Empowering Women for Building Resilience

In support of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030
Gender refers to social differences between men and women that are acquired and change over time. It is about the potentials, contribution and equal value and status of men and women.

Gender inequality undermines and denies capacities, potential, rights mainly of girls and women, slows progress in many areas of development.

Prevailing gender and diversity issues are a significant challenge for sustainable development.

Existing institutional, planning, implementation processes are not sufficiently informed or responsive to gender based capacities and requirements. This lead to inefficient results.

Closing gender based inequalities is vital for achieving stronger development outcomes.
2030 Development Agenda

- Sustainable Development Goals
- Sendai Framework for DRR
- Paris Agreement on Climate Change
- Agenda for Humanity
- Addis Ababa Action Agenda

**Consensus:**
Focus on the capacities, empowerment and leadership role of women to achieve sustainable development and resilience
Commitments

**SDG 5:** Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls

**Target 5.5:** Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

**Sendai Framework for DRR**

Role of Stakeholders in implementation:

‘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’.

**General recommendation No. 37 (2018) on the gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change**
Progress Achieved in Asia: 2016-2018

Wide acceptance on of gender equality and social inclusion in DRM for resilience building and increasing political will for implementation.

Several Governments initiating new policies and/or revisions for gender and social inclusion in DRM.

Increased focus on capacity development for gender and social inclusion, local level planning, humanitarian action and in school safety.

Increased attention on developing guidelines and assessment tools on disaggregation of data; collecting and analyzing disaggregated data in the Post Disaster Needs Assessments.
Progress Achieved in Asia: 2016-2018

Increased recognition of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) issues in disaster emergency response.

Evidence and documentation on good practice and learning on gender and social inclusion in post-disaster recovery and emergency response.

More partnerships between governments and stakeholder agencies on issues such as disaster data and protection in DRM.

Opportunities for discussion on gender inclusion as well as representation of women’s organisations in the National Coordination mechanisms/Platforms for DRR.
Main challenges in translation of policy commitments into action

Limited awareness on gender equality and inclusion among key government officials at planning and implementation levels.

Inaccurate understanding on gender issues in DRM: equated with women and vulnerability.

Inadequate systems and capacities for systematic collection, analysis and use of sex-age disaggregated data for more informed planning and reporting.

Inadequate technical and financial capacities for planning, implementation and monitoring of gender inclusive programmes.

Gaps in institutional coordination: unclear mandates between multiple institutions, lack of accountability.
Red Flags

Continuous focus of vulnerability and servicing instead of capacitating and empowering girls, women and other marginalized groups.

Interventions not geared towards addressing structural issues, underlying risk factors, root causes of inequalities and exclusion.

Limited efforts towards building coherence and strengthening coordination between DRR planning and implementation with the SDGs and Climate Change action.

Continuation of ‘Business as usual’ approach, required changes for reaching 2030 development agenda is not fully on board.
Recommendations

- Enhance the participation of women and girls in DRR at the local level in systematic ways, replicate existing good practices.

- Increase investments to strengthen and develop capacities of women, women’s organisations and other at risk groups.

- Explore approaches and mechanisms to address root causes and structural barriers for women’s participation and leadership, increase attention and support towards addressing structural inequalities women face as part of risk governance.

- Provide more information, examples, good practices on gender inclusion, women’s participation and leadership in DRR focusing on capacities.

- Ensure specific needs of women and girls, including prevention and response to gender based violence, sexual and reproductive health are prioritised in regional, national and local DRR plans, policies and programmes leveraging Building Back Better (BBB) principles.

- Utilise post disaster response to capacitate and empower women leveraging on Building Back Better Guidelines.