
BASELINE STUDY REPORT

Baseline Study

Assessing Non-Economic Loss and Damage (NELD), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), and Social Cohesion among Dalit and Marginalised Communities

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Acronyms

Acronym	Full Form
CJRF	Climate Justice Resilience Fund
CPP	Cyclone Preparedness Programme
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ELD	Economic Loss and Damage
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
IPCC AR6	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Sixth Assessment Report
KII	Key Informant Interview
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
NAP	National Adaptation Plan (Bangladesh)
NELD	Non-Economic Loss and Damage
NEL	Non-Economic Loss
PIO	Upazila Project Implementation Officer
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
SRH / SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health / Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNO	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Executive Summary

Parittran is implementing the "Climate Change and Gender Justice" project in Paikgacha Upazila, Khulna District, with support from the New Venture Fund under the Climate Justice Resilience Fund (CJRF). This baseline study was commissioned to establish gender- and climate-sensitive benchmark evidence on Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), social cohesion, resilience capacity, and Non-Economic Loss and Damage (NELD) among Dalit and marginalised communities in Paikgacha Municipality and the unions of Soladana, Loskor, Raruli and Chandkhali.

The study applied a mixed-method, cross-sectional design combining a structured household survey instrument, four Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) reaching 84 participants, and seven Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with local government, health, GBV response, and community stakeholders. This report consolidates the qualitative evidence generated through the FGDs and KIIs, read alongside the inception report's methodology and survey framework, into a single baseline narrative.

The findings confirm that Paikgacha is a climate hotspot shaped by recurrent cyclones, salinity intrusion, tidal flooding, and prolonged waterlogging. These hazards translate into significant economic losses, but the baseline's central finding is the scale of non-economic loss and damage that remains entirely outside current response systems: communities reported 0% NELD-specific support during or after disasters, even as they described profound erosion of dignity, identity, mental well-being, safety and social cohesion. Notably, communities are highly literate in economic loss and damage but have "no understanding about NELD" as a distinct concept, indicating that the barrier to addressing NELD is the absence of a localised framework and vocabulary, not an absence of lived experience.

Gender-based violence was consistently reported to increase during and after climate shocks, driven by displacement, overcrowded and unsafe shelters, economic stress, and water-collection related exposure. An estimated 90% of GBV-affected individuals do not report incidents, and existing response mechanisms remain largely male-dominated and difficult for Dalit and marginalised households to access. Sexual and reproductive health services exist on paper at Upazila, Union and Ward levels, but real accessibility for target communities is undermined by cost, distance, stigma, a shortage of trained female providers, and a complete absence of service continuity during emergencies.

Social cohesion findings reveal a duality: strong informal, community-led mutual support (youth CPP volunteers, women's groups, community-led evacuation) coexists with formal exclusion of Dalit and marginalised households from union disaster management committees and government-led relief coordination. Respondents described an outright absence of trust between communities and local authorities.

Policy and institutional mapping confirms that Bangladesh currently has no dedicated national or local policy addressing NELD. Existing climate and disaster risk reduction frameworks do not recognise non-economic dimensions of loss, and respondents identified this as both a significant gap and a substantial opportunity for policy advocacy.

Based on these findings, the report recommends: (i) building community and institutional understanding of NELD; (ii) developing localised NELD indicators and measurement tools; (iii) integrating NELD into climate adaptation and DRR planning; (iv) strengthening GBV prevention, referral and survivor-support systems; (v) improving SRHR access for women, adolescent girls and Dalit communities; (vi) institutionalising the inclusion of Dalit and marginalised groups in local disaster governance; and (vii) advocating for a dedicated national NELD policy framework. These recommendations form the evidence base for the project's subsequent implementation, MEL system, and policy engagement under the CJRF-funded programme.

1. Introduction

1.1 Project Overview

Climate change is increasingly recognised not only as an environmental challenge but also as a driver of profound social, economic and human rights impacts. While considerable attention has been given to economic losses resulting from climate-related hazards, there is growing global recognition that many of the most significant consequences cannot be quantified in monetary terms. These Non-Economic Loss and Damage (NELD) include the loss of health and wellbeing, cultural identity, traditional knowledge, social cohesion, dignity, sense of place, and psychological wellbeing. Such losses are often irreversible, accumulate over time, and disproportionately affect socially excluded populations whose vulnerabilities are shaped by structural inequalities.

Bangladesh, one of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, experiences recurrent cyclones, tidal flooding, salinity intrusion, waterlogging and other slow- and rapid-onset climate hazards that increasingly threaten both livelihoods and human development. These climate impacts intersect with existing social inequalities, reinforcing patterns of poverty, exclusion and discrimination. Among the populations most affected are Dalit and other marginalised communities, who frequently face multiple and overlapping forms of disadvantage arising from caste-based discrimination, limited access to public services, insecure livelihoods, inadequate representation in local governance, and restricted access to resources and opportunities.

Climate-induced stress also exacerbates existing gender inequalities. Evidence increasingly demonstrates that disasters and climate shocks contribute to heightened risks of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including domestic violence, sexual harassment, exploitation, child marriage and other forms of gendered harm. At the same time, disruptions to health systems and essential services reduce access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), particularly for women, adolescent girls and other vulnerable groups, undermining their health, dignity and autonomy. These impacts are often compounded during and after disasters when displacement, overcrowded shelters, loss of livelihoods and weakened protection mechanisms create additional risks.

Beyond individual impacts, climate change also influences the social fabric of communities. Recurrent hazards can either strengthen collective solidarity through mutual support or erode trust, participation and cooperation where competition over scarce resources, unequal access to assistance and social exclusion become more pronounced. Understanding social cohesion is therefore critical for assessing community

resilience, particularly among historically marginalised populations whose participation in local decision-making and disaster governance is often limited.

Although international climate policy under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) increasingly recognises Non-Economic Loss and Damage as a critical dimension of Loss and Damage, practical evidence from local contexts remains limited, particularly regarding its intersections with gender justice, SRHR and social inclusion. Generating locally grounded evidence is therefore essential for informing climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, social protection and equitable Loss and Damage responses that address both material and non-material dimensions of climate impacts.

Against this backdrop, this baseline study examines the interconnections between Non-Economic Loss and Damage (NELD), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), and social cohesion among Dalit and marginalised communities in Paikgacha Upazila, Khulna District. By documenting lived experiences, institutional perspectives and community priorities, the study establishes an evidence base to support inclusive programme implementation, monitoring and learning, while contributing to broader policy discussions on climate justice, gender equality and locally led responses to climate-induced Loss and Damage

Parittran, a nongovernmental human rights and development organisation working with and for Dalit communities in Bangladesh, is implementing the "Climate Change and Gender Justice" project with support from the New Venture Fund under the Climate Justice Resilience Fund (CJRF). To establish benchmark data for monitoring and evaluation, Parittran commissioned an independent consultant to conduct a baseline survey combining quantitative and qualitative methods.

The baseline study aims to establish a comprehensive, gender-responsive and climate-sensitive evidence base across five thematic domains: gender-based violence (GBV); sexual and reproductive health (SRH); social cohesion and community participation; climate-related non-economic loss and damage (NELD); and the resilience capacities of Dalit and marginalised communities. The evidence generated will underpin the project's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) system, inform adaptive programming, and contribute to national and international policy dialogue on gender justice and climate-induced loss and damage.

1.2 Study Area and Target Groups

The baseline was conducted in Paikgacha Municipality and the unions of Soladana, Loskor, Raruli and Chandkhali, under Paikgacha Upazila, Khulna District, in Bangladesh's south-western coastal belt. This area is among the country's most climate-vulnerable regions, facing compounding impacts of salinity intrusion, cyclones, tidal flooding, prolonged waterlogging, and freshwater scarcity.

