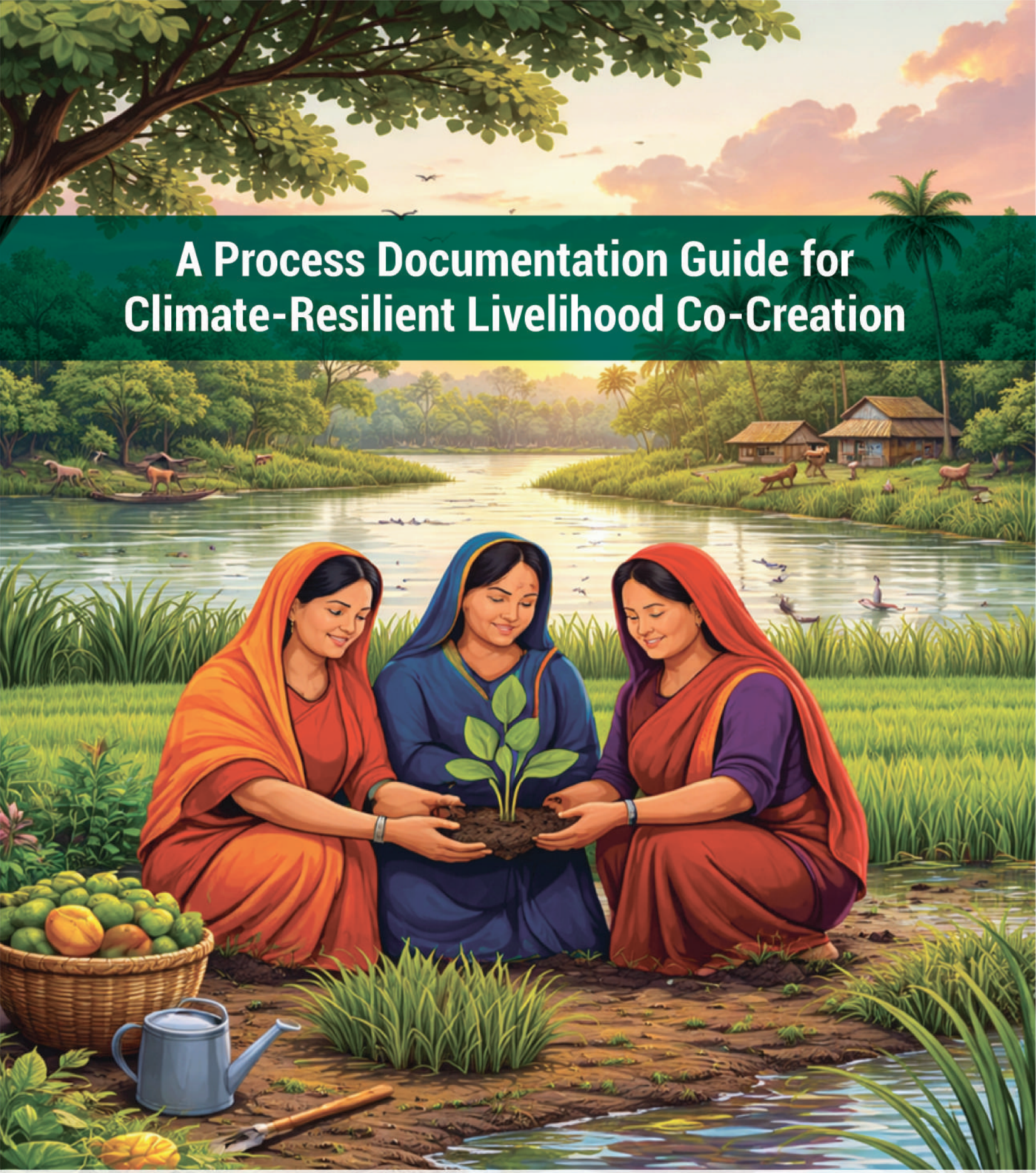
A Process Documentation Guide for Climate-Resilient Livelihood Co-Creation



GLOBAL CENTER ON ADAPTATION

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Authors & Acknowledgements

This publication has been developed by Uttaran under the project Women's Adaptation Plans for Climate-Resilient Livelihoods in the Sundarbans, with financial support from the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA). GCA provided financial assistance and strategic guidance to advance locally led, women-centered climate adaptation in coastal Bangladesh. Uttaran led the project's implementation, community engagement, participatory research, Women's Adaptation Labs and documentation processes to promote inclusive and climate-resilient local governance systems.

Executive Summary

A locally led and highly participatory process guided the development of women-centered climate-resilient livelihood plans in three vulnerable coastal villages of the Sundarbans region. This report documents the overall methodology, institutional arrangements, participatory tools and learning generated throughout the process. Through community consultations, climate risk assessments, resource mapping and market analysis, women identified salinity intrusion, drinking water scarcity, cyclone impacts, income instability and limited access to productive resources as major climate threats affecting their households and livelihoods.

In response, women collectively prioritized practical adaptation pathways, including climate-resilient livelihood diversification, homestead-based food production, improved water management practices, savings mechanisms and strengthened disaster preparedness capacities. Dedicated women-led platforms enabled structured analysis, validation and co-creation of solutions, while pilot initiatives tested feasibility under real conditions. This report captures the phased journeyfrom institutional setup and participatory diagnostics to validation and knowledge consolidationproviding a replicable process model for advancing gender-responsive, community-driven climate adaptation in vulnerable coastal contexts.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Project Context

The coastal Sundarbans region of southwest Bangladesh is one of the most climate-vulnerable areas in the country. Characterized by tidal rivers, saline soils, fragile embankments and proximity to the world's largest mangrove forest, the region faces recurring cyclones, storm surges, tidal flooding, salinity intrusion and riverbank erosion. These hazards have progressively undermined agricultural productivity, freshwater availability, housing stability and livelihood security. The project was implemented in three climate-exposed villagesMoheswaripur (Moheswaripur Union, Koyra Upazila), Borobari (Uttar Bedkashi Union, Koyra Upazila) and Kalabogi (Sutarkhali Union, Dacope Upazila). These communities are highly dependent on natural resource-based livelihoods, including small-scale agriculture, crab collection, fishing, fuelwood gathering and day labor. However, increasing salinity, ecosystem degradation and extreme weather events have reduced income opportunities and intensified household vulnerability.

Women in these villages experience disproportionate impacts. As primary caregivers and contributors to household income, they face increased workloads, limited access to productive assets and restricted participation in formal decision-making spaces. Despite their central role in managing natural and financial resources, women often lack access to adaptive livelihood options and institutional support. In response to these challenges, the Women's Adaptation Plans for Climate Resilient Livelihoods initiative was designed to strengthen women's leadership in climate adaptation planning and promote sustainable, climate-resilient livelihood pathways rooted in local realities.

The purpose of this Process Documentation Report is to provide a clear, step-by-step guideline for the Women's Adaptation Plans for Climate Resilient Livelihoods project. This document is intended for development practitioners, NGOs, government bodies and other stakeholders interested in implementing gender-responsive climate adaptation projects in similar climate-vulnerable regions. It serves as a practical guide to help future implementers understand the activities, methodologies and decision-making processes used in the project and adapt them for their own contexts.

1.2 Purpose and Scope of the Process Documentation

The report walks through each phase of the project, from institutional setup and community engagement to data collection, co-creation of adaptation plans and piloting. It provides clear, actionable steps to follow, ensuring that the methodology is replicable, scalable and contextually relevant.

The key objectives of this document are:

a. Provide a clear, replicable process for adaptation planning:This report outlines the key activities and steps taken throughout the project, providing actionable guidelines for creating women's adaptation plans. The focus is on how to engage communities, how to co-create adaptation strategies and how to integrate gender and climate resilience into the process. By following these steps, you can replicate the methodology in similar contexts, adapting it to meet the specific needs of the community.

b. Document the co-creation process:This project was built on a participatory approach, where women and local communities played an active role in the assessment of climate risks, identification of livelihood needs and development of solutions. This report will show how to engage communities at every step, ensuring that the adaptation strategies are not only relevant but also owned by the community, empowering them to take the lead in their own climate resilience.

c. Integrate key frameworks for climate adaptation:The report highlights the use of two guiding frameworks:

   - The Five Capitals Framework: This ensures that the adaptation plan strengthens natural, financial, physical, human and social capitals, enabling a holistic approach to climate resilience.

   - Locally Led Adaptation (LLA): By prioritizing local ownership and community-driven decision-making, the project ensures that adaptation strategies are designed from the ground up, led by women and community leaders.

d. Document adaptive management:Throughout the project, adaptive management was used to respond to feedback and emerging challenges. This report will show how flexibility was built into the project's design and how adjustments were made based on real-time feedback from the community. It provides valuable lessons learned and guidance on how to manage complex projects in dynamic environments.

e. Provide a practical guide for future implementers:This document is meant to serve as a tool for those looking to replicate or scale the project. By following the steps outlined in each section, future implementers can ensure that the process remains effective, inclusive and sustainable. This report doesn't just describe what was done but provides a clear methodology that can be adapted and applied in other settings.

The scope of this document focuses on the process of implementation, providing a detailed breakdown of each phase, from initial setup and

governance to co-creation, implementation and scaling. The report includes step-by-step instructions, tools and insights, along with the feedback loops and adjustments made to ensure the approach was adaptive to community needs.

1.3 Overview of the Women's Adaptation Plan Initiative

The Women's Adaptation Plans for Climate Resilient Livelihoods initiative was developed to address the growing climate vulnerability of women in the Sundarbans regionone of the most climate-exposed areas of Bangladesh. Frequent cyclones, tidal flooding, salinity intrusion and riverbank erosion have significantly undermined natural resource-based livelihoods such as fishing, crab collection, fuelwood gathering and small-scale agriculture. As environmental degradation intensifies, womenwho play central roles in household management and income generationface heightened economic insecurity and limited access to decision-making and alternative livelihood opportunities.

The initiative sought to break this cycle by positioning women at the center of climate adaptation planning. Through a structured, participatory approach, women assessed climate risks, identified livelihood constraints and co-created practical adaptation strategies tailored to their socio-economic realities. The process was guided by the Five Capitals Framework to ensure holistic strengthening of natural, human, financial, physical and social assets and aligned with Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) principles to promote ownership and community-driven decision-making.

Dedicated Women's Adaptation Labs (WALs) enabled collective analysis, validation and planning. Emphasis was placed on livelihood diversification, stakeholder engagement and institutional alignment to ensure sustainability and scalability within local governance frameworks.

1.4 Project Objectives

The Women's Adaptation Plans for Climate Resilient Livelihoods project aimed to achieve the following key objectives:

1. Empower women to lead adaptation efforts, involving them in every stage of the planning process, from climate risk assessments to solution development.

2. Assess climate risks and adaptation needs using both scientific data and local knowledge to create relevant, actionable plans.

3. Co-create climate-resilient livelihood solutions that are sustainable, gender-responsive and economically viable.

1.5 Importance of Process Documentation for Replication

Documenting the implementation process is essential to ensure that the approach can be replicated, adapted and scaled in other climate-vulnerable regions. This report provides a structured methodology that future practitioners can follow, while also highlighting

contextual considerations and practical lessons learned.

The documentation captures key challenges encountered during implementationranging from community engagement barriers to technical constraintsand explains how these were addressed through adaptive management. By embedding flexibility and feedback mechanisms into the design, the initiative demonstrated that effective climate adaptation planning requires continuous learning and responsiveness.

Moreover, the report serves as a knowledge-sharing resource, enabling practitioners to build upon tested tools and approaches rather than starting from scratch. By aligning adaptation plans with local governance structures and development agendas, the initiative established a pathway for sustainability and institutional anchoring. Overall, this document provides a practical and professional guide for advancing gender-responsive, locally led climate adaptation planning in vulnerable coastal contexts.

2 PROJECT PROCESS OVERVIEW

2.1 Overview of the 7 Phases of the Project

The Women's Adaptation Plans for Climate Resilient Livelihoods project unfolded across seven key phases, each focusing on empowering local communities and ensuring that women played an integral role in leading and shaping their own adaptation plans. This community-driven approach ensured that solutions were rooted in local knowledge and community needs, making the adaptation strategies authentic, sustainable and widely accepted. Rather than being imposed, the project embraced a model of collaboration and co-creation, where each phase directly involved the local community in decision-making and problem-solving.

Phase 1: Institutional Setup and Stakeholder Engagement

Establish the institutional, methodological and social foundations necessary before any community platform formation or adaptation planning begins. It aligns the implementation team around Locally Led Adaptation (LLA), gender integration and phased sequencing discipline; ensures transparent engagement with district and sub-district authorities while maintaining advisory boundaries; applies parameter-driven, evidence-based village selection using ecological exposure and livelihood vulnerability criteria; and conducts structured village-level introductory meetings to build trust, clarify scope and prevent expectation distortion. By the end of this phase, the team is methodologically prepared, institutions are informed and aligned, village targeting is analytically justified and communities understand the phased, vulnerability-based processcreating the legitimacy and readiness required for structured mobilization in

Phase 2: Institutionalizing Women's Collective Platforms and Governance Architecture

Institutionalizes the social and governance architecture necessary for women-led adaptation planning to function as a locally anchored process. It establishes evidence-based and community-validated women's groups using transparent vulnerability criteria, strengthens their collective capacity through decentralized, participatory courtyard sessions on governance, gender and climate resilience and builds horizontal village-level networks to consolidate shared ecosystem and livelihood constraints. It then creates a vertically aligned Local Project Advisory Committee (LPAC) to provide technical review and institutional linkage while safeguarding women's decision-making authority. By the end of this phase, women's platforms are structurally organized, analytically confident, horizontally connected and institutionally linkedensuring that subsequent technical diagnostics and adaptation design in Phase 3 are carried through community-led governance mechanisms rather than externally driven interventions.

Phase 3: Participatory Evidence Generation and Systems Diagnostics

Builds the integrated evidence base required for risk-informed, women-led adaptation planning by operationalizing the Five Capitals Framework into a structured diagnostic system. Through methodological orientation of women co-researchers, digital household enumeration with geotagging, participatory stakeholder and power analysis, community resource mapping, scientific climate risk modeling with technical partners, socio-economic baseline profiling and market systems assessment, this phase generates a multi-layered capital vulnerability and opportunity matrix for each village. The process triangulates community knowledge with scientific analytics and institutional mapping to ensure that future livelihood options are climate-compatible, economically viable, socially legitimate and institutionally negotiable. By the end of Phase 3, adaptation planning is grounded in verified ecological exposure, livelihood sensitivity, governance dynamics, gendered capital constraints and market feasibilityproviding the systemic foundation necessary for structured co-creation in subsequent phases.

Phase 4: Knowledge Translation, Validation and Institutional Alignment

Consolidates the transition from evidence generation to collective validation and institutional alignment. While Phase 3 produced multi-layered diagnostics across ecological exposure, livelihood sensitivity, governance dynamics and market feasibility, Phase 4 ensures that this evidence is systematically reviewed, translated, validated and embedded within functioning coordination structures before co-creation begins. Through structured bi-monthly review cycles, LPAC-led refinement of LLA operational principles, establishment of village and union-level multi-stakeholder platforms and translation of scientific risk findings into accessible Bangla materials, this phase creates controlled feedback loops between the Project Implementation Unit, women's groups, governance actors and market stakeholders. The objective is not additional data production but collective verification, governance integration and shared risk understandingensuring that adaptation planning proceeds on validated assumptions, institutional clarity and community-informed alignment rather than untested technical conclusions.

Phase 5: Women's Adaptation Lab and Climate-Resilient Livelihood Co-Creation

Operationalizes the Women's Adaptation Lab as the structured co-creation engine of the model, translating validated diagnostics and institutional alignment into risk-informed, capital-balanced and market-integrated livelihood planning. Through facilitated Lab sessions in each village, women systematically analyze hazard exposure, livelihood sensitivity and capital constraints before prioritizing climate-compatible solutions using multi-criteria screening frameworks. These prioritized options are then converted into structured household-level business plans incorporating climate-proofing design, financial modeling, contingency strategies and shared infrastructure considerations. Plans undergo external technical stress testing with scientific and sectoral experts, ensuring ecological sustainability and long-term adaptability, while structured business linkage meetings and public scheme integration embed these enterprises within market systems, financial pathways and governance structures. By the end of this phase, adaptation planning moves beyond participatory discussion into technically validated, institutionally connected and implementation-ready livelihood blueprints

Phase 6: Pilot Implementation, Adaptability Measurement and Community Validation

Represents the controlled field-testing and validation stage of the Women's Adaptation Planning model, where risk-informed livelihood plans are operationalized under real conditions to assess adaptability, capital stability, ecological impact and market functionality before any scaling decisions are made. Selected pilot participants undergo layered validationincluding community platform review and administrative endorsementto ensure transparency and operational readiness. Piloted livelihood models are implemented with predefined monitoring indicators measuring productivity stability, infrastructure durability, financial variance, recovery capacity and resource-use implications under actual climate variability. Structured evaluation then consolidates performance data, applies Five Capital stress analysis and classifies models based on adaptability thresholds rather than short-term output. Finally, community validation workshops present pilot findings to women's networks, stakeholders and local authorities to screen for social acceptability, resource conflict risk and institutional compatibility. By the end of this phase, adaptation options are not only participatorily designed and technically refined but empirically tested, socially validated and governance-alignedensuring that only climate-adaptive, capital-balanced and system-compatible livelihood models proceed toward replication or policy integration.

Phase 7: Institutionalization, Documentation and Knowledge Consolidation

Consolidates and institutionalizes the entire Women's Adaptation Planning methodology by converting the multi-phase, field-tested process into structured, bilingual and publicly accessible knowledge architecture. Building on validated diagnostics, Lab-based co-creation, technical stress testing and pilot evidence from earlier phases, this stage codifies the model into a step-by-step operational guideline that clearly defines tools, sequencing logic, process safeguards, validation gates, governance interfaces and monitoring architecture. Simultaneously, village-level Women's Adaptation Plans are finalized and published as technically grounded, pilot-tested and community-validated planning documents that integrate climate diagnostics, Five Capital analysis, market systems insights, institutional linkage pathways and adaptability indicators. Good practices, technical refinements and community narratives are systematically documented and disseminated through structured knowledge products to support institutional uptake and replication readiness. A final reflection and learning-sharing workshop then subjects the model to collective review by women's networks, experts and institutional actors, consolidating legitimacy, clarifying replication conditions and reinforcing the transition from project-based implementation to a transferable, governance-aligned adaptation framework.

2.2 Visual Flow Diagram of the Process

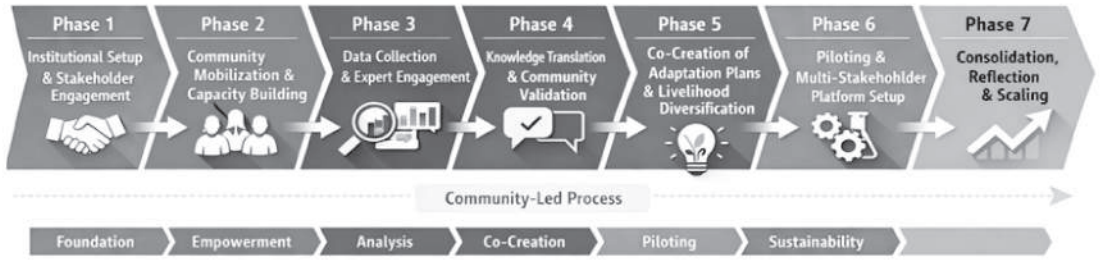


Figure 1: Flow Diagram of the Process

3 PROCESS PHASES

3.1 Phase 1: Institutional Setup and Stakeholder Engagement

Phase 1 establishes the methodological legitimacy, institutional alignment and community-entry foundation required before any group formation, data extraction, or adaptation planning begins. The purpose of this phase is to ensure that the project enters the field with the right sequencing, the right governance relationships and the right community trust conditionsso later phases remain locally led rather than externally driven.

This phase should focus on four foundational conditions:

1. Methodological readiness of the team staff share a common understanding of Locally Led Adaptation (LLA), gender integration, participatory facilitation discipline and the project's phased process logic.

2. Defensible geographic targeting project villages are selected through transparent, parameter-driven screening that reflects ecological exposure, livelihood dependency patterns and vulnerability characteristics, rather than administrative convenience.

3. Institutional transparency and alignment district and sub-district stakeholders understand the project's facilitative role, recognize community platforms as the core planning mechanism and agree to engage in advisory and enabling capacities rather than control.

4. Trust-based community entry communities understand what the project is and is not, misconceptions are addressed early and the social entry process creates enough trust to enable inclusive participation in Phase 2.

Phase 1 should be considered complete only when the field context is ready for structured mobilization, meaning the team is prepared, institutions are aligned, village selection logic is documented and communities have been engaged through a transparent trust-building process that prevents expectation distortion and reduces the risk of elite capture.

Activity 1: Staff Orientation

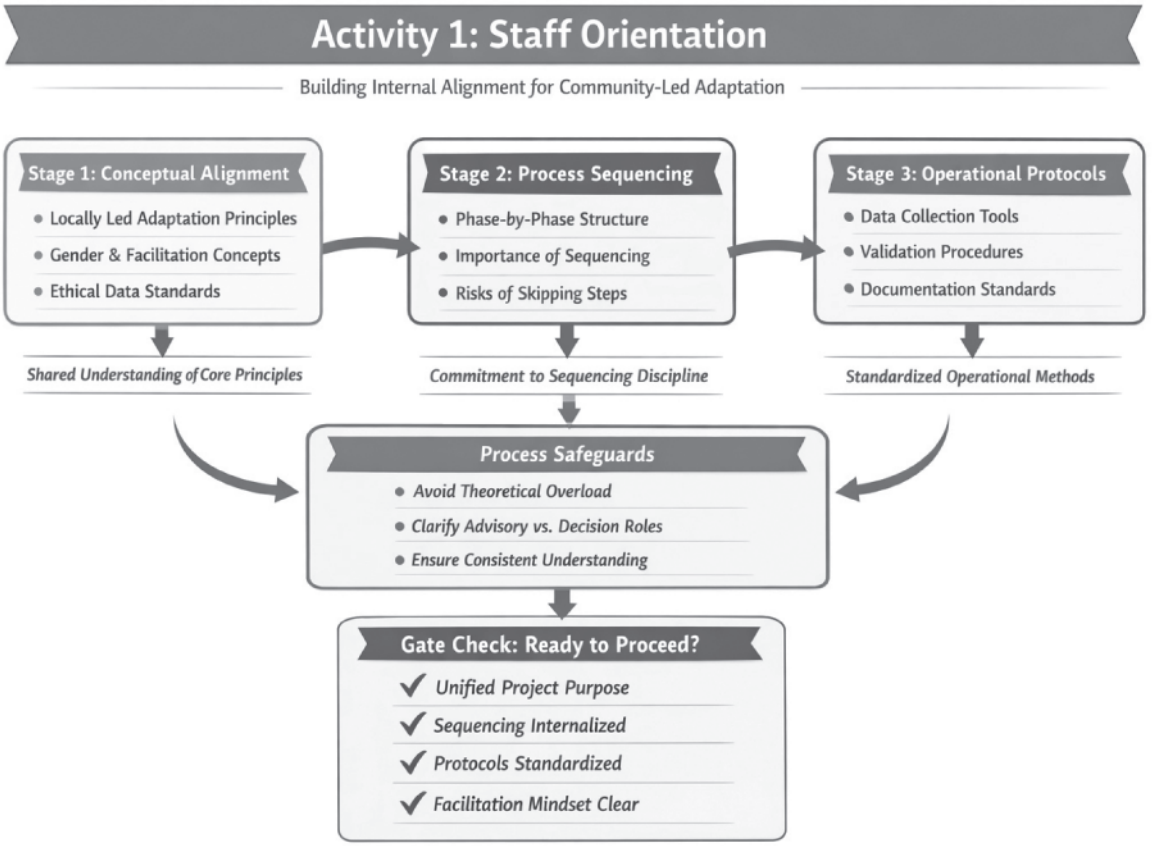


Figure 2: Process Flow Chart of staff Orientation

Before initiating any community-level engagement, the implementation team must undergo structured methodological alignment. Community-led adaptation cannot function effectively if internal conceptual clarity is fragmented. Staff orientation, therefore, is not an introductory briefing but a foundational discipline-setting process that establishes shared understanding, sequencing integrity and facilitative positioning.

