



Webinar on

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for the Climate-induced Migrant Women and Girls living in the Urban Slums

Concept Note

Background:

Bangladesh has been struggling with tropical storms, flood and natural disasters for a long time and fighting with the adverse effects of climate change in many ways as well. The results of the drastic climate change, such as rising sea-level, erosion, salinity intrusion, crop failure, storms, cyclones, drought etc. are causing displacement of a large number of people every year and contributing to the rural to urban migration and thus to the explosion of rapid urbanization too.

While urban people's health needs are not yet sufficiently addressed by the existing healthcare service delivery systems, climate induced migration is putting more pressure on this. The displaced internal migrants from rural communities are not getting adequate healthcare services and women and girls are falling into a more vulnerable state in their newer settlements—the urban slums.

Climate change and natural disasters have direct and indirect health impacts on the people living in vulnerable rural areas and it affects women and girl's sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) in many damaging ways. Women and girl's sexual and reproductive health (SRH) is exposed to huge risks during and post disaster periods resulting into their rights being violated. Furthermore, when these vulnerable people, including women and girls, migrate to urban cities and live in slums, the threats of gender based violence (GBV) accelerates. Moreover, they do not get adequate SRH related services due to the absence of a structured health service delivery system at urban settings. Women and girls' rights related to SRH are violated both at source and destinations, including increased risks of GBV.

There is a lack of data and information available on the link between SRHR & GBV and climate change in Bangladesh. UNFPA supports various ministries and local and international NGOs in the provision of quality sexual and reproductive health services in the country through evidence-based interventions. In this regard, UNFPA conducted a study on the climate change implications on SRHR to suggest the design of an integrated urban SRHR and GBV interventions for the climate migrant populations living in the urban slums in Bangladesh. The study was conducted among men, women and girls at three urban cities (Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna), who have migrated from climate vulnerable rural areas.

The study found that those who have migrated from climate impacted areas, their hardships, inflicted largely by climate change, pushed them to migrate to urban areas. They had no other option than to choose the urban slums as their shelter. The rural women and girls used to struggle with poverty and health hazards, including problems associated with SRH; that situation did not improve at all, and in some cases deteriorated, when they moved to the urban cities. The slum itself is an area where livelihood standard is sub-optimal; where quality health services are not accessible, affordable and/or available. It was also found that gender-based violence is highly predominant in the slum community. Climate induced



urban migrants could not improve their lifestyle vis-à-vis socio-economic status and their overall SRH conditions became more jeopardized.

It is expected that more people will migrate from the climate affected areas and will settle in the urban slums in the foreseeable future. If proper attention is not taken to address the SRH and GBV related problems of these communities, the sufferings will increase and the health and social needs of urban people will remain unaddressed, which is undesirable. In this regard, UNFPA has planned to communicate with the Government of Bangladesh and donor agencies to continue evidence-based advocacy in order for ensuring SRH services to the climate induced migrants.

This Webinar aims to discuss primarily the SRHR issues of the climate induced migrant women and girls living in the urban slums which is basically the outcome of the study conducted by UNFPA. This will help promote and strengthen the interconnectedness of research findings, policy and strategy documents, practices and advocacy evidence to ensure universal access to SRHR in Bangladesh. To that end, it will provide a platform for participants to discuss the best possible means and interventions to meet the SRHR needs of the climate migrant women and girls. The Webinar will be jointly organized by UNFPA Bangladesh and Centre for Development Communications DEVCOM.

Objectives of the Webinar:

- To disseminate the findings of the study on the implications of climate change on SRHR and GBV among the urban slum populations
- To discuss the best possible means and interventions to address the SRHR needs of the climate migrant women and girls living in the urban slums
- To draw policy and programmatic recommendations from representatives of various actors so that climate-induced urban slum population can access better services in regards to SRHR
- To strengthen partnerships and collaboration among policy makers and stakeholders in the areas of SRHR and climate change.

Participants:

Representatives of the Government, UN Agencies, development partners, academia, researchers, International NGOs, NGOs from District and Divisional level and Development Practitioners working SRHR and Climate Change issues.

Date: 21 December 2021

Time: 11.00AM to 12.30PM

Media: Zoom Cloud Platform