

# MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN DISASTER ASSESSMENTS

LUCIANA FONTES DE MEIRA

ASSOCIATE ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS OFFICER,  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND DISASTER UNIT,  
ECLAC

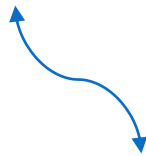


UNITED NATIONS



# TOOLS FOR GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN DISASTER AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Disaster assessments provide valuable information that helps countries to understand risk factors and better plan for recovery and reconstruction.



As disasters tend to reinforce, perpetuate and increase gender inequality, gender mainstreaming in disaster assessments offers a powerful tool in the design of inclusive evidence-based resilient strategies.



## What is a disaster assessment?

- It is the estimation of the effects and impacts caused by a hazard, expressed in monetary terms.

## HOW DATA FROM DISASTER ASSESSMENT CAN HELP...

Identifying, analyzing and attributing **value** to the differences in disaster impacts on men and women, or different groups in general, helps to:

- Adequately **identifying and evaluating risks** and designing appropriate interventions;
- Provide a framework for considering different **needs**, differences in **access to resources** and **division of labor** when it comes to government action and public policies for recovery and reconstruction;
- Making communities more receptive to interventions.

# WAYS TO INCLUDE GENDER IN DISASTER ASSESSMENTS

Compile gender-disaggregated data and information such as: sex-disaggregated national statistics on poverty, education, health, employment and demographic traits (proportion of households headed by women, adolescent motherhood rates).

Analyze how much ground —legally, politically and culturally— the gender perspective has gained in the country or area.

Collect sex- disaggregated sectorial post-disaster data.

## Employment



High number of female employed in the tourism sector, highly impacted by disasters in the Caribbean, might lead into slower economic recovery of this group.

## Shelters



Many shelters do not have or observe gender sensitive management protocols. Cases of gender-based violence have been observed.

## Excess burden of unpaid work



Closure of schools for long periods of time, prevent the primary care-givers (usually females) to return to their normal economic activities

# SEX-DISAGGREGATED DATA AND INFORMATION NEEDS

## Sex-disaggregated data on:

- Productive activities carried out by men and women in the affected area
- Increased hours on reproductive work
- Lost income from home-based/informal economy, which will not be captured in the national accounts
- Gender-based violence
- Access to health services during the emergency

## Qualitative analysis of socio-anthropological effects such as:

- Inequitable access to information and unequal preparation for a disaster
- Obstacles to entry to paid employment post-disaster
- Existence, or not, of a gender policy for disaster management, shelter protocols
- Gender policy/ human rights approach for distribution of aid

## TO CONSIDER...

- Does the country/ministry/department have adequate and permanent mechanisms (staff, knowledge, tools) for collection of sex-disaggregated data in general and in post-disaster situations in particular?
- How this type of data can be integrated into and used to guide disaster risk management strategies, leading to the development of policies benefitting both men and women (and other vulnerable groups) ?