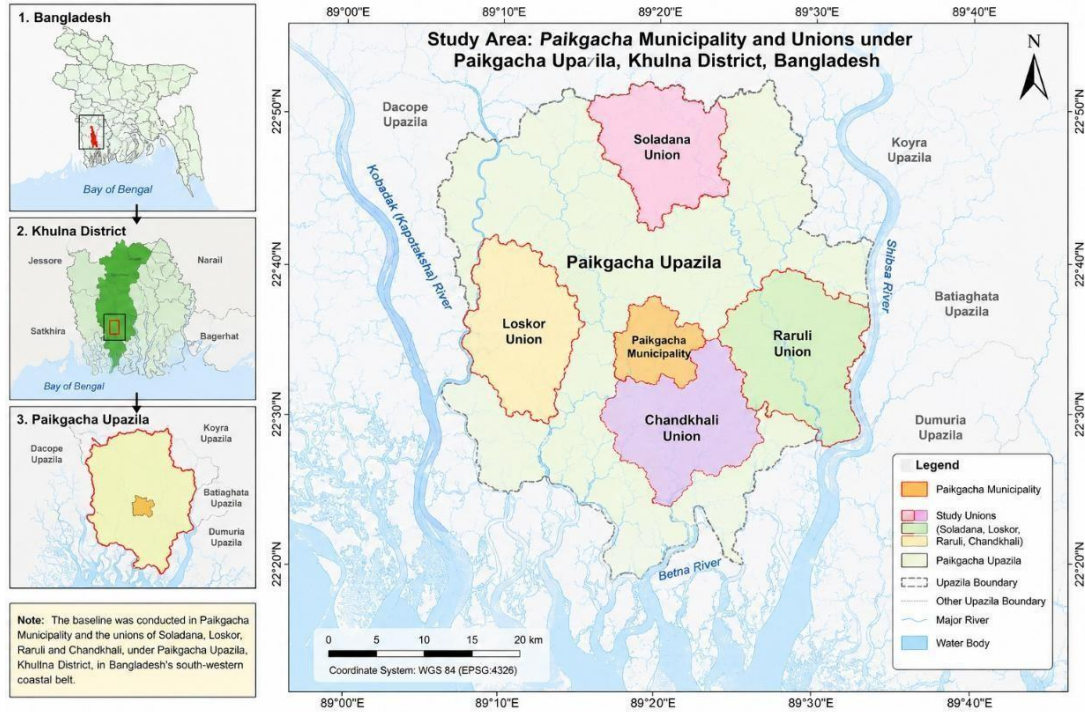


Figure 1: Study area, Paikgacha Municipality and target unions, Khulna District

The primary target group for the study is Dalit and marginalised communities, with a deliberate gender-transformative lens prioritising women and young women aged 18–35, who carry disproportionate burdens of caregiving, safety risk, and restricted mobility during and after climate shocks. Men, youth, elderly people, and persons with disabilities were also engaged to capture a comparative and comprehensive picture of vulnerability.

1.3 Rationale: Climate Stressors, Gender Justice and NELD in Paikgacha

Bangladesh's National Adaptation Plan (NAP 2023–2050) identifies salinity intrusion, recurrent cyclones, tidal flooding, and prolonged waterlogging as major drivers of vulnerability in the south-western coastal belt. While these hazards generate significant economic losses, their deeper and often less visible consequences lie in the realm of Non-Economic Loss and Damage (NELD), i.e. erosion of dignity, loss of cultural identity, diminished safety (particularly for women), and growing mental health burdens.

In Bangladesh, the Dalit community's ethnic identification is absent from national censuses, reflecting the complexity of their marginalisation. Constrained by hereditary occupations, limited economic prospects, and entrenched societal bias, Dalit and other marginalised communities face layered and intersecting vulnerabilities that climate impacts intensify. UNFCCC technical framing recognises non-economic losses as central to the Loss & Damage discourse, yet these remain difficult to measure and operationalise in locally meaningful, policy-usable ways. This baseline study addresses that gap by generating grounded evidence directly from affected communities and the institutions meant to serve them.

2. Conceptual Framework and Definitions

2.1 Climate Change, Vulnerability and Intersectionality

This baseline is grounded in the understanding that climate change acts as a risk multiplier, intensifying existing social, economic and structural inequalities rather than creating vulnerability in isolation. Climate hazards such as cyclones, salinity intrusion, tidal flooding, waterlogging and prolonged heat exposure interact with pre-existing conditions including poverty, caste-based discrimination, gender inequality, disability, age and limited access to services, resulting in differentiated experiences of climate impacts.

The study adopts an intersectional lens, recognising that vulnerability is shaped by multiple and overlapping forms of exclusion. Dalit and marginalised communities often experience disproportionate climate risks because of insecure livelihoods, limited land ownership, inadequate infrastructure, restricted access to public services, and exclusion from decision-making processes. Within these communities, women, adolescent girls, older persons, persons with disabilities and women-headed households frequently face additional layers of disadvantage that influence their exposure, sensitivity and capacity to recover from climate shocks.

Rather than treating climate impacts as purely environmental events, this framework understands them as processes that influence human wellbeing, rights, social relations and development outcomes.

2.2 Conceptual Framework linking Climate Change, NELD, GBV, SRHR and Social cohesion

The conceptual framework recognises that climate-induced hazards trigger a chain of interconnected impacts extending beyond physical damage and economic losses.

Climate events disrupt livelihoods, damage infrastructure, reduce access to basic services, increase displacement and place additional pressure on households and communities. These disruptions contribute to Economic Loss and Damage (ELD) while simultaneously generating Non-Economic Loss and Damage (NELD), including deterioration in mental wellbeing, loss of dignity, erosion of cultural identity, weakening of social networks, reduced sense of security and loss of place attachment.

These climate stresses also influence gender dynamics. Economic hardship, displacement, overcrowded shelters, reduced privacy, weakened protection systems and increased caregiving responsibilities contribute to heightened risks of Gender-Based Violence (GBV). At the same time, disruption of health systems and mobility constraints reduce access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services, particularly for women and adolescent girls.

The cumulative effects of these changes also shape social cohesion. Communities may strengthen collective action through mutual support and local solidarity, while persistent inequality, exclusion, competition over resources and unequal access to assistance may weaken trust, participation and community resilience.

Understanding these relationships provides a holistic picture of climate vulnerability, recognising that resilience depends not only on reducing physical risks but also on protecting human wellbeing, strengthening institutions and promoting social inclusion.

2.3 Analytical Domains

The study examines four interconnected thematic domains.

Non-Economic Loss and Damage (NELD)

NELD refers to climate-related losses that cannot easily be measured in monetary terms. Drawing on the UNFCCC and IPCC, this includes losses associated with health, mental wellbeing, cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, identity, dignity, social cohesion, biodiversity, territory, and sense of place. Unlike economic losses, many NELD impacts are intangible, cumulative and potentially irreversible.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

GBV refers to harmful acts directed against individuals based on socially constructed gender roles and unequal power relations. Climate-related disasters may increase existing risks of domestic violence, sexual harassment, exploitation, child marriage and other forms of violence through displacement, livelihood stress, weakened protection systems and unequal access to resources.

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

SRHR encompasses the right of all individuals to access quality sexual and reproductive healthcare, information and services free from discrimination, coercion and violence. Climate shocks can disrupt healthcare delivery, reduce service accessibility and increase reproductive health risks, particularly for women, adolescent girls and marginalised populations.

Social Cohesion

Social cohesion refers to the degree of trust, inclusion, participation, cooperation and collective action within communities and between communities and institutions. Strong social cohesion enhances resilience by facilitating mutual support, inclusive decision-making and equitable resource sharing, whereas exclusion and discrimination undermine adaptive capacity.

