

Gender-Responsive Disaster Response



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Background



- On September 6, 2017, Hurricane made landfall in Barbuda as a Category 5 storm with winds in excess of 290km/h (180 mph) and intense rainfall.
- The island of Barbuda was evacuated and the affected population was brought to Antigua and placed into shelters.



DoGA's Response- Provision and Distribution of Dignity Kits



- ✓ Over a 1000 Dignity Kits provided through UN Women and UNFPA were distributed to women, men, boys and girls within all shelters in Antigua and Barbuda and also those who were in private homes.
- ✓ The dignity kits included items such as sanitary napkins, underwear, deodorant, tooth brush, toothpaste, comb, condoms, soap, lotion, shampoo, conditioner, rag, elderly pampers and toilet paper.
- ✓ Dignity Kits were shipped to Dominica and distributed.



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DoGA's Response- Shelter Assessments



- The Directorate of Gender Affairs in collaboration with UN Women, UNICEF, UNFPA and IOM conducted assessments of the shelters for Barbudans and provided recommendations for improved well-being and security.
- The shelter assessments followed the Guidelines for Integrating Gender-based Violence Prevention in Humanitarian Action.
- The Directorate of Gender Affairs led the development of shelter guidelines for the prevention of gender-based violence within Shelters in Antigua and Barbuda.

DoGA's Response- Shelter Training



- The Directorate of Gender Affairs in collaboration with UNFPA facilitated a Shelter Management Training on the Guidelines to Integrate Gender-based Violence prevention in shelter settings.
- The shelter training was facilitated by both DoGA and UNFPA. There were 20 beneficiaries from the training which included shelter managers from Barbuda also.
- The Shelter managers training framework and outline will be used as part of the standard training provided by NODS for upcoming trainings with shelter managers.

DoGA's Response- Health Sector Training



- The Directorate of Gender Affairs led a training exercise with healthcare providers at the Mount St John Medical Centre. The training was facilitated with support and technical assistance from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).



DoGA's Response-Shelter Child Friendly Space

- A child friendly space in the shelter
- The space was painted by Barbudan children and student artists with supervision from an Artist.
- The child friendly space provides a therapeutic space for children within the shelter.



DoGA's Response- Strengthening Coordination and Psychosocial Support



- Strengthening response within the Ministry of Social Transformation and Human Resource Development through inter-ministerial and interagency coordination.
- Coordination between social, health and legal sectors and international agencies to conduct a mapping of the social services that were available to respond to the needs of the Barbudans and the population.
- A gap that was identified was the need for psychosocial support which was provided through the CERF by UN Women.

DoGA's Response- Life-Saving Information Development Distribution



- Over 5000 bumper stickers and informational brochures on police services, medical services, the referral pathway, counselling services and information on GBV in emergencies are being printed and distributed.



EMERGENCIES AFFECT THE LIVES OF WOMEN AND GIRLS THE MOST. LET US UNITE TO PROTECT THEM FROM GBV!

FOR ASSISTANCE CALL OUR 24 HOUR CONFIDENTIAL HOTLINE:

 **463.5555**

DoGA's Response- Life-Saving Information Development Distribution



- Information brochures were distributed within the shelters, to all service providers and NGO's, community and civil society groups.

**WE CANNOT CONTROL HURRICANES BUT WE CAN
CONTROL AND REDUCE SEXUAL VIOLENCE.**

FOR ASSISTANCE CALL OUR 24 HOUR CONFIDENTIAL HOTLINE:

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DoGA's Response- GBV Services



- Antigua & Barbuda has a One-Stop Location for services for Gender-based and Sexual Violence.
- The Support and Referral Centre provides specialized services such as intake and case management, medical, psychosocial, legal and child services, along with shower facilities all from one location.



DoGA's Response- Referral Pathway and Case Management Services



- A referral pathway was developed.
- There are currently 5 entry points for reporting gender-based violence in Antigua and Barbuda.
- The referral pathway outlines the steps from the health sector, police, NGO, family and Social Services, Directorate of Gender Affairs and 911 Emergency Services for each form of GBV.

South-South Collaboration- DoGA's Support to Dominica



- The Directorate of Gender Affairs Antigua Barbuda joined UN Women Multi-Country Office Caribbean on a mission to Dominica to assist the Dominica Bureau of Gender Affairs with a post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA) in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.



