Dworkin, S.L. 2017. Can self-help group programs improve women's empowerment? A systematic review. *Journal of Development Effectiveness*, 9:1, 15–40, DOI: 10.1080/19439342.2016.1206607
- Centre for Research and Information. 2019. *Bangladesh: The Role Model in Women's Empowerment*. Dhaka. 20 pages. <https://cri.org.bd/publication/2019/April/Women-Empowerment/Bangladesh-The-Role-Model-in-Women%27s-Empowerment.pdf>
- Chakma, K. N. and Moni, R. J. 2016. *CEDAW: An alternative report of the civil society organisations in Bangladesh, 2016*.
- Chen, L.C., Huq, E. & D'Souza, S. 1981. Sex bias in the family allocation of food and health care in rural Bangladesh. *Population and Development Review* 7(1): 55–70 (15p.)
- Choudhury, A., McDougall, C., Rajaratnam, S., & Park, C. M. Y. 2017. *Women's empowerment in aquaculture: Two case studies from Bangladesh*. FAO; WorldFish.
- The Daily Star. 2022. *Bangladesh can become 28th largest economy by 2030*. <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/bangladesh-can-become-28th-largest-economy-2030-pwc-1358260>
- FAO. 2020. *FAO Policy on Gender Equality 2020–2030*. Rome, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
- FAO. 2021a. *ToR, Country Gender Assessment of Agriculture and Rural Sector in Bangladesh Source*. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
- FAO. 2021b. *Bangladesh – Impact of Anticipatory Action. Striking before the floods to protect agricultural livelihoods*. Dhaka, Bangladesh. #38 p. www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/CB4113EN/
- FAO. 2022. *FAO in Bangladesh, 2022*. Rome. Website: www.fao.org/bangladesh/en/
- Gaye, A., Klugman, J., Kovacevic, M., Twigg, S. & Zambrano, E. 2010. Measuring key disparities in human development: The gender inequality index. *Human Development Reports*, 46, 1–37. New York, UNDP. hdrp201046pdf.pdf
- Haq, A.Z.M. 2013. The impact of agricultural extension contact on crop income in Bangladesh. *Bangladesh Journal of Agricultural Research*, 38(2), 321–334. 13p. <https://doi.org/10.3329/bjar.v38i2.15893>
- Haque, M.S. 1999. *Restructuring development theories and policies: A critical study*. Albany, New York, SUNY Press. <https://sunypress.edu/Books/R/Restructuring-Development-Theories-and-Policies>
- Hasan, B., Sultana, M. & Hasan, M.N. 2014. Good governance in Bangladesh: Problems and prospects. *University of Information Technology and Sciences Journal*, 3(2), 22–44. 22p. <https://uits.edu.bd/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/03-Good.pdf>
- Hatløy, A., Hallund, J., Diarra, M., & Oshaug, A. 2000. Food variety, socioeconomic status and nutritional status in urban and rural areas in Koutiala (Mali). *Public Health Nutrition*, 3(1), 57–65. doi:10.1017/S1368980000000628
- Hoddinott, J. & Yohannes, Y. 2002. *Dietary diversity as a household food security indicator*. Washington, D.C.: Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance Project, Durham, North Carolina, USA, FHI 360, 2002. <https://www.fantaproject.org/sites/default/files/resources/DietaryDiversity-HH-FS-Indicator-2002.pdf>

REFERENCES

- Hossain, M.I. 2021. COVID-19 impacts on employment and livelihood of marginal people in Bangladesh: Lessons learned and way forward. *South Asian Survey*, 28(1), 57–71. 14p. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0971523121995072>
- Hussain, A., Ahsan, Rahman, M.M. 2015. Experimenting with local governance: The case of Bangladesh. *Social Science Review*. Vol. 32, Issue. 2.
- ILO. 2020. *Asia-Pacific Employment and Social Outlook 2020: Navigating the crisis towards a human-centred future of work*. International Labour Organization Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. 75p. https://www.ilo.org/asia/publications/WCMS_764084/lang--en/index.htm
- Islam, F.B., Sharma, M. 2021. Gendered dimensions of unpaid activities: an empirical insight into rural Bangladesh households. *Sustainability* 2021, 13, 6670. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13126670>
- Jaysawal N. Civil Society, Democratic Space, and Social Work. *SAGE Open*. January 2013. doi:10.1177/2158244013504934
- Jo, Y., Alland, K., Ali, H. et al. Antenatal care in rural Bangladesh: current state of costs, content and recommendations for effective service delivery. *BMC Health Serv Res* 19, 861 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-019-4696-7>
- Karim, M.R. 2018. Effectiveness of agricultural extension system in the implementation of relevant policies of Bangladesh In: Alam K (Ed.) *Bangladesh: Economic, Political and Social Issues*. New York: Nova Science Publishers, Inc.
- Kennedy, G., Ballard, T. & Dop, M. 2013. *Guidelines for measuring household and individual dietary diversity*. Reprint. Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division, Rome, FAO.
- Klugman, J., Hanmer, L., Twigg, S., Hasan, T. & McCleary-Sills, J. 2014. Voice and agency: empowering women and girls for shared prosperity. Washington, DC., World Bank Group. © World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/19036> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO.
- Kruijssen, F., Golam, F., Braaten, Y. & Minneboo, E. 2019. *Assessment of the local service provider model in Bangladesh*. Working Paper. Penang, Malaysia, CGIAR. <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12348/4036>
- MacroTrends. 2022. *Bangladesh Maternal Mortality Rate 2000-2022*. <http://www.macrotrends.net>
- Mannan, M. A. 2013. *Access to public health facilities in Bangladesh: a study on facility utilisation and burden of treatment*. The Bangladesh Development Studies. 55 p.
- Mannan, M.A. 2000. *Female-headed households in rural Bangladesh: strategies for well-being and survival*, Bangladesh, Center for Policy Dialogue and New York, United Nations Population Fund.
- Malhotra, K. 2004. The purpose of development. *Michigan Journal of International Law*, Vol. 26:13. <https://repository.law.umich.edu/mjil/vol26/iss1/1>
- Mannan, M. A. 2013. Access to public health facilities in Bangladesh: a study on facility utilisation and burden of treatment. *Bangladesh Development Studies*, pp.25–80. http://bids.org.bd/uploads/publication/BDS/36/36-4/2_Mannan.pdf
- Mannan, M.A. 2000. *Female-headed households in rural Bangladesh: Strategies for well-being and survival*. Dhaka, Centre for Policy Dialogue and New York, United Nations Population Fund.
- Mendizabal, E., Osborne, D. & Young, J. 2006. *Policy engagement: How civil society can be more effective*. London, United Kingdom. 50p.
- Ministry of Finance, The People's Republic of Bangladesh. 2019. *Gender Budget*.

- Ministry of Planning. 2011. *The Sixth Five Year Plan, 2011-2015, Part 3*, Dhaka, MoP, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
- Ministry of Planning. 2020. *The Eighth Five Year Plan, 2020-2025*, Dhaka, MoP, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
- Miyaji, M., Okazaki, K., & Ochiai, C. 2020. A study on the use of cyclone shelters in Bangladesh. *Japan Architectural Review*, 3(4), 590-600.
- Mollah, M. A. H., & Jahan, R. 2018. Parliamentary election and electoral violence in Bangladesh: the way forward. *International Journal of Law and Management*, 60(2), 741–756.
- MOF-Ministry of Finance. 2020. *Gender Budget: Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock*. MOF: GOB
- Mujeri, M.K. 2020. Informal economy and economic inclusion: Policy options for Bangladesh, *The Daily Star*, 18 February 2020.
- Nasim, M., Shahidullah, S.M., Saha, A., Muttaleb, M.A., Aditya, T.L., Ali, M.A. & Kabir, M.S. 2017. Distribution of crops and cropping patterns in Bangladesh. *Bangladesh Rice J.* 21 (2): pp. 1–55. <https://doi.org/10.3329/brj.v21i2.38195>
- O.Neil, A. 2022. Bangladesh: Share of economic sectors in the gross domestic product from 2010 to 2020. *Statista*. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/438359/share-of-economic-sectors-in-the-gdp-in-bangladesh/>
- Panday, P. & Feldman, S. 2015. Mainstreaming gender in politics in Bangladesh: Role of NGOs. *Asian Journal of Political Science*. 23. 1–20. 10.1080/02185377.2015.1055772.
- Planning Commission. 2018. *Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100*. Knowledge Portal. Dhaka, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. <https://bdp2100kp.gov.bd>
- Pradhan, M.A.H. & Afrin, S. 2015. A review of social safety nets programmes for women in Bangladesh: Issue and challenges. *Advances in Economics and Business*, 3(4), 149–156. 7p. DOI: 10.13189/aeb.2015.030405
- Quddusi, K. S. K. A. 2019. Politics And Society in Bangladesh. *World Affairs: The Journal of International Issues*, 23(3), 136–151.
- Rabbani, A. 2014. Household food security in Bangladesh: Going beyond poverty measures. *Bangladesh Development Studies Vol. XXXVII (1&2)*: 103–125. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0305-750X\(91\)90087-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/0305-750X(91)90087-X)
- Rahman, M. W., Islam, M. S., Hassan, L., Tanny, N., Parvin, L. & Bohn, A. 2017. *Bangladesh: Extension, Gender and Nutrition Landscape Analysis*. SSRN Electronic Journal. 10.2139/ssrn.3022470.
- Roy, I. 2008. Civil society and good governance: (Re-)conceptualizing the Interface. *World Development Volume 36*, Issue 4, 2008, Pp. 677–705, ISSN 0305-750X, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2007.04.020>.
- Sariyrv, O., Loos, T.K. & Zeller, M. 2020, Women in household decision-making and implications for dietary quality in Bhutan. *Agriculture and Food Economics*, Volume 8, Article No. 13. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40100-020-00158-0>
- Schwab, K. 2013. The Global Competitiveness Report 2013–2014. Switzerland, *World Economic Forum*. https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GlobalCompetitivenessReport_2013-14.pdf
- SDF. June 2021. *Borrowers Implementation Completion Results Report (BICRR) of the Nuton Jibon Livelihood Improvement Project (NJLIP)*. Dhaka, Social Development Foundation.
- Sosale, S., Asaduzzaman, T. & Ramachandran, D. 2019. *Girls' education in Bangladesh: A promising journey*. World Bank Blogs. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/endpovertyinsouthasia/girls-education-bangladesh-promising-journey>

REFERENCES

Tasneem, S, Mrittika, Aahir, Zillur, U., Zillur, Z. 2020. The women's movement in Bangladesh throughout the years. *The Daily Star*.

