



### About the UNCRD Disaster Management Planning Hyogo Office

The United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) was founded in 1971 in Nagoya, under an agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Japan. UNCRD has been striving to achieve the following objectives:

- Serve as a training and research centre
- Provide advisory services
- Promote global knowledge-sharing
- Encourage international cooperation among nations, regions, and organizations

In 1999, the UNCRD Disaster Management Planning Hyogo Office was established in Kobe, where the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake had claimed the lives of more than 6,000 people in 1995. The Hyogo Office focuses on various disaster management initiatives through multi-lateral collaboration at an international level while utilizing the momentum created during the UNIDNDR 1990-99 (United Nations International Decade for Nature Disaster Reduction). It promotes effective disaster mitigation, focusing on key elements of self-help, cooperation, and education through activities such as:

- (a) research projects;
- (b) training and capacity-building;
- (c) a series of international workshops; and
- (d) advisory services.

United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

"Gender Perspectives in Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM)"



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## Gender Perspectives in Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM)

- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA)  
- United Nations Centre for Regional Development  
Disaster Management Planning Hyogo Office  
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**Gender Perspectives in Community  
Based Disaster Management (CBDM)**

August 2008

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA)  
United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)  
Disaster Management Planning Hyogo Office

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Forward</b>		
Kazunobu Onogawa, Director, United Nations Centre for Regional Development		
<b>I.</b>	<b>United Nations Gender Mainstreaming Strategy: Achievements and Challenges</b>	
Carolyn Hannan, Director, Division for the Advancement of Women		
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs		
		1
<b>II.</b>	<b>UNCRD and Community Based Disaster Management</b>	7
<b>III.</b>	<b>Gender in Community Based Disaster Management</b>	11
	- Introduction	16
	- Bangladesh	19
	- Nepal	21
	- Sri Lanka	24
	- Turkey	27
	<b>Acknowledgement</b>	32

## FOREWORD

The United Nations Centre for Regional Development has been committed to the research and dissemination of various issues that form the fundamental basis of sustainable development. Over the past thirty-seven years, we have worked towards illuminating the often not so clear, yet intrinsic, linkage between these issues and development such as human security, environment, and disaster management.

Over the years, most of these issues have been discussed and developed to a new level of interest, not only for academic purposes, but for practical implementation in the field of development. Gender is one such topic that has developed from being an obscure and sometimes misinterpreted issue to a mainstream social issue that not only empowers women but also unites both men and women towards understanding and cooperation.

It is also perhaps not by coincidence that shortly after UNCRD was established in 1971, the UN declared the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985), the first year in which an agency dedicated to women was established, later to become the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). Through such initiatives, the UN system has continued to promote the understanding and dissemination of gender issues.

It has, however, become increasingly clear that gender is a cross-cutting issue that not only affects or arises from social issues, but one that can be affected by or arise from issues such as the economy, environment, and disasters. Certain dramatic events such as conflicts and disasters have played a role in illuminating these linkages, but they are viewed as being poor examples; we were able to affirm that gender considerations is not an issue that can be implemented in an emergency setting. That is, gender considerations must be thoroughly investigated and implemented before emergencies strike as it is a long-term issue.

When disasters strike, communities become the immediate victims, but they are also the first responders. Without proper understanding and a means for resolving conflict and emergency issues, a community will not be able to function effectively. Furthermore, lives may be lost needlessly and suffering may be prolonged.

The study of gender, like the term itself, does not only focus on women but also on the awareness and capacity of men to understand the needs and capacity of women. Each gender group has strengths and weaknesses, social networks, and knowledge that can be applied towards the effective prevention, management, and mitigation of disasters.

This publication brings together the findings from the "Gender in Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM)" project, which is funded by the Hyogo Prefectural Government in Japan. Hyogo Prefecture is where the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake took place in 1995, and it is also where the UN World Disaster Management Conference was convened, leading to the *Hyogo Declaration* and the adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action. The UNCRD Disaster Management Planning Hyogo Office, with its experiences and extensive knowledge of good practices, has brought together papers and input from specialists around the world to examine in detail the intrinsic linkage between gender issues and disaster management.

We hope that this publication will serve as a first step for government officials, researchers, and the general public to examine these issues and spread good practices, so that we may be able to create communities that are sustainable and well prepared for disasters.

Kazunobu Onogawa  
Director, UNCRD





Women and men work together to disseminate CBDM findings through “street drama” in Matara, Sri Lanka

## I. United Nations Gender Mainstreaming Strategy: Achievements and Challenges

Carolyn Hannan

Director, Division for the Advancement of Women

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

### Gender Mainstreaming:

“... is a strategy for making women’s as well as men’s concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality.”

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Agreed Conclusions 1997/2

## Background

The UN Gender Mainstreaming Strategy was established as a global strategy for promoting gender equality because previous strategies had not been successful. Lessons learnt from the implementation of special projects for women in the 1970s and 1980s illustrated that, while such activities are essential for women's empowerment, by themselves they could not bring about the required changes for equality between women and men. Activities focused exclusively on women tended to be marginalized and did not always increase women's access to critical resources and decision-making processes. The integration strategy of the 1980s attempted to address these failings by incorporating women's perspectives into project design and implementation. However women's perspectives were usually perceived as additional components or 'add-ons' and were incorporated too late in the planning processes to have any real impact on the outcome. Attention to women was given only after major decisions for policies, strategies and resource allocation had already been made.

Awareness of these fundamental constraints led to the development of the gender mainstreaming strategy in the early 1990s. At this time, there was a shift from attempting to 'integrate' women into the existing development agenda to changing or transforming the agenda, so that it adequately responded to the priorities, needs and contributions of both women and men. The term 'gender mainstreaming' came from the objective to bring gender perspectives to the centre of attention and policy and programme development. The strategy was endorsed by Member States of the United Nations in the *Beijing Platform for Action* in 1995. Further principles and guidelines were developed in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Agreed Conclusions 1997/2.

The Strategy is defined by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as "...the process of

*assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality."*

As one of the critical principles established by the Agreed Conclusions, the responsibility for implementing the strategy for gender mainstreaming lies at the highest levels within each organization and adequate accountability mechanisms for monitoring the progress of implementation need to be established. It was also emphasized that the initial definitions of issues across all areas of activities should be made in a manner that allowed for the identification of gender differences and inequalities. Assumptions should never be made that the defined issues and problems are neutral from gender equality perspectives.

ECOSOC's Agreed Conclusions called for clear political will and allocation of adequate resources for mainstreaming gender issues, including, if necessary, additional financial and human resources. Gender analysis should always be carried out separately or as part of existing analyses. However, it was also emphasized that mainstreaming does not replace the need for targeted, women-specific policies and programmes and positive legislation or the need for gender units or focal points within each organizational structure.

