



صندوق الصداقة القطري
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Women as a Force for Change

Gender and
Disaster Risk
Reduction



JWNDRR

Japan Women's Network for Disaster Risk Reduction

Women as a force for change:

Japan Women's Network for Disaster Risk Reduction (JNWDRR)

The Japan Women's Network for Disaster Risk Reduction was formed in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011. Because of the existence of problems in social structure, when disaster struck, from a gender perspective, various contradictions, inequalities, and distortions became apparent. JNWDRR's mandate is to correct these inequalities, firstly by making multi-level policy proposals, emphasizing both the importance of women's participation in decision-making, and the need to incorporate perspectives of gender equality into policies concerning disaster prevention, recovery and resilience building. We have achieved important law reforms in Japan in a relatively short time through our lobbying activities.

The 3rd World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) is to be held in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015. We will be holding a public forum at this conference where we will be focusing on policy proposals and our training initiative. Towards WCDRR we have produced the Sendai Call to Action (see following page) aimed at ensuring clear gender perspectives in the post Hyogo Framework for Action

(HFA2). Even if we achieve this, we realize that too often policies are not implemented effectively and the situation on the ground remains the same, with women excluded. In order to bridge the gap between policy and reality, we must also work on concrete measures to empower and enable women to actively participate at all levels of decision-making and leadership in DRR. This is why we are proposing a comprehensive training initiative, which will not only foster women leaders, but will raise awareness in the larger community of the importance of gender issues in DRR and also encourage men to recognize the capabilities of women and the need to incorporate their strengths at all levels of DRR.

All of us must recognize that what we want for women is just one facet of what truly resilient societies represent. Such societies are inclusive and cohesive, and treat the full spectrum of identities – including women, seniors, minorities and migrants – with dignity and respect. To get there, we need a paradigm shift in global governance - from systems dominated by exclusive groups of elite men, to a more representative and inclusive future.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Qatar Friendship Fund in making our activities possible.

Qatar Friendship Fund : <http://www.qatarfriendshipfund.org/>

“ Change is possible—no doubt about it. But it won't happen unless women step forward and are also empowered by laws and appropriate training.

”

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Towards the post Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA2) -Our Proposals

Women's Leadership

While some women are vulnerable in disasters, so are some men. Women must not be assumed to always be victims, but should be empowered as autonomous subjects not passive objects. Promoting women's leadership is a fundamental necessity to achieving gender equality and it is vitally important that explicit reference is made to it in the HFA2. We were highly disappointed to note that the direct reference to women's leadership which was included in Guiding Principle 12 d) of the Pre-Zero Draft on the post 2015 framework had been deleted in the Zero Draft.



Pre-Zero Draft “Guiding Principle 12d)”

Disaster risk management requires an all-of-society engagement and empowerment, equality, and an inclusive and non-discriminatory participation. **Gender considerations are to inform all policies and practices, and women's leadership is to be promoted.** Children and youth, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples are to be fully engaged in the determination and implementation of policies.

We strongly demand that this language be reinstated in its entirety and included in the Guiding Principles of HFA2.



Indicators

It is of vital importance that HFA2 include robust indicators which will hold governments and other stakeholders accountable and help enforce implementation of policies.

Guiding Principle 15h) in the Zero Draft mentions the important point that disaggregated data is required for DRR. It must specify who will collect the data and include specific provisions for participatory data collection by women themselves. An appropriate indicator must also be included such as:

- Is there an effective and functioning local database compatible with national and international databases, having context specific sex disaggregated baseline data at local and national levels?
- Has the Local Government included mechanisms for participatory data collection in official DRR plans with women's groups as official stakeholders?

We also recommend that a specific Priority for Action be included regarding the prioritization of training on gender inclusive approaches to DRR planning and implementation. Indicators for this would be:

- What is the level of investment for training and use of government and other resources to train officials?
- Are there reporting mechanisms to monitor progress on implementation of training programs?





