



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

GENDER, DIVERSITY, AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR)

Asuka Murata
Programme Specialist
UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

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EVEN DISASTERS DISCRIMINATE

Year	Disasters and Country	Female Mortality
1991	Cyclone oB2 Bangladesh	90%
2004	Tsunami – Aceh, Indonesia	77%
2004	Tsunami- Tamil Nadu, India	73%
2008	Cyclone Nargis- Myanmar	61%
2009	Tsunami – Tonga and Samoa	70%
2014	Solomon Islands Floods	96% women& children
2015	Nepal Earthquake	55%
2015	Myanmar Floods	42%
2016	Fiji Cyclone Winston	50% (92% iTaukei)

GENDERED RISKS AND VULNERABILITIES

- More likely to be working in homes when disaster strikes;
- More likely to attempt to save children as well as valuable assets and documentation in disasters;
- Less likely to receive early warning information in time;
- Less likely to learn to swim or climb trees, reducing their ability to escape disasters such as floods



IN ADDITION TO HIGHER MORTALITY, WOMEN AND GIRLS ALSO EXPERIENCE...

1

Increased burdens of work and time poverty

2

Higher levels of violence against women and girls

3

Higher risk of human trafficking

4

Child and early marriage of girls and young women

5

Loss of livelihoods, assets, properties, and documentation

COMMON GENDER EQUALITY ISSUES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



- Women out-number men around the world, but in the Asia men outnumber women with 50 million 'women missing' .
- Women, children and elderly make up > 80% of those living on less than \$2 per day in Asia;
- High rates of SGBV: 60-80% of Pacific women aged 15 to 49 years experienced violence
- Lowest decision making power and political participation when Asia-Pacific combined
- High dependence on natural resource
- Low access to resources

People with
disabilities

- More likely to be left behind during evacuation in disasters
- Face exclusion from equitable access to resources such as education and employment

LGBTQI
populations

- Face reduced access to essential services and support due to stigma and discrimination
- Transgender people particularly vulnerable, especially in countries where legal ID does not affirm their gender
- Heteronormative assumptions of the gender composition of families which can exclude them from aid

WOMEN ARE NOT JUST VICTIMS, THEY ARE ALSO AGENTS OF CHANGE

- Women are already catalysts in bringing families and communities together, and key to strengthen social system and the sustainable development
- Women are often the first responders in emergencies
- Evidence worldwide shows that when women are meaningfully engaged and their needs addressed, the process to stability and resilience is accelerated, efficient, and more effective.⁽¹⁾

However,

- There is significant underinvestment in women's resilience
- Women are left behind in DRR leadership and decision-making process.

GUIDANCE NOTE:

Gender Inclusion & Women's Empowerment at the Centre of Resilience Building

Operationalising the 'Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction'

Purpose:

This note provides guidance on essential actions to be taken to ensure the integration of gender and diversity issues specifically in the proposed Two Year Action Plan (2017 - 2018) in the 'Asia Regional Plan for implementation of the Sendai Framework' at local, national and regional levels.

Background and Justification

Disasters affect women, men, girls and boys differently. Gender based differences that are observed in development processes are reflected in all aspects of disasters. Gendered differences are rooted in the unevenness of the economic, social, educational status of women and men, and due to prevailing social and cultural norms. Disaster situations accentuate and showcase these differences. These differences stem from gender based roles in productive, economic, family and social spheres which equip women and men with different skill sets and capabilities, as well as lead to differences in exposure and vulnerabilities to disasters.

Gender based differences related to disaster risk feature in 2 main areas: (1) capacities for risk reduction, preparedness, handling crisis situations and survival in facing adversity; (2) vulnerabilities (susceptibility to risk), including loss of life, shelter and livelihoods, increased gender-based violence, during and in the aftermath of disasters. 5.

The meaningful participation of women is a critical ingredient in building disaster resilience. Sendai Framework called for "a gender, age, disability and cultural perspective in all policies and practices; and the promotion of women and youth leadership; in this context, ..." Furthermore, Sendai Framework emphasized that "women and their participation are critical to effectively managing disaster risk and designing, resourcing and implementing gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes; and adequate capacity building measures need to be taken to empower women for preparedness as well as build their capacity for alternate livelihood means in post-disaster situations." (V.36 a i)

PROGRESS

Asian Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR

- Member states committed to operationalize the Sendai Framework and SDGs, including gender equality at local, national and regional level
- Includes a guidance note, "Gender Inclusion & Women's Empowerment at the Centre of Resilience Building", to ensure the integration of gender and diversity specifically into the Plan

The Hanoi Recommendations for Action on Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction

- Identify actions to ensure that the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the region is gender responsive and inclusive.