## Achievements of the United Nations

Gender mainstreaming is utilized to promote gender equality as an integral part of all substantive work of the United Nations. This



entails bringing gender perspectives to the centre of attention in all areas – social, economic, political - and in all types of activities, such as data collection and research, analysis, legislation, policy development, development of projects and programmes, as well as in training and other institutional development activities. The United Nations uses the dual strategy called for in the Platform for Action – gender mainstreaming complemented with activities specifically targeted at women and gender equality.

Mainstreaming can require changes in goals, strategies and activities to ensure that both women and men can influence, participate in and benefit from development processes. It can require changes in organizations – in structures, procedures and organizational cultures – to create organizational environments that are conducive to the promotion of gender equality. Development of the awareness, knowledge, commitment and capacity of all staff, promoted and facilitated by strong management commitment, is essential.

There have been many achievements since consistent efforts to implement gender mainstreaming began in the United Nations in the mid 1990s but large gaps in implementation remain. Assessment of progress in implementation within the United Nations requires a focus on both the inter-governmental level where global policy is made and monitored and also on the efforts of individual entities within the United Nations systems.

Considerable work has been done within United Nations entities on internal institutional development, such as capacity building including training, methodology development, and development of monitoring mechanisms. Progress has also been made in developing tools for gender mainstreaming, including guidelines, manuals, and checklists. There are manuals or guidelines for

almost every area of work covered by the United Nations system today.

Innovative work has also been carried out on monitoring and evaluation. ILO, for example, has carried out a number of audits that included a focus on gender mainstreaming and UNDP carried out an ambitious comprehensive evaluation of all gender mainstreaming efforts which provided important lessons. A three-phase process is currently underway in UNICEF which includes a self-assessment of UNICEF's Gender Policy Implementation in five country offices and one regional office; a global evaluation of gender policy implementation; and a consultative strategic planning process based on the evaluation results and the priorities for change that will be identified.

### **Remaining gaps and challenges**



Despite the knowledge gained and the efforts made, gender perspectives are still not seen as an integral routine part of policies and programmes in all areas in the United Nations. Gender perspectives are not as central to analyses, budget allocations and planning processes as they should be; gender analysis carried out is not consistently utilized in a systematic and effective manner; and the results of specific studies on gender equality issues do not always have the full intended impact on policies and programmes.

The work on gender mainstreaming in the United





Nations over the past decade has highlighted many gaps and challenges that need to be addressed. Some of the critical challenges faced include: creating a better understanding among all professional staff of the strategy and the direct implications for their work; strengthening management commitment to ensure that senior/top-level support is explicit and highly visible; linking gender equality policies to the broader goals of each organization; using gender analysis more consistently and systematically; developing more effective approaches in competency development which lead to concrete changes in attitudes and practices; facilitating more strategic roles and increased resources for gender specialists; and developing effective accountability mechanisms.

The following section elaborates further on some of the ways to address these gaps and challenges identified in the United Nations' efforts on gender mainstreaming.

#### Gender equality policies

A number of important lessons have been learnt from past experiences in developing policies on gender equality for facilitating effective gender mainstreaming. Gender equality policies and action plans can develop “separate lives” and become marginalized within organizations, with no clear relation to other important goals, policies and strategies. It is therefore important that the goal of gender equality is clearly placed in the context of the overall goals of the organization, outlining the linkages between gender perspectives and the work of the organization and highlighting the implications for policy and programme development. Priorities need to be established and the approach and methodology to be utilized in promoting gender equality as an integral part of the work of that the organization explicitly outlined. The roles, responsibilities and accountability of management and other key categories of staff should be clearly described, as well as the institutional arrangements,

including gender specialist resources and capacity building approaches. A concise “roadmap” for gender equality should be further elaborated in an action plan which outlines clear measurable goals for all areas of activity with targets and timeframes, impact indicators for monitoring and evaluation, and resource requirements and potential sources of funding.

An important element for the successful integration of a gender equality policy and action plan within an organization is the endorsement process by senior management. Equally critical is the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation process, which actively involves senior management. Some organizations have effectively utilized high-level gender equality taskforces or advisory groups for monitoring implementation of gender equality policies and action plans and accountability across organizations.

#### Gender analysis

Gender analysis is concerned with more than just the cataloguing of differences between women and men. It also involves identifying and documenting inequalities between women and men and requires attention to the relationship between women and men and how these are likely to impact, or is affected by the planned interventions. Gender analysis does not always have to be carried out through a separate analysis process. Gender equality perspectives should be an integrated part of all existing analyses carried out as part of identification, preparation, implementation and monitoring of interventions, such as policy analyses, sector analyses and analyses carried out as the basis for development of country strategies or for assessment of implementation of Poverty Reduction Strategies and MDGs.

One of the most critical constraints in implementation of gender mainstreaming is the fact that gender perspectives are not included as an integral part of the initial analyses of issues



and problems. If gender perspectives are not dealt with explicitly and adequately in initial stages of analysis and planning, subsequent attempts to incorporate them can lead to resistance and to artificial “add-ons”.

Some organizations continue to base their work on the assumption that certain policy areas, for example, macroeconomics and technical issues, are in principle “gender-neutral” and as a result, gender analysis is not carried out.

Even where gender analysis is carried out, it is not always utilized effectively. Significant gender analysis in different sectors and issues, for example through specific research and development of tools and resources, is not disseminated and utilized systematically. This can, for example, be seen in the work on Common Country Assessments (CCA) and UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF) and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP). While the level of analysis has improved significantly in recent years, the results are still not adequately reflected in the implementation plans. One of the reasons is the limited understanding of the important linkages between gender perspectives and the defined goals and targets of different sector areas. Gender perspectives are not seen as essential for achieving the goals of all policy areas.

#### Competency development

Development of competency on gender mainstreaming within organizations – i.e. awareness, knowledge, commitment and capacity - is essential for the successful implementation of the strategy. Training programmes should be more action-oriented, going beyond tailored training for specific sectors. Capacity-building must be focused on what participants do on a day-to-day basis and assist them to understand how they need to work differently to give adequate attention to gender



perspectives. Experience has also shown that competency development will only be successful if followed-up adequately.

Innovative approaches should be developed and utilized in addition to more traditional training programmes. Guidelines, tools and action plans or strategies for gender mainstreaming can be developed with active involvement of participants in a more hands-on approach to capacity-building.

#### Management commitment and accountability

There is increasing evidence that explicit and sustained senior management commitment can provide powerful impetus to gender mainstreaming. Where senior managers are prepared to state clearly that gender equality is a priority for organizations, real progress can be made. On the other hand, in organizations where overall gender equality policies are prepared without explicit managerial support apart from an official endorsement – i.e. where there is no development of an action plan; no clear message to staff on the importance of the policy; no capacity development linked to the policy; no specific allocation of resources; and no follow-up processes established – there is little real progress.

