

Women involvement and Participation in Developing Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness

STUDY FINDINGS FROM APEC "WOMEN IN TIMES OF DISASTER (WITOD) 2008-2009"

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Photo credit: http://www.philippinecountry.com/philippine_news/year2006/milenyo_09-29-06.html

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Why gender matters?

Vulnerable groups:

- 49.6 % FEMALE
- 11.4 % MALE UNDER 15
- 13 % ELDERLY MALE

74 % of population

- **Gender** is a core factor in disaster risk and in the implementation of DRR (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.
- **Gender Mainstreaming** – is a strategy to integrate gender consideration as an integral dimension of the designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluation of the policies and programs in all fields, so that they benefit women and men equally.

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Background

Gender issue
is not concerned
in disaster management



Women, children
Elderly, disabled
neglected

Methods to integrate gender
into DM exist, available



Gender is not
integrated

Why ?

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Methodology



Japan, earth quake



Indonesia, volcano eruption

The study:

- Policy analysis
- Field studies
- FGDs:
 - Officials
 - Survivors
 - Community
 - NGOs



Thailand, tsunami



Philippines, typhoon

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The findings of the study show situation in the areas of:

- Disaster management policy and institution
- Policy implementation
- Factor for gender integration
- Gender issues in phases of disaster

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Disaster management(DM) policy and institution:

- DM : shift from emergency response only to disaster risk reduction;
- DM institutions: across vertical and horizontal, Government and Non Govt;
- Gender integration in DM: varies in extent and effectiveness;
- Gender/gender integration is a relatively new concept;
- The lack of knowledge is the main reason for not integrating gender in DM;
- Though there are policies on gender mainstreaming and on disaster management, there is no effective link between them

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Policy implementation:

- In Indonesia and Japan, where gender has been integrated into DM law, however the implementation is not yet consistent.
- The Philippines and Thailand, where there are distinct policies and agencies on DM and on women concerns there are still gaps in integration.
- However, in the Philippines, despite the gaps in policy, the Philippines is cited as best practice in gender integration in the work of departments as well as local governments.

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Factors for gender integration:

- Knowledge on gender, different impact of disaster on men, women, children, elderly, disabled can make implementation of DM responsive to gender concerns;
- Gender mainstreaming policy has a strong pushing factor to integrate gender into DM;
- Representation of women in decision making process is crucial, particularly to integrate gender into DM;
- Involvement of Non Government Organizations on disaster management and decision making can facilitate gender integration into DM.

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Gender issues in phases of disaster identified by the study

- some cases have brought about positive effects like the realization that the roles, needs of women need to be addressed.
- Gender concerns in various DM phases are similar in all four economies.

Pre-disaster:

- gender concerns range from minimal involvement of women in planning and decision-making processes to the lack of appreciation for gender training by key players to the lack of information dissemination

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Emergency phase of disaster:

- women's health, hygiene and security needs are not effectively addressed
- Psychological trauma
- Lost of capital
- shelter

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Post disaster:

- lack of access to livelihood/employment, financial resources and other social services.
- The participation of women in policy and decision making bodies are imperative to effective gender integration in disaster management.
- Capacity building to integrate gender concerns in disaster management is a necessary measure to an effective DM

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Gender related issues in disaster

Women's role in daily life:

- Domestic sphere
- Care giver for children, elderly, sick person
- Household care
- Extended domestic role in the community
- Income earner
- Maintain social and cultural value

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Situation of women(Vulnerability)

- More at home
- Physically weaker(can not swim etc.)
- Children, elderly, disabled to take care and protect
- Household amenities to care
- Less access to information
- Less involved in formal community event
- Marginalized in public matters
- Sub-ordinated in decision making
- Income earners

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Situation of women(Capacity)

- Have network with other women
- Women's association has strong bound with members
- Know better social situation of the community/neighborhood
- Know better surrounding situation
- Sense of care
- Roles in educating family members
- Institutionalizing values

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Roles of women in preparedness building

