

## **Concurrent Facilitated Sessions: Building Capacity in Women's and Community Groups**

**DISCUSSION NOTES: Working Group 1**

**Kamehameha Room**

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**Capacity building: multilevel approach at the micro and macro level  
Recognition of the role of communities responding to disaster**

### **Are the experiences and lessons learned described by the leaders applicable in my country/region/organization?**

- Although context and culture are different, Latin America (Dominican Republic) and South Asia share similar experiences.
- Ex: women participation in meetings, exclusion
- Women do contribute to informal disaster planning but it is difficult for women to attend formal planning meetings.
  - In America, strategies may not apply to women's groups but to ethnic minorities, isolated remote rural communities.
  - Need to account for heterogeneity, and address differences in community needs and perceptions.
  - Funding for food bank, seed banks are important mechanisms channeled through aid organizations linked to biodiversity and intellectual property rights.
  - Reclaim rights and local knowledge (seeds, ex: rice variety resilient in India).

Ex of experiences: South Asia presentation emphasizes experiences with women only groups. Such approach has limitations. When women try to come to the center, men oppose.

Complimentarily of men and women support to enhance response to disaster.

- Need to further the complimentarily of men and women's labor division, task allocation in disaster management.
- Differences of households in income level impact responses and resilience to disaster.

**What kind of capacity/skills needed at various stage**

**Ex: Bangladesh**

**Pre-disaster stage: tailored education and information program, outreach of Bangladesh Red Cross**

**Ex: Pakistan**

**Official early warning information was too scientific. It has been changed and tailored to the local community in user friendly dissemination strategies.**

**Natural resource management is a key area of capacity building**

**Ex: Vietnam:**

- Use PRA as a tool to assess vulnerability, capacity building needs.**
- Life saving**
- Life enriching strategies**

**Training**

**Ex: Dominican Republic**

**Nutrition: Food preparation skills, type of skills**

**Water safety and sanitation**

**Set of activity**

**Drought: life skills, technical training in pre and post disaster**

**Water supply board**

**CBDP Community based disaster preparedness**

**Actors in local planning**

**Ex: Pakistan**

**Organize and train communities in water harvesting, identification and use of water resistant plants**

**Build women's Assets**

**Micro-credit schemes**

**Self-help**

**Disaster fund.**

**Coping mechanism**

**-develop non credit mutual loan and saving initiatives**

**Ex: West Africa**

**Identify and develop existing resources, in cash and kind, non monetary exchanges across women's groups and communities**

## **Not only training as a mechanism for Capacity building**

- Dwell on peer learning, visitation and exchange to build a knowledge capital
  - **Process of capacity building**
- Traditional ecological knowledge a tool.
- Reinforce linkage between gender, disaster and development.
- Gender sensitive training
- Training
- Peer learning, visitation and exchange
- Invest in people
- In organization and network
  
- **Content areas**
- Rehabilitation
- Careful not to alienate men
- Give options in training
- Be sensitive to men, additional burden on women
- Broad understanding of the needs of vulnerable groups and intragender differences and vulnerability level

**1. What would have to be done differently to make this work?**

**2. What are policy needs in this area?**

- Engendering water policy
- Policy for micro-credit program,
- Insurance and legal regulatory framework
- Policy affecting national level action and policies affecting more decentralized level ( Community)

**3. What are gaps to implementing policies?**

- Lack of gender sensitivity of donor, government, NGOs
- Lack of understanding of bureaucrats, agencies and NGOs of ways on addressing gender needs, and community needs in disaster
- Confusion between GENDER and WOMEN.
- Lack of cooperation among different agencies (disaster management sector and other development sectors)
- Blanket gender policies

- **Coordination at the national, regional and local level**
  - **Resource allocation**
- 4. What changes need to be made in practice?**
- **Develop institutions for resource allocation**
  - **Deconcentration of resources and decision making**
- 5. What are the constraints we will encounter in making changes?**
- **Activate existing structures**
  - **Lack of gender sensitivity, and effective representation and participation in local level organizations**
- 6. What resources are required to implement policies? Are these available?**
- **Gender line budget is the missing link**
  - **Human, technical and financial resources**
- 7. What are opportunities that lie ahead?**
- **Decentralized governance structure**
  - **Use community citizen board**
  - **Gender sensitive curriculum**
  - **Local level financial resources availability**
  - **Additional resources available from multilateral and bilateral organization**
- 8. What do we need to recommend for the call to action and implementation strategy?**
- **Context specific sensitization of donor agencies, national federal and local government, implementing agencies on gender sensitive community capacities**
  - **Disaster management policies which facilitate and insure the role of community**
  - **Funding agencies to recognize their important resourcing function in capacity building at the community level by:**
    - i. **Leveraging government/civil society structures already in place**

- ii. Engaging questions of disaster and development strategy holistically
  - iii. Bringing new viewpoints/perspective that enhance traditional knowledge while encouraging flourishing of both men and women
- View capacity building in terms of life saving/live enhancing actions. Not many organizations are focusing on this aspect which is vital (e.g., governance and participation)
- Analyze policies and understanding the gender an implications of it – sensitizing policy makers on the same.
- **We consider communities as homogenous, but they are not. We should not focus on the single dimension of gender. Within that, we need to consider the needs of women, men and children. Poverty, ethnicity, and class, caste, race, physical ability, age, education and background.**
- Recognize the capacity of the community to respond to disasters through adequate resource allocation based on gender-line budgeting and greater coordination amongst government, international organizations and NGOs.
- Develop policies that direct significant financial, technical and human resources to build capacity for women and community groups for disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation.
  - i. Review existing national policies and international guidance for disaster management. Identify areas where new policies can be integrated to support gender-sensitive capacity building.
  - ii. Create a working group to maintain focus on this issue (and create specific actions) within the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (so

**that goals can be set and this issue can be considered in Kobe.)**

- **To reactivate already existing decentralized disaster preparedness process and make it gender sensitive (not token representation by a few women) and sustainable.**
- **To enhance co-ordination between disaster preparedness and other development sectors like agriculture, education, micro-credit political participation because vulnerability is created in various social, economic, political context.**
- **Agencies and donors need to be aware about gender perspective in disaster recovery projects.**
- **Invest in people, networks and resource mobilization.**
- **Promote advocacy for government, donors and local government for awareness gender.**