The challenge is to find ways of holding all categories and levels of staff accountable for achieving the goal of gender equality through effectively implementing the gender



mainstreaming strategy. Accountability mechanisms including specific reporting requirements, and requirements for development of necessary competencies - including attention to how these competencies can be acquired, need to be developed within organizations. Specific monitoring and reporting processes need to be established and indicators of achievement, identified.

### **Conclusion**

It must be recognized that gender mainstreaming is not an end in itself, but a means to achieve the goal of gender equality. Like any other strategy, it is only as good as its implementation. Nowhere in the United Nations has gender mainstreaming been fully implemented. No entity has committed the management leadership and human and financial resources needed for systematic and effective implementation.

Some important lessons have, however, been learnt within the United Nations. While there are now many good policies and strategies in place, there remains a huge gap between policy and practices which must be addressed through the development of concrete action plans, with clear time frames and adequate resource allocations. The good practice examples that have been identified can be replicated in different contexts, both within and outside the United Nations.

Gender mainstreaming requires an active approach - it will not happen by itself. There must be a clear objective to mainstream attention to gender equality into all interventions and systematic and sustained efforts to achieve this. The gender mainstreaming strategy requires that the attention to gender equality is explicit – the attention to gender equality issues must be highly visible and the critical links to important policies and processes made clear.

One further major failing which needs to be urgently addressed is the lack of measurement methodologies to assess the resources allocated to gender equality and empowerment of women through the gender mainstreaming strategy and the impacts of these investments. The Interagency Network on Women and Gender Equality recently established a taskforce to look further into this important issue. The need for improved methodologies, accountability and transparency in measuring the allocation and impact of resources through the gender mainstreaming strategy was also raised in the outcome of the 52nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Despite the many failings in implementation, gender mainstreaming remains a critical strategy in this new Millennium. Building on the many gains made and addressing the remaining challenges will require a significantly increased investment by all entities to ensure enhanced understanding of the strategy and the means to strengthen implementation. Above all, increased explicit commitment and follow-up by senior level managers will be critical for success.

(Text adapted from the presentation at the *International Symposium on A new Global Trend on Gender Mainstreaming and Its Implications for Women Policies in Korea*, Organized by the Korean Women's Development Institute (KWDI), Seoul, Republic of Korea, 24 April 2008)

Full report can be downloaded from:

[http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/news/speech\\_2008/2008%20Korea%20Gender%20mainstreaming%2019%20April.pdf](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/news/speech_2008/2008%20Korea%20Gender%20mainstreaming%2019%20April.pdf)





Analysis of Town Watching Map and Community Capacity and Vulnerability in Nepal

## II . UNCRD and Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM)

Priorities for action 2005-2015 (A. General Considerations)

“A gender perspective should be integrated into all disaster risk management policies, plans and decision-making processes, including those related to risk assessment, early warning, information management, and education and training”

Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015

# UNCRD and Community Based Disaster Management



## **United Nations Centre for Regional Development**

The United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) was founded in 1971 as an instrument to help implement the strategies for the Second United Nations Development Decade. The UNCRD Disaster Management Planning Hyogo Office (Hyogo Office) was established in 1999 in Kobe to reflect the experiences from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 1995. The Hyogo Office undertakes research and information dissemination activities to implement the "Hyogo Framework for Action", adopted at the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) in 2005.

## **1999-2001 Disaster-Safe City Planning Rooted Culture and Climate**

*Target countries:* Turkey and India

During the first year of the initial three-year project period, which marked the beginning of community based disaster management research activities at the Hyogo Office, the root causes of community vulnerability such as culture and climate were studied and analyzed to understand the issues at hand for further activities. The main objective of the first project-year was to study the

fire safety of the structure and environment of traditional Japanese wooden houses because the history of devastating earthquakes in Japan pointed to the need of fire safety. Ancient houses in Kyoto and Shirakawa-go, along with old water supply systems were studied carefully. The decision of increasing fire fighting capability instead of removing wooden districts in San Francisco after the 1905 earthquake was also studied.

The aim of the second year was to focus on urban community vulnerabilities and to provide affordable means to reduce them.

To this end, the Global Earthquake Safety Initiative (GESI) was launched to promote actions to mitigate risks by measuring trends, evaluating the effectiveness of mitigation efforts and comparing results with other similar cities. GESI was implemented in 21 cities around the world in cooperation with the NGO GeoHazards International (GHI). The study showed that city planners were capable of reducing risks if they adequately identify the types of risks that their city faces. Information about risks would help city leaders set priorities while information about other cities provided benchmarks for understanding risks and for identifying acceptable risk thresholds.

During the final year of the project, focus was placed on the vulnerabilities of rural communities after earthquakes. The main objectives were to provide affordable means to reduce vulnerabilities for future disasters and to build safer and sustainable communities.

## **2002-2004 Sustainability in Community Based Disaster Management**

*Target countries:* Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, and Viet Nam.



There are many Community-Based Disaster Management (CBDM) initiatives in different parts of the world and many of them produce very tangible results. However, many of the projects are run on external funding, and often the end of funding means the end of the initiative. So long as the communities are not the owners of the projects, the projects cannot be carried out in a sustainable way.

To this end, useful lessons from different organizations in different socioeconomic circumstances are very important. To effectively apply these lessons, there is a need for a framework of sustainability. A strategic framework for the sustainability of CBDM should be established, and the best practices should be widely disseminated among various stakeholders through training programmes.

Drawing on such a background, the following activities were conducted during the second three year project period:

In the first year, field surveys, documentation of best practices, and preparation of the overall framework for the sustainability of community based disaster management were conducted. Six case studies were conducted for three types of hazards: Bangladesh and Cambodia for floods, India and the Philippines for Cyclones, and Nepal and Indonesia for Earthquakes.

Based on the findings of the first year, the second year was dedicated to developing a set of guidelines and tools (one user-specific set of guidelines and five user-specific tools for policymakers, central government disaster managers, local government disaster managers, trainers, and community-based organizers). These guidelines and tools were then tested in three countries: Bangladesh, the Philippines and Viet Nam.

In the final year, a handbook entitled “Sustainable Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM) Practices in Asia” was published to incorporate the experiences and findings of the case studies and field testing over the last two years.

### **2005-2006 Urbanisation and Community Based Disaster Management**

*Target countries:* Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand

A number of case studies illustrate that community disaster management is feasible in rural settings. However, it should be noted that more people tend to live in urban settings than in rural settings, and the growth of urban population in Asian, where a majority of the world’s disasters and damages occur, has been especially dramatic. Various disasters take place in urbanising areas and neighbourhoods, affecting millions of people each year through the loss of life, serious injury, and loss of assets and livelihoods.