The orientation begins by aligning team members around the core principles guiding the intervention. This includes Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) as a facilitative framework, gender-integrated planning, participatory ethics and the distinction between enabling community agency and prescribing solutions. Staff must clearly internalize that the project does not deliver predefined livelihood packages and that adaptation priorities are expected to emerge from structured community platforms. Technical inputs will validate and refine community-generated ideas but will not dictate them. Scenario-based discussions are used to anticipate risks such as elite capture, institutional overreach, expectation distortion and facilitation breakdown.

The process then introduces the multi-phase project architecture, emphasizing that sequencing is a governance safeguard rather than an administrative preference. Each phase

builds legitimacy and analytical depth; skipping or rearranging stages risks undermining participation quality and institutional balance. Finally, operational and documentation protocols are standardized to ensure consistency in digital data collection, validation procedures, meeting documentation and safeguard reporting.This activity is considered complete only when the team demonstrates unified articulation of the project's purpose, internalizes sequencing discipline and operates with a shared understanding of its facilitativenot prescriptiverole.

Activity 2: Village Selection Process

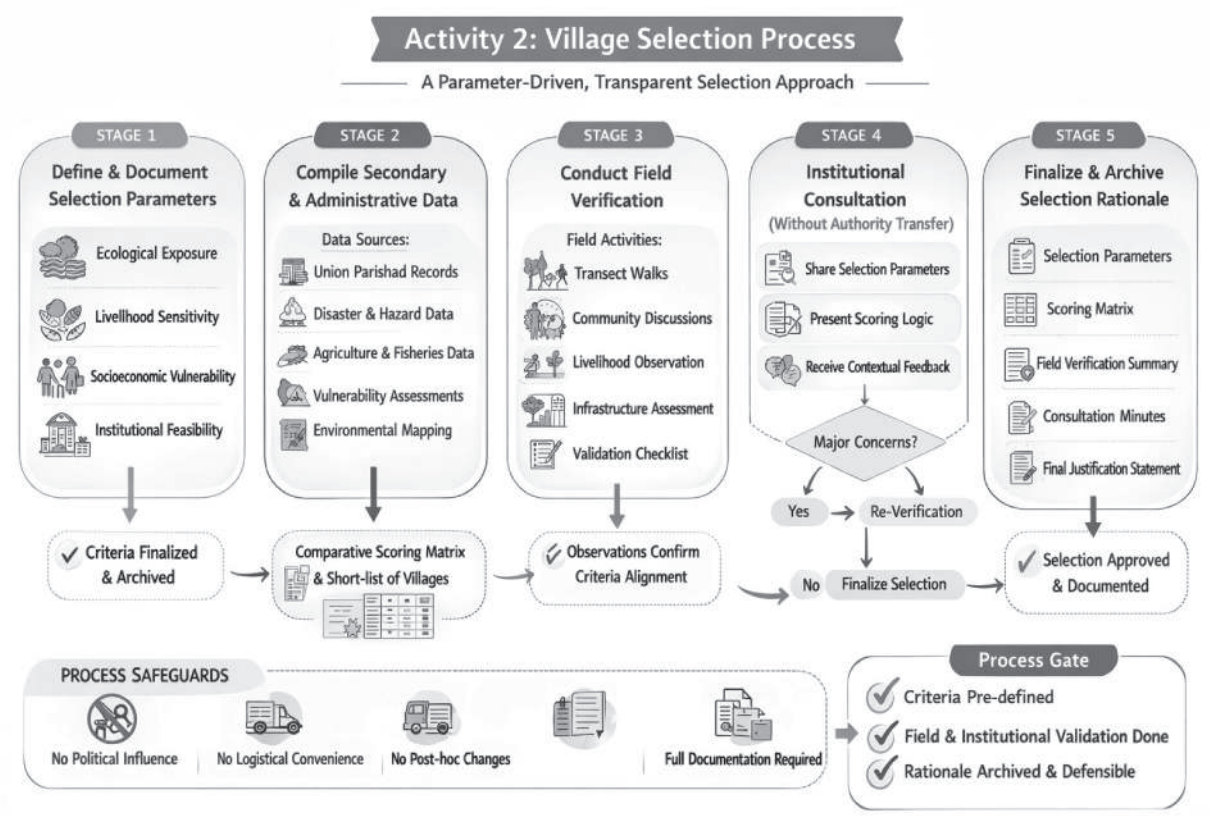


Figure 3: Process Flow Chart of Village Selection

Village selection is a foundational structural decision that determines the analytical credibility and ethical integrity of the entire adaptation process. Geographic targeting cannot be based on administrative convenience, political suggestion, or operational ease. It must instead follow pre-defined, transparent parameters that ensure exposure to ecological risk, high livelihood–climate sensitivity and concentration of vulnerable population groups.

The process begins with the formal documentation of selection criteria before any field screening occurs. These criteria typically integrate ecological exposure (such as proximity to saline intrusion belts, embankment-vulnerable zones, or high cyclone recurrence areas), livelihood sensitivity (including dependency on fisheries, forest-based extraction, aquaculture, or climate-sensitive agriculture), socioeconomic vulnerability indicators (such as landlessness, female-headed households and debt exposure) and basic institutional feasibility considerations. Defining these parameters in advance prevents post-hoc justification and protects analytical neutrality.

Secondary and administrative data are then compiled to generate a comparative matrix of candidate villages within the selected Upazila(s). This structured comparison produces a short-list based on documented thresholds rather than perception. Short-listed villages subsequently undergo field verification through transect observation, informal consultations and validation of livelihood dependency and infrastructure exposure patterns. This step ensures that statistical data aligns with lived realities.

Preliminary findings are shared with relevant district and sub-district authorities for transparency, while maintaining parameter-driven decision authority. Institutional consultation provides contextual insight but does not override vulnerability-based logic.

The activity concludes with formal archiving of the full selection rationale, including criteria, scoring matrix, field validation summaries and consultation records. Village selection is considered complete only when the process is analytically defensible, transparently documented and free from unresolved political or administrative pressure.

Activity 3: District and Sub-District Institutional Inception

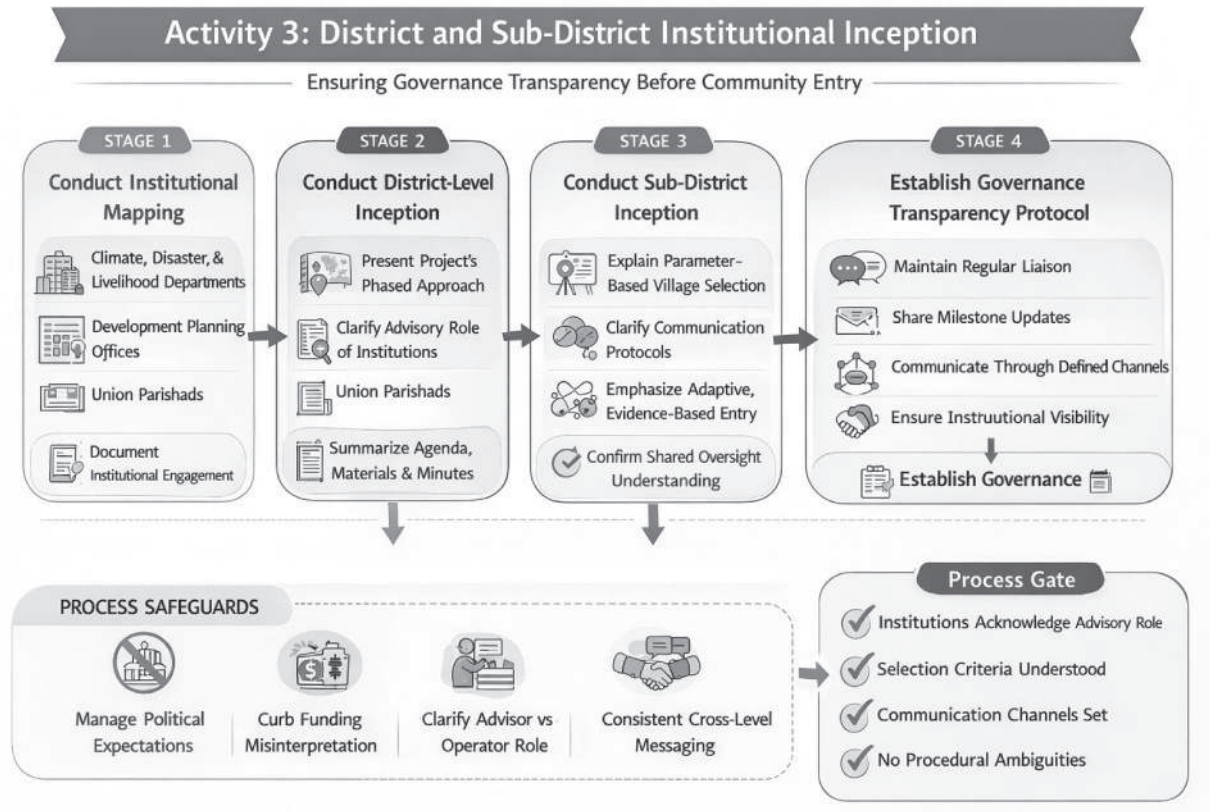


Figure 4: Process Flow Chart of Inception

Institutional inception must precede village-level mobilization to ensure governance transparency and prevent misinterpretation, duplication, or institutional resistance. Entering communities without prior administrative visibility risks creating parallel structures or unrealistic expectations. This activity therefore establishes formal recognition of the initiative within district and sub-district systems while clearly defining advisorynot directiveroles.

The process begins with structured institutional mapping to identify departments and offices that influence climate-sensitive livelihoods, disaster management, ecological access, agricultural and fisheries systems, social protection and local development planning. Engagement prioritizes functional relevance rather than ceremonial hierarchy, ensuring that the institutions most connected to adaptation systems are included.

District-level inception provides macro-level transparency. It introduces the phased architecture, clarifies that women-led platforms will guide adaptation planning and establishes the advisory boundaries of government actors. Sub-district engagement follows with greater operational specificity, reinforcing that village selection and household targeting will remain parameter-driven and evidence-based. Clear communication at this stage prevents later pressure around beneficiary nomination or geographic preference.

The activity concludes with the establishment of a governance transparency protocol that maintains structured communication without creating operational dependency. Institutional inception is considered complete when advisory roles are clearly understood, communication channels are aligned and there is no ambiguity regarding village selection authority.

Activity 4: Introductory Village-Level Trust Building

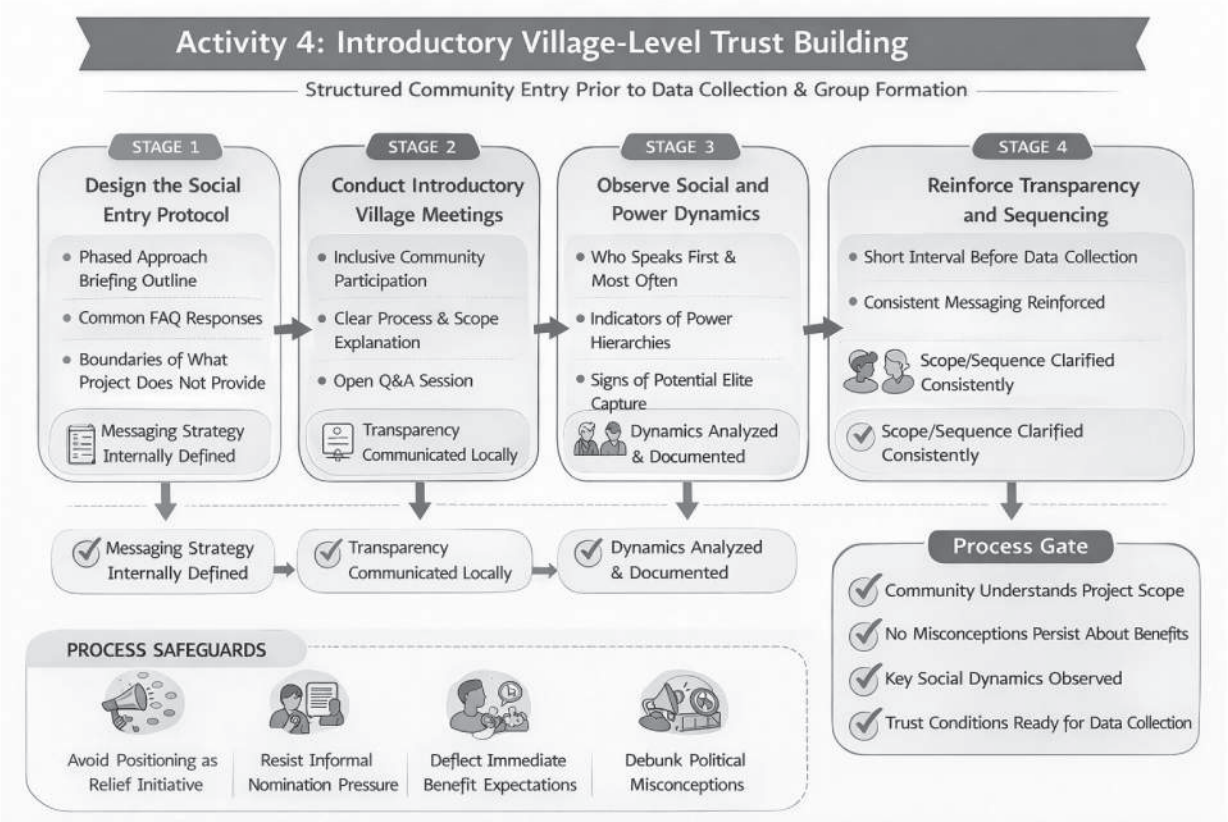


Figure 5: Process Flow Chart of Trust Building Session

Structured community entry must precede household identification, surveys, or group formation. Entering a village with immediate data collection or participant recruitment can generate suspicion, competition and unrealistic expectations. This activity therefore focuses on establishing transparency, clarifying scope boundaries and creating sufficient trust conditions for inclusive engagement in subsequent phases.

The process begins with internal alignment on a standardized communication protocol. Messaging must clearly explain the phased nature of the initiative, emphasize that adaptation priorities will emerge through women-led platforms and distinguish the intervention from credit, relief, or infrastructure delivery programs. Consistency at this stage is critical; contradictory explanations across villages can distort expectations and undermine legitimacy.

Introductory village meetings are then conducted in accessible spaces with inclusive representation, including women, youth, community leaders and persons with disabilities. The sessions introduce the process architecture, explain vulnerability-based participation criteria and clarify sequencing. Transparencynot promiseis the foundation of trust. Simultaneously, facilitators observe local power dynamics, gendered speaking patterns and potential elite capture risks, documenting insights to inform later structuring.

The activity concludes with reinforced sequencing discipline. No immediate recruitment signals are given and corrective clarification is provided if rumors emerge. Trust-building is considered complete only when community members understand the project scope, misconceptions are resolved and sufficient confidence exists to proceed with structured data collection.

3.2 Phase 2: Institutionalizing Women's Collective Platforms and Governance Architecture

Phase 2 establishes the foundational social and governance architecture necessary for women-led adaptation planning to function as a locally owned and sustained process. The purpose of this phase is not to generate adaptation plans but to ensure that women are organized, informed and institutionally connected before technical analysis begins. Adaptation planning must emerge through community platforms rather than being externally driven.

The implementation sequence focuses on three interlinked capacities. First, collective structure: women's groups are formed or reorganized through transparent inclusion criteria and community validation to ensure representation and legitimacy. These groups develop internal leadership arrangements, defined roles and regular meeting practices so they can function autonomously rather than depend on continuous project prompting. Second, collective capability: women participate in a structured learning sequence covering gender, climate risk, resilience and livelihood constraints. Facilitation approaches are adapted to women's time availability and literacy diversity, strengthening confidence and analytical engagement. Third, collective connectivity: horizontal village-level platforms are created to enable cross-group dialogue, shared problem identification and collective articulation of priorities, while a multi-stakeholder advisory mechanism is established to provide technical and institutional linkage without overriding women's decision-making authority.

Phase 2 is considered complete only when groups are representative and functional, learning processes are completed, cross-group coordination exists and governance interfaces are defined with safeguards. The guiding principle remains consistent: technical planning must not accelerate until community platforms are strong enough to hold it.

Activity 1: Identification, Reorganization and Formation of Women's Groups

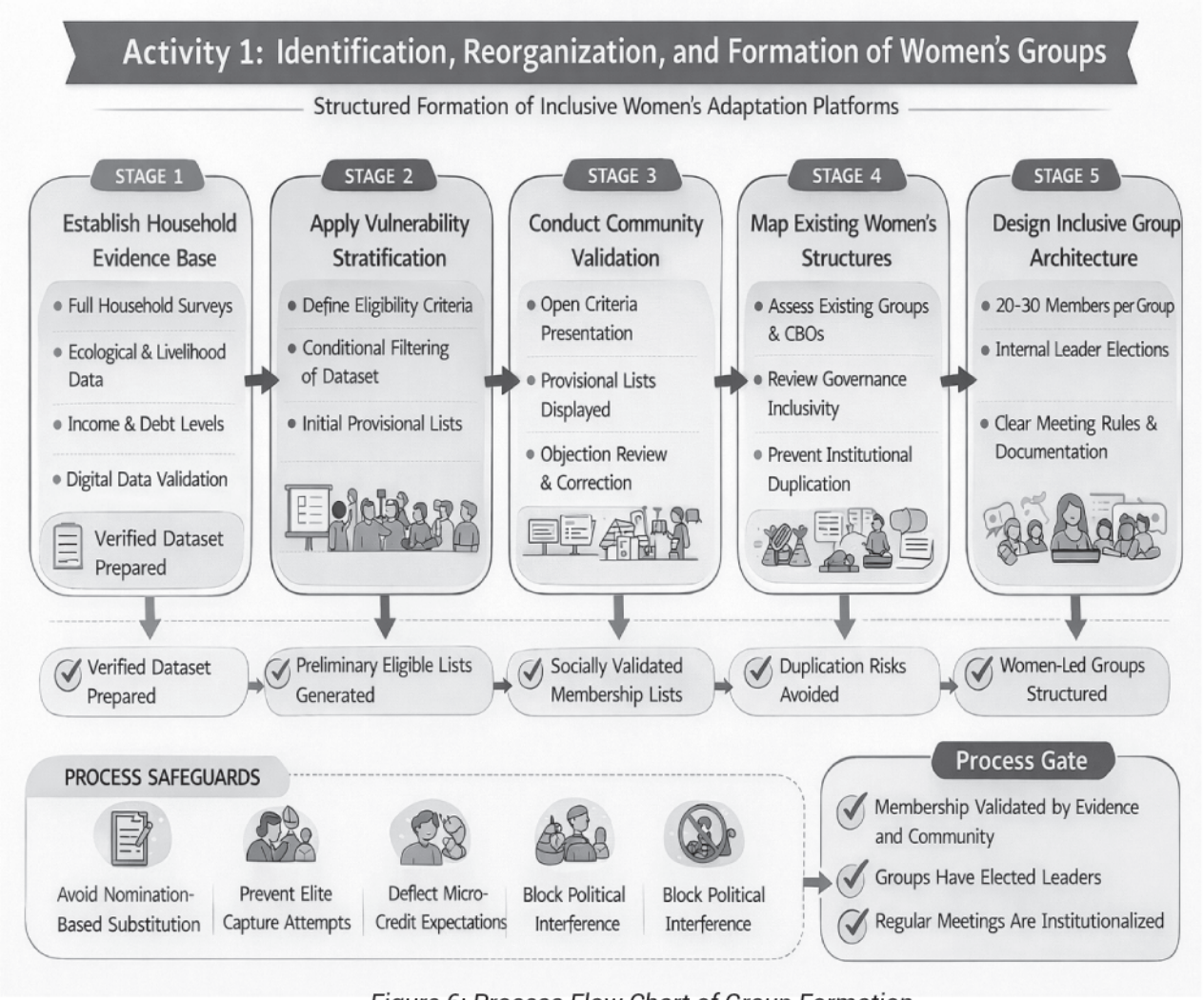


Figure 6: Process Flow Chart of Group Formation

The identification and structuring of women's groups constitutes the foundational step of Phase 2. If this process is rushed, politically influenced, or driven by informal nomination, the legitimacy of all subsequent adaptation planning can be compromised. Group formation must therefore be treated as an evidence-based and socially validated process rather than a mobilization exercise. The activity begins with the establishment of a household-level evidence base to ensure that inclusion is grounded in structured vulnerability criteria. Household data is collected to understand ecological dependency, income instability, land ownership patterns, gender roles in decision-making and exposure to climate risks. Digital tools and structured verification procedures are applied to ensure data integrity and minimize exclusion error. Based on predefined vulnerability parameters, a provisional eligibility list is generated using transparent filtering logic However, technical eligibility alone is insufficient. The provisional list undergoes community validation to ensure social legitimacy, prevent elite capture and address potential data gaps. Corrections are incorporated only after verification against recorded evidence. This dual-layered filteringtechnical and socialprotects both analytical rigor and local trust.

Before forming new groups, existing women's institutional structures are mapped and assessed to avoid duplication and institutional fatigue. Where functional and inclusive groups already exist, alignment and reorganization are prioritized over creating parallel structures. New groups are formed only where representation gaps or governance weaknesses are evident.

Finally, each group adopts a clear internal structure, including elected leadership, defined roles and regular meeting practices. Group composition reflects diversity in livelihood type, vulnerability category, age and literacy level to strengthen collective analysis in later phases. This activity is considered complete only when membership is evidence-based and validated, leadership is internally elected, documentation systems are functional and women clearly understand that the platform is intended for adaptation planningnot financial distribution.