2.4 Theory of Change

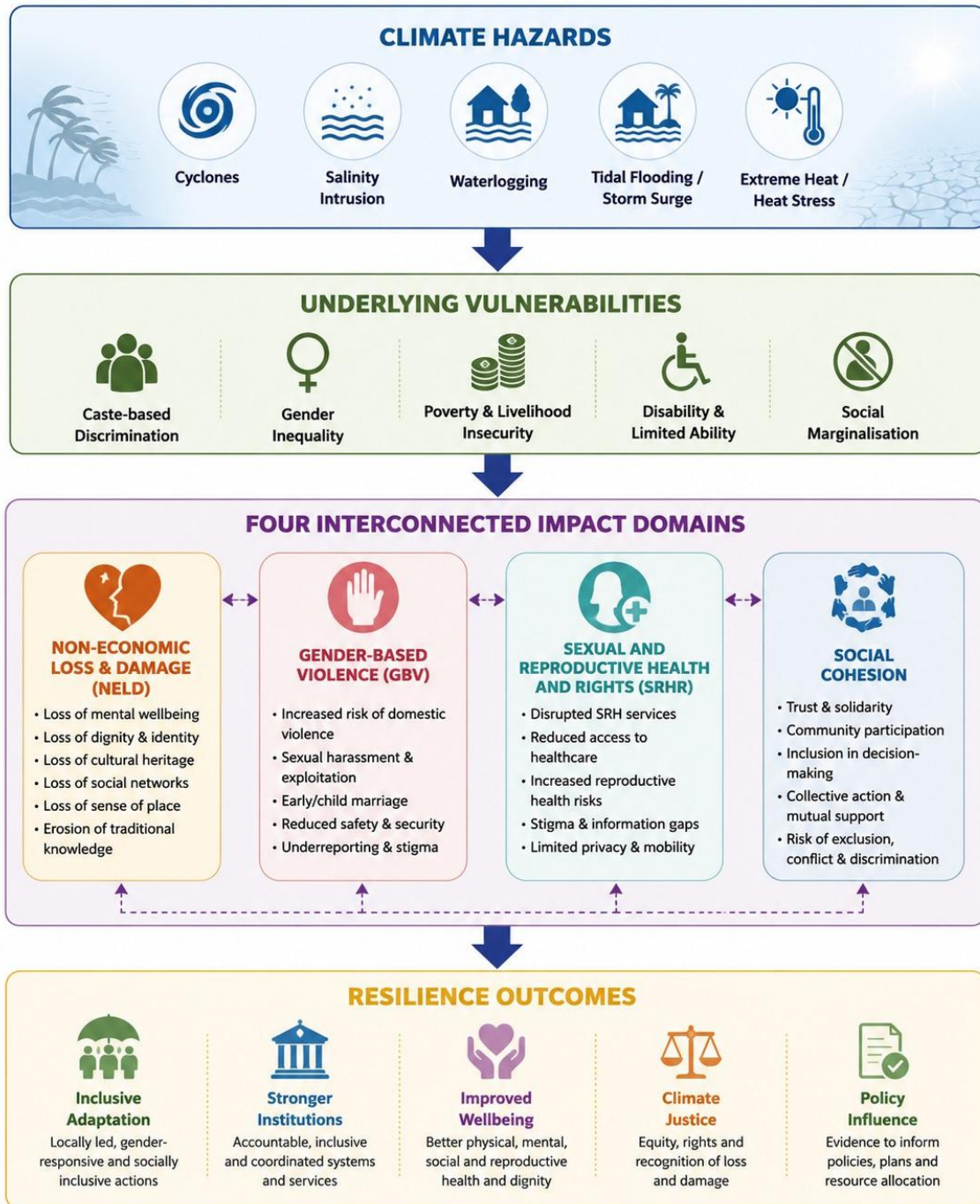
The study is based on the premise that improved understanding of the interconnected nature of climate impacts, NELD, GBV, SRHR and social cohesion will enable more inclusive climate adaptation and resilience programming.

By generating evidence on lived experiences and institutional responses among Dalit and marginalised communities, the baseline seeks to:

- establish benchmark indicators for monitoring programme outcomes;
- identify gaps in services, governance and policy;

- strengthen community-centred approaches to climate justice;
- inform gender-responsive and socially inclusive adaptation interventions; and
- contribute to national and international policy discussions on Loss and Damage, particularly the localisation of Non-Economic Loss and Damage within adaptation and resilience planning.

Figure 2: Baseline study design within the project MEL cycle



2.5 Equity Lens: Dalit and Marginalised Communities and Intersecting Vulnerabilities

The study applies an intersectional equity lens, recognising that climate impacts are not experienced equally. Caste-based discrimination, gender inequality, disability, landlessness, and geographic isolation compound one another, producing differentiated patterns of exposure and loss. This lens shaped the sampling strategy, the composition of FGDs and KIIs, and the analytical framing of findings throughout this report, ensuring that the experiences of Dalit households, women and young women, persons with disabilities, and other structurally excluded groups are made visible rather than averaged out.

3. Methodology

The baseline study adopted a mixed-method, cross-sectional design integrating quantitative and qualitative approaches through a gender-transformative lens. Data collection combined: (i) a structured household survey instrument covering demographics, livelihoods, climate exposure, coping and resilience, gender and decision-making, GBV and safety, SRH access, social cohesion, and NELD dimensions; (ii) four Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with women (18–35), young women, Dalit community members, men, and mixed youth groups; (iii) seven Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with local government and administrative representatives, health and SRH service providers, GBV response actors, Dalit leaders, and climate adaptation practitioners; and (iv) a policy and institutional mapping exercise.

Location (Union / Village)	FGD	Male	Female
Gopalpur Daspara, Paikgacha Municipality (Ward 02)	20	9	11
Loskar union (Ward 01)	21	9	12
Debduar Malopara, Chandkhali union (Ward 02)	15	9	6
Debduar, Chandkhali union (Ward 05)	28	13	15

Table 2: FGD locations and reported participation across four discussions (women 18–35, young women, and Dalit community members; 84 total participants)

KII respondent category	Number engaged
Local Dalit leader	1
Upazila Family Planning Officer	1
Local government representative	1
Dalit women's group leader	2
Community members	2

Table 3: KII respondent categories (7 key informants, spanning government, health services, and community leadership)

Quantitative data collection used the structured household questionnaire outlined in the inception report, targeting a stratified random sample across the five project unions, with priority given to women and young women (18–35) as respondents for sensitive modules. This final report consolidates and synthesises the qualitative findings from the FGDs and KIIs as the primary evidence base; disaggregated household survey datasets, once finalised, should be read alongside this report as the quantitative complement referenced in the inception report's data analysis and validation plan (Section 3.6).

Qualitative data were analysed thematically against the six themes established in the data collection tools:

- i. Climate experience
- ii. Non-economic loss and damage
- iii. Gendered vulnerability
- iv. Gender-based violence
- v. Sexual and reproductive health rights, and
- vi. Social cohesion and collective action

Findings were triangulated across FGD and KII sources to strengthen validity.

4. Ethical Safeguards and Inclusion Protocols

The study applied a rigorous ethical framework prioritising participant safety, confidentiality and dignity throughout data collection and analysis. The following safeguards were observed:

- Do-no-harm principles applied at every stage of engagement with communities.
- Informed consent obtained prior to all interviews and discussions, with the right to decline or stop participation at any time.
- Survivor-centred, trauma-informed approaches for GBV-related discussions, including protocols to pause or end an interview if distress was observed.
- Female enumerators and facilitators assigned to sensitive modules and discussions involving GBV and SRH.
- Safe referral pathways identified for GBV disclosures arising during fieldwork.
- Culturally appropriate, Bangla-language facilitation, with no personally identifying information retained in transcripts and anonymised datasets.
- Gender-segregated FGD groups (women, young women, Dalit community members, men, and mixed youth) to enable safe and open participation.

5. Baseline Profile of the Study Population

5.1 Household Demographics and Socio-Economic Profile

The baseline engaged 84 participants through four Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) conducted across Paikgacha Municipality, Loskor Union and Chandkhali Union, complemented by seven Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with representatives from local government, health services, community leadership and Dalit organisations. Participants represented a diverse cross-section of the study population, including women, men, youth, Dalit community members, community leaders and local service providers. The participant composition was designed to capture gendered and socially differentiated experiences of climate change, vulnerability and resilience while ensuring the meaningful inclusion of historically marginalised groups.

The study area is characterised by a predominantly rural and climate-dependent economy, where households rely heavily on agriculture, fisheries, shrimp cultivation, wage labour and other informal occupations. Livelihood opportunities are closely linked to natural resources and seasonal climatic conditions, making household incomes highly sensitive to cyclones, salinity intrusion, tidal flooding, prolonged waterlogging and changing rainfall patterns. Climate variability has increasingly reduced agricultural productivity, damaged aquaculture systems and disrupted local labour markets, contributing to growing livelihood insecurity.

Socio-economic vulnerabilities are particularly pronounced among Dalit and marginalised households, many of whom possess limited productive assets, insecure land tenure and restricted access to formal employment, financial services and institutional support. Key informants consistently reported that caste-based discrimination, poverty and social exclusion continue to constrain opportunities for education, skills development and economic mobility, reducing households' capacity to prepare for, respond to and recover from climate-related shocks. Women-headed households experience additional constraints arising from unequal access to land, financial resources, livelihood opportunities and participation in household and community decision-making.

Migration has become a central household adaptation and coping strategy. Respondents estimated that approximately 80% of economically active household members engage in seasonal migration, primarily to brickfields and other informal labour markets for approximately seven months each year (typically from October to May). An additional 5% of households reported permanent migration to urban centres, where migrants predominantly engage in low-paid informal employment, including day labour, construction work and rickshaw pulling. While migration provides an important source of income, respondents noted that prolonged family separation contributes to psychosocial stress, weakens social networks, disrupts children's education and creates additional caregiving burdens for women remaining in the community.