A three-stage activity plan was thus implemented, proceeding from field research to the execution of participatory workshops and the final development of a comprehensive framework for community based disaster management. The participatory workshops were convened in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. Active participation was achieved both in the planning and executing process of the workshops, with



Community Workshop in  
Mt. Lavinia, Sri Lanka





Community Workshop in Dhaka, Bangladesh

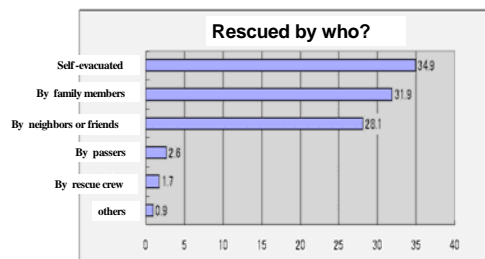
grassroots members from community leaders to residents to project managers and municipal mayors, as well as representatives from NGO's and UN agencies sharing ideas and planning post-workshop strategies.

Drawing from the results of these studies, certain prevailing issues were highlighted for further investigation and action, reflecting the need to focus on the socially vulnerable to implement sustainable community based disaster management. These were: The need to mainstream gender perspectives including, for example, women's reproductive health, which fall through existing disaster management planning; Women, children, and adolescents are insufficiently represented in formal meetings or training activities in general; The most vulnerable population including women and children may have to remain in slums and/or transitional shelters in the aftermath of disasters for an extend period of time.

Considering these issues, the project on "Gender in Community Based Disaster Management" was developed for further research.

### Why Community Based Disaster Management?

The Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake of 1995 hit the city of Kobe and other parts of Hyogo prefecture in Japan causing 6,434 and properties. Immediately after the earthquake, many people were rescued from the debris by their neighbours and relatives. Statistic shows that 85% of the people were either self-evacuated or were rescued by their neighbours.



Japan Association for Fire Science (1995)

This indicated the importance of the local community immediately after the disaster. Since the reconstruction programme incorporates both physical and social issues, involvement of people in the reconstruction process is the key to its success. Community participation and involvement is a universal process. It does not depend on the development level of a country. Therefore, UNCRD promotes Community Based Disaster Management as one of the key lessons learnt from the Hanshin Awaji Great Earthquake.



A) A Woman gathering water in Dhaka, Bangladesh; B) Capacity and Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) exercise in Ratnapura, Sri Lanka; C) Housewives take part in an earthquake drill during a workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal; D) Housewives learn CPR in Düzce, Turkey

### III. Gender perspectives in Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM)

*(ii) Education and training:*

“Ensure equal access to appropriate training and educational opportunities for women and vulnerable constituencies; promote gender and cultural sensitivity training as integral components of education and training for disaster risk reduction”

Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015



# Introduction



Flood-hit family in a slum community in Dehiwara, Sri Lanka

## Gender Perspectives in Disaster Risk Reduction

The term “gender” is a neutral term that refers to a set of notions and case-specific social norms and expectations in a given society in regards to the likely behaviour, characteristics, and attitudes of both men and women. Therefore, the notion of “gender” and its associated roles and expectations are not determined biologically but depend on where the person was born and grew up. Although much of the focus of gender related issues centres on women, gender is an all-encompassing social issue that pertains to both sexes and therefore should be involve the male perspective as well.

However, it is a fact that, in general, women are poorer than men and often have different and/or unequal ownership rights, access to and control of resources, or are faced with social segregation that exclude them from decision making and/or social and economic opportunities. Women around the world also tend to be more frequently exposed to physical and psychological harassment and even violence at home and in workplaces. These factors make women more vulnerable in day-to-day life and especially during emergencies. For example, the Indian Ocean Tsunami disaster in 2004 resulted in the higher fatality of women and children in comparison to men. Some factors attributed to this result were that the women stayed behind with or to look for their children and elders and also because men, more often than women, could swim and climb trees. Indeed, a majority of towns and districts in both Indonesia

and Sri Lanka reported male survivors outnumbering women by 3 or 4 times, as was the case in North Aceh district, Indonesia, where more than 77 % percent of the casualties were women<sup>1</sup>.

On the other hand, gender roles in society have different means to contribute to disaster risk reduction. Women and men have different ways of networking and disseminating information in the society. Women through traditional feminine ways tend to create more socio-emotional oriented ties, whereas men through traditional masculine ways tend to create more institution-oriented networks. It is increasing acknowledged that such different types of social networks can be utilised to effectively allocate resources in different ways (Emmerik, 2006)<sup>2</sup>.

The “Gender in Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM)” research project, which was conducted during the Hyogo Trust Fund (HTF) IX project period, revealed that in Nepal, women felt that the most reliable source to obtain disaster-related information were their neighbours and communities, while men preferred to rely on mass media. Another study reported that women farmers prefer seasonal climate forecast information to be made available through extension officers or schools rather than through radio, because they are less able to schedule a fixed time to listen to the radio due to their domestic chores, child care, and farming. They also prefer on-site information dissemination, in an environment where queries can be handled immediately and discussions can take place (UN/ISDR, 2002)<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Duryog Nivaran (2005) The South Asia Disaster Report, <http://duryognivaran.org/sadr/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> Emmerik, H,V (2006) Gender differences in the creation of different types of social capital: A multilevel study, *Social Networks* 28, 24-37

<sup>3</sup> The Inter-agency Secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), Geneva, [http://www.unisdr.org/eng/risk-reduction/gender/Women\\_disaster\\_reduction\\_and\\_SD.pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/eng/risk-reduction/gender/Women_disaster_reduction_and_SD.pdf)



Thus, disaster risk reduction should be approached through different means relating to the multi-faceted viewpoint of gender. The effective utilisation of gender-based social networks is an essential strategy to reduce disaster vulnerabilities. The strategy must be based on participatory planning, which leads local people towards initiating action. This process can be a window of opportunity for both men and women to reduce their vulnerabilities and strengthen their capacities to make a disaster resilient community.

### **Disasters and Development**

So-called “natural” disasters continue to claim thousand of lives each year all over the world. These disasters pose a significant threat to the development efforts of developing nations and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. The tendency to see a “natural” disaster in isolation has become less common since the linkage between disasters and development have become clearer, with recognition that the impact of disasters often exacerbates the daily suffering of most of the population. While hazards are natural, there are real “root-causes” within society such as the lack of access to power and less opportunity for participation in policymaking, which create greater risks for disasters. Therefore, disaster management should be more directly integrated into the overall development process and planning.

Community participation is another crucial aspect



in order to achieve sustainable development. However, a “community” is not a homogeneous entity. It consists of a mixture of linguistic, ethnic, religious, geographical, social, gender, and other diverse characteristics. The term “community involvement” is not enough to assume that communities will allocate the benefit equally within communities. Planning, regulation, integration, institutional systems, partnerships and accountability are relevant to everyone, because they are issues likely to affect any initiative in disaster reduction, development or relief, so governance needs to be ensured in times of initiating any community based projects.