Activity 2: Courtyard-Based Capacity Sessions – Structured Strengthening of Women's Collective Platforms

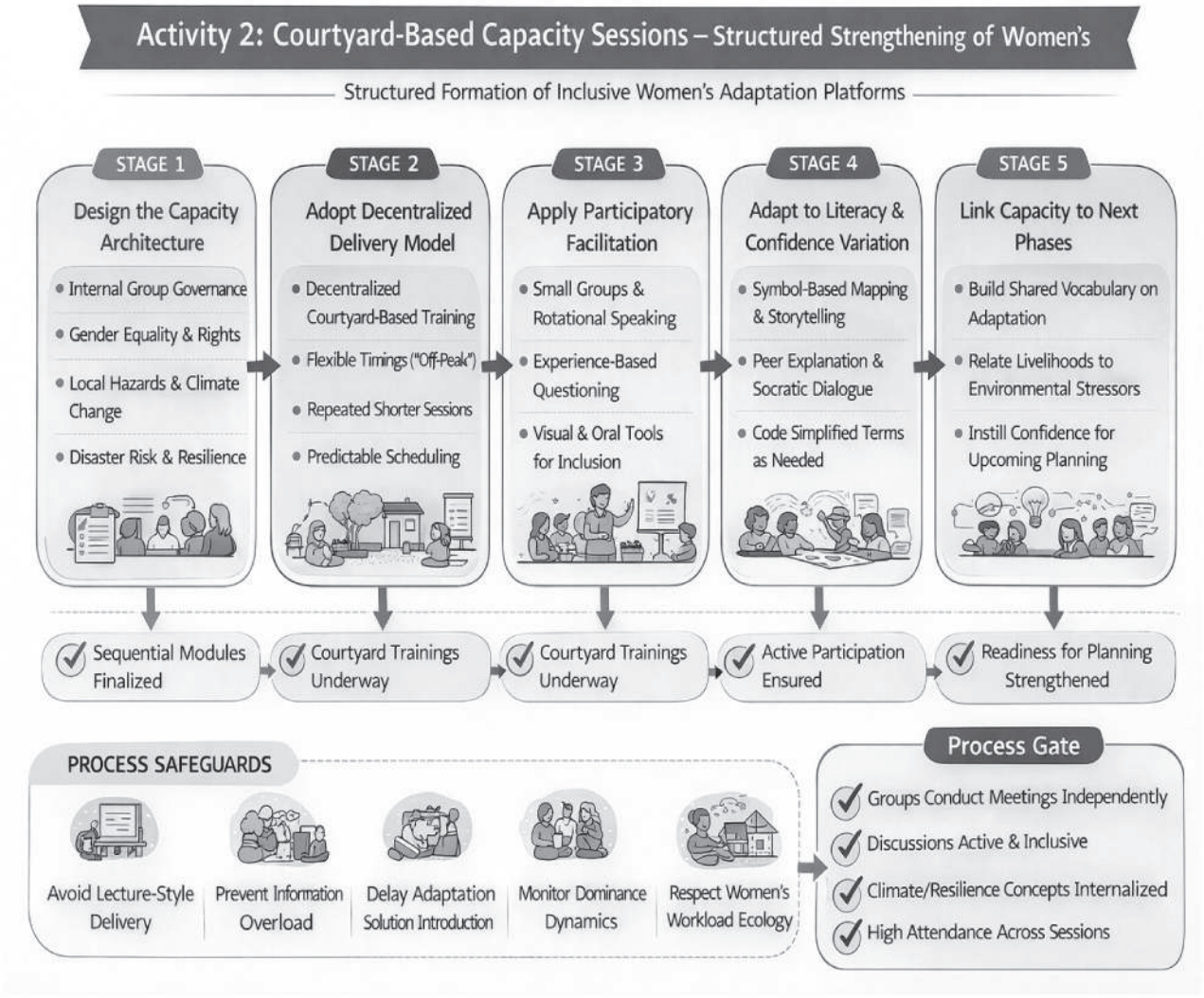


Figure 7: Process Flow Chart of Courtyard Session

Once women's groups are formally structured, they are not automatically ready to engage in climate risk analysis or livelihood planning. Before introducing technical tools or adaptation design instruments, groups must first develop internal stability, shared understanding and analytical confidence. Capacity strengthening at this stage is therefore not conventional training but a structured facilitation process designed to transform newly formed groups into functioning analytical platforms.

The capacity architecture follows a progressive sequence, beginning with internal governance and meeting discipline, then moving toward gender awareness, climate and hazard understanding, disaster risk concepts and finally livelihood–vulnerability linkage. This sequencing is intentional: collective functionality must precede thematic analysis. Content is contextualized to local hazards and literacy profiles, ensuring that discussions are grounded in lived realities rather than abstract climate theory.

Delivery adopts a decentralized, courtyard-based model to align with women's mobility constraints and workload patterns. Short, distributed sessions allow reflection and reduce cognitive overload. Facilitation is participatory rather than instructional, using experience-based dialogue, small-group interaction and locally grounded examples. Visual and oral tools are prioritized to accommodate literacy variation, ensuring inclusive participation and confidence building.

By the end of the cycle, groups are expected to demonstrate internal role clarity, stable meeting routines, shared vocabulary on climate risk and resilience and the ability to engage in structured dialogue without heavy facilitation prompting. Only when collective confidence and analytical readiness are visible should the process advance to cross-group networking and institutional linkage.

Activity 3: Formation of Village-Level Women's Networks and Horizontal Learning Platforms

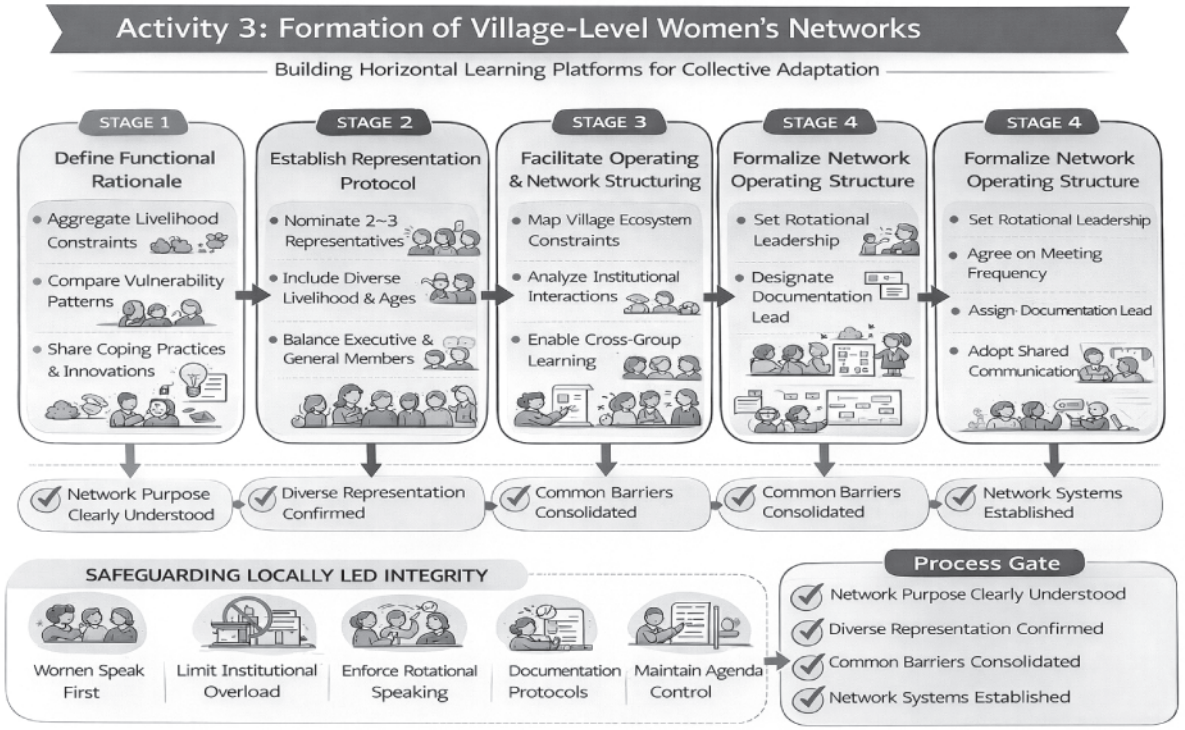


Figure 8: Process Flow Chart of Women's Network Formation

Once individual women's groups demonstrate internal functionality and analytical readiness, the process must prevent isolation. If groups remain confined to their own membership, adaptation thinking risks becoming fragmented, leaving systemic village-level constraints unaddressed. The formation of village-level women's networks introduces a horizontal coordination layer that enables collective articulation of shared risks, livelihood barriers and institutional constraints across multiple groups within the same village.

The process begins by clarifying the functional rationale of the network. It is not a new administrative hierarchy but a coordination platform designed to aggregate climate-related livelihood challenges, compare vulnerability patterns and consolidate community voice prior to institutional engagement. Clear distinction between group-level governance and network-level coordination is essential to prevent confusion or perceived control.

Representation is then structured through internal nomination within each group to ensure diversity while maintaining functional size. Network formation workshops move beyond introductory discussion and focus on identifying ecosystem constraints, mapping institutional interactions and facilitating cross-group learning exchange. The emphasis remains analytical rather than solution-driven, allowing patterns to emerge organically.

The network adopts a minimal operating structure to sustain dialogue without over-bureaucratization. It remains coordination-focused and flexible, strengthening women's collective voice while safeguarding locally led integrity. The network is considered operational only when representation is validated, shared constraints are consolidated, meeting routines are agreed upon and cross-group communication functions independently.

Activity 4: Formation of the Local Project Advisory Committee (LPAC)

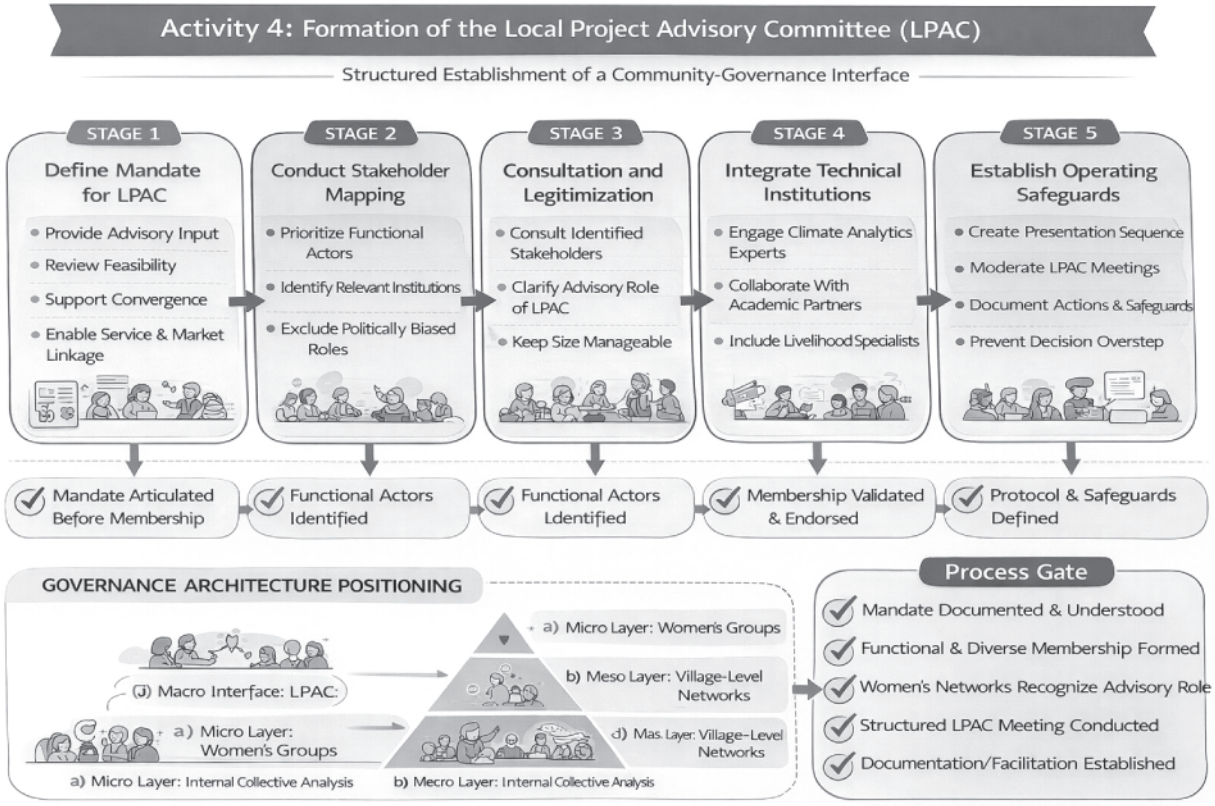


Figure 9: Process Flow Chart of LPAC Formation

Once women's groups are internally functional and village-level networks are operational, a structured vertical linkage becomes necessary. Without institutional interface, adaptation discussions remain socially grounded but disconnected from governance systems, technical validation processes and service ecosystems. The Local Project Advisory Committee (LPAC) serves as this vertical bridge but it must be carefully designed to support not override community-led decision-making.

The process begins with clear definition of the LPAC mandate. The committee exists to provide advisory input on climate risk findings, review livelihood feasibility outputs, support convergence with development plans and facilitate linkage to public services and market systems. It does not approve, reject, or replace women's priorities. This boundary must be documented and clearly understood by both institutional actors and women's networks before formal establishment.

Membership is determined through structured stakeholder mapping that prioritizes functional relevance over hierarchy. Governance institutions, technical experts, market actors, civil society representatives, youth and persons with disabilities may be included to ensure diversity and systemic alignment. Selection is accompanied by consultation and validation to ensure legitimacy and clarity of roles.

Technical and scientific institutions are integrated as analytical reviewers rather than decision-makers, strengthening methodological rigor while respecting community priorities. Operating protocols emphasize moderated dialogue, structured presentation order and documentation discipline to manage power asymmetry.

By this stage, a layered governance architecture is established: women's groups at the micro level, village networks at the meso level and the LPAC as the macro advisory interface. The LPAC is considered operational only when its mandate is documented, advisory boundaries are recognized, at least one structured meeting has occurred and facilitation safeguards are functioning effectively.

3.3Phase 3: Participatory Evidence Generation and Systems Diagnostics

The objective of Phase 3 is to construct a structured, five-capital-informed evidence base that enables women-led, climate-responsive livelihood planning grounded in ecological realities, socio-economic conditions, institutional structures and market feasibility. In this phase, the Five Capitals Framework is translated from a conceptual model into an operational diagnostic system. Rather than treating capital domains as abstract categories, the phase applies them as structured assessment lenses to examine how interdependencies shape women's adaptive capacity.

Human capital is assessed in terms of skills, leadership capacity, health conditions, climate awareness and decision-making roles. Natural capital diagnostics examine land use, water bodies, salinity exposure, soil quality, mangrove proximity, embankments and forest dependence. Financial capital analysis captures income patterns, savings behavior, debt exposure, access to credit and economic diversification. Social capital assessment focuses on group cohesion, collective action, institutional linkages and power dynamics. Physical capital mapping evaluates housing structures, productive assets, irrigation systems, infrastructure resilience and market access routes.

Operationally, Phase 3 integrates digital household enumeration, geo-referenced mapping, participatory stakeholder and power analysis, resource mapping, scientific climate modeling, baseline profiling, market assessment and policy review. Through triangulation, these domains generate a multi-dimensional vulnerability and opportunity matrix that guides later livelihood co-creation.

Crucially, women act as co-researchers through participatory data collection and structured dialogue with technical partners, ensuring local interpretation and validation. This phase establishes the analytical foundation necessary for coherent, systemically grounded adaptation planning.

Activity 1: Methodological Orientation for Community Mobilizers and Women Co-Researchers

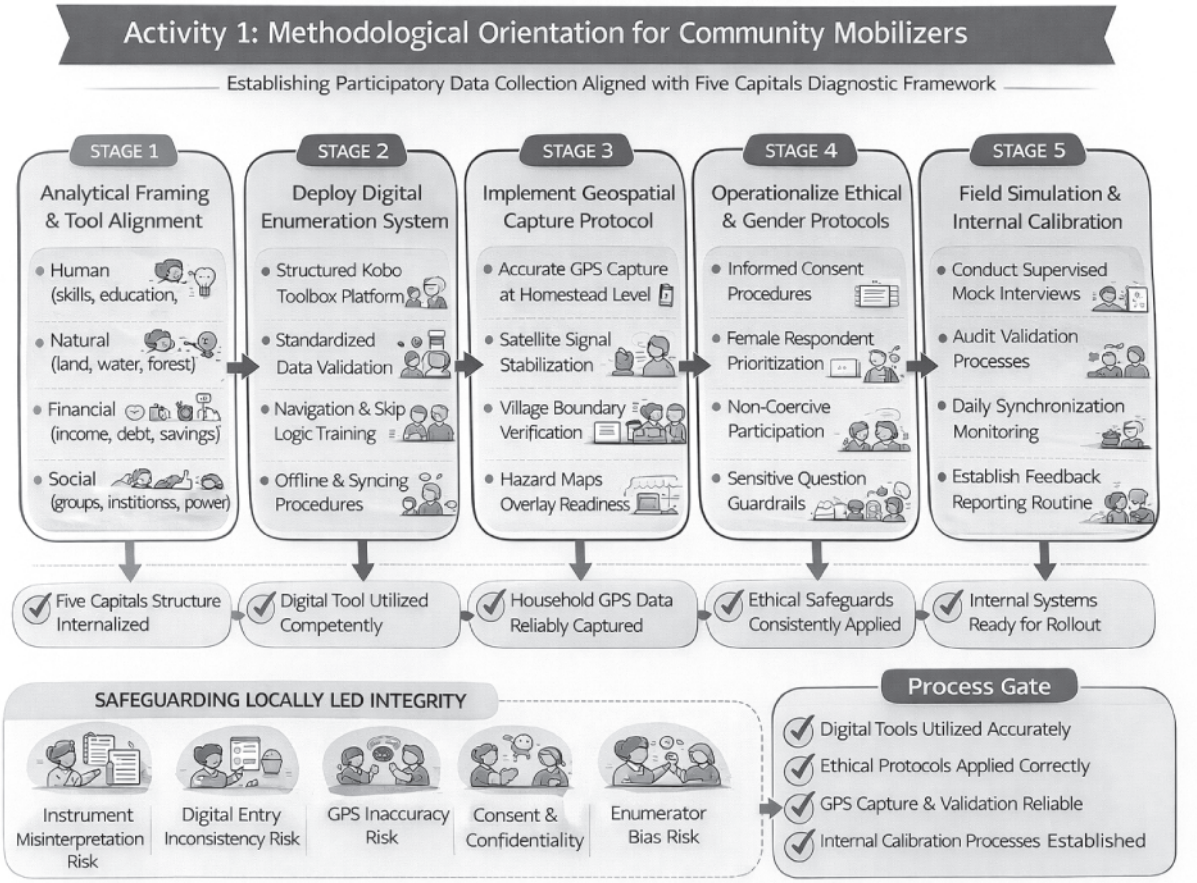


Figure 10: Process Flow Chart of Training

Activity 1 establishes the technical and ethical foundation for participatory evidence generation under Phase 3. The purpose is to prepare community mobilizers and selected women co-researchers to conduct structured digital household enumeration and geo-referenced documentation aligned with the Five Capitals diagnostic framework. Rather than treating data collection as a survey exercise, the orientation frames it as structured livelihood systems analysis, where each variable contributes to understanding adaptive capacity across human, natural, financial, social and physical capital domains.

Participants are first aligned with the analytical architecture of the tool, ensuring clarity on how capital indicators interrelate within climate-responsive planning. The digital enumeration system is then introduced using standardized validation protocols to ensure consistency, synchronization and error control across villages. Spatial referencing procedures are embedded to enable later integration with hazard maps and scientific climate modeling outputs.

Ethical safeguards are operationalized through informed consent, confidentiality protocols and gender-sensitive interviewing approaches, with emphasis on prioritizing women's perspectives in livelihood and decision-making domains. The activity concludes with supervised simulations and internal quality calibration to verify tool accuracy, GPS reliability and procedural consistency. Only after enumerators demonstrate technical competence and ethical compliance does the project proceed to full-scale data generation.

Activity 2: Stakeholder Mapping and Power Analysis

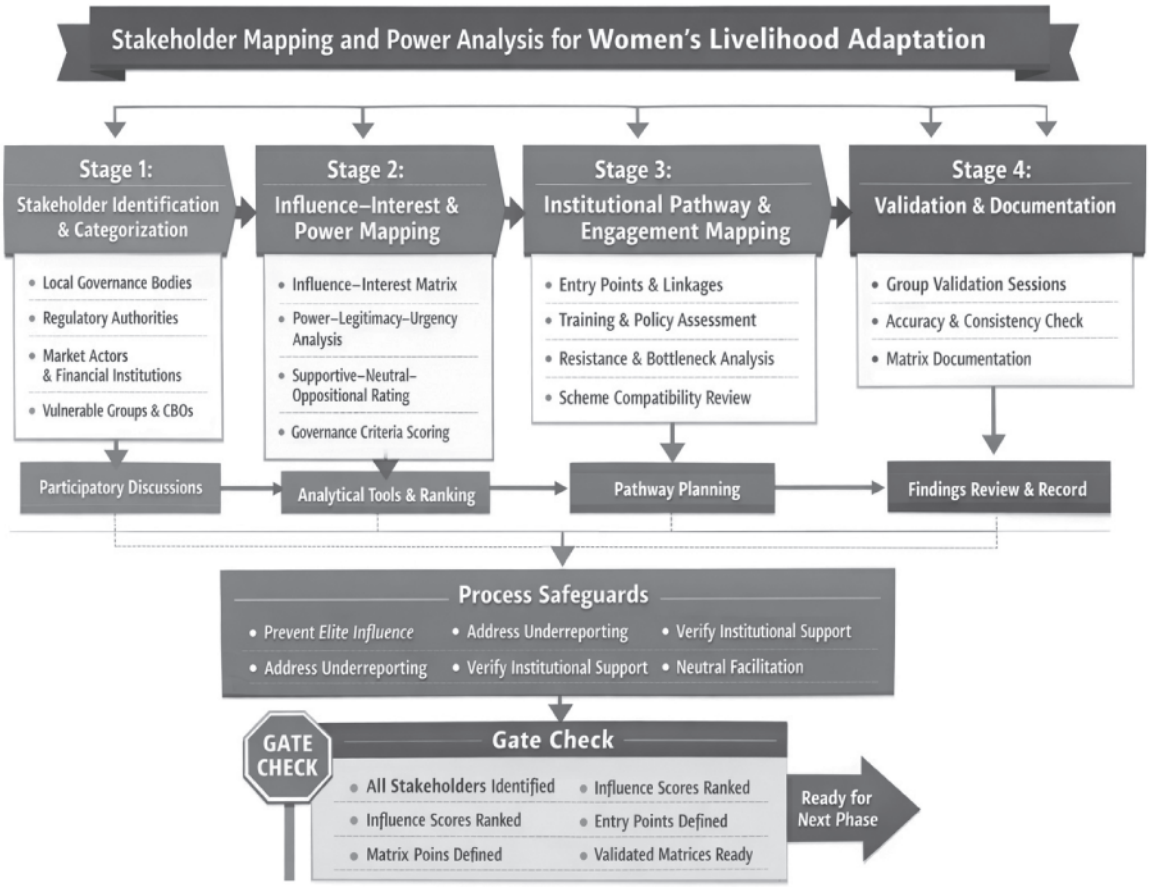


Figure 11: Process Flow Chart of Governance Assessment

Activity 2 establishes the governance intelligence required for climate-responsive livelihood planning. Its purpose is to systematically identify, classify and analyze the actors who influence women's access to land, water, markets, finance, infrastructure and public services. Rather than listing stakeholders descriptively, the process applies structured power analysis tools to understand authority, influence, dependency and engagement pathways within the local adaptation ecosystem.

