

South Asia Peer Learning Regional Consultation on

Disaster Preparedness for an Effective Response for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment



Consultation Report & Action Plans

South Asia Peer Learning
Regional Consultation on

**Disaster Preparedness for an Effective
Response for Gender Equality and
Women's Empowerment**

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Cover photo: *Orientation on Disaster Preparedness in Dharmasthali, Kathmandu.*
UN Women / N. Shrestha

FOREWORD

The Gorkha Earthquakes which struck Nepal in April and May 2015 shed a renewed light on the challenges faced by women in disasters. Structural barriers limit women from exercising their rights and taking advantage of services and resources available in disasters. Therefore, women's participation and leadership are necessary to ensure recognition not only of risks faced by women, but the unique roles which women play in disaster response, recovery and resilience-building.

The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare worked closely with the Ministry of Home Affairs in strengthening coordination on gender equality and social inclusion across the earthquake response, highlighting needs of women and vulnerable communities in the post-disaster needs assessment led by National Planning Commission and post-disaster recovery framework led by National Reconstruction Authority.

To share the learning and good practises from our experiences, the Government of Nepal hosted the South Asia Peer Learning Regional Consultation on Disaster Preparedness for an Effective Response for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment jointly with UN Women in close collaboration with UNDP and women's groups, and with financial support from Government of Denmark.

The events successfully brought together national disaster management agencies, women's machineries and civil

society groups from seven South Asian countries to discuss various issues on gender-responsive preparedness and response. As a result of the consultation, participating countries identified key actions which should be taken to strengthen gender mainstreaming in response, particularly in information management for decision-making and governance.

Designed to build on regional processes to take forward gender-responsive DRR, the consultation drew from the Hanoi Recommendations coming out of the Regional Asia Pacific Conference on Gender and DRR held in May 2016, and various discussions on Gender in DRR at the Asia Ministerial Conference on DRR which took place in New Delhi in November 2016.

It is our great pleasure to share the report of the South Asia Peer Learning Regional Consultation. We hope that countries in the region continue to share lessons from experiences in order to strengthen effectiveness of gender-responsive preparedness and response actions so all members of the society can benefit.



Bishnu Prasad Lamsal,
Secretary
Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal



Priority 1: Understanding Disaster Risk

- * Sex, age and disability disaggregated data (SADD) is not being collected on mortality, injury and impact of disasters
- * SADD is not being managed or analysed consistently to inform policy and programming

Priority 2: disaster risk manage

- * Risk reduction or risk avoidance is not being integrated into policy and programming
- * There is limited awareness of the importance of SADD
- * There is limited capacity to collect, manage and analyse SADD
- * Where there is a lack of SADD, there is limited progress in the participation

Priority 4: disaster prep

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ACRONYMS

CBDRM	Community Based Disaster Risk Management
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CSO	civil society organisation
DM	disaster management
DRR	disaster risk reduction
GBV	gender-based violence
GEWE	gender equality and women's empowerment
GRB	gender responsive budgeting
MoWCSW	Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authorities
NGO	non-governmental organisation
RTI	Right to Information
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SADD	sex and age disaggregated data
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UN	United Nations
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

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INTRODUCTION

Disasters in South Asia impact men and women in different ways. The mortality rates are unequal and the scale and nature of economic and social losses are not the same for women and men. To reduce disaster risk, it is therefore essential to include gender analysis and considerations in all disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities.

Women's participation and leadership are critical to effectively reduce disaster risk and to design and implement gender-sensitive DRR policies, plans and programmes. It is vital to mitigate the gender inequality in loss of lives and livelihoods and enhance the resilience of communities to natural hazards in a changing climate. This means strengthening the capacities of government machineries responsible for DRR and gender equality and DRR stakeholders in addressing strategic and practical needs for gender equality and priorities in the formulation and DRR policies, strategies as well as their

implementation for gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE). With the objective of increasing the understanding of disaster preparedness for effective response from a GEWE perspective, the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal and UN Women Nepal Country Office co-hosted the South Asia Peer Learning Regional Consultation Disaster Preparedness for an Effective Response for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. The event was organized in close coordination with UNDP and Women Friendly Disaster Management Core Group in Nepal, with support from the

Government of Denmark. The consultation took place in Kathmandu from November 28-30, 2016 and was attended by 54 delegates from seven SAARC countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

The peer learning consultation provided an opportunity for open sharing of experiences and served as a learning platform for gender-responsive DRR among South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries. The consultation was the first attempt to bring together Government national women's machineries and national disaster



management authorities (NDMAs), as well as civil society actors, working on gender-responsive DRR. The consultation was designed to build an inter-country learning platform to take forward international and regional processes on gender-responsive DRR. Leading up to the adoption of the Sendai Framework, UN Women along with civil society organizations (CSOs) and other UN entities, provided technical support to member states and the secretariat in integrating gender equality in the framework.

The overall objective was to improve coordination at the national level, and collaboration through sharing of lessons learnt and best practice at the regional level. Discussions focused on already agreed areas of interest to participants; assessing gender dimensions of disaster risk, ensuring that national DRR policies and governance structures are gender-responsive, addressing financing gaps for gender-responsive preparedness, and strengthening women's capacity to prepare

for and be resilient to the shocks and stresses caused by natural hazards. Taking place over three days, specific objectives of the consultation were:

- To increase the understanding on disaster preparedness for effective response for GEWE by sharing best practices, lessons learnt, innovative approaches including experiences on the use of sex and age disaggregated data (SADD), applying gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) principles, supporting the leadership and participation of women's groups;
- To strengthen linkages between national women's machinery, national disaster management agency and women's groups on disaster preparedness for an effective response for GEWE; and,
- Identify critical measures for effective response which national disaster management agencies and national women's machineries can take forward in close collaboration with women's groups.

This report has been structured around the main themes of the consultation and aims to serve as a useful reference document for enhanced learning in gender-responsive DRR. The inputs of delegates have been highlighted, where required, but overall the report provides analysis of the points raised and discussions. Key themes are: applying the normative frameworks, understanding risk, improving governance and financing. Finally, country-specific action plans are presented. Given the time constraints on the group work, country action plans will be further developed by each delegation.

The overall objective was to improve coordination at the national level, and collaboration through sharing of lessons learnt and best practice at the regional level.

CONSULTATION PROCEEDINGS

Inaugural Session



The 2015 Nepal earthquake cost the country around 9,000 lives, with women and girls making up 55 percent of the total.

- **Bishnu Prasad Lamsal**, Secretary of Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare., Nepal

After a lamp lighting ceremony, the *South Asia Peer Learning Regional Consultation on Disaster Preparedness for an Effective Response for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment* was formally opened by **Mr. Bishnu Prasad Lamsal** (Secretary of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare). Mr.Lamsal drew attention to how South Asia region has experienced some of the largest disasters over the last twelve years and how the impact of climate change is further exacerbating the risk profile of the region. The 2015 Nepal earthquake cost the country around 9,000 lives, with women and girls making up 55 percent of the total. Studies have shown women are more exposed to disasters yet have less capacity to respond. Furthermore, women's contribution and leadership in building resilience to disasters is not recognised. He highlighted how South Asia has a diverse experience of responding to disasters and implementing risk reduction activities, and countries can share good practices with each other.

Following Mr. Lamsal's opening, a video was shown which highlighted the role of women in Nepal's earthquake response.

Her Excellency **Ms. Ingrid Dahl-Madsen** (Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Denmark to Nepal) highlighted how evidence shows that during disasters, gender inequality is further increased and women and children are more likely to be affected. This includes increase in incidences and risk of gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation of children, gender discrimination and human trafficking. Although women are often more affected by disasters, they are also often restricted from playing an active role in disaster risk reduction (DRR) due to social, political and economic barriers. Ms. Dahl-Madsen stressed the need for recognition of women as vital agents of change. Gender equality, women's participation and empowerment is central to the Danish development efforts around the world.