Overall, the socio-economic profile demonstrates that climate vulnerability in Paikgacha is driven not only by exposure to recurrent environmental hazards but also by entrenched structural inequalities. Poverty, caste-based exclusion, insecure livelihoods, limited access to public services and gender disparities interact to shape unequal patterns of climate risk, resilience and recovery. These underlying

conditions provide the context within which Non-Economic Loss and Damage (NELD), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), and social cohesion are examined throughout the remainder of this report.

5.2 Climate Exposure and Displacement History

Paikgacha Upazila is situated within Bangladesh's south-western coastal belt, one of the country's most climate-exposed regions, where communities experience the cumulative impacts of both rapid-onset and slow-onset climate hazards. Participants across all four FGDs and KIIs consistently identified cyclones, storm surges, salinity intrusion, prolonged waterlogging, tidal flooding, riverbank erosion, irregular rainfall and increasing heat stress as the principal climate risks affecting their lives and livelihoods. Respondents frequently referred to major cyclonic events, including Cyclone Sidr (2007), Cyclone Aila (2009), Cyclone Amphan (2020), and Cyclone Remal (2024), as defining moments that fundamentally altered settlement patterns, livelihood systems and community resilience.

Participants unanimously perceived these hazards to be increasing in both frequency and intensity, with cumulative impacts extending well beyond immediate physical damage. Repeated climate shocks have reduced agricultural productivity through soil and water salinisation, damaged fisheries and shrimp cultivation, accelerated deterioration of rural roads and embankments, contaminated freshwater sources, and increased the prevalence of water-borne diseases, heat-related illnesses and other public health concerns. Rather than occurring as isolated events, respondents described climate hazards as reinforcing one another, creating a cycle of recurring disruption that limits households' ability to recover before the next shock occurs.

Displacement has consequently become a defining feature of household adaptation in the study area. In addition to widespread seasonal labour migration, communities reported repeated episodes of temporary and disaster-induced displacement following major cyclones and prolonged flooding. Many households described spending extended periods in cyclone shelters, schools or relatives' homes before returning to damaged settlements where recovery often remained incomplete. Respondents highlighted overcrowded shelters, inadequate privacy, limited access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, and heightened protection concerns, particularly for women, adolescent girls, older persons and persons with disabilities.

The cumulative effects of repeated displacement extend beyond material losses. Participants described the erosion of social networks, disruption of children's education, interruption of livelihoods, deterioration of mental wellbeing, and weakening of cultural attachment to place as persistent consequences of recurrent climate shocks. These experiences illustrate how displacement contributes not only to economic loss and damage but also to significant Non-Economic Loss and Damage (NELD), including the loss of dignity, identity, safety, community cohesion and psychological wellbeing.

Climate exposure and displacement were also found to be unevenly distributed across the population. Dalit and marginalised households, often residing in low-lying, hazard-prone locations with poor infrastructure and limited public services, were consistently identified by both community members and key informants as being the first to experience climate impacts and among the last to recover. Limited financial resources, insecure housing, restricted access to formal support mechanisms and persistent social exclusion further reduce their adaptive capacity, reinforcing cycles of vulnerability and increasing the long-term human consequences of climate change.

6. Findings

6.1 Climate Hazards, Impacts, and Coping Strategies

Cyclones, salinity intrusion, waterlogging, river erosion, heatwaves, irregular rainfall, and tidal flooding were identified as the dominant hazards affecting Paikgacha. These hazards have damaged agriculture, fisheries, freshwater sources, roads, embankments and housing, driving a shift among many households from farming toward shrimp cultivation or seasonal migration as traditional livelihoods become untenable.

Hazard / Event	Immediate Impacts	Long-Term Impacts
Salinity intrusion	Crop failure, freshwater scarcity	Elevated risk of hypertension, skin disease, and maternal health complications
Cyclones & storm surges	Infrastructure and housing destruction	Weak or damaged embankments increase ongoing vulnerability
Economic hardship (compounding)	Livelihood and farming losses	Social stress, unemployment, and rising urban poverty through migration

Table 4: Immediate and long-term impacts of key climate hazards

Coping strategies described by communities include borrowing money, reducing food consumption, asset sales, and migration, reflecting largely erosive rather than protective coping mechanisms. Vulnerability is not evenly distributed: it is shaped by the intersection of landlessness, caste-based marginalisation, gender, disability, age, and livelihood dependency.

Group most affected	Why
Smallholder farmers	Dependence on climate-sensitive agriculture; salinity and waterlogging destroy crop productivity, especially rice; limited capital, technology and knowledge to adapt.
Dalit and marginalised communities	Geographically isolated, hard-to-reach residence; weak infrastructure; limited access to markets, healthcare, and early warning systems.
Landless labourers	No land ownership; fully dependent on daily wage work; climate shocks reduce employment opportunities; no savings or safety nets.
Women and girls	No land ownership, limited education and skills; disproportionate caregiving burden; heightened exposure to GBV and early marriage.
Children and adolescents	Malnutrition from food insecurity; school dropout during disasters and economic shocks; increased child labour and early marriage, especially for girls.

Group most affected	Why
Fisher-folk (small-scale fishers and shrimp workers)	Dependence on rivers, canals and coastal ecosystems; climate variability affects fish availability; cyclones create life-threatening working conditions.
Elderly people	Limited mobility during disasters; dependence on others for evacuation and recovery; higher sensitivity to heat, disease, and poor water quality.
Persons with disabilities (PWDs)	Barriers in accessing shelters, services and information; often excluded from disaster preparedness planning; limited livelihood opportunities even in normal times.
Climate-induced migrants / displaced households	Lose land, homes, and social networks due to erosion, salinity, or disasters; move to urban slums with poor living conditions and limited access to services and jobs.
Women-headed households	Lower income opportunities and asset ownership; greater caregiving burden during crises; limited access to credit, land and decision-making at household and community levels.

Table 5: Groups most affected by climate change and reasons for heightened vulnerability

6.2 Resilience Capacities and Support Systems

Community-level resilience is anchored in informal mutual support: women's groups sharing caregiving and information; community volunteers, including Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) members, assisting with evacuation and relief distribution; and religious and community leaders coordinating protection activities. Community-led early warning systems and community-led evacuation during cyclones were cited as examples of successful collective action.

However, formal support systems remain thin and unevenly distributed. During-disaster support is largely limited to basic food relief (rice, dal, oil), and post-disaster support is similarly narrow (for example, rainwater harvesting provision), with no dedicated support addressing non-economic dimensions of loss. Key informants confirmed that institutions have an important potential role in building resilience through skill development, capacity development, knowledge-building and policy development, but that this potential is largely unrealised for Dalit and marginalised households at present.

6.3 Social Cohesion, Inclusion, and Participation

Findings reveal a duality between active informal solidarity and formal institutional exclusion. Inclusion through community groups and NGO programmes exists but is described as limited to a select few; support for women, youth, and vulnerable households appears in various development programmes and targeted disaster relief. At the same time, exclusion dynamics are pronounced: marginalised groups, including Dalit households and persons with disabilities, are left out of services; gender and power hierarchies restrict women's voice; remote households miss aid distribution; and elite capture of resources was explicitly reported.

Notably, respondents indicated that even union disaster management committees, while coordinating official relief, actively exclude Dalit and marginalised communities. Key informants stated plainly that there is "no trust between communities and proper authorities," and identified the primary barriers to broader social cohesion as a general knowledge and skills gap, limited understanding of social cohesion as a concept, and an absence of local initiators able to drive change.

6.4 Safety and GBV-Related Risk Environment

Gender-based violence was consistently reported to increase during and after disasters. Displacement, loss of livelihoods, and overcrowded, low-privacy shelters heighten risks of domestic violence, sexual harassment, and exploitation. Economic stress and shifting gender roles were identified as triggers for intimate partner violence, while water scarcity forces women and girls to travel further to collect water or use unsafe sanitation facilities, increasing their exposure to harassment.

Financial hardship was also linked to exploitative coping strategies, including early and forced marriage, child labour, and transactional sex, particularly affecting young women aged 18–35. Community-level drivers of GBV identified include harmful gender norms and normalisation of violence, inadequate livelihood opportunities, weak community accountability and justice systems, poverty, substance abuse, limited awareness of rights and services, and power imbalances in local leadership.

