

1st PrepCom for the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

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Women's Major Group

In review of the indicators and monitoring framework for HFA2 with a gender lens, and reviewing reports from Women's Stakeholder Group for the Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Bangkok and other organizations on monitoring and indicators, I have found consistency in the recommendations that it is "imperative that national and local governments, development partners, international organizations, NGOs, CSOs **apply/utilize gender** [and diversity] **analysis** to understand disaster risk exposure, vulnerability and disaster impacts" to inform disaster risk reduction and resilience---prevention, response, recovery and reconstruction, development, hazard mitigation, and climate change adaptation.

The ability to conduct gender and diversity analyses depends on the quality, collection, and availability of gender, sex, and age-disaggregated data---which has been consistently called for by many member states and stakeholder groups. This data helps us to identify **who** is at risk (pregnant woman, young boy, adult migrant female, sight-impaired elderly woman), **how** they are at risk to particular hazards (potential pre-term labor and special needs in disaster, child soldiers in drought-impacted areas, barriers to language and access to warnings, barriers to evacuation with destruction of infrastructure), and the **underlying causes** of risk (divisions of labor, poverty, development, roles/responsibilities, access and rights) that enable policy development and planning.

There are numerous examples on the ways that this data and analysis are imperative for risk reduction. Lessons learned during the last ten years where risk assessment gaps resulted in poorly-informed policy. An example from the Japan Women's Network on Disaster Risk Reduction (JWNDRR) showed that the 300 Gender Equality Centers were not integrated into the disaster management sector, and this resulted in the lack of critical information on gender needs being integrated into warning, evacuation, sheltering, and recovery plans. Further, that led to ignoring risks for women to impacts of the Great Earthquake and Tsunami, and Fukushima Nuclear Disaster and a lack of mechanisms to respond to specialized needs. Gender analysis and gender-sensitive risk assessment can be used as tools to further understand impacts to communities and governments from cumulative and cascading impacts from disasters because we become better aware of risks and underlying causes---and this highlights the fact we need gender-specific data to support decision-making.