

Pre-Zero Draft of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction

Comments from TWG-GEEW Secretariat

I. General Comments

This is a good draft which outlines a concrete framework for disaster risk reduction, from the national to the global levels.

Although there are references to the gender dimensions of disaster risk reduction, further efforts could be made to ensure mainstreaming of gender throughout the entire framework. Some examples are outlined below (please see the insertions in blue text).

II. Specific Comments

A. Preamble

It is worth mentioning that even though we have made great strides in our understanding of disaster risk and we have witnessed reduced mortality risk, our understanding of the interplay between disasters and gender is still lagging, largely due to lack of sex and age disaggregated data as well as the lack of gender analysis in disaster risk assessments.

Paragraph 3 - This paragraph should also highlight the gender-based vulnerabilities including the fact that women and children are significantly more likely than men to die during a disaster.

B. Purpose, Scope, Outcome and Goals

Paragraph 10:

- a. *Reduce disaster mortality* – should include disaggregation by sex and age. The rationale is that even though mortality risk has reduced, women and children continue to make up the bulk of the dead and injured in disasters
- b. *Reduce number of affected people*- this should similarly be disaggregated by sex and age.

C. Guiding Principles

Paragraph 12 (g) could be rephrased as follows – “Building on and leveraging the potentials, as well as taking into account the needs, of all groups of society, especially the poor and vulnerable, **and recognizing the differential gender impacts of disasters**, are a requisite for effective disaster risk management policies and practices”.

D. Priorities for Action

Paragraph 14 could be rephrased as follows – “National and local policies and practices for disaster risk management should be based on a clear understanding of risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, **including gender considerations**, and exposure of persons and assets and hazards characteristics, particularly at the local level”.

Paragraph 15 (a) could be rephrased as follows – “Adoption and implementation of specific national and local plans, with clear targets, indicators and timeframes, aimed at preventing the creation of risk, the reduction of existing risk, and the strengthening of economic resilience. **Ensure inclusion of gender-specific indicators to monitor and track progress on gender-related aspects of disaster risk reduction**”.

Paragraph 15 (d) could be rephrased as follows – “Develop specific mechanisms to engage the active participation and ownership of relevant stakeholders, including communities **and specifically women**, in disaster risk management, in particular building on the recognition that persons, communities and countries need to protect their assets and development gains, as well as leveraging the spirit of volunteerism”.

Paragraph 16 - Rather than just mentioning the role of social groups in preparing and reviewing disaster preparedness plans and strategies, the zero draft should include a statement that “post disaster recovery and reconstruction policies and implementation should be based on an understanding of the different needs, vulnerabilities, interests, capacities and coping strategies of different genders, age groups and disability, during and after disasters”.

Paragraph 17 (a) could be rephrased as follows – “Strengthen the implementation of social safety-net mechanisms to assist the poor and vulnerable groups paying specific attention to exposure to disaster risks based on age, sex, disability and other vulnerabilities”.

Paragraph 23 could be rephrased as follows – “Women should be recognized as critical to increase and add the availability of capacity to manage disaster risk, and to design, resource and implement gender-responsive disaster risk management, **through effective use of their traditional knowledge and perceptions in the analysis and evaluation of disaster risks, coping strategies and solutions**”.