Existing support systems — NGOs, women's groups, health services, legal aid, police, and local government — were described as largely inaccessible to Dalit and marginalised communities due to limited awareness and weak voice. As per key informant estimates, roughly 90% of GBV-affected individuals do not file any complaint, and existing response mechanisms are described as mostly male-dominated. Reported gaps include underreporting driven by stigma and fear, limited access in remote and disaster-affected areas, weak enforcement of laws, absence of survivor-friendly services and referral pathways, and poor coordination among service providers.

Dimension	Reported impact on women	Reported impact on men
Economic	Greater likelihood of losing informal, low-paid work (agriculture, home-based labour); limited access to land and credit slows recovery.	Loss of primary income sources (farming, fishing, labour); pressure to provide financially increases stress and risky migration.
Workload and roles	Increased unpaid care work (water collection, caregiving); household responsibilities rise during crises.	Less involved in unpaid care, but pressure to earn increases.
Safety and security	Higher risk of GBV, exploitation and harassment; reduced mobility and access to safe shelter.	More exposed to physical danger during rescue, labour or migration; violence often occurs in public or work spaces.
Health	Limited access to healthcare, especially reproductive services;	Occupational injuries and mental stress; less likely to seek healthcare.

Dimension	Reported impact on women	Reported impact on men
	higher malnutrition risk from unequal food distribution.	
Decision-making	Less voice in community decisions and disaster planning; social norms restrict access to information.	Greater decision-making power and control over resources.
Psychological	Anxiety from insecurity, caregiving burden, and violence risk.	Stress from livelihood loss and social expectations as provider.

Table 6: Gender-differentiated impacts of climate shocks, as reported by FGD and KII participants

Young women were identified as facing a distinct and compounding set of risks: higher likelihood of early marriage, gender-based violence and harassment, high school dropout rates, limited access to SRH healthcare, malnutrition and poor hygiene, restricted mobility and decision-making, and heightened exploitation risk during displacement.

6.5 SRH Access, Barriers, and Climate-Related Disruptions

Health institutions exist at Upazila, Union and Ward (community clinic) levels, but real accessibility for Dalit and marginalised communities remains low, shaped by both demand- and supply-side barriers. On the demand side, communities cited distance and poor transport access, the cost of services and associated indirect expenses, low awareness of available services (particularly among Dalit and marginalised households), social stigma and cultural norms, and fear of discrimination or retaliation.

On the supply side, key informants identified a shortage of trained staff, especially female service providers, limited funding and resources, weak infrastructure and supply chains, poor coordination between service agencies, and security risks in disaster-affected areas. Respondents further noted that service providers are often "very much uneager to provide service to the community," and that educational institutions provide no SRHR-related services and lack dedicated female staff to support students on these issues.

During emergencies, SRH service provision effectively halts: respondents reported that there is no service for the affected community during the disaster period itself, compounding displacement, loss of shelter, and limited access to food, water and healthcare. Communities recommended strengthening awareness and GBV prevention, ensuring safe shelters with privacy and lighting, improving functioning of community clinics, supporting women's economic empowerment, engaging men and boys in behaviour change, and strengthening local protection and reporting systems.

6.6 NELD Outcomes and Patterns

The single most significant baseline finding is the near-total disconnect between the scale of non-economic loss experienced by communities and the response mechanisms currently in place: respondents confirmed 0% of disaster response and recovery support is directed at NELD. This is not because communities lack the experience of non-economic loss, when asked directly what has been lost

"beyond money," participants described a vivid and consistent set of losses, but because there is no localised framework, vocabulary, or measurement tool through which these losses are recognised, named, or addressed.

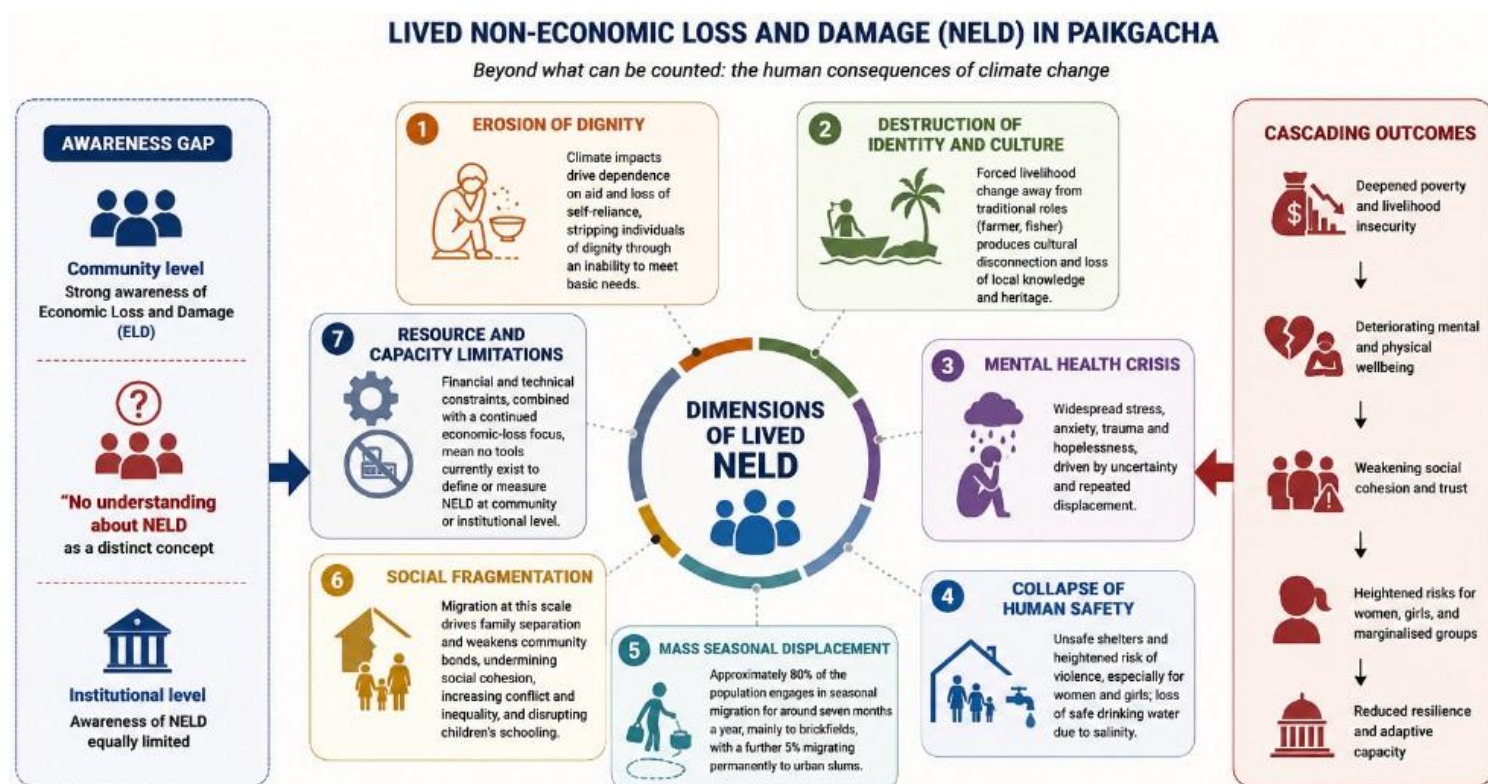


Figure 3: Dimensions of lived Non-Economic Loss and Damage (NELD) identified by communities

At the community level, participants and key informants alike reported strong awareness of Economic Loss and Damage (ELD) but "no understanding about NELD" as a distinct concept, and institutional awareness was found to be equally limited. The qualitative data nonetheless allow the following dimensions of lived NELD to be identified:

- Erosion of dignity: climate impacts drive dependence on aid and loss of self-reliance, stripping individuals of dignity through an inability to meet basic needs.
- Destruction of identity and culture: forced livelihood change away from traditional roles (farmer, fisher) produces cultural disconnection and loss of local knowledge and heritage.
- Mental health crisis: widespread stress, anxiety, trauma and hopelessness, driven by uncertainty and repeated displacement.
- Collapse of human safety: unsafe shelters and heightened risk of violence, especially for women and girls; loss of safe drinking water due to salinity.

- Mass seasonal displacement: approximately 80% of the population engages in seasonal migration for around seven months a year, mainly to brickfields, with a further 5% migrating permanently to urban slums.
- Social fragmentation: migration at this scale drives family separation and weakens community bonds, undermining social cohesion, increasing conflict and inequality, and disrupting children's schooling.
- Resource and capacity limitations: financial and technical constraints, combined with a continued economic-loss focus, mean no tools currently exist to define or measure NELD at community or institutional level.

