

Regional Sharefair on Gender and Resilience

9- 10 November 2016

Nairobi, Kenya

Session n.:	6
Title:	High Level Panel Discussion: A Gender Perspective on Disaster Risk Management, Preparedness & Effective Response
Date:	10 November 2016
Time:	8:30am – 10:00am
Context:	<p>Disasters don't discriminate, but people do. Existing socio-economic conditions mean that disasters can lead to different outcomes even for demographically similar communities - but inevitably the most vulnerable groups suffer more than others. Research reveals that disasters reinforce, perpetuate and increase gender inequality, making bad situations worse for women, which negatively impacts their resilience. Meanwhile, the potential contributions that women can offer to the disaster risk reduction arena around the world are often overlooked and female leadership in building communities' resilience to disasters is frequently disregarded.</p> <p>Disaster risk reduction is a fundamental pillar of sustainable development and requires an all-inclusive approach that takes into consideration all members of society. More specifically, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 emphasizes that "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."</p> <p>Natural disasters can also instigate conflict as the resulting scarcity of resources make communities fight over them. It is evident that women in most parts of Africa, the Horn of Africa included, are affected in multiple ways and on a continuum through the cycles of conflict, coupled with limited opportunities for adapting to shocks of hunger, exacerbating impacts of conflicts.</p> <p>Conflicts also emerge without a relationship with natural disasters. Armed conflicts affect both men and women, but women face additional challenges during wars that men do not, including sexual violence and other forms of physical abuses such as forced impregnation and forced abortion, leading to long-term psycho-social impacts. Women are also differentially affected because of their role in the society; as the primary caretaker of the household</p>

and family, as well as their second class status in most conflict zones. Once the conflict ends, women continue to experience the consequences of these actions.

GENDER & DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Gender-based differences are observed in all aspects of disasters, and are similar to those observed in the development process. These differences are rooted in the unevenness of the economic, political, social and educational status between women and men. A gender perspective to DRR helps to focus attention on the distinct gender-specific capacities and vulnerabilities to prepare, confront, and recover from disasters.

Gender-based differences are cultivated through two key components of disaster risk reduction: enhancing capacity (for survival and to bounce-back when faced with adversity) and reducing vulnerability (susceptibility to risk). These differences stem from the gender-based roles in productive, economic, political, family and social spheres which equip women and men with different skill sets and capabilities and lead to differences in exposure, vulnerabilities and risk to disasters.

Patriarchy, prevalent in societies in different degrees, leads to unequal power relations between women and men in society, where women are systematically disadvantaged. In many societies social systems are guided by patriarchal values, institutional and legal systems often conform to the same. Patriarchy manifests in strong gender stereotyping, deep-rooted attitudes and practices regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in family and the society.

Gender, Livelihoods & Well-being

In the wake of disasters, health challenges are a common outcome. Damage and destruction to infrastructure such as water and sanitation supplies mean that the family's basic need for clean water and sanitation facilities is compromised. Women's roles are more often than not focused on the family and home and as such they are considered responsible for maintaining the health status of the family and the community at large. The tasks of fetching and storing water and keeping the home clean often lies entirely on the shoulders of women and girls. Lack of clean water and sanitation results in health challenges which can push an already vulnerable community to further risk of loss of life and livelihoods. Health services are also often rendered inaccessible or limited during disasters. Women & girls often have unequal access to health services. When women are pregnant absent or inaccessible health facilities result in a rise of maternal and neonatal deaths.

Gender & Migration

Disasters, whether human-induced or caused by natural hazards often result in displacement as communities move in search of safer locales. When a society is forced to migrate from a place it has called home, the risk of violence increases. Gender-based violence including human trafficking is often experienced at

	<p>greater levels when a community is on the move, both from members of the community itself or from “outsiders” who take advantage of the desperate situation that migrants find themselves in. Women and girls thus find themselves more vulnerable while on the move than they might have been when they lived in a secure protected home. This risk increases further if a large number of the men in their community become separated from their families due to a disaster. During migration health risks also tend to increase.</p> <p>Gender & Urbanisation Urbanisation is often associated with greater independence and opportunity for women. But with it comes high risks of violence and constraints on employment, mobility and leadership that reflect gender-based inequalities. Informal settlements that are often found in urban areas frequently suffer from inaccessible, poor or non-existent basic social services like water, sanitation, health and waste collection facilities, often exposing women and girls to a higher degree of risk, including of violence, than their male counterparts. This risk often manifests in morbidity patterns, largely exacerbated by poor living and working conditions. Together, these factors perpetuate long-term inequality and inter-generational disadvantages for women.</p> <p>Gender and Armed Conflict Women are disproportionately affected by armed conflict (instigated by natural disasters or as a result of political, social or other forms of friction between In addition, when women are left behind when spouses do not return from war they need to care for the family and livelihood while facing challenges by not receiving entitlements because of inheritance issues or other forms of ill-treatment.</p>
<p>Description of the session:</p>	<p>The objectives of the High Level Panel Discussion are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better illustrate the vulnerabilities and impacts that natural and human-made disasters have on women and girls, which compromise their resilience, while exploring available options for effective gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction and management; • Show how migration as a result of (natural or human-made) disasters greatly impacts the ability of women to remain resilient in their new settings, and examine how building resilience through effective gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction can help in rebuilding lives at a communities’ original locale to reduce the need for migration; • Discuss how livelihood and well-being challenges, as a result of disasters affect women and girls to a greater extent thus disrupting their ability to “bounce back” after a disaster and delve into new and existing options to reduce risks through gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction; • Deliberate on the importance of a gender-sensitive approach to urbanisation to reduce the negative impacts and review successful cases of gender-sensitive urbanization that have incorporated disaster risk reduction and management in their application. • Examine how natural disasters may instigate conflict and how conflicts affect women disproportionately (compared to men) and what potential solutions may help to mitigate and reduce the impacts on women and their

	<p>families.</p> <p>The outcomes of the high-level panel discussion will be presented for consideration at the consultation on Gender during the Sixth Africa Regional Platform and Fifth High Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction scheduled for 22 – 25 November 2016 in Mauritius. The High Level Meeting of the African Ministers responsible for disaster risk reduction is expected to adopt a Declaration on implementing the Sendai Framework in Africa, which will subsequently be endorsed by the African Union Policy Organs and submitted to the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.</p>
Presentations:	Max 5 slides to support speech
Speakers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animesh Kumar, UNISDR Deputy Head of Office • Dr. John Kabayo - Regional IDDRSI Coordinator, Djibouti • Philip Osano, Stockholm Environment institute (SEI) • Ms. Virginia Nduta, Women Empowerment Link • Hon. Ms. Jenipher Namuyangu, Minister of State for Local Government - Uganda
Suggested guiding questions for the panel/ Q & A Session:	Related to objectives (see above)
Format:	The event will be in the form of a panel discussion comprised of representatives from development partners from different sectors (UN, government and civil society). A moderator will ensure that there is full engagement with all participants.