Ms. Valerie Julliand (UN Resident Coordinator in Nepal) welcomed this important and highlighted the timing of the Peer Learning Regional Consultation at the start of Nepal earthquake recovery and reconstruction phase. She mentioned how this marks a critical time for lesson learnt to be fed into activities for strengthening DRR and ensuring women's participation at all stages of disaster management (DM) is important for effective DRR. She congratulated the Government of Nepal for progress on Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) and commitments to gender equality enshrined in the new constitution. The RC reminded the delegates of the strong and coherent normative framework for sustainable development, DRR and gender equality.

The Chief Guest - **Mr. Bimalendra Nidhi** (Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Home Affairs), shared progress of the Government of Nepal in localizing the Sendai Framework for Action. He mentioned that this created an opportunity for stronger mainstreaming of GEWE in DRR programmes. The Government is committed to implementation of the 2030

Agenda for Sustainable Development which reaffirms the urgent need to reduce risk of disasters and achieve GEWE. The Constitution clearly envisions Nepal as an inclusive state and guarantees the right to equality for all its citizens and proportional representation at all levels of government structures. The Deputy Prime Minister also ensured that the forthcoming DM bill would address disaggregation of data and ensure women's representation and leadership at all levels.

Finally, **Mr. Krishna Bahadur Raut** (Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs) expressed his hope that the peer learning deliberations will be interactive. He expressed his hopes that the sharing of good practices, lessons learnt and challenges will enrich countries' learning for gender responsive disaster preparedness; and contribute to the Asia Regional Plan, as well as national and local plans for the implementation of the Sendai Framework. Mr. Raut expressed further wishes that the consultation will come up with concrete action points which will further strengthen coordination, cooperation and partnership on gender responsive DRR and DRM at the regional level.



Women's participation and decision-making power in disaster preparedness must be strengthened to lead to a positive impact both on individual lives and in the communities during emergencies.

-**Ingrid Dahl Madsen**, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Denmark to Nepal

Day 1

Setting the stage for disaster preparedness: Understanding the normative frameworks and commitments

The first session provided participants with updated information on normative frameworks and international commitments, and how these support gender-responsive DRR. Chaired by Ms. Nadeeka Pramodini Kohomban Arachchi (Assistant Director, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka), presentations were given by Ms. Cecilia Aipira (Climate Change and DRR Policy Advisor, Asia & Pacific, UN Women), Mr. Sanny Ramos Jegillos (Senior Advisor, DRR and Recovery, Bangkok Regional Hub, UNDP) and Ms. Smriti Aryal (Regional Advisor, Gender and Humanitarian Action, Asia & Pacific, UN Women).

Presentations focused on the underlying vulnerabilities of women in the region and accompanying risk profiles. Presenters used this opportunity to explain linkages between the Sendai Framework for Action on DRR, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and commitments following the World Humanitarian Summit. This overview provided a basis for understanding the context which would guide discussions at the peer learning consultation.



“

The policies are there. It is now time to make the necessary progress to enable women to mitigate and even prevent disasters and leave no one behind.” Valeria Julliand, UN Resident Coordinator, Nepal



Inaugural lighting by The Honourable Bimalendra Nidhi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Ministry of Home Affairs, Nepal along with Mr. Bishnu Prasad Lamsal, Secretary of Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Nepal and Ms. Wenny Kusuma, Representative of UN Women Nepal.

Experiences, best practices and challenges on gender-responsive humanitarian response and DRR – First session

Over two different sessions, government representatives from various country delegations were invited to share country experiences on gender-sensitive DRR. Delegates from NDMA and women's machineries provided information on how far international and regional commitments have been implemented in their countries, key successes in gender-responsive DRR and challenges. Countries approached the presentations differently depending on the risk profile of their country, but in all cases, it was clear that large-scale disasters provided the space for thinking and progress on gender-responsive DRR. Question and answer sessions were moderated by the Chair of each session.

The first session held on the afternoon of Day 1 was chaired by Mr. Bishnu Prasad Lamsal (Secretary of Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal), and country presentations were

given by Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Bhutan. Highlights are given below.

Mr. Naseer Ahmad Popal (Director for Social Protection Directorate, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development) talked about gender in Afghanistan's DM, DRR and humanitarian action through increasing participation of women, creating an enabling environment, awareness raising, technical support to government, SADD to measure progress and coordination. Good practices were highlighted through gender mainstreaming in Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM), localization of early warning systems, establishing minimum standards for humanitarian response and GRB in six pilot ministries.

Mr. Jahangir Hossain (Joint Secretary/ Director, Department of Women Affairs) from Bangladesh talked about the evolution

of DRR and commitments to GEWE in DRR which is reflected in various national policies and plans – gender in DM policies, and DM and climate change in policies for women's development highlighted some good results in that one third of volunteers are female, construction of gender-sensitive cyclone shelters, and SADD in Bangladesh Disaster Related Statistics 2015 (Climate Change and Natural Disaster Perspective) by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

Ms. Lotoey Pem (ICT Officer, Department of Disaster Management) presented on the Government of Bhutan's vision of a "Safe, Resilient and Happy Bhutan". Good practices in Bhutan includes the gender mainstreaming in DRR through: political recognition of women in the DM Act 2013, inclusion of women in DM committees, a Mainstreaming Reference Group, Gender Focal Person, gender analysis in disaster assessment tools and CBDRM programme.

Addressing the financing gap: Applying GRB for DRR

The session chaired by Ms. Ngawang Pem (Governor, Tsirang District Administration, Government of Bhutan) was an opportunity for delegates to consider how GRB can be applied to budgeting for DRR. A case study was presented by Mr. Madhu K. Marasini (Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of Nepal) where the government has made great strides in its commitment towards the application of GRB in reconstruction and recovery. Nepal plans to apply DRR and Gender coding to the recovery budget for international donor funding. Although a new and challenging area

of work, Nepal is also exploring the possibility of applying GRB to DRR budgets.

Following the presentation, a brainstorming session on how to address the financing gap moderated by Ms. Yamini Mishra (GRB Specialist, Regional Office for Asia Pacific, UN Women). Recommendations coming out highlighted the need for financial, technical and capacity building support for internalization of DRR.

Further discussion around GRB can be found in Part D: Key Themes under Financing (page 22) of this report.

Welcome Dinner and Coffee Table Book Launch

At the end of Day 1, a welcome dinner for participants was hosted by the Government of Nepal. A coffee table book "Nepal: A Year After the Earthquakes – A spotlight on Nepali Women and Girls, their stories and their solutions", that was published by UN Women with the support of the Government of Denmark, was launched during this event. The book highlights the participation of women and girls in the response and recovery efforts in Nepal and demonstrates the key role that women and girls can play in better preparing their communities for future natural disasters. A young girl, Sita Shrestha, from the Multi-Purpose Women's Center in Sidhupalchok shared her story about the role she played after the 2015 earthquake.

For as long as I can remember, I have been walking miles every morning before school to fetch water for my family. Water shortage has always been one of the biggest problems of my village. After the earthquake of April/May 2015, all the spouts in my village started mysteriously drying up, and the need for a solution was more urgent.

It was during these difficult times that I got a chance to attend a training on leadership provided by UN Women's local partner organization SAATHI. There and then I realised I had to find a solution for the water shortage problem in our village. The only natural spout functional in my village was chaotic; there was dirt everywhere, the floor was slippery and people had to wait hours for their turn.

Therefore, we fundraised in the village, took a small loan and bought cement, sand, concrete to be carried all the way down from the main road to construct a proper tap. We even brought in a tank from the town to store water. We also built a little canal so that the used water can be recycled for

irrigation. Now no water goes to waste here. In the next phase, I want to build a few rooms near the tap so villagers can take a bath in privacy. But most importantly, I want to supply water to more households in the village.

Nobody, especially not women and school-going children, should have to walk for hours for water. We can take the water to more homes - and that is what we will do next.

The training received from SAATHI has been a life-altering experience. I have become more confident, have started thinking about how else I can help my community, and plan for the future. I am graduating from high school this year. I want to study social work. There is a lot of satisfaction in helping others, I want to be able to continue to do that in the future.