ThinkWell. 2012. *Scaling innovation for strong upazila health systems*. Washington, DC.
<https://thinkwell.global/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Scaling-Innovation-for-Strong-Upazila-Health-Systems-September-2012-ThinkWell.pdf>

Tonny, T.A. & Ahmed, J. 2020. Civil society's contribution to women empowerment: Bangladesh perspective. In: Momen, M.N., Baikady, R., Sheng Li, C., Basavaraj, M. (eds). 14p. *Building sustainable communities*. Palgrave Macmillan, Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-15-2393-9_14

Uddin, E., Gao, Q., & Mamun-Ur-Rashid, M.D. 2016. Crop farmers' willingness to pay for agricultural extension services in Bangladesh: Cases of selected villages in two important agro-ecological zones. *The Journal of Agricultural Education and Extension*, 22(1), 43–60. 17p. DOI: 10.1080/1389224X.2014.971826

UNDP. 2020. *Human Development Report 2020, The Next Frontier, Human Development and the Anthropocene*. New York, United Nations Development Programme. <http://report.hdr.undp.org>

UNDP. 2022. *Human Development Index*. New York, United Nations Development Programme.
<https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/human-development-index#/indicies/HDI>

UNESCO. 2020. *World social report 2020: Inequality in a rapidly changing world*. New York., United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/world-social-report/2020-2.html>

UNESCO Institute for Statistics. 2022a. *UIS Database, School enrolment, tertiary*. In: SE.TER.ENRR. Updated as of June 2022. New York, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.TER.ENRR?locations=BD>.

UNESCO Institute for Statistics. 2022b. *UIS Database, Distribution of tertiary graduates by field of study*. In: SE.TER.TCHR.FE.ZS. Updated as of June 2022. New York, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.TER.TCHR.FE.ZS>.

UNICEF & BBS. 2019. *Progotir Pathey Bangladesh Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019, Survey Findings Report*. Dhaka, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and New York, United Nations Children's Fund. https://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/media/3281/file/Bangladesh%202019%20MICS%20Report_English.pdf. 21 pages.

Wikipedia. 2022. *Timeline of the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh*.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_in_Bangladesh.

Wikipedia. 2020. *Childhood development index*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Child_Development_Index.

WHO. 2021. *Bangladesh: gender and health. Technical Briefs*. Regional Office for South-East Asia, World Health Organization WHO. <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/344671>

World Bank. 2017. *World Bank. 2017. World Development Indicators 2017*. Washington, DC. © World Bank.
<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/26447> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO.
<http://hdl.handle.net/10986/26447>

World Bank. 2020. *Population, female (% of total population) – Bangladesh. Data Bank*.
<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL.FE.ZS?locations=BD>

World Bank. 2020. *Improving Local Governance and Service Delivery in Bangladesh: The Role of Local Government Finance*. <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/150821592287566995/pdf/Improving-Local-Governance-and-Service-Delivery-in-Bangladesh-The-Role-of-Local-Government-Finance.pdf>

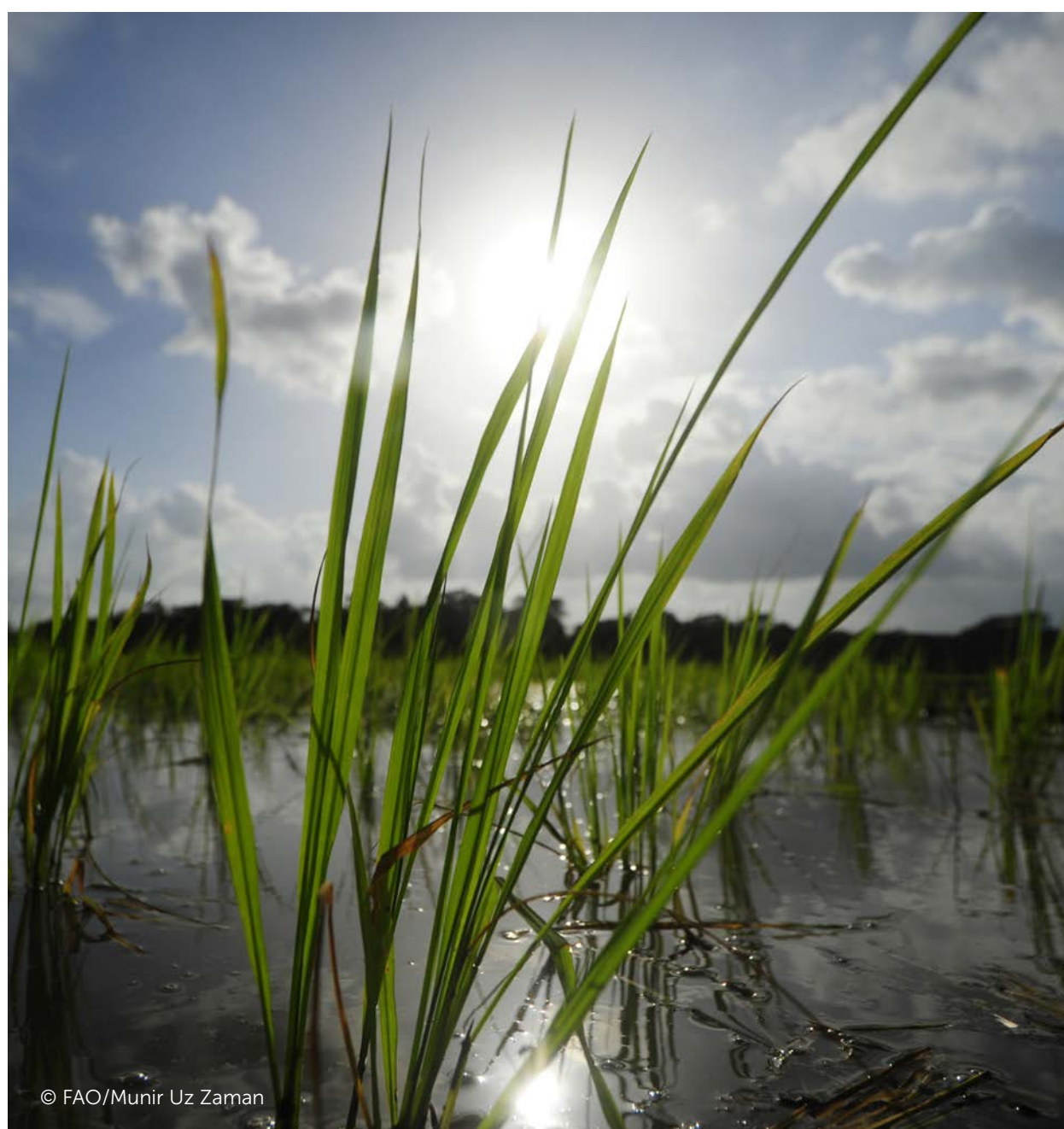
World Bank. 2022. *Trading Economics*. Retrieved from: <https://tradingeconomics.com/bangladesh/employment-in-agriculture-percent-of-total-employment-wb-data.html>.

World Economic Forum. 2013. *The future role of civil society*. World Economic Forum and KPMG International.

World Economic Forum. 2020. *FAO Policy on Gender Equality*. Global Gender Gap Report for 2020. Geneva, Switzerland. 10 p. <https://www.weforum.org/reports/gender-gap-2020-report-100-years-pay-equality/>

Worldometer. 2022. *Bangladesh population live*.
<https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/bangladesh-population/>

Xu, S., Shonchoy, A. & Fujii, T. 2019. *Illusion of gender parity in education: Intrahousehold resource allocation in Bangladesh*. SMU Economics and Statistics Working Paper, (09–2019). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3386159> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3386159>



ANNEXES

Annex 1: Sampling distribution of farmers surveyed in 12 districts

Hot spot	Administrative area			Gender		Total
	District	Upazila	Union	Male	Female	
Barind and drought	Dinajpur	Chirirbandar	Amarpur	4	12	16
		khansama	Angarpara	4	12	16
	Dinajpur total			8	24	32
	Natore	Gurudaspur	Nazirpur	4	12	16
		Singra	Sherkole	4	12	16
	Natore total			8	24	32
Major river estuaries/char	Sirajganj	Belkuchi	Rajapur	4	12	16
		Shahjadpur	Beltoli	4	12	16
	Sirajganj total			8	24	32
	Kurigram	Chilmari	Chilmari	4	12	16
		Kurigram Sadar	Holokhana	4	12	16
	Kurigram total			8	24	32
Coast	Bagerhat	Fakirhat	Fakirhat	4	12	16
		Kachua	Gajalia	4	12	16
	Bagerhat total			8	24	32
	Barguna	Amtoli	Amtoli	4	12	16
		Barguna Sadar	Burir Char	4	12	16
	Barguna total			8	24	32

Hot spot	Administrative area			Gender		Total
	District	Upazila	Union	Male	Female	
Chittagong Hill Tracts and coast	Cox's Bazar	Sadar	Bharuakhali	4	12	16
		Ukhia	Haldiapalong	4	12	16
	Cox's Bazar total			8	24	32
	Bandarban	Ali Kadam	Alikadam Sadar	4	12	16
		Thanchi	Balipara	4	12	16
	Bandarban total			8	24	32
Haor	Sunamganj	Jagannathpur	Chilaura Haldipur	4	12	16
		Shantiganj	Joykolosh	4	12	16
	Sunamganj total			8	24	32
	Netrokona	Khaliajuri	Nagar	4	12	16
		Mohanganj	Bartoli Banihary	4	12	16
	Netrokona total			8	24	32
Peri/urban	Dhaka	Savar	Savar Sadar	4	12	16
		Uttar khan	Kachkura and Ward 46	4	12	16
	Dhaka total			8	24	32
Cross-cutting	Madaripur	Kalkini	Nabagram	4	12	16
		Shibchar	Sonnyasir Char	4	12	16
	Madaripur total			8	24	32
Grand total				96	288	384

Annex 2: List of focus group discussions

District	Upazila	Union	Number FGD	Group name				Number of participants
				Male	Female	Youth	PO/PG	
Dianjpur	Khansama	Arannagar	4	1	1	1	1	40
Kurigram	Kurigram Sa-dar	Holokhana	4	1	1	1	1	40
Sirajgonj	Sahjadpur	Beltoil	4	1	1	1	1	41
Borguna	Amtoli	Amtoli Sadar	4	1	1	1	1	40
Madaripur	Kalkini	Nobogram	1	0	0	0	1	10
	Sibpur	Sannashir Char	3	1	1	1	0	30
Sunamgonj	Santigonj	Joykolos	3	1	1	1	0	30
	Tahirpur	Dakshin Sreepur	1				1	10
Cox's Bazar	Cox's Bazar Sadar	Varuakhali	4	1	1	1	1	40
Bandarban	Thanchi	Bolipara	4	1	1	1	1	39
Dhaka	Uttor Khan	Utorkhan	4	1	1	1	1	40
Total			36	9	9	9	9	360

