

Country: Bangladesh

Focus of case study: Vocational training

Summary: Bangladesh regularly suffers from floods due to its position in the combined delta of three rivers. The consequences of floods on livelihoods differ depending on the land type, land ownership status, other resources/assets, alternative disaster management skills and gender configuration of a household. The majority of households engaged in crop production suffer loss of standing crops and the loss of employment during the period. Women suffer mostly from the loss of homestead food production activities, such as vegetable gardening, livestock and poultry. Among the nonagricultural households, the potters, small producers, petty traders, and day laborers suffer the most as their income generation opportunity reduces greatly during the flood period in each year (3-4 months). This is due to the difficulties in transportation, storage and drying.

Small business opportunities were identified as part of a community project to address economic stress experienced during flood seasons. Participants received vocational training in a variety of trades, including: shoemaking, weaving, blacksmithing, carpentry, matt weaving, and tailoring. Under the small enterprise development initiative a total of 67 entrepreneurs in four villages were supported in starting 10 individual small businesses to generate income throughout the year. Income diversification buffers economic stress from loss of agricultural productivity or employment during flood periods. Women and girls can also engage in small enterprise development programs, thereby enhancing gender equity and household income diversification

Class of adaptation practice:
diversification, exchange

External support: leadership,
informational, technical, financial

Local rural institutions: social

External institutions: social

Capacity building: income generation,
technical skills, coordination among
groups, ability to plan and strategize,
ability to maintain livelihood during
environmental hazards, inclusion of
women

Source: UNFCCC Local Coping Strategies Database: “Vocational Training in Bangladesh.”