- Sita Shrestha,
Multi-purpose Women Center, Sidhupalchok,
Nepal

Day 2

Field Visit to Bhaktapur

A field visit to an earthquake affected community in Bhaktapur was arranged to interact with earthquake affected women and girls and to see gender-responsive recovery and reconstruction efforts. During visit, community women and girls shared their experiences of earthquake, their leadership in relief and response phase, engagement in recovery interventions including livelihood improvement, and experiences on addressing GBV and

protection concerns during the emergency. District Development Committee, District Administration Office, District Police Office and Women and Children Office were also available to share their experiences in the response and recovery, and local coordination structures and cluster system activation was shared. In the programme, handicrafts and vegetables produced by women as part of recovery of livelihood support were exhibited.



A field visit to an earthquake affected community in Bhaktapur was arranged to interact with earthquake affected women and girls and to see gender-responsive recovery and reconstruction efforts.

Experiences, best practices and challenges on gender-responsive humanitarian response and disaster risk reduction – Second session

Continuing from Day 1, the afternoon session on day 2 had more country presentations on mainstreaming gender in DRR and humanitarian response. This session was chaired by Mr. Jahangir Hossain (Director and Joint Secretary, Department of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Women and Children, Government of Bangladesh) and presentations were given by Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Highlights from presentations are given below.

Mr. Ahmed Mohamed Fulhu (Assistant Director, Ministry of Gender) from Maldives also presented on successful mechanisms by which gender is mainstreamed in DRR, through: implementation of CBDRM, capacity building programmes for administrative and budget-making processes and appointment of gender focal points across line ministries and civil society. Maldives follows sphere standard for implementation of emergency actions.

Mr. Krishna Bahadur Raut (Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs) started his presentation with the 2015 earthquakes in Nepal and its impact on women. He spoke of the institutional and policy framework at the national and sub-national level and how 'gender equality and social inclusion' concerns are mainstreamed through relief and humanitarian interventions. Of the key concerns for Nepal was also transboundary cooperation to combat trafficking of women and girls immediately after disasters and mobilization of local women's groups for DRR.

Ms. Raheela Saad (Member, National Disaster Management Authority) presented on the climate change and disaster context in Pakistan. She gave an overview of the Gender and Child Cell, housed in the National Disaster Management Authority, which is responsible for ensuring the needs and concerns of vulnerable groups are addressed in disasters, placing CBDRM as

an important area of its work. Some good practices were a gender and humanitarian task force as a coordination mechanism, cash transfer system, GRB initiative, disaster risk insurance framework, school safety programme and a SADD system for 25 of the most disaster-prone districts.

Ms. Nadeeka Pramodini Kohomban Arachchi (Assistant Director, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs) from Sri Lanka presented on the national coordination mechanism for DRR and also some of the learnings from the recent floods in 2016. Main challenges faced in post-disaster needs assessments and planning was the lack of accurate SADD. Some steps forward were on work that the ministry of women would take on for supporting and protecting women in disasters, SADD collection, CBDRM and community based early warning.

Women's voices, agency and leadership: Women's groups' experiences

At a panel discussion chaired by Ms. Chandni Joshi (Coordinator, Women Friendly Disaster Management Core Group, Nepal), CSOs and women's groups shared their experiences on implementing gender-responsive DRR projects in

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan, Maldives and Nepal. This was an opportunity for women's groups to share specific information about activities, opportunities and best practices associated with their work. There was a rich exchange

of information provided and further sharing of information in the question and answer session following the presentations.

Further discussions can be found in Part D: Key Themes under Women's leadership and participation (page 20) of this report.

Day 3

Access to information

At a session chaired by Ms. Raheela Saad (Member, National Disaster Management Authority, Government of Pakistan), a case study on access to information was presented by Mr. Krishna Hari Banskota (Chief Commissioner, National Information Commission, Government of Nepal). This served to share with other country delegations how DRR actors had utilised

the National Information Commission during the earthquake response and recovery phases. This session led to an important discussion on how to access key SADD, which can inform improved gender-responsive DRR.

Further discussion on SADD can be found in Part D: Key Themes under Understanding Risk (page x-y).



Ms. Spozhmoi Wardak (Deputy Minister, Technical and Policy, Ministry of Women Affairs, Government of Afghanistan) speaking during the final session of the peer learning consultation.

Box 1: RIGHT TO INFORMATION IN THE NEPAL EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

A case study from Nepal was provided from the National Information Commission. This provided learning for other countries in the region on how to utilize their national information commission to better prepare for and respond to disasters. The National Information Commission was established in 2008 as an independent body for the implementation of Right to Information (RTI) as per the provisions of the RTI Act. It is responsible for the protection, promotion and practice of RTI in Nepal.

1. Legal Provisions for RTI:

- "Every Citizen shall have the right to demand or receive information on any matter of his or her interest or of public interest". Article 27, Fundamental Right, Constitution.
- Right to Information Act (2007) has guaranteed Nepali citizens to seek and receive any information from all public bodies i.e. government office, political party, NGO, and private sector.

2. RTI and GEWE in humanitarian response:

- After the earthquake, the National Information Commission

reminded citizens of their rights:

- Organizations involved in rescue and relief work should maintain maximum transparency
- Women and children among the victims should be treated in priority basis

3. Key activities related to GEWE and earthquake response were:

- Programs on orientation of RTI with high level officials of Government of Nepal and UN Women
- RTI orientation for earthquake affected women by UN Women and National Information Commission.
- A booklet on women's entitlements by National Information Commission in two languages in 2016. It will be translated into four more languages for enhanced information-sharing in the country.
- National Information Commission conducted a special discussion on Common Charter of Demands by women groups following the earthquake.

Moving Forward: Priorities and actions for substantive change

Chaired by Ms. Spozhmoi Wardak (Deputy Minister, Technical and Policy, Ministry of Women Affairs, Government of Afghanistan), the final session of the peer learning consultation was group work by all the country delegations. The group work focused on developing country-specific

action plans which could be implemented by Governments and civil society towards improvements in gender-responsive DRR. The action plans were focused on: better use of data to understand risk, better coordination between DRR stakeholders to ensure that all stakeholders are working

together to deliver gender-responsive DRR and indicators to ensure accountability.

The Country Action Plans can be found in Part E (page 23) of this report.

Closing Session

The South Asia Peer Learning Consultation was formally closed by Mr. Bishnu Prasad Lamsal (Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare) and Ms. Wenny Kusuma (Country Representative

of UN Women Nepal). Country specific presentations and issues raised around accountability and commitment between women's machineries, NDMA's and women's groups were acknowledged.

Participants expressed how they felt the peer learning consultation was a good platform where understanding of DRR was enhanced through sharing of best practices, lessons learnt and innovation.

KEY THEMES

i. Normative Framework related to DRR

The normative framework guiding gender-responsive DRR is set out in: Sendai Framework for Action on DRR, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit. These are further strengthened by the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). These global commitments are mutually reinforcing and provide guidance on better development, which must promote gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) to succeed. They provide an interconnected set of commitments which clearly

articulate the need to ensure that both gender equality and DRR are included at all stages of the development process.

DRR processes are policies and actions which reduce risk through reducing exposure and vulnerability to hazards and which build resilience to ensure that impacts of disasters are reduced. Disasters include large-scale emergencies which gain international attention as well as low-profile disaster events which may not result in high levels of mortality, but on a cyclical basis erode the coping mechanisms of individuals' and communities' and act as barriers to development. The premise for

this peer learning consultation was that the application of these normative frameworks related to DRR can lead to a reduction in loss of life due to disasters, an increase in adaptive capacity to climate change, and a possible end to extreme poverty. But to achieve this in the South Asian context, it is necessary to also address barriers to GEWE, which are critical barriers to development. As two "cross-cutting" areas of policy, GEWE and DRR present challenges for siloed institutions. Countries require a cross-sectoral approach with institutional arrangements which are structured in such a way to deliver on GEWE and DRR.

