

Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management: Legislating Gender-Responsive Mitigation, Adaptation and Women's Participation

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Gender, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management – Key Issues

Concerns are two-fold

- Insufficient attention to gender-differentiated impacts
- Insufficient women's participation in decision-making fora



Inadequate Attention to Gender-Differentiated Impacts and Priorities

- **Impacts borne differently by men and women**
 - environmental degradation
 - Declined productivity, income, food security
 - Lost shelters, assets, infrastructure
 - Lost family and community support
- **Women vulnerable to**
 - Increased time burden to work
 - Deaths and health problems
 - Violence
- **Different needs & priorities**
 - Health, safety, households needs



Insufficient Women's Participation in Decision Making



- Invariably male dominated (e.g., COP meetings of UNFCCC)
- Greater participation of women at global, national & local levels needed

Implications for Policies and Legislation



Two essential dimensions

- Integrate gender concerns into CC&DRM legislation; and
- Legislate gender-equal participation in decision-making bodies at all levels

** Notable accomplishments on both, outside of the specific realm of CC&DRM*

1st Dimension – Integrating Gender Concerns into Legislation

- Ensure women's right on and access to
 - Property, natural resources, credit, skills, information, education, health, freedom from gender-based violence
- International and national mechanisms
 - e.g., CEDAW, Beijing Platform of Action
- ADB-assisted
 - National gender strategies in agriculture and environment
 - National gender equality laws
 - Awareness of women's legal entitlements



2nd Dimension – Legislating Gender-Equal Participation



- Affirmative actions
 - Local level more successful
 - National level struggling but some improvements
- ADB assisted
 - Building capacity of locally elected women and female judges
 - Women's quota/target in community-based organizations and national decision-making bodies (water board, ministries)
 - Gender-responsive and participatory local budgeting

Towards gender-responsive & inclusive CC&DRM legislation

- Step 1: Ask right questions – e.g. DRM
 - Preparation
 - Disaster preparedness
 - Response to disaster
 - Post-disaster reconstruction
 - Responsible agencies
 - Financing
- Step 2: Build alliances and partnerships

Thank you

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