GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE DISASTER RESILIENCE

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Climate Change and Disasters in the Caribbean

- Among the most exposed to natural hazards in the world including hurricanes, flooding, sea level rise, drought, earthquakes, pandemics, etc.
- The total damages and losses of USD 2.7 billion in Dominica, British Virgin Islands, and Antigua and Barbuda (2017 Hurricanes Irma and Maria).
• Social Vulnerability – Public education on Hygiene, SGBV
• Economic Vulnerability – livelihoods and economies
• Capacity – test kits available, quarantine, border closures, medical personnel and equipment, economic flexibility, catastrophe funds, etc.

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases as at 20 July 2020. Source: CARICOM
Reduce loss of lives
Achievement of UN SDGs,
CEDAW, Sendai, and
CDEMA's targets

An innovative and powerful partnership for
cost-effective transformative change

Gender Blind Analysis
Insufficient resources and
capacity in GTDRR

Low Levels of Women's Engagement in
Decision Making
Does not prioritise gender equality &
women’s empowerment (GEWE)

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

Does not fulfill the promise of Sustainable Development

Reduction

GT DRR Initiative

Sufficient
investment of
resources and
capacities

High levels of
women’s leadership
& gender responsive
leaders

People-centred
i.e. highlights
GEWE

Gender analysis
ensures that
gender dimensions
of risk are understood

DRR as Usual vs Gender-Transformative DRR
Gender-Transformative DRR

Gender Inequality informs vulnerability and capacity
Discrimination, powerlessness, exclusion, illiteracy, limited opportunities to access assets and resources, abuse and violence

Disaster loss
Mortality, morbidity, loss of livelihood, etc.

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

Extensive and intensive risk
Exposure of women, men, boys and girls

Everyday risks
Food insecurity, SGBV, disease, informal sector, lack of sanitation and clean water
Gender Inequalities in Disasters

UN Women in Dominica during the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in 2017

1. Biological and physiological perceptions
   - Women are weak and need assistance to respond and recover
   - Men are physically strong and require less assistance

2. Social and cultural norms
   - Women are caregivers and may have challenges returning to work
   - Men head households and can return to work easier

3. Structural Inequalities
   - Less women are in leadership positions, and/or trained as first responders
   - More men are in leadership and first responder positions
What is the biggest challenge you face in adopting a gender-responsive approach?

- Framing of Adaptation and/or Gender Issues: 5
- Lack of Information/Data Analysis: 9
- Access to guidance and/or gender expertise: 11
- Policy or institutional barriers: 15
- Competing priorities: 20
Health and Reproductive health
Prevention of Violence and Protection
Targeting Relief Distribution
Nutrition and Household Food Security
Income Generation and Skills Training
Disaggregated Data, Information and Advocacy Material
Women in leadership
Gender-Transformative Budgeting for Disaster Resilience
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Gender-Transformative DRR Hurricane Preparedness during COVID-19

• **Resilience in the Home**
  - Family Disaster Plans
  - Care Economy Considerations
  - Psychosocial support

• **Resilience in Communities**
  - Protection spaces (childcare and SGBV)
  - Re-skilling programmes

• **Resilience as a Nation**
  - Women in leadership and Gender Responsive leaders
  - Sex disaggregated data
  - Gender Responsive Budgeting
  - Gender Responsive Social Protection policies

• **Resilience as a Region**
  - South-South engagement
  - Sharing of lessons learnt
UN Women MCO Caribbean COVID-19 Response

• USD249,000 repurposed under the EnGenDER Project
• USD25,000 on engaging women and men who needed livelihood support to produce 6500 cloth masks in 13 countries
• 20 NGO’s will be given Small Grants under the EU funded Spotlight Initiative
• 4 women farmer Associations in Dominica increased access to markets through UNW support and Agrivertise platform.
• UN Regional Sub-Team COVID-19 Multi-sectoral Response Plan and Funding Appeal
• Comprehensive Technical Support Policy Briefs – Economic Empowerment, DV Shelter Guidelines, Care Economy, etc.
Thank you