Box 2: RIGHT TO INFORMATION IN THE NEPAL EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

Gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction analyses and considers the roles and relationships of women and men formed by gender norms within a given culture and society. It requires specific attention to women's rights and gender equality as part of proactive and people-centred approach to reducing risks and vulnerabilities. The international community has recognized the need for, and has committed to, a strong focus

on gender equality and women's rights in disaster risk reduction. This can be done through gender-sensitive policymaking, monitoring and evaluation as well as integrating gender in vulnerability, risk and capacity assessments. Furthermore, it requires furthering women's participation and leadership in disaster management, and promoting the collection and use of sex- and age-disaggregated information and data.

Learning:

- Not with standing the strong normative framework and commitments on gender-responsive DRR there continues to be significant challenges in delivery; there is a gap between policy and implementation
- Implementation requires high levels of women's leadership and participation and better coordination between NDMA's, women's machineries and CSOs and dedicated human and financial resources to achieve this
- To achieve meaningful progress in reducing risk and building resilience to shocks and stresses it is necessary to address underlying vulnerability of women in the region and their limited participation in leadership
- Gender-responsive DRR must have goals beyond reducing mortality to tackle the potential hidden costs including, economic and social losses at the community and national level
- The hazard profile in South Asia is changing and risk reduction needs to be responsive to climate risks and increased urban risk and understand how these impact women and men

ii. Understanding Risk

Disasters affect women and men differently. In many countries of South Asia the disaster-related mortality is significantly higher for women, as they are affected by social norms which may mean they are unable to access and act on early warning information or are constrained by their specific role in the household. However, in some disasters, such as floods, mortality rates are substantially higher in men as was the case in Myanmar floods in 2015 and Sri Lankan floods in 2016. This is largely due to male involvement in search and rescue and men’s higher levels of risk tolerance. Overall however, women and girls face greater challenges than men during and after disasters. In addition to high mortality, they also face elevated risks to sexual and GBV and human trafficking. In order to facilitate a comprehensive understanding of disasters risks from a gender perspective, it is important to collect, analyse, use and share sex and age disaggregated data (SADD), which can then inform policy formulation and practice. With the exception of Bangladesh, lack of SADD was systemic across the region. SAARC members are performing quite poorly on this front, although there were ad-hoc collection and use of SADD in Nepal and

Sri Lanka as evidenced by the post-disaster needs assessments.

It is necessary to recognise the diversity within women and how they experience disasters differently depending on their socio-economic status or whether they are living with a disability. Data must therefore be disaggregated beyond sex and age; and also by disability and diversity. In addition to understanding disaster risk from a diversity perspective, it was also noted that risk profile varies between and within countries. Across the region natural hazards, compounded by urbanization, changes in land use and climate change dominate the risk profile. For some countries in the region, fragility and conflict is a greater challenge. There must be a comprehensive understanding of all hazards, risks and vulnerability in order to deliver strong DRR programmes and policies.

Risk analysis must not only focus on high-profile large scale disasters. There must be due attention to the impact of cyclical, low-intensity disaster events which occur annually in South Asia, and which are not measured in lives lost, but in the disruption

of livelihoods and obstacles which they create to sustainable development. Gender analysis of this type of risk is also not well understood throughout the region and must also be a focus of attention for government and civil society. To achieve this, it is necessary to ensure that barriers to women’s leadership and participation are removed.

Box 3: TAILORED SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAMMES IN SOUTH ASIA

An example of responding to specific risk and gender profiles was provided through sharing examples of school safety programmes throughout the region. In Pakistan, terrorist threat is included into school drills, whereas earthquake risk forms the central tenet of school safety in Nepal. A shared learning was that all school safety programming can be GBV sensitive.

The Sendai Framework Priority 1 states: Policies and practices for disaster risk management should be based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment. Such knowledge can be leveraged for the purpose of pre-disaster risk assessment, for prevention and mitigation and for the development and implementation of appropriate preparedness and effective response to disasters.

Understanding risk is not only about collecting SADD but also ensuring gender analysis of risks is a part of national risk assessments. It was noted for example that there is need to understand the interplay between disaster risks, gender equality, and productive sectors key for women’s

Year	Disaster and Country	Female Mortality
1991	Cyclone Bangladesh	90%
2004	Tsunami - Aceh, Indonesia	77%
2004	Tsunami - Tamil Nadu, India	73%
2008	Cyclone Nargis - Myanmar	61%
2009	Tsunami - Tonga and Samoa	70%
2014	Solomon Islands Floods	96% women & children
2015	Nepal Earthquake	55%
2015	Myanmar Floods	42%
2016	Fiji Cyclone Winston	50% (92% iTaukei)

Figure 1 Adapted from the presentation on GE and DRR by Cecilia Aipira, UN Women

livelihoods such agriculture, informal sectors etc. Integration of gender into existing tools such as risk assessment tools, post-disaster needs assessments is more effective rather than creating gender and disaster stand-alone tools. Tools exist across Governments and civil societies in South Asia, which collect disaggregated data for different policy and programming priorities, including post-disaster needs assessments and pre-disaster development planning. However, there are significant obstacles for all stakeholders to access and then use this data. This may be because data is spread across different government departments or being held by civil society. Further to this, data may not be available in “usable” forms, for example only available in hard copy or in restricted software. Use of this data by NDMAs, women’s machineries and civil society should be improved.

It is necessary to have access to regularly updated national and local SADD to inform gender responsive DRR processes. This will improve all phases of DRR and enable better monitoring, evaluation and learning. Relevant data for all aspects of DRR

planning and programming is collected by different government departments and by CSOs. All data should be accessible to those responsible for planning and programming. Ensuring the availability and use of gender disaggregated data has not been a priority for preparedness. In Sri Lanka, this has had consequences for post-disaster assessments, which have been challenged by not having this data available or already analysed.

Women’s groups collect information from the grassroots which flows upwards to the national level to inform policy and programming. Information collected by the government nationally and at the local level must also flow upwards and outwards to communities and civil society.

“While the government has identified gender and diversity as extremely important for building resilience of our people, it has been observed there are obstacles at the ground level. Most Disaster Risk Reduction or disaster recovery programmes at national and local level have not been addressing gender and diversity issues adequately.”
Ms. Nadeeka Pramodini Kohomban Arachchi, Assistant Director, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs



Learning:

- DRR interventions must understand and address the different impacts of disasters on men and women. Although progress on SADD for mortality is welcomed, data analysis should go further to understand the impact of loss and damage on men and women
- To understand risk and to be prepared for disasters there needs to be comprehensive and consistent collection of data, this enables a shared situation analysis and planning premise across government and civil society
- There is diversity within women, this should be reflected in data collection
- The contributions of women to DRR processes and their needs in different DRR activities change, depending on the hazard and the context
- The data and information needs of stakeholders involved in DRR should be mapped
- Women’s groups have identified that access to information is critical for response and recovery programmes
- Where comprehensive and consistent SADD is collected and made available there must be the capacity to analyse and use this data. There should be improved localized research, analysis and peer learning mechanisms to support gender-responsive DRR

iii. Governance of Gender-Responsive DRR

Gender and Risk Governance looks at the national policy framework governing DRR and gender equality, the coordination arrangements between government machineries responsible for DRR and gender equality as well as women's engagement, participation and leadership in DRR.

In general, it was noted that DRR policies and legislative frameworks across the SAARC region are gender responsive with differing levels of commitments to implement them. What is less clear however is how these policies are implemented in practice and how they

translate into real transformative change for women's resilience to disasters. It is recognised that to make real gains in DRR and GEWE, it is critical to mainstream the issues and to promote a "whole of government" approach. Across South Asia, there is strong national and local DM government machinery. In all SAARC countries these authorities are mandated and guided by supportive legislation. Similarly, the women's government machinery in all countries is also strong, with clear legislative backing. However capacity gaps exist within all DM machineries to understand the gender dimensions of disasters, while the gender

machineries equality have limited understanding of the interplay between gender equality and disasters and how gender can be mainstreamed in such technical thematic areas. Compounding this, is the challenge for DM machinery and women's machinery is how they can work together in a joined-up manner to deliver on gender responsive DRR. It was also noted that in general women CSOs, which often have a better the understanding of gendered disaster risks at the community level, often lack the capacity, resources, and space to influence DRR policies and actions.

