Recommendations of the High-level regional workshop on Gender Responsive DRR in Eastern Africa

Nairobi, Kenya, August 24, 2023

Preamble

We, the participants drawn from Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies from Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles, United Republic of Tanzania, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda, Research and Academia, Intergovernmental Organizations, UN Agencies, Humanitarian and Development partners, Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, meeting during the Regional workshop on Gender Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction in Nairobi, under the theme “Promoting Gender-Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction Initiatives” on 22 - 24 August 2023.

Acknowledging UNESCO for organizing this workshop, which has brought together a diverse array of stakeholders from the Eastern Africa region.

Recognizing that the impact of disasters in the expansive and diverse sub-region of Eastern Africa, resonates deeply within communities, underlining the urgent requirement for policies, legislations, strategies, plans, programmes and projects that are attuned to gender-responsive disaster risk reduction (DRR).

Acknowledging that the convergence of gender dynamics and disaster vulnerabilities underscores the necessity to acknowledge, confront, and seamlessly integrate gender equality and equity considerations and gender analysis into DRR endeavors.

Noting that the rationale for embracing gender-responsive DRR encompasses addressing a suite of barriers and drivers of vulnerability including gender inequalities, through affirmative action for safeguarding livelihoods, reducing risks to maternal and reproductive health, combating gender-based violence (GBV), increasing meaningful participation and leadership of vulnerable groups in disaster risk governance, specifically recognizing the critical roles women play, especially at the grassroots level, and empowering women and girls as catalysts for change.

Taking note of the imperative of aligning gender-responsive disaster risk reduction interventions with global (SDGs, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, respective Multilateral Environmental
Agreements), regional (Africa’s Agenda 2063, African Regional Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction) and respective national priorities and commitments.

**Recognizing** the imperatives and considering the contributions during sessions, we, the participants attending the Eastern Africa Regional Workshop on Gender-Responsive DRR, take note of the paramount importance of an encompassing and gender-responsive approach in our pursuit of building resilient communities while simultaneously diminishing susceptibilities to disasters. Convinced that, our collective commitment to propelling gender equality and equity, inclusiveness, and fortifying disaster resilience through a Gender Action Plan to support the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
Considering the contributions by various stakeholders in these discussions, we the participants representing countries, actors and stakeholders do hereby:

Affirm our commitment to integrate gender responsive perspectives into DRR, policies, legislations, strategies, programmes, projects, and practice including the development of gender-responsive indicators to track progress and ensure accountability and collection and analysis of DRR gender disaggregated data by age, disability, sex, and other relevant socio-economic factors.

1. **Encourage all stakeholders to enhance capacity building and awareness.**

   for DRR professionals and actors, community, and faith-based leaders to enhance their understanding of gender dynamics and their role in promoting inclusivity and roll out awareness raising campaigns on the unique vulnerabilities and strengths of different gender groups in disaster events, encouraging proactive disaster risk management.

2. **Urge partners to collaborate with governments in promotion of inclusive participation and decision-making including:**

   • embrace a multi-disciplinary and multisectoral coordination of disaster risk reduction initiatives.
   • develop strategies to increase the participation and leadership roles of women in governmental DRR institutions and processes, with measures to increase substantive gender equality in employment.
   • establish diverse decision-making bodies (Gender-Inclusive Committees) for DRR planning and implementation, ensuring the meaningful participation of women, men youth and PWD
   • strengthen the capacity of local women's groups, marginalized communities, and indigenous populations to actively engage in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.

3. **Call upon countries to bolster gender-responsive disaster preparedness through:**

   • developing early warning systems that consider the specific needs and communication preferences of different gender, including women, children, elderly individuals, and PW ensuring evacuation plans and shelters are gender-sensitive, providing separate spaces for privacy, paying special attention to different categories of women, addressing hygiene, feminine sanitary needs, and preventing gender-based violence.
4. Urge countries and actors to adopt gender-responsive and inclusive relief and recovery through:
   • providing gender-specific and targeted relief packages and services that address the unique needs of different categories of women, girls, men, and boys, including access to hygiene products and sexual and reproductive health services, healthcare, lifeskills and psychosocial support.
   • establishing mechanisms to prevent and respond to gender-based violence during and after disasters and offer safe spaces, referral, and support services for survivors.

5. Urge countries to allocate resources and invest in research and innovation leveraging on technology, research institutions to generate information necessary for timely interventions in prevention, preparedness, and management of disasters and risks including the development of an Atlas of Hazards.

6. Call upon Countries to adopt continual monitoring and reporting

to evaluate the effectiveness of gender responsive DRR interventions and make informed adjustments, publish annual progress reports on integrating gender equality considerations and effective use of gender analysis in DRR, highlighting successes, challenges, and lessons learnt.

   Additionally, we call upon countries to promote regional data sharing mechanisms to ensure that data and information is accessible for DRR initiatives.

7. Call upon the international community and development partners to continue providing the needed support for gender-responsive programmes, projects and activities to build resilience consistent with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Africa’s 2063 Agenda, African Regional Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction, African Union Strategy for Gender equality and Women’s empowerment ) and the conventions on climate change, biological diversity and combating desertification and on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights.

8. Request inclusion of these recommendation into the Global Gender Action Plan for DRR

9. Invite participants to transmit copies of these recommendations to relevant Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Private Sector and Development partners for necessary action and support.
10. We call upon governments, civil society, academia, research institutions, and all stakeholders to collaborate and take decisive action to mainstream gender responsive considerations in DRR.