



NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

ON

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

**VENUE: NEW DELHI, INDIA
FEBRUARY 24, 2023**



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NPDDR Pre-Event

NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Women's Participation and Leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction

Date: Friday, 24 February 2023

Venue: We the Peoples Hall, UN House, 55 Lodhi Estate, New Delhi

In collaboration with:



Context

Disasters are gender neutral, but their impact and the recovery processes are not. It is well documented and widely accepted that disasters impact men and women differently. Gender dynamics impact both the way they are affected by disasters and their capacity to withstand and recover from them. Gender inequalities can result in gender-differentiated disaster impact, and differentiated impacts can influence gender dynamics, which in turn affect future resilience to shocks.

Pervasive social norms deny women the right to property or productive assets (regardless of the laws of the land that are preceded by customary laws and conventions), this impedes their right and access to fair compensation. Social norms also act as a barrier for women in accessing relief and rehabilitation, both immediate or longer term. disaster impacts often reflect, and reinforce, gender inequality. This happens because the conditions driving disaster impacts are influenced by gender dynamics of society. A global study finds that women's mortality from disasters tends to be higher in relation to that of men in countries where women have lower socioeconomic status.

While women continue to bear the triple burden of reproductive work, productive work and community management work and these roles exacerbate both the impact and the post disaster recovery for women. The 'informality' of women's labour excludes them from damage/loss assessments. This combined with the lack of recognition of their occupational identities compounds not just access to compensation, but also long term recovery and at times results in permanent loss of livelihoods. Economic rehabilitation of women is fraught with several challenges, such as, restricted mobility, marginal/token to almost no role in decision-making within the family, at work or in the community and limited or zero access to markets make economic rehabilitation among several others.

Despite several and persistent barriers, it is important to shift the frame from looking at women as 'victims' alone to acknowledging their active and critical role in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. Acknowledging and formalizing their participation can have positive effects on results, as well as positive spill over effects on women's position in the community.

An improved understanding of the gender dynamics of disaster risk and resilience also allows for better policy and program design, which benefits all stakeholders. While there is a broad understanding of gender concerns in planning gender inclusive recovery and resilience, more needs to be done to better understand specific gender dimensions of post disaster recovery and resilience building. The better we understand the underlying factors of differential impacts of disaster the better-informed policies and programmes for resilience and recovery can be framed. Resilience building remains a 'post-disaster concern' and needs to shift to becoming an integral part of any/all economic planning, especially livelihoods planning for women in anticipation of/irrespective of disaster events. A national framework for gender inclusive post

disaster recovery and resilience building needs to be developed and made mandatory for all national and state supported disaster preparation and response planning.

Disasters offer an opportunity to build forward better, particularly to leverage opportunities for changing social norms and institutionalising gender inclusive practices. For example, developing gender action plans led by women and integrating them into the larger recovery plans, creating local/regional committees with equal representation of women in decision making roles and promoting women's leadership in R&R among others.

Resilience building needs a deeper and more complex understanding of both micro (grassroots) and macro (geo-spatial/political) issues of gender dimensions of a disasters. There needs to be more research and documentation of local /community-based resilience practices as well as good practice and lessons from successful initiatives focusing on resilient livelihoods for women.

About the Consultation:

The Government of India had constituted a Multi-Stakeholder National Platform for DRR in the year 2013 to address the need for strengthening the disaster management structure and institutions in the country and to further strengthen the federal polity and building local capacities in the interest of the community at large. The 1st and 2nd sessions of NPDRR were held in 2013 and 2017. The third NPDRR will be held during (10-11 March) 2023. **It is in this context at the request of the NPDRR Secretariat (National Institute of Disaster Management) and the National Disaster Management Authority, United Nations in India (UNRCO, UNDP, UNICEF, UNWOMEN) will organise a pre-event/consultation on “ Women’s Participation and Leadership in DRR” in collaboration with NIDM, TISS and Mahila Housing Trust.**

The consultation will aim to deliberate on specific issues, good practices and opportunities focusing on women's role in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and resilience across the continuum of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. Stakeholders will share from their research, advocacy, policy and good practices from their programmes to frame comprehensive, contemporary and gender inclusive recommendations. This will further inform and enhance the National DRR policy paving the way for leveraging the voice, capacities, leadership, and agency of women and women's organizations. The findings and key recommendations that will emerge from this consultation workshop will be shared with the NPDRR Secretariat.

