



# Gender issues in Disaster Risk Reduction: Gender Stakeholder Group Initiatives

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## Asia Pacific, Gender Stakeholder Group

- The APP-DRR Stakeholder Group - Individuals and Organizations Concerned with Gender issues (Gender Stakeholder Group or GSHG) established in 2012 as part of the UNDRR Asia-Pacific Partnership Platform for DRR, to provide concerted focus and coordinated guidance on gender and women's issues.
- The Gender Stakeholder Group is currently chaired by Duryog Nivaran and includes representation of national governments, bilateral agencies, UN agencies, the regional IASC working group on Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA), civil society organisations and individuals in the region prioritising gender responsive implementation in DRR.



# Role of GSHG

- In the Asia-Pacific region, UNDRR works closely with organisations and individuals working towards gender equality **to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework, and the related Asia Pacific Regional Action Plan, in a gender-responsive manner.**
- The Gender Stakeholder Group has made commitments at every Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR to carry out this support in the implementation of the Action Plan. The objectives of current commitments include:
  - **Support the production and use of Sex, Age and Disability Disaggregated (SADD) Data.**
  - **Strengthen women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities**
  - **Promote and support inclusive risk governance**
  - **Establish and strengthen platforms to be gender responsive and inclusive.**





## Alternative perspective

- Duryog Nivaran (DN) - South Asia organisation for disaster mitigation established in 1995 as a research, training and advocacy network is committed to promoting disaster risk reduction in South Asia at policy and practice levels.
- DN brought the ‘alternative perspective to disasters’ at a time disaster management was dealt with relief. DN brought the disaster – development linkages, disaster risk as a product of development approaches to the fore. DN pioneered this Disaster – Development linkages in South Asia.
- DN brings this thinking of the alternative perspective in to the GSHG work – that the structural causes of gender inequality need to be addressed for improved Disaster Risk Governance and Resilience.

# Actions of the GSHG over the years:



- The *Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework* adopted in 2016, set in place targets for implementation of the Sendai Framework commitments.
- The Gender Stakeholder Group developed a **Gender Guidance Note** on essential actions to be taken to ensure the integration of gender and diversity issues specifically in the Two Year Action Plan (2017-18)
- Followed by a **progress review** of gender commitments made in 2018. Recent reviews by members of the GSHG as well.
- Currently carrying out a **study to understand the achievements, constraints and barriers and the way forward**

# Observations from the recent reviews



Reviews conducted in **2018 (APP- DRR Gender Stakeholder Group )**, **2019 (UNDRR)**, **2020 (UN Women)** highlight the following:

There are some efforts for gender responsive implementation recommendations of the Sendai framework, Asia Regional Plan, Finding a wide consensus and increased political will on the importance of addressing gender equality and social inclusion in DRR, but limited translation of stated commitments into actions. The significant challenges are:

- Systematic institutional mechanisms and capacities for collection, analysis and use of sex, age and disability disaggregated data for effective planning, implementation and monitoring of progress are limited.
  - **Largely focused SADDD collection**, much less on how information is used
  - Less attention to qualitative analyses on **root causes of vulnerability, unequal distribution of risk and exposure**
- Awareness of gender and social inclusion in DRM/resilient development among key government officials is limited, therefore not promoted, no dedicated budget
  - **Focus on ‘consultation’ and ‘involvement’ but lack of concrete action plans**
  - **Lack of review and monitoring to assess implementation of these commitments**

# Observations from the recent reviews



- **Investing in DRR:**
  - Greater focus on infrastructure, **overlooking livelihoods, early warning, community resilience building**
  - Limited commitments to invest in addressing drivers of vulnerability
- Continued focus on vulnerability and on servicing disproportionately affected groups, with less emphasis on their active participation and capacity building : **due to gaps in understanding, gaps in DRR mainstreaming into development**
- Ongoing interventions for gender and social inclusion in DRM are uncoordinated, activity/project focused- **not mainstreamed, not mandatory, gaps in progress monitoring, targets/indicators of progress**
- Gender and inclusion, women's leadership diversity are not adequately understood/taken as a common topic in disaster risk reduction, SDGs and climate change planning and implementation – **gaps in mainstreaming as a cross cutting element**

# Observations from the recent reviews:

## UNDERSTANDING DISASTER RISK

- Collect sex-, age- and disability disaggregated data (SADDD) for disaster baseline and/or database
- Use SADDD to inform policy
- Use SADDD to monitor progress towards inclusive resilience
- Establish policy framework and build capacities for SADDD collection, management and use
- Develop community / vulnerability profiles
- Conduct gender-analysis



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## STRENGTHEN DISASTER RISK GOVERNANCE