The activity begins with participatory identification of stakeholders across governance, regulatory, market, financial, civil society and informal power domains. Women's groups lead this mapping to ensure that both supportive and constraining actors are surfaced from lived experience. The process then moves into structured analytical ranking using influence–interest and power mapping frameworks. Stakeholders are assessed based on control over natural and physical capital, regulatory authority, market leverage, financial gatekeeping roles and alignment with women-led adaptation priorities. Facilitated consensus scoring converts perception into systematic governance analysis.

The final step translates power diagnostics into engagement strategy. Entry points for scheme linkage, policy compatibility, institutional bottlenecks and negotiation pathways are identified and documented in structured matrices. Outputs are validated collectively to ensure accuracy and reduce elite distortion. Completion of this activity produces a verified stakeholder and power landscape that will guide institutional negotiation and livelihood feasibility review in subsequent phases.

Activity 3: Community Resource Mapping

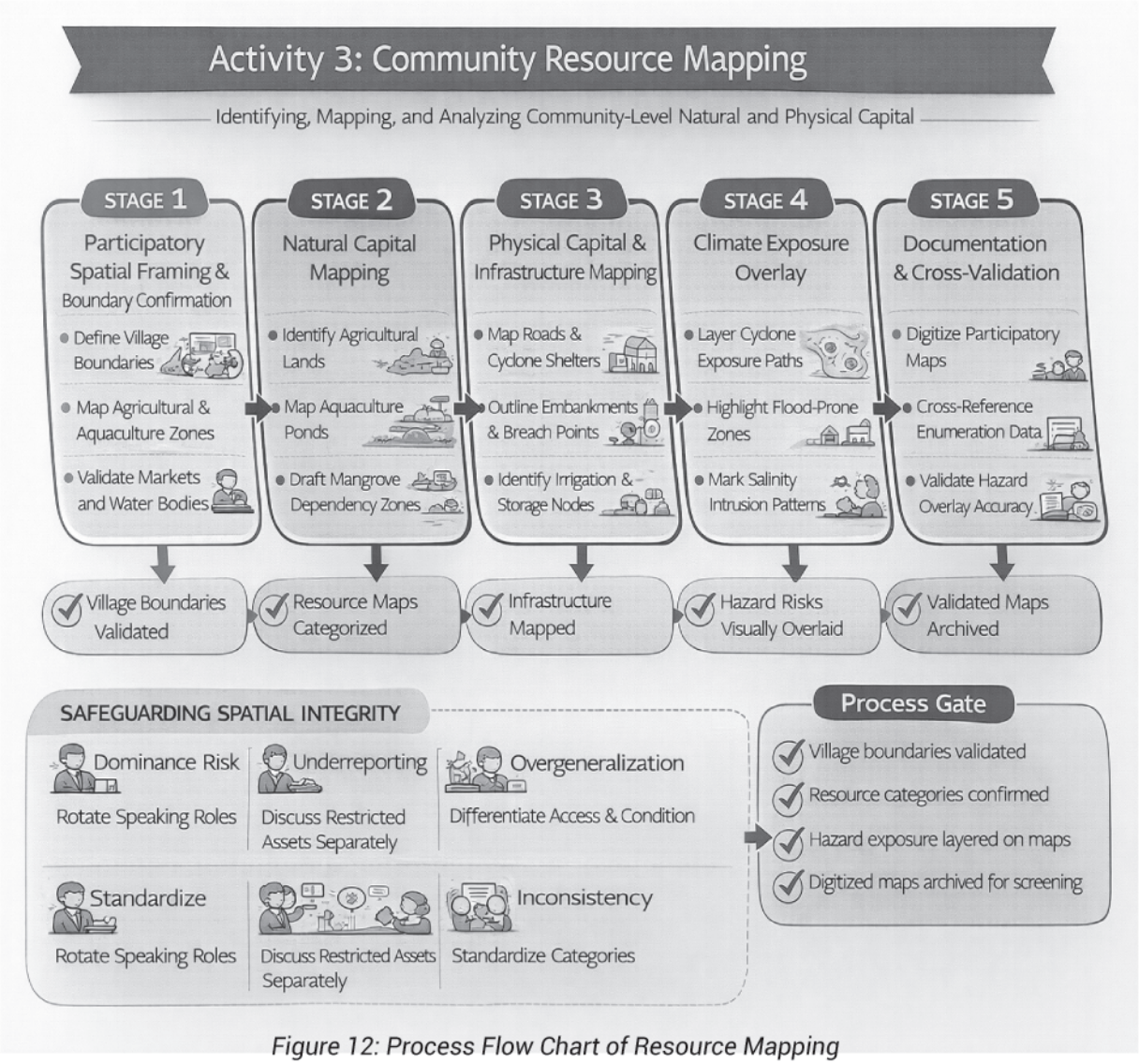


Figure 12: Process Flow Chart of Resource Mapping

Activity 3 generates spatially grounded diagnostics of natural and physical capital within each target village. The purpose is to move beyond abstract vulnerability discussion and construct a visual, collectively validated understanding of livelihood resources, infrastructure systems and climate-exposed ecological assets that shape women's adaptive capacity.

The process begins with participatory confirmation of village boundaries and settlement zones to ensure that mapping reflects community-recognized geography rather than administrative assumptions. Facilitated sessions then identify and classify key natural capital assets, including agricultural land, aquaculture areas, mangrove proximity, freshwater sources, canals and forest-dependent zones. Participants distinguish between accessible, degraded, restricted and climate-vulnerable resources, enabling analysis of condition and controlnot only location.

Mapping then expands to physical capital systems such as embankments, cyclone shelters, irrigation channels, roads and market routes, with particular attention to infrastructure that mitigates or amplifies climate risk. Community-recalled hazard patternscyclone pathways, waterlogging zones and salinity intrusion areasare layered onto mapped assets to identify livelihood activities situated in high-exposure zones.

The resulting maps are digitized and cross-validated with geo-referenced household data and scientific risk outputs. Completion of this activity produces a verified spatial diagnostic foundation for climate-compatible livelihood feasibility screening in subsequent phases.

Activity 4: Scientific Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

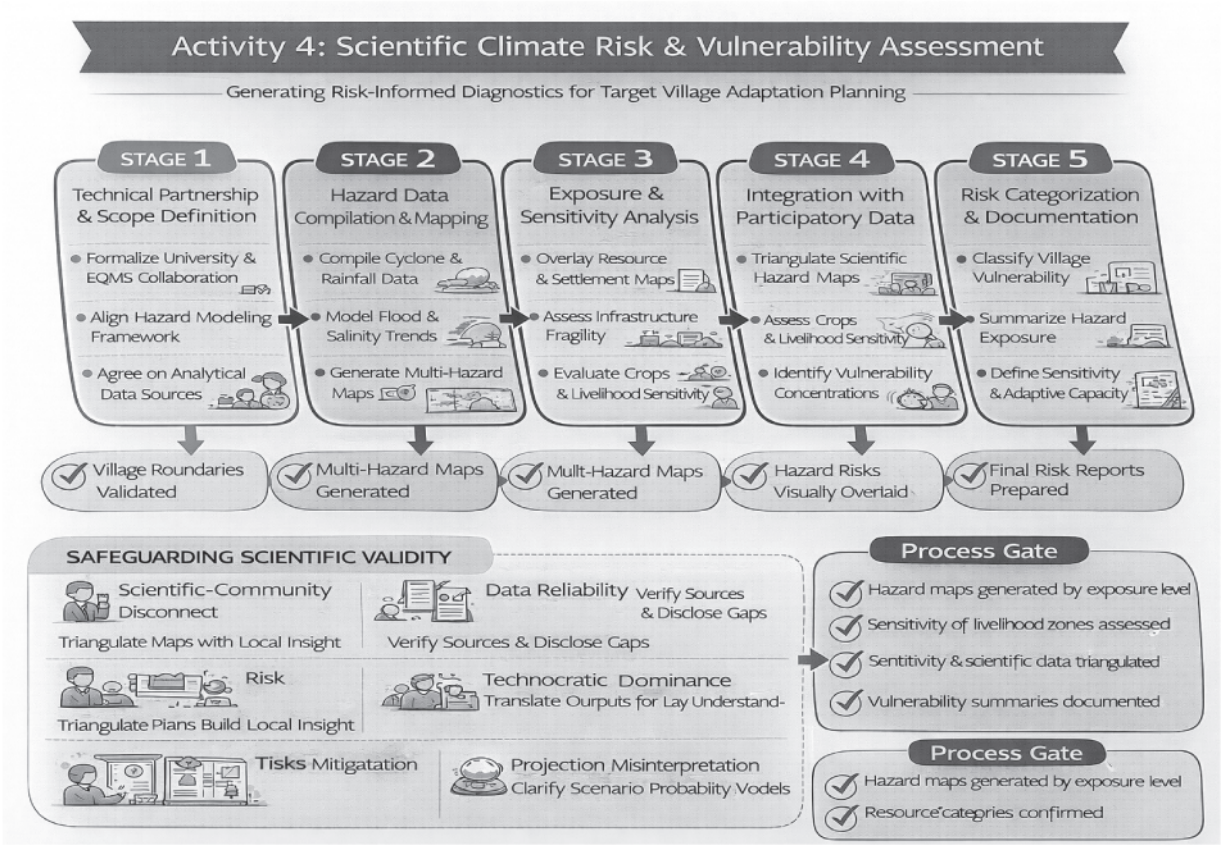


Figure 13: Process Flow Chart of Scientific Assessment

This activity generates scientifically grounded diagnostics of climate hazards, exposure and vulnerability across the three target villages. Its purpose is to ensure that adaptation planning is risk-informed, spatially accurate and future-oriented by integrating technical modeling with participatory evidence produced in earlier Phase 3 activities.

The process begins with formal collaboration with technical partners, including Khulna University and EQMS, to define a coherent methodological scope. The assessment framework covers historical hazard trends, cyclone exposure, salinity intrusion, flood and waterlogging dynamics, embankment vulnerability and interpretation of climate projection scenarios. Multi-source datasetssuch as cyclone tracks, rainfall variability, salinity trends, tidal surge data and breach historyare compiled and analyzed using GIS-based modeling tools to classify exposure zones by intensity and frequency.

Hazard layers are then overlaid with settlement density, agricultural land use, aquaculture clusters, infrastructure systems and geotagged household data to assess exposure and livelihood sensitivity. Vulnerability is therefore treated as the interaction between hazard presence, asset exposure and adaptive capacity rather than as isolated risk events.

Scientific outputs are triangulated with community resource maps and participatory findings to ensure alignment between modeled data and lived experience. Each village is subsequently profiled through structured vulnerability summaries, producing technical risk briefs and maps that directly inform climate-compatible livelihood screening and adaptation co-creation in subsequent phases.

Activity 5: Baseline Study and Socio-Economic Diagnostic

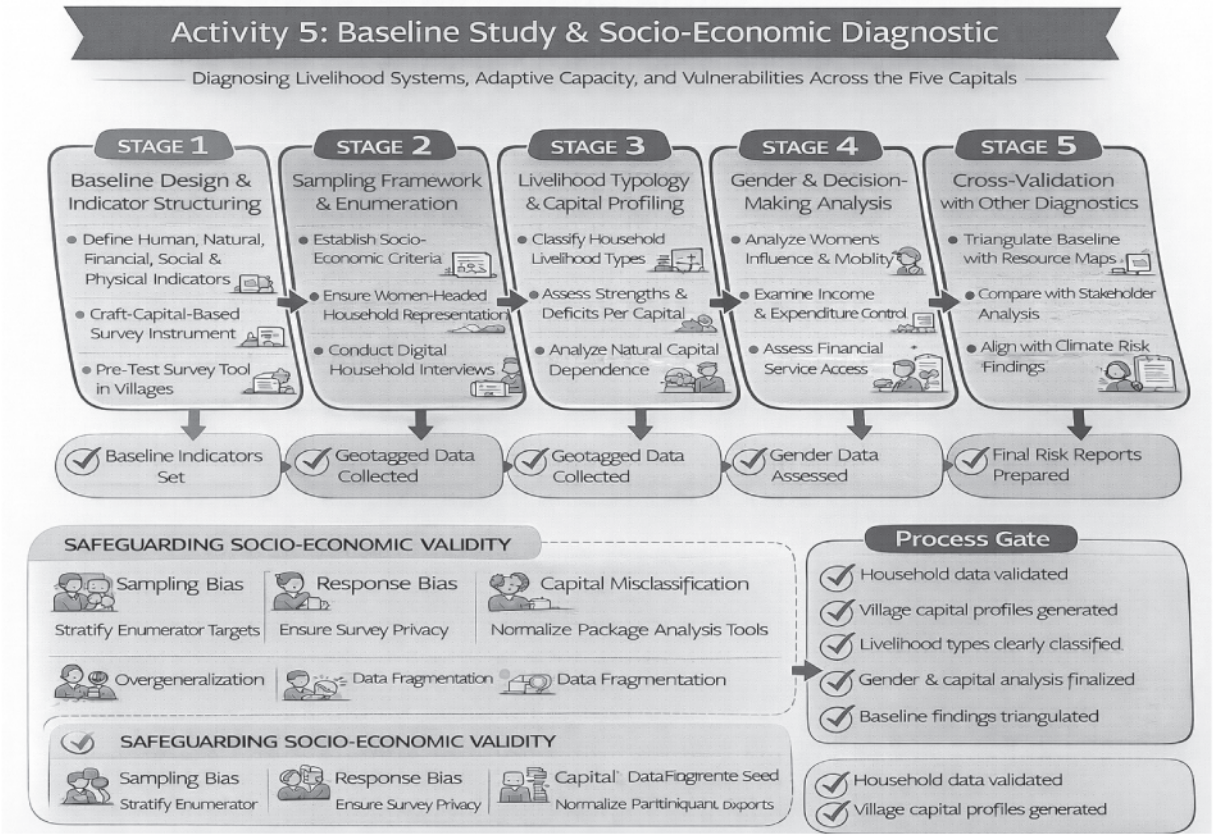


Figure 14: Process Flow Chart of Baseline Study

This activity establishes a structured socio-economic and gender-responsive baseline across the Five Capitals framework to diagnose livelihood systems, adaptive capacity levels and vulnerability patterns within the three target villages. Rather than serving as a descriptive profile, the baseline functions as a capital-based diagnostic tool that informs climate-compatible livelihood screening in subsequent phases.

The study is designed around indicators aligned with human, natural, financial, social and physical capital domains, ensuring analytical coherence across datasets. Household enumera-tionimplemented through the calibrated digital systemcaptures livelihood diversification patterns, income seasonality, debt exposure, service access, gender-based decision-making roles and climate shock experiences. A structured sampling framework ensures representation across socio-economic categories, forest-dependent households, climate-exposed clusters and women-headed households. Geotagging enables integration with spatial and hazard mapping outputs.

Data analysis moves beyond aggregation to classify households into livelihood typologies and generate capital profiling matrices that identify strength areas, deficits, inter-capital dependency and shock sensitivity. A focused gender lens examines women's control over income, participation in public decision-making and mobility constraints. Findings are triangulated with resource mapping, climate risk modeling and stakeholder analysis to ensure systemic coherence. The completed baseline produces village-level capital vulnerability summaries that guide evidence-based adaptation co-creation in the next phase.

Activity 6: Household-Level Enumeration and Resource Use Mapping

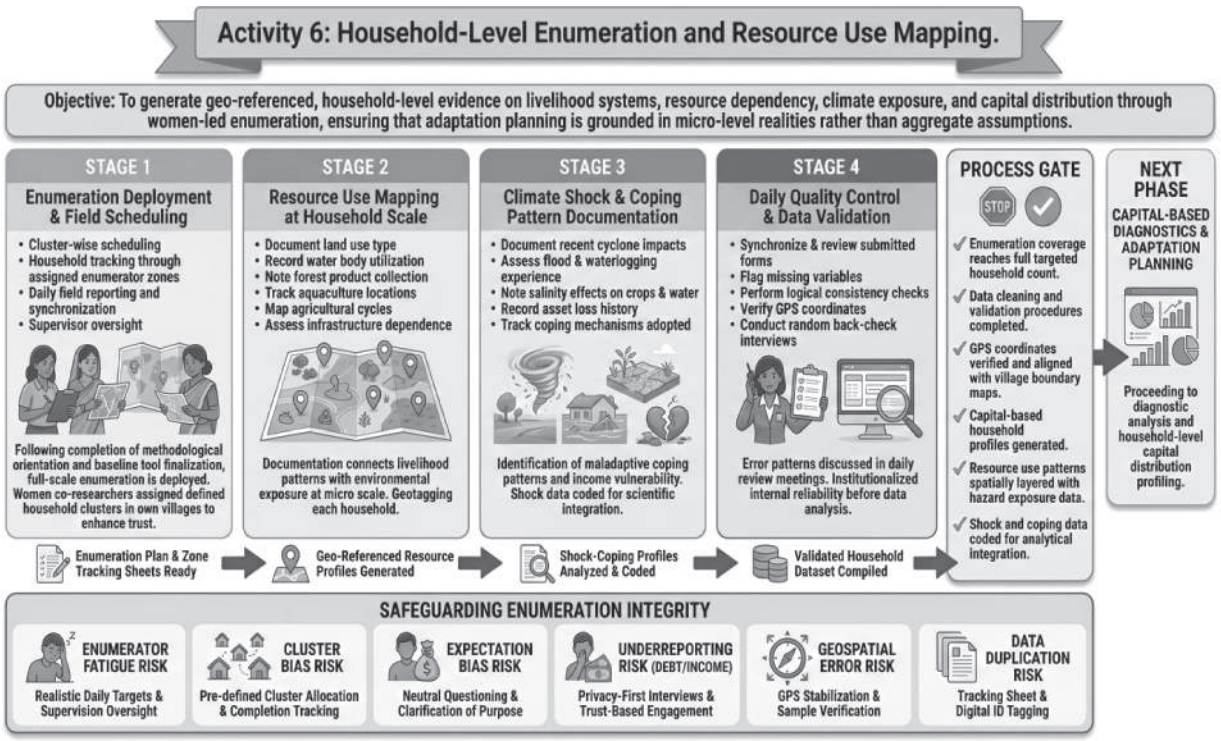


Figure 15: Process Flow Chart of HHs Resource Mapping

This activity generates geo-referenced, household-level evidence on livelihood systems, resource dependency, climate exposure and capital distribution to ensure that adaptation planning is grounded in micro-level realities rather than aggregated assumptions. Building on the calibrated digital tools and trained women co-researchers, full-scale enumeration is deployed across the three villages using structured cluster scheduling, assigned enumerator zones, daily synchronization and supervisory oversight. Prioritizing female respondents for livelihood, finance and adaptation-related questions strengthens gender accuracy within the Five Capitals diagnostics.

Beyond survey responses, the process incorporates household-level resource use mapping. Enumerators document land tenure arrangements, water body utilization, forest dependency, aquaculture locations, cropping cycles and infrastructure reliance. Each household is geotagged, enabling spatial layering of livelihood patterns with hazard exposure maps, salinity zones, flood-prone clusters and infrastructure vulnerability overlays. Climate shock historiescyclone impacts, waterlogging, salinity damage, asset loss and coping strategiesare recorded to identify maladaptive patterns and seasonal vulnerability.

Daily quality control mechanismsincluding synchronization review, logical checks, GPS verification and random back-checksmaintain internal reliability. Completion of this activity produces validated, spatially integrated household capital profiles that directly inform climate-compatible livelihood screening and adaptation co-creation in the subsequent phase.

Activity 7: Market Assessment on Skill Demand, Livelihood Feasibility and Institutional Support Systems

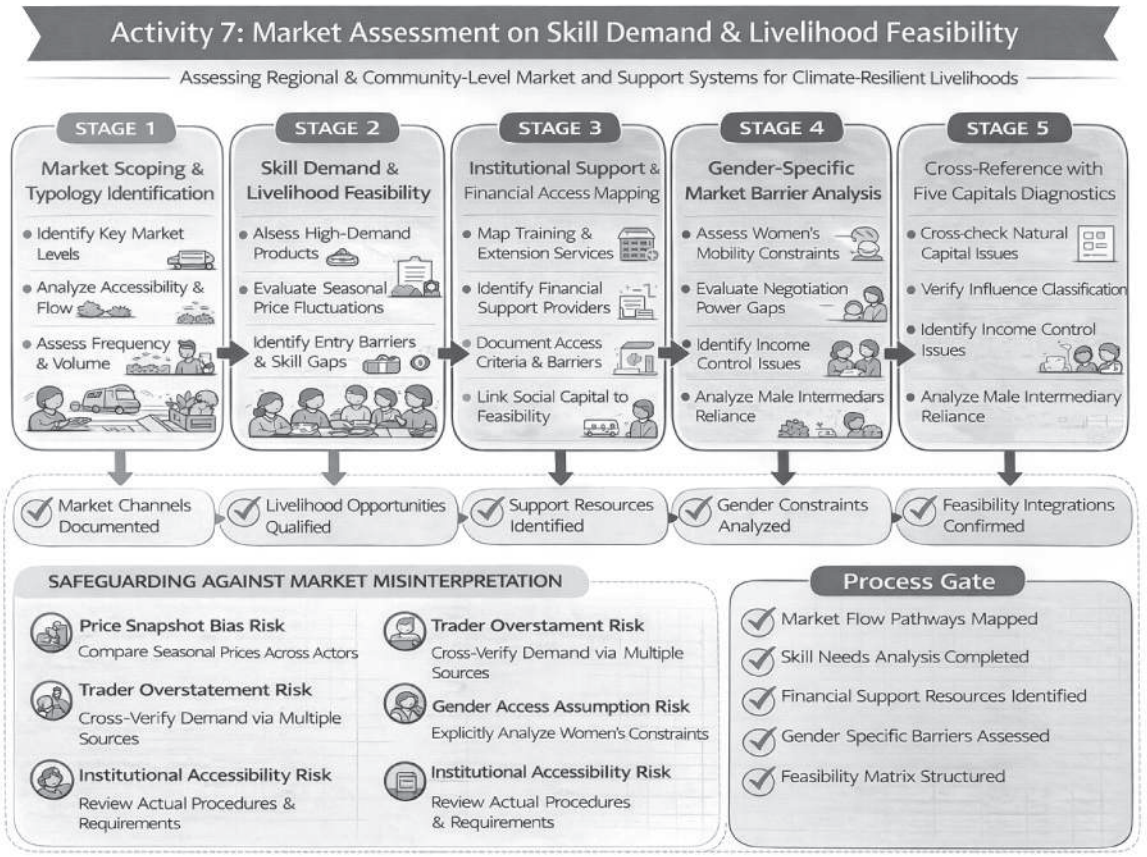


Figure 16: Process Flow Chart of Market Assessment

This activity analyzes local and regional market systems to assess the economic viability, climate compatibility and scalability of potential women-led livelihood options. It moves beyond identifying "profitable ideas" to understanding value chain dynamics, demand stability, skill requirements and institutional access constraints that shape real feasibility.The process begins by mapping market typologies across village, union, upazila and district levels to understand product flow pathways, aggregation structures, transport constraints and women's positioning within existing value chains. Structured consultations with traders, wholesalers, market controllers and women producers generate insight into seasonal price variation, emerging commodity demand, entry barriers and required technical skills. Livelihood options are evaluated against multi-criteria filters including climate resilience, input accessibility, capital requirement, profit margin range and exposure to hazard disruption.

The assessment also examines institutional ecosystems, identifying relevant training providers, extension services, financial institutions and digital payment systems. Eligibility pathways and procedural barriers are documented to determine whether support systems are practically accessible. A gender-focused analysis reviews mobility constraints, negotiation power, safety concerns and income control dynamics to avoid overestimating market accessibility.

