

## **20-Point Checklist on Making Disaster Risk Reduction Gender Sensitive:**

Disaster risk reduction and gender are issues cutting across socio-economic development sectors. Making disaster risk reduction gender sensitive is central to achieving sustainable development. The checklist provides priority areas to make disaster risk reduction gender sensitive in technical, political, social, developmental and humanitarian processes.

### **The Technical Process**

Adequate policy guidance and DRR programme requires a technically sound gender-sensitive approach in the following areas:

- 1) Carry out gender-sensitive risk assessments, based on a gender-based vulnerability analysis, taking into account the practices of gender inequality in political, social, cultural, and economic areas as well as the different roles that men and women play at national and local levels.
- 2) Enhance national and local early warning systems from a gender perspective, taking the different needs and different access between men and women to early warning messages on potential and devastating hazards.
- 3) Take action to increase women's capacity and knowledge on gender-sensitive risk assessment and vulnerability analysis in disaster risk reduction.
- 4) Develop gender-sensitive indicators for disaster risk reduction which will enable international organizations and governments to monitor and assess the progress made in gender sensitive disaster risk reduction.

### **The Political Process**

Governments and parliaments should demonstrate their political commitment by translating the following action points into reality:

- 5) Establish a national coordinator in the national committee and national platform for disaster risk reduction to ensure the inclusion of gender perspectives in the national agenda for disaster risk reduction (DRR).
- 6) Review existing national policy and plans for disaster risk reduction from a gender perspective to ensure that gender issues and women's concerns will be addressed at policy level.
- 7) Allocate a national budget for advocacy, capacity building and programmes which promotes gender gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction (DRR).

- 8) Introduce legislation to provide legal support to gender-sensitive DRR to make sure that both men and women will participate in and benefit from national policy, plan and financial resources equally in all DRR activities.

### **The Social Process**

Governments, educational institutions and civil societies should increase their investment in the following actions in order to create an enabling environment for gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction:

- 9) Launch national and local campaigns on gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction to increase citizens' understanding of the subject through advocacy kits, national debates, community meetings and even recreation and cultural activities.
- 10) Engage the media to report on gender differences in disaster risks, disaster vulnerability, as well as the underlying factors that contributed to the gender differences.
- 11) Introduce gender sensitive disaster risk reduction into formal, informal and non formal education to highlight stories that promote women, as leaders and agent of change, in disaster risk reduction at both national and community level.
- 12) Develop win-win partnerships and networks with different stakeholder, especially those development policy makers, planners and practitioners who's roles will be essential in mainstreaming gender-sensitive DRR into development sectors.

### **The Development Process**

Development can either increase or decrease disaster risks. Community or individual vulnerability to disasters is the result of unsustainable development. Integrating gender-sensitive disaster risk assessment into development planning and programmes promote gender equality and reduce gender-based disaster risks and vulnerability tremendously, contributing to sustainable development where both gender and disaster risk reduction are issues cutting across every aspect of development.

- 13) Make gender-sensitive risk assessment a precondition for any development planning at national and local level so that gender perspectives and risk reduction concepts will be applied at the beginning in development.
- 14) Mainstream gender-sensitive DRR in land use and urban planning policies and strategies in order to promote disaster resilient development and gender equality in land use and urban planning.
- 15) Take action to enhance women's leadership and role in integrating DRR in natural resource management, environment protection, and health education where women have demonstrated themselves to be leaders and agents for change.

- 16) Encourage micro credit and micro finance programmes to provide more support to women who will use the financial support to reduce their personal and community vulnerability to disasters and increase their capacity to reduce their disaster risks.

### **The Humanitarian Process**

- 17) Develop a disaster contingency plan based on the results of a gender-sensitive vulnerability analysis and risk assessment to address the different needs and concerns between men and women during emergency caused by natural hazards.
- 18) Mainstream gender needs and concerns into disaster preparedness planning and storage of relief goods, especially in preparation of emergency relief goods to ensure that women's particular needs will be met during disasters.
- 19) Include women's participation in planning and distribution of humanitarian assistance to address the existing unequal access to and benefit from relief assistance.
- 20) Secure increased women's participation in disaster recovery and reconstruction planning and programmes to change the situation that women often do not have enough voice in the disaster recovery process.