### **Objectives**

The “Gender in CBDM” project has two key objectives. The first is to implement the “Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)”. The HFA reaffirmed that “A gender perspective should be integrated into all disaster risk management policies, plans and decision-making processes, including those related to risk assessment, early warning, information management, and education and training”, and emphasized the need to “Ensure equal access to appropriate training and educational opportunities for women and vulnerable constituencies; promote gender and cultural sensitivity training as integral components of education and training for disaster risk reduction”. Gender in CBDM translates the strategic goals and priorities set out in HFA into action.



The second objective is to assist the target countries' efforts to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The most basic goals for human development are to be able to lead long and healthy lives, to be knowledgeable, to have access to the resources, to attain a decent standard of living and to be able to benefit from community participation. Gender equality, which refers to the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women and men, is one of the key elements to achieve the MDGs. Implementation of the project "Gender in CBDM" promotes gender perspectives in disaster preparedness and development planning at the government level and at the community level, empowering women through decision-making and planning as members of communities. Sustainability, which is one of the main MDG targets and a vital aspect for any development activities, is attainable only if interests, needs, and priorities of women and men are given equal consideration within society contexts.

**The "Gender in CBDM" project seeks to:**

- (1) Evaluate the gender sensitivity of disaster management policies and statistical and social indicators in the target countries;
- (2) Raise the awareness of stakeholders including governments, academic institutions, NGOs and communities;
- (3) Disseminate effective and efficient educational materials through workshops and/or trainings, and policies of gender sensitivities in the target countries; and
- (4) Build the capacity of stakeholders in the target countries for the evaluation and development of gender sensitive policies.



Women at the CBDM workshop in Dhaka

*"...I encourage governments to recognize and seize hold of the immense potential gains in socioeconomic development and resilience that can be made by adequately incorporating women's needs into national disaster risk reduction plans and climate change adaptation strategies. There is already substantial capacity for making real change...The importance of gender mainstreaming to build resilience to disasters has never been clearer..."*

Sálvano Briceño  
Director of the secretariat of the International Strategy for  
Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR)

International Women's Day 2008



# Bangladesh

## Introduction

Bangladesh is home to yearly floods that devastate a large part of the country. The cyclone Sidr in 2007 caused severe loss of lives and livelihoods in the affected area. Disaster prevention and management has been an intermittent problem, especially in light of the large population and high density of people and buildings in urban centres. The poor have little coping capacity in comparison to the richer population and as a result, when disaster strikes, the poor suffer more damages and losses. Gender in Community Based Disaster Management is being implemented in two vulnerable Wards within Old Dhaka with aims to promote gender perspectives in disaster preparedness and development planning since October, 2007.

## Partnership

The Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre (BDPC) has been a project counterpart in Bangladesh. BDPC is a local NGO established in 1992. BDPC pioneered the role of a disaster management facilitator, providing guidance, advice, knowledge and awareness building for the capacity development of actors and institutions engaging in disaster management and risk reduction activities in Bangladesh.

## Preliminary Research

UNCRD conducted preliminary research using questionnaires to identify risk perception and preparedness by gender groups to assess local needs. The results were employed to identify and pursue opportunities to analyse and integrate gender dimensions and strategies for the empowerment of both women and men for effective disaster management.



**Target communities:** Ward 59 and Ward 61 in Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Sample:** 200 (male 100/ female 100)

**Method:** Random sampling based on the Dhaka Municipality Ward base map

In response to the question about anxiety for potential disasters, 70 percent of men and women indicated their concern for an imminent earthquake. When defining “disasters”, the most common definition was “earthquake” because the word “disaster” reminds them of the images they saw on TV from the earthquakes in Pakistan and India. Floods, on the other hand, occur here on a yearly cycle and have become rather routine-like, diminishing its recognition as a disaster for local residents. Some responded that many people feel anxiety for earthquakes because Old Dhaka, the part of the city in which this questionnaire was conducted, is a densely populated neighborhood that has a lot of poorly constructed buildings.





However, floods pose an equal threat to this neighborhood, as there are many roads without drains, while local residents are drawing water for public use. Therefore what little drain that exists overflows and the streets become flooded as soon as it rains, water mixing up with the garbage disposed on the street, causing poor sanitary conditions. The situation could induce an outbreak of disease and skin disease.

Although the responders recognized the importance of knowing about disaster threats/risk at the individual and community levels (men 89%, women 92%), most have never had discussed disaster preparedness with family members. Only 2 percent of men and women indicated that they have received specific disaster related information.

In the question concerning gender perspectives, most responders answered that it is much more effective for both men and women to work together at the individual and community levels. The only role that responders felt that it would be better played by women was the proper placement/fixing of household goods and furniture. As for organizing disaster mitigation activities within families and communities, 39 male responders replied that this was the men's role and 49 replied that it was the responsibility of both men and women. As for the women, 48 replied that the men could effectively play this role. For further analysis, UNCRD held focus

group discussions with separate men and women groups. Through this discussion, it determined that certain social norms and restrictions make it harder for women to leave their homes, thereby restricting decision-making and organizational power for women.

### **Training for Disaster Risk Management**

Based on the results of the preliminary research, UNCRD and Ward offices organised a four-day training session on disaster risk management with the final objective of reforming Ward Disaster Management Committees with technical support from BDPC. The main objectives of the training were to develop the skill and capacity of the DMC members, which involves both women and men from the communities, and to have discussion towards sustainable committees. The other purpose of programme was to develop a plan in order to reduce the communities' vulnerabilities and risks. During the training, DMC members assessed various risks in their community such as water logging, power outages, earthquakes, fire, and population density.

It was also emphasized that these problems are interlinked with other problems such as garbage dumping and sanitation problems. After the training, a campaign for cleanliness was organized by the newly formed DMC members from Ward 61 and a total of 50 cleaners and sweepers from the Dhaka City Corporation were invited to participate.



# Nepal



## Introduction

Nepal, covering two thirds of the Himalaya mountain range, is a multi-lingual, multi-ethnic and multi-cultural country with an ancient history. People of over 100 ethnic groups and social castes live alongside each other in 75 municipal districts and five development regions.

Nepal faces a variety of disaster risks owing both to its natural characteristics and human induced factors. Nepal has experienced several major earthquakes in recent decades: The Bihar Earthquake in 1934 which measured 8.3 on the Richter scale killed 4,300 people, and destroyed 20% of all structures (Earthquake and Megacities Initiatives, 2005). Three earthquakes of similar size occurred in Kathmandu Valley in the 19<sup>th</sup> century: in 1810, 1833, and 1866. Earthquakes could cause significant loss of lives, physical and economic damages. In 1988, there was another earthquake, which caused to loss of 709 lives (The National Society for Earthquake Technology [NSET] Nepal)<sup>1</sup>.

