Protection, Assistance and durable solutions to People Internally Displaced Due to Disasters in Bangladesh

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Immediate humanitarian relief and early recovery are options. However, concerns remain regarding gender sensitivity and the durability of these protection interventions.

Resilience as the result of absorptive, adaptive and transformative capacities

onset of DISASTERS is either slow or sudden

> proactive   > reactive
PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE for durable solution

PART 1
FLOOD

PART 2
DROUGHT

PART 3
CYCLONE & SALINITY

PART 4
SOCIAL EXCLUSION

DISASTER CONTEXT

INNOVATION and SUCCESS
PART 1

FLOOD

In __ years
Displaced __ times

Siddik
30
8

Najma
30
3

Aiyub
20
5

Shohagi
35
3

Faridpur
PART 1
FLOOD
Faridpur
PART 2
DROUGHT
Naogaon

7 months of lean period and 3.5 months of work

Labour sold in advance = debt
PART 2
DROUGHT

Naogaon

After 3 years, 76 households needed no more loans.
PART 3
CYCLONE & SALINITY

Kalapara

Loss of households and livelihoods

Seasonal or permanent migration

32% of slum dwellers in Dhaka comes from Barisal and Faridpur
PART 3
CYCLONE & SALINITY

Kalapara

Coastal Embankment Movement for sweet water preservation

10 dams built to preserve fresh water for crop diversification helped 441 farmers
Choten Rakhain (47) lives outside the embankment in government-built cluster house. With family, he was displaced several times due to disasters. Monsoon tide floods his dwelling every 15 days. Recently, CDMP is providing assistance to renovating the houses but in the same vulnerable place.

Outside embankment
Exposed to tidal surge
Protection given but
No durable solution
A culture of silence
We invested in developing women leadership. Women’s group led an adaptation plan, and changed community’s perception of women in the context of resilience.

ActionAid received ‘Lighthouse Award’ from UNFCCC in 2013.
1) Quality vs quantity – donors preference? For durable solutions?

2) Linking shorter term response to longer term rehabilitation – to enable their transformative capacity

3) Urban poverty is almost absent in policy discourses i.e. PRSP and Five year plan; focus is still on rural poverty
ACTIONAID POSITION

1) Migration is a problem. But we should not treat it as negative to development.

2) Need to look for solutions that are durable and context specific. It may not be necessarily a win-win situation always, as we should have certain biasness to the most vulnerable.

3) Need to think about and redesign our development interventions to include the perspectives of human mobility.
1) Displaced people face persistent insecurity of basic services. The gender difference in suffering are clear. Government must support these groups with social safety net programs.

2) Migration as adaptation: Supporting migration within and out the country, and protecting the most vulnerable

3) Migration to another exposed areas does not solve the problem, so Government should develop a rehabilitation/settlement/relocation policy and mechanism to prevent and alleviate the negative impacts of further displacement.

4) A major portion of internal migrants end up in urban slums. Urban poverty should be addressed in 7th FYP.
Thank you!

For more:

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Video (links embedded):