

Thematic GENDER Checklists - Disaster Risk Reduction¹

→ “... each DRR intervention has to be designed in a way that improves gender equality or at least doesn't worsen gender inequality.” (SDC Gender Policy)

Key Questions:

- Are the different social situations, capacities and vulnerabilities, of both men and women considered when designing DRR interventions?
- Are women and men actively involved in DRR measures, programmes and projects?
- Do both men and women have access to information and capacity building concerning disaster preparedness and prevention?
- Is data disaggregated by sex and age used to develop a profile of at-risk populations with special requirements regarding disaster?

Why is Gender important for Disaster Risk Reduction Work?

Several studies have shown that disaster mortality rates are higher for women than for men. Primarily this is caused by **differences in vulnerabilities of women and men** as a result of socially constructed gender roles.² However, women are not just victims of climate change and disasters. Women demonstrate extraordinary powers of resilience during disasters and they can also be **powerful agents of change**. Paying attention to gender means recognizing the different needs as well as capacities and contributions of women and men.

GENDER ANALYSIS

Make a gender analysis to guide your programme identification. The findings will allow you to identify programme objectives and strategies that aim to promote gender equality. This is an exploration of power relationships between men and women in a particular programme context.

Questions to ask in a gender analysis

- Who, which men or women, hold the power in the community?
- Who, which men or women, owns and/or controls resources?
- Who takes the decisions?
- Who sets the agenda?
- Who gains and loses from processes of development?

A gender analysis should (at the least) identify the following issues:

- Division of labour between women and men
- Different access to and control over resources
- Different skills, capacities, and aspirations of women and men
- Different levels of participation and leadership enjoyed by women