Annex 3: List of key informant interviews

District	Upazila	Number of KII	Name of department
Dinajpur	Khansama	3	Upazila agriculture officer
			Upazila livestock officer
			Upazila fisheries officer
Sirajganj	Sahjadpur	3	Upazila agriculture officer
			Upazila livestock officer
			Upazila women's affairs officer
Borguna	Barguna Sadar	1	Upazila agriculture officer
Madaripur	Kalkini Upazila	1	Upazila agriculture officer
Sunamgonj	Santigonj	2	Upazila agriculture officer
			Upazila women's affairs officer
Cox's Bazar	Cox's Bazar Sadar	2	Upazila agriculture officer
			Upazila fisheries officer
Bandarban	Thanchi	2	Upazila agriculture officer
			Upazila women's affairs officer

Annex 4: Tables referred to in the text

Table A4-1A: Percent distribution of household head by sex and district

District	Male		Female		Overall	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Bagerhat	93.8	30	6.3	2	100.0	32
Bandarban	87.5	28	12.5	3	100.0	32
Barguna	87.5	28	12.5	4	100.0	32
Cox's Bazar	84.4	27	15.6	5	100.0	32
Dhaka	78.1	25	21.9	7	100.0	32
Dinajpur	96.9	31	3.1	1	100.0	32
Kurigram	96.9	31	3.1	1	100.0	32
Madaripur	90.6	29	9.4	3	100.0	32
Natore	96.9	31	3.1	1	100.0	32
Netrokona	93.8	30	6.3	2	100.0	32
Sirajganj	96.9	31	3.1	1	100.0	32
Sunamganj	87.5	28	12.5	4	100.0	32
Grand total	90.9	349	9.2	35	100.0	384

Table A4-1B: Percent distribution of household members by education and district

Highest class completed	Male		Female		Overall	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Class 1	4.1	39	4.6	44	4.4	83
Class 2	4.8	46	4.5	43	4.7	89
Class 3	4.8	46	3.0	28	3.9	74
Class 4	7.4	71	5.1	48	6.2	119
Class 5	14.4	138	12.1	115	13.3	253
Class 6	4.0	38	4.9	46	4.4	84
Class 7	4.9	47	5.9	56	5.4	103
Class 8	5.5	53	7.6	72	6.6	125
Class 9	6.6	63	9.8	93	8.2	156
Dakhil/SSC	7.0	67	6.8	64	6.9	131
HSC/Alim	6.5	62	5.7	54	6.1	116
BA/BSC/Fazil	3.3	32	1.2	11	2.3	43
MA/MSc/Kamil/above	1.1	11	0.4	4	0.8	15
Below class 1	7.7	74	7.6	72	7.7	147
Didn't go to school/mad-rasa	17.9	171	21.0	199	19.4	370
Overall	100.0	957	100.0	948	100.0	1 908
Went School/Madrasa	82.1	786	79.0	749	80.6	1 538

Table A4-1C: Distribution of average land in decimal and percent of households by land group and district

District	Land group										Total	
	Marginal		Small		Medium		Large		Very large			
	Average land	Percent of household	Average land	Percent of household	Average land	Percent of household	Average land	Percent of household	Average land	Percent of household	Average land	Percent of household
Bagerhat	30.5	12.5	88.9	59.4	191.7	21.9	316.0	6.3	0.0	0.0	118.3	100.0
Bandarban	33.0	15.6	101.5	37.5	180.0	12.5	422.2	28.1	750.0	6.3	231.3	100.0
Barguna	18.3	9.4	102.4	53.1	222.6	15.6	426.7	9.4	767.5	12.5	226.8	100.0
Cox's Bazar	29.8	53.1	103.6	31.3	234.7	9.4	0.0	0.0	600.0	6.3	107.7	100.0
Dhaka	35.6	34.4	90.1	46.9	169.2	15.6	312.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	90.7	100.0
Dinajpur	40.3	28.1	99.8	50.0	212.5	18.8	0.0	0.0	600.0	3.1	119.8	100.0
Kurigram	26.9	56.3	86.8	40.6	163.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	55.5	100.0
Madaripu	39.6	28.1	95.8	40.6	196.1	25.0	438.0	6.3	0.0	0.0	126.4	100.0
Natore	35.6	28.1	85.8	50.0	184.6	15.6	330.0	3.1	594.0	3.1	110.6	100.0
Netrokona	28.3	18.8	112.1	43.8	200.0	28.1	283.3	9.4	0.0	0.0	137.2	100.0
Sirajganj	39.4	25.0	100.9	46.9	193.0	21.9	297.0	6.3	0.0	0.0	117.9	100.0
Sunamganj	25.0	6.3	108.7	43.8	181.3	28.1	342.0	15.6	665.0	6.3	195.1	100.0
Total	32.7	26.3	97.6	45.3	194.8	18.0	370.9	7.3	691.2	3.1	136.5	100.0

Marginal: <=50 dec, Small: 51–150 dec, Medium: 151–250 dec, Large: 251–500 dec, Very Large: >500 dec.

Table A4-2A: Decision about what to produce/raise/culture

Description	Response	Male		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Agricultural land	Self	65	68.42	44	15.33	109	28.53
	Spouse	27	28.42	225	78.40	252	65.97
	Other household member	3	3.16	18	6.34	21	5.49
Total		95	100.00	287	100.00	382	100.00
Large livestock (oxen, cattle)	Self	37	57.81	41	23.98	78	33.19
	Spouse	26	40.63	120	70.18	146	62.13
	Other household member	1	1.56	10	5.85	11	4.68
Total		64	100.00	171	100.00	235	100.00
Small livestock (goats, pigs, sheep)	Self	12	37.50	34	36.56	46	36.80
	Spouse	16	50.00	55	59.14	71	56.80
	Other household member	4	12.50	4	4.30	8	6.40
Total		32	100.00	93	100.00	125	100.00
Chickens, ducks, turkeys, pigeons	Self	4	5.41	179	80.63	183	61.82
	Spouse	65	87.84	35	15.77	100	33.78
	Other household member	5	6.76	8	3.60	13	4.39
Total		74	100.00	222	100.00	296	100.00
Fishpond or fishing equipment	Self	25	75.76	13	16.67	38	34.23
	Spouse	5	15.15	50	64.10	55	49.55
	Other household member	3	9.09	14	17.95	17	15.32
	Not Applicable	0	0.00	1	1.28	1	0.90
Total		33	100.00	78	100.00	111	100.00

Table A4-2B: Decision on selling farm produces and equipment: Gender segregation

Description	Response	Male		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Agricultural land (in decimal)	Self	61	64.21	34	11.85	95	24.87
	Spouse	25	26.32	199	69.34	224	58.64
	Other household member	4	4.21	23	8.01	27	7.07
	Other non-household member	2	2.11	27	9.41	29	7.59
	Not Applicable	3	3.16	4	1.39	7	1.83
Total		95	100.00	287	100.00	382	100.00
Large livestock (oxen, cattle)	Self	39	60.94	31	18.13	70	29.79
	Spouse	22	34.38	122	71.35	144	61.28
	Other household member	2	3.13	15	8.77	17	7.23
	Other non-household member	1	1.56	2	1.17	3	1.28
	Not Applicable	0	0.00	1	0.58	1	0.43
Total		64	100.00	171	100.00	235	100.00
Small livestock (goats, pigs, sheep)	Self	14	43.75	23	24.73	37	29.60
	Spouse	14	43.75	62	66.67	76	60.80
	Other household member	4	12.50	4	4.30	8	6.40
	Other non-household member	0	0.00	4	4.30	4	3.20
Total		32	100.00	93	100.00	125	100.00
Chickens, ducks, turkeys, pigeons	Self	7	9.46	170	76.58	177	59.80
	Spouse	62	83.78	45	20.27	107	36.15
	Other household member	5	6.76	7	3.15	12	4.05
Total		74	100.00	222	100.00	296	100.00

Table A4-2B. (continued)

Description	Response	Male		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Fishpond or fishing equipment	Self	27	81.82	13	16.67	40	36.04
	Spouse	3	9.09	48	61.54	51	45.95
	Other household member	3	9.09	15	19.23	18	16.22
	Other non-household member	0	0.00	2	2.56	2	1.80
Total		33	100.00	78	100.00	111	100.00
Farm equipment (non-mechanized: hand tools, animal-drawn ploughs)	Self	40	65.57	19	13.29	59	28.92
	Spouse	19	31.15	112	78.32	131	64.22
	Other household member	1	1.64	11	7.69	12	5.88
	Not Applicable	1	1.64	1	0.70	2	0.98
Total		61	100.00	143	100.00	204	100.00

Table A4-3: Response of farmers whether the extension service provider visited in the last 12 months

District	Response	Male		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Bagerhat	Yes	8	100.0	23	95.8	31	96.9
	No	0	0	1	4.2	1	3.1
Bandarban	Yes	7	87.5	16	66.7	23	71.9
	No	1	12.5	8	33.3	9	28.1
Barguna	Yes	5	62.5	14	58.3	19	59.4
	No	3	37.5	10	41.7	13	40.6
Cox's Bazar	Yes	6	75	7	29.2	13	40.6
	No	2	25	17	70.8	19	59.4
Dhaka	Yes	3	37.5	7	29.2	10	31.3
	No	5	62.5	17	70.8	22	68.8

Table A4-3. (continued)

District	Response	Male		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Dinajpur	Yes	4	50	16	66.7	20	62.5
	No	4	50	8	33.3	12	37.5
Kurigram	Yes	4	50	9	37.5	13	40.6
	No	4	50	15	62.5	19	59.4
Madaripu	Yes	7	87.5	16	66.7	23	71.9
	No	1	12.5	8	33.3	9	28.1
Natore	Yes	3	37.5	5	20.8	8	25.0
	No	5	62.5	19	79.2	24	75.0
Netrokona	Yes	4	50	5	20.8	9	28.1
	No	4	50	19	79.2	23	71.9
Sirajganj	Yes	4	50	3	12.5	7	21.9
	No	4	50	21	87.5	25	78.1
Sunamganj	Yes	5	62.5	9	37.5	14	43.8
	No	3	37.5	15	62.5	18	56.3
Overall	Yes	60	62.5	130	45.1	190	100.0
	No	36	37.5	158	54.9	194	100.0
Grand total		96		288		384	

Table A4-4A: Female and male distribution in decision-making for different activities

