



Solomon Islands: Gender and Protection in Emergencies Series of Pilot Training

**Making Women's Voices Count
Integrating Gender Issues in Disaster Risk
Management in East Asia and the Pacific**

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Overview

1. Regional Gender and DRM Program
2. **Country Example: Gender and Protection in Emergencies Pilot Training in the Solomon Islands**



Making Women's Voices Count

1. Phase (2011-2012)

- Literature review
- Field research: Vietnam, Lao PDR
- **Guidance Notes**
- Awareness and capacity-building

2. Phase (2012-2013)

- Country programs: Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands
- Additional Guidance Notes
- Capacity building and knowledge-sharing



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Key Field Work Findings

1. **Different risk perception**
2. **Entrenched societal barriers** to participation
3. **Gaps** between policy and practice
4. **Ad hoc integration** of gender concerns
5. **Difficulties** in implementation
6. **Lack of government funding** and **commitment**
7. **Gender disaggregated data limited**



Gender and DRM Guidance Notes

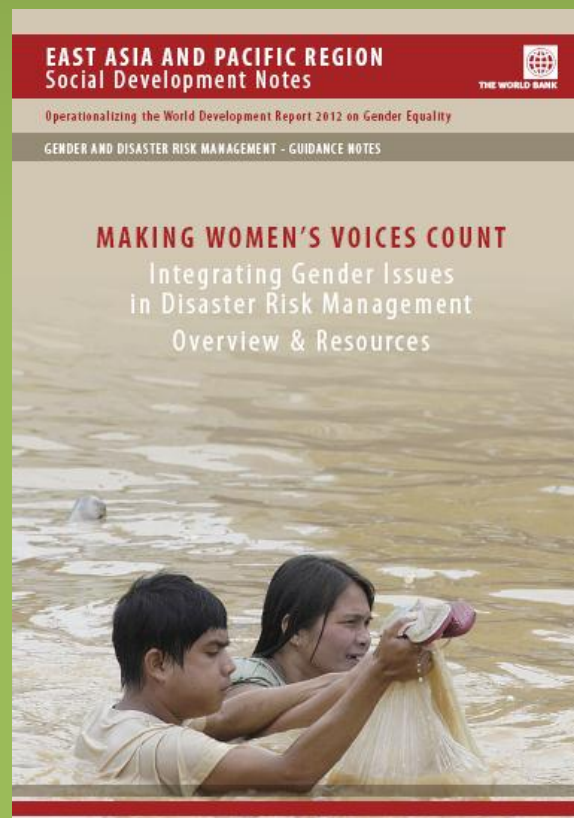
1. Overview: Making Women's Voices Count

2. Integrating Gender Issues into Policy and Projects

3. Monitoring & Evaluation

4. Community-based DRM

5. Recovery & Reconstruction



GN6. Community-Driven Development

GN7. Livelihoods and Social Protection

GN7. Post Disaster Assessments



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Solomon Islands

- Approx. 80% of population live a **subsistence** lifestyle
- **Out migration** rate = 1.9 per 1,000 per year
- Recent civil **unrest** (1998-2006); 2 in 3 women experienced **violence**
- 2007 tsunami **displaced** approx. 5,400 people, civil unrest approx. 40,000
- 1.9 physicians and 14.5 **midwives and nurses** per 10,000 people throughout the country (WHO 2011)
- Safe drinking water available to approx. 70% of population, adequate **sanitation** is available to only 20% living in rural areas (WHO 2011)
- 355,000 Solomon Islanders are at high risk of contracting **water borne diseases** (AusAID 2010)
- High levels of **illiteracy**, particularly women



Gender and DRM in the Solomon Islands

National Disaster Risk Management Plan 2010

Role of Women

L: 47. It is a Principle of this Plan (refer Part 1) that the involvement of women in DRM arrangements at all levels is essential for effective DRM.

M: ess

N:

on

Arrangements and plans established under this Plan shall provide for the effective involvement of women in operational processes and decision-making.

This shall be particularly provided for in relation to welfare, relief distribution and shelter where women will be expected to be taking leading decision-making roles.



