Research and Evaluation Activities

by

Research Training and Management International (RTMI)

Climate Change

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- **Y-RISE Climate Change Adaptation Projects (Mar'24 – Dec'26)**
  Client: Yale Research Initiative on Innovation and Scale (Y-RISE)

Yale Research Initiative on Innovation and Scale (Y-RISE) has selected RTM International as a Bangladesh-based research organization for the Y-RISE Climate Change Adaptation Projects, specifically those focusing on water salinity. Y-RISE has partnered with BRAC to systematically evaluate the impact and scaling complexities of programs designed to address the water crisis and livelihood adaptation challenges in the southwestern coastal areas of Bangladesh. In the first project, a clustered randomized controlled trial (RCT) will be conducted to evaluate a water entrepreneurship program implemented by BRAC. In the second project, a longitudinal survey of a representative sample of communities and households will be conducted in the southwestern coastal regions. Finally, a longitudinal survey of a representative sample of communities and households will also be conducted in the southwestern coastal regions.

The Water Entrepreneurship program will be implemented for 2 years. For year-1, in 375 communities selected by Y-RISE in Assassuni and Shyamnagar, RTMI will conduct one short census (listing survey) of the households, a baseline survey of households, a baseline survey of entrepreneurs, and nine rounds of short monthly phone surveys with entrepreneurs. The baseline survey of the households will include biomarker tests of health outcomes of the household members and salinity measurements of drinking and cooking water stock. In year-2, RTMI will be responsible for conducting a follow-up survey of the households, a follow-up survey of the entrepreneurs, and three rounds of short monthly phone surveys with the entrepreneurs. They will also distribute discount water coupons to ultra-poor households. The follow-up survey of the households will include biomarker tests of health outcomes of the household members and salinity measurements of drinking and cooking water stock.

The Adaptation Clinic program will be conducted in year-1. RTMI will conduct short census surveys to list all households in 160 villages selected by Y-RISE in Assassuni and Shyamnagar. The census survey questionnaire will take 10 minutes, not including the introduction and consent script. Then Y-RISE will select 20 farms in each of the 375 communities. RTMI will also conduct a baseline survey with the 20 farm households selected by Y-RISE in each of the 160 villages. The baseline survey questionnaire will take 1 hour, not including the introduction and consent script.

The Longitudinal survey project will be conducted in year 1. In 170 villages selected by Y-RISE in Satkhira-Khulna region, RTMI will conduct short census surveys to list all farm households. In each of these villages, 20 households will be selected by Y-RISE to complete an informational questionnaire about the household. The survey questionnaires will take 75 minutes, not including the introduction and consent script. In these same 170 villages, RTMI will interview 5 key community leaders, such as union council members, teachers, imams, and large-scale farmers. Leaders will be selected according to Y-RISE's selection protocol. The leadership survey is expected to take 1 hour, not including the introduction and consent script.

- **Preparedness of Health Workforce in Providing Health Care Services during Disaster (May 2022 and January 2023)**
  Client: National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT)

The National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT) assigned RTM International to conduct a study named "Preparedness of Health Workforce in Providing Health Care Services during Disaster." The general objective of the study was to assess the preparedness of the health workforce in providing health care services during a disaster. The study also had specific objectives: to explore the

health services needed during the disaster, to assess the availability of health services during the disaster at the nearest H-FP facilities, to assess the knowledge of managers, providers, and support staff about disaster preparedness, to know the status of training received by the health care providers on disaster preparedness, to assess the readiness of providing services during the disaster, and to investigate whether necessary medicine and equipment were available and workable at the facilities providing health services needed during the disaster. The study also aimed to know the responses of clinical and non-clinical staff regarding their personal needs, willingness to work in a disaster, and level of confidence in protecting their safety in the event of a disaster. The target population for this study included healthcare managers (Director (H), Director (FP), Deputy Director (FP), Civil Surgeon, Deputy Civil Surgeon, UH&FPO), service providers (Doctors, MOMCH-FP, Paramedics, Nurse, FWV, SACMO (FP)), and service recipients. The study area included selected districts from eight divisions of Bangladesh. A mixed-method approach was followed, which included face-to-face interviews with service recipients, health facility observation, in-depth interviews with service providers, and key informants' interviews (KII) with healthcare managers. For the quantitative study, a total of 3,600 service recipients were selected from all eight divisions, and 126 health facilities were observed using a health facility observation checklist. For the qualitative study, a total of 414 IDIs with service providers from the district level to the village level and 124 KIIs with the relevant key informants from the selected districts were conducted.

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