DoGA's Ongoing Recovery Work



- Continue to share information and procedures with the Bureau of Gender Affairs, Dominica on prevention and response strategies to address GBV.
- Implementation of a GBV Public Awareness and Education Campaign for the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Loan for Barbuda and all other recovery projects, efforts and interventions.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt in Responding to GBViE



- Lack of capacity and dedicated resources and collaborations.
- Socio-cultural norms around gender inequality and GBV and lack of understanding on the importance of gender integration and mainstreaming.
- Lack of national mechanism to include the participation of women and girls.
- Lack of disaggregated data to inform appropriate programme responses and lack of prevalence data on GBV.
- Lack of baseline information for PDNA.
- Lack of Gender considerations in the Early Warning Systems and Procedures.
- Lack of recognition of GBV as a public health issue

DRR Plans to Address GBV



- Adopt and implement institutional policies and standards to strengthen gender equality.
- Needs assessments, analyses, and the planning processes need to support effective and accountable integration of GBV prevention and response and gender equality into humanitarian response efforts.
- Funding for GBV prevention and response for each phase of an emergency, from preparedness and crisis onset through recovery to development.

DRR Plans to Address GBV



- Ongoing Monitoring and Evaluation on the Quality of GBV response services across sectors.
- Promote a referral pathway and referral mechanisms between agencies.
- Those managing and leading humanitarian operations must apply the knowledge and skills needed to foster gender equality and reduce and mitigate GBV risk throughout the response.

Lessons Learnt: Towards a Strengthened & Coordinated Response



- Recognize that risk and vulnerability have a fundamental social dimension and this should guide all work related to Disaster Risk Reduction Planning.
- Inclusive stakeholder consultations.
- Promote the collection, analysis and use of sex-disaggregated data and make linkages with to the different experiences of men and women including persons with disabilities, elderly and youth.
- Strengthen the capacity of disaster management staff and policy makers to address gender equality through ongoing training.

Lessons Learnt: Towards a Strengthened & Coordinated Response



- Document the different roles that women and men play in the various sectors such as tourism, agriculture, fisheries, construction etc. to assist with rapid assessment and post disaster response assessment.
- It is essential for governments and humanitarian organisation to understand the risks of GBV in disasters and develop code of conduct and policies for prevention & response.
- Ensure effective law enforcement mechanisms are in place and enforced.

Parliamentary Role- Towards gender-responsive planning



- Include gender equality among the national Guiding Principles of Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Include women and men and other vulnerable groups in decision-making processes and in implementation and monitoring and evaluation.
- Make a commitment to reduce the gender gap between women and men nationally.

Parliamentary Role- Towards gender-responsive planning



- Involve women in the Disaster Risk Management committees and in related training to increase their access to early warning messages and ensure women and men access early warning systems equally.
- Increase women's participation in all levels nationally and create spaces for vulnerable groups to have a voice in national development.

Parliamentary Role- Towards gender-responsive planning



- Promote and resource the use of Gender Focal Points to promote gender mainstreaming and strengthen national gender machineries.
- Equip national actors to monitor the plan, by including gender-sensitive indicators, to track how different interventions impact the lives of different socio-economic groups.
- Promote the use of gender budgeting across all line ministries.
- Encourage the development of case studies to document who benefits from the proposed activities and identify some good practices and lessons learnt for future actions.

Parliamentary Role- Towards gender-responsive planning



- Promote the use of National Information Systems to track GBV.
- Call for the inclusion of gender-based violence in all crime prevention programmes and Strategies and ongoing training of law enforcement.
- Develop and enforce the use of national protocols and procedures to address GBV.
- Promote and budget for GBV as a public health issue and promote a multi-sectoral approach. Consider adopting the one-stop approach model used in Antigua and Barbuda.

Parliamentary Role- Towards gender-responsive planning



- Create an enabling environment for gender- responsive DRR planning and implementation.
- Promote a rights-based approach as the overall guiding approach to mainstreaming gender perspectives in DRR.
- Make linkages between climate and disaster issues, violence issue, poverty reduction, economic issues and promote national development plans and strategies that promotes integration, gender and sustainable development as cross-cutting issues.
- Commit to a National Capacity Building and Strategic Action Plans to Prevent and Address GBV.