TIME TO TAKE ACTION: REMAINING CHALLENGES



Insufficient gender data and analysis

- Sex and age disaggregated data in DRR available in only 14% of Asia-Pacific countries ⁽¹⁾
- Lack of vulnerability assessments and gender analysis
- No gender indicators formulated for monitoring policy and programme implementation

Lack of substantive leadership and participation of women in DRR

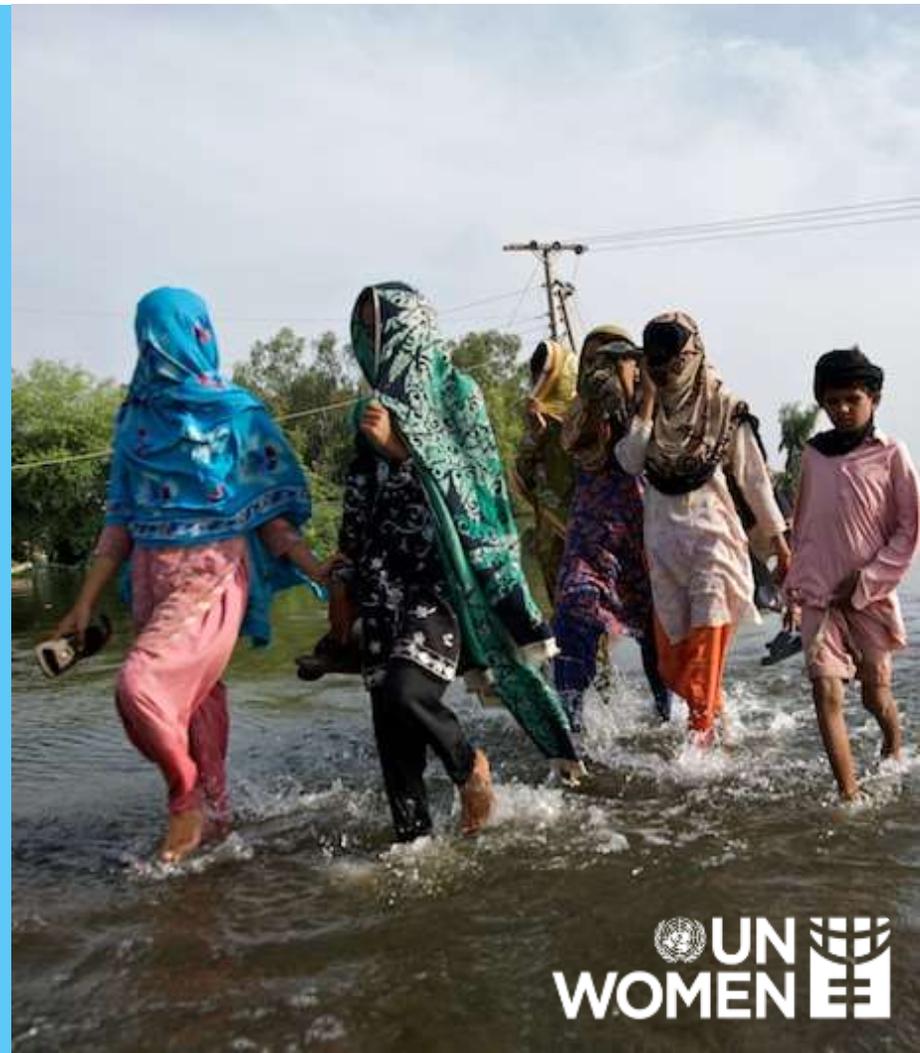
- Analysis of 13 countries in Asia showed that only 38% of countries reported women's participation in national DRR platforms
- Women's organizations and CSOs often do not have access to government policy-makers

Insufficient investment in gender in DRR

- In Asia Pacific, even though gender-sensitive DRR plans and programmes have been developed by 47% of countries, gender aspects are included in only 33% of post-disaster needs assessment methodologies. ⁽²⁾
- Only 18% of the Global Environment Facility climate mitigation projects reviewed in 2014 addressed gender. ⁽³⁾

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Place women's leadership at the forefront of DRR
- Strengthen and apply strategic information and evidence, including SADDD and gender analysis.
- Ensure DRR policies are gender transformative and address all forms of inequalities.
- Invest in innovation in disaster and climate resilient economic empowerment and livelihoods for women





THANK YOU!

ASUKA MURATA

E-MAIL: ASUKA.MURATA@UNWOMEN.ORG

