



# Power, vulnerability and agency in disaster risk reduction: A knowledge-exchange for sustainable development in Asia

## CONCEPT NOTE

20 and 21 September 2016  
Swissotel Nai Lert Park Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

Regional Asia Environment Conference Support Programme  
Under the Sida-SEI Strategic Fund



# Introduction

The gap between development and humanitarian action is well-documented, as is the weakness of incorporating gender-sensitive approaches into humanitarian disaster response. In parallel, there is also a divide between disaster risk reduction, increasingly linked to development in policy and practice, and humanitarian aid, which still tends to focus on disaster response through post-disaster relief and recovery efforts. In order to achieve equitable, sustainable and disaster resilient development in Asia, the region needs to enhance its capacity to incorporate gendered issues of power, vulnerability and agency into its disaster risk reduction efforts. Integrating disaster risk reduction and sustainable development strategies is critical in protecting the gains of development, especially for those most vulnerable to disaster risks. At the same time, the region can demonstrate a range of approaches in which women and vulnerable groups are important agents of change.

There are multiple examples of programs that serve as catalysts for empowerment by focusing on the transformative role that women and vulnerable groups can play in disaster risk reduction. Programming models can contribute to equitable socio-economic development, poverty reduction and disaster risk reduction by addressing social inequality and unfair power systems by taking a more inclusive approach that addresses the needs and priorities of all social groups. The knowledge and lessons learned in these innovative programs should be documented and shared more widely in order to replicate successful approaches throughout the region.

ADPC will convene a knowledge-exchange event that aims to bring together representatives of national disaster management authorities/departments (NDMOs), women/social development departments, geo-spatial data institutions, national, regional, and international women's rights and gender equality organisations, experts on disaster risk reduction and humanitarian aid, and international organisations to discuss the links between disaster risk reduction and gender sensitive actions for sustainable development. The focus will be to present successful case studies, geospatial and remote sensing models and tools to be shared and discussed.

## Objectives



Highlight mechanisms and analyses for linking gender inclusive disaster risk reduction with humanitarian action and sustainable development by contextualizing the Sendai- Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and outcome documents from World Humanitarian Summit, May 2016 as linked to Sustainable Development Goals



Share tools, models, examples, experiences, lessons learned and good practice of gender-based approaches to disaster risk reduction that fosters links to environmental sustainable development and improved disaster resilience



Create a community of learning to facilitate gender-inclusive approaches to disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action linked with sustainable development, sustained by ADPC



Encourage and foster the launch of country level communities of learning that link government (department of disaster management and department of women affairs or other relevant departments), non-governmental organizations and geo-spatial and remote sensing institutions for innovative solutions to disaster risk reduction.

# Target Audience

Operational level persons from national disaster management organisations, departments of women/social affairs, national humanitarian response entities, geospatial and remote sensing institutions, civil society, national non-governmental organisations

Four persons from each country will be invited to attend with a balanced representation from Department of Disaster Management or other relevant Department, Department of Women Affairs or other relevant Department, national or non-governmental organizations, academia, research institutions and remote sensing institutions



## Session Plan

### Day 1:

Gender, Power, Agency, Vulnerability: Setting the stage

Power Activity

Demonstrating Gender Analysis

Understanding the Sendai Framework of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction, World Humanitarian Summit linked with SDG

Sustainable Development, gender inclusive disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action: Core concepts

### Day 2:

Can disaster risk management and humanitarian action be linked? How?

Transformative conceptual framework for disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action linked with sustainable development

Panel and Marketplace for innovation and good practice- GIS tools and models

Strategizing for results: Supporting partnerships for integrating gendered approach into disaster risk reduction mechanisms

Community of learning

**ADPC is welcoming expressions of interest to participate in this knowledge-sharing event. Please contact Maria Holtsberg at [Mariah@adpc.net](mailto:Mariah@adpc.net), tel: 66 8 32420289**