Findings are integrated with Five Capitals diagnostics to produce structured livelihood feasibility matrices, value chain maps and skill gap profiles that guide evidence-based co-creation within the Women's Adaptation Labs.

3.4 Phase 4: Knowledge Translation, Validation and Institutional Alignment

Phase 4 serves as the structured bridge between diagnostic evidence generation and livelihood co-creation. Its objective is to translate the technical findings produced in Phase 3 into accessible, socially validated and institutionally aligned knowledge. While Phase 3 generated multi-layered evidence across the Five Capitals frameworkincluding household data, resource mapping, climate modeling, stakeholder power analysis and market assessmentsPhase 4 ensures that this evidence is reviewed for internal consistency, validated by community actors, aligned with governance structures, translated into locally usable formats and embedded within formal coordination platforms.

This phase establishes controlled feedback loops among the Project Implementation Unit (PIU), women's groups, village platforms, the Local Project Advisory Committee (LPAC), market actors, service providers and relevant line departments. Through bi-monthly review meetings, the project institutionalizes internal accountability and adaptive management, assessing implementation fidelity and addressing operational risks. LPAC workshops provide technical validation of Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) interpretations and refine institutional integration strategies. Structured village and union-level platforms activate multi-stakeholder coordination, while scientific risk findings are translated into Bangla-language formats and communicated through orientation sessions with women's groups.

By embedding review, validation and alignment mechanisms, Phase 4 prevents adaptation planning from advancing on unverified assumptions. It ensures that evidence is collectively understood, governance pathways are clarified, institutional actors are engaged and community platforms are adequately prepared to lead structured livelihood co-creation in Phase 5.

Activity 1: Bi-Monthly Progress Review Meetings with Project Team and Stakeholders

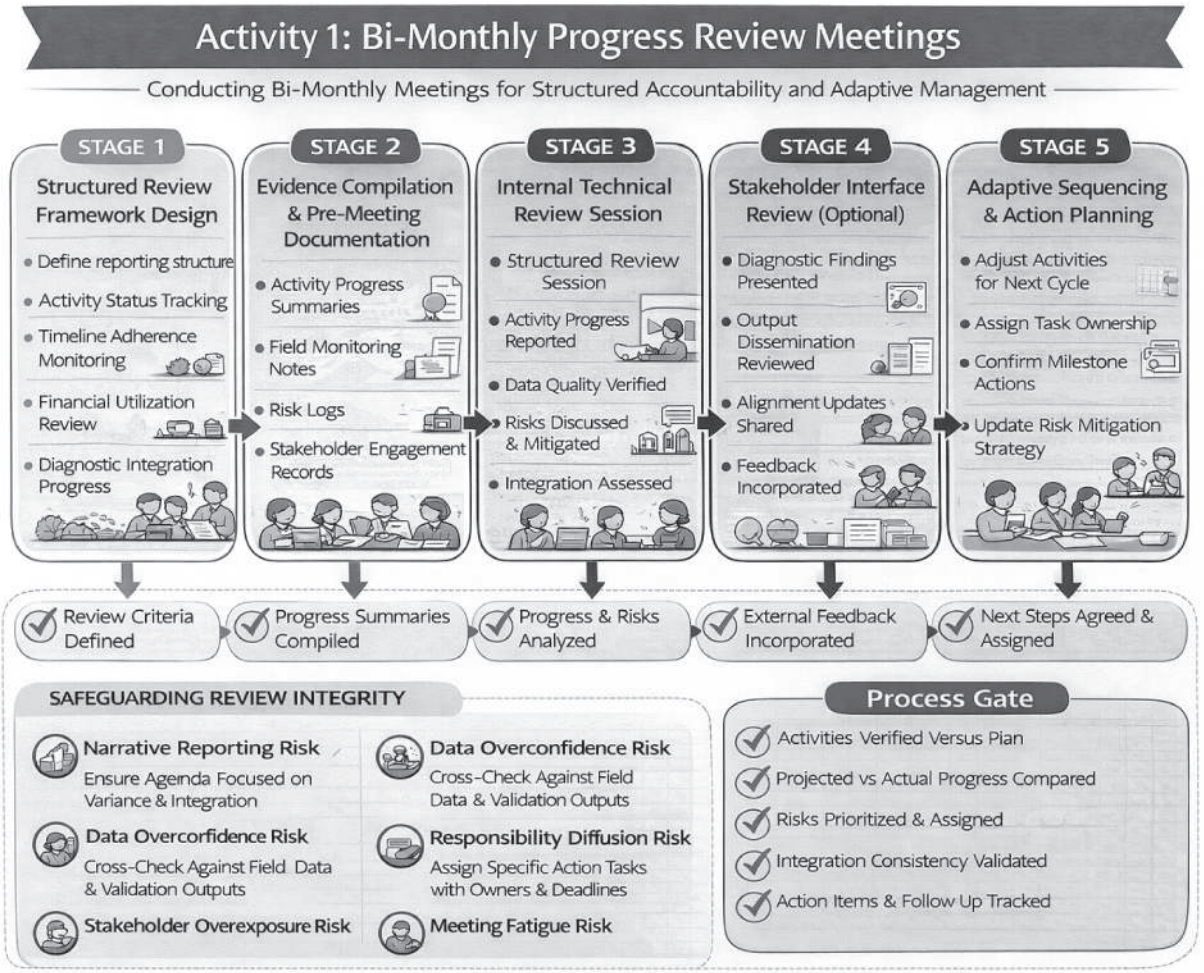


Figure 17: Bi-monthly Meetings

Bi-monthly progress review meetings institutionalize internal accountability and adaptive management within Phase 4. Their purpose is not routine reporting but structured verification of implementation fidelity, evidence integration, sequencing discipline and institutional alignment before livelihood co-creation proceeds.

Each review cycle follows a standardized framework covering activity status, timeline adherence, financial tracking, diagnostic integration across Phase 3 outputs, stakeholder engagement updates and emerging operational risks. Prior to meetings, the Local Project Advisory Committee (LPAC) compiles structured documentationincluding field monitoring notes, risk logs, data quality reports and coordination recordsand circulates summaries in advance to ensure analytical discussion rather than reactive exchange.

During the session, progress is assessed against planned milestones through variance analysis. Particular attention is given to whether scientific, socio-economic, market and governance

diagnostics are being translated into validation processes and stakeholder platforms as intended. Risks, bottlenecks and sequencing distortions are openly reviewed and corrective actions are assigned with clear responsibility and timelines.

Where appropriate, selected findings are shared with stakeholders to maintain transparency and institutional confidence. Each cycle concludes with adaptive sequencing decisions and updated risk mitigation strategies, ensuring that evidence translation and alignment processes remain methodologically rigorous and strategically coherent.

Activity 2: Workshop with LPAC Members to Review and Validate Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) Guidelines

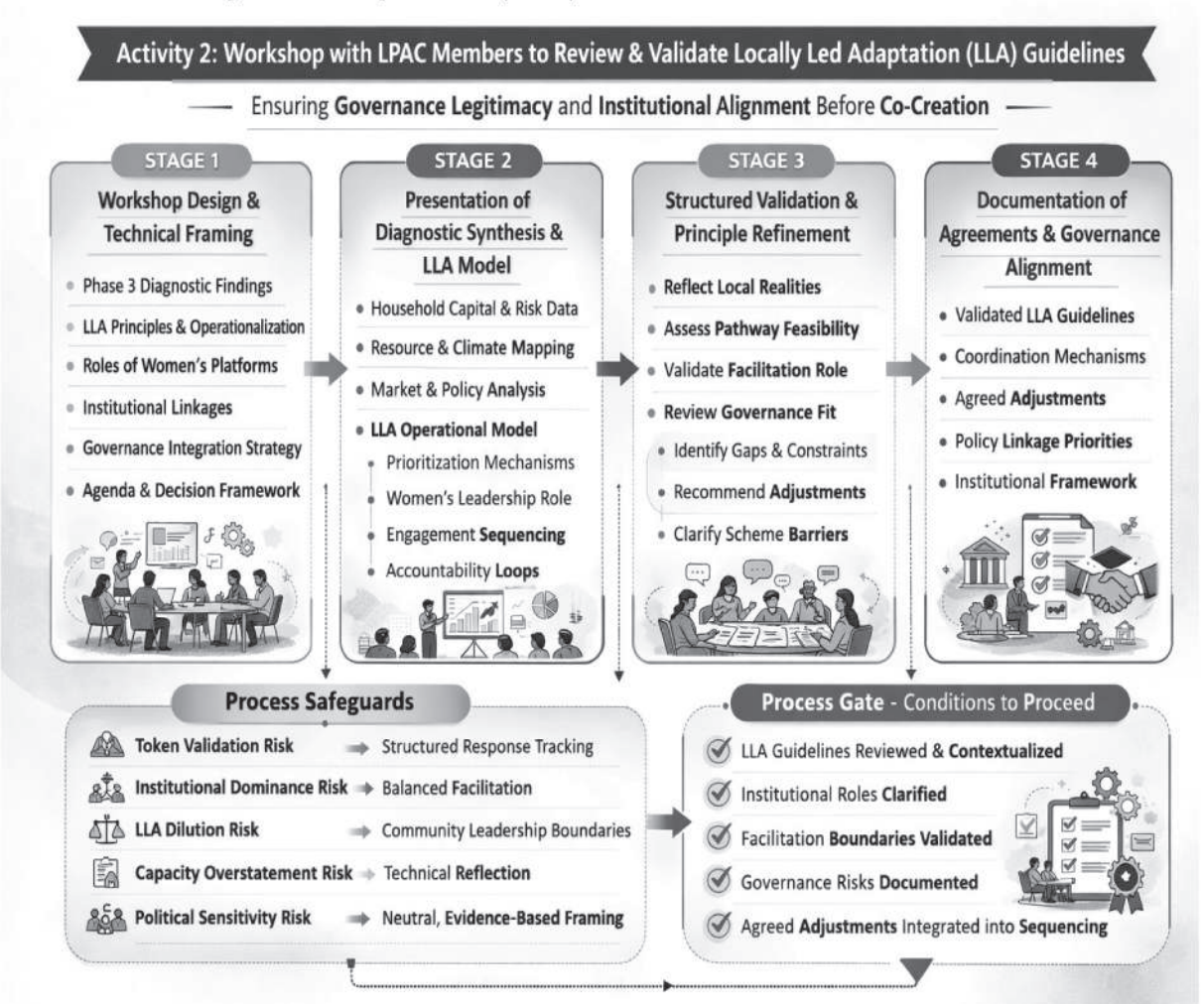


Figure 18: Process Flow Chart of LPAC Workshop

This activity formally reviews and validates the operational interpretation of Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) within the project framework through structured engagement with the Local Project Advisory Committee (LPAC). Its purpose is to ensure that diagnostic evidence generated in Phase 3 is institutionally aligned, governance-sensitive and grounded in a locally contextualized understanding of LLA before livelihood co-creation begins.

The workshop is designed around a technical brief summarizing household capital diagnostics, climate risk modeling, and resource mapping outputs, market feasibility findings and institutional landscape analysis. These inputs are presented as analytical foundations requiring governance-level validation rather than finalized conclusions. The session clarifies how LLA principles are operationalized in practicethrough women-led prioritization, sequenced institutional engagement, accountability safeguards and defined facilitation boundaries.

LPAC members engage in moderated dialogue to assess feasibility of institutional pathways, regulatory compatibility, scheme alignment and administrative sequencing. Particular emphasis is placed on preserving community leadership while ensuring institutional negotiability. Feedback focuses on refining coordination mechanisms, identifying policy barriers and adjusting implementation sequencing where necessary.

The workshop concludes with documented agreements on validated LLA operational guidelines, clarified institutional roles and governance safeguards. Completion of this activity establishes a locally endorsed, institutionally grounded framework that guides structured adaptation co-creation in the next phase.

Activity 3: Establishment of Multi-Stakeholder Platforms at Village and Union Levels

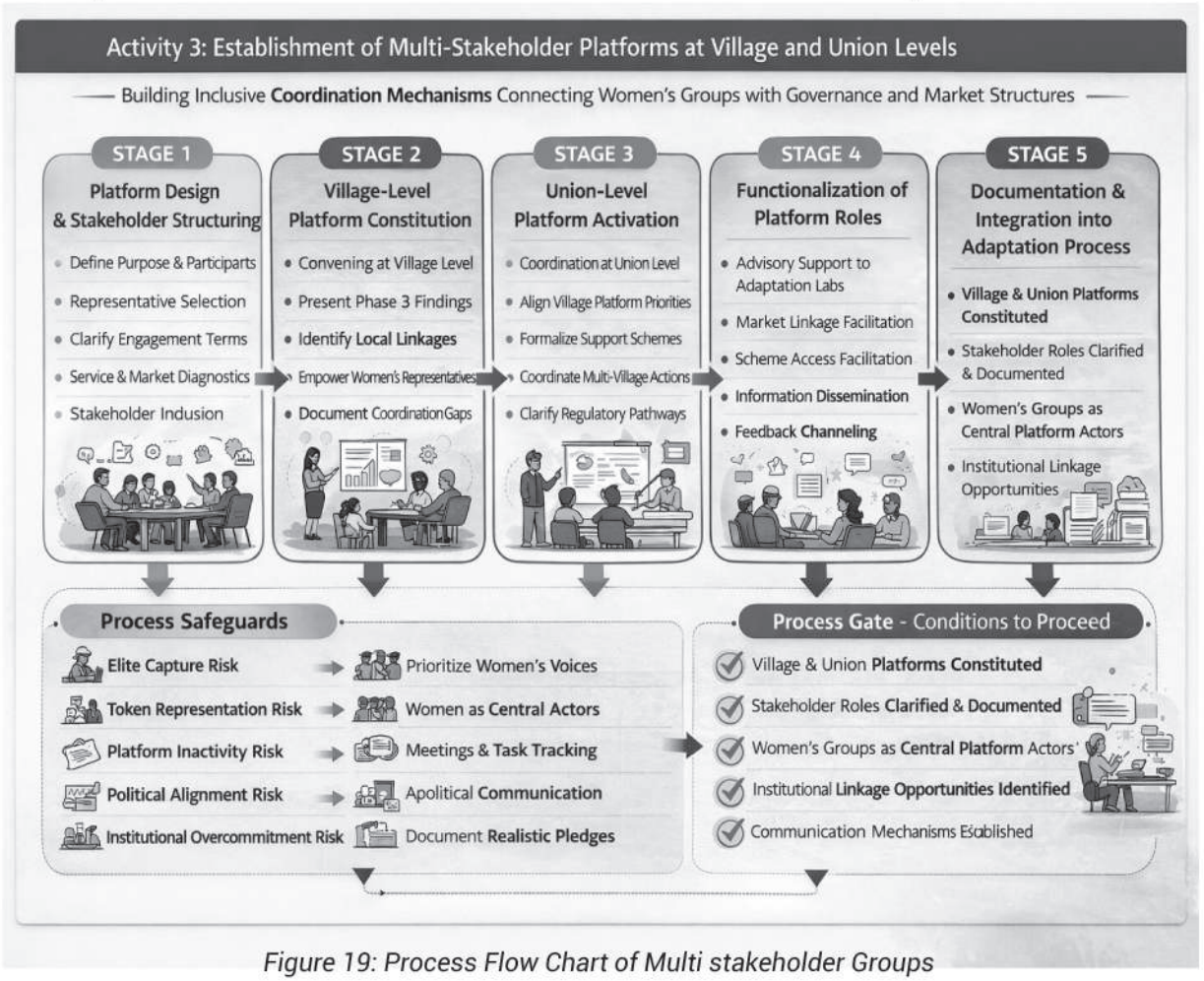


Figure 19: Process Flow Chart of Multi stakeholder Groups

Activity 1: Organization of Three Women's Adaptation Labs (One Per Village)

This activity institutionalizes structured coordination mechanisms that connect women's groups with governance actors, service providers and market stakeholders at village and union levels. Its purpose is to ensure that adaptation planning and livelihood diversification are supported by operational, policy and market linkages rather than remaining confined within community groups.

The process begins by defining the scope, mandate and composition of the platforms using evidence generated in Phase 3. Stakeholders are selected based on functional relevancesuch as extension services, financial institutions, market intermediaries and regulatory bodiesrather than hierarchy. Terms of engagement are clarified in advance, emphasizing advisory roles, non-political positioning, rotational facilitation and women-led dialogue norms.

Village-level platforms are convened to present diagnostic findings, identify coordination gaps and map immediate service or market linkage opportunities. Women's representatives serve as primary presenters of livelihood priorities to reinforce community leadership. At union level, broader coordination aligns village priorities with development plans, clarifies scheme eligibility pathways and addresses regulatory constraints.

Roles are functionalized to include technical advisory support, market facilitation, scheme access linkage and feedback integration. Platform outputs are documented and directly integrated into livelihood feasibility matrices and institutional linkage strategies, ensuring that coordination mechanisms actively inform adaptation co-creation in the subsequent phase.

Activity 4: Translation and Dissemination of Risk Assessment Results in Bangla and Orientation with Women's Groups and Platforms

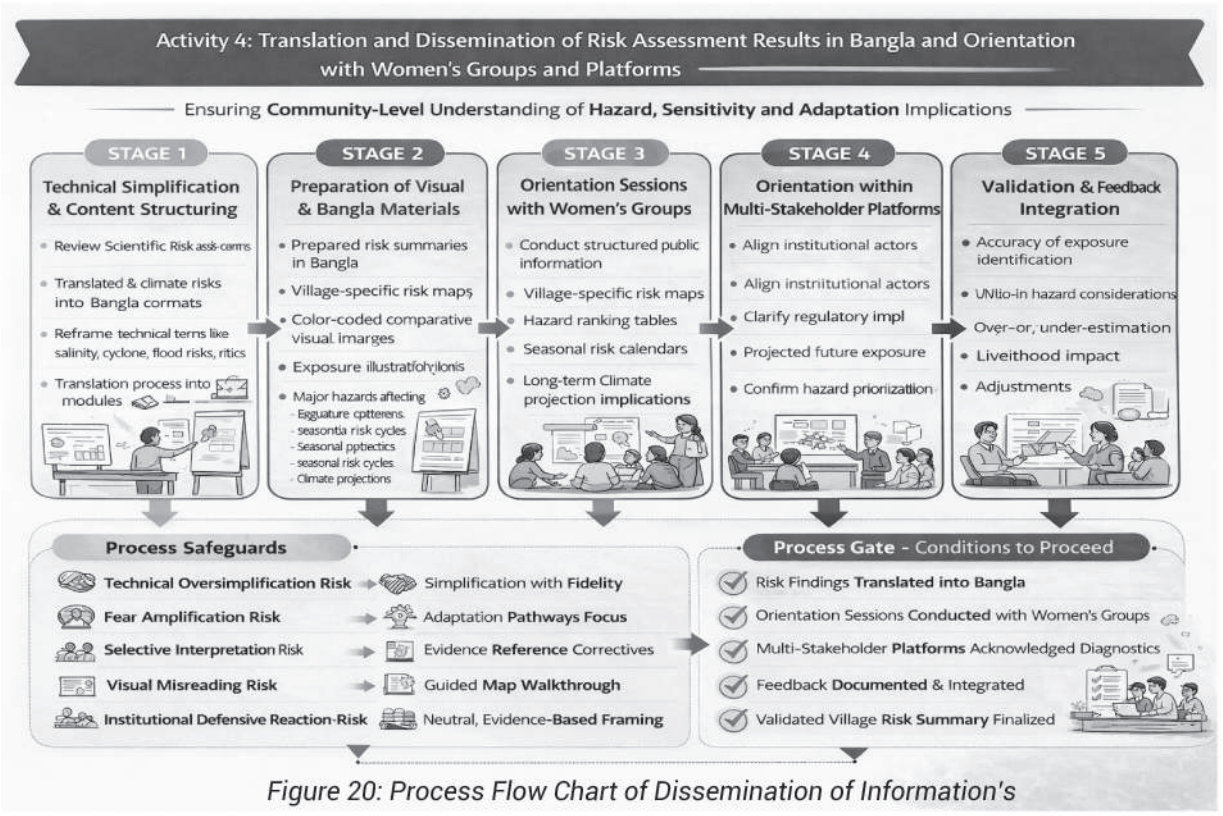


Figure 20: Process Flow Chart of Dissemination of Information's

This activity translates scientific climate risk and vulnerability findings into accessible Bangla-language formats and facilitates structured orientation sessions with women's groups and multi-stakeholder platforms. Its purpose is to ensure that hazard exposure, livelihood sensitivity and long-term climate implications are collectively understood before adaptation co-creation begins.

The process starts with analytical simplification of technical outputs generated in Phase 3. Hazard modeling, salinity projections, exposure classifications and vulnerability summaries are reviewed and reframed into contextually relevant explanations linked to everyday livelihood realities such as crop loss, pond salinity, embankment breaches, drinking water contamination and housing damage. Rather than direct translation, the approach emphasizes interpretation-transforming technical diagnostics into decision-useful knowledge.

Village-specific Bangla materials are developed, including simplified risk maps, seasonal hazard calendars, exposure rankings and visual overlays designed for semi-literate audiences. Orientation sessions with women's groups use participatory facilitation methods, encouraging validation, clarification and discussion of livelihood implications. The dialogue moves beyond hazard awareness toward understanding how risk intersects with capital diagnostics and livelihood feasibility.

Findings are also presented within multi-stakeholder platforms to align institutional actors with the same evidence base. Feedback from both community and institutional actors is documented and integrated, producing validated, village-specific risk summaries that form the foundation for structured adaptation co-creation in Phase 5.

3.5 Phase 5: Women's Adaptation Lab and Climate-Resilient Livelihood Co-Creation

Phase 5 represents the structured co-creation stage of the methodology, translating climate diagnostics, Five Capital assessments and market analysis into risk-informed and institutionally aligned livelihood plans through the operationalization of Women's Adaptation Labs in each target village. This phase systematically integrates analytical outputs from Phase 3 into household-level economic planning using a controlled facilitation architecture rather than informal consultation processes.

Women's Adaptation Labs are established as formal planning environments where climate exposure, livelihood sensitivity and capital constraints are collectively analyzed. Within these structured spaces, women identify and prioritize livelihood options based on climate compatibility, Five Capital balance, market feasibility, institutional service accessibility and resource conflict sensitivity. The process moves beyond preference-based selection toward multi-criteria screening and sequencing.

Participants then develop household-level business plans that incorporate climate-proofing measures, hazard contingency strategies, input supply mapping, financial projections and shared infrastructure considerations. Proposed options undergo structured technical validation with scientific advisors, sectoral experts, institutional actors and market stakeholders to ensure feasibility and ecological compatibility.

Simultaneously, vertical and horizontal linkages are activated so that business plans are embedded within market systems, financial inclusion pathways, public service schemes and skills ecosystems. Phase 5 thus bridges analytical assessment and implementation readiness, ensuring adaptation planning is technically grounded, capital-balanced, climate-compatible and institutionally connected before proceeding to pilot testing.