Description	Response	Male		Female	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Getting inputs for agricultural production	Self	69	72.6	41	14.7
	Spouse	23	24.2	221	79.5
	Other household member	3	3.2	16	5.8
The type of crops to grow	Self	64	67.4	39	13.6
	Spouse	28	29.5	230	80.1
	Other household member	3	3.2	18	6.3
Staple food grain farming, processing and selling of the harvest: grains that are grown primarily for food consumption (rice, maize, wheat, potato)	Self	61	64.9	40	14.0
	Spouse	29	30.9	225	78.9
	Other household member	4	4.3	20	7.0
Horticultural (gardens), cash or high value crop farming, processing and selling of the harvest: crops that are grown primarily for sale in the market	Self	29	63.0	22	18.0
	Spouse	15	32.6	93	76.2
	Other household member	2	4.3	7	5.7
Large livestock raising (cattle, buffaloes), processing and selling of milk and/or meat	Self	37	56.9	37	20.3
	Spouse	25	38.5	136	74.7
	Other household member	3	4.6	9	4.9
Small ruminants rearing (sheep, goats), processing and selling of milk and/or meat	Self	16	45.7	26	26.0
	Spouse	18	51.4	72	72.0
	Other household member	1	2.9	2	2.0
Poultry and other small animals raising (chickens, ducks, turkeys or other fowls), processing of eggs: production and selling	Self	3	4.3	160	76.2
	Spouse	63	90.0	47	22.4
	Other household member	4	5.7	3	1.4
Fishing or fishpond culture and selling	Self	24	77.4	13	19.1
	Spouse	4	12.9	50	73.5
	Other household member	3	9.7	5	7.4

Table A4-4A. (continued)

Description	Response	Male		Female	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Taking crops to the market (or not)	Self	58	66.7	38	13.8
	Spouse	27	31.0	219	79.6
	Other household member	2	2.3	18	6.5
Non-farm economic activities (running a small business, self-employment, buy-and-sell)	Self	14	50.0	10	13.7
	Spouse	10	35.7	56	76.7
	Other household member	4	14.3	7	9.6
Wage and salary employment (work that is paid for in cash or in-kind, including both agriculture and other wage work)	Self	53	64.6	38	17.0
	Spouse	28	34.1	173	77.6
	Other household member	1	1.2	12	5.4
Large, major, occasional household purchases/expenditures (bicycles, land, transport vehicles)	Self	27	65.9	8	7.3
	Spouse	10	24.4	85	77.3
	Other household member	4	9.8	17	15.5
Routine, minor household purchases/expenditures (food for daily consumption or other household needs)	Self	36	38.3	94	32.8
	Spouse	55	58.5	179	62.4
	Other household member	3	3.2	13	4.5
	Other non-household member	0	0.0	1	.3

Table A4-4B: Distribution of respondents feel can participate in decisions if they want(ed) to

Description	Response	Male		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Getting inputs for agricultural production	Not at all	0	0.0	5	2.1	5	1.9
	Small extent	2	7.7	107	45.1	109	41.4
	Medium extent	18	69.2	118	49.8	136	51.7
	To a high extent	6	23.1	7	3.0	13	4.9

Table A4-4B. (continued)

Description	Response	Male		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
The type of crops to grow	Not at all	0	0.0	3	1.2	3	1.1
	Small extent	1	3.2	118	47.6	119	42.7
	Medium extent	20	64.5	120	48.4	140	50.2
	To a high extent	10	32.3	7	2.8	17	6.1
Staple food grain farming, processing and selling of the harvest: grains that are grown primarily for food consumption (rice, maize, wheat, potato)	Not at all	0	0.0	3	1.2	3	1.1
	Small extent	1	3.0	118	48.2	119	42.8
	Medium extent	22	66.7	119	48.6	141	50.7
	To a high extent	10	30.3	5	2.0	15	5.4
Horticultural (gardens), cash or high value crop farming, processing and selling of the harvest: crops that are grown primarily for sale in the market	Not at all	0	0.0	1	1.0	1	0.9
	Small extent	1	5.9	55	55.0	56	47.9
	Medium extent	11	64.7	40	40.0	51	43.6
	To a high extent	5	29.4	4	4.0	9	7.7
Large livestock raising (cattle, buffaloes), processing and selling of milk and/or meat	Small extent	4	14.3	45	31.0	49	28.3
	Medium extent	18	64.3	94	64.8	112	64.7
	To a high extent	6	21.4	6	4.1	12	6.9
Small ruminants rearing (sheep, goats), processing and selling of milk and/or meat	Small extent	3	15.8	23	31.1	26	28.0
	Medium extent	7	36.8	48	64.9	55	59.1
	To a high extent	9	47.4	3	4.1	12	12.9
Poultry and other small animals raising (chickens, ducks, turkeys or other fowls), production and selling	Not at all	12	17.9	0	0.0	12	10.3
	Small extent	26	38.8	5	10.0	31	26.5
	Medium extent	21	31.3	42	84.0	63	53.8
	To a high extent	8	11.9	3	6.0	11	9.4

Table A4-4B. (continued)

Description	Response	Male		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Fishing or fishpond culture and selling	Not at all	0	0.0	1	1.8	1	1.6
	Small extent	3	42.9	24	43.6	27	43.5
	Medium extent	2	28.6	30	54.5	32	51.6
	To a high extent	2	28.6	0	0.0	2	3.2
Taking crops to the market (or not)	Not at all	0	0.0	3	1.3	3	1.1
	Small extent	0	0.0	117	49.4	117	44.0
	Medium extent	17	58.6	112	47.3	129	48.5
	To a high extent	12	41.4	5	2.1	17	6.4
Non-farm economic activities (running a small business, self-employment, buy-and-sell)	Not at all	1	7.1	19	30.2	20	26.0
	Small extent	2	14.3	25	39.7	27	35.1
	Medium extent	4	28.6	17	27.0	21	27.3
	To a high extent	7	50.0	2	3.2	9	11.7
Wage and salary employment (work that is paid for in cash or in-kind, including both agriculture and other wage work)	Not at all	0	0.0	7	3.8	7	3.3
	Small extent	2	6.9	96	51.9	98	45.8
	Medium extent	17	58.6	80	43.2	97	45.3
	To a high extent	10	34.5	2	1.1	12	5.6
Large, major, occasional household purchases/ expenditures (bicycles, land, transport vehicles)	Not at all	0	0.0	5	4.9	5	4.3
	Small extent	2	14.3	54	52.9	56	48.3
	Medium extent	7	50.0	42	41.2	49	42.2
	To a high extent	5	35.7	1	1.0	6	5.2
Routine, minor household purchases/ expenditures (food for daily consumption or other household needs)	Small extent	14	24.1	79	40.9	93	37.1
	Medium extent	30	51.7	107	55.4	137	54.6
	To a high extent	14	24.1	7	3.6	21	8.4

Table A4-4C: Distribution of households' decisions to keep things for consumption at home rather than selling

Description	Response	Male		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
The type of crops to grow	No input or input in few decisions	0	0.0	4	1.4	4	1.0
	Input into some decisions	5	5.3	140	48.8	145	38.0
	Input into most or all decisions	88	92.6	141	49.1	229	59.9
	No decision made	2	2.1	2	0.7	4	1.0
Staple food grain farming, processing and selling of the harvest: grains that are grown primarily for food consumption (rice, maize, wheat, potato)	No input or input in few decisions	0	0.0	3	1.1	3	0.8
	Input into some decisions	6	6.4	137	48.1	143	37.7
	Input into most or all decisions	87	92.6	142	49.8	229	60.4
	No decision made	1	1.1	3	1.1	4	1.1
Horticultural (gardens), cash or high value crop farming, processing and selling of the harvest: crops that are grown primarily for sale in the market	No input or input in few decisions	0	0.0	1	0.8	1	0.6
	Input into some decisions	2	4.3	67	54.9	69	44.1
	Input into most or all decisions	44	95.7	54	44.3	98	58.3
Large livestock raising (cattle, buffaloes), processing and selling of milk and/or meat	No input or input in few decisions	1	1.5	1	0.5	2	0.8
	Input into some decisions	5	7.7	69	37.9	74	30.0
	Input into most or all decisions	58	89.2	111	61.0	169	68.4
	No decision made	1	1.5	0	0.0	1	0.4
	Not applicable	0	0.0	1	0.5	1	0.4
Small ruminants rearing (sheep, goats), processing and selling of milk and/or meat	Input into some decisions	3	8.6	34	34.0	37	27.4
	Input into most or all decisions	31	88.6	66	66.0	97	71.9
	No decision made	1	2.9	0	0.0	1	0.7

Table A4-4C. (continued)

Description	Response	Male		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Poultry and other small animals raising (chickens, ducks, turkeys or other fowls), processing of eggs: production and selling	No input or input in few decisions	13	18.6	0	0.0	13	4.6
	Input into some decisions	31	44.3	19	9.0	50	17.9
	Input into most or all decisions	26	37.1	187	89.0	213	76.1
	No decision made	0	0.0	2	1.0	2	0.7
	Not applicable	0	0.0	2	1.0	2	0.7
Fishing or fishpond culture and selling	No input or input in few decisions	0	0.0	1	1.5	1	1.0
	Input into some decisions	5	16.1	36	52.9	41	41.4
	Input into most or all decisions	26	83.9	31	45.6	57	57.6
Taking crops to the market (or not)	No input or input in few decisions	0	0.0	2	0.7	2	0.6
	Input into some decisions	1	1.1	132	48.0	133	36.7
	Input into most or all decisions	84	96.6	140	50.9	224	61.9
	No decision made	2	2.3	1	0.4	3	0.8

Table A4-5: Completely the same or somewhat the same or completely different or somewhat different?

Topic/Story Category	Male (%)				Female (%)			
	Completely same	Somewhat same	Completely different	Somewhat different	Completely same	Somewhat same	Completely different	Somewhat different
A. The types of crops to grow or raise for consumption and sale in market								
The person cannot grow other types of crops here for consumption and sale in market. Only grow common crops that grow here.	44.8	25.0	28.1	2.1	35.4	28.8	30.2	5.6
The person grows common crops because her spouse, or another person or group in her community tells to grow these crops.	44.8	34.4	11.5	9.4	39.2	38.9	15.3	6.6
The person grows the crops for agricultural production that her family or community expect and wants them to approve as a good farmer.	52.1	33.3	6.3	8.3	44.1	42.0	7.6	6.3
The person chooses the crops that personally wants to grow for consumption and sale in market and thinks are best for own and family, and values growing those crops. If changed mind, could act differently.	59.4	29.2	7.3	4.2	56.6	28.5	8.7	6.3
The person grows the crops that have demand in the market only and not getting information and financial support to opt for others.	52.1	40.6	5.2	2.1	36.8	46.9	8.3	8.0
B. Livestock raising								
The person cannot raise any livestock other than what the person has. These are all that do well here.	44.8	28.1	21.9	5.2	40.3	29.2	18.1	12.5
The person raises the types of livestock that spouse, or another person or group in own community tell to use these breeds must.	39.6	34.4	18.8	7.3	35.4	38.2	16.7	9.7
The person raises the kinds of livestock that family or community expect and wants them to approve as a good livestock raiser.	47.9	35.4	9.4	7.3	43.4	40.3	7.3	9.0

Table A4-5. (continued)