These findings validate the project's core premise: NELD in Paikgacha is a lived, severe and largely invisible reality, and closing the localisation and measurement gap is the priority entry point for both programming and policy engagement.

7. Policy and Institutional Mapping

7.1 Relevant National and Local Frameworks

Key informants confirmed that Bangladesh currently has no dedicated national or local policy specifically addressing Non-Economic Loss and Damage. While policies and strategies exist on climate change adaptation (including the National Adaptation Plan, NAP 2023–2050) and disaster risk reduction, these frameworks do not adequately recognise or address non-economic dimensions of climate impact — loss of health, culture, social cohesion, dignity, mental well-being, and traditional knowledge.

7.2 Institutional Ecosystem

The institutional ecosystem relevant to GBV, SRH, and disaster risk reduction includes Upazila and Union administration (UNO, Chairman, Project Implementation Officer), health and family planning services, the Department of Women Affairs, local elected bodies, and community-based Dalit leadership structures. While these institutions exist, respondents described weak coordination among them, limited reach into Dalit and marginalised communities, and — in the case of union disaster management committees — active exclusion of these communities from relief coordination.

7.3 Gaps and Entry Points for Advocacy and Coordination

Respondents identified significant gaps in alignment and coordination among existing climate and disaster-related policies, limiting integrated approaches to NELD. At the same time, they emphasised considerable opportunity for policy advocacy at both national and local levels — particularly raising awareness among policymakers, government institutions, local authorities and communities as a priority for improving recognition of NELD. Respondents specifically called for a dedicated NELD policy framework encompassing clear strategy, operational guidelines, standardised definitions, assessment tools, and implementation mechanisms within Bangladesh's climate and disaster governance system.

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

8.1 Key Baseline Insights

- Paikgacha is a compounding climate hotspot where cyclones, salinity intrusion, tidal flooding and waterlogging drive both economic and non-economic loss, with impacts intensifying over time.
- NELD is a severe, widely-experienced but institutionally invisible reality: communities can vividly describe losses of dignity, identity, safety, mental well-being and social cohesion, but lack the conceptual framework and measurement tools to name and address them, and receive 0% of current disaster response specifically for these losses.
- Vulnerability is intersectional: Dalit and marginalised status, gender, landlessness, disability and age compound one another, with women and girls, Dalit households, persons with disabilities, and women-headed households facing the most acute and layered risks.
- GBV rises measurably around climate shocks, is severely underreported (approximately 90% non-reporting), and current response mechanisms are male-dominated and largely inaccessible to Dalit and marginalised communities.
- SRH services exist in name but not in practice for the target population, undermined by cost, distance, stigma, provider shortages, and total service breakdown during emergencies.
- Informal social cohesion is a genuine community strength, but formal governance structures, including union disaster management committees, actively exclude Dalit and marginalised communities, and trust between communities and authorities is described as absent.
- Bangladesh has no dedicated NELD policy, creating both a critical protection gap and a clear, respondent-endorsed opportunity for policy advocacy.

8.2 Programmatic Recommendations

- Build community and frontline-institutional understanding of NELD as a distinct, nameable category of loss, using participatory, story-based and locally-grounded approaches.
- Co-develop and pilot standardised NELD indicators and assessment tools with communities, ensuring they capture dignity, identity, mental well-being, safety and social cohesion in locally meaningful terms.
- Strengthen GBV prevention and survivor-support systems, including safe referral pathways, female-staffed services, and community-based reporting mechanisms that are accessible to Dalit and marginalised households.
- Improve SRHR access and continuity of service, with specific attention to female service-provider availability, affordability, and maintaining services during and immediately after disasters.
- Institutionalise the inclusion of Dalit communities, women, and persons with disabilities in local disaster preparedness and management committees, moving beyond token or NGO-mediated participation.

- Invest in trust-building between communities and local authorities through transparent, accountable and consistent engagement, given the significant trust deficit identified in this baseline.

8.3 Policy and Advocacy Recommendations

- Advocate for the development of a dedicated national NELD policy framework, including standard definitions, strategy, operational guidelines, and financing mechanisms, aligned with UNFCCC Loss & Damage discourse.
- Support integration of NELD considerations into existing climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction planning instruments, including the National Adaptation Plan (NAP 2023–2050) and local development plans.
- Strengthen coordination mechanisms among government agencies, NGOs, civil society and community-based organisations to close the alignment gaps identified across existing climate and disaster-related policies.
- Invest in continued research, documentation and evidence generation on NELD in Dalit and marginalised community contexts, to build the policy-usable evidence base this baseline has begun to establish.
- Use this baseline's findings, particularly the 0% NELD support figure and the dimensions of lived NELD identified in Section 6.6, as a concrete evidence anchor for national and international policy engagement on Loss & Damage.

Annexes

Annex A: Policy and Institutional Mapping Matrix

This matrix consolidates the policy and institutional landscape identified through the desk review and validated through key informant interviews. It is structured around the framework set out in the inception report (Section 3.2) and should be read as a living document to be deepened as the project progresses and as further desk-based policy review is completed.

A.1 Policy and Framework Mapping

Policy / framework	Level	Relevance to project themes	NELD-specific gap
National Adaptation Plan (NAP 2023–2050)	National	Identifies salinity intrusion, cyclones, tidal flooding and waterlogging as major climate stressors; sets adaptation priorities for climate-sensitive sectors.	Does not explicitly define, recognise or provide indicators for non-economic loss and damage.
Disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies and strategies	National / local	Govern disaster preparedness, response and relief coordination, including union-level disaster management committees.	Do not address non-economic dimensions of loss (dignity, identity, mental well-being, social cohesion); implementation reported to exclude Dalit and marginalized communities in practice.
GBV-related institutional frameworks (Department of Women Affairs and associated services)	National / Upazila / Union	Nominal mandate for GBV prevention and response, referenced by key informants as an existing (if underused) support system.	No explicit linkage to climate-induced or disaster-related GBV risk; reported to be largely male-dominated in practice, with ~90% non-reporting by affected persons.
Health and family planning services framework	Upazila / Union / Ward (community clinic)	Structures the provision of SRH services through the health complex and community clinic system referenced by key informants.	No climate/emergency-continuity provisions identified; services reported to stop entirely during disaster periods.
Dedicated NELD policy, strategy or guideline	National / local	—	Confirmed by both KIIs and FGDs not to exist in any form. This is the primary policy gap identified by this baseline.

Annex B: Structured Household Survey Tool

Baseline Study on Climate Change and Gender Justice — Location: Paikgacha Upazila, Khulna | Organisation: Parittran | Tool Type: Quantitative Household Survey

Section 0: Enumerator Details & Consent

Q0.1 Interview ID: _____ Q0.2 Date: ____/____/____ Q0.3 Enumerator Name/Code: _____

Q0.4 Union: ☐ Paikgacha ☐ Soladana ☐ Loskor ☐ Raruli ☐ Chandkhali Q0.5 Village/Ward: _____

Q0.6 Respondent Sex: ☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Other Q0.7 Respondent Age: _____

Q0.8 Informed Consent — Have you explained the purpose of the survey and obtained consent? ☐ Yes ☐ No → (STOP)

Q0.9 Privacy Confirmed? ☐ Yes ☐ No → (Skip sensitive modules)

Section 1: Household Demographics

Q1.1 Household Size: _____

Q1.2 Number of members by category — Adult women: _____ Adult men: _____ Adolescents: _____ Children: _____ Elderly: _____

Q1.3 Education level of respondent: ☐ No formal education ☐ Primary ☐ Secondary ☐ Higher

Q1.4 Main occupation of respondent: ☐ Agriculture ☐ Labor ☐ Household work ☐ Service ☐ Other: _____

Q1.5 Caste / marginalized identity: ☐ Dalit ☐ Other marginalized ☐ General ☐ Prefer not to say

Section 2: Livelihood & Economic Status

Q2.1 Main source of income: _____

Q2.2 Has your livelihood been affected by climate events in the last 3 years? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Q2.3 If yes, how? (Multiple choice) ☐ Crop loss ☐ Loss of work ☐ Income reduction ☐ Migration ☐ Other

Q2.4 Do you currently have any loans/debt? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Section 3: Climate Exposure

Q3.1 Which climate hazards have you experienced? (Multiple) ☐ Cyclone ☐ Flooding ☐ Waterlogging ☐ Salinity ☐ River erosion