UNCRD initiated various disaster management activities in Nepal from 2001 in cooperation with stakeholders. Communities were chosen from Kathmandu Valley for case studies, including

<sup>1</sup> The National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (No date), Nepal: Sustainability in Community Based Disaster Management (Unpublished)

areas of rapid urban growth and a community designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

## Partnership

Community Learning Centres (CLC) were originally established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and serve as community meeting points and alternative education and training centres. They have since evolved into a community based grassroots organizations devoted to the services of the community that embraces literacy and vocational training for sustainability and empowerment. Training for safer homes for housewives was conducted with technical support from NSET and the Training of Trainers (ToT) programmes for capacitating community first aid volunteers was supported by the Nepal Red Cross Society.

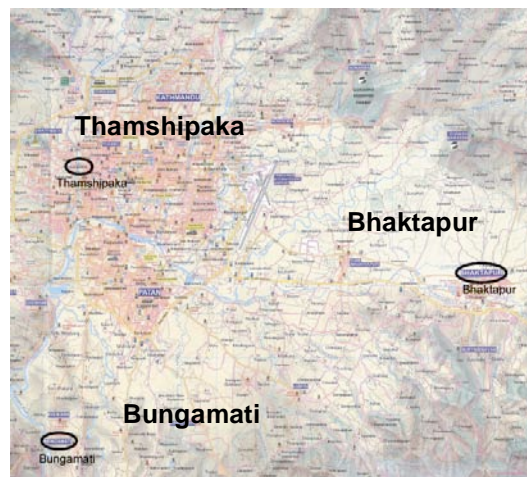
## Preliminary Research

**Target communities:** Thamshipaka, Bungamati, and Bhaktapur in Kathmandu, Nepal

**Sample:** 200 (male 100/ female 100)

**Method:** Random sampling based on voting lists

As part of the preliminary research, a questionnaire was also conducted in Nepal. Regarding disaster experiences, 87% of male and 74 % of female answered that they have previous disaster experience.



In regards to the information source most relied upon in times of disasters by men were, first the mass media, second the neighbours and local people, and third the regional government.

As for women, they felt that the most reliable information source were their neighbors and community members, with the mass media coming in second, and family and relatives ranking the third most reliable. These results reflect the different social networks for women and men very well. It showed that female members tend to rely on their personal networks of family and friends with social supports based on the closeness and trust within a community.

Another question in regards to mitigation measures that community members have applied showed that women have more experiences with proper placement and securing of household goods and furniture, although more male respondents indicated having implemented or experienced other measures such as learning about disaster risks around and risk reduction measures.

### Housewives Training for Safer Homes

Based on the result of preliminary research and a series of community workshops, UNCRD and

#### What is the most reliable source for you to obtain disaster related information?

##### (Priority-Based Ranking)

Category	Male	Female
Family, Relatives	5	3
Neighbours, Community	2	1
Local administration	3	4
Police/Fire service & Civil Defense	6	5
NGOs/CBOs	4	7
Mass Media	1	2
Don't know	7	6



Household assessment of non-structural measures

stakeholders developed a training programme on safer homes for house

wives. The training was organised with technical support from National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET) to train practical non-structural measures that can be applied at the household level. 20 female members from target communities participated in the training. In the workshop, they learnt the basic science of earthquakes, importance of disaster risk reduction, and how to apply non-structural risk mitigation measures in their homes. For example, participants visited several houses to learn practical ways of securing refrigerators and shelves by using brackets and props.

After the initial training, follow-up evaluation meetings were held with the participants. 19 participants reported that they have applied non-structural measurements in their homes within one or two weeks after the training by themselves (13 people) and/or with male members in the family (16 people), while there was one person who hired a handyman. 17 participants reported having talked about the training with relatives and/or friends, and 15



participants had showed their relatives and/or friends what they had done in their homes to secure their furniture. Furthermore, 14 participants answered that they know relatives/friends who have implemented such non-structural risk reduction measures in their

homes after observing their examples. The result showed that there was a strong potential for using women's network and communication to disseminate disaster risk reduction strategy.

**Are there mitigation measures that you or your family has applied?  
(More than one reply possible)**

Mitigation measures	Male	Female
Settled in officially permitted land	64	65
Ensured quality construction of family housing	58	52
Proper maintenance of family home	72	60
Subscribed to disaster insurance (owners/tenants)	9	3
Proper placement and securing of household goods and furniture	38	56
Have learnt about community disaster risks and risk reduction measures	67	47
Shared mitigation information with family and community	63	48
Others	3	7



Housewives receive disaster management training. Here, they learn to fight fires.



Town-Watching: Knowing one's own committee is an important step to reducing vulnerabilities.



A trainer secures furniture using anchors in a community participant's home in Kathmandu.



Women receive training for light search and rescue using readily available tools and hardware.





# Sri Lanka

## Introduction

Sri Lanka is prone to natural disasters caused by floods, cyclones, landslides, droughts and coastal erosion. The devastating Indian Ocean Tsunami 2004, which killed over 35,000 people in Sri Lanka alone, has highlighted the country's vulnerabilities and the need for comprehensive disaster management strategies.

In May 2005, the Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act No.13 was enacted, which provides the legal basis for instituting a Disaster Risk Management (DRM) system within the country. The Disaster Management Centre was established this year as the lead agency for disaster risk management in the country<sup>5</sup>.

In consultation with UNDP Sri Lanka, UNCRD, under the Gender and CBDM project, conducts case studies and training in Ratnapura, a hilly district that is prone to various natural disasters such as floods and landslides. The district consists of 17 Divisional Secretaries. Divisional Secretaries are further divided into Grama Niladari (GN) divisions as the lowest administrative division. UNCRD consulted with the Government Agency (GA) for selecting target communities to conduct preliminary research and two GNs were selected based on their history of disaster experiences.

## Partners

In order to implement the project, UNCRD always consult with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Sri Lanka, the Ratnapura District Secretariat, and Disaster Management Centre (DMC) in Ratnapura. These agents have been leading disaster mitigation activities in the area. Moreover, UNCRD has cooperated Social

Service Officers (SSOs) who are in charge of serving for vulnerabilities in times of disasters.

## Preliminary Research

**Target communities:** Pahala Hakamuwa GN and Batakada GN

**Sample:** 200 (male 100/ female 100)

**Method:** Random sampling based on voting lists



More than 90% of the people surveyed indicated that they have experienced major floods in 1989 and 2003 and subsequent large-scale landslide in 2003. Due to this landslide, 60 inhabitants lost their lives. Another 2 floods hit the survey area in 2008.