Box 4: BEST PRACTICE IN COORDINATION IN SOUTH ASIA

- In Bhutan, a Mainstreaming Reference Group has been formed which is responsible for integrating gender and other crosscutting issues in the policies, plans and programmes of all respective sectors.
- In Pakistan, the Gender and Child Cell housed in the National and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities is responsible for ensuring the promotion of GEWE and Child Rights in DRR.
- In Bangladesh, legislation and policy is mutually reinforcing at the national level. The National Plan for Disaster Management 2016-2019 commits to gender-responsive programming and the National Women's Development Policy 2015 includes DRR issues.
- In Pakistan, the NDMA committed to operationalising the global commitments and collaborated with the Gender Humanitarian Network, to ensure that this was being operationalised at the grassroots.

Learning:

- There must be greater coordination between national disaster management machinery, women's machinery and civil society was recognised across the region
- One of the challenges to better coordination with the women's civil society groups is the level of knowledge or specialism on DRR within these groups
- International cooperation on issues affecting women. The trans-boundary nature of disasters was raised by Nepal, in reference to trafficking of women to India after the earthquake. The risk profile of the region is also in some cases trans-boundary due to refugee movements or inter-connected river systems which impact across the borders.
- There needs to be effective coordination among inter-governmental agencies, civil societies and private sectors. The mapping of this and understanding of how to undertake such coordination still requires development.

iv. Women's Leadership and Participation

Women's leadership is required to improve gender responsive DRR. However, progress on women's participation and leadership in humanitarian action and DRR decision-making processes is uncertain with only three of the SAARC members reporting women's representation in their national progress reporting of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015. Experience from the CSOs also showed that their engagement with national counterparts on gender and DRR is not systemic. While some CSOs are strong on their



“Women's organizations' and academic institutions' engagement in risk assessment, post disaster need assessment, planning of disaster response, implementation, monitoring would enable the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in DRM” Mr. MD Jahangir Hossain, Director (Additional Secretary), Department of Women Affairs, Bangladesh

engagement, their understanding of DRR is still limited. Other CSOs engagement on DRR and disaster response is opportunistic rather than strategic due to influx or lack of funding after and before disasters. Where CSOs have formed coalitions in their engagement on DRR, as the case was

Box 5: GOOD PRACTICES IN WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP IN DRR

- In Afghanistan, community emergency response teams must be gender balanced.
- In Bangladesh, there must be at least four women sitting at village level DM committees.
- In Pakistan, women are part of international forums for example the World Humanitarian Summit, Conference of Parties on Climate Change.

with Nepal, they seem to be more effective in influencing DRR policies and leading concretely on disaster response.

While it was quite difficult to ascertain the extent of women's leadership in DRR, within the south Asian context, it is recognised that there have been some positive steps towards increased participation of women in DRR processes, but that the quality of this participation has not been determined.

Development of women's leadership must consider the contribution of women at levels of policy development and implementation. The experience of working with volunteer networks in early warning and response provides rich peer learning for countries with less developed

volunteerism. The need to ensure that women volunteers are empowered to deliver on their early warning activities was raised. With increasing urbanisation and high levels of urban risk throughout the region there must be the involvement of women in evolving DRR processes which focus on women.

The peer learning consultation was a first step to increasing the understanding of DRR and GEWE across disaster management machinery, women's machinery and civil society. There was recognition that this should continue. The knowledge and skills of all those responsible for delivering on DRR and GEWE commitments needs to be enhanced.

Box 6: EXPERIENCE OF THE WOMEN FRIENDLY DISASTER MANAGEMENT CORE GROUP NEPAL

The Core Group (later named the Women Friendly Disaster Management Core Group) is a group of eight Nepali women's organisations who came together after the 2015 earthquake. The Core Group harnessed the strength of their organisations and their mandates to share a “Common Charter of Demands” for GEWE in Post-Disaster Humanitarian Response. This charter and complementary advocacy efforts led to significant improvements in the disaster response, including the inclusion of chapters on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion being included in both Post Disaster Needs Assessments and Post Disaster Recovery Framework as well as ensuring that Gender Equality and Social Inclusion was included in the Nepal Reconstruction Authority's monitoring systems.

Concepts of DM and DRR were new to many members of the Core Group. The Core Group develop DRR knowledge through orientation and training from UN Women on the normative frameworks and linkages between SDGs, DRR goals and gender equality commitments. In March 2016, the Core Group published the Kathmandu Declaration, a comprehensive advocacy document based on demands for gender-responsive response, recovery, reconstruction and all other DRR activities.

The Core Group recognizes the following are key to successful implementation of gender-responsive disaster management:

- Right to Information is key

- Strong community resilience is essential for disaster response
- Women's organizations coming together as a group/entity is a significant factor for gender-responsive disaster response
- Ownership of the communities and women's group is essential
- Participation of diverse group in assessment is vital to ensure that their concerns are addressed
- Timely, proactive and strong advocacy is essential in ensuring gender-responsiveness, policies and laws
- Advocating for gender issues in disaster period is a herculean task

Learning:

- The leadership of women in DRR is a challenge across the region, and ensure that their voices are heard at the international level, through civil society
- Disasters provide space for women's groups to become involved in DRR. The Pakistan Earthquake, the 2015 floods in Sri Lanka and the 2015 Nepal earthquake were all entry points for women's groups to enter the DRR field
- Women must participate at all levels of DRR policy and programming to ensure that actions are gender-responsive and take into account the contributions and rights and needs of women
- Women's leadership development will challenge social norms while improve the impact of DRR processes. Focus now must be to ensure that community level participation in DM committees or early warning networks is meaningful and that women can fulfil their potential as agents of change
- Are the right questions being asked about women's participation? How are they participating? What changes are they creating? The analysis must accompany any data on level of participation.
- There is a two-way capacity gap for DRR professionals (policy makers and practitioners) on inclusive gender analysis as well as for national women's machinery and civil society on DRR.
- Areas of required focus mentioned in country presentations included; upgrading of early warning systems and emergency operation protocols as well as the contextualization of international frameworks in terms of gender-responsive initiatives.
- In some countries, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan there are few women's organisations with professional knowledge or specialization in DRR. This is acting as a barrier to inclusion of women's voices in DRR processes.

v. Financing

Without making the financial resources available for the implementation of gender responsive DRR strategies, programmes and projects such gendered DRR policies are not useful. However, while DRR policies across the region are gender responsive, currently there is no system in place to track gender expenditure on DRR or humanitarian action in any of the SAARC countries and as such the region cannot ascertain how effective their DRR policies and actions are in promoting women's resilience to disasters.

This session, however focused on how DRR can draw lessons from gender-responsive budgeting. To be able to understand

how much financing is going to gender responsive DRR, it is first necessary to develop conceptual framework to analyse gender responsive DRR budgeting. Once this is developed, there is a need significant investment to support the overall process. There will also need to be a monitoring system established.

Following the earthquake in Nepal, the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment and the Post-Disaster Recovery Frameworks both included a commitment to application of GRB principles and practices to all recovery and reconstruction programming. The discussion around GRB in DRR revealed that no country has been worked on

gender responsive budgeting for DRR. Both GRB and DRR are working separately. GRB is a good tool which can be linked with DRR for better amalgamation of gender issues and increase financing for DRR works. So far, this is at an infancy stage which needs further discussion and standardization for linking DRR and GRB to the budgetary framework and long-term DRR planning. DRR itself is new to the budgetary framework, and there needs to be a clear definition of DRR and its related activities. DRR should be addendum in policy, programme and budget of each country linking with GRB to increase financing for gender-responsive DRR.

