

Gender in Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation in the Pacific

TOT: Gender, DRM and
Climate Change
Suva-Fiji, 21-22 January
2010



Gender in Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation in the Pacific

- Why is Gender an important consideration in the context of Disaster Risk Management and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Pacific?
- Women and DRM: understanding strengths and capacities
- Ways forward: Gaps, needs and opportunities for Gender integration in DRM/ACC

Why is Gender important in DRM/ACC in the Pacific ?

- women, men, girls and boys vary in exposure to hazards and ability to respond
- men and women are differently affected by hazards and disasters
- men and women have different skills and knowledge stemming from gendered divisions of labour present in non disaster periods (e.g. management of natural resources)



- Climate Change increases conflicts over resources
- Women have fewer assets and less opportunities for addressing the problems (e.g. income, education and training)
- Limited attention for women's livelihood adaptation strategies and their priorities; for women as key agents
- ► *we need to understand how disasters and climate change will impact on available natural resources and the different roles that women and men play in managing natural resources*

Women, DRM and Climate Change: Understanding strength and capacities

- family roles making them important risk communicators and educators
- managing environmental resources
- extensive care giving networks
- leadership roles in local community networks
- survival and coping skills in emergencies (e.g. food preservation)
- local knowledge of community (living conditions, needs of most in need of assistance)



- variety of traditional practices: food preservation, housing construction, traditional systems of exchange can assist in reducing risk
- specialised knowledge held by men and women can help in developing strategies for adapting to climate change and reducing risk



Gaps, needs and Opportunities for integration of Gender

- more research on how disaster and CC impact social structures and gender
- translating complex climate forecasts for communities in meaningful ways



- culturally appropriate gender trainings to combat misconceptions about gender
- more collaboration of agencies and practitioners
- mainstreaming gender (institutional, sectoral)
- women need to be decision makers at all level



“Without the input of women, risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategies will not be designed for the entire community. Disaster Risk Reduction projects, policies and programmes will be meaningful and successful only if the interests of the whole community are taken into consideration”.

Thank You!
Vinaka Vakalevu!

s.zoll@sopac.org
www.sopac.org