

Course Syllabus

The course is delivered through one module, which consists of three main presentations.

Why Mainstream Gender into Disaster Management?

This introductory presentation argues that disaster risk reduction policies, plans and interventions should incorporate gender considerations. It introduces the concept of gender, that is determined by the roles women and men are expected to play in society, and that in turn determines among other factors their access to and control of resources, and their decision making power. It explores the linkages between gender, vulnerability, coping capacity, resilience and speed and quality of recovery, and concludes that the disaster experience of men as a group and women as a group tends to differ substantially. This provides the rationale to pursue gender sensitive approaches in each disaster phase and to improve the efficiency of risk reduction measures.

Disaster Recovery Through a Gender Lens:

The presentation analyzes the key gender concerns in individual phases of disasters with a focus on recovery and reconstruction. The analysis is based on differing gender needs in each stage of disaster. Although there are overlapping issues that might come out in more than one disaster phase, the traditional approach makes it easier to highlight the course of actions for different levels of governments, national and sub-national and for non-governmental actors as NGOs and relief agencies. Gender needs can also become the organizing principle for interventions and provide the priorities for disaster activities. It also allows the monitoring of efficiency of disaster reduction measures through the impact on vulnerabilities of different gender groups. The presentation suggests that strategies facilitating efficient preparedness systems and recovery mechanisms are the ones which promote equality among all gender groups.

Mainstreaming Gender for Equitable Disaster Recovery:

This session illustrates the process of mainstreaming gender into disaster recovery for equitable development outcomes. As it was presented in earlier sessions, gendered disaster recovery shortens the time for economic reintegration, improves efficiency of reconstruction while addresses fundamental social issues and provides a window of opportunity for social transformation. Disasters change dramatically the gender relations and gender roles but in order the transformation could take place it is important that gender concerns are integrated into policies and interventions at all levels of governments and in each stages of projects. Gender analytical tools form an important component for introducing gender sensitive initiatives. The presentation suggests easy to apply analytical tools to support the process of engendered disaster recovery and reconstruction in a broader risk reduction context.

End of Course Project

To meet the course completion requirement the participants are required to submit an end-of course case study/project. The objective of the course project is to enable the participants apply the newly acquired knowledge to prepare a Community-level Disaster Preparedness Program. The project should draw on tools presented in the course materials; local, state/regional and national level disaster management plans and data specific to your country.