

Resilience strategies and environmentally induced migration in the coastal regions of Bangladesh: Existing scenario and post-Covid implications on livelihood and food security

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KEY MESSAGE

Coastal regions of Bangladesh is extremely susceptible to climate change induced natural disasters with high probability of future compound catastrophes.

Man-made intervention in land use changes and agricultural transformation has caused serious ecological disaster

Migration is a common trend as livelihood adaptation strategies

Seasonal and permanent migration to regional, urban and overseas destinations

Covid-19: Implications on livelihood and food security > widespread migration

Migration: threat or livelihood strategy

1. Research Question

- Which factors influence migration from the coastal regions of Bangladesh?
- In which way has the social and economic status of the people in the coastal region of Bangladesh changed?
- How Covid-19 influence the existing pattern of migration, livelihood and food security?
- Which strategies and concepts could improve resilience?

2. Methodology

- Observation and field research
- In-depth personal interview with local people and FGDs
- Qualitative content analysis



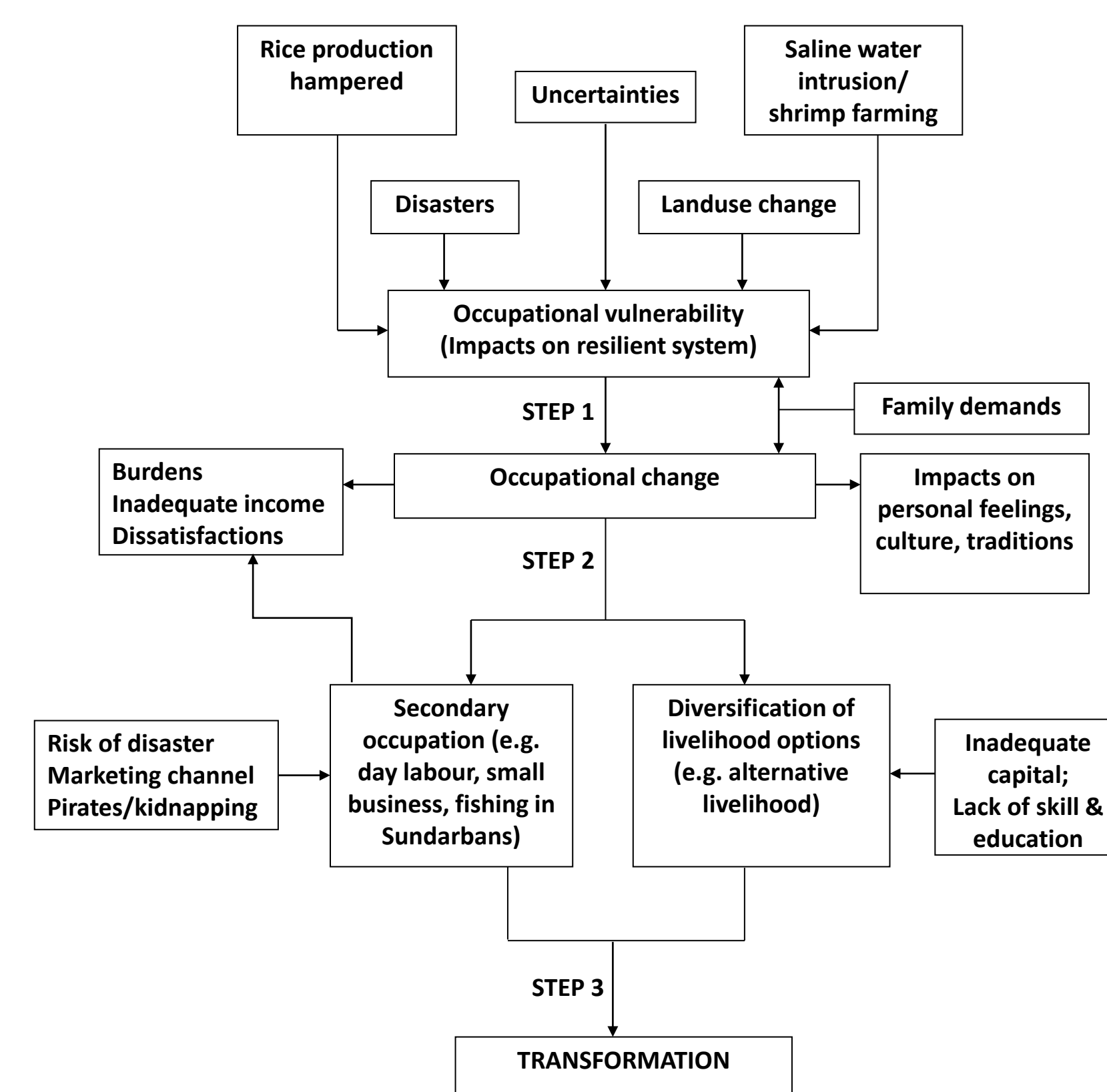
3. Issues and Impacts

- Climate change and natural disasters
- Transformation of self-sustaining agriculture e.g., rice production to shrimp
- Commercial shrimp farming since 1980s
- Covid-19 lockdown and post-lockdown impact on livelihood and capital
- Occupation loss, income discrimination, social conflicts, displacement, migration, food insecurity, drinking water, trees, livestock, and grazing place

"Only few people are financially benefitted and most of them have nothing left to do."



4. Occupational Change Mechanism



5. Hampering Aspects

- Uncertainties at destination
- Possibility of cultural conflicts with local people at destination
- Find housing at destination
- High transaction costs
- Only temporary/short term work
- Lacking social networks at destination
- Home culture and tradition
- Strong social networks at origin

