

Mainstreaming Gender in Water Resource Management for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Caribbean

Context and Implications for CARICOM
Member States

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
November 25, 2019

Study Objective

- Conduct an assessment on how select Caribbean countries are pursuing gender mainstreaming in disaster risk management and climate change policies at the national level, with a focus on challenges related to effective water resource management
- Provide appropriate language describing a gendered response to climate change and disaster risk reduction for inclusion in the draft CARICOM Gender Equality Strategy currently under review in the subregion

Scope

- Undertake a comprehensive analysis of the impact of climate related events on the welfare, security and development prospects of women;
- Analyze how climate-related events and disasters impact women's access to water resources, including potable water and sanitation...with a focus on rural, informal and marginalized communities;
- Perform a rapid assessment of policy and regulatory frameworks related to DRM and WRM-
 - identify gaps, achievements and good practices;
 - Include recommendations for enhanced gender equity in resilient development.

Limits, Key Terms and Approach

- Delineation
 - Rapid onset hydro-meteorological; Tropical Depressions/Storms, Hurricanes, Floods/Flash Floods.
 - Rationale for gender focus; link with water and disasters.
 - Link to and Treatment of Slow Onset Hydro-Met Phenomena: Climate Change and Droughts.
- Approach
 - Desk research and literature review.
 - Data mining and analysis.
 - Strategic Stakeholder Interviews.

Regional Developments in WRM Enabling per SOMOA Midterm Report

- Policy and Legislative Framework
 - JAM: Draft national water sector policy or plans
 - HTI: Development of WASH sectoral plan
 - BRB, BMU, GRD, **USVI**: Legislation of rainwater harvesting
- Services and Institutions
 - DOM, HTI: Construction of desalination plants
- Tools
 - Regional: GWP Caribbean Rainwater Toolbox Updated
- Needs indicated
 - Attention to wastewater management
 - Disparity between water and sanitation coverage

Regional Developments in DRM Enabling per SOMOA Midterm Report

- Policy and Legislative Framework
 - Draft Policies and Plans-
 - BRB: Preparation of draft physical development plan, including treatment of runoff
 - BHS: Include Disaster Prep and Resp Mech in long term dev plan
 - Adoption of Policies and Plans
 - BZE: elaboration of climate resilience (investment) plan
 - HTI: DRM as part of first pillar of strategic development plan (territorial rebuilding)
 - Legislation
 - SUR: Policy and Development Plan 2017-2021
 - JAM: 2018 Building Act facilitating revised building codes
- Services and Institutions
 - BVI: Establishment of a Recovery and Development Agency

Gender

- Mondesire (2015), Dunn (2009)
 - lack of legislative framework to promote gender planning
 - gender stereotypes in the institutional frameworks with males at the leadership core and females in support roles
 - lack of engagement of national gender machineries
 - lack of a sound basis for sex-disaggregated data collection and use
- Gender equality is referenced in national plan statements, assigned to a line portfolio; except in case of Haiti which includes as part of pillar of strategic development plan

The Multiple Tracks for Mainstreaming

- Targeted or focused.
- Integrated Operations.
- Direct Interventions
- Indirect Interventions
- Short term measures
- Long term measures
- Government measures across sectors
- Sector Specific Measures.

Caribbean Cases and Experiences

- Cases outlined
 - ATG, BZE, DMA; to be enhanced with at least 1 other country (JAM or TTO).
- Observed Impacts of Water as a part of Disaster Events
 - Water infrastructure;
 - Households;
 - During event-direct threat to lives (BVI and BHS)
 - After event: loss of water and sanitation services; contamination of water; loss of food.
 - Livelihoods
 - Fisheries and aquaculture; agriculture; hotels and restaurants

Gender, Water and Disasters-Key Lessons

- Gender Roles and Impacts
 - During event
 - Mostly-Protector/producer | Nurturer/reproducer roles observed | multiple roles. Key issues is lack of equipment or skill.
 - After event
 - Women, elderly persons and children in shelters;
 - Women household heads living family homes
 - Single elderly males at risk
- Water managed by men, used by women

Gender, Water and Disasters-Key Lessons

- Security threats due to disruption in water services
- Water related challenges pre disaster exacerbated post disaster, especially for women.
- Women are more impacted directly and as caregivers of children in area when sanitation is undermined by water shortage. Examples are agriculture.
- Rotation of water services affecting women and men differently, especially re tourist and downtown districts, rural/urban

Emerging Practices, Gaps, Possible Solution Areas

- Emerging practices
 - PPCR initiative to design cisterns to address needs of the most vulnerable woman (SLU, GRD, JAM)
 - Coconut Bay Resort (SLU); water recycling
 - Adoption of rainwater harvesting
- Gaps
 - Disconnect across programmes
 - Gender blindness in WRM and DRM
- Possible Approaches
 - Policy and Planning
 - Programme and Activities

Next Steps

- To be inserted
 - Informal Settlements; Informal Workers/Informal Traders
- To be strengthened
 - Rural Water
- To be more clearly articulated
 - Gaps; using SDGs and IWRM Principles
 - Overall recommended approach and rationale, in context of mainstreaming guidelines and progress to-date
 - Gender policy implications