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FIRE

A Framework for Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality into Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

The incorporation of a human rights-based approach is recognized as having a key role to play in responding to the current climate change emergency and contributing to societal transformations. Similarly, increased gender equality has been acknowledged as a central aspect of addressing and reducing the effects of climate change. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement both identify the promotion and protection of human rights, alongside the need to pay particular attention to the gender dimension of disaster risk, as guiding principles. However, neither document elaborates on the content of the two approaches nor how they should be integrated to achieve positive outcomes in practice. The Framework for Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality (FIRE), developed as a major output of the Building Resilience through Inclusive and Climate-Adaptive Disaster Risk Reduction project, is informed by a systematic consolidation of key international legal and operational standards and guidelines relevant to disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and emergency preparedness for response.

The framework consists of six dimensions, reflected in the model below and described in further depth overleaf. It has been piloted in initiatives relating to risk assessment, land use planning, and emergency preparedness for response, and its utility has been proven as a tool for research, legal and policy analysis, training, and education.

Framework for Integrating Rights and Equality (FIRE)



Governance systems and structures: This dimension focuses on developing and/or improving three types of systems:

- Law, policy and procedure on DRR and resilience building that is based on international standards and guidelines on gender equality and human rights
- Institutions for decision-making and accountability that enable people, particularly those belonging to disadvantaged or marginalized groups, to exercise their rights to voice, to participate, and to claim rights and entitlements
- Diverse platforms for civil society, particularly disadvantaged and marginalized groups, to articulate and pursue the realization of their rights.

Attention is paid to identifying and addressing institutionalized exclusion on the basis of social status (e.g. gender, age, class, caste, ethnicity, health)

Fundamental rights and equality: This dimension focuses on realizing fundamental rights reflected in international standards, including human rights treaties and more operational guidelines. It highlights how gendered social and political structures influence individual and group enjoyment of rights as well as access and entitlements to natural, physical, social, and human resources. It sees equality as an end in itself and as a right established under international law and reflected in national constitutions. For rights to be realized, the right to participation must be respected, protected, and fulfilled in order to enable individuals and groups to claim their rights and to promote accountability of duty bearers.

Non-discrimination: This dimension focuses on addressing existing patterns of discrimination and causes of inequality based on identities and socioeconomic characteristics such as gender, age, class, caste, ethnicity, health, wealth, and so forth. It recognizes that those causes of inequality intersect in a wide variety of ways, affecting every aspect of the enjoyment of rights.

Participation and access to information: This dimension focuses on promoting meaningful, equal, gender-sensitive and effective participation of women, girls, boys and men of diverse gender identities, ages, abilities and backgrounds in policy/decision-making that shape their entitlements. Attention is paid to:

- Ensuring gender-equal, socially inclusive access to information
- Ensuring free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC)
- Identifying and removing invisible barriers to participation such as social and gender norms, religious rules and hierarchy, stereotypes against certain identities (e.g. caste, homosexuality, disability).
- Ensuring procedures are in place to make participation accessible, socially inclusive, and safe for women, girls, boys and men of diverse gender identities, ages, abilities and backgrounds
- Recognizing the gendered politics of knowledge, i.e. whose knowledge counts? What knowledge counts? Whose voice matters? When do we listen to which voices?

Agency and empowerment: This dimension focuses on enhancing the ability of rights-holders, particularly of disadvantaged and marginalized groups to exercise their rights and entitlements, and to influence decisions and policies that shape their rights and entitlements. Attention is paid to:

- Recognizing and strengthening agency, capacities and leadership
- Promoting collective learning and actions

Social norms and context: This dimension focuses on transforming social and gender norms that shape inequalities in rights, entitlements and voices that contribute to vulnerability. Attention is paid to:

- Examining production of inequality and vulnerability, privilege and marginalization within family, community and social groups, by customary norms, practices and social processes
- Transforming perceptions, attitudes, norms and practices that produce inequalities
- Recognizing social norms and enabling conditions that support the enjoyment of fundamental rights