Gendered Disaster Risk Reduction (GDRR) 
Priorities for Action
Indicators and Processes

‘Natural’ disasters cause large numbers of human and economic losses every year but these are not distributed equally. Available evidence shows women to be killed in disasters at greater numbers and at an earlier age. This is not a natural outcome of a hazard but is the result of structural gendered inequalities. In more gender-fair socio-economic systems, these differentiated fatal impacts reduce or disappear. Often States do not know how disasters impact citizens differently according to gender, age and other characteristics.

1. Understand disaster risk – know your communities and citizens
   • Aim to equalize survival rates and include gender equality targets.
   • Reduce excess deaths of women and girls.
   • Reduce the gendered deaths of men and boys where social and cultural expectations put them at greater risk.
   • Establish baseline measuring and monitoring systems to collect data disaggregated by gender and age as a minimum standard.
   • Collect and disseminate data for other social groups highlighted in the SDGs (LGBTIs, non-Western gender minorities, intersecting with race, ethnicity, income, migratory status, dis/ability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts).

2. Strengthen governance and DRR governance
   • DRR strategies must be gendered to operate effectively and reduce disaster impacts.
   • Ensure representation and promote equal participation and leadership across gender categories.
   • Ensure women’s legal entitlements and practical access to assistance, services and resources:
     • Basic & specialised health services (reproductive and sexual health services), compensation, insurance, social security, credit; agricultural extension, productive assets, decent employment and land tenure.
   • Strengthen gender equality commitments in the planning cycle of DRR, and in sectoral policy frameworks:
     • Capacity development, monitoring and accountability frameworks, health, agriculture, natural resources and education.
   • Incorporate gender-responsive budgeting and participatory mechanisms for monitoring processes to strengthen gendered disaster risk governance.
   • Gendered DRR (GDRR) encompasses active contributions and leadership from women at all levels of operation up to the most senior.
   • GDRR practice must incorporate expertise from grassroots women’s DRR practitioners who hold substantial knowledge and insight, especially at a local level.
   • Develop south-south and south-north knowledge exchange between grassroots women leaders and other local and national DRR entities.

3. Invest in gendered disaster risk reduction (GDRR) for resilience
   • DRR investment must include informal economic sectors in which much women’s work and livelihoods are located.
   • A vision for gendered disaster risk reduction - GDRR - should be established in a participatory manner at national, regional and local levels.
   • Investments must include children, in particular girl children, and older women in re-building lives and building resilience.

4. Enhance disaster preparedness for effective response and Build Back Better in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction
   • Past failures to recognize the gendered nature of warning systems have been responsible for large numbers of excess female deaths around the world.
   • Communication and assessment processes must be inclusive and participatory, reaching out to all citizens with special attention to the widest range of minority or marginalised groups.
   • Ensure women and other marginalised social groups are included in active decision-making and management roles when disaster preparedness and recovery decisions are on the table.

Do you need help to measure gendered impacts?
Do you need help with gender analysis?
Email the Gender and Disaster Network

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