Sendai Call to Action on Gender and DRR (Summary)

- Ensure the participation of a minimum of 30% women and 30% men from diverse sectors, training and expertise, and of diverse ages and family formations, in all national, prefectural, and municipal policy-making and decision-making bodies dealing with Disaster Risk Reduction and provide women with access to resources that strengthen women's leadership in all aspects of disaster risk reduction and encourage men to actively reduce and remove barriers to women.
- Implement a training program for women to strengthen their capacity to participate in DRR as leaders and decision-makers and to enable other women to use their capabilities to build safe and resilient communities.
- Carry out participatory community-based disaster risk assessments and follow-up research to formulate diversity and gender-equal policies.
- Conduct monitoring and evaluation of policies integrating gender and diversity and subsequently hold (annual, if necessary) participatory practices of national law reform and national policy-making to apply lessons learned in gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness.
- Ensure opportunities for diverse members of the population to actively contribute their expertise, experience and knowledge to the creation of a risk-wise culture that embraces multiple perspectives and knowledge bases.
- Collect reliable and comparable demographic data that tracks gender, age, economic status, disability, mother tongue, among other relevant factors, based on individualized (not household) survey participation.
- Strengthen support systems to prevent violence in society, specifically against women and marginalized populations.
- Recognize the resilience and strengths of women and girls, and support them as key "actors" and "leaders" in all phases of disaster risk reduction to ensure that their knowledge, expertise and capacities can contribute to fostering family and community resilience.
- Member states should ensure effective training and drills that accommodate special needs and marginalized communities, such that neighbors and communities will aid each other during disasters.



Training Initiative:

Empowerment of Women and DRR Education

The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) called for gender consideration in disaster risk reduction as a cross-cutting issue, but we are yet to see large-scale implementation of this policy on the ground, where women are still largely excluded from DRR decision-making processes.

During international meetings and consultations in the lead up to the post Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA2), DRR practitioners have realized that education and training are instrumental for ensuring gender-responsive measures will actually be implemented. Although numerous gender and DRR training materials have been developed, these efforts have largely been uncoordinated and often not sustained to the implementation level.

With the March 2015 World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in Sendai, Japan, there are opportunities to develop a strategy that coincides with the next agreement (HFA2) for training and education that will be a key component of reducing disaster risks and building resilient communities.

The proposed training initiative will initiate a local pilot training effort, which can be translated and integrated into international efforts. The concept is to expand practice and training to empower DRR practitioners at all levels to conduct further training at regional and local levels in contextually

relevant and local languages.

It is important to emphasize that this training initiative is not just for women. Although women's leadership is a vital component, it is not enough to just train women if their knowledge, skills and experience are not valued by society. DRR is, as yet, a largely male-dominated area and the men

who work in DRR related fields must also be made aware that women are not simply victims to be managed in a disaster, but that they can make a vital contribution to all levels of disaster planning and building resilient communities. For this reason, men will also be actively included in this training initiative.

There will thus be several components of this training initiative with

multiple target participants, including women's groups and leaders, DRR policy makers from all levels and sections of government, local community leaders, the general public, etc. Several modules on different themes will be developed and training courses can be customized to participant needs by interchanging the modules. Below we introduce an outline of our proposed training initiative, the general goals and objectives and guiding principles, followed by concrete course outlines for selected target participants.



Outline of Proposed Training Initiative

Goals and Objectives:

1. Develop a 10 year international training initiative on gender equality and disaster risk reduction that fosters knowledge exchange that draws on global lessons and from Japanese experiences of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.
 - Secure sustainable funding for the translation of disaster experiences from Japan and other countries for international sharing and learning.
2. Strengthen existing international and regional networks, such as the Gender and Disaster Network, through sustained collaboration among government and non-governmental organizations.
 - Support an international network of trainers of diverse communities and male/female leaders.
 - Ensure mentorship of trainers for the next generation of DRR leaders.
3. Demonstrate the practical value of mainstreaming an inclusive, gender-equal, and diverse approach in the core activities of DRR.



