

Capacity Building for Women and Community Groups

Statement of Intent

- **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, class, caste, race, physical ability, age, education and background.**

Summary of Work Session

- Set of capacity building initiatives and processes
 - Training, people to people learning processes
 - Not just training – consider other alternatives (innovative, creative, imaginative)
 - Informal learning (theater, etc.)
 - Information and Communication Dissemination
 - Peer learning
 - Integrated within other resource management activities (water, agriculture, forestry, culture)
 - Traditional Ecological Knowledge
 - Build Women's Assets (not just financial)

Question:

- How far are organizations willing to go to become learning organizations.

Where are we now?

- Overall, disaster management policies are not reflecting diverse community and gender roles, needs and capacity.

Recommendation

- **Develop policy focused on community based and gender-based perspectives.**

Promote:

- Review existing policies for resource allocation among government, donors and NGOs.
- Recognize the inherent capacity of women and community groups
- Understand the many dimensions of gender
- Commit resources for building capacity.

Action Framework

- Identify strategy to move this agenda forward (ISDR/Kobe and Regional/National)
 - Create a working group(s)
- Multi-level partnership to mobilize resources and experience
- Lateral learning from successes and challenges
 - Create knowledge banks – clearinghouse of resources
- Move beyond capacity to look at capabilities, endowments, decision-making, etc.