- Issue gender responsive policy
- Mandate roles and responsibilities of women
- Ensure safety and protection of all incl. against GBV
- Establish formal implementation and accountability mechanisms
- Consult/involve women in decision-making process
- Consult/involve people with disability in decision-making process
- Promotes women's leadership capacities for DRR
- Promotes leadership capacities of people with disability for DRR
- Mainstream gender and build capacity in governance bodies



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## INVESTING IN DRR

- Invest in women's resilience (e.g. livelihood support)
- Invest in social protection and services (to reduce inequality)
- Invest in infrastructure to ensure equal access and treatment for women



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## "BUILD BACK BETTER"

- Raise awareness about roles, rights and capacities of all groups in DRR
- Implement women-led security and protection interventions
- Institutionalize women's leadership in all phases of DRR



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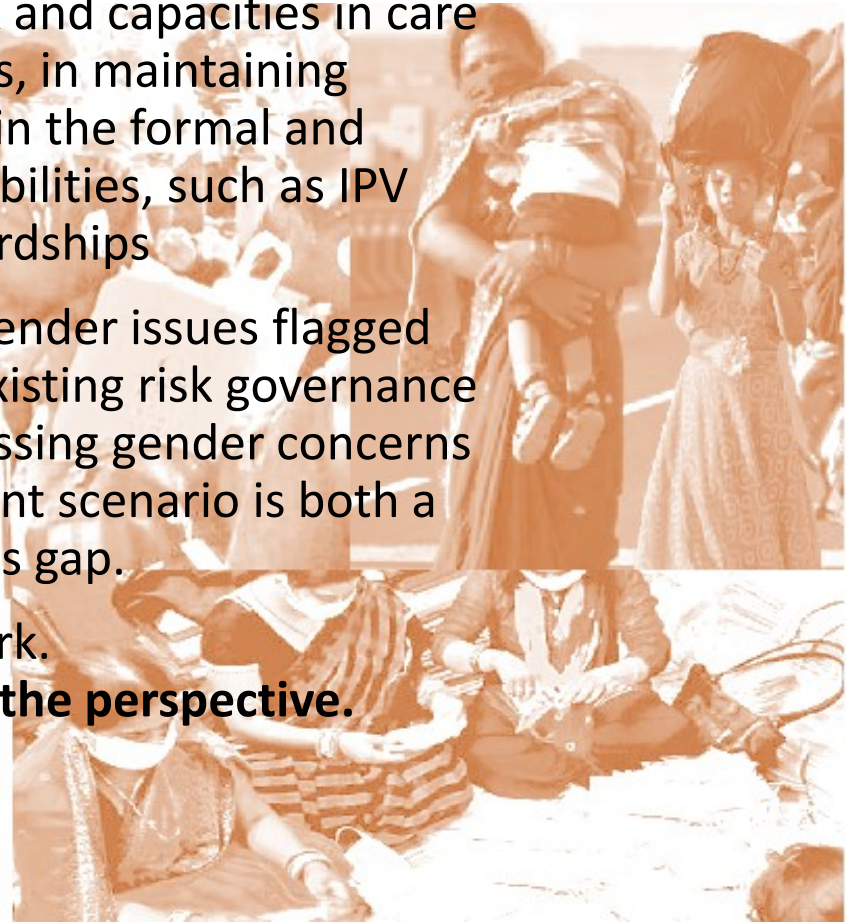
## The benchmarks



# With Covid ...



- Recognized worldwide that the Covid-19 pandemic has a gender dimension. The pre-existing gender based economic, social and institutional disparities and gender identities, meant negative impacts disproportionately fell on women and girls.
- The pandemic highlighted women's work and capacities in care giving, in producing food and other goods, in maintaining wellbeing of families, communities both in the formal and informal settings, as well as their vulnerabilities, such as IPV and GBV, greater workload, economic hardships
- Covid 19 brought into the spotlight the gender issues flagged over several decades. Considering that existing risk governance approaches are severely limited in addressing gender concerns in risk reduction and resilience, the current scenario is both a challenge and an opportunity to close this gap.
- A business as usual approach will not work. We have to **break the barriers & change the perspective.**



# In conclusion - additional recommendations

Respond to immediate concerns, recognising the gender related issues that arise during times of disasters and crisis and formulating support systems to address issues such as:

- Improve mechanisms for reporting and responding to domestic violence
- Greater planning and anticipation of vulnerabilities is needed to address this.
- Livelihood support should be prepared for those facing unemployment, and to deal with migrant needs and wage workers. Increasing resources and providing incentives or alternatives to those who've lost their livelihoods.

In the long term,

- **Understanding of root causes** of disproportionate vulnerabilities needs to increase, in order to address gender based disparities
- **Strengthen social safety nets and social security services.** Governments must commit to invest in social safety net programs which will strengthen the social security of women workers.
- **Engage the capacities and voices** of women's groups and women leaders





THANK YOU

**APP-DRR Stakeholder Group - Individuals and Organizations Concerned with Gender issues (GSHG)**

**Duryog Nivaran**