Box 7: APPLYING GRB IN DRR

- The GRB process can provide lessons learnt from other areas, which can contribute to the development of a process that could ensure GRB in DRR:
- Priority for gender-responsive financing should be established at the outset to increase financing for DRR.
- Process should ensure the quality of gender-responsive financing, not only the quantity. This would include the capacity of absorption and quality of staff
- Fund-flow mechanisms should be established in a way that does not compromise on gender-responsive
- Policy, programme and budget should be guided to adopt GRB in DRR. To achieve GRB in DRR, strong commitment from all stakeholders are essential to maintain accountability, responsiveness and full transparency.

COUNTRY ACTION PLANS

The final session of the peer learning consultation was set aside for group work. Each country delegation was asked to consider an action plan for the next two years, which will help their country deliver on improved Disaster Preparedness for an effective response for GEWE. The

areas of focus were, actions to improve the collection, analysis and use of SADD, actions to improve the governance of gender-responsive DRR and which indicators should be used to monitor these actions over the next two years. The group work was an initial

brainstorming session with a limited time in the schedule. The action plans below can be seen as first drafts, which country delegations will work on, with support from UN women in the first quarter of 2017.

AFGHANISTAN		
SEX AND AGE DISAGGREGATED DATA		
FOCUS AREA	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR
Collecting SADD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ensure all clusters are collecting SADD and including gender analysis in their assessments, ■ Set up and strengthen national and provincial disaster information management system for collection, analysis and utilization of SADD in DRR system, ■ Ensure participation of women and girls in the process, ■ Mainstream gender in DRR projects and programs and ensure disaster tools are gender responsive. 	Disaster Information Management System is set up and SADD is collected and used
Making disaster-related SADD available and accessible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Make database available online, ■ Use media such as radio and social media targeting gender, women and girls, ■ Ensure all programmers are GBV and gender sensitive. 	
Utilising disaster-related SADD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Use SADD to strengthen communications with disaster affected communities and to raise awareness of community level DRR activities ■ Review and amend the disaster policy from gender perspective ■ National Preparedness Plan to add a specific section on gender-responsive DRR, including resilience building of women and girls. 	number of women and girls and engaged on DRR in priority provinces.
ENHANCING COORDINATION		
FOCUS AREA	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR
Enhancing coordination of national disaster management machinery, national women's machinery and women's groups in civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Establish multi- sectorial/inter-ministerial coordination mechanism on gender-responsive DRR, ■ Raise awareness on the importance of gender-responsive DRR through schools, learning centres, women in peace-building and other fora, ■ Support establishment of the core group of the women's groups to advocate for their rights in DRR policy and progress, ■ Building capacities of all the stakeholders, ■ Continue Gender in Humanitarian Action activities of engaging religious leaders and brothers to challenge social norms on women. 	Core group of women's group is established and functional

BANGLADESH		
SEX AND AGE DISAGGREGATED DATA		
FOCUS AREA	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR
Collecting SADD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Collate relevant pre-crisis data from different government departments, including Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and other government ministry databases, for instance Agriculture and Education, ■ Continue to collect SADD as a part of Government assessment process (SOS and D-Forms) 	
Making disaster-related SADD available and accessible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Make post-disaster data available and public through websites, ■ Enter Post Disaster Needs Assessments data in 	Public access to damage and need assessment data (Yes/No)
Utilising disaster-related SADD	online platform and made available for response and rehabilitation planning and gap analysis, Conduct analysis of who is doing what to minimize overlaps in the response and relief distribution using online platform (government, NGOs and Civil society).	Post disaster need assessment considers special needs of different groups (women, elderly, children) (Yes/No)
GOVERNANCE		
FOCUS AREA	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR
Enhancing coordination of national disaster management machinery, national women's machinery and women's groups in civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Develop a National Resilience Programme (for the first time, MoWCA and MODMR to join hands for national level DRR programme and CSOs as the implementing partner), ■ Develop a National Plan for Disaster Management and Standing Orders on Disaster; reviews and revisions to include consultations with the women groups at different levels, different relevant ministries, I/NGOs, Development Partners and civil societies, ■ Capacity enhancement of the local and the national level public officials, local CSOs and local committees, where CSOs are active. 	National DRR Policies/strategies (NPDM, SoD) are gender responsive and are in line with Sendai Framework of Action

BHUTAN		
SEX AND AGE DISAGGREGATED DATA		
FOCUS AREA	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR
Collecting SADD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Conduct meeting between the Department of Disaster Management, the women's machinery and the relevant CSOs authorities on the type and level of data requirement, ■ Develop guideline/template for data collection, ■ Incorporate the requirement into the Disaster Management Information System. 	Timeline by which DMIS is developed incorporating the data requirement guidelines
Making disaster-related SADD available and accessible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Involve the community representatives, CSOs and other volunteer groups in data collection (pre, during and post disasters), ■ Develop a data follow-up protocol at different levels, ■ Analyze the information collected from gender perspective, Disseminate the information collected through a web portal 	Number of reports published
Utilising disaster-related SADD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Include Gender Focal Points (GFPs), community representatives in the development of District Disaster Management Plans, Involve NCWC and relevant agencies to review the draft district DNMP including requirement to collect data. 	Percentage of women's representation in the committees
GOVERNANCE		
FOCUS AREA	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR
Enhancing coordination of national disaster management machinery, national women's machinery and women's groups in civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Form multi-sectoral taskforce with representations from all relevant sectors including CSOs at the districts, ■ Identify training gaps for the three agencies, ■ Organize exchange and training programmes 	Number of multi-sectoral teams formed Number of exchange programs conducted Number of officials trained

MALDIVES		
SEX AND AGE DISAGGREGATED DATA		
FOCUS AREA	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR
Collecting SADD		
Making disaster-related SADD available and accessible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ NDMC take initiative to ensure the data been disseminated across the sectors and CSOs. 	Publication of DRR data by National Bureau of Statistics
Utilising disaster-related SADD	Implement the Disaster Management Act to promote analysis of gender-responsive DRR in the public policy.	Mainstreaming with line ministries and CSOs
GOVERNANCE		
FOCUS AREA	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR
Enhancing coordination of national disaster management machinery, national women's machinery and women's groups in civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Combine climate change and DRR government departments and CSOs to work together more closely to promote a joined-up approach to gender-responsive DRR, ■ Ensure women's participation in DRR processes, ■ Include DRR in gender policies and include women's machinery in the National Disaster Management Council. 	<p>Memorandum of Understanding between climate change and DRR government departments is in place</p> <p>Number of women participating in DRR processes</p>
NEPAL		
SEX AND AGE DISAGGREGATED DATA		
FOCUS AREA	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR
Collecting SADD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pre-crisis disaster information should include SADD, District Preparedness and Response Plan, District Disaster Management Plan and Local Disaster Risk Management Plan, ■ Continue using assessment tools which collect SADD; Initial Rapid Assessment, Multi Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA), Cluster specific Detailed Damage Assessment (CDDA) and Post Disaster Need Assessment, ■ Collect SADD and maintain as Gender-responsive Disaster Information Management System (DIMS) at the VDC level ■ Assess SADD collected in other ministries where necessary, for instance; the National Health Demographic Survey and the vital registration system. 	Comprehensive template which collects relevant SADD to be designed for pre and post disaster
Making disaster-related SADD available and accessible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Use the existing information system (formal and informal mechanism, for instance; media), ■ Ensure proactive disclosure of information, ■ Coordinate with the women groups to make information available, ■ Ensure the other ministries also make the data available. 	