Topic/Story Category	Male (%)				Female (%)			
	Completely same	Somewhat same	Completely different	Somewhat different	Completely same	Somewhat same	Completely different	Somewhat different
The person chooses the types of livestock that personally wants to raise, and thinks are good for own and family and values raising these types. If changed mind, could act differently.	61.5	26.0	5.2	7.3	52.8	28.1	9.4	9.7
The person chooses the types that have demand in the market only and not getting information and financial support to opt for others.	47.9	44.8	3.1	4.2	40.3	39.2	10.1	10.4
C. Taking crops or livestock (incl. eggs or milk) to the market (or not)								
There is no alternative to how much or how little of crops or livestock can take to the market. Takes the only possible amount.	40.6	42.7	13.5	3.1	28.5	47.9	15.6	8.0
The person takes crops and livestock to the market because spouse, or another person or group in own community tell must sell there.	36.5	37.5	18.8	7.3	35.8	34.7	19.8	9.7
The person takes the crops and livestock to the market that family or community expect and wants them to approve her/him.	53.1	33.3	8.3	5.2	44.4	43.1	6.6	5.9
The person chooses to take the crops and livestock to market that personally wants to sell there, and thinks is best for own and family, and values this approach to sales. If changed mind, could act differently.	57.3	31.3	5.2	6.3	53.1	31.3	8.0	7.6
D. How to use income generated from agricultural and non-agricultural activities								
There is no alternative to how the person uses own income. How uses own incomes determined by family necessity.	43.8	38.5	15.6	2.1	36.5	44.8	10.8	8.0
The person uses own income how spouse, or elderly family members (mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law) or another person or group in own community tell must use it there.	41.7	31.3	16.7	10.4	33.3	45.5	12.5	8.7

Table A4-5. (continued)

Topic/Story Category	Male (%)				Female (%)			
	Completely same	Somewhat same	Completely different	Somewhat different	Completely same	Somewhat same	Completely different	Somewhat different
The person uses own income in the way that family or community expect and wants them to approve of her/him.	43.8	39.6	11.5	5.2	37.5	51.7	5.2	5.6
The person chooses to use own income how personally wants to, and thinks is best for own and family, and values using own income in this way. If changed mind, could act differently.	56.3	32.3	2.1	9.4	49.0	36.5	8.0	6.6

Table A4-6: Distribution of number and average of sleeping rooms per households

District	Average room /household	1		2		3		4		5		6		Total	
		Number	Percent	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Bagerhat	2.3	6.3	2	65.6	21	15.6	5	12.5	4	0.0	0	0.0		100.0	32
Bandarban	2.4	12.5	4	50.0	16	21.9	7	15.6	5	0.0	0	0.0		100.0	32
Barguna	2.7	6.3	2	40.6	13	34.4	11	12.5	4	6.3	2	0.0		100.0	32
Cox's Bazar	2.8	6.3	2	46.9	15	15.6	5	28.1	9	0.0	0	3.1	1	100.0	32
Dhaka	2.3	18.8	6	43.8	14	31.3	10	6.3	2	0.0	0	0.0		100.0	32
Dinajpur	2.4	12.5	4	59.4	19	12.5	4	9.4	3	3.1	1	3.1	1	100.0	32
Kurigram	2.1	43.8	14	18.8	6	21.9	7	12.5	4	3.1	1	0.0		100.0	32
Madaripu	2.6	15.6	5	25.0	8	46.9	15	9.4	3	3.1	1	0.0		100.0	32
Natore	2.5	15.6	5	43.8	14	18.8	6	18.8	6	0.0	0	3.1	1	100.0	32
Netrokona	2.0	31.3	10	46.9	15	15.6	5	3.1	1	3.1	1	0.0		100.0	32
Sirajganj	2.4	9.4	3	46.9	15	37.5	12	3.1	1	3.1	1	0.0		100.0	32
Sunamganj	2.5	6.3	2	53.1	17	28.1	9	9.4	3	0.0	0	3.1	1	100.0	32
Grand total	2.4	15.4	59	45.1	173	25.0	96	11.7	45	1.8	7	1.0	4	100.0	384

Table A4-7: Percentage distribution of household and average number of different types of assets owned by different district

District	Television			Mobile			Bicycle			Motor bike		
	Yes	No	Average	Yes	No	Average	Yes	No	Average	Yes	No	Average
Bagerhat	28.1	71.9	0.3	100.0	0.0	2.2	40.6	59.4	0.4	9.4	90.6	0.1
Bandarban	40.6	59.4	0.4	100.0	0.0	2.3	9.4	90.6	0.1	6.3	93.8	0.1
Barguna	18.8	81.3	0.2	100.0	0.0	2.4	25.0	75.0	0.3	12.5	87.5	0.1
Cox's Bazar	21.9	78.1	0.2	96.9	3.1	2.3	6.3	93.8	0.1	3.1	96.9	0.0
Dhaka	59.4	40.6	0.7	100.0	0.0	2.1	6.3	93.8	0.1	9.4	90.6	0.1
Dinajpur	71.9	28.1	0.8	100.0	0.0	2.2	75.0	25.0	0.9	37.5	59.4	0.4
Kurigram	18.8	81.3	0.2	96.9	3.1	1.7	31.3	68.8	0.3	15.6	84.4	0.2
Madaripu	56.3	43.8	0.6	100.0	0.0	2.6	28.1	71.9	0.3	18.8	81.3	0.2
Natore	59.4	40.6	0.6	100.0	0.0	2.0	40.6	59.4	0.4	15.6	84.4	0.2
Netrokona	6.3	93.8	0.1	100.0	0.0	1.9	9.4	90.6	0.1	0.0	100.0	0.0
Sirajganj	21.9	78.1	0.2	100.0	0.0	1.9	37.5	62.5	0.5	3.1	96.9	0.0
Sunamganj	9.4	90.6	0.1	96.9	3.1	2.0	9.4	90.6	0.1	3.1	96.9	0.0
Grand total	34.4	65.6	0.4	99.2	0.8	2.1	26.6	73.4	0.3	11.5	88.5	0.1

Table A4-7. (continued)

District	Refrigerator			Others (car/truck/ CNG/van/rickshaw /Nosimon/Karimon)			Tractor		
	Yes	No	Average	Yes	No	Average	Yes	No	Average
Bagerhat	46.9	53.1	0.5	21.9	78.1	0.3	9.4	90.6	0.3
Bandarban	15.6	84.4	0.2	3.1	96.9	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Barguna	34.4	65.6	0.3	18.8	81.3	0.2	15.6	84.4	0.4
Cox's Bazar	31.3	68.8	0.3	12.5	87.5	0.2	0.0	100.0	0.0
Dhaka	81.3	18.8	0.8	9.4	90.6	0.1	3.1	96.9	0.1
Dinajpur	25.0	75.0	0.3	3.1	96.9	0.0	6.3	93.8	0.2
Kurigram	9.4	90.6	0.1	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Madaripu	34.4	65.6	0.3	12.5	87.5	0.1	6.3	93.8	0.2
Natore	46.9	53.1	0.5	18.8	81.3	0.2	6.3	93.8	0.2
Netrokona	9.4	90.6	0.1	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Sirajganj	53.1	46.9	0.5	3.1	96.9	0.0	9.4	90.6	0.3
Sunamganj	6.3	93.8	0.1	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Grand total	32.8	67.2	0.3	8.6	91.4	1.0	4.7	95.3	0.1

Table A4-8A: Distribution of households having own cultivable land (decimal) by land size category and district

District	No land		Up to 50		51-100		101-150		>151		Overall total number	
	Percent	Number	Number	Percent	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Bagerhat	37.5	12	40.6	13	18.8	6	0.0		3.1	1	100.0	32
Bandarban	56.3	18	6.3	2	6.3	2	3.1	1	28.1	9	100.0	32
Barguna	21.9	7	25.0	8	15.6	5	9.4	3	28.1	9	100.0	32
Cox's Bazar	37.5	12	50.0	16	3.1	1	0.0		9.4	3	100.0	32
Dhaka	28.1	9	43.8	14	18.8	6	6.3	2	3.1	1	100.0	32
Dinajpur	31.3	10	31.3	10	25.0	8	6.3	2	6.3	2	100.0	32
Kurigram	62.5	20	21.9	7	9.4	3	6.3	2	0.0		100.0	32
Madaripu	25.0	8	34.4	11	28.1	9	9.4	3	3.1	1	100.0	32
Natore	37.5	12	25.0	8	18.8	6	9.4	3	9.4	3	100.0	32
Netrokona	46.9	15	28.1	9	3.1	1	9.4	3	12.5	4	100.0	32
Sirajganj	25.0	8	31.3	10	34.4	11	3.1	1	6.3	2	100.0	32
Sunamganj	87.5	28	6.3	2	3.1	1	3.1	1	0.0		100.0	32
Grand total	41.4	159	28.6	110	15.4	59	5.5	21	9.1	35	100.0	384

Table A4-8B: Distribution of households by fish culture pond size category and district (owned, leased or used)

District	No land		1-10		11-20		21-30		31-40		>51		Total	
	Percent	Number	Number	Percent	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Number	Percent	Percent	Number
Bagerhat	34.4	11	9.4	3	15.6	5	9.4	3	15.6	5	15.6	5	100.0	32
Bandarban	96.9	31	3.1	1	0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		100.0	32
Barguna	34.4	11	15.6	5	21.9	7	12.5	4	0.0		15.6	5	100.0	32
Cox's Bazar	90.6	29	3.1	1	3.1	1	0.0		3.1	1	0.0		100.0	32
Dhaka	84.4	27	3.1	1	9.4	3	0.0		3.1	1	0.0		100.0	32
Dinajpur	65.6	21	18.8	6	12.5	4	3.1	1	0.0		0.0		100.0	32
Kurigram	96.9	31	0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		3.1	1	100.0	32
Madaripu	59.4	19	31.3	10	9.4	3	0.0		0.0		0.0		100.0	32
Natore	68.8	22	15.6	5	0.0		3.1	1	6.3	2	6.3	2	100.0	32
Netrokona	78.1	25	6.3	2	0.0		3.1	1	9.4	3	3.1	1	100.0	32
Sirajganj	96.9	31	3.1	1	0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		100.0	32
Sunamganj	84.4	27	12.5	4	3.1	1	0.0		0.0		0.0		100.0	32
Grand total	74.2	285	10.2	39	6.3	24	2.6	10	3.1	12	3.6	14	100.0	384
Hotspot														
Barind and drought	67.2	43	17.2	11	6.3	4	3.1	2	3.1	2	3.1	2	100.0	64
Chittagong Hill Tracts and coast	93.8	60	3.1	2	1.6	1	0.0		1.6	1	0.0		100.0	64
Coast	34.4	22	12.5	8	18.8	12	10.9	7	7.8	5	15.6	10	100.0	64
Cross-cutting	59.4	19	31.3	10	9.4	3	0.0		0.0		0.0		100.0	32
Haor	81.3	52	9.4	6	1.6	1	1.6	1	4.7	3	1.6	1	100.0	64
Major river estuaries/char	96.9	62	1.6	1	0.0		0.0		0.0		1.6	1	100.0	64
Peri/urban	84.4	27	3.1	1	9.4	3	0.0		3.1	1	0.0		100.0	32
Total	74.2	285	10.2	39	6.3	24	2.6	10	3.1	12	3.6	14	100.0	384

