



Feminist Decision-making for Risk Governance and Resilience Building

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Gender equality and Women's empowerment in resilience building



Gender based inequalities in exposure to disaster risk, impact of disasters, disaster recovery has been observed, well documented

Indicators include - higher numbers of deaths, affected and displaced, victims of violence

Global community has acknowledged this status, and as way forward:

Sustainable Development Goals, Paris Agreement for Climate Change, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, call for gender equality, women's leadership, and empowerment of women **as necessary conditions** in achieving sustainable development, risk reduction and building resilience.



Highlights from the session

- Disproportionate impact of disasters:

“the stronger the disaster, the stronger this effect on the gender gap in life expectancy”, and “the higher women’s socio-economic status, the weaker this effect on this gender gap”

- Consistently prevailing gender-based inequalities in society, poverty and inequality in access to resources— structural issues, root causes:

By 2021 around 435 million women and girls will be living on less than \$1.90 a day - including 47 million pushed into poverty as a result of COVID-19 (UNDP, UNWomen)

- Within the prevailing inequalities both women and men engage in disaster preparedness and response
- Their functions are distinct, specific and equally important – as shown in research by CARE in Vanuatu



Highlights from the session

Gender gaps in:

- Productive employment and pay
- Ownership of assets
- Unpaid work time
- Violence against women and girls
- Access to health facilities, reproductive and maternal health
- Less women in decision making, in parliament, in managerial positions
- Subordinated status in society
- Social, cultural restrictions
- Availing rights- education, inheritance, participation, non-discrimination etc.

COVID 19 pandemic showcased: Losses of jobs and earnings are greater for women; magnitude of paid /unpaid care work by women

Way forward



Priorities of the Sendai Framework for DRR provide the necessary scope for addressing the root causes of gender inequality in risk reduction and resilience building:

Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk

Disaster risk management through understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment

Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk

Root causes and drivers of gender inequality to be addressed through:

- Policies, legislation, financing to enhance and provide rights and access to resources and services
- Programmes to develop capacity, empower, provide opportunity to participate, enhance social security, protection from violence

Way Forward



Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience

Public and private investment in disaster risk prevention and reduction through structural and non-structural measures to enhance the economic, social, health and cultural resilience of persons, communities, countries and their assets, as well as the environment.

Priority 4 Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to «Build Back Better» in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

«Build Back Better» through integrating disaster risk reduction measures. Women and persons with disabilities should publicly lead and promote gender-equitable and universally accessible approaches during the response and reconstruction phases

Way forward



- To meet the challenges of increasing hazard risks, climate risk, women must be facilitated to carry out their risk reduction functions supported with: **information, capacities, access to resources, opportunities to participate, to take on leadership roles.**
- Barriers to women's participation and empowerment must be removed through appropriate policy and programmatic measures
- Gender gaps in the mainstream development must be addressed consistently through appropriate policy and programmatic measures
- These are not only necessary conditions to meet the challenges, they are also the key to effectiveness of the investments and interventions for risk reduction and resilience building
- Key to keep the pledge “leave no one behind”



THANK YOU

Duryog Nivaran