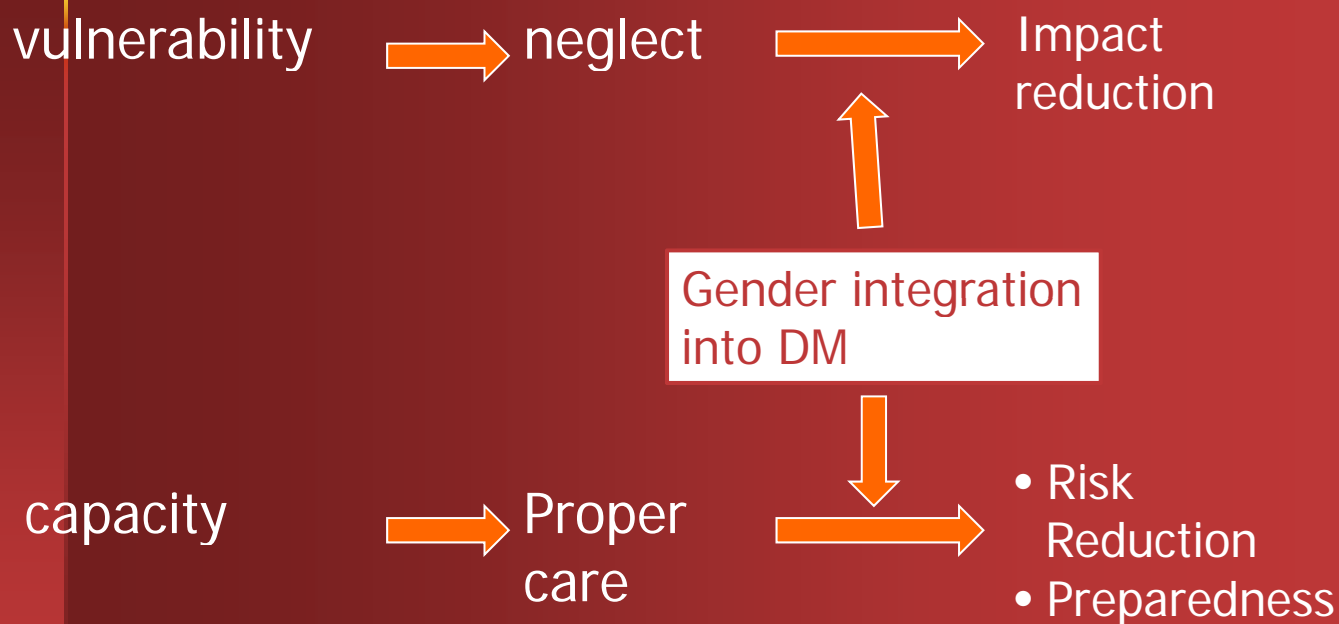
VCA= vulnerability and capacity assessment

Identification of:

What issues to address

What and how women can play role

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Women's role in preparedness building

Individual in activities:

- Source of information on vulnerability and capacity
- contributor for individual skill (first aid, cooking, child care etc.)
- peer information channel
- educator for the family
- disaster watch, early warning chain

Individual in decision making:

- Member of committee, board, coordinating body for DM
- Expert

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Women's role in preparedness building

In group/organization:

- Dissemination of information
- Training provider
- Network of information
- Network of education
- Decision making process(*)
- Representing vulnerable groups in planning
- pressure group
- gender mainstreaming process

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How to increase women's involvement?