Table A4-9: Distribution of decisions taken to visit different places

Visiting places	Response	Female with male respondent		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Who usually decides whether you can go to?							
Urban centre	Self	29	30.21	76	26.39	105	27.34
	Spouse	65	67.71	199	69.10	264	68.75
	Other household member	0	0.00	7	2.43	7	1.82
	Other non-household member	0	0.00	1	0.35	1	0.26
	Not applicable	2	2.08	5	1.74	7	1.82
Market/haat/bazaar	Self	33	34.38	107	37.15	140	36.46
	Spouse	55	57.29	159	55.21	214	55.73
	Other household member	0	0.00	5	1.74	5	1.30
	Not applicable	8	8.33	17	5.90	25	6.51
Visit family or relatives	Self	34	35.42	116	40.28	150	39.06
	Spouse	59	61.46	159	55.21	218	56.77
	Other household member	1	1.04	2	0.69	3	0.78
	Other non-household member	1	1.04	1	0.35	2	0.52
	Not applicable	1	1.04	10	3.47	11	2.86
Visit a friend/ neighbour's house	Self	52	54.17	181	62.85	233	60.68
	Spouse	41	42.71	96	33.33	137	35.68
	Other household member	1	1.04	3	1.04	4	1.04
	Not applicable	2	2.08	8	2.78	10	2.60
Hospital/clinic/ doctor (seek health service)	Self	31	32.29	114	39.58	145	37.76
	Spouse	64	66.67	166	57.64	230	59.90
	Other household member	1	1.04	7	2.43	8	2.08
	Other non-household member	0	0.00	1	0.35	1	0.26

Table A4-9. (continued)

Visiting places	Response	Female with male respondent		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Mosque/temple/ church	Self	31	32.29	96	33.33	127	33.07
	Spouse	14	14.58	72	25.00	86	22.40
	Other household member	0	0.00	1	0.35	1	0.26
	Other non-household member	0	0.00	1	0.35	1	0.26
	Not applicable	51	53.12	118	40.97	169	44.01
Public village gathering or community meeting	Self	28	29.17	90	31.25	118	30.73
	Spouse	46	47.92	139	48.26	185	48.18
	Other household member	0	0.00	3	1.04	3	0.78
	Not applicable	22	22.92	56	19.44	78	20.31
Training for NGO/programs	Self	21	21.88	99	34.38	120	31.25
	Spouse	51	53.12	135	46.88	186	48.44
	Other household member	1	1.04	4	1.39	5	1.30
	Not applicable	23	23.96	50	17.36	73	19.01
Outside your community or village	Self	42	43.75	155	53.82	197	51.30
	Spouse	48	50.00	120	41.67	168	43.75
	Other household member	0	0.00	2	0.69	2	0.52
	Not applicable	6	6.25	11	3.82	17	4.43
Local DWA/DAE/ DoF/DLS office/Vet	Self	24	25.00	88	30.56	112	29.17
	Spouse	47	48.96	137	47.57	184	47.92
	Other household member	0	0.00	5	1.74	5	1.30
	Not applicable	25	26.04	58	20.14	83	21.61

Table A4-9. (continued)

Visiting places	Response	Female with male respondent		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Festival, fair, wedding	Self	32	33.33	125	43.40	157	40.89
	Spouse	64	66.67	160	55.56	224	58.33
	Other household member	0	0.00	1	0.35	1	0.26
	Other non-household member	0	0.00	1	0.35	1	0.26
	Not applicable	0	0.00	1	0.35	1	0.26
Does your husband/partner or other household member object you going alone?							
Urban centre	Yes	16	16.67	44	15.28	60	15.62
	No	80	83.33	244	84.72	324	84.38
Market/haat/bazaar	Yes	15	15.62	36	12.50	51	13.28
	No	81	84.38	252	87.50	333	86.72
Visit family or relatives	Yes	16	16.67	33	11.46	49	12.76
	No	80	83.33	255	88.54	335	87.24
Visit a friend/ neighbour's house	Yes	13	13.54	28	9.72	41	10.68
	No	83	86.46	260	90.28	343	89.32
Hospital/clinic/ doctor (seek health service)	Yes	15	15.62	32	11.11	47	12.24
	No	81	84.38	256	88.89	337	87.76
Mosque/temple/ church	Yes	10	22.22	20	11.76	30	13.95
	No	35	77.78	150	88.24	185	86.05
Public village gathering or community meeting	Yes	19	19.79	52	18.06	71	18.49
	No	77	80.21	236	81.94	313	81.51
Training for NGO/programs	Yes	18	18.75	45	15.62	63	16.41
	No	78	81.25	243	84.38	321	83.59

Table A4-9. (continued)

Visiting places	Response	Female with male respondent		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Outside your community or village	Yes	18	18.75	38	13.19	56	14.58
	No	78	81.25	250	86.81	328	85.42
Local DWA/DAE/DoF/DLS office/Vet	Yes	17	17.71	49	17.01	66	17.19
	No	79	82.29	239	82.99	318	82.81
Festival, fair, wedding	Yes	17	17.71	27	9.38	44	11.46
	No	79	82.29	261	90.62	340	88.54
Under what circumstances would this person NOT object to your going to alone							
Urban centre	If I have company (relatives, children)	64	66.67	172	59.72	236	61.46
	If I can arrange my own expenses (for transport)	10	10.42	13	4.51	23	5.99
	If I follow purdah/dress acceptably	19	19.79	98	34.03	117	30.47
	Other (specify)	2	2.08	4	1.39	6	1.56
	Under no circumstances would I be allowed to go	1	1.04	1	0.35	2	0.52
Market/haat/bazaar	If I have company (relatives, children)	64	66.67	159	55.21	223	58.07
	If I can arrange my own expenses (for transport)	11	11.46	14	4.86	25	6.51
	If I follow purdah/dress acceptably	16	16.67	103	35.76	119	30.99
	Other (specify)	4	4.17	11	3.82	15	3.91
	Under no circumstances would I be allowed to go	1	1.04	1	0.35	2	0.52
Visit family or relatives	If I have company (relatives, children)	70	72.92	164	56.94	234	60.94
	If I can arrange my own expenses (for transport)	7	7.29	16	5.56	23	5.99
	If I follow purdah/dress acceptably	17	17.71	98	34.03	115	29.95
	Other (specify)	2	2.08	10	3.47	12	3.12

Table A4-9. (continued)

Visiting places	Response	Female with male respondent		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Visit a friend/ neighbour's house	If I have company (relatives, children)	62	64.58	149	51.74	211	54.95
	If I can arrange my own expenses (for transport)	10	10.42	12	4.17	22	5.73
	If I follow purdah/dress acceptably	19	19.79	108	37.50	127	33.07
	Other (specify)	5	5.21	19	6.60	24	6.25
Hospital/clinic/ doctor (seek health service)	If I have company (relatives, children)	66	68.75	175	60.76	241	62.76
	If I can arrange my own expenses (for transport)	6	6.25	16	5.56	22	5.73
	If I follow purdah/dress acceptably	23	23.96	96	33.33	119	30.99
	Other (specify)	1	1.04	1	0.35	2	0.52
Mosque/temple/ church	If I have company (relatives, children)	28	62.22	90	52.94	118	54.88
	If I can arrange my own expenses (for transport)	7	15.56	12	7.06	19	8.84
	If I follow purdah/dress acceptably	9	20.00	66	38.82	75	34.88
	Other (specify)	1	2.22	2	1.18	3	1.40
Public village gathering or community meeting	If I have company (relatives, children)	57	59.38	155	53.82	212	55.21
	If I can arrange my own expenses (for transport)	10	10.42	14	4.86	24	6.25
	If I follow purdah/dress acceptably	21	21.88	97	33.68	118	30.73
	Other (specify)	6	6.25	18	6.25	24	6.25
	Under no circumstances would I be allowed to go	2	2.08	4	1.39	6	1.56

Table A4-9. (continued)

Visiting places	Response	Female with male respondent		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Training for NGO/programs	If I have company (relatives, children)	59	61.46	151	52.43	210	54.69
	If I can arrange my own expenses (for transport)	9	9.38	15	5.21	24	6.25
	If I follow purdah/dress acceptably	21	21.88	105	36.46	126	32.81
	Other (specify)	4	4.17	14	4.86	18	4.69
	Under no circumstances would I be allowed to go	3	3.12	3	1.04	6	1.56
Outside your community or village	If I have company (relatives, children)	60	62.50	159	55.21	219	57.03
	If I can arrange my own expenses (for transport)	9	9.38	15	5.21	24	6.25
	If I follow purdah/dress acceptably	23	23.96	102	35.42	125	32.55
	Other (specify)	4	4.17	11	3.82	15	3.91
	Under no circumstances would I be allowed to go			1	0.35	1	0.26
Local DWA/DAE/DoF/DLS office/Vet	If I have company (relatives, children)	62	64.58	153	53.12	215	55.99
	If I can arrange my own expenses (for transport)	9	9.38	19	6.60	28	7.29
	If I follow purdah/dress acceptably	19	19.79	97	33.68	116	30.21
	Other (specify)	5	5.21	18	6.25	23	5.99
	Under no circumstances would I be allowed to go	1	1.04	1	0.35	2	0.52
Festival, fair, wedding	If I have company (relatives, children)	64	66.67	167	57.99	231	60.16
	If I can arrange my own expenses (for transport)	11	11.46	24	8.33	35	9.11
	If I follow purdah/dress acceptably	20	20.83	97	33.68	117	30.47
	Other (specify)	1	1.04			1	0.26

Table A4-9. (continued)

Visiting places	Response	Female with male respondent		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Do these objections prevent you from going alone?							
Urban centre	Yes	13	13.54	49	17.01	62	16.15
	No	83	86.46	239	82.99	322	83.85
Market/haat/bazaar	Yes	17	17.71	38	13.19	55	14.32
	No	79	82.29	250	86.81	329	85.68
Visit family or relatives	Yes	16	16.67	38	13.19	54	14.06
	No	80	83.33	250	86.81	330	85.94
Visit a friend/ neighbour's house	Yes	10	10.42	25	8.68	35	9.11
	No	86	89.58	263	91.32	349	90.89
Hospital/clinic/ doctor (seek health service)	Yes	14	14.58	31	10.76	45	11.72
	No	82	85.42	257	89.24	339	88.28
Mosque/temple/ church	Yes	9	20.00	27	15.88	36	16.74
	No	36	80.00	143	84.12	179	83.26
Public village gathering or community meeting	Yes	19	19.79	43	14.93	62	16.15
	No	77	80.21	245	85.07	322	83.85
Training for NGO/programs	Yes	15	15.62	40	13.89	55	14.32
	No	81	84.38	248	86.11	329	85.68
Outside your community or village	Yes	17	17.71	37	12.85	54	14.06
	No	79	82.29	251	87.15	330	85.94
Local DWA/DAE/ DoF/DLS office/Vet	Yes	16	16.67	47	16.32	63	16.41
	No	80	83.33	241	83.68	321	83.59
Festival, fair, wedding	Yes	17	17.71	36	12.50	53	13.80
	No	79	82.29	252	87.50	331	86.20