4. Create and maintain a virtual multilingual repository for GEDRR trainers by identifying, evaluating, organizing, and synthesizing high-quality training and educational resources, supplementing these with original materials as needed.
 - Use the Gender and Disaster Network (GDN) website to develop an online portal and repository.
 - Create multiple training models to meet the needs of diverse target audiences and regional contexts.
5. Support the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the new international HFA2 commitments.
 - Evaluate the process of training models and resource materials to ensure that it meets the needs of participants and adheres to guiding principles.

Potential Collaborators:

UNISDR, UN WOMEN, GDN, GGCA, WEDO, IUCN, JICA, USAID, JICA/Philippines, City of Sendai, UNISDR Model City campaign, IOM, University of Hawaii, University of Tokyo, Tohoku University, United Nations University

Guiding principles:

- Ensure ethical guidelines and participatory approaches for diverse participants
- Contents: Intersectional, Inclusive, Diverse
- Holistic Approach: multi-hazard, multi-sector, cascading events
- Evaluation and Accountability: participatory
- Context Specific: Rural/urban, regional differentiation, reflecting local and indigenous knowledge, hazard variation, climate change
- Gender equality and women's empowerment
- Sustained effort
- Adaptable for backgrounds and expertise of participants and for time availability
- Intergenerational knowledge
- DRR education: risk-wise culture
- Innovative, technologically-advanced, multi-method, creative, media-savvy

Course Outline 1 (short course – adaptable for 2 hrs or full day):

Example target participants: Women's groups, DRR administrators, policy-makers

1. Introduction to Disaster Risk Reduction

- a. History of DRR: UNISDR and the HFA
- b. Links with disasters and development
- c. HFA2: DRR after March 2015 for the next decade

2. Understanding Disasters – Risk, Vulnerability, Adaptive Capacity, Resilience

- a. Understanding Disaster – Disasters are “a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources” (UNISDR).
- b. How does climate change alter the disaster landscape?

3. Understanding Gender and Disasters

- a. Differential Risk and Vulnerability
 - a.i. Gender is a core factor in disaster risk and in the implementation of disaster risk reduction. Gender is a central organizing principle in all societies, and therefore women and men are differently at risk from disasters. In all settings – at home, at work or in the neighborhood – gender shapes the capacities and resources of individuals to minimize harm, adapt to hazards and respond to disasters.
- b. Roles, Responsibilities, Rights, and Resources – differential access to cope and recover from disasters

4. Gender Analysis in Disaster Risk Reduction

- a. Methods to Integrate Gender and Diversity perspectives in Disaster Risk Reduction
- b. Exercises: Gender-sensitive

5. Case Studies on Best Practices in Gender and DRR from the last decade

- a. Japan Women's Network for DRR – experiences from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami on response and recovery
- b. Christchurch, New Zealand – experiences from the Canterbury Earthquakes on integrating women, indigenous people, and disabled in response and recovery
- c. South Asia Tsunami

6. Policy Implications and Opportunities

- a. Gender specific and sex/age disaggregated data – why and how to use it
- b. Leadership roles in formal risk management and science organizations
- c. Sendai Call to Action



Course Outline 2 (training of trainers – adaptable for 5 days or longer): Example target participants: People from Community/NPO/ Women's groups as well as Government DRR offices to be trained as trainers

The short course outline may still be used, but will be expanded to provide a deeper understanding of tools and resources, and ways to use these. The training of trainers will include:

- Small Group Exercises and Simulations
- Gender Analysis - Expand training on gender analysis and use of gender-specific, sex/age-disaggregated, and diversity data. Use training programs with sector modules to gain better understanding of the in-depth details of the gender-related impacts of disasters.
- Multi-media exposure – Review videos and other social media tools for engaging in Gender DRR.
- Field trips – Visit sites and interact with communities that have implemented gender-responsive DRR measures.
- Practicum – Provide an opportunity for trainers to run sessions for local leaders on the significance of gender-responsive DRR. Enable trainers to design the course and sessions for the course.





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