Among other basic data collected, 77 houses are reportedly still under construction in these two communities, owing to the effects of these disasters. The area surveyed is not only affected by these large-scale disasters but also by small-scale floods that strike repeatedly once every few years. This has resulted in high anxiety about future disasters, especially for floods and

<sup>5</sup> Government of Sri Lanka (2005) Towards a Safer Sri Lanka: A Road Map for Disaster Risk Management, NEO Graphics, Colombo



landslides, as shown in the answer to the Question 4 (male: 100%, female: 99%).

In response to Question 15, which inquired whether those surveyed have talked about disaster issues in their families, quite a high percentage of people (73% of the male and 63% of the female) have indicated that they have had such talks.



Man indicates flooding points in 2008

However, as was indicated in the answers to Question 18, only 24% of the male and 21% of the female responders had ever received information on disaster prevention, and only 28% of the male and 13% of the female responders had undergone trainings for disaster risk mitigation.

In regards to the different levels of consciousness for disaster mitigation by gender, one interest point can be identified. In reply to Question 24 that inquired about disaster prevention at the

community level, men answered that the most effective disaster management measure is an early warning system. On the other hand, the women put the highest priority on good social networking with neighbours, preferring non-structural mitigation measures and ranking early warning systems fifth.

Regarding the roles for disaster mitigation by gender, both of women and men indicated that the role which females ought to be responsible for is the securing of household goods and furniture



Community meeting in Pahalla Hakamuwa.

while a majority felt that men should take the responsibility for most other roles. Similarly, the answers show that the males play predominant roles for disaster mitigation within the community, as shown in the figure below.



### **Training for Community Based Disaster Management**

UNCRD organised a workshop with Ratnapura district governments with support from the Disaster Management Centre and UNDP. The workshop aimed to build the capacity of Social Service Officers (SSO) and Disaster Management Centre (DMC) Assistant Coordinators, who, as focal points, work on disaster management with the community members. SSOs have long been working for the distribution of various aid and support in post-disaster phases including emergency response and rehabilitation. There are several disaster management Assistant Coordinators in divisional district offices to motivate disaster mitigation and preparedness activities at the district level. However, stakeholders have rarely had an opportunity to discuss how their work can be integrated into sustainable development. In the training, UNCRD and resource persons brought to attention various themes in relation to disaster management, including gender aspects, technical issues, and governance. Through the training, action plans were developed based on the hazard risks that their district is facing.



Training on Disaster Management for Social Service Officers (SSO) and assistant coordinators of DMC's.



Field trip to observe the evacuation bridge.



# Republic of Turkey



## Introduction

Earthquakes are frequent in Turkey, which straddles several active fault lines. Two massive earthquakes claimed the lives of more than 20,000 people in the country's northwest in 1999; the first, on 17 August 1999 measured between 7.4 and 7.8 on the Richter scale in the Izmit-Adapazari area, and the second, on 12 November 1999 in Duzce-Kaynaşlı area.

Kaynaşlı, a district of Düzce Province with a population of 22,000, became the unfortunate epicenter of 12 November 1999 Earthquake (Mw=7.2), suffering the heaviest loss in respect to its population and area. 316 people lost their lives and 543 were wounded, with 90% of public service buildings (including schools), 72% of homes, 70% of small to medium scale enterprises and all township infrastructures (drinking water, roads, electricity grids, communications network) were destroyed or severely damaged.

## Partnership

ADV (Acil Destek Vakfı [Emergency Support Foundation]), based in Kaynaşlı, Turkey, is an local, independent, non-governmental and non-profit organization that was established at the end of 2001 by local public administrators and volunteer workers who carried primary responsibilities at the Kaynaşlı Crisis

Management Center after the 12 November 1999 Earthquake. Drawing on the lessons from the field experience, ADV aims to help establish efficient and effective interaction between all stakeholders, addressing particularly the mitigation aspects of Disaster Management through the introduction, demonstration, and sharing of better practices at the household, community, professional/practitioner, and country levels.

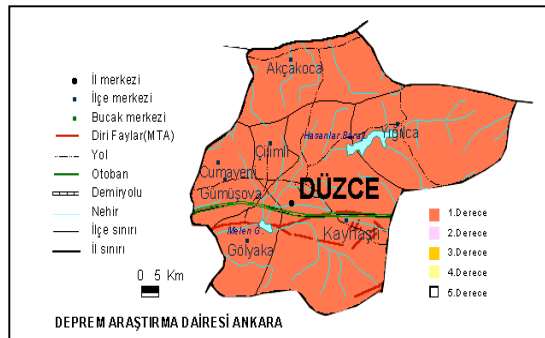
## Preliminary Research

**Target community:** Kaynaşlı, Turkey

**Sample:** 200 (male 100/ female 100)

**Method:** Random sampling based on government census

Among the four project countries, Turkey is the only nation in which we have conducted project activities in target communities that have recently experienced large-scale hazards. Hundred percent of respondents, both women and men have experienced the earthquake in Kaynaşlı. Although devastated by the earthquake which took place on November 12, 1999, the city has been noted for effective responses by the local administration, which effectively



Workshop at the Red Crescent centre in Kaynaşlı, Düzce, Turkey



cooperated with all stakeholders and encouraged community involvement for post-disaster recovery and rebuilding processes. Thus the survey conducted by UNCRD preliminary reflected the importance of discussing disaster awareness, mitigation and preparedness issues not only in communities at -risk of imminent disasters but also in disaster-hit communities.

In Kaynaşlı, hundred percent of survey respondents, both women and men have experienced the earthquake in 1999, and 70% of the respondents have experienced flood as well. Based on their experiences, the level of disaster risk awareness is quite high in this community. 99% of the men and 96% of the women respondents stated that disaster risk in a settlement may/should urge individuals and community to take action for disaster mitigation and preparedness. Similarly, 81% of men and 89% of women believed that, together with central and local governments, individual households were also responsible for disaster mitigation and preparedness.

All respondents stated that mitigation measures at household level are of equal importance as a whole. When asked for a ranking of importance of mitigation measures, both men and women listed

“proper site selection for settlement” as the most important measure. Other measures listed were construction quality, proper maintenance, disaster insurance, proper fixing of furniture, identifying risks and measures, and sharing information within family and community, in respective order.

In terms of mitigation roles by gender, 80% of men and 83% of women respondents identified “learning about disaster risks and relevant reduction measures” as both men and women’s concern. Meanwhile, 66% of men and 52% of women answered that they already learnt about disaster risks in their communities and have started applying specific measures. In terms of preparedness, 48% of men and 46% of women respondents stated that either themselves or a family member attended an emergency or disaster preparedness training during the past 12 months; 64% of the training activities were conducted at schools, 32% at workplaces, and 4% at other locations.

