GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE BUILDING

CAPAM CONFERENCE, 22 OCTOBER 2018
GEORGETOWN, GUYANA
GLOBAL IMPACT OF DISASTERS AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN 2017

• 318 disasters
• 9,503 deaths, 96 million affected
• US$314 billion economic damage
• Expected temperature rise in the 21st century: 2 - 4 degrees Celsius.
• Climate change increases intensity and frequency of hazards
IMPACT OF DISASTERS AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE CARIBBEAN

• Among the most exposed to natural disasters in the world.

• Hurricanes, flooding, earthquakes, mudslides, wildfires.

• Hurricanes Irma and Maria caused a total of USD 2.7 billion of damages and losses in Dominica, British Virgin Islands, and Antigua and Barbuda.

• Threat to livelihoods, infrastructure and habitat.

• Strong damage to tourism and agriculture sectors.

• Sustainable growth?
➢ What does gender inequality have to do with disaster risk reduction, climate change and growth?

➢ And how can gender equality lead to disaster resilience and sustainable growth?
Disasters are not gender-blind

Women’s disaster mortality is higher.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Disaster/Country</th>
<th>Female Mortality</th>
<th>Male Mortality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Cyclone 0B2-Bangladesh</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Tsunami-Aceh-Indonesia</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>23%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Tsunami-Tamil Nadu India</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Cyclone Nargis-Myanmar</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Tsunami-Tonga and Samoa</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Solomon Island Floods</td>
<td>96% women &amp; children</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Nepal Earthquake</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gender inequality of risk

**Extensive and intensive risk**
Exposure of vulnerable people and their assets to frequent low-severity and infrequent high severity hazards

**Disaster loss**
Mortality, morbidity, damage to housing, livelihood etc.

**Everyday risks**
Food insecurity, SGBV, disease, informal sector, lack of sanitation and clean water

**Poverty outcomes**
Short and long term impacts on income, consumption, time, welfare, SGBV

Gender inequality defines vulnerability and capacity
Discrimination, powerlessness, exclusion, illiteracy, limited opportunities to access assets and resources, abuse and violence
• Women are disproportionately affected and have **uneven levels of resilience**.

• **Women’s contribution and leadership** in adaptation, disaster risk reduction and resilience building are not sufficiently leveraged.

• The **gender inequality of disaster risk undermines the resilience** of entire **societies** and their potential for sustainable growth.

In the immediate impact of a severe storm elderly Caribbean women do the majority of the care work especially in shelters. Their time spent on care often increases disproportionately.
Gender dimensions of disaster resilience

PREVENTION  Preparedness  Recovery

HAZARD EXPOSURE  VULNERABILITY  CAPACITY

RESILIENCE
ability to prevent, prepare for, withstand and recover
UN Women's approach

• Leveraging the participation and leadership of women, to promote gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and resilience building.

• Comprehensive approach to gender-responsive resilience building through triple normative, coordination and operational mandate.

• Women’s Resilience to Disasters Programme.

• Gender Inequality of Risk (GIR).

• Gender responsive NAP and NDC processes.
Influencing norms and coordination

- Instrumental in the development and dissemination of the CEDAW General Recommendation No. 37. on Gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change
- Adoption of the first Gender Action Plan of the UNFCCC at COP.
- Mainstreaming gender in the outcomes of the Global and Regional Platform for DRR.
UN Women’s programmes in the region

- Promoting dignity in emergency response.
- Safety and security in shelters.
- Restoring livelihoods.
Antigua and Barbuda

- The distribution of “dignity kits” containing basic health and hygiene products for displaced women and girls.

- On the ground technical support to coordinate response.
Antigua and Barbuda

Providing support to the development of guidelines for shelters on the protection from SGBV.

UN Women worked on guidelines and protocols for sharing resources and spaces within shelters that would ensure the safety of women and girls.
DOMINICA
Supporting women farmers’ groups to get labor, seeds and equipment to bring their farms back into production.
What Next?

• **JAMAICA** – Supporting Gender Aware Beneficiary Assessment and capacity building on gender dimensions in accessing piped water (in collaboration with UNDP).

• **DOMINICA** - Community Seed Bank and Community Tools Bank Establishment.

• **REGIONAL** - Gender inequality of disaster and climate risk in 9 Caribbean SIDS including a review of the cost of inaction (in collaboration with UNDP).

• **Global** – Women’s Resilience to Disasters Programme (with geographic focus on Caribbean and Pacific)
• Global cost of gender inequality
• Sustainable growth happens in resilient societies. Resilient societies are inclusive and equal societies.
• In equal and inclusive settings, women’s, men’s boys’ and girls’ needs are addressed and their unique contributions are leveraged.

Photo Credit: UN Women/Catianne Tijerina

In DRC, women refugees rebuild lives, with determination and hope
Thank you!

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Countries
The UN Women Multi-Country Office - Caribbean is located in Barbados, with a programme presence in Jamaica. The MCO – Caribbean supports the CARICOM member states, Dutch Caribbean Islands and British Overseas Territories as follows:

1. Anguilla
2. Antigua and Barbuda
3. Aruba
4. The Bahamas
5. Barbados
6. Belize
7. Bermuda
8. British Virgin Islands
9. Cayman Islands
10. Curacao
11. Dominica
12. Grenada
13. Guyana
14. Jamaica
15. Montserrat
16. St. Kitts and Nevis
17. Saint Lucia
18. St. Vincent and the Grenadines
19. Sint Maarten
20. Suriname
21. Trinidad and Tobago
22. Turks and Caicos Islands
Reduce loss of lives
Achievement of Sendai targets and SDGs

An innovative and powerful partnership for cost-effective transformative change

Gender dimensions of risk are understood
Gender responsive risk governance
Women’s leadership in DRR strengthened
Women’s capacity to prevent, prepare and recover

GIR Initiative

Lack of understanding and evidence
Lack of substantive participation and leadership of women in DRR
Not building women’s resilience
Lack of resources/institutionalization of gender capacity in DRR

Less effective in saving lives and reducing loss and damage; do not leverage women’s leadership and strengths

Does not fulfill the promise of the Sendai Framework