

## 7<sup>th</sup> Global Forum on Gender Statistics 2018

### Session 4

#### Producing Disaster Statistics from a Gender Perspective

Gender intersects with a range of other socio-economic factors to affect risks of impacts from disasters. Noting that the expectations, power and influence of women and men differ between societies, gender can directly influence risks and interact with other factors, like economic status, as a significant determinant in disaster risk assessment. For example, it has been well documented that prevalence of sexual or physical violence and the presence of gender inequalities often increase in post-disaster recovery processes. Children are more vulnerable than adults because they are dependent and less skilled to deal with the physical, emotional and psychological impacts of disaster. Older women and men are also vulnerable due to dependency and have needs that must be considered in disaster risk management. Disaster risk relates to location and access to basic services of individuals, for which gender is sometimes an important factor. In some cases, a greater vulnerability of women, and girl children, to impacts from a disaster may also be associated with relatively limited participation for women in decision-making and public governance for recovery plans, for risk assessment, and in setting up inclusive prevention strategies.

In 2018, the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics for Asia and the Pacific completed work to develop the Disaster-related Statistics Framework (DRSF), a technical handbook for statisticians and disaster risk experts in national agencies. One of the central components in DRSF is to elaborate a clear measurement framework for compiling statistics for use in disaster risk assessment. The risk measurement model, which originates from a well-established and globally applicable model from the disaster risk reduction literature, defines risk as a function of three basic factors: (i) exposure to hazards, (ii) vulnerability, and (iii) coping capacity. The disaster risk measurement model provides a conceptual framework for identifying variables for risk assessment and for organizing the relevant data. This model could be applied for identifying data sources and for gap analysis for evaluating risks to sustainability from a gender perspective. That is, for gathering data for answering questions like: how does gender potentially affect the likelihood of exposure to hazards? How does gender influence vulnerabilities to specific impacts and the coping capacity of individuals or communities after a disaster? The factors will vary from country-to-country, but the generic risk measurement model is a tool to identify and organize statistics to assess sustainability risks associated with gender from disasters and (potentially) from threats to sustainable development more generally.