

GENDER & POWER ANALYSIS SUMMARY REPORT

DISASTER READY PROJECT IN TIMOR-LESTE

AUSTRALIAN HUMANITARIAN PARTNERSHIP (AHP)

JUNE 2018

The Disaster Ready Project (DRP)

The Disaster READY PROJECT (DRP) is a 4.5-year Australian Government funded program to help Timor-Leste communities prepare for and build resilience to disaster. Through DRP, CARE, Oxfam, PLAN, World Vision and Raes Hodomi Timor Oan (RHTO) will partner with government, community and civil society stakeholders to build capacity for disaster preparedness and response. DRP has a key focus on the engagement and support of women and girls, people with a disability and other vulnerable groups.

Why is a Gender and Power Analysis So Important?

International evidence shows that although women and girls are especially vulnerable to disasters, because of gender inequality they are often unable to participate effectively in disaster preparedness work and their needs are unmet. Evidence also shows that when women and girls are supported to effectively engage, disaster preparedness is more successful, with increased benefits for not only women and girls but also for the entire community. The DRP team have conducted this Gender and Power Analysis (GPA) to identify key issues that women and girls face in relation to disasters in Timor-Leste. This includes factors affecting their 'power' to participate fairly in decision-making and leadership around disasters and disaster preparedness. This learning has been used to make recommendations about how the DRP can better engage women and girls in order to increase their participation, ensure their needs are met, and through this to improve disaster preparedness for all.

Methodology

The method used for the GPA was based on CARE's Good Practices Framework of Gender Analysis¹ and investigates the following five key areas of inquiry, which are relevant to the objectives, and design of the DRP.

Gender and Power Analysis Areas of Inquiry

1. Sexual/ Gendered Division of Labour
2. Household Decision Making
3. Control over Productive Assets
4. Claiming Rights and Meaningful Participation in Public Decision Making
5. Violence and Restorative Justice

The field research was conducted by the Disaster READY consortium staff from CARE, Oxfam, PLAN, World Vision, RHTO together with local partners, ChildFund and Fraterna. Key Informant Interviews and Focus Group Discussions were carried out at the national, municipal and community level covering the six project target districts: Oecusse, Bobonaro, Covalima, Aileu, Viqueque and Lautem. Key stakeholders interviewed at the national level included representatives of the National Directorate of Disaster Management, the Secretary of State for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (SEIGIS), the International Organisation for Migration, Cruz Vermelha Timor-Leste, RHTO and Rede Feto. The research reached a total of 285 individuals (131 female and 154 male).

Outcomes

Some key findings from the research were that:

- Women face especially high workloads: women are responsible for most household work, and looking after family members; women also support food production and income generating activities; this leads to an increase in their work during emergencies.
- Household decision-making: women have some role in decisions, but it is men who control decisions on the bigger, and more important issues; this is also true during emergencies.
- Control over productive assets: women have control over less important/ less valuable assets, while men control more important and productive assets.
- Participation in public decision-making: women have limited ability to participate in public meetings, hold leadership positions, or to be involved in key public decisions; this is true of engagement in the emergency sector as in other sectors.
- Violence and restorative justice: women are vulnerable to domestic violence and gender-based violence (GBV), but have limited access to justice services despite laws and national level priorities; women are more vulnerable to these issues during emergencies.
- Disasters are reportedly becoming more frequent in Timor-Leste. Although some communities undertake disaster preparedness activities, information about disaster preparedness and response amongst disaster management committees and at the community level is still very limited. Communities are interested in more information, training, new tools and approaches.
- Responding to disasters places an extra burden on all family members. However, women are often more affected due to their family responsibilities, looking after the needs of children or elderly and disabled family members. Women's limited decision making power and dependence on men further increases their vulnerability and even though women may be more active in responding to the impact of disaster, there are few efforts to involve women in decision making structures or address their specific needs in disaster preparedness and response.
- People with disabilities are particularly affected by disasters but face major barriers to participating in decision-making and response due to poor infrastructure and widespread stigma and discrimination.

