

CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ELECTED WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES

To ensure effective policy making and mainstreaming gender sensitive disaster risk reduction and management into the development plans of the provinces

BACKGROUND

The Promoting Action for Disaster Risk Governance and Working to Achieve Preparedness for Risk Reduction through Technical Assistance in Nepal – PARIWARTAN project, funded by United States Agency for International Development / Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) is designed to build upon the Government of Nepal's effort in implementing the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Act passed in 2017 and amended in 2019.

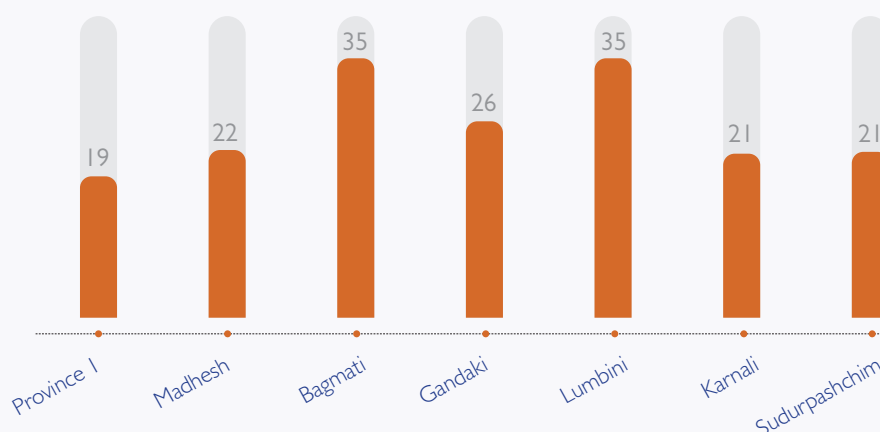
Under the component 2 - 'Provide technical assistance to provincial governments in implementing the DRRM Act with inclusive response towards DRRM', seven consultations were organized with the elected women representatives from the seven Provinces of Nepal. The consultative workshops were conducted under the leadership of the Deputy Speaker of the Provincial Assembly and focused on improving coordinated actions for inclusive DRRM.

The specific objectives of the consultations

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| i
To aware women representatives on gaps and challenges regarding DRRM and increase their knowledge on DRRM to mainstream DRRM into their Local DRRM Act. | ii
To discuss on localization of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 amongst women representatives and their roles and responsibilities in raising DRRM concerns inclusive of gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) perspective, to oversight and monitor government's plans, policies and strategies regarding DRRM. | iii
To provide a platform on discussing the DRRM issues such as land use planning policies, preparation of multi-hazard risk mapping, relocation of settlements in risk zone, analyzing people's need against government interventions. |
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A total 179 women representatives participated in the consultative workshops. The discussions centred around the need of increasing role of women leaders, establishing platform for discussion on adoption of gender-sensitive risk reduction practices in formulation and amendment of policies and programs, allocating budget for empowering women and increasing their coping capacity and organizing knowledge sharing and awareness building campaigns on DRRM in grassroot level ensuring gender inclusive participation.

DATA OF ELECTED WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES (PARTICIPANTS)



CONSULTATIONS

Province I - 4 December 2020

The consultation was chaired by the Honorable Deputy Speaker of the Provincial Parliament, Ms. Saraswati Pokhrel. Female members of Parliament and representatives from rural and urban municipalities attended the program. The event was led by Honorable Dr. Ganga Lal Tuladhar, Member, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council. He presented on DRRM issues from a gender perspective. The presentation was followed by an interactive session focusing on how gender-sensitive DRRM can be reflected at the local-level DRRM planning process by the elected women representatives.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Establish a platform for cooperation amongst local levels, the District Disaster Management Committee, and the Provincial Government for adoption of gender-sensitive risk reduction practices in formulation and amendment of policies and programs.
2. Increase budget to finance on developing knowledge and tools on DRRM.
3. Prioritize protection issues and gender-based measures in response activities.
4. Map and research on vulnerable settlement areas and formulate risk-sensitive land use policy.
5. Implement policies for mandatory safety audit of construction projects.
6. Map vulnerable communities and develop database on internally displaced population and climate migrants to develop evidence-based policies for relocation of vulnerable communities.
7. Develop gender-sensitive disaster risk management curriculum and make it accessible in all local levels and community groups.
8. Mainstream gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction approaches through cross-cutting agendas in all the phases of development planning.

Madhesh Province - 9 December 2020

The consultation was chaired by Honorable Deputy Speaker of the Provincial Assembly of Madhesh Province, Ms. Upama Kumari Dev. Honorable Dr. Ganga Lal Tuladhar, Member, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council presented on the DRRM context of Nepal with federal, provincial and local-level contexts. He suggested women leaders to play pivotal role in formulating gender responsive plans and policies, ensure a gender-responsive governance system and budget, advocate on developing indicators for gender equality and women empowerment and formulating child, disability and elderly friendly thematic plans and policies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Increase the capacity of local levels on disaster preparedness.
2. Adopt an inclusive planning approach while devising policies and programs.
3. Initiate bilateral dialogues with the Government of India to address issues related to the water resources.
4. Prepare multi-hazard maps for preparedness and plan for action.
5. Prioritize Chure Conservation in liaison with the Governments of Province I and Bagmati Province.
6. Prioritize preparedness and risk reduction over relief distribution.
7. Develop policies and programs for relocation of vulnerable communities.
8. Adopt technological practices and infrastructure building as part of flood control programs.

