



EnGenDER

Enabling Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery,
Climate and Environmental Resilience in the Caribbean

Gender Inequality of Climate Change and Disaster Risk: A Focus on Coordination for Humanitarian Response

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Gender & Climate Change Resilience Series

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Humanitarian Response

Humanitarian response focuses on the immediate needs of communities that have been affected by climate change impacts and disaster events. These response efforts are to be based on a holistic analysis that encompasses gender, age, disability, ethnicity and other aspects of identity. This intersectional gender-responsive approach would help to change the ways in which humanitarian aid organizations prepare, prevent, respond and recover from emergency situations.

Gender-Responsive Humanitarian Response

In an emergency, pre-existing gender inequalities and discrimination tend to be further exacerbated, due to sudden shifts in gender roles and relations. Gendered social norms affect women and girls' ability to make decisions, propose solutions and lead responses; this can constrain women's livelihoods and opportunities, which by extension can affect the ability of their households and wider communities to recover from crises.

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) is committed to ensuring equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of humanitarian action. UN Women works in crises prevention, preparedness and response



to reduce vulnerabilities, address risks, promote resilience and leverage women's leadership. UN Women works to ensure that women and girls play a greater role in and are better served by disaster risk prevention and humanitarian response and recovery efforts to support their empowerment and resilience. UN Women's work in humanitarian action is guided by global norms and standards.

Actions to Achieve A Gender-Responsive Humanitarian Response

UN Women has identified a few areas central to supporting women and girls' empowerment in humanitarian action:



Leadership and Participation

Humanitarian crises affect women and girls, and men and boys differently; thus, it is important that both women and men be equally represented in policy-making decisions.



Targeted Distribution

Healthcare, including sexual and reproductive health services, and food and nutrition relief services must be appropriate and timely.



Protection and Safety

In humanitarian contexts, crises and disasters, gender-based violence can be exacerbated and become systematic; therefore, basic services (e.g., healthcare, education, food security and safely managed water, sanitation and hygiene for households and healthcare facilities) should take into consideration the needs of women and girls, men and boys, persons with disabilities and members of the LGBTQ+ community, given their increased risks of experiencing sexual and gender-based violence.



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