¹ See <https://www.care.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Good-Practices-Brief.pdf>

Recommendations

A key objective of the Disaster Ready project is to prioritise gender equality, the inclusion of people with a disability and other vulnerable groups (i.e. greater social inclusion) as central to disaster preparedness and response in Timor-Leste. To achieve these outcomes, attention to gender and social inclusion must be prioritised throughout the project and its activities. This includes increasing the participation of women, people with disability, and children throughout the disaster preparedness and response sector.

RECOMMENDATION AREA ONE: ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

Inequality and discrimination continues to affect perceptions, attitudes and behaviour towards women and people with a disability in Timor-Leste. A necessary first step will be to build capacity within the project and develop agreed approaches for promoting more inclusive and equitable DRM structures and processes.

- 1.1 Training and mentoring should be provided to DRP Consortium staff and management to build their facilitation skills and their ability to identify, analyse and successfully challenge negative norms and behaviour around disability and gender.
- 1.2 To ensure that there is a consistent approach to inclusion, which is used by all Consortium partners, Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) guidance should be developed. This should include measures to promote gender equality, to prevent violence, and to promote disability inclusion and child rights throughout the project and at all stages of the disaster management cycle.
- 1.3 Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) advisors with expertise in relevant technical areas should be employed to support the development and implementation of key components of the GESI strategy for DRP.
- 1.4 For the project to measure its success in advancing gender equality and inclusion of vulnerable people in disaster preparedness and response in Timor-Leste, suitable measures should be integrated into the DRP Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework, including ways to track the incidence of GBV in the project.

RECOMMENDATION AREA TWO: RAISE AWARENESS AND PROMOTE EQUITABLE RELATIONSHIPS

The project should actively challenge the harmful gender norms that affect the involvement of women and other vulnerable people in disaster management activities and the community life more broadly. These harmful gender norms include: an unfair gender division of labour that sees women shouldering multiple responsibilities in the household; the exclusion of women from meaningful decision making, both in public and private; and a high prevalence of violence against women and girls carried out by men and boys and associated with unequal power and their belief in fixed gender roles.

- 2.1 It is recommended that the project develops a DRP GESI package that includes a range of participatory activities to facilitate critical reflection and dialogue between women and men, and which aims to catalyse a community-driven change process.
- 2.2 Men and boys should be engaged as key stakeholders to promote more gender equitable behaviour and support the increased participation of women, particularly at the community level.
- 2.3 To enable women to take a greater role in decision making, it is necessary that they have the both the confidence and skills to contribute to disaster preparedness and response. DRP should work with women's groups at the local level to identify interested women and provide leadership training to build their skills in this area.

RECOMMENDATION AREA THREE: STRENGTHEN KNOWLEDGE, COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Building more inclusive disaster preparedness and response can only take place through working in partnership with government authorities, civil society organisations and community representatives to identify measures to better address the rights and needs of all members of the community.

- 3.1 Clarify roles and responsibilities for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) at municipal and village levels.
- 3.2 Strengthen knowledge and awareness of the importance of a gender and socially inclusive approach to disaster preparedness and response amongst local government and DRM committee members.
- 3.3 Support national authorities to identify practical ways to implement the National Directorate for Disaster Management's (NDMD) commitment to participation of women and people with disabilities in DRM structures and activities.
- 3.4 Strengthen partnerships with Disabled Peoples' Organisations, women's and child rights groups at national and subnational levels to promote participation in DRP.

RECOMMENDATION AREA FOUR: ADVOCATE AND INCREASE ACCESS TO KEY SERVICES

The DRP is in a strong position to advocate for the rights of vulnerable people and facilitate access to services for women experiencing violence, people with disability and other vulnerable groups. This should be done for example, through sharing referral lists of community resources and services from local government, women's organisations and other relevant community stakeholders.