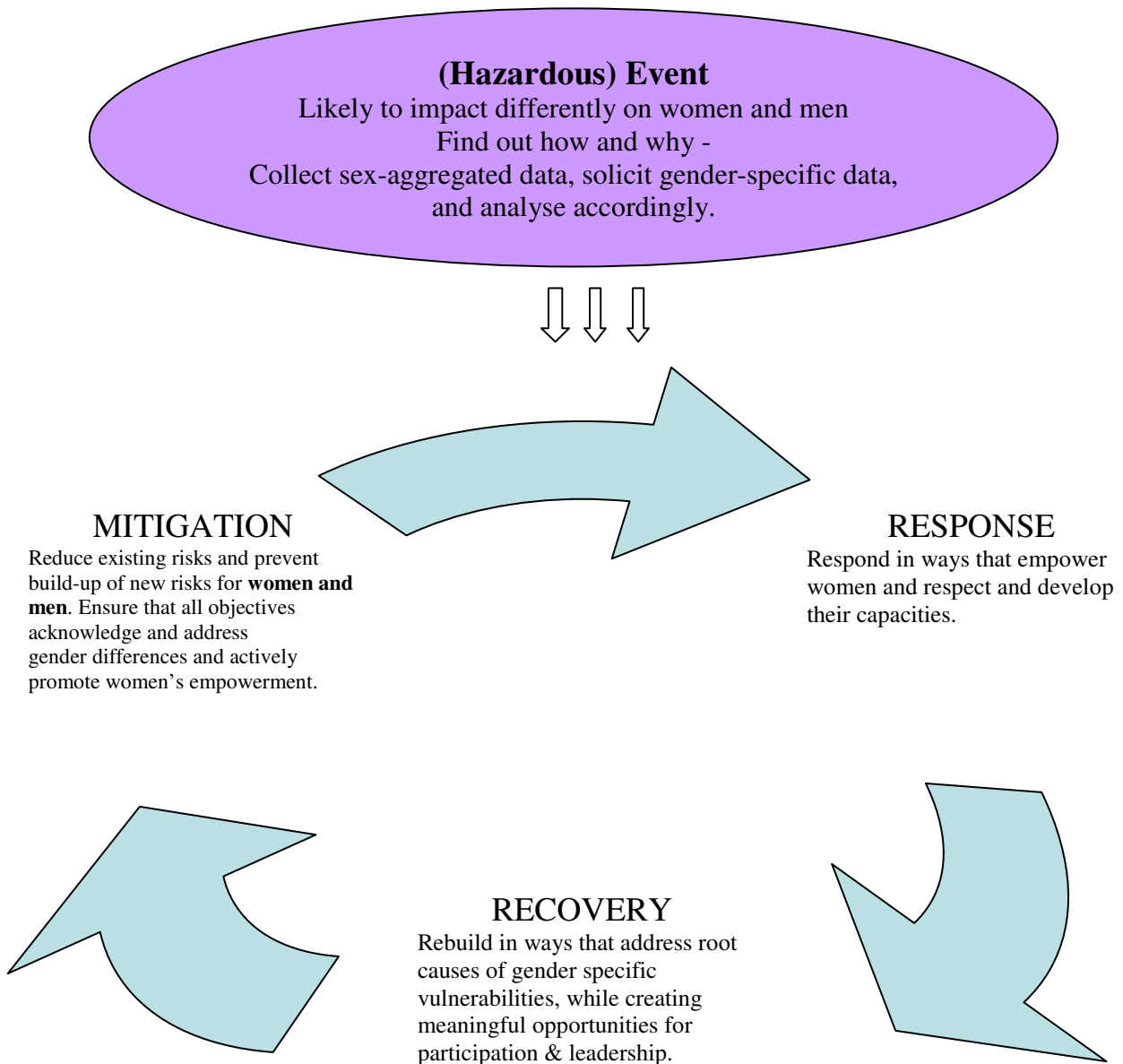
Questions and Challenges

- What are cultural/religious constraints to contact women and girls and involve them meaningfully in programme design and decision-making?
- How is women's presence in the public sphere organised? What are the ways for women to participate in decision-making at community level?
- Are women and girls already overburdened with (paid and/or unpaid) workloads? What can be done to involve women and men equally without unnecessarily overburdening them with additional tasks?

¹ Adapted from Oxfam – Gender, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Climate Change Adaptation: a learning companion (2010)

² For example, following the 2004 Tsunami in Asia, aid agencies found that in many villages in Aceh/Indonesia, and parts of India, females accounted for over 70 per cent of dead. In 2007 a study of 141 countries found that more women than men are killed during disaster; and at an earlier age, particular in poor communities, because of the discrimination they suffer due to their gender.” in Oxfam's Gender, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Climate Change: A Learning Companion 2010, p. 4

„NOTHING IN DISASTER IS GENDER NEUTRAL ”³



Gendered dimensions of DDR based on SDC conceptual framework

³ Gender and Disaster Network, January 2005.

MITIGATION – Prevention & Preparedness

Disaster prevention and preparedness plans should take into account gender-differentiated vulnerabilities and capacities.

1) Gender Sensitive Risk Assessment

means to ensure that risk assessments are informed by a gender analysis.

- Undertake participatory assessment with women and men (girls and boys) together and separately and use the information to guide your programmes.
- Involve both women and men equally in the development of risk and hazard maps and data, and identify gender-specific aspects of risk and vulnerability.
- Be aware of the vulnerabilities and concerns - as well as capacities - of different groups of women and men and how gender intersects with age, disabilities, ethnic background, and social and economic status. (e.g. Are all female-headed households more vulnerable in terms of housing and the location of the housing? What about widows, girl children, female orphans, etc.).
- Examine cultural/religious practices that may *increase* or *decrease* women's coping skills in case of disasters and natural hazards.
- Address Gender-Based Violence against women, girls, boys and men (see Box p. 6, SDC Thematic Checklist 6).

2) Risk Evaluation⁴

- Involve both women and men equally in the definition of protective goals: Make sure that women's knowledge, their skills, experiences and capacities are harnessed alongside those of men when weighting “natural” risks vis-à-vis other risks, such as health or economic risks.
- Make sure that women participate equally in risk dialogue with all of the stakeholders concerned (which includes local population and authorities).

3) Effective Risk Reduction

- Identify the capacities and available resources of women and men for managing and reducing vulnerabilities.

Examples:

→ Who is more likely to learn life saving skills such as swimming, etc.?

→ **Mobility** – Is there equal access for men and women to crucial means of transportation such as bus/train services, motorcycles, bicycles, cars, etc.? (Perhaps driving licences are of importance).

⁴ In reference to SDC Guidelines on Disaster Risk Reduction, p. 12.

4) Early Warning & Information Management – Equal Access to Information

- Ensure that women and men have better and more equal **access** to early warning information on upcoming natural hazards such as floods and tsunamis, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, cyclones, etc.
- Encourage the **participation** of women where possible in early warning systems and ensure that such systems are appropriate and accessible to both men and women.
- Ensure that the installed communication system is **tailored** to the preferences and different behavioural patterns of men and women:
 - Identify the different patterns of behaviour due to division of labour and responsibilities between men and women. E.g. are there different behavioural patterns during different time periods, e.g. night/day, wet/dry season, harvest season, summer and winter, etc.? What are resulting implications in terms of equal access to information i.e. effective early warning and communication systems?
 - Male or female heads of household – do both - men and women - have equal access to early warning information

RESPONSE

- Before and during rescue and survival efforts conduct gender-sensitive (basic) needs assessment.
- Avoid assuming that all women or all men share the same needs and perspectives.
 - Examples:*
 - Identify the **location** where women/men are likely to spend most of their time during day time as well as during night time? What are the implications for rapid evacuation efforts?
 - Who is more likely to **care** for the most vulnerable such as the sick, the very young and very old – men or women? Will this impact on women's capacity to cope with a disaster? Are there implications for evacuation efforts? E.g.: Will the responsibility for others slow a person down?
- The importance of women as key agents should be promoted and women fully involved in community disaster management committees, disaster response drills, etc.
- Ensure that evacuation shelters and emergency housing are equally accessible to both women and men, and that women have **adequate privacy and security**.
- Ensure that women's as well as men's knowledge is promoted to build a culture of safety.
- During the deployment of specialists, include expertise on protection mechanism including prevention of gender-based violence.
- Consider long term impact of response on women and men⁵

Disaster generally provides a window of **opportunity for enduring change** and already the response can have a long term impact on the socio-economic fabric of the affected population. It not only provides opportunities to increase the capacity of women and men to cope better, but also allows for

⁵ SDC Guidelines on Disaster Risk Reduction, p. 12.

changes in the way resources are allocated and controlled and generally will impact on power structures including gender.