- It is part of gender mainstreaming strategy
- Recommendation of the study:
 - Building knowledge toward commitment
 - Creating gender machinery within disaster management
 - Capacity building
 - Strengthening data system
 - Policy formulation
 - Implementation of gender integration
- Women's involvement is integral part of gender integration

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Indonesian experience:

Law on disaster management:

- gender as principle
- vulnerable groups
- humanitarian

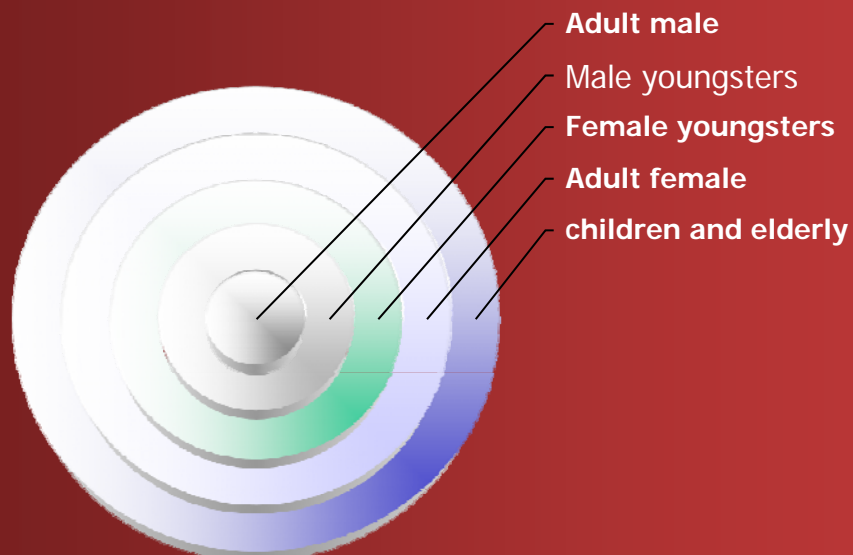
Gender mainstreaming strategy across sectors

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Indonesian experience:

Access to information



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Indonesian experience:

Coping mechanism with continue threat:



- Readiness to evacuate
- Disaster watch
- Early warning system
- Community developed evacuation mechanism
- Non polyester clothing
- Data at hazard area by sex, age

Women involve in building mechanism

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The role of APEC Fora in promoting gender integration into disaster management

- Any Fora deals with human resources and involves in disaster preparedness is to promote gender integration into DM
- Consideration:
 - Proportion of vulnerable groups
 - APEC benefits women and people in the region
 - Business resilience
 - Disaster preparedness is multi sectoral approach
 - APEC gender integration framework
- APEC Fora promote gender integration into DM through their works in their involvement in disaster management.

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The role of APEC Fora in promoting gender integration into disaster management

- TFEP Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia-Pacific Region 2009-2015.
 - The strategic lines:
 - long term recovery of economic activities
 - enhancement of resilience of small and medium businesses and local communities;
 - promotion of public-private partnership;
 - promotion of the development of effective business continuity and tools and guides for SMEs to reduce vulnerability and promote resilience; and
 - promotion of development of donation management

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The role of APEC Fora in promoting gender integration into disaster management

- TFEP stock-take made in Peru in 2008 on emergency preparedness capabilities and needs in the
- APEC region shows that 14 economies have disaster prevention program, 13 economies have
- emergency management journals and 11 economies have emergency libraries. Several
- economies have experiences in disaster prevention best practice. Few economies indicate their experiences with gender integration in disaster prevention.

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The role of APEC Fora in promoting gender integration into disaster management

- SME working group has experience in a project following tsunami in Aceh
- TFEP has cooperation with other APEC for a such as:
 - Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI),
 - Human Resources Working Group(HRDWG),
 - Health Task Force(HTF), Industrial Science and
 - Technology Working Group(ISTWG),
 - Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group(SMEWG),
 - Tourism Working Group(TWG),
 - Telecommunications and Information Working Group(TEL).
 - TFEP also cooperates with APEC Study Centers (ASC) and
 - Counter-Terrorism Task Force (CTTF).

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The role of APEC Fora in promoting gender integration into disaster management

- Gender criteria in project proposals in APEC system
- TFEP is to integrate gender concerns in their work and gender measures should be included as its performance indicators.
- TFEP Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia-Pacific Region 2009-2015, does not touch gender concerns
- Partnership with APEC Fora that involve in disaster management and particularly TFEP as leading Fora for disaster risk reduction.

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Thank you