Table A4-9. (continued)

Visiting places	Response	Female with male respondent		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Who usually accompanies?							
Urban centre	Spouse	63	65.62	175	60.76	238	61.98
	Mother/father-in-law	1	1.04	4	1.39	5	1.30
	Son/daughter	16	16.67	92	31.94	108	28.12
	Neighbour/PG members	1	1.04	2	0.69	3	0.78
	Others	15	15.62	15	5.21	30	7.81
Market/haat/bazaar	Spouse	56	58.33	141	48.96	197	51.30
	Mother/father-in-law	2	2.08	3	1.04	5	1.30
	Son/daughter	16	16.67	98	34.03	114	29.69
	Neighbour/PG members	6	6.25	7	2.43	13	3.39
	Others (specify...)	16	16.67	39	13.54	55	14.32
Visit family or relatives	Spouse	63	65.62	139	48.26	202	52.60
	Mother/father-in-law	2	2.08	4	1.39	6	1.56
	Son/daughter	28	29.17	122	42.36	150	39.06
	Others	3	3.12	23	7.99	26	6.77
Visit a friend/ neighbour's house	Spouse	37	38.54	94	32.64	131	34.11
	Mother/father-in-law	2	2.08	2	0.69	4	1.04
	Son/daughter	28	29.17	110	38.19	138	35.94
	Neighbour/PG members	7	7.29	17	5.90	24	6.25
	Others	22	22.92	65	22.57	87	22.66

Table A4-9. (continued)

Visiting places	Response	Female with male respondent		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hospital/clinic/ doctor (seek health service)	Spouse	79	82.29	177	61.46	256	66.67
	Mother/father-in-law			1	0.35	1	0.26
	Sister-in-law	1	1.04			1	0.26
	Son/daughter	13	13.54	87	30.21	100	26.04
	Neighbour/PG members			7	2.43	7	1.82
	Others	3	3.12	16	5.56	19	4.95
Mosque/temple/ church	Spouse	20	44.44	79	46.47	99	46.05
	Mother/father-in-law	2	4.44	2	1.18	4	1.86
	Sister-in-law		0.00	1	0.59	1	0.47
	Son/daughter	5	11.11	50	29.41	55	25.58
	Neighbour/PG members	10	22.22	29	17.06	39	18.14
	Others	8	17.78	9	5.29	17	7.91
Public village gathering or community meeting	Spouse	45	46.88	110	38.19	155	40.36
	Mother/father-in-law			2	0.69	2	0.52
	Son/daughter	13	13.54	70	24.31	83	21.61
	Brother			1	0.35	1	0.26
	Neighbour/PG members	17	17.71	62	21.53	79	20.57
	Others	21	21.88	43	14.93	64	16.67
Training for NGO/programs	Spouse	52	54.17	111	38.54	163	42.45
	Mother/father-in-law	4	4.17	2	0.69	6	1.56
	Son/daughter	13	13.54	101	35.07	114	29.69
	Neighbour/PG members	8	8.33	30	10.42	38	9.90
	Others (specify...)	19	19.79	44	15.28	63	16.41

Table A4-9. (continued)

Visiting places	Response	Female with male respondent		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Local DWA/DAE/ DoF/DLS office/Vet	Spouse	52	54.17	159	55.21	211	54.95
	Mother/father-in-law	1	1.04	4	1.39	5	1.30
	Son/daughter	13	13.54	51	17.71	64	16.67
	Neighbour/PG members	10	10.42	40	13.89	50	13.02
	Others (specify...)	20	20.83	34	11.81	54	14.06
Festival, fair, wedding	Spouse	65	67.71	161	55.90	226	58.85
	Mother/father-in-law	2	2.08			2	0.52
	Son/daughter	19	19.79	101	35.07	120	31.25
	Neighbour/PG members	8	8.33	22	7.64	30	7.81
	Others (specify...)	2	2.08	4	1.39	6	1.56

Table A4-10: Types of adversities faced by the people due to various disasters in last 24 months

Difficulties the household faced with crop production in last 24 months			Difficulties the household faced with livestock production in the last 24 months		
Sl. No.	Description	Respondent (%)	Sl. No.	Description	Respondent (%)
1	None	14.3	1	None	43.2
2	Plant disease	32.6	2	Difficulty to purchase feed [prices or access to market]	21.4
3	Low quality of seeds	27.9	3	Access to pasture	15.4
4	Crop damage [e.g. by pests, animals or bandits] other than plant disease during growing season	56.3	4	Access to water	12.5
5	Access to fertilizer [not available on markets or prices too high]	10.4	5	Access to veterinary services	21.6
6	Access to enough seeds [not available on markets or prices too high]	27.6	6	Access to veterinary inputs [medicine for animals/tools for animal health/etc.]	19.8
7	Access to insecticides	21.1	7	Livestock diseases or death	23.2
8	Access to labour or manpower	18.5	8	Livestock theft	3.6
9	Access to machinery, tools or animals for ploughing	20.1	9	Access to livestock market to buy young animals	6.0
10	Access to fuel or electricity to power agricultural quipment	18.5	10	Access to credit	4.4
11	Soil erosion	13.3	11	Labour too expensive or income insufficient to hire labour or labourers are unavailable	10.2
12	Not enough irrigation or rainfall water	5.0	12	Other	2.1
13	Other	8.6	13	REFUSED	1.0
14	DON'T KNOW	3.1			

Table A4-10. (continued)

Difficulties the household faced with fisheries and aquaculture production in the last 24 months			Difficulties the household faced in the last 24 months when selling agro products		
Sl. No.	Description	Respondent (%)	Sl. No.	Description	Respondent (%)
1	None	76.8	1	None	30.7
2	Fish is more difficult to find than in previous years in the same sea	9.6	2	High transportation or other marketing costs	39.1
3	Impossible to go out fishing [e.g. due to weather conditions, COVID-19 restrictions]	6.3	3	Damage and losses due to storage difficulties or delays or inability to physically access markets	25.0
4	Access to fuel [prices higher or not available]	2.1	4	Difficulty accessing the market [e.g. insecurity, closure due to COVID-19 restrictions, etc.]	33.1
5	Access to fishing material and-or other inputs [prices higher or not available]	8.1	5	Usual traders or local customers are not buying as much as usual/payment delays	25.3
6	Labour too expensive or income insufficient to hire labour	3.1	6	Low selling prices [e.g. compared to input prices/inflation]	51.6
7	Other	21.1	7	Difficulty processing product [lack of processing inputs/ equipment/slaughter facilities etc.]	11.7
8	DON'T KNOW	0.5	8	Less production	0.5

Table A4-10. (continued)

Greatest needs for assistance for the household in the next 3 to 6 months					
Sl. No.	Description	Respondent (%)	Sl. No.	Description	Respondent (%)
1	None	8.6	13	Support for processing product	9.1
2	Seeds	60.2	14	Support for transportation of animals or animal product [e.g. cold chains for milk]	5.7
3	Fertilizers	66.9	15	Access to tractors	11.2
4	Pesticides	52.6	16	Marketing support	21.6
5	Tools	24.2	17	Cash or food assistance	39.3
6	Access to irrigation water	20.1	18	Loans	20.6
7	Access to land	12.5	19	Storage equipment or facility [bags/containers/etc.]	6.0
8	Animal feed	22.7	20	Technical support or extension services	12.2
9	Veterinary services	15.6	21	Land rehabilitation [in case of a disaster]	3.6
10	Veterinary inputs	14.8	22	Access to boats (new or repair of existing boats), fishing equipment and supplies	5.2
11	Sales of animals with minimum guaranteed price	8.3	23	Information on safety measures in the context of the COVID-19 epidemic	3.9
12	Restocking animals	10.7	24	Other [e.g. ration card, dairy, tube-well etc.]	4.2

Table A4-11A: Household food security

Description	Response	Male		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
During the last 12 months, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you or others in your household were worried about not having enough food to eat?	Yes	16	16.67	100	34.72	116	30.21
	No	80	83.33	187	64.93	267	69.53
	Don't			1	0.35	1	0.26
During the last 12 months, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you or others in your household were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food?	Yes	37	38.54	145	50.35	182	47.40
	No	59	61.46	143	49.65	202	52.60
During the last 12 months, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you or others in your household ate only a few kinds of foods?	Yes	27	28.12	111	38.54	138	35.94
	No	69	71.88	177	61.46	246	64.06
During the last 12 months, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you or others in your household had to skip a meal?	Yes	5	5.21	29	10.07	34	8.85
	No	91	94.79	259	89.93	350	91.15
During the last 12 months, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you or others in your household ate less than you thought you should?	Yes	8	8.33	51	17.71	59	15.36
	No	88	91.67	237	82.29	325	84.64
During the last 12 months, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you or others in your household ran out of food?	Yes	8	8.33	39	13.54	47	12.24
	No	88	91.67	247	85.76	335	87.24
	Refused			2	0.69	2	0.52
How often did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	Not applicable	88	91.67	249	86.46	337	87.76
	Rarely	1	1.04	15	5.21	16	4.17
	Somewhat	5	5.21	5	1.74	10	2.60
	Often			6	2.08	6	1.56
	Refused	2	2.08	13	4.51	15	3.91

Table A4-11A. (continued)

Description	Response	Male		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
During the last 12 months, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you or others in your household were hungry but did not eat?	Yes	7	7.29	35	12.15	42	10.94
	No	89	92.71	252	87.50	341	88.80
	Refused			1	0.35	1	0.26
How often did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	Not applicable	89	92.71	253	87.85	342	89.06
	Rarely	2	2.08	13	4.51	15	3.91
	Somewhat	2	2.08	8	2.78	10	2.60
	Often			2	0.69	2	0.52
	Don't know	1	1.04	1	0.35	2	0.52
	Refused	2	2.08	11	3.82	13	3.39
During the last 12 months, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you or others in your household went without eating for a whole day?	Yes	3	3.12	8	2.78	11	2.86
	No	93	96.88	280	97.22	373	97.14
How often did this happen in the past 4 weeks (30 days)?	Not applicable	93	96.88	280	97.22	373	97.14
	Rarely	1	1.04	3	1.04	4	1.04
	Somewhat	1	1.04	3	1.04	4	1.04
	Often			1	0.35	1	0.26
	Refused	1	1.04	1	0.35	2	0.52