Q3.2 Frequency of exposure: ☐ Rare ☐ Occasional ☐ Frequent

Q3.3 Impact severity: ☐ Low ☐ Medium ☐ High

Section 4: Coping & Resilience

Q4.1 What coping strategies do you use? (Multiple) ☐ Borrow money ☐ Reduce food ☐ Migration ☐ Asset sale ☐ Other

Q4.2 Do you receive early warning information? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Q4.3 Access to support during disasters: ☐ Government ☐ NGO ☐ Community ☐ None

Q4.4 How confident are you in recovering after a shock? ☐ Not confident ☐ Somewhat ☐ Very confident

Section 5: Gender & Decision-Making

Q5.1 Who makes decisions on household expenses? ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Joint

Q5.2 Can women travel alone to access services? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Q5.3 Do women participate in community meetings? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Q5.4 Has women's workload increased due to climate impacts? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Section 6: GBV & Safety (Sensitive — Ensure Privacy)

Q6.1 Do women feel safe in this community? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Q6.2 Are risks of violence higher during/after disasters? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Q6.3 Are you aware of any support services for GBV? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Q6.4 What are barriers to seeking help? (Multiple) ☐ Shame ☐ Lack of services ☐ Distance ☐ Cost ☐ Fear

Section 7: SRH Access

Q7.1 Are SRH services available nearby? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Q7.2 Can women access these services independently? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Q7.3 What are the main barriers? ☐ Distance ☐ Cost ☐ Social norms ☐ Lack of providers

Q7.4 Has climate affected access to health services? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Section 8: Social Cohesion

Q8.1 Do you trust your neighbors? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Q8.2 Do community members help each other during crises? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Q8.3 Are marginalized groups included in decisions? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Q8.4 Have you experienced discrimination? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Section 9: NELD (Non-Economic Loss & Damage)

Q9.1 Has climate change affected your dignity/respect? ☐ Not at all ☐ Somewhat ☐ Severely

Q9.2 Has it affected your sense of identity/culture? ☐ Not at all ☐ Somewhat ☐ Severely Q9.3

Do you feel less safe now compared to before? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Q9.4 Have you experienced stress or anxiety due to climate impacts? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Q9.5 Have social relationships weakened due to climate stress? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Section 10: Access to Services

Q10.1 Access to health services: ☐ Easy ☐ Difficult ☐ None

Q10.2 Access to GBV support services: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Q10.3 Access to government support programs: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Q10.4 Satisfaction with services: ☐ Low ☐ Medium ☐ High

Section 11: Priorities & Recommendations

Q11.1 What are the most urgent climate challenges? (Open-ended)

Q11.2 What support do women need most? (Open-ended)

Q11.3 What support do marginalized communities need? (Open-ended)

Section 12: Enumerator Observation

Privacy level: ☐ Good ☐ Limited ☐ Poor Respondent comfort: ☐ Comfortable ☐ Distressed

Notes: _____

— End of Survey —

Annex C: FGD Guideline and Consolidated Response Record

General Information

Address	FGD-1	FGD-2	FGD-3	FGD-4
Village	Gopalpur Daspara	Loskar	Debduar Malopara	Debduar
Ward No.	02	01	02	05
Union	Paikgacha Municipality	Loskar	Chandkhali	Chandkhali

FGD Composition

Participant type	FGD-1	FGD-2	FGD-3	FGD-4
Women (18–35)	12	7	7	8
Young women (35+)	8	4	3	6
Dalit community members	5	10	5	14

Total participants across four FGDs: 84

General Information:

Address	FGD-1	FGD-2	FGD-3	FGD-4
Name of the village:	Gopalpur Daspara	Loskar	Debduar Malopara	Debduar
Ward No.:	02	01	02	05
Union	Paikgacha Municipality	Loskar	Chandkhali	Chandkhali

FGD Composition

Serial No.	Participant types	FGD-1		FGD-2		FGD-3		FGD-4		Total
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
01	Women (18-35)		12		7		7		8	
02	Young women (35+)		8		4		3		6	
03	Dalit community members		5		10		5		14	
Total										

CONSOLIDATED QUALITATIVE FINDINGS

FGD & KII Findings

Shatkhira Upazila, Khulna District, Bangladesh

PART A — FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION (FGD) FINDINGS

Theme 1: Climate Experience

Topic	Key Findings
Major climate events experienced	Recent and historical cyclones: ● Cyclone Sidr (2007) ● Cyclone Aila (2009) ● Cyclone Amphan (2020) ● Cyclone Remal (2024) Related impacts: ● Saline water intrusion ● Long-term waterlogging ● Heavy monsoon rainfall ● Crop loss (especially rice) ● Damage to rural infrastructure ● Embankment failure ● Heat waves and rising temperatures ● Health stress ● Reduced labour productivity ● Freshwater shortage
Changes over time	● Increased migration ● Increased GBV ● Erosion of social cohesion ● Reduced access to SRHR services ● Increased poverty
Daily life impacts	● Poorer education outcomes for children ● Lower household income ● Increased incidence of disease

Theme 2: Non-Economic Loss and Damage (NELD)

Topic	Key Findings
What has been lost beyond money	● Lives and health — injury, disease, trauma ● Homes and security — displacement, repeated rebuilding

	● Safe drinking water, due to salinity ● Livelihood identity — farmers/fishers losing traditional ways of life ● Education continuity, due to school disruption ● Social cohesion, due to family separation and migration ● Cultural heritage and local knowledge ● Dignity and mental well-being — stress and uncertainty
Effects on dignity, identity, safety	● Dignity: dependence on aid, loss of self-reliance, inability to meet basic needs. ● Identity: loss of traditional roles, cultural disconnection, forced livelihood change. ● Safety: increased exposure to disasters, unsafe shelters, higher violence risk — especially for women and girls.
Mental and social impacts	● Mental: stress, anxiety, trauma, hopelessness. ● Social: family separation, migration, weakened community bonds, increased conflict and inequality.
Migration	~80% of the population engages in seasonal migration, away ~7 months/year (Oct–May), mainly to brickfields. ~5% migrate to urban areas for day labour, rickshaw pulling, and similar informal work.
Understanding & measurement of ELD vs. NELD	● Communities understand ELD but have no understanding of NELD. ● No tools currently exist for measuring ELD or NELD.

Theme 3: Gendered Vulnerability

Topic		Key Findings
Dimension	Women	Men
Economic impacts	Lose informal/low-paid work; less access to land, credit, assets — slower recovery.	Loss of primary income (farming, fishing, labour); pressure to provide raises stress, risky migration.
Workload & roles	Increased unpaid care work; household duties rise in crises.	Less unpaid care, but pressure to earn increases.
Safety & security	Higher GBV, exploitation, harassment risk; reduced mobility.	More exposed to physical danger in rescue/labour/migration; violence in public/work spaces.
Health impacts	Limited access to healthcare, esp. reproductive; higher malnutrition risk.	Occupational injuries, mental stress; less likely to seek healthcare.
Social & decision-making	Less voice in decisions/disaster planning; norms restrict access to info.	Greater decision-making power, control over resources.
Psychological	Anxiety from insecurity, caregiving burden, violence risk.	Stress from livelihood loss, provider expectations.
Risks for young women	● Higher risk of early marriage ● GBV and harassment ● Very high school dropout rate ● Limited access to healthcare, especially SRHR ● Malnutrition and poor hygiene ● Restricted mobility and decision-making ● Exploitation during displacement or crises	

Who is most affected	Ranked: women (35+), men, children (under 18), elderly, Dalit and marginalised communities, pregnant women, young women (18–35). Dalit and marginalised communities are consistently identified as victims — elderly people within them are the most affected.
Theme 4: Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	
Topic	Key Findings
Safety during/after disasters	● Unsafe shelters — lack of privacy, lighting, WASH ● Risk of harassment and GBV ● Family separation and trafficking risks ● Limited access to safe sanitation ● Insecure roads/infrastructure during evacuation ● Ongoing insecurity through recovery
Community-level drivers	● Harmful gender norms, acceptance of violence ● Inadequate job opportunities ● Weak accountability/justice systems ● Poverty and economic stress ● Substance abuse (alcohol, drugs) ● Limited awareness of rights/services ● Power imbalance, male-dominated leadership
Existing support & gaps	Existing support: ● NGOs and women's groups ● Health services and legal aid ● Police/local govt support — largely inaccessible to Dalit and marginalised communities Gaps: ● Underreporting from stigma/fear ● Limited access in remote/disaster areas ● Weak law enforcement ● Lack of survivor-friendly referral pathways ● Poor coordination among providers
Victims & perpetrators	Victims: ● Women and girls — Dalit/marginalised most affected ● Adolescents and persons with disabilities Perpetrators: ● Intimate partners ● Family members/relatives ● Community members ● Authority figures (employers, leaders)