Bagmati Province - 8 October 2020

The program was chaired by Honorable Deputy Speaker of the Parliament Ms. Radhika Tamang and led by Honorable Dr. Ganga Lal Tuladhar, Member, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council. Sharing examples of how women and other vulnerable groups are differently impacted by disasters, Honorable Dr. Tuladhar highlighted the pivotal role of elected women representatives in making DRRM, particularly the impacts of disasters on women, a priority issue in the Province. Honorable Dr. Tuladhar stressed that collaboration among governmental agencies, development partners and other stakeholders are prerequisite for making DRRM sensitive to the needs of vulnerable groups. The presentation was followed by an interactive session where women leaders from the Provincial Assembly and urban and local municipalities discussed on gender-sensitive DRRM and provided recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Fund more research related to DRRM and consider their findings for policy and planning.
2. Develop reliable and coherent data and information sharing from local to district, province, and federal level.
3. Widen collaboration for integrated approaches to DRRM.
4. Adopt mechanisms to deter people from settling in risky areas and establish early-warning mechanisms.
5. Formulate legislations to criminalize actions against people engaged in haphazard dozer-led construction to conserve land and soil.
6. Advocate DRRM and protection of vulnerable groups as not only the women representatives' issues but as issues that affect all.
7. Raise awareness on the differential impact of disasters on vulnerable groups and ways to address it.
8. Include women in key decision-making processes such as district-level disaster meetings, and not regard them as someone elected in secondary roles.
9. Prioritize integrated settlement planning.
10. Introduce special rehabilitation programs for women and vulnerable groups affected by disasters.
11. Allocate budget for empowering women and increasing their coping capacity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Increase women leadership on DRRM at a local and provincial level.
2. Increase institutional capacity on DRRM to mainstream sustainable development.
3. Implement a geological survey and follow recommendations as per Environmental Impact Assessment.
4. Implement budget code.
5. Conduct awareness campaigns on gender-based differential impacts of disaster.
6. Increase participation of men and boys in women empowerment and social protection programs.
7. Build technical capacity of elected officials and government staff on DRRM.
8. Allocate budget to ensure the inclusion of a GESI lens in DRRM measures.

Lumbini Province - 25 November 2020

Honorable Deputy Speaker Ms. Krishnee Tharu of the Lumbini Provincial Assembly was the Chief Guest of event. Honorable Dr. Ganga Lal Tuladhar, Member, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council presented on disaster issues from a gender perspective. "Let us pledge that we will increase our effort through forming a group and amplifying our voices so that women can be part of decision making, benefit sharing and ownership", Honorable Dr. Tuladhar said. The women leaders had a lively discussion on how women's voices could be amplified to establish gender sensitive DRRM.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Conduct women's empowerment programs and involve women in decision-making along with male counterparts.
2. Revise the Judicial Committee to include women and socially excluded groups as its members.
3. Map risk areas and safe locations for settlement planning and building resilient societies.
4. Allocate budget for mainstreaming GESI in all developmental programs

Gandaki Province - 02 October 2020

The consultation was chaired by Honorable Deputy Speaker of the Parliament, Mrs. Srijana Sharma and led by Honorable Dr. Ganga Lal Tuladhar, Member, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council. He highlighted recent contexts, especially the Myagdi, Baglung and Kaski disasters, major learnings from the previous five-year plan implementation, long term plan (for a 25 years long plan), recent disaster scenario, DRRM through a gender-sensitive lens, partnership and major stakeholder on planning process. Female leaders discussed on gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) and DRRM and provided recommendations.

Karnali Province - 10 November 2020

The virtual consultation was chaired by Honorable Deputy Speaker of the Parliament, Ms. Puspa Gharti Bista. Ms. Lorena Lando, Chief of Mission, IOM welcomed all distinguished guests and participants in her opening remarks. She added that gender is not only the concern of women, and that there should be strong alliance between all members of the Provincial Assembly and officials to form a perspective based on dialogue with women of the Province and address the needs of the local population and reflect them in local policies. Honorable Dr. Ganga Lal Tuladhar, Member, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council presented on DRRM through a gender lens, followed by the women leaders discussing on the crucial role of women in planning processes, disaster risk mitigation response and plans and legislation in DRR.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Ensure meaningful representation of deputy mayors/vice-chairs, not just mayors/chairs should be invited in DRRM meetings.
2. Establish a loose forum of DRRM under the chair of Honorable Deputy Speaker in disseminating information regarding DRRM.
3. Collaborate with IOM in preparing comprehensive multi hazard maps and formulation of guidelines, plans on DRRM.
4. Build safe shelter house in ward-level to provide protection services inclusive of gender-based protection issues during events of disaster.
5. Implement sustainable urban and rural settlement planning to withstand the adverse effect of disasters.
6. Identify safe places/open spaces to be used for humanitarian purposes.

Sudurpashchim Province - 20 December 2020

Honorable Deputy Speaker Ms. Nirmala Badal Joshi of Sudurpashchim Provincial Assembly was the Chief Guest of event. With the consent from Honorable Deputy Speaker the floor was handed over to Honorable Dr. Gangalal Tuladhar for presentation. Honorable Dr. Tuladhar delved into the issues of differentiated impact of disasters on women, meaningful participation, women's access to decision making, and encourage building a strong legislative foundation for DRRM through gender lens. After the presentation, the floor was open for women representatives to share their experience in their respective local levels. They shared the situation in their respective areas and discussed on the way forward for gender sensitive DRRM.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Organize knowledge sharing and awareness building campaigns on DRRM in grassroot level ensuring gender inclusive participation.
2. Prepare local disaster-risk profile with participation of local people.
3. Prepare ward level action plan on preparedness, rescue, relief and recovery.
4. Establish disaster management fund in all local levels.
5. Prioritize on afforestation programs.
6. Mainstream gender and social inclusion approach through revision of all existing policies and programs.
7. Retrofit schools and government buildings as preparedness effort.

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