Words into Action

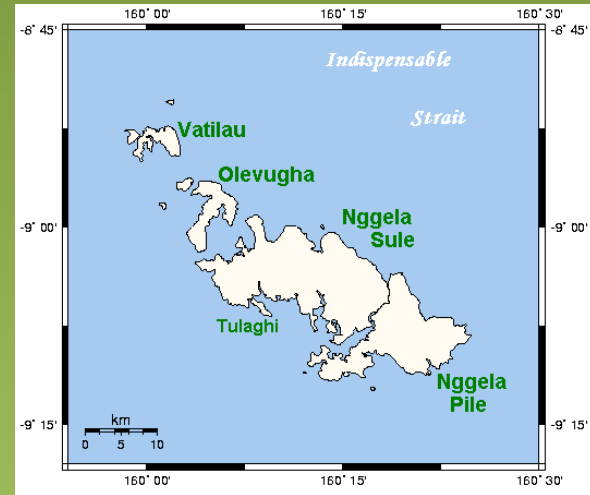
- ✓ **Partnered** with national and provincial DRM office and actors
- ✓ **Developed** training package
- ✓ **Delivered training** in parallel with the development/revision of provincial disaster response arrangements (Standard Operating Procedures)

- ✓ **Scope:** 5-day training in 4 provinces
- ✓ **Participants:** local government staff, police, DRM, NGOs and partners
- ✓ **Aim:** understand different needs and capacities of various groups; and use this knowledge in provincial Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- ✓ **1 part:** mixed and separate group discussions and simulations, activities
- ✓ **2 part:** together with SI NDMO revise/design SOPs

Gizo Western Province



Tulaghi the Central Islands



Kirakira Makira-Ulawa Province



Auki Malaita Province





Part 1: Training Package

1. 4 presentations

- i) An introduction to some key DRM concepts (disaster risks: hazards, exposure, vulnerability)
- ii) What is vulnerability?
- iii) Gender basics
- iv) Protection in Emergencies

2. 5 group activities

- i) 2 as a whole
- ii) 2 in smaller groups
- iii) 1 in individual gender groups

3. 1 true/false quiz to consolidate knowledge



Activities



“The Vulnerability Ladder”

“True/False Sex/Gender Quiz”

Group Discussions



Mixed Group Work



Women's and Men's Group Work

Listening to each other and learning from each other!

Daily Activities Presentations



Feedback following the “Daily Activities” presentations

Women’s feedback:

“We didn’t put in about ‘planting’ because it’s usually men who start this! When I compare the men’s list with ours I see that women don’t have much time for resting and it makes me worry about the health of women. When it comes to certain tasks (like preparing copra) men could do this. We should note that women do drink alcohol too! I think that some of the tasks that women do could be done by men. Gender divisions are clear! I realise that women have lots of responsibilities. We appreciate that the men in this discussion group have been honest about what men usually do with their time.”

Feedback following the “Daily Activities” presentations

Men’s feedback:

“Time is very important – men should be participating in useful activities around the house rather than roaming around. Life is different in the urban areas. Perhaps men spend too much time going house-to-house story telling with friends. Maybe we spend too much time drinking!”

2. Part: Drafting the Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for Thematic Clusters





The roles of the Welfare and IDP clusters include:

- Coordination of agencies with roles to provide for welfare support;
- Assessment and evaluation of the level of support needed for affected people and communities to return to a state of self help;
- Monitoring the effectiveness of the support being provided; and
- Promoting initiatives in the response which are gender and child specific, recognising particular roles and vulnerabilities within communities.

Some particular recipients of welfare include persons with specific needs, who may be more vulnerable than most others during and after the disaster; these include but are not limited to

- Separated or unaccompanied children
- Pregnant and breast-feeding women
- Single parents (male and female)
- Persons with HIV/AIDS
- Persons with disabilities
- Elderly persons
- Youths with special needs (Male and Female)
- Persons excluded or isolated from their family or community (eg “backsliders”)
- Religious, ethnic or other minority / marginalised groups
- Persons displaced from their homes (Internally Displaced Persons – IDPs)

While not all persons in the above groups will be particularly vulnerable, it is important that these groups be considered as priorities in any assessments that are carried out.