NEPAL		
SEX AND AGE DISAGGREGATED DATA		
FOCUS AREA	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR
Utilising disaster-related SADD		Adoption, implementation and Audit of GRB and RTI in DRR Gender profile available
GOVERNANCE		
FOCUS AREA	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR
Improved Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Continue using the existing mechanisms; Local Disaster Management Committee (LDMC), District Disaster Risk Management Committee (DDRC) and the Central Calamities Disaster Relief Committee (CNDRC), ■ Make these existing mechanisms more responsive by adding more members and making it more Gender Equality and Social Inclusion-sensitive and effective, ■ Build capacity of the existing mechanisms in gender-responsive DRR, ■ Share information with all stakeholders, ■ Gender Focal Point and Disaster Focal Point to work together. 	Percentage of women's participation in DRR mechanism at all levels
Capacity-Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Capacitate all including CSOs, political parties and other relevant stakeholders on gender-responsive DRR, ■ Development Partners should be reflected on the annual plan and program and ensure that gender-responsive DRR is promoted, ■ Women and Children Office should have a designated person for DRR and equip all staff sufficiently on DRR, ■ Existing different forums in the districts should be mobilized for gender-responsive DRR. 	No. of stakeholders enhanced Capacity on gender-responsive DRR community mechanism is in place for gender-responsive DRR

PAKISTAN		
SEX AND AGE DISAGGREGATED DATA		
FOCUS AREA	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR
Collecting SADD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Collection of disaggregated data already in place of the 25 most vulnerable districts in the first phase, ■ Single reporting format available for the collection of age and sex disaggregated data for disasters. (Sitrep format) 	SADD collected, available and disseminated
Making disaster-related SADD available and accessible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ GHTF is functional and continue this platform to coordinate, share and disseminate information and data to promote collective action and need based interventions, ■ Periodic analysis of the existing data and consultations done regularly with the relevant stakeholders, including the women machineries for better targeting, ■ Capacity-building and strengthening of the existing infrastructure at the national, provincial and district level is required. 	
Utilising disaster-related SADD	Enhancing the role of NDMA at GHTF to ensure that the data is utilized.	Expertise available to carry out gender analysis
GOVERNANCE		
FOCUS AREA	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR
Improved coordination and capacity building	<p>Gender thematic group exist at the policy level with the representations from the relevant government ministries and departments, the national and the provincial level as well as from the UN and civil society,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Strengthen the existing mechanism with GCC including GTG and GHTF, ■ Utilize the National Institute of Disaster Management to build the capacity of the relevant ministries and the civil society, <p>Review the existing training materials from gender lens.</p>	Strengthening of Gender Theme Group (GTG) to use the analysis and bring together relevant stakeholders.

SRI LANKA		
SEX AND AGE DISAGGREGATED DATA		
FOCUS AREA	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR
Collecting SADD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the existing databases; Women's Information System, Department of Census and Statistics, Link these databases for gender-responsive DRR. 	
Making disaster-related SADD available and accessible		
Utilising disaster-related SADD		
GOVERNANCE		
FOCUS AREA	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR
Enhancing coordination of national disaster management machinery, national women's machinery and women's groups in civil society	Review the gender and disability component of the NDMA, Conduct mapping of women representatives at the national and the local level, Build stronger coordination with the civil society at the times of disaster.	Community based monitoring system to support women during disasters established

E. WAY FORWARD

Key results from the South Asia Peer Learning Consultation Workshop was the successful coming together of NDMAs, women's machineries and civil society - women's groups to share their experiences for enhancing understanding on disaster preparedness for an effective response for GEWE in the South Asia region. Alongside

important reflections, country delegations developed action plans focusing on two key areas of collection and analysis of SADD and governance for gender-responsive DRR.

Countries are in the process of developing national plans for the implementation

of the Sendai Framework. Delegates are encouraged to promote the integration of the action points and other learnings coming out of the Peer Learning Consultation into national and local level DRR plans.

ANNEX 1: AGENDA

PROGRAMME

South Asia Peer Learning Regional Consultation
on Disaster Preparedness for an Effective Response for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

28 – 30 November, 2016

Kumari, Hall, Hotel Annapurna, Kathmandu, Nepal

MONDAY, 28 TH NOVEMBER	
09:00 - 09:30	Registration
Master of Ceremony- Ms. Binita Bhattarai, Under Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW)	
09:30 – 09:40	National Anthem and Inaugural Ceremony
09:40 – 09:45	Welcome Remarks by Mr. Bishnu Prasad Lamsal, Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW)
09:45 – 09:50	Video on “Women Respond”
09:50 – 09:55	Remarks by the H. E. Ms. Ingrid Dahl-Madsen, Chargé d’Affaires, Embassy of Denmark
09:55 – 10:00	Remarks by Ms. Valerie Julliand, UN Resident Coordinator
10:00 – 10:05	Inaugural Address by The Honourable Bimalendra Nidhi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Ministry of Home Affairs
10:05 – 10:10	Vote of thanks by Mr. Krishna Bahadur Raut, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA)
10:10 – 10:30	Exhibition
10:30 – 11:00	High Tea

28 – 30 November, 2016**Arc Room, Hotel Annapurna, Kathmandu, Nepal**

Monday 28th November Consultation Facilitator, Dr. Kiran Rupakhette, Programme Director, National Planning Commission Secretariat, Government of Nepal	
Setting the stage for disaster preparedness: Understanding the normative frameworks and commitments	
Chaired by Government of Sri Lanka Ms. Nadeeka Pramodini Kohomban Arachchi, Assistant Director, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs	
11:30 - 13:00	Presentation on international frameworks around gender, disasters, climate change and sustainable development
	Background to DRR, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Paris Agreement, SDGs and Asia Ministerial Conference on DRR and its outcomes
	Gender Equality and Disaster Risk Reduction – linkages, issues, progress and challenges at the global and regional level
	Gender Equality and Humanitarian Action - World Humanitarian Summit
	■ UNDP- Mr. Sanny Ramos Jegillos, Senior Advisor, DRR and Recovery, Bangkok Regional Hub, UNDP
	■ UN Women- Ms. Cecilia Aipira, Climate Change and DRR Policy Advisor, Asia & Pacific, UN Women
	Discussion
	■ UN Women- Ms. Smriti Aryal, Regional Advisor, Gender and Humanitarian Actions, Asia & Pacific, UN Women
	Followed by Q&A session
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break

Experiences, best practices and challenges on gender-responsive humanitarian response and disaster risk reduction	
Chaired by Government of Nepal Mr. Bishnu Prasad Lamsal, Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (<i>MoWCSW</i>)	
14:00 – 16:00	Presentations by the Governments of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan and India
	(Country presentations with a focus on the use of sex and age disaggregated data (SADD), gender responsive policies, applying gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) principles, supporting the leadership and participation of women's groups, localizing early warning systems, community-based DRR, climate change, etc.)
	■ Afghanistan-Mr. Naseer Ahmad Popal, Director for Social Protection Directorate, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
	■ Bangladesh- Mr. Jahangir Hossain, Director (Joint Secretary) Department of Women Affairs
	■ Bhutan- Ms. Lotoey Pem, ICT Officer, Department of Disaster Management
	■ India- Ms. Nagma Firdaus, Senior Consultant, Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM), National Disaster Management Authority, Government of India
	Followed by discussion
16:00 – 16:15	Tea Break

Addressing the financing gap: applying gender-responsive budgeting for disaster risk reduction

Chaired by Government of Bhutan

Ms. Ngawang Pem, Governor, Dzongkhag (District) Administration, Tsirang

16:15 – 17:30	Brainstorming session on how to address the financing gap moderated by Ms. Yamini Mishra
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Presentation on Gender Responsive Budgeting in Disaster Risk Reduction in Nepal by the Ministry of Finance, Government of Nepal-
	Mr. Madhu K. Marasini, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of Nepal
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Discussion
18:00 – 20:00	Welcome dinner hosted by the Government of Nepal

TUESDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

8:00 – 11:45	Field visit to an earth-quake affected community (Bhaktapur) to interact with earthquake affected women and girls and to see gender-responsive recovery and reconstruction efforts
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break
13.00-13.15	Group Photograph

Experiences, best practices and challenges on gender-responsive humanitarian response and disaster risk reduction

Chaired by Government of Bangladesh

Mr. Jahangir Hossain, Director (Joint Secretary) Department of Women Affairs

13:15 – 14:15	Presentations by the Governments of Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
	(Country presentations with a focus on the use of sex and age disaggregated data (SADD), developing gender responsive policies, applying gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) principles, supporting the leadership and participation of women's groups, localizing early warning systems, community-based DRR, climate change, etc.)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Maldives - Mr. Ahmed Mohamed Fulhu, Assistant Director, Ministry of Gender
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nepal - Mr. Krishna Bahadur Raut, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pakistan - Ms. Raheela Saad, Member, National Disaster Management Authority
	Followed by discussion
14:15 – 14:30	Tea Break