The survey showed that the importance of local administration (District Governorship and Municipality), police and fire station (both also functions of local administration) as the most reliable resource to obtain disaster related information. NGOs and/or Community Based



Organizations (CBO) and extended family and neighbours followed in the ranking. Mass media was ranked last by both men and women respondents due to their experience during the disaster in 1999.

Although the reliability of mass media is questioned, 80% of men answered that they “always” follow disaster and disaster risk related news and information on TV news bulletins and newspapers, the remaining 20% answering “sometimes”. 98% of the women also answered either “always” or “sometimes”. This was the highest rate of interest among the surveyed countries.

### **Disaster Management Training for Housewives**

The findings of the Preliminary Research, interviews with local public units and existing data indicated that the Project training activities should not repeat the same activities with the same target groups (such as students, public employees, factory workers) that are already



Nurses demonstrate a simple method to attend to choking victims, a common household emergency.

addressed by the public offices and/or private enterprises. Therefore, main target group was identified as the housewives, who have less or no chance of receiving disaster management training at work, at school or other places in their daily lives, and thus being the most vulnerable in that sense. Neighborhood headmen and housing-site managers were also considered as target groups to reinforce their appropriate skills and information for daily practice of disaster management.

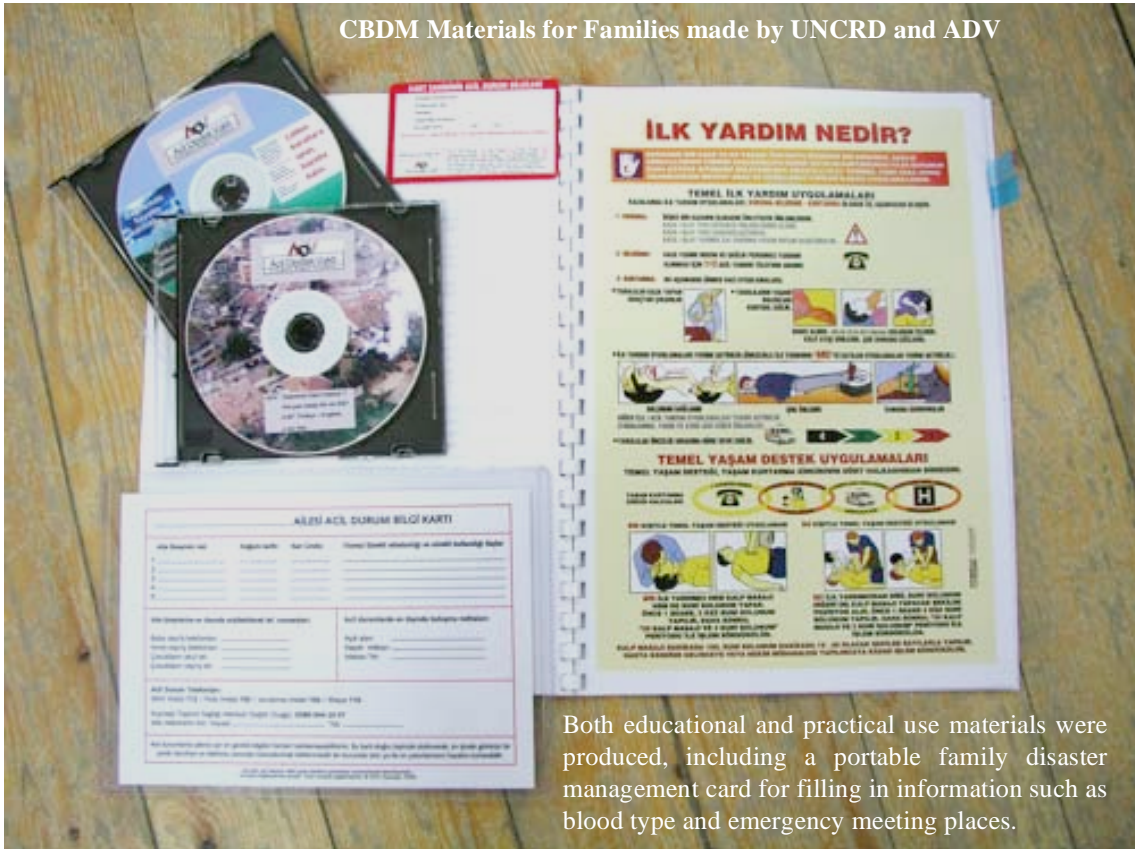
The first workshop was organized to introduce and reinforce disaster mitigation and preparedness issues, methods, and measures to be discussed and implemented by the community residents within the framework of CBDM, to support and supplement existing official disaster management plans by the local administration.

The workshop successfully delivered the importance of disaster mitigation and preparedness in their daily lives and participants discussed the preparation of the drafts of educational materials on disaster mitigation and preparedness. The workshop concluded that the participants could be considered as a core team of women who will extend disaster management information among other women in Kaynaşlı. Therefore, disaster management training including basic first aid, non-structural mitigation at home, protection from household fires and accidents, and environmental health was organized as a follow-up workshop, forming the basis for further training of more community members in the future.

At the same time, training materials were developed according to genuine needs of the target groups in relation to their daily life. Included among the training material introduced were personal and family emergency ID cards, Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment forms for neighborhoods, local and international visual



CBDM Materials for Families made by UNCRD and ADV



Both educational and practical use materials were produced, including a portable family disaster management card for filling in information such as blood type and emergency meeting places.

learning material (Video CD's) on non-structural mitigation and family emergency preparedness, First Aid posters, Household Accidents protection manual, and multi-function community hazard maps. The hazard map marked the streets, public offices, schools, mosques, and sports fields in each neighborhood, indicating that such places, besides their regular use, can be considered as open or closed gathering places in case of an

emergency or a disaster. The maps also serve as a guide for local police, ambulance and fire brigades and gendarmerie for quickly and correctly identifying such locations during emergency calls.





Participants of the Training Programme in Ratnapura, Sri Lanka



Participants of the Training Programme in Kathmandu, Nepal



## Acknowledgements

The United Nations Centre for Regional Development Disaster Management Planning Hyogo Office would like to acknowledge our project counterparts: Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre (BDPC), Disaster Management Centre in Sri Lanka, Community Learning Centres in Nepal, and Acil Destek Vakfi (Emergency Support Foundation) in Turkey, and local facilitators; Ms. Maliha Ferdous (Bangladesh), Mr. Sarath Dayananda (Sri Lanka), Mr. Mukunda Sharma (Nepal), and Ms. Gulgun Tezider (Turkey) who have sincerely supported UNCRD activities in their countries. We would like express our appreciation for government agencies and UN agencies in the four project counties for their great support and advice.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to the Hyogo 21<sup>st</sup> Century Earthquake Memorials Research Institute for supporting our project activities for the past 9 years. Their continuous understanding for the research will help to expand and share the lessons and experiences from the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake and to reduce future disasters in the world.

