



**Workshop for the development of policy guidelines on
Mainstreaming Gender into Disaster Risk Reduction**

GENDER IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

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Geneva

28-30 January 2008

www.unisdr.org

Why do we need to address gender in disaster risk reduction?

- Disaster impacts, implications, and recovery are not gender neutral, effective DRR cannot be achieved without addressing gender specific issues
- Impact and implications of disasters depend on gender based relations in society
- Men and women have different skills and knowledge in DRR, and their contribution to DRR is specific (Individual and complementary)
- Men and women have practical and strategic concerns in relation to DRR which are specific to each sex
- Achieving success in DRR require addressing gender sensitive practical and strategic concerns

Why do we need to address gender in disaster risk reduction?

Continued

- DRR and gender are development issues
- Gender issues in development apply in all phases of disasters
- Gender issues in disasters are largely unresolved gender issues of development
- Gender is a common link in the development – disaster continuum
- Gender sensitive DRR will have substantial positive outcomes (poverty reduction, skill development, drawing on the resourcefulness of both men and women)

What are the main concerns for gender in disaster risk reduction?

- Gender insensitivity in DRR:
 - can make the situation of women in particular worse
 - negatively implicate on gender relations
 - re- enforce existing unfavourable gender relations
- Lack of understanding and awareness on gender issues
 - Gender commonly equated to women's issues
- DRR in general is low priority and suffer from lack of awareness at policy and practical levels, gender sensitive DRR therefore is not a priority

What are the main concerns for gender in disaster risk reduction?

Continued..

- Gaps in identifying and including women as a resource in DRR (identifying women as victims alone)
- Interventions/programmes often assume gender neutrality and as a result:
 - do not reach most vulnerable segments in society
 - marginalise them even further

What are the factors that have caused those concerns?

Social and institutional

- Gaps in understanding gender issues – socialisation process, education systems which view men and women in a stereo typical manner
- DRR given low priority- focus and priority given to disaster/emergency management ;
 - o DRR has little visibility and need longer term actions/resource investment;
 - o Gaps in the conceptual understanding and practical application of development- disaster continuum

What are the factors that have caused those concerns?

- Gender neutral interventions- due to lack of awareness, convenience,
- Non- inclusion of women as a resource:
 - ❖ social conditioning, prejudices;
 - ❖ no adequate social and institutional structures;
 - ❖ gaps in policies and strategies
- No adequate pressure to address oppressive/unfavourable gender relations

What has my organization done to promote gender equality in disaster risk reduction?

- Advocacy
- Awareness building
- Networking- bring the experts together
- Develop institutional linkages to facilitate addressing of the issue
- Information material, information sharing

What has my organization done to promote gender equality in disaster risk reduction?

- Policy analysis, inputs to policy and strategy formulation to address gender in DRR
- Provide a platform to highlight and discuss the issue
- Raise the gender issues in DRR at the highest decision making levels
- Engage the governments to recognise and address the issue
- Reach out to the implementing agencies with information/good practices

How has my organization achieved this progress?

- Progress to help build linkages between experts
- Produced global level advocacy material, compiling and sharing of good practices
- Reached out to the institutions who has the capacity to address and further the issue
- Raised the gender in DRR at the Global Platform 07
- Continued advocacy
- Engaging the national governments
- Stepping into developing policy guidelines

What were the obstacles and lessons learned in promoting gender in disaster risk reduction?

Obstacles:

- Misconceptions, undoing damages on existing conceptual non- clarity
- Isolation of gender issues from the mainstream
- Mindset and prejudices
- Other pressing priorities faced globally and nationally
- Long term nature of making a change (need for continued and concerted efforts)

Lessons:

Link to 'development – gender frameworks' to show gender in DRR is not additional, but fundamental

Higher emphasis on integrating with development and mainstreaming

Advocacy messages to focus on the positives : How better the outcomes will be with gender inclusive DRR

Work parallel to engage the governments at the policy level and engage the practitioners with good practices

What will be our future focus in gender in disaster risk reduction?

- Bring conceptual clarity
- Work on getting the issue prioritised at the higher policy level – towards mainstreaming
- Work on getting the policy and financial commitments -towards mainstreaming
- Offer application tools and methodologies
- Advocate with good practices and lessons demonstrating the ***outcomes of gender sensitive DRR as opposed to gender neutral DRR***

Thank you