Activity 1: Organization of Three Women's Adaptation Labs (One Per Village)

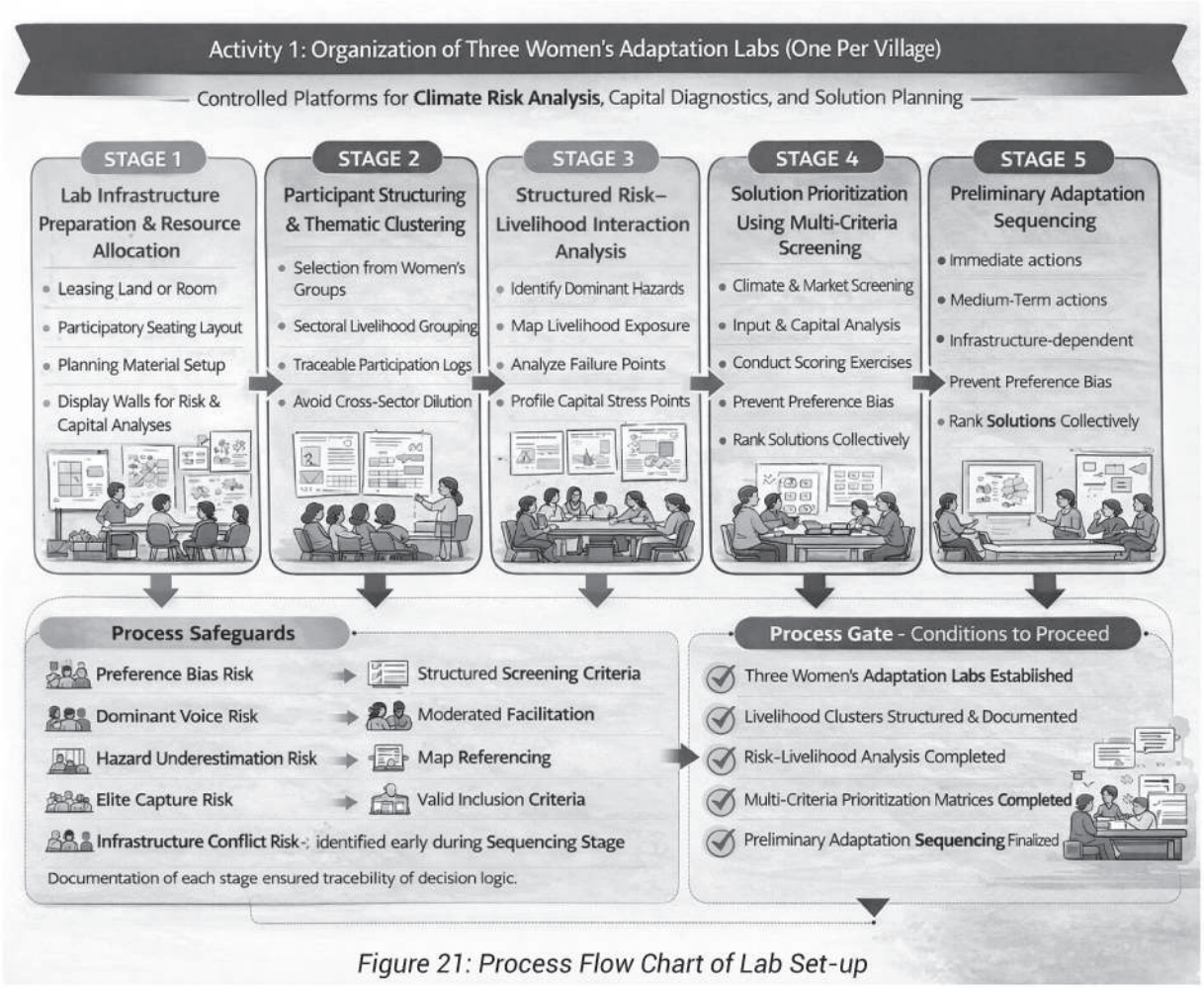


Figure 21: Process Flow Chart of Lab Set-up

This activity establishes formally structured Women's Adaptation Labs in each of the three target villages as controlled, facilitation-guided planning environments. The Labs are not informal discussion forums; they function as technical co-creation spaces where women systematically translate climate diagnostics, capital assessments and market findings into risk-informed livelihood prioritization.

Each Lab is prepared as a structured planning environment with visible risk maps, Five Capital matrices, scoring frameworks and documentation systems. The physical setup is intentionally designed to support analytical engagementallowing participants to visualize hazard exposure overlays, capital stress points and sectoral feasibility criteria during discussion. This transforms the space into an operational decision-making platform rather than a conventional meeting venue.

Participants are organized into thematic livelihood clusterssuch as agriculture, aquaculture, livestock and small enterpriseto ensure sector-specific risk analysis and avoid cross-sector dilution. Using translated climate diagnostics from Phase 4, facilitators guide structured examination of hazard–livelihood interaction, capital vulnerability under shock conditions and system bottlenecks affecting sustainability.

Potential livelihood options are then screened using multi-criteria evaluation, including climate compatibility, capital balance, market feasibility, input accessibility and resource conflict sensitivity. Women collectively rank and sequence options into immediate, medium-term and coordination-dependent pathways. Completion of this activity results in documented, sector-wise prioritization matrices and a structured roadmap for household-level business plan development in the subsequent activity.

Activity 2: Development of Household-Level Risk-Informed Business Plans

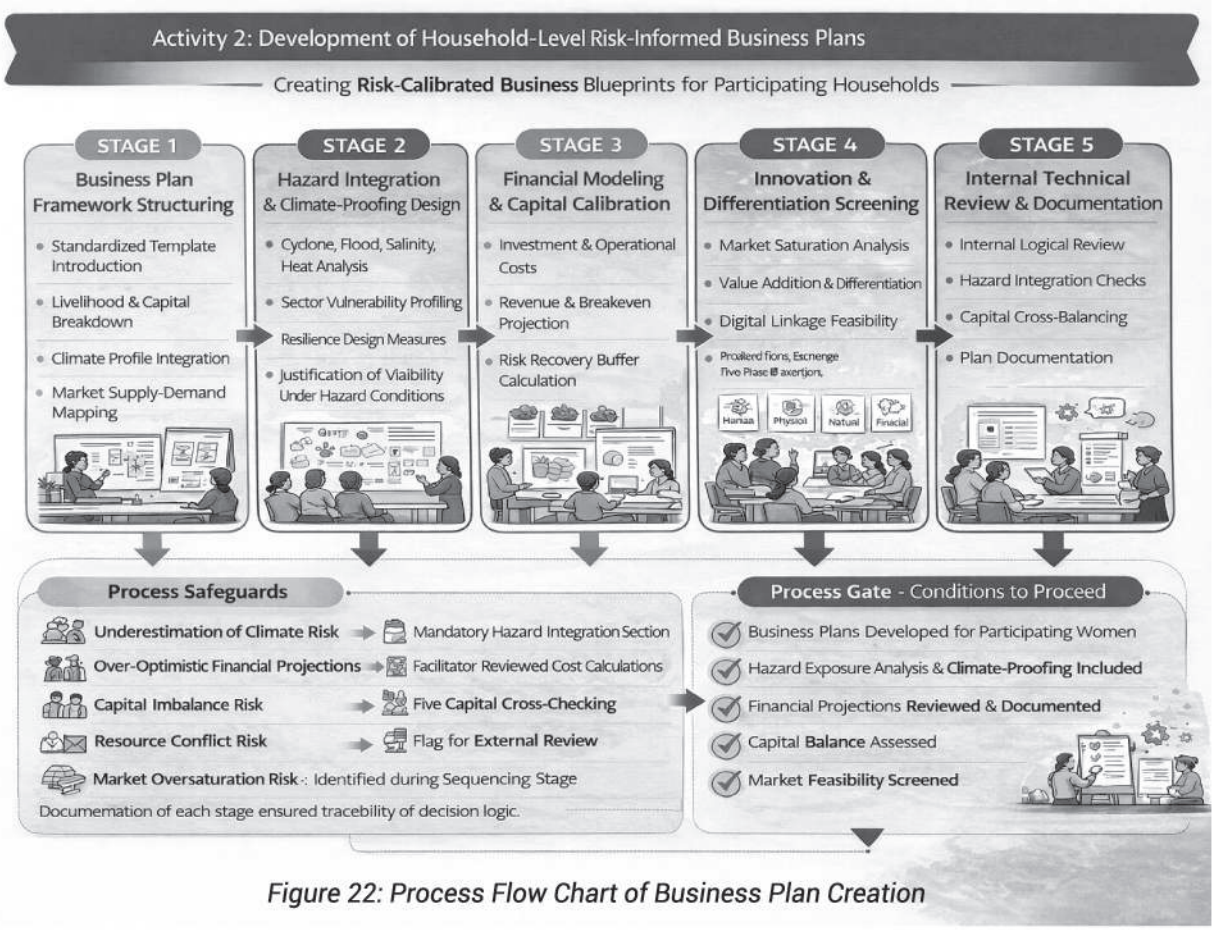


Figure 22: Process Flow Chart of Business Plan Creation

This activity translates prioritized livelihood options emerging from the Women's Adaptation Labs into structured, household-level business plans that are climate-risk informed, capital-balanced, market-feasible, financially viable and institutionally linkable. The output is not a generic livelihood proposal but a risk-calibrated micro-enterprise blueprint tailored to each participating woman's exposure profile and capital context.

A standardized business plan framework is introduced to ensure comparability and analytical rigor across villages. The template captures livelihood description, climate exposure profile, capital requirement breakdown across the Five Capitals, input sourcing pathways, market demand analysis, cost–benefit projections, climate-proofing measures, contingency strategies and infrastructure dependencies. This structured architecture ensures that risk, capital balance and feasibility are embedded from the outset.

Hazard integration is mandatory. Each plan explicitly identifies exposure to cyclone, salinity, flood, or heat stress and incorporates adaptive design elements such as elevated infrastructure, salt-tolerant inputs, seasonal adjustments, diversified sourcing, or protective housing. Financial modeling includes investment requirements, operational costs, break-even timelines, revenue projections and shock recovery buffers. Capital cross-checking ensures that financial expansion does not undermine natural or social capital stability.

Completed plans undergo internal Lab-level technical review to verify logical consistency, hazard integration completeness and market realism. Documented and archived business plans are then prepared for structured external validation in the subsequent activity.

Activity 3: Technical Review and Climate Adaptability Analysis of Business Plans

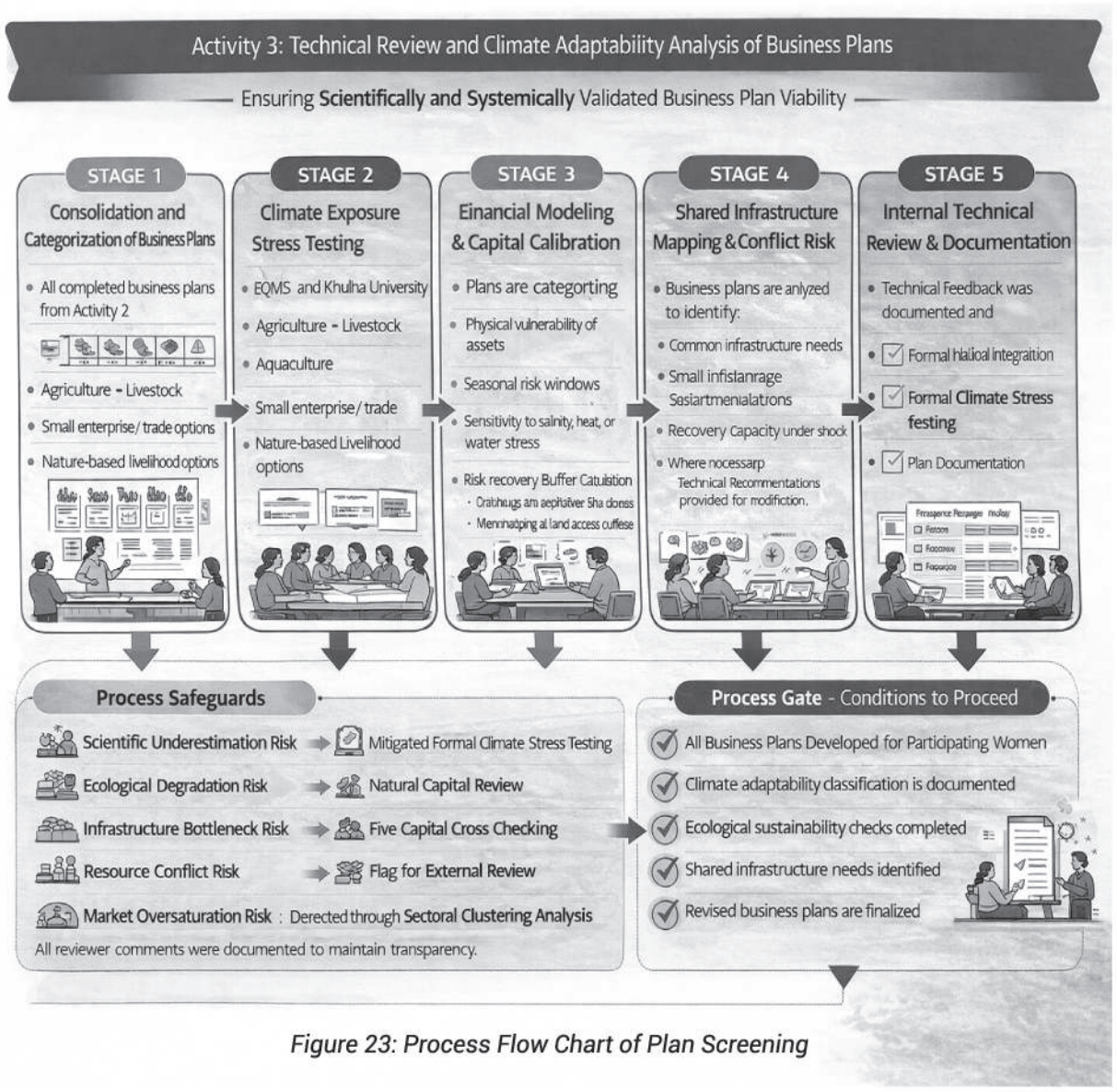


Figure 23: Process Flow Chart of Plan Screening

Figure 24: Process Flow Chart of Expert's Engagement

This activity subjects all household-level business plans developed in the Women's Adaptation Labs to structured third-party technical validation. Its purpose is to ensure that proposed livelihood models are not only participatorily feasible but also climate-adaptable, ecologically sustainable, infrastructure-aware and systemically viable before implementation readiness.

All business plans are first consolidated and categorized by sectoragriculture, livestock, aquaculture, small enterprise and nature-based optionsusing standardized review summaries that include hazard exposure profiles, financial projections, capital dependency mapping and infrastructure requirements. This structured dataset enables comparative sectoral analysis and pattern detection.

In collaboration with technical partners such as Khulna University and EQMS, plans undergo climate stress testing against projected hazard scenarios, including cyclone intensity, salinity intrusion trends, flood probability, waterlogging persistence and wind exposure. Each model is assessed for physical vulnerability, seasonal risk windows and recovery capacity, leading to classification as climate-compatible, adaptable with modification, or high-risk requiring redesign.

Natural capital implications are examined to prevent over-extraction, groundwater depletion, salinity aggravation, or land-use conflict. Collective infrastructure dependencies and potential resource competition are identified to avoid uncoordinated expansion.

Documented technical feedback is shared with the Labs and plans are refined accordingly. Completion of this activity results in revised, climate-calibrated business plans ready for institutional linkage and implementation planning in the subsequent phase.

Activity 4: Engagement of Technical Experts in Livelihoods, Agriculture, Nature-Based Solutions (NbS), Social Protection and Financial Inclusion to Guide the Women's Adaptation Labs

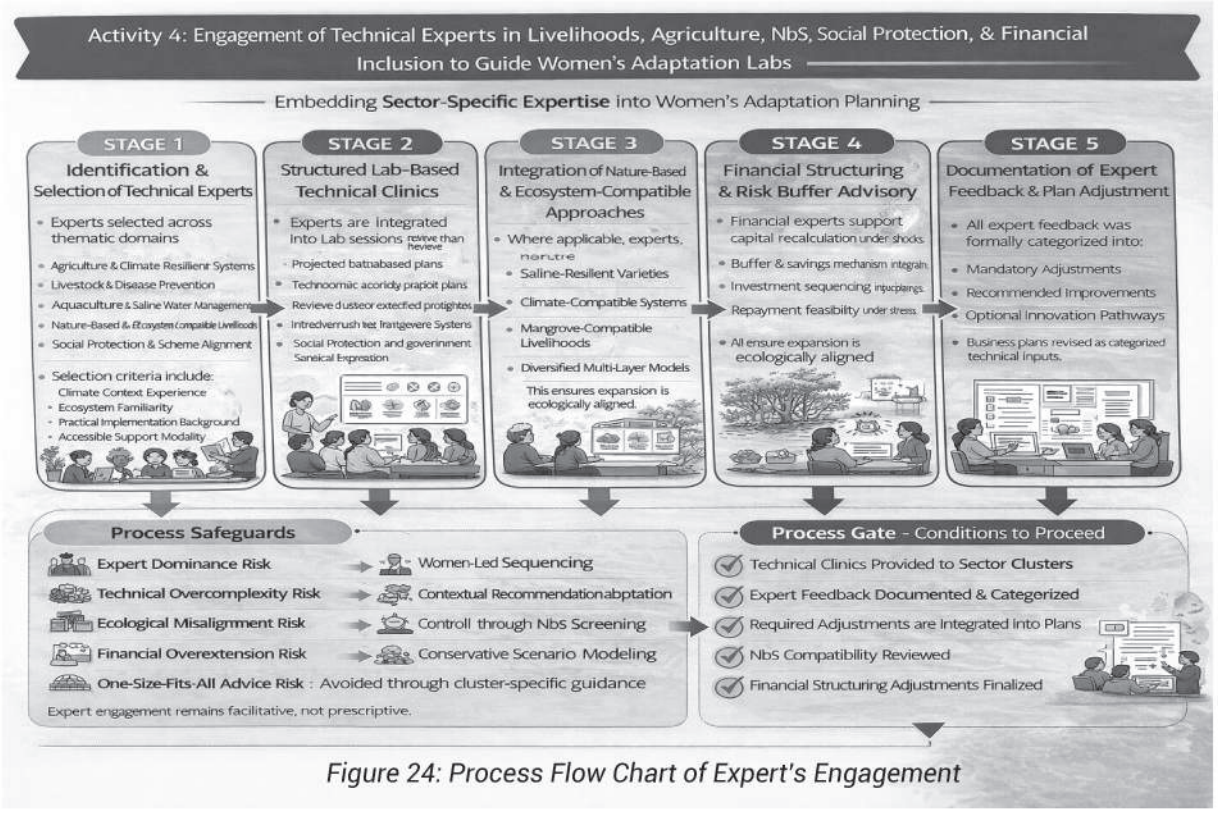


Figure 24: Process Flow Chart of Expert's Engagement

This activity institutionalizes structured technical guidance within the Women's Adaptation Labs by integrating domain-specific experts into the co-creation process. Its purpose is to ensure that livelihood plans emerging from participatory prioritization are technically sound, climate-adaptable, ecosystem-compatible and institutionally aligned before moving toward implementation readiness.

Experts are selected across agriculture, livestock, aquaculture, nature-based solutions (NbS), social protection and financial inclusion, with emphasis on practical experience in coastal and Sundarbans-adjacent contexts. Their engagement is structured through clearly defined session scopes rather than general advisory interaction. Within the Labs, experts conduct sector-specific technical clinics where clustered business plans are reviewed against hazard exposure profiles, climate-proofing measures, input standards, production cycles and cost assumptions. Recommendations are scenario-based and grounded in projected climate conditions.

Where relevant, NbS approaches are integrated to ensure ecological compatibility, including agro-ecological practices, saline-resilient systems, diversified production models and resource buffering strategies. Financial inclusion experts support recalibration of capital requirements, shock buffers, phased investment sequencing and repayment feasibility under hazard scenarios. All technical feedback is formally documented and categorized into mandatory revisions and recommended improvements. Revised business plans reflect traceable integration of expert inputs, ensuring that final livelihood models are climate-calibrated, capital-balanced and system-aligned prior to transition into the implementation phase.

Activity 5: Organization of Business Linkage Meetings Between Women's Groups and Market Actors, MFIs, Vocational Institutes and Government Schemes

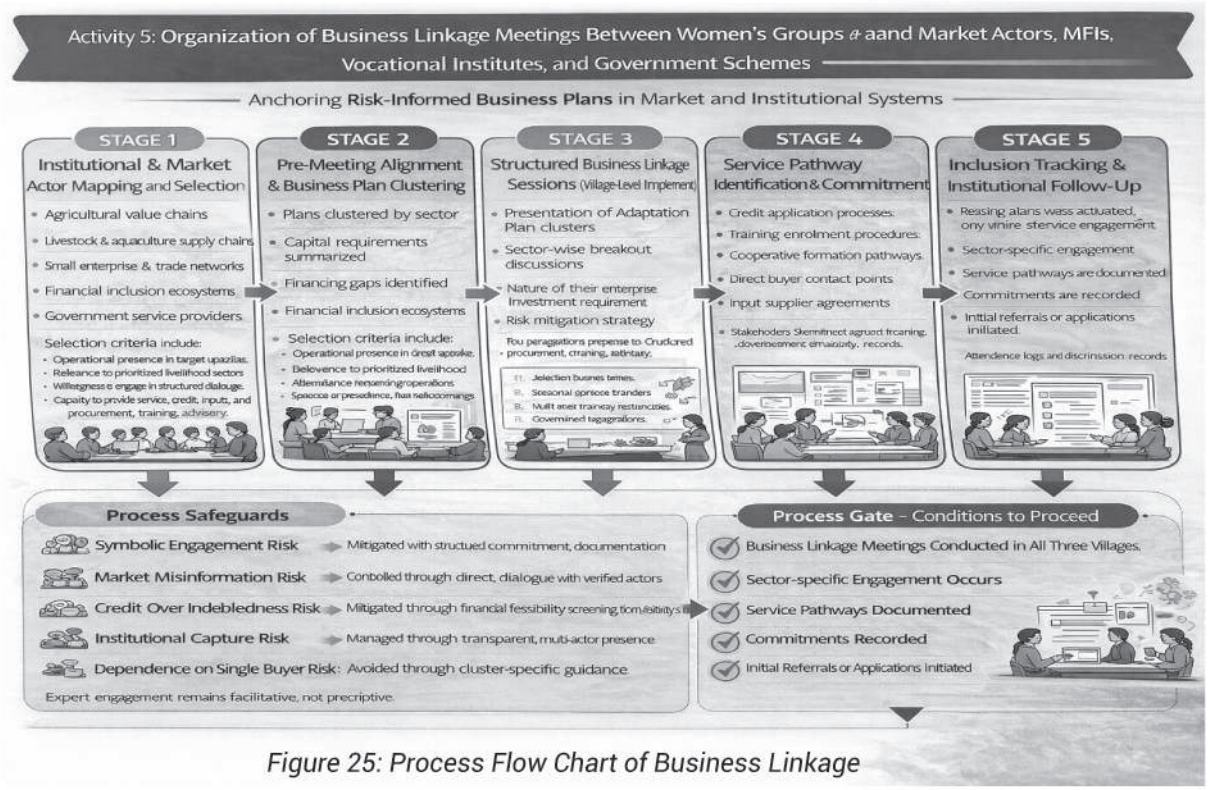


Figure 25: Process Flow Chart of Business Linkage

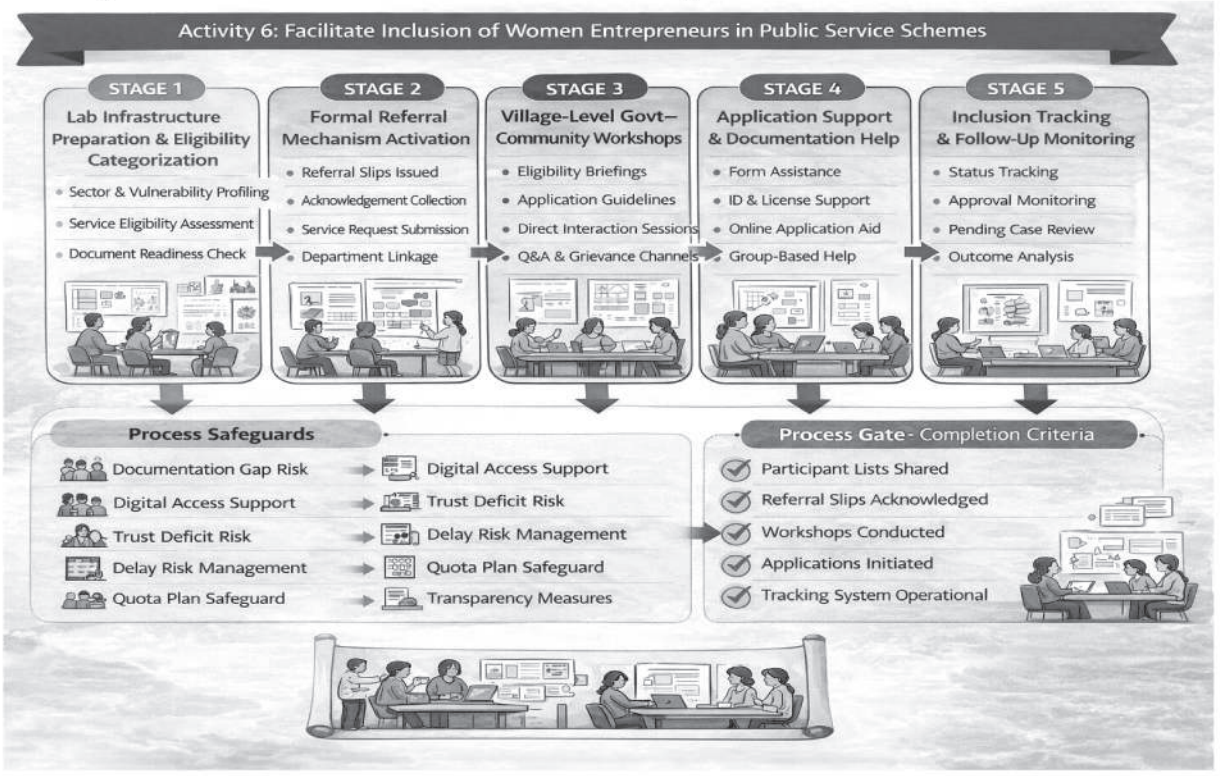
This activity operationalizes the market and institutional embedding of risk-informed business plans by establishing structured linkage interfaces between Women's Adaptation Lab participants and relevant market, financial, training and public service actors. The objective is not awareness creation but structured system integrationensuring that technically validated livelihood plans are connected to real procurement channels, financial pathways, skill ecosystems and government schemes.