RECOVERY – Women as Key Actors

Recovery should not just mean the *return* to normal, which would often include a return to women's and girl's unequal access to resources, opportunities and power. In many cases, disaster leads to rapid social changes within the affected community or society at large. Disasters carry the potential to accelerate or hamper socio-economic developments towards more equality, including gender equality. Thus it is important that DDR measures already during the recovery phase actively promote women's empowerment and aim towards more gender equality.

The three dimensions of recovery:

- a) The re-construction of severely damaged physical infrastructure, including the natural environment **should address needs and interests of both women and men.**
- b) Restoration and re-vitalization of the economy is not merely a *return* to the previous status quo, but should actively be shaped in a way that allows for more and equal opportunities of women and men to participate and benefit equally from economic development.
- c) Restoration of institutional and social structures should be designed in a way that will improve the status of women and girls and their ability to exercise their human rights.

Ensure that measures are designed in a way that:

- Challenge attitudes and beliefs that discriminate against women and girls.
- Identify ways to involve women and men equally meaningful in decision-making and programme design, implementation and monitoring.
- Ensure that women are enabled to take up leadership positions throughout the programme management cycle.
- Work with men to secure their support for programme activities that uphold women's rights and empowerment.
- Support women's right to ownership and control over strategic assets such as housing and land.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Against Women & Girls

There are many factors contributing to acts of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in *any* setting. In situations of socio-economic instability (e.g. during and after disasters, displacements, etc.), women and girl children face additional risks and vulnerabilities.

- Raise awareness among both women and men about women's rights to live free from violence at home and in the public sphere.
- Build on and strengthen already existing social protection mechanism against gender-based violence.
- Listen to women's concerns and involve women in creating a safer and more secure environment for themselves in particular and the community in general.
- Do not assume that forms of SGBV will be brought to your attention. SGBV is often highly stigmatized and remains hidden (e.g. within the private and domestic sphere).

For more in-depth information on how to deal with occurring forms of sexual and gender-based violence see SDC Thematic Checklist Sheet 6.

Literature/Checklists

Oxfam (2010), *Gender, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Climate Change Adaptation: a learning companion*.

www.gdnonline.org/resources/OxfamGender&ARR.pdf

→ detailed key questions concerning programme analysis, planning and design, implementation and evaluation, monitoring and evaluation. No concise checklist

ISDR (2009) *Making Disaster Risk Reduction Gender-Sensitive*. Policy and Practical Guidelines (UNISDR, UNDP, IUCN). Including: checklist for gender-sensitive risk assessment

www.unisdr.org/preventionweb/files/9922_MakingDisasterRiskReductionGenderSe.pdf

ADPC, AIDMI, CDP UNDP (?), *Integrating Gender into Community Based Disaster Risk Management: training manual*. All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI); Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC); Center for Disaster Preparedness (CDP); ProVention Consortium; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

[http://cfi.gurasin.com/sscpublications1234/Training%20Manual%20-%20Integrating%20Gender\(4\).pdf](http://cfi.gurasin.com/sscpublications1234/Training%20Manual%20-%20Integrating%20Gender(4).pdf)

Inforesources (2009), *Disaster Risk reduction: A Gender and Livelihood Perspective*, Focus No 2/09, see page 12 “gender-sensitive DRR”. www.inforesources.ch/pdf/focus09_2_e.pdf

Pincha, Chaman (2008), *Gender Sensitive Disaster Management, A Toolkit for Practitioners*, see page 123 “points to ponder”; Earthworm Books for Oxfam America and NANBAN Trust.

www.eldis.org/vfile/upload/1/document/0812/Gnder%20sensitive%20disaster%20management%20Toolkit.pdf

UNDP (?), *The Eight Point Agenda: Practical, positive outcomes for girls and women in crisis*, “Crisis Prevention and Recovery” Programme. www.undp.org/cpr/we_do/8_pa.shtml

UNISDR (2007), *UNISDR's Gender Perspectives: Working Together for Disaster Risk Reduction*. Good Practices and Lessons Learned, no checklist. www.gdnonline.org/resources/UNISDR_gender-good-practices.pdf

Gender Task Force (2006) *Checklist to facilitate gender sensitivity of relief and reconstruction efforts for survivors of the earthquake in Pakistan*, Task Force Members UNFPA, IOM, CIDA, DfiD, Rozan, UNAIDS, Royal Netherlands Embassy, World Vision International, ICMC, GTZ and Action Aid

➤ useful checklist, but not a specific checklist on DRR.

www.gdnonline.org/resources/UN_FinalChecklistEnglish.pdf

IASC (2006), *Women, Girls, Boys and Men, Different Needs – Equal Opportunities*,

➤ provides detailed checklists and was used as basis for SDC Toolkit on Gender & Humanitarian Aid, but does not specifically address DRR and gender issues. www.humanitarianreform.org/Default.aspx?tabid=656