

## **Panelist on Gender and DRR in Vietnam supported by Japan and Vietnam Government**

Nepal is the birthplace of Lord Buddha and the country where Mt. Everest is situated. Nepal is full of natural beauty. But, since April 25, 2015, Nepal has been suffering from a disastrous earthquake that hit Nepal very massively where thousands of people were killed and numerous have injured.

After the declaration of the Nepal Constitution 2015 on September 20, all the parliamentary bodies of Nepal- Legislative, Executive, and Judiciary are now led by women.

The massive 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal, North-West of the capital of Kathmandu on the 25th of April, 2015 killed around 9000 people, and more than 20,000 people were injured. The earthquake was followed by many powerful aftershocks and a very powerful one