A targeted mapping exercise identifies relevant actors across agricultural, livestock, aquaculture and small enterprise value chains, as well as financial institutions, vocational providers and government departments. Actors are selected based on functional relevance, operational presence and capacity to deliver services. Prior to engagement, business plans are clustered by sector and summarized into clear investment needs, financing gaps, input requirements and market linkage demands. Women participants are prepared to present structured enterprise profiles, including risk mitigation measures and support requirements.

Business Linkage Meetings are conducted within the Lab spaces using a facilitated sequence that includes sector presentations, breakout discussions, clarification of standards and eligibility criteria and identification of collaboration pathways. Engagement focuses on practical issues such as pricing trends, procurement standards, loan conditions, training enrollment and scheme procedures. Outputs include documented credit pathways, buyer contacts, training opportunities, cooperative possibilities and advisory follow-up commitments.

Post-meeting follow-up activates referral processes, supports documentation preparation and tracks service uptake. Completion of this activity ensures that business plans are institutionally anchored, market-connected and implementation-ready within existing economic and governance systems.

Activity 6: Facilitate Inclusion of Women Entrepreneurs in Public Service Schemes



This activity institutionalizes structured inclusion of Women's Adaptation Lab participants into relevant public service schemes by creating formal referral, documentation and follow-up mechanisms with government departments. Its objective is to ensure that risk-informed business plans are embedded within public training programs, subsidy schemes, social protection systems, cooperative registration pathways, low-interest credit facilities and climate-relevant advisory services.

Participants are first categorized using the project database and business plan outputs according to livelihood sector, vulnerability profile, eligibility criteria and documentation readiness. Department-specific lists are prepared to match relevant officessuch as Agriculture, Fisheries, Livestock, Social Services, Youth Development, Women & Children Affairs and Cooperative Departmentsensuring targeted referral rather than generalized introduction.

A formal referral mechanism is activated through structured referral slips containing enterprise details and service requests. Acknowledgement from respective departments creates institutional traceability. Village-level government–community interface workshops then provide direct engagement between women entrepreneurs and officials, clarifying eligibility, documentation requirements, timelines and grievance channels.

Application facilitation support is provided, including documentation guidance, trade license or cooperative registration assistance and online submission support. A structured follow-up tracking system monitors submission status, approvals, pending cases and enrollment outcomes. Completion of this activity ensures that women entrepreneurs are not merely informed about schemes but are systematically integrated into institutional service pathways with documented accountability.

3.6 Phase 6: Pilot Implementation, Adaptability Measurement and Community Validation

Phase 6 operationalizes and tests selected climate-resilient livelihood models under real-world conditions prior to any scaling decision. This phase marks the transition from structured planning and institutional embedding in Phase 5 to controlled field-level experimentation and evidence generation. The purpose is to assess whether risk-informed business plans remain viable when exposed to actual environmental variability, market dynamics and operational constraints.

Selected livelihood models are piloted across the three villages under monitored conditions to evaluate climate adaptability, capital performance balance, market functionality, operational feasibility and ecological sustainability. Structured on-field measurement is conducted using predefined indicators, including productivity stability under stress, cost–benefit variation under climate variability, infrastructure durability, resource pressure implications and recovery capacity following shock. This ensures that performance assessment extends beyond income generation to include resilience and system stability.

Monitoring data are consolidated and analyzed to extract lessons on technical strengths, design weaknesses, capital imbalances, market constraints, institutional bottlenecks and ecological risks. Findings are then presented in structured community validation workshops involving women's networks, multi-stakeholder platforms, local government actors and technical advisors.

Phase 6 therefore functions as the methodological evidence consolidation stage, ensuring that only technically tested, socially validated and ecologically sound livelihood models proceed toward replication or institutional integration.

Activity 1: Pilot Climate-Resilient Livelihood Solutions Across Three Villages and Conduct On-Field Measurement of Adaptability

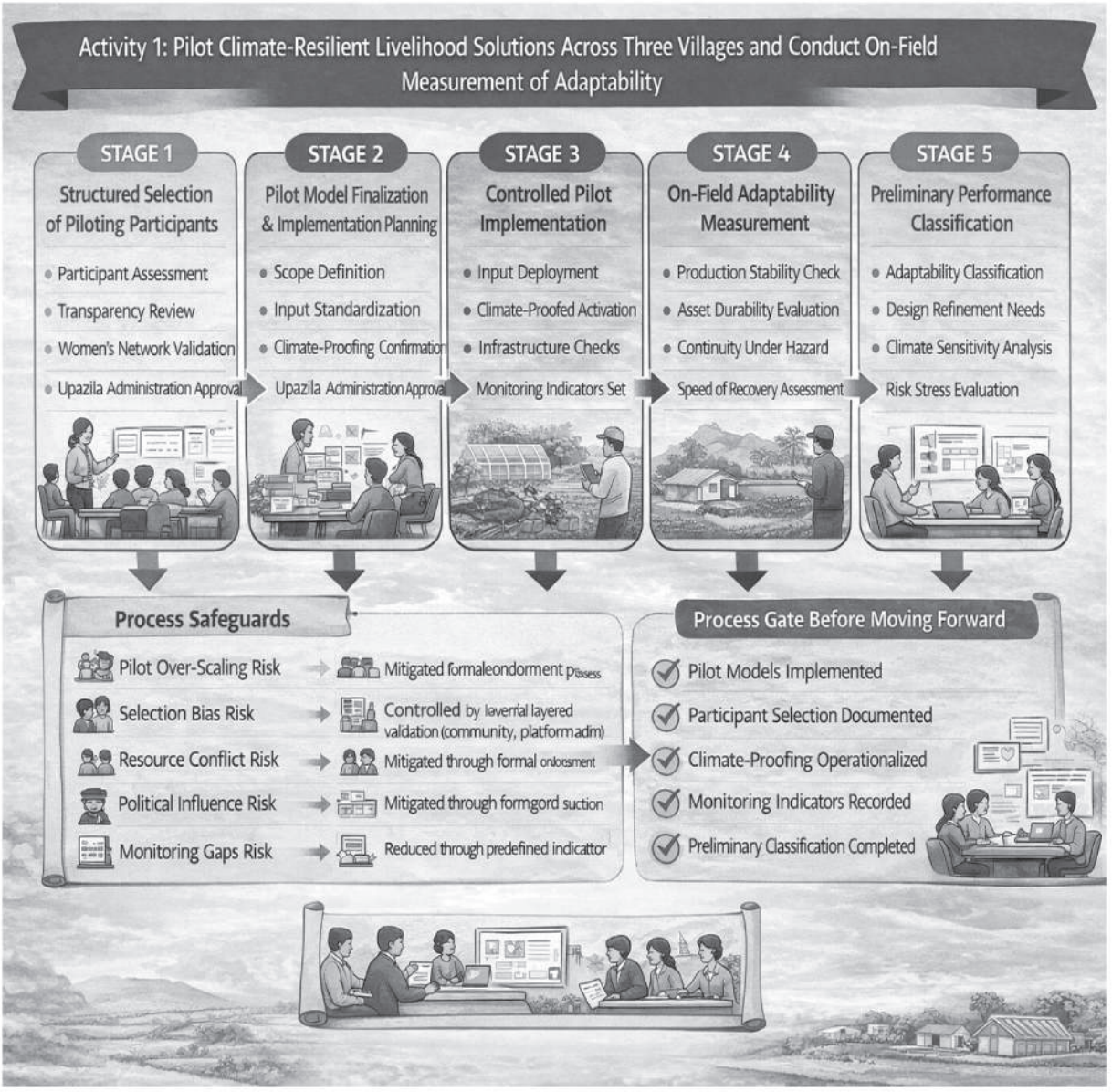


Figure 27: Process Flow Chart of Piloting

This activity operationalizes selected climate-resilient livelihood models under controlled pilot conditions across the three target villages and systematically measures their real-world adaptability. The purpose is to test technical feasibility, capital balance, market functionality and ecological sustainability under actual environmental exposure before any scaling decision is made. The pilot is designed as a structured learning intervention rather than a mass rollout.

Participants are selected through a secondary readiness assessment based on prior experience, engagement consistency, operational space availability, household support conditions and

Figure 26: Process Flow Chart of Public Service Schemes Inclusion

willingness to maintain monitoring records. The shortlist is transparently validated through women's networks, multi-stakeholder platforms and administrative acknowledgement to prevent selection bias or elite capture.

Each pilot model is finalized with defined implementation scope, standardized input quantities, reconfirmed climate-proofing parameters and predefined monitoring indicators. Implementation proceeds under structured supervision, with participants maintaining basic records on input use, output levels, weather disruptions and financial transactions.

Adaptability is measured through field observation, self-reporting and technical verification against indicators such as production stability under climate variability, infrastructure durability, recovery speed after disruption and deviation between projected and actual financial performance. Based on evidence, models are provisionally classified according to adaptability and replication readiness, providing a tested foundation for community validation and refinement in the subsequent activity.

Activity 2: Systematic Analysis and Evaluation of Lessons Learned from Pilot Implementation

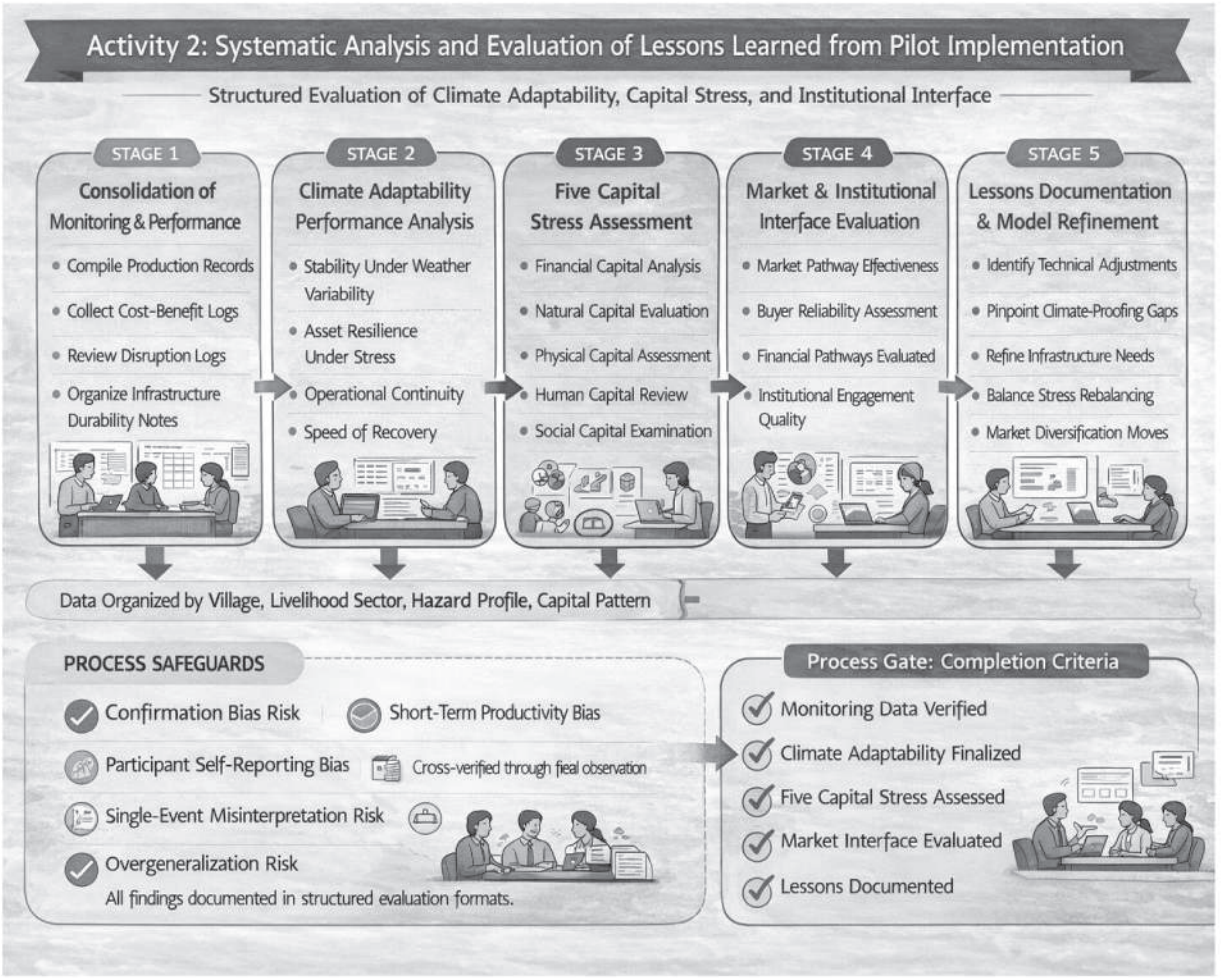


Figure 28: Process Flow Chart of Systematic Analysis

This activity converts field-level pilot evidence into structured analytical learning that informs refinement, replication decisions and institutional positioning. The purpose is not simply to review pilot outcomes but to critically assess climate adaptability, capital balance, technical robustness and system-level functionality under real implementation conditions.

The evaluation process begins with full consolidation of monitoring records generated during Activity 1. Production logs, cost–benefit sheets, disruption records, infrastructure durability notes, technical supervision reports and participant reflections are compiled and organized by village, sector, hazard profile and capital dependency pattern. This ensures traceable and comparable analytical units.

Climate adaptability performance is then assessed against predefined indicators, including production stability under weather variability, infrastructure resilience under stress, operational continuity during minor climate events, recovery speed following disruption and variance between projected and actual performance. Where relevant, actual climatic conditions during the pilot window are cross-referenced to distinguish design weakness from abnormal exposure events. This step determines whether climate-proofing measures were adequate or require recalibration. Using the Five Capital framework, each pilot model undergoes a stress assessment examining financial stability, natural resource pressure, infrastructure durability, labor intensity and social cohesion impacts. This ensures that economic viability is not achieved at the expense of ecological integrity or social stability.

The evaluation further examines system-level integration by reviewing market linkage performance, buyer reliability, price fluctuation sensitivity, financial institution responsiveness and public scheme access barriers. Institutional bottlenecks and procedural delays are documented to inform future coordination adjustments.

Lessons are formally categorized into technical refinements, climate-proofing gaps, infrastructure scaling requirements, capital rebalancing needs, market diversification recommendations and institutional engagement improvements. Each pilot model is then re-documented with revision notes that clearly distinguish between minor operational adjustments, structural design modifications and models deemed high-risk for replication.

This activity incorporates safeguards against confirmation bias, short-term productivity bias, participant self-report distortion, single-event misinterpretation and cross-model overgeneralization. Findings are grounded in indicator-based measurement and cross-verification.

The activity is considered complete only when monitoring data are consolidated and verified, climate adaptability classifications are finalized, Five Capital stress analysis is completed, market and institutional performance is assessed, structured lessons are documented and refined pilot models are formally archived for community validation under the subsequent activity.

Activity 3: Community Validation Workshops of Draft Adaptation Plans with Women's Networks and Stakeholders

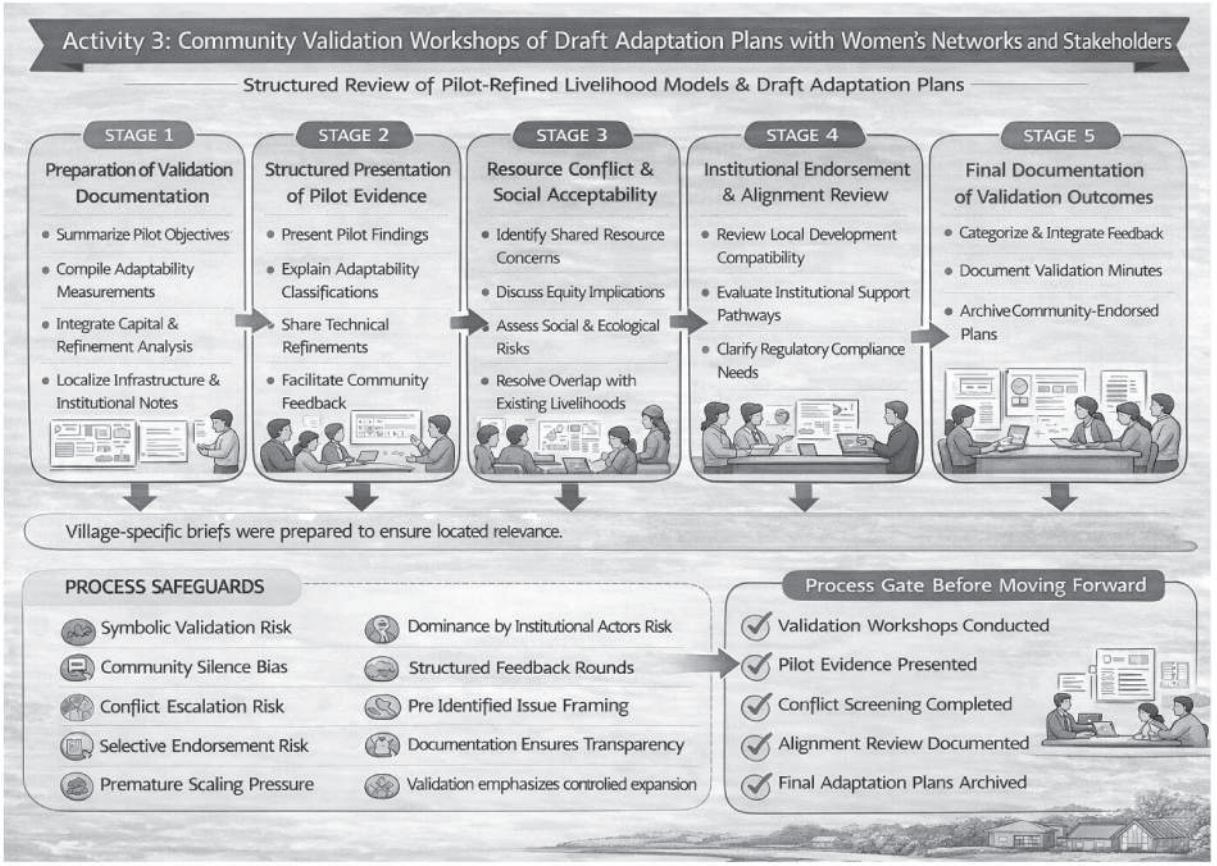


Figure 29: Process Flow Chart of Validation Workshop

This activity conducts structured community validation of pilot-refined livelihood models and draft adaptation plans through formal workshops involving Women's Networks, multi-stakeholder platforms, local government representatives, technical advisors and relevant market actors. The objective is to ensure that pilot-tested models are socially legitimate, ecologically acceptable, institutionally aligned and resource-conflict screened before replication.

Prior to the workshops, village-specific validation briefs were prepared summarizing pilot objectives, adaptability findings, Five Capital performance analysis, technical refinements and replication feasibility classifications. During the sessions, evidence was presented transparently, including strengths, weaknesses and climate performance under field conditions. Participants were invited to confirm findings, identify overlooked risks and raise operational or social concerns.

A structured screening discussion examined shared infrastructure implications, water and land-use pressures, market competition risks and inclusion of vulnerable groups. Local government representatives reviewed compatibility with development plans, regulatory requirements and public scheme alignment.

Feedback was documented, categorized and integrated into final revisions. Adaptation plans were archived as community-validated, pilot-tested, technically reviewed and institutionally acknowledged, ensuring readiness for controlled scaling or policy integration.

3.7 Phase 7: Institutionalization, Documentation and Knowledge Consolidation

Phase 7 consolidates and institutionalizes the Women's Adaptation Planning Model by transforming the full methodological process into structured, replicable and publicly accessible knowledge products. This phase marks the transition from implementation and validation (Phases 5–6) to formal documentation, dissemination and system-level transferability. Its purpose is to ensure that the model evolves beyond a project-based intervention into a clearly articulated framework with technical integrity and governance alignment.

The methodology is codified into a step-by-step bilingual (English and Bangla) operational guideline detailing sequential phases, tools and instruments used, analytical frameworks applied, validation checkpoints, governance interfaces and monitoring architecture. This transforms field experience into a procedural roadmap for replication.

