

# Assessing Gender Implications in Post Disaster Period



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# Rationale for the study



- Vulnerability to disaster is not the nature's wrath but manifestation of existing social and economic standing of the survivors.
- Gender disparities (for e.g. literacy rates, ownership of assets, roles and responsibilities, outlook towards life, women's triple role etc.) disadvantage women's capability to withstand the disasters and their impacts
- A concerted effort is necessary to make relief and reconstruction work gender-responsive
- Against this background it is important to assess the efforts of governmental and non-governmental organisations and suggest measures to make their programmes more effective.

# Gender disparities



	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>
Estimated gross national income per capita, (2011 PPP\$)	1979	2718
Human Development Index (HDI),	0.538	0.582
Labour force participation rate (% ages 15 and older)	79.7	86.8
Life expectancy at birth (years)	71.5	68.6
Mean years of schooling (years)	3.2	5
Population with at least some secondary education, (% ages 25 and older)	24.1	41.2
Female ownership of land or house (%)	19.17	
Source: HDI, GDI and Census 2011		

# Objective and Methodology



## Objective

- To explore the impact of earthquake on women, their coping mechanism and their status in the post disaster period.
- To explore the activities carried out by government and non- governmental organisations post disaster and their impact on women.

- Methodology

Desk Research (study mostly based on secondary data)

District Case Study (Rasuwa)

Key informant interviews

# Facts and Figures



- The disaster killed more numbers of females than males —56 per cent of the casualties were women (Females: **5026**; Males: **3934**)
- An estimated 126,000 women were pregnant in the earthquake affected areas but 2/3rd of the existing basic emergency obstetric and neonatal care sites or birthing centres were damaged
- 23,000 cases of trafficking or attempts to traffic were reported; more than 40,000 women were in considered to be in danger of sexual violence
- Considering higher engagement of women than men in agriculture sector —farming and livestock, PDNA assessed women lost approximately NPR 15 billion due to earthquake
- 50 per cent of all household-based and micro enterprises have sustained complete or partial damage.

Source: PDNA, PDRF and DRR portal, GON

# Impact at a glance



- Loss of livelihood and economic means (e.g. agriculture tools, household based activities like micro enterprises, home stay etc.)
- Increased income opportunities (reconstruction activities, vocational trainings, mobilization of women engineers for reconstruction work etc.)
- Increased work load for women (attending sick and old people, caring for children); drying up of water resources added drudgery) resulting in time-poverty among female members contracting their potential for wage-earning employment.
- Sexual and physical violence
- Negative Coping mechanism
- Vulnerability to trafficking
- Deterioration of sexual and reproductive health
- Access to relief materials and government grants: a. Mobility b. Awareness c. Capacity
- Psychosocial impacts

# Interventions



## Government

- Gender disaggregated data in various documents like PDNA, PDRF and other target indicators of NRA.
- NRA established a GESI Committee on 6 January 2017 ; GESI division was established in June 2017 and started an intervention with collaboration with different agencies
- GESI & Livelihood Action Plan has been prepared and will be finalized by April 2018
- National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Strategic Action Plan, 2017-2030, which will replace the existing strategy is also believed to be incorporating gender concerns in the national action
- NPR 4.6 billion is budget allocated specifically for targeting GESI plans

## Non Government

- Inter-Cluster Gender Task Force to address women specific concerns formed.
- Opened communication lines between affected women and government.
- Created safe-spaces for women during their residence at transitional camps; ‘Dignity kits’, Minimum Initial Service Package (**MISP**)
- Provided counselling — on psychosocial, sexual and reproductive health and legal issues
- Cash for Work programmes
- Vocational trainings (agriculture, masonry, other skill development)



This house is being constructed by Bhagwati Pahari who participated in 50 days vocational training conducted by Helvetas and since then has constructed 17 houses. With a team of 11 masons, she now works as a contractor and head mason.

(Source : [http://www.hrrpnepal.org/upload/resources/awDIJRK1WeBr4Gnmkfug\\_2018\\_03\\_19.pdf](http://www.hrrpnepal.org/upload/resources/awDIJRK1WeBr4Gnmkfug_2018_03_19.pdf) )



# CASE STUDY OF RASUWA DISTRICT



# Facts and Figures



	Female	Male
Population	21825	21475
Casualty	372	313
	Rasuwa	National Average
HDI	0.461	0.49
Life Expectancy (years)	70.91	68.8
Adult Literacy (per cent)	41.32	59.57
Average years of Schooling	2.88	3.9

[Source: CBS/ National Population And Housing Census 2011/ Rasuwa](#)

# Impact at a glance



- Opening of Rasuwagadi-Kerung border point in December 2014; increased importance after Tatopani remains closed since the earthquake in April 2015 leading to increased economic activities and opportunities
- Earthquake has had a positive impact as livelihood opportunities for both men and women have increased
- Labour migration limited according to 2011 Census (5.1% of men and 2.06 % of female)
- More displaced population in this district than any other (850 HHs among the total 3100 HHs), which has confined women to their temporary settlement due to insecurity and their responsibility towards children
- Increased dependency on men
- Risk of sexual exploitation for women remains the same especially across the border

# Addressing gender concerns during reconstruction



- Focus has shifted to livelihoods and GESI beyond the housing reconstruction but concrete ideas may be lacking. However since an action plan is being developed which may give directions in future.
- Duplication of efforts while some areas and issues have been completely left out or given low priority (for e.g. WASH).
- High importance given to GESI issues on paper but not enough activities to support.
- NRA is without sufficient women representation.
- Many organisations were involved in creating safe spaces for women in the temporary camps, provided psychosocial and legal counselling, also helped deal with hygiene and sanitation facilities.
- Role of women in disaster risk reduction is recognized (Sendai Framework).

नेपालमा व्यक्तिबाट व्यक्ति विधिद्वारा द्वन्द्व न्यूनीकरण तथा लैंगिक तथा सामाजिक समावेशीकरण सम्बन्धि नीतिहरुको कार्यान्वयनमा सुधार परियोजना (CM-GESI) द्वारा सञ्चालित

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# Recommendations



- NRA is taking the lead but coordinating post earthquake reconstruction and other activities is difficult, support should be extended from all sections of the society.
- Housing reconstruction still needs to be given priority along with other livelihood activities like micro enterprises development.
- There is a need to maintain the momentum of GESI activities through lobbying and coordination with local women representatives. This will also support devolution and allocation of reconstruction work among the newly elected local representatives in respective districts.
- This could be an opportunity to introduce interventions for women's economic, social and political empowerment. For e.g. ensuring legal identity to facilitate the specific rights and corresponding duties (SDG cross cutting goal 16.9)
- NRA as the agency responsible for post earthquake activities should be active in avoiding duplication of efforts and see that all the important issues get enough attention

THANK YOU