The consultation will specifically focus on the following:

- a) Good practices and opportunities in gender responsive DRR
- b) Specific gender barriers in DRR from a women's perspective and a multistakeholder perspective
- c) Opportunities and pathways for enhancing women's participation and leadership in DRR (from grassroots to the policy level)

- d) National priorities for gender responsive DRR and the gaps in existing national and international frameworks, policies and programmes related to DRR.

| <p style="text-align: center;">DRAFT AGENDA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP IN DRR</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pre event - National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Friday, 24 FEBRUARY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Venue: We the Peoples Hall, UN House, 55, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi</p> | |
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| TIME | SESSIONS |
| 0930-1000 | Registration |
| 1000-1005 | <i>Welcome Address by Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator</i> |
| 1005-1015 | <i>Special Remarks by Rajendra Ratnoo (IAS), Executive Director, NIDM</i> |
| 1015-1025 | <i>Keynote Address by Dr. Krishna Vatsa, Member, NDMA</i> |
| 1025-1030 | Tea Break |
| | Technical Session |
| 1030- 1130 | <p><i>Session 1: Women's role in building local solutions for DRR and resilience – voices from the field</i></p> <p><i>Chair: Binoy Acharya, Founder-Director, Unnati</i></p> |
| | Annie George, CEO, Bedroc International |
| | Shweta Satish Hule, Head, Swamini Self-Help Group from Vengurla Taluka, Maharashtra [On-line] |
| | Dr. Eilia Jafar, Chief of Programmes, SaveLife Foundation |
| | Siraz Hirani, Senior Programme Management Specialist, Mahila Housing Trust |
| | Discussions |
| 1130-1230 | <p><i>Session 2: Women's access to disaster assistance-key challenges and recommendations</i></p> <p><i>Chair: Tom White, DRR Chief, UNICEF</i></p> |
| | Dr. Gyana Das (IAS), Executive Director, OSDMA [On-line] |
| | Dr. Sekar Kuriokose, Member Secretary, KSDMA [On-line] |
| | Karon Shaiva, Managing Trustee, RISE Infinity Foundation |
| | Dr. Sruti Mahapatra, Founder and CEO, Swabhimani, Convenor, Odisha State Disability Network (OSDN) |
| | Discussions |
| 1230-1330 | Lunch |
| 1330- 1430 | <p><i>Session 3: Enhancing participation and leadership of women in DRR and resilience building- challenges and recommendations</i></p> <p><i>Chair: Kanta Singh, Deputy Representative, UN Women India Office</i></p> |
| | Pankaj Anand, Director - Programme and Advocacy, Oxfam India |
| | Dr. Manu Gupta, Co-Founder, SEEDS India |
| | Dr. Ajinder Walia, Gender Specialist & Professor, NIDM |
| | Dr. Jahnavi Andharia, Director & Research Fellow, Institute of Social Studies Trust |
| | Discussions |

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| 1430-1530 | Session 4: Strengthening institutional and policy frameworks for gender responsive DRR and resilience building Chair: Dr. Krishna Vatsa, Member, NDMA |
| | Mihir Bhatt, Founder & Director, AIDMI [On-line] |
| | Dr. Jacqleen Joseph, Professor & Dean - Jamsetji Tata School of Disaster Studies, TISS |
| | Madhavikutty MS (IAS), CEO, The Gender Park, Department of Women & Child Development, Govt of Kerala |
| | Susane Jane Ferguson, Country Representative, UN Women India Office |
| | Discussions |
| 1530-1545 | Way Forward |
| | END |