Village-level Women's Adaptation Plans are finalized and published, integrating climate diagnostics, Five Capital analysis, market assessments, pilot performance findings, institutional linkage pathways and defined adaptability indicators. Each plan reflects methodological traceability and monitoring provisions to function as a living framework.

In parallel, good practices, technical refinements, community insights and operational lessons are systematically documented to inform policy dialogue, institutional adoption and replication in other climate-exposed regions. Structured reflection and learning workshops are conducted to present consolidated findings, gather institutional feedback, validate replication assumptions and identify scaling conditions.

Phase 7 therefore ensures knowledge consolidation, policy relevance and long-term transferability of the Women's Adaptation Planning Model.

Activity 1: Co-Create a Step-by-Step Guideline in English and Bangla on the Women's Adaptation Planning Model

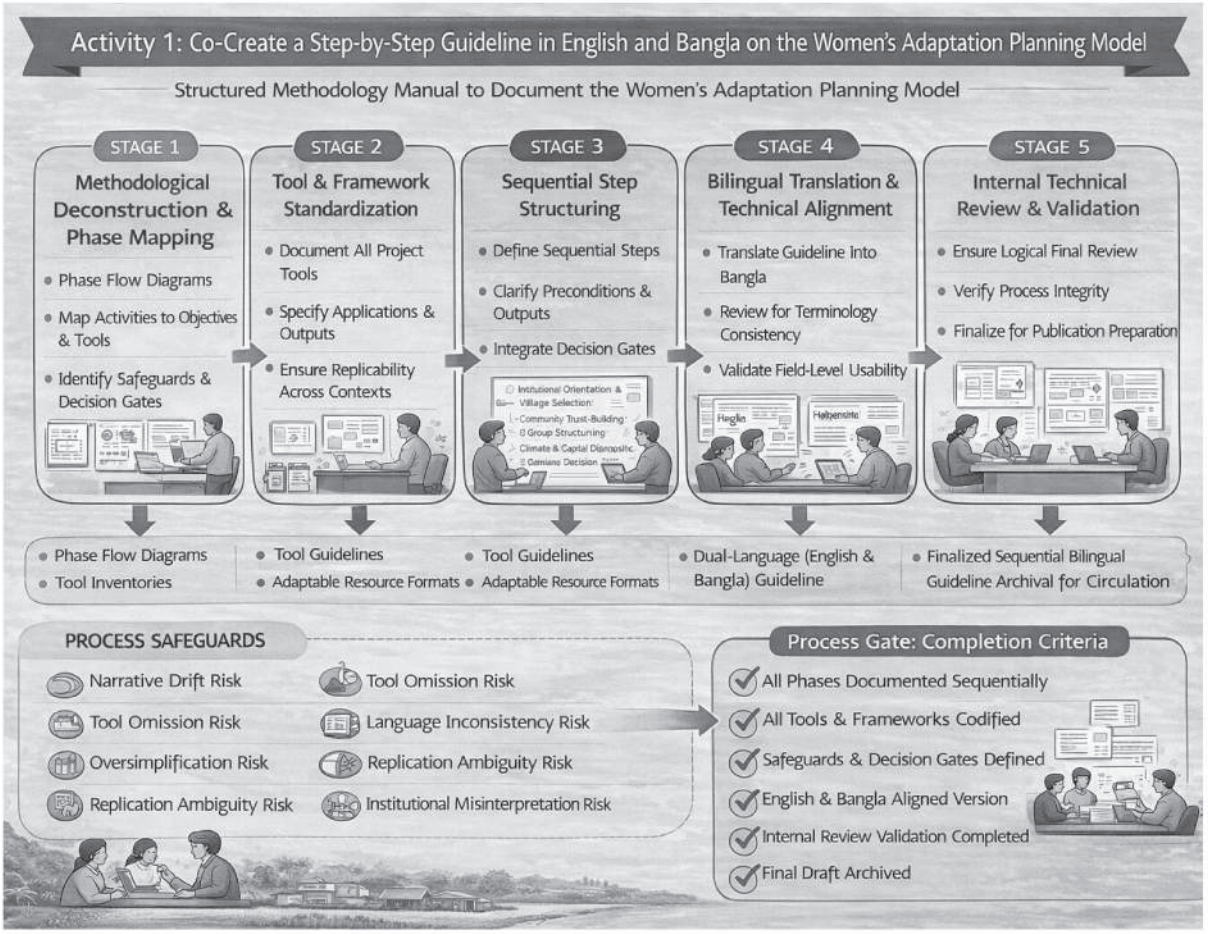


Figure 30: Process Flow Chart of Guideline Preparation

This activity formalizes the Women's Adaptation Planning Model into a structured, bilingual operational guideline designed for replication beyond the original project context. The objective is to codify the full methodological architecturefrom institutional setup to pilot validationinto a clear, sequential and technically grounded manual that can guide future implementation.

The process begins with systematic deconstruction of Phases 1–6 into discrete procedural components. Each phase is mapped against objectives, analytical tools, facilitation structures, stakeholder engagement mechanisms, safeguards and decision gates. This ensures the guideline reflects methodological architecture rather than narrative storytelling.

All tools and analytical instruments used throughout the project are standardized and documented. These include stakeholder mapping templates, Five Capital diagnostics, climate–livelihood interaction matrices, business plan formats, adaptability measurement indicators, pilot evaluation tools and validation workshop structures. Each tool is described

by purpose, application context, required inputs, expected outputs and limitations to ensure replicability.

The guideline is then structured into sequential implementation steps, each specifying preconditions, responsible actors, required data, safeguards and progression criteria. This converts the model into a procedural roadmap.

Finally, the document is developed in English and translated into Bangla through contextual alignment rather than literal translation. Both versions undergo internal technical review to ensure consistency, clarity and institutional usability before final archival for publication.

Activity 2: Documentation of Good Practices, Community Narratives, Technical Lessons and Dissemination

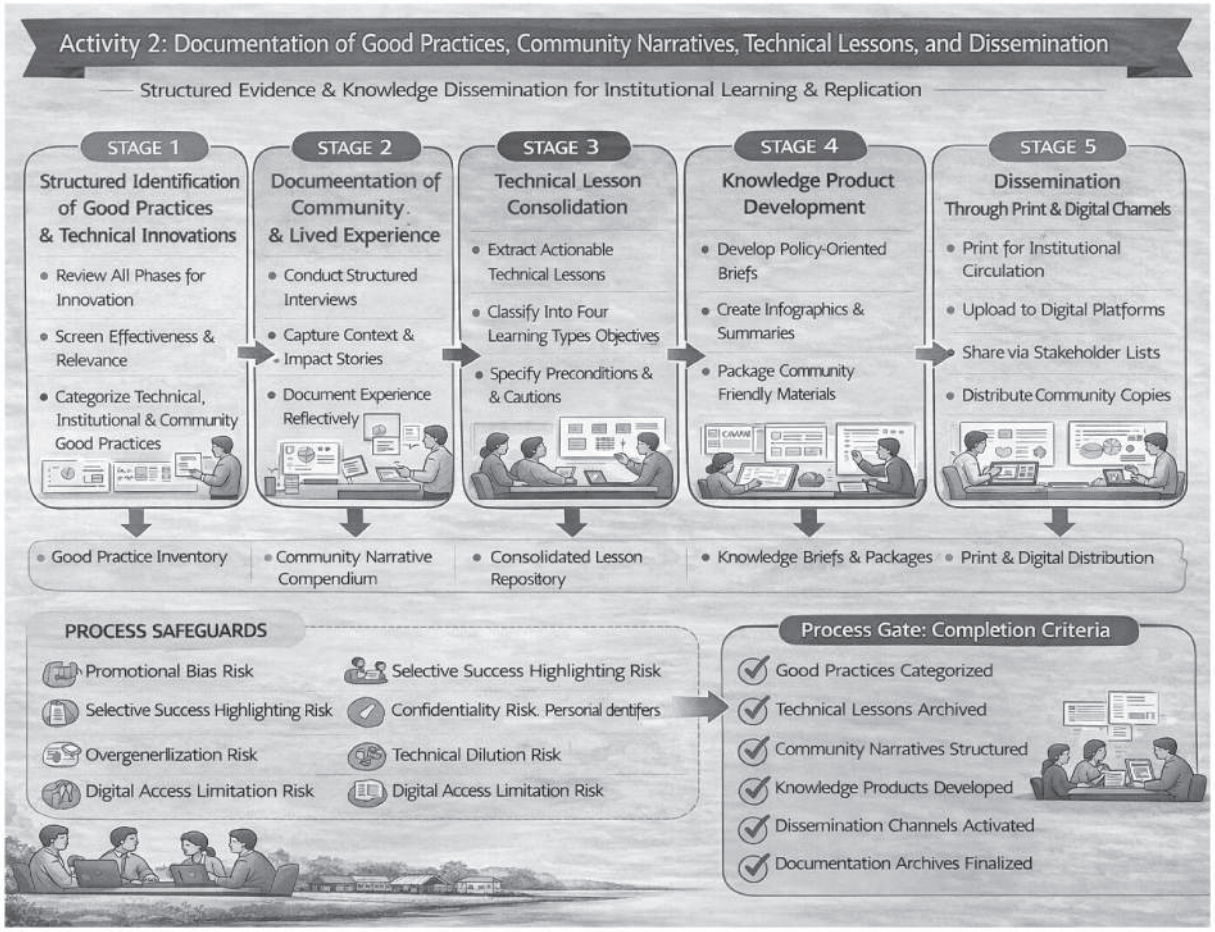


Figure 31: Process Flow Chart of Learning Gathering

This activity consolidates and transforms implementation-generated knowledge into structured, evidence-based products suitable for institutional learning, policy influence and replication. The objective is to ensure that methodological innovations and field-tested insights from Phases 1–6 are formally documented rather than remaining embedded within project experience.

The process begins with a structured review to identify technical, governance and community-led good practices. Practices are screened against demonstrated effectiveness, replicability potential and alignment with climate resilience objectives. Innovations such as layered validation mechanisms, Five Capital integration, climate-proofing refinements and structured pilot stress testing are categorized accordingly.

Community narratives are captured through structured interviews and reflection sessions. Rather than anecdotal storytelling, each narrative is documented under defined components: context, intervention exposure, observed change, adaptability insight and remaining constraints. This ensures experiential evidence supports analytical learning.

Technical lessons are consolidated from pilot evaluations and expert reviews, distinguishing immediate design improvements, structural program adjustments, replication preconditions and scaling cautions. This classification strengthens future transferability.

Knowledge products are then developed in multiple formatsincluding technical briefs, policy notes, community summaries and case bookletsand disseminated through targeted print and digital channels to government, practitioners, academic partners and community stakeholders. Analytical integrity, confidentiality and replication clarity are maintained throughout documentation and dissemination.

Activity 3: Finalization and Publication of Women's Adaptation Plans for Each Village

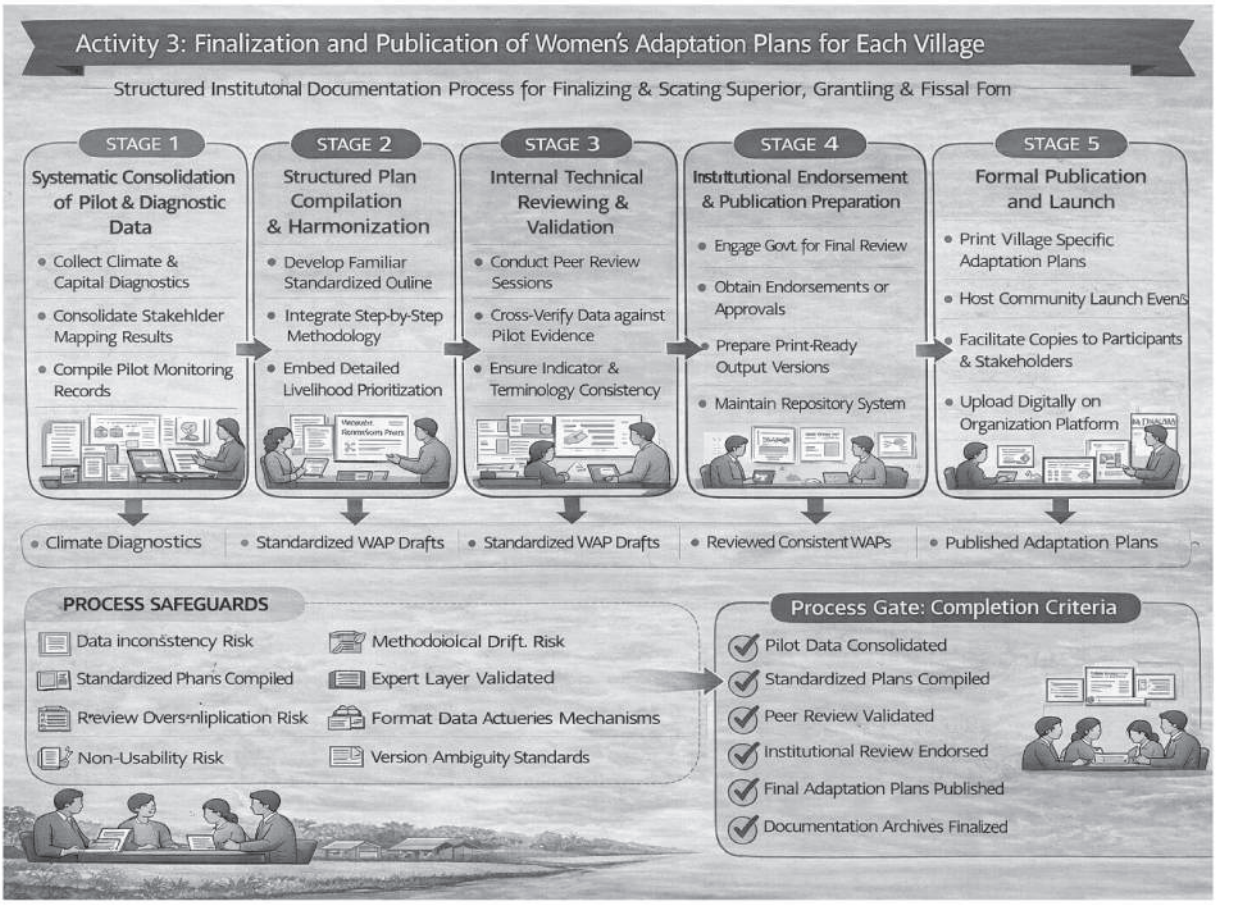


Figure 32: Process Flow Chart of Plan Finalization

This activity formalizes the Women's Adaptation Plans (WAPs) as consolidated, technically grounded and institutionally aligned village-level adaptation frameworks. The purpose is not to produce summary reports but to institutionalize a complete planning architecture derived from Phases 1–6.

The process begins with systematic compilation of all analytical and participatory outputs at village level, including climate diagnostics, Five Capital assessments, stakeholder and power analyses, resource mapping, market assessments, structured business plans, pilot adaptability measurements, institutional linkage documentation and community validation feedback. Cross-verification ensures internal consistency between diagnostic findings, pilot evidence and final livelihood priorities, preventing inclusion of untested or unsupported models.

Each WAP is structured using a standardized framework to maintain comparability across villages while preserving contextual specificity. The documents explicitly describe the methodological pathway, tools applied, validation gates passed, expert review processes and institutional alignment mechanisms. This embeds traceability and strengthens replicability.

A dedicated monitoring and adaptability framework is integrated, defining performance indicators, review intervals, institutional responsibilities and recalibration triggers. Community narratives are included in structured form to contextualize analytical findings without diluting technical rigor.

Prior to publication, bilingual harmonization, data validation, formatting standardization and version control are completed. The finalized WAPs stand as socially validated, pilot-tested and governance-aligned adaptation instruments ready for institutional use and replication.

Activity 4: Final Reflection and Learning Sharing Workshop with Women's Groups, Experts and Institutional Partners

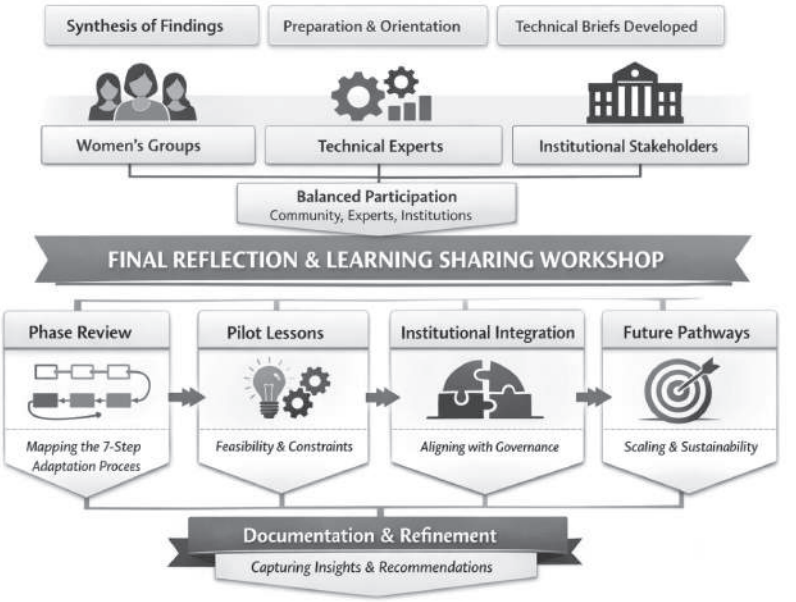


Figure 33: Process Flow Chart of Reflection Workshop

The final reflection and learning sharing workshop was designed as a structured consolidation platform rather than a ceremonial closing event. Its purpose was to subject the entire Women's Adaptation Planning model to collective review, institutional dialogue and methodological reflection before formal closure. This ensured that the process was critically examined, lessons were extracted and alignment with future scaling pathways was clarified.

The workshop preparation phase began with the structured synthesis of findings from all prior phases. Technical briefs were developed summarizing key elements: methodological steps, validation gates, pilot adaptability results, institutional integration mechanisms and monitoring architecture. Village-level representatives were oriented in advance so that they could present their experience directly rather than through project intermediaries. This preserved the community-led character of the process and ensured that reflection emerged from those who engaged in implementation.

Participation was intentionally structured to balance voices across three groups: women's platforms and networks, technical experts (including climate, livelihood and financial specialists) and institutional stakeholders (local administration, line departments and market actors). The facilitation framework was designed to avoid dominance by technical or institutional actors. Dialogue sequencing followed a layered structure: first community reflection, then technical interpretation, followed by institutional response. This sequencing maintained the primacy of lived experience while allowing analytical depth and policy discussion.

The workshop itself was organized into four structured segments. The first segment revisited the full process pathway, visually mapping the seven phases to reinforce methodological coherence. The second segment focused on pilot lessons and adaptability measurements, inviting women participants to reflect on practical feasibility and emerging constraints. The third segment examined institutional integration, exploring how the Women's Adaptation Plans align with existing schemes, governance mechanisms and planning processes. The final segment concentrated on forward pathways, including replication potential, policy anchoring and long-term sustainability mechanisms.

Throughout the workshop, documentation teams captured technical insights, points of disagreement, institutional commitments and suggested refinements. This ensured that the reflection process contributed directly to final documentation rather than remaining anecdotal. Special attention was given to identifying boundary conditions for replication clarifying what elements of the model are transferable and which require contextual recalibration.

The workshop also served as a legitimacy consolidation moment. Institutional stakeholders publicly acknowledged the validity of the Women's Adaptation Plans, reinforcing alignment with governance systems. Women's groups articulated their ownership of the planning framework, demonstrating that the model was not externally imposed but locally constructed through iterative validation.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

The implementation of the Women's Adaptation Planning Model demonstrates that locally led adaptation becomes operationally viable when structured through clearly sequenced institutional, social and technical phases. The experience across seven phases suggests that adaptation planning should not begin with livelihood design or pilot implementation; rather, it should begin with institutional anchoring and community platform strengthening. Early alignment with district and sub-district authorities, structured inception processes and transparent village selection mechanisms reduce implementation risk and create administrative legitimacy that becomes critical in later phases.

Another important lesson is that collective social infrastructure must precede technical diagnostics. Without organized women's platforms, evidence generation risks becoming extractive rather than participatory. The formation and strengthening of women's groups created the foundation upon which climate risk assessments, baseline studies and market diagnostics could be meaningfully interpreted and translated into action. Future initiatives should therefore ensure that social architecture is established before introducing scientific modelling or livelihood feasibility analysis.

The integration of participatory tools with technical assessments proved essential. Resource mapping, stakeholder power analysis, household enumeration and socio-economic diagnostics were most effective when systematically aligned with scientific climate risk modelling and market assessment findings. When these assessments operate in isolation, they produce fragmented insights. When integrated, they generate structured pathways for climate-resilient livelihood planning. Adaptation planning frameworks should therefore be designed to combine social diagnostics, ecological vulnerability and market feasibility into a unified analytical framework.

The process also revealed that technical knowledge alone does not generate locally led planning. Translation into accessible formatsthrough Bangla summaries, visual presentations and structured validation sessionswas critical to ensuring that scientific findings were understood, debated and endorsed by women's groups and community platforms. Future adaptation programs should treat knowledge translation not as dissemination but as a formal methodological stage within the planning cycle.

Validation at multiple levels strengthened legitimacy and reduced implementation risk. Community validation, platform review and administrative endorsement functioned as sequential safeguards before moving into piloting or institutional integration. This layered validation architecture helped prevent elite capture, minimized misalignment between technical feasibility and local preference and reinforced collective ownership.

Pilot initiatives were most effective when treated as adaptive testing environments rather than demonstration showcases. Structured selection criteria, transparent validation and institutional endorsement increased credibility. Embedding adaptability measurement mechanisms prior to rollout ensured that pilots generated learning rather than only outputs.

Finally, long-term sustainability depended on institutional embedding. Adaptation plans must link with Union Parishad planning processes, public service schemes, training programs and financial inclusion pathways. Bilingual documentation and formal publication increase replicability and administrative uptake. Most importantly, the continuity of women's networks beyond project duration determines whether adaptation planning becomes embedded practice or remains project-bound activity.

The overarching recommendation emerging from this experience is methodological discipline. Each phase requires defined entry criteria, safeguards and validation gates before progression. The strength of this model lies not only in its outcomes but in the structured sequence through which those outcomes were achieved.

5 CONCLUSION

The Women's Adaptation Planning Model illustrates that climate resilience planning can move beyond descriptive vulnerability analysis toward structured, community-driven transformation when implemented through a disciplined, phased process. This initiative did not begin with livelihood solutions; it began with institutional grounding and social architecture. It did not move directly to pilot interventions; it first generated participatory evidence. It did not impose adaptation priorities; it created platforms where women collectively defined risks, examined opportunities and validated feasibility.

Across seven phases, the process evolved through institutional setup, platform formation, integrated diagnostics, knowledge translation, co-creation of risk-informed livelihood plans, pilot testing and eventual institutional consolidation. Each phase functioned as both preparation and safeguard for the next, creating continuity rather than fragmentation.

The model demonstrates that locally led adaptation is not achieved through isolated workshops or short-term activities. It requires governance structures, evidence integration, validation mechanisms and iterative refinement. When women's platforms are strengthened, when data is co-produced and translated and when institutions are aligned with community priorities, adaptation planning shifts from a project intervention to a governance practice.

This documentation captures that structured pathway. It presents adaptation not as a predefined solution set but as a sequenced methodological architecture grounded in participation, informed by evidence and oriented toward institutional continuity.

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