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Exploring Preemptive Disaster Risk Management Measures to ensuring Community Resilience

IORA Sustainable Development Programme (ISDP) Workshop
20-21 APRIL 2015 DAR ES SALAAM

Discussion Session 5: Women Empowerment and Disaster Risk Management

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Why Women Why Disaster Risk reduction Why does this matter

- Women constitute **more than 50%** of the global population mass which implies
 - ✓ In case of **vulnerability** that much of people are at risk
 - ✓ In terms of **capabilities** that so much of potentials must be utilized

- Women and children are **14 times more likely** than men to die during a disaster

- Less **access to information**
 - ✓ women's are at **risk of being killed** during disasters
 - ✓ Norms and culture
 - ✓ **exclusion from planning and strategic decision making processes.**

- unevenness of the economic, social, educational status between women and men.





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Why Women Why Disaster Risk reduction

Why does this matter

- **Natural disasters** : kills **more women** than men
 - ✓ 2004 Asian tsunami, women accounted for over 70 percent of the dead
 - ✓ **More women** than men died during the 2003 European heatwave. In France, **most deaths** were among **elderly women**
 - ✓ Hurricane Katrina, **most of the people trapped in New Orleans** were African-American **women and children**
 - ✓ During the 2009/10 flood event at Kilosa-Tanzania most affected population were children, **women**, the elderly and the disabled
- Women are **more reliant** on **climate-sensitive resources** and **livelihoods** than men;
- Have **lower levels** of **participation** in various development programs. (**Limitations** and **restrictions** related to women's mobility and protection)





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Why Women Why Disaster Risk reduction Why does this matter

- Studies conducted on 141 countries over the period 1981–2002, found that on average, **disasters kill more women** than men (*Neumayer and Plümper (2007)*)
 - many women die because they stayed behind to look for their children and other relatives
 - men more often than women can swim; men more often than women can climb trees
- socially constructed status, roles and norms are gendered, and ethnicity create unequal levels of marginalization between men and women. This restricts
 - women's ability to access,
 - secure and sustain livelihoods, which are crucial for coping with and recovering from disasters





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Why Empowerment of Women

involving community

➤ Empowerment of women is a critical ingredient in building disaster resilience:
Why:

At the family & household level:

✓ designers and builders of community resilience at the local level

✓ **socialization** of children and **transmission of knowledge**, values and skills (*using indigenous means, Culture of peace for man-made disasters and conflicts*)

✓ they provide **security** and **care** (*shelter, food, protection, curing & health...etc*)





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Why Empowerment of Women

At the family & household level:

- **Fleeing** and **forced migration** they **rescue children** and **household belongings**
- They transmit **information** about **early warning** of disasters based on **experience** and **indigenous knowledge**
- Assume **economic activity** for livelihood especially in **response** and **recovery** stages
- In camps, outside camps offering their labour





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Why Empowerment of Women

At the family & household level:

- In **climate change** women employ IK in **managing** food, medical plants, domestic animals and soil protection



involving community

At the institutional level

- *Women are part of the workforce in many institutions engaged in DRR, and other related institutions.*
- *They are rescue workers*
- *Aid and recovery service delivery and providers*
- Women bring **unique experiences** and **skills** to disaster risk reduction and management





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Why Empowerment of Women

At the institutional level

- Contributes to ***policy choices*** that lead to better ***environmental governance***
- ***They play role in decision making and consultations***

At the community level

- Voluntary work within some NGOs
- Community mobilization and formation of self-help groups & CBOs to function in case of emergency and regularly
- Act as safety-nets by offering services (financial informal saving), social cohesion and resilience





Recommendation

- Design and implement programmes that enhance gender equality and women's empowerment;
 - ✓ National level
 - ✓ Local level
- Establishing gender-responsive **accountability** and **monitoring** mechanisms at national and local level
- **Promoting** gender equality in national and local levels;
- Ensuring that data collection are
 - ✓ gender disaggregated and gender analysis

so that the differential impact of disasters on females and males can be made visible, documented and better informed
- Ensuring accountability between respective national institutions for gender equality issues and disaster risk management
- Establish appropriate dissemination mechanisms of EWI



Source

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- Towards the Post-2105 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (HFA2) Women as a force in resilience building, *gender equality in disaster risk reduction April 2014*
- Policy Brief Climate and Development knowledge Network. *Dr Virginie Le Masson and Lara Langston, Overseas Development Institute, March, 2014*
- Empowered lives Resilient nations. *Gender and disaster risk reduction 2013 United Nations Development Programme*
- **EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION STRATEGY FOR DISASTER PRONE AREAS IN TANZANIA, 2013**



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Thank you