Table A4-11B: Household coping strategy in adversities of food availability

Description	Response	Male		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sell non-productive household assets/goods (clothes, carpet, furniture, radio, television, refrigerator, jewelry, etc.)	Yes	1	1.04	4	1.39	5	1.3
	No – because it wasn't necessary	78	81.25	230	79.86	308	80.21
	Not applicable	11	11.46	39	13.54	50	13.02
	Refused	6	6.25	15	5.21	21	5.47
Spend savings and skipped debt payment	Yes	11	11.46	39	13.54	50	13.02
	No – because it wasn't necessary	69	71.88	222	77.08	291	75.78
	Not applicable	14	14.58	20	6.94	34	8.85
	Refused	2	2.08	7	2.43	9	2.34
Sell more animals (non-productive) than usual (on a sustainable basis)	Yes	4	4.17	19	6.6	23	5.99
	No – because it wasn't necessary	75	78.12	230	79.86	305	79.43
	Not applicable	14	14.58	26	9.03	40	10.42
	Refused	3	3.12	13	4.51	16	4.17
Borrow money (from a formal lender/bank/non-relatives)	Yes	21	21.88	56	19.44	77	20.05
	No – because it wasn't necessary	69	71.88	211	73.26	280	72.92
	Not applicable	5	5.21	15	5.21	20	5.21
	Refused	1	1.04	6	2.08	7	1.82
Purchase food on credit or borrowed food	Yes	18	18.75	42	14.58	60	15.62
	No – because it wasn't necessary	70	72.92	221	76.74	291	75.78
	Not applicable	4	4.17	14	4.86	18	4.69
	Refused	4	4.17	11	3.82	15	3.91

Table A4-11B. (continued)

Description	Response	Male		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Engage in fishing, hunting, or gathering wild food more than normal	Yes	4	4.17	13	4.51	17	4.43
	No – because it wasn't necessary	63	65.62	207	71.88	270	70.31
	Not applicable	25	26.04	53	18.41	78	20.31
	Refused	4	4.17	15	5.21	19	4.95
Sell productive assets or means of transport (sewing machine, wheelbarrow, tools, animals, bicycle, motorbike, car, etc)	Yes	4	4.17	9	3.12	13	3.39
	No – because it wasn't necessary	70	72.92	227	78.82	297	77.34
	Not applicable	19	19.79	39	13.54	58	15.1
	Refused	3	3.12	13	4.51	16	4.17
Withdraw one or more children from school	Yes	4	4.17	7	2.43	11	2.86
	No – because it wasn't necessary	80	83.33	239	82.99	319	83.07
	Not applicable	10	10.42	28	9.73	38	9.9
	Refused	2	2.08	14	4.86	16	4.17
Reduce essential non-food expenses on health (including drugs) and education	Yes	9	9.38	44	15.28	53	13.8
	No – because it wasn't necessary	83	86.46	228	79.17	311	80.99
	Not applicable	2	2.08	10	3.47	12	3.12
	Refused	2	2.08	6	2.08	8	2.08
Harvest immature crops (e.g. green maize) to eat	Yes	1	1.04	32	11.11	33	8.59
	No – because it wasn't necessary	87	90.62	231	80.21	318	82.81
	Not applicable	4	4.17	12	4.17	16	4.17
	Refused	4	4.17	13	4.52	17	4.43

Table A4-11B. (continued)

Description	Response	Male		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Consume seed stocks that were to be held/saved for the next planting season	Yes	9	9.38	34	11.81	43	11.2
	No – because it wasn't necessary	82	85.42	236	81.94	318	82.81
	Not applicable	1	1.04	2	0.7	3	0.78
	Refused	4	4.17	16	5.56	20	5.21
Decrease expenditures on agricultural inputs (fertilizer, pesticide, fodder, animal feed, veterinary care, water for livestock, fishing net etc)	Yes	14	14.58	53	18.4	67	17.45
	No – because it wasn't necessary	78	81.25	218	75.69	296	77.08
	Not applicable	2	2.08	8	2.78	10	2.6
	Refused	2	2.08	9	3.12	11	2.86
Slaughter more animals than normal	Yes	1	1.04	5	1.74	6	1.56
	No – because it wasn't necessary	80	83.33	233	80.9	313	81.51
	Not applicable	13	13.54	39	13.54	52	13.54
	Refused	2	2.08	11	3.82	13	3.39
Depend on food rations and/or support from neighbours and relatives as only food/income source	Yes	2	2.08	16	5.56	18	4.69
	No – because it wasn't necessary	87	90.62	249	86.46	336	87.5
	Not applicable	2	2.08	9	3.12	12	3.12
	Refused	4	4.17	14	4.86	18	4.69
Send household member to work far away	Yes	4	4.17	22	7.64	26	6.77
	No – because it wasn't necessary	81	84.38	221	76.74	302	78.65
	Not applicable	7	7.29	30	10.42	37	9.64
	Refused	4	4.17	15	5.21	19	4.95

Table A4-11B. (continued)

Description	Response	Male		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Casual/sell labour/piecework	Yes	12	12.5	73	25.35	85	22.14
	No – because it wasn't necessary	76	79.17	187	64.93	263	68.49
	Not applicable	6	6.25	24	8.33	30	7.81
	Refused	2	2.08	4	1.39	6	1.56
Mortgage/sell house or land (cultivable)	Yes	5	5.21	3	1.04	8	2.08
	No – because it wasn't necessary	82	85.42	248	86.11	330	85.94
	Not applicable	6	6.25	24	8.33	30	7.81
	Refused	3	3.12	13	4.51	16	4.17
Beg	No – because it wasn't necessary	74	77.08	220	76.39	294	76.56
	Not applicable	19	19.79	54	18.75	73	19.01
	Refused	3	3.12	14	4.86	17	4.43
Sell last female animals	Yes	6	6.25	6	2.08	12	3.12
	No – because it wasn't necessary	69	71.88	216	75	285	74.22
	Not applicable	19	19.79	55	19.09	72	19.27
	Refused	2	2.08	11	3.82	13	3.39
Migrate (not typical migration for job search, entire or big part >50% members of household)	Yes	1	1.04	4	1.39	5	1.3
	No – because it wasn't necessary	84	87.5	242	84.03	326	84.9
	Not applicable	8	8.33	29	10.07	37	9.64
	Refused	3	3.12	13	4.51	16	4.17

Table A4-11B. (continued)

Description	Response	Male		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sell the last draught animal or power tiller	Yes	2	2.08	3	1.04	5	1.3
	No – because it wasn't necessary	67	69.79	212	73.61	279	72.66
	Not applicable	25	26.04	64	22.22	89	23.18
	Refused	2	2.08	9	3.12	11	2.86
Marry-off children under 18 (earlier than intended)	Yes			1	0.35	1	0.26
	No – because it wasn't necessary	78	81.25	232	80.56	310	80.73
	Not applicable	16	16.67	41	14.59	57	15.1
	Refused	2	2.08	13	4.51	15	3.91

Table A4-12: Distribution of households agreed to achieve the goals

Statement	Response	Male		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
I will be able to achieve most of the goals that I have set for myself.	Strongly disagree	0	0.00	1	0.35	1	0.26
	Disagree	2	2.08	12	4.17	14	3.65
	Neither agree nor disagree	16	16.67	36	12.50	52	13.54
	Agree	54	56.25	200	69.44	254	66.15
	Strongly agree	24	25.00	39	13.54	63	16.41

Table A4-12. (continued)

Statement	Response	Male		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
When facing difficult tasks, I am certain that I will accomplish them.	Strongly disagree	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Disagree	7	7.29	10	3.47	17	4.43
	Neither agree nor disagree	14	14.58	47	16.32	61	15.89
	Agree	51	53.12	191	66.32	242	63.02
	Strongly agree	24	25.00	40	13.89	64	16.67
In general, I think that I can obtain outcomes that are important to me.	Strongly disagree	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Disagree	2	2.08	4	1.39	6	1.56
	Neither agree nor disagree	11	11.46	35	12.15	46	11.98
	Agree	62	64.58	221	76.74	283	73.70
	Strongly agree	21	21.88	28	9.72	49	12.76
I believe I can succeed at most any endeavour to which I set my mind.	Strongly disagree	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Disagree	3	3.12	2	0.69	5	1.30
	Neither agree nor disagree	8	8.33	31	10.76	39	10.16
	Agree	63	65.62	210	72.92	273	71.09
	Strongly agree	22	22.92	45	15.62	67	17.45
I will be able to successfully overcome many challenges.	Strongly disagree	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Disagree	0	0.00	5	1.74	5	1.30
	Neither agree nor disagree	17	17.71	39	13.54	56	14.58
	Agree	55	57.29	204	70.83	259	67.45
	Strongly agree	24	25.00	40	13.89	64	16.67

Table A4-12. (continued)

Statement	Response	Male		Female		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
I am confident that I can perform effectively on many different tasks.	Strongly disagree	0	0.00	1	0.35	1	0.26
	Disagree	2	2.08	4	1.39	6	1.56
	Neither agree nor disagree	9	9.38	36	12.50	45	11.72
	Agree	60	62.50	212	73.61	272	70.83
	Strongly agree	25	26.04	35	12.15	60	15.62
Compared to other people, I can do most tasks very well.	Strongly disagree	0	0.00	1	0.35	1	0.26
	Disagree	0	0.00	12	4.17	12	3.12
	Neither agree nor disagree	12	12.50	34	11.81	46	11.98
	Agree	58	60.42	199	69.10	257	66.93
	Strongly agree	26	27.08	42	14.58	68	17.71
Even when things are tough, I can perform quite well.	Strongly disagree	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Disagree	2	2.08	8	2.78	10	2.60
	Neither agree nor disagree	12	12.50	37	12.85	49	12.76
	Agree	59	61.46	213	73.96	272	70.83
	Strongly agree	23	23.96	30	10.42	53	13.80

COUNTRY GENDER ASSESSMENT SERIES

ASIA AND
THE PACIFIC

The FAO Country Gender Assessment series provides updated insights, based on available sex-disaggregated data, on the main gender dimensions of the agriculture and rural sector by country. In alignment with the FAO Policy on Gender Equality 2020-2030, the Assessment describes women's and men's specific roles and opportunities in agriculture and rural development, and explores the impact of existing gender inequalities. Through a detailed analysis of the various subsectors, the policy framework and the main national stakeholders, it offers concrete recommendations to the government, FAO and other relevant partners for strengthening the integration of gender equality dimensions in agricultural and rural development policies and programmes.

ISBN 978-92-5-138197-7 ISSN 2710-1622



9 789251 381977

CC7938EN/1/12.23