Women's voices, agency and leadership: Women's groups' experiences	
Chaired by Government of Maldives Ms. Fathimath Shaushan Moosa, Senior Administrative Officer, National Disaster Management Center (NDMC)	
14:30 – 17:30	Panel discussion with South Asian women's groups Nepal:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nepal- Ms. Chandni Joshi, Coordination, Women's Core Group working on Humanitarian response and Disaster Risk Reduction ■ Bhutan- Ms. Yangchi Pema, Program Officer, Respect, Educate, Nurture, and Empower Women (RNEW)) ■ Pakistan- Huma Chaughtai, Freelance, Consultant/Specialist ■ Bangladesh- Nasrin Begum, Master Trainer (Comprehensive Sexuality Education) & Coordinator (Capacity Building), Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) ■ Afghanistan- Ms. Rohina Bawer, Media and Communication Officer, Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan (HAWCA) ■ Maldives- Rifa Rasheed, Advocacy Officer, Hope for Women

WEDNESDAY 30TH NOVEMBER	
Access to information Chaired by Government of Pakistan Ms. Raheela Saad, Member, National Disaster Management Authority	
09:15 – 10:00	Brainstorming session on leveraging the Right to Information for effective response for gender equality and women's empowerment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Presentation on access to information- Mr. Krishna Hari Baskota, Chief Information Commissioner, National Information Commission, Government of Nepal ■ Discussion

Moving Forward: Priorities and actions for substantive change	
Chaired by Government of Afghanistan Ms. Spozhmai Wardak, Deputy Minister, Technical & Policy, Ministry of Women Affairs (MOWA)	
10:00 – 10:30	Recap from Day 1 and 2
10:30 – 11:15	Group work by country on developing critical measures/action points for effective response for gender equality and women's empowerment
11:15 – 11:30	Tea Break

Closing Session	
11:30 – 13:30	Group work presentations followed by plenary discussion on the way forward
	Closing Remarks by Mr. Bishnu Prasad Lamsal, Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW) Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal and Ms. Wenny Kusuma, UN Women Representative
13:30 – 14:30	Press briefing attended by Head of Delegation
13:30 -14.30	Lunch

ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

NAME	TITLE AND ORGANIZATION	CONTACT
Naseer Ahmad Popal Spozhmai Wardak Meena Rana Barakzai Rohina Bawer	AFGHANISTAN Director, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development Deputy Minister – Policy, Ministry of Women Affairs Deputy Director - Humanitarian Assistance for Mother and Children in Afghanistan Communication Officer, Women and Children of Afghanistan	naseer.popal@mrrd.gof.af spozhmai@gmail.com meenarana.barakzai@gmail.com rohina.baura@gmail.com
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Mariyam Shizna Fathimath Saushan Moosa Ahmed Mohamed Fulhu Aishath Lahufa Rifa Rasheed	MALDIVES Program Coordinator, National Disaster Management Centre Senior Admin Officer, National Disaster Management Centre Assistant Director, Ministry of Gender and Family Training Officer, Family Protection Authority Advocacy Officer, Hope for Women	shizna.mariyam@gmail.com saushanmoosa@gmail.com ahmed.mohamed@gender.gov.mv aisathlahu@gmail.com rifa@hopeforwomen.org.mv
Narayan Prasad Kaphle Narayan B. Kunwar Binita Bhattarai Naresh Kumar Chapagain Rukmangat Aryal Yubaraj Pangyani Madhu Marasini Janak Raj Sharma Kiran Rupakhetee Pradasanie Kumari Krishna Hari Baskota Krishna Bahadur Raut Uddab Timilsina	NEPAL Joint Secretary, MOWCSW Under Secretary, MOWCSW Under Secretary, MOWCSW Director General, MOWCSW Section Officer, MOWCSW Non-gaz Officer, MOWCSW Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance Under Secretary, Ministry of Finance Programme Director, National Planning Commission Secretariat Under Secretary, National Planning Commission Secretariat Chief Commissioner, National Information Commission Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs Under Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs	narayankaphle@yahoo.com narayankunwar40@gmail.com chapgainanarash@gmail.com aryalruku7@gmail.com yrbpagyani@yahoo.com mmarasini@mof.gov.np jsharma@mof.gov.np kiran.rupakhetee@hotmail.com pradasaniekumari7@gmail.com knbaskota1@gmail.com me_uddab@hotmail.com

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ANNEX 3: SNAPSHOTS OF THE EVENT



28 Nov 2016 - Inaugural Session Lighting

- Inaugural lighting by The Honourable Bimalendra Nidhi, Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister



28 Nov 2016 – Inaugural Chief Guest and Special Guests

(From left to right)

- Mr. Bishnu Prasad Lamsal, Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare
- Ms. Valerie Julliard, UN Resident Coordinator
- The Honourable Bimalendra Nidhi, Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister
- H. E. Ms. Ingrid Dahl-Madsen, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Denmark
- Mr. Krishna Bahadur Raut, Joint-Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs

28 Nov 2016 – Photo Exhibition

- Delegates from Bhutan walking by the photo exhibition



28 Nov 2016 - Presentation on International Frameworks around Gender, Disasters, Climate Change and Sustainable Development

- Ms. Cecilia Aipira, Climate Change and DRR Policy Advisor, Asia & Pacific, UN Women, presenting on Gender Equality and Disaster Risk Reduction

28 Nov 2016 - Country Presentation

- Mr. Jahangir Hossain, Director (Joint Secretary), Department of Women Affairs, Government of Bangladesh, presenting Bangladesh's Country Presentation





28 Nov 2016 - Addressing the Financing Gap: Applying Gender-responsive Budgeting for DRR

- Mr. Madhu K. Marasini, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of Nepal, presenting on "Gender Responsive Budgeting in Disaster Risk Reduction in Nepal"

28 Nov 2016 – Launch of Coffee Book “Nepal: A Year after Earthquake – A spotlight on Nepali Women and Girls, their Stories and Solutions” during Welcome dinner hosted by the Government of Nepal (From left to right)

- Ms. Wenny Kusuma, Representative, UN Women
- H. E. Ms. Ingrid Dahl-Madsen, Chargé d’Affaires, Embassy of Denmark
- Mr. Bishnu Prasad Lamsal, Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare
- Ms. Sita Shrestha, Beneficiary of Multi-Purpose Women Center, Sindhupalchowk



29 Nov 2016 – Field Visit to Bhaktapur

- Interaction programme with earthquake affected women and girls from Bhaktapur



29 Nov 2016 – Panel Discussion with South Asian Women's Groups *(From left to right)*

- Ms. Huma Chaughtai, Freelance, Consultant/Specialist, Pakistan
- Ms. Rohina Bawer, Media and Communication Officer, Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan, Afghanistan
- Ms. Rifa Rasheed, Advocacy Officer, Hope for Women, Maldives
- Ms. Fathimath Shaushan Moosa, Senior Administrative Officer, National Disaster Management Center, Maldives

- Ms. Chandni Joshi, Coordination, Women's Core Group working on Humanitarian response and DRR, Nepal
- Ms. Yangchi Pema, Program Officer, Respect, Educate, Nurture, and Empower Women, Bhutan
- Ms. Nasrin Begum, Master Trainer (Comprehensive Sexuality Education) & Coordinator (Capacity Building), Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS), Bangladesh



30 Nov 2016 – Session on Access to Information

- Mr. Krishna Hari Baskota, Chief Information Commissioner, National Information Commission, Government of Nepal, presenting on access to information



**30 Nov 2016 – Group
Work on Developing
Critical Measures/
Action Points for
Effective Response for
GE/WE**

- Group work by Maldives



30 Nov 2016 – Group Work Presentations by Countries

- Ms. Nadeeka Pramodini Kohomban, Arachchi, Assistant Director, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, Sri Lanka