Protection mechanisms	● Awareness and behaviour change ● Strong laws and enforcement ● Safe shelters and helplines ● Access to health, psychosocial, legal services ● Community watch/reporting systems ● Women's empowerment and economic support ● Community awareness on social cohesion
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Theme 5: Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR)

Topic	Key Findings
Access to services	● Limited availability in remote/disaster areas ● Stigma, low awareness — acute among Dalit/marginalised communities ● High cost, transport barriers ● Shortage of trained female providers ● Privacy/confidentiality concerns ● Disruption during emergencies
Challenges during emergencies	● Displacement, loss of shelter ● Limited food, water, healthcare support ● Increased violence/exploitation risk ● Disrupted education and livelihoods ● Poor sanitation, disease outbreaks ● Weak provider coordination
Community recommendations	● Strengthen awareness and GBV prevention ● Safe shelters with privacy/lighting ● Improve SRHR/health access (functioning community clinics) ● Support women's economic empowerment ● Engage men and boys in behaviour change ● Strengthen local protection/reporting
Barriers — community side	● Distance, poor transport ● Cost of services ● Low awareness ● Stigma and cultural norms ● Fear of discrimination/retaliation ● Poor service quality/availability
Barriers — provider side	● Shortage of trained (esp. female) staff ● Limited funding/resources ● Weak infrastructure/supplies

	● Poor inter-agency coordination ● Security risks in disaster areas
Theme 6: Social Cohesion and Collective Action	
Topic	Key Findings
Mutual support practices	● Women's groups supporting care work/info-sharing ● Community volunteers assisting evacuation/relief ● Youth groups (Cyclone Preparedness Programme) helping rescue/rebuilding ● Religious/community leaders coordinating support
Inclusion & exclusion dynamics	Inclusion: ● Participation via community groups/NGOs, limited to a select few ● Support for women, youth, vulnerable households ● Targeted disaster relief Exclusion: ● Marginalised groups left out of services ● Gender/power hierarchies limiting women's voice ● Remote households missing aid ● Elite capture of resources ● Lack of documentation/awareness blocking access
Successful collective action	● Community-led evacuation during cyclones ● Union Disaster Mgmt Committee relief coordination (Dalit/marginalised excluded) ● Youth volunteers distributing food/water ● Community-based early warning systems

PART B — KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW (KII) FINDINGS — ANNEX D

Respondents: Local Dalit Leader (1) · Upazila Family Planning Officer (1) · Local Government Representative (1) · Dalit Women Group Leader (2) · Community People (2)

Theme 1: Climate Change and Community Impact

Topic	Key Findings
Major climate risks	Salinity intrusion: ● Rising soil/water salinity from sea-level rise and tidal influence ● Damages agriculture and freshwater sources ● Drinking-water scarcity, health problems ● Major losses in shrimp/prawn farming and fisheries Cyclones and storm surges: ● Frequent exposure to strong Bay-of-Bengal cyclones ● Storm surges/tidal flooding damage homes, embankments, crops ● High mortality and livelihood-disruption risk ● Agricultural land unusable for extended periods Erosion and infrastructure damage: ● Roads and houses increasingly damaged ● Weak/damaged embankments heighten vulnerability ● River/tidal erosion causes land and settlement loss ● Increased burden on women to collect water Temperature and rainfall variability: ● Rising temperatures, variable rainfall affect crops/fish/health ● Shift from farming to shrimp cultivation or migration ● Income instability, rising poverty, migration to urban slums ● Saline water linked to hypertension, skin disease, maternal-health risk
Group	Why
Smallholder farmers	Climate-sensitive agriculture; salinity destroys rice yields; limited capital/tech to adapt.
Dalit & marginalised community	Isolated, hard-to-reach areas; weak infrastructure; limited access to markets, health, early warning.
Landless labourers	No land; dependent on daily wages; shocks cut work; no safety nets.
Women and girls	No land ownership; limited education and skills.
Children & adolescents	Malnutrition, dropout, child labour, early marriage (esp. girls).
Fisher-folk	Depend on rivers/coastal ecosystems; cyclones create life-threatening conditions.
Elderly people	Limited mobility; dependence on others; high sensitivity to heat/disease.
Persons with disabilities	Barriers to shelters/services/info; excluded from disaster planning.
Climate-induced migrants	Lose land/homes/networks; move to slums with poor conditions.
Women-headed households	Lower income/assets; greater caregiving burden; limited credit access.

Long-term non-economic impacts	● Health & well-being: chronic illness from saline exposure; rising stress, anxiety, trauma. ● Social cohesion: displacement disrupts networks and traditions; weakens support systems. ● Education: disasters and hardship drive dropout; girls at higher early-marriage risk. ● Gender equality: water scarcity/caregiving limit women's education, income, decision-making. ● Traditional knowledge: changing conditions erode adaptive knowledge in farming/fisheries. ● Security & dignity: repeated displacement reduces sense of security and dignity.
Response: ELD vs. NELD	ELD (during disaster): rice, dal, oil, fried rice, etc. ELD (post-disaster): rainwater harvesting support, among others. NELD support: 0%. No dedicated response mechanisms exist for Non-Economic Loss and Damage.
Theme 2: Non-Economic Loss and Damage (NELD)	
Topic	Key Findings
Community definitions	● No knowledge or defined concept of NELD at community level. ● No losses currently categorised or supported as NELD — focus remains on economic loss.
Measurement challenges & gaps	Lack of adequate understanding/awareness of NELD; attention concentrated on economic losses. No tools exist to define or measure NELD. Limited financial/technical resources obstruct integrated NELD strategies. Urgent need for deliberative NELD data to inform targeted planning.
Theme 3: Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	
Topic	Key Findings
GBV trends in climate contexts	GBV increases during/after disasters. Displacement, livelihood loss, and overcrowded shelters heighten domestic violence, early marriage, and harassment risks. Economic stress and shifting gender roles trigger intimate partner violence. Weak reporting mechanisms and repeated shocks normalise violence over time.
Displacement, poverty & GBV links	Displacement forces families from homes/networks; overcrowded shelters and weak protection raise harassment/exploitation risk. Poverty compounds this — stress and power imbalances escalate intimate partner violence, and hardship drives early marriage, child labour, or transactional sex. Displaced households often lack legal protection and GBV service access.
Response effectiveness	~90% of GBV-affected people file no complaint; existing mechanisms remain predominantly male-dominated.
GBV-related climate impacts	● Displacement/overcrowded shelters expose women/girls to violence ● Livelihood loss and poverty heighten intimate partner violence ● Water scarcity increases travel, exposure to unsafe environments ● Economic hardship drives early/forced marriage ● Weakened networks reduce reporting and support ● Repeated shocks normalise violence, deepen inequality

Theme 4: Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR)

Topic	Key Findings
Availability & quality	Institutions exist at upazila/union/ward level, but the community has limited access due to both supply- and demand-side barriers.
Impact of disasters on delivery	During disaster periods, there is effectively no service available to the affected community.
Barriers — women & young women	An intergenerational gap exists between women and young women, requiring interventions designed to bridge it.
Barriers — provider side	Providers show very limited willingness to deliver services to the community.
SRHR in educational institutions	No SRHR-related services provided; no dedicated female teachers to support SRHR.
Recommendations	● Improve SRHR services for the community ● Increase community awareness of SRHR ● Expand interventions at the educational-institution level

Theme 5: Social Cohesion and Governance

Topic	Key Findings
Inclusion of Dalit/marginalised groups	No current initiatives in the project areas specifically aimed at including Dalit and marginalised groups.
Barriers to social cohesion	● Knowledge and skills gap ● No shared understanding of social cohesion ● Lack of a local initiator or convener
Role of institutions	● Skill development ● Capacity development ● Increasing knowledge ● Policy development

Theme 6: Policy and Institutional Mapping

Topic	Key Findings
Relevant policies on NELD	No national or local policies on NELD currently exist.
Alignment gaps	Significant alignment gaps exist among strategies and policies related to climate change and disaster risk reduction.
Opportunities for policy engagement	Substantial opportunity to advance policy advocacy — national strategies plus community-level education and awareness-raising on NELD.
Recommendations	Bangladesh needs a dedicated policy, strategy, guidelines, definition, and set of tools for NELD.