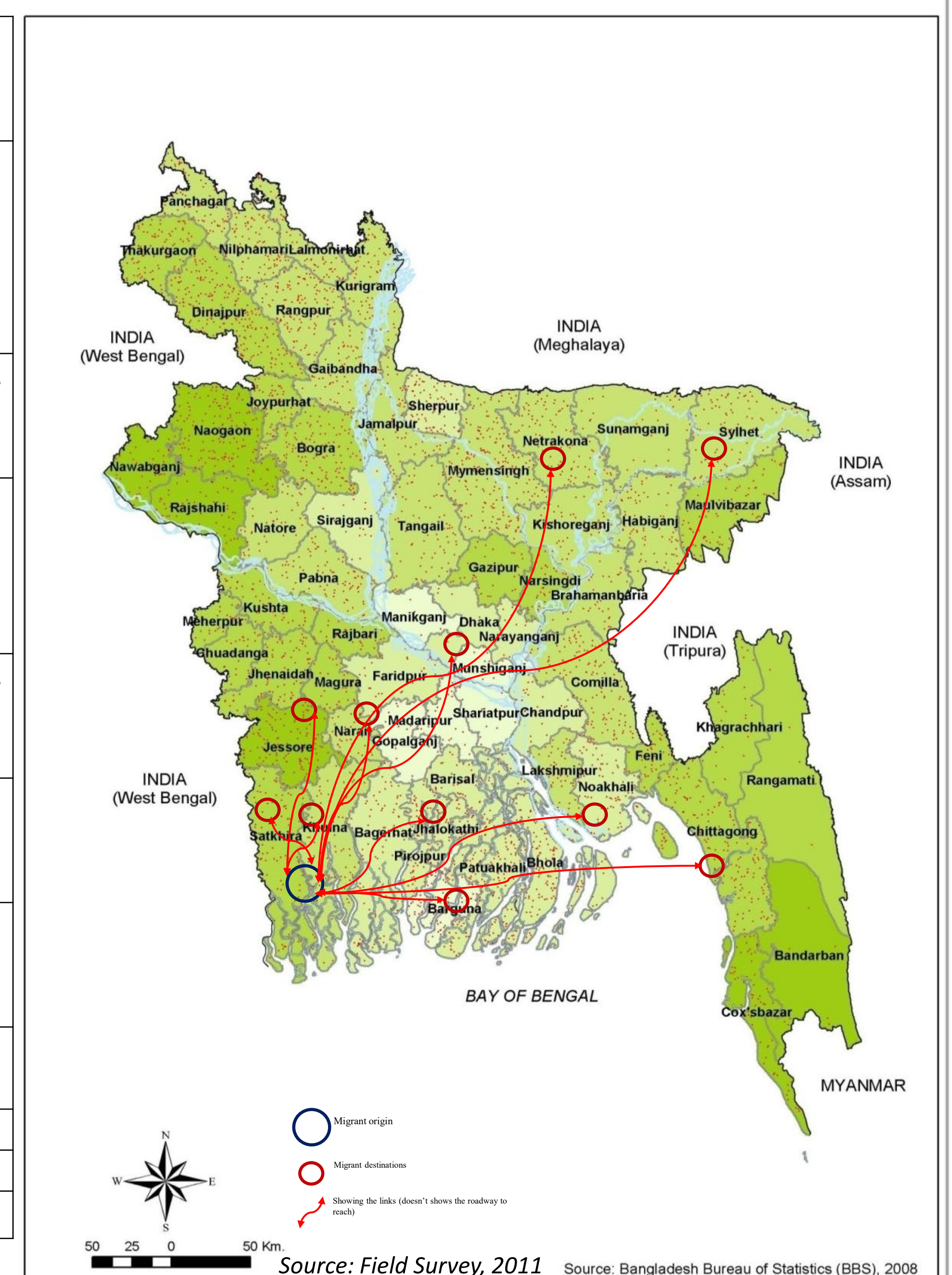
6. Facilitating Aspects

- Inflow of money and rice, i.e. food security
- Support for household resilience
- Improvement of socio-economic status
- Education for children
- Savings for future

7. Migration Mapping (Existing and Post-Covid) and Governance of Migration

Migration period	Type of work	Length of Stay (week)	Destinations
December-January	Boro paddy sowing	3 to 6	Gopalganj, Faridpur, Madaripur, Narail, Netrokona, Sylhet, Noakhali, Jessore, Regional locations
April- May	Boro paddy harvesting	3 to 6	Regional locations
July-August	Aman paddy sowing	3 to 6	Jessore, Magura, Narail, Regional locations
October-November to April-May	Brick field	20 to 24	Dhaka, Barisal, Narail, Khulna, Faridpur, Noakhali, Delhi (India)
November-December	Aman paddy harvesting	3 to 6	Jessore, Magura, Narail, Regional locations
November-March	Wood processing work (with handy chainsaw)	4 to 8	Bagerhat, Barguna, Gopalganj,
January-May	Earth work (e.g. embankment, pond excavation)	2 to 12	Khulna, Bagerhat, Sathkhira
Any time of the year but mostly during rainy season (June-August)	Day labour e.g. rickshaw pulling	1 to 12	Dhaka, Khulna
	Garments factory		Dhaka, Chittagong
	Sea port		Chittagong
	Day labour		Dhaka