Lessons Learned



Rex Tara supporting men's group discussion

- **Have a local champion** (e.g. head of national DRM agency)
- Local female and male **facilitators** who are aware of gender issues
- Be sensitive to culture
- **Give time to useful discussions** - not all of *your* activities are useful to the participants!
- Use simple feedback forms
- **Be ready to improve trainings!**
- **Think about how you package and deliver information**



Auki, Malaita Province

In the recent Kwaibaita River Flash Floods that struck the Malaita province in July 2013, **women were included on the assessment team**, and the situation and follow up activities report included also identification and support of vulnerable groups, as discussed in the gender and protection training in June 2013.

iv. Gender/Protection

- Identify vulnerable groups - women headed households, disable and elderly.
- Identify solutions to support needs of vulnerable groups.



Looking ahead

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Home > Regions

GDN Pacific-Oceania Region

Welcome to the GDN Pacific-Oceania Regional Hub introduction page. This Regional Hub has only recently come into existence but development work is underway thanks to some early initiatives by Dr Ros Houghton and Professor David Johnston.

The GDN Pacific-Oceania Regional Hub is hosted by [Massey University Joint Centre for Disaster Research](#) and a dedicated page can be found here:

GDN Pacific-Oceania Regional Hub <http://www.massey.ac.nz/?qe5ca5410s>

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News & Activities

Women and Disaster Information Sheets from



THANK YOU

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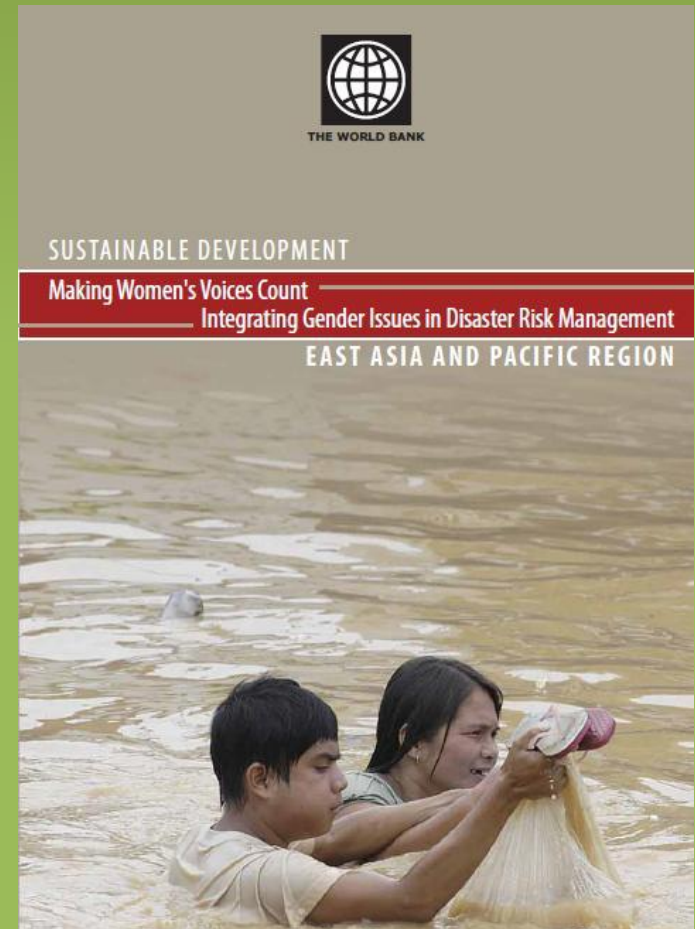
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Gender and DRM Country Programs

- **Gender assessments informing operations manuals and strategies**
- **Vietnam:** gender assessments were conducted to support **national DRM** and **sanitation projects**
- **Philippines:** Support the National Community-driven Development program in the Philippines and a Country Gender Assessment (for Country Partnership Strategy)
- **Indonesia:** Support integration of gender issues into community-based disaster risk management and into National Community Empowerment Program for Urban Areas (PNPM-Urban)