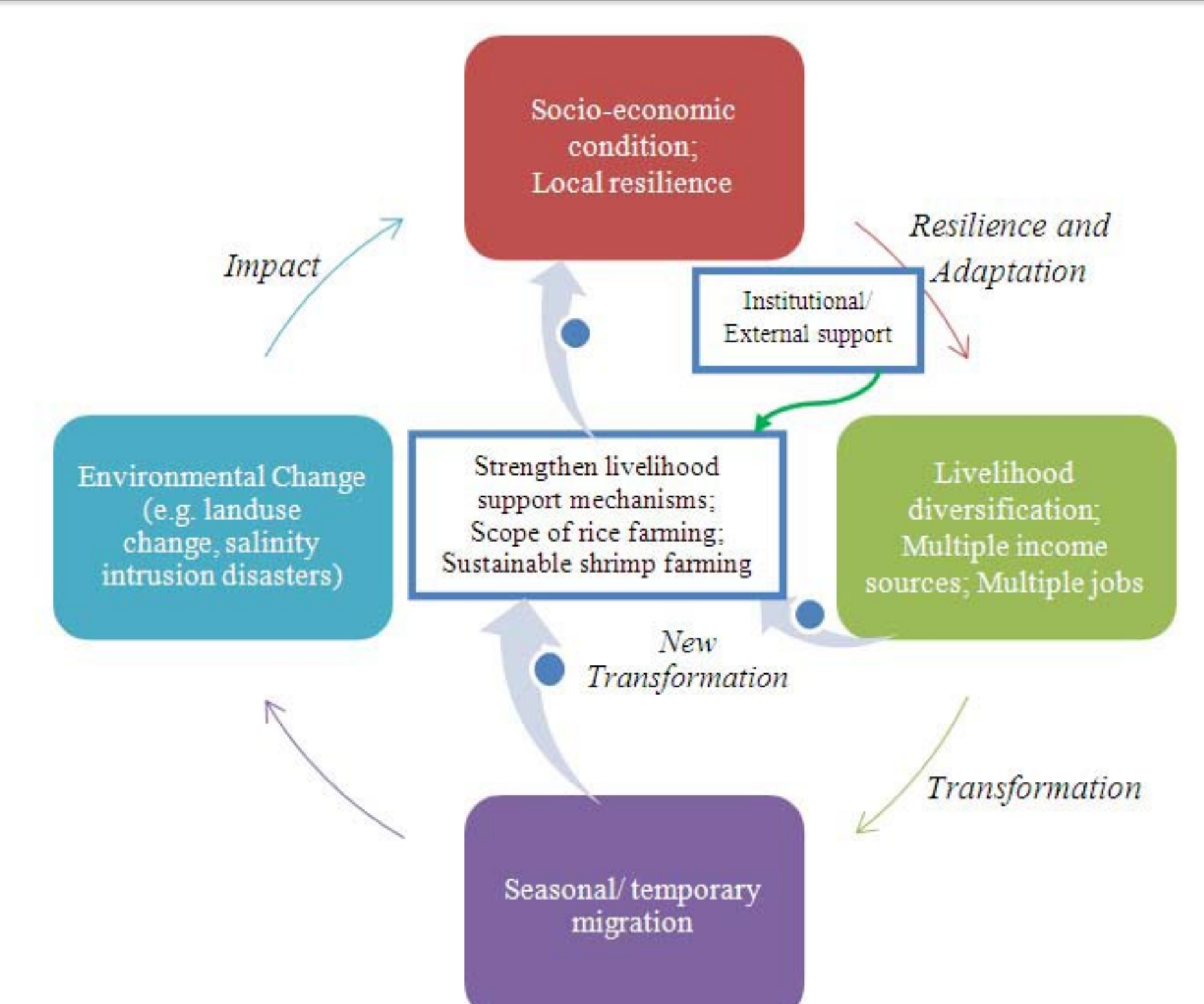
Source: Field Survey, 2011



Source: Field Survey, 2011 Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), 2008

Migration period	Type of work	Length of Stay (week)	Destinations
October-May	Brickfield	24 to 28	Sathkhira, Bagerhat, Narail, Sylhet, Rangpur, India (Kolkata)
January-February; August-September; November-February	Paddy Sowing	8 to 10	Sathkhira, Bagerhat, Gopalganj, Madaripur, Narail, India
April-May; December-January	Paddy Harvesting	8 to 10	Sathkhira, Bagerhat, Gopalganj, Madaripur, Narail
November-February	Deep Sea Fishing	24	Bay of Bengal
Any time of the year (multiple) but mostly during rainy season (June-August)	Day labour e.g. rickshaw puller	8 to 12	Dhaka, Khulna
	Day labour and Earthworks		Regional destinations, India

Source: Field Survey, 2022



8. Conclusion

- People are shifted away from their land by shrimp farming industries and lose their base of self-sustaining agriculture that existed before 1980.
- Climate change, natural disasters and pandemic exacerbates an already existing problem.
- Seasonal migration: Livelihood adaptation strategy due to failure of local resilience and ecological disasters.
- Covid-19 has intensified existing vulnerable situation, leading to widespread seasonal migration.
- The study suggests an integrated transformational mechanism that brings people back to the self-sustaining agriculture systems, encourage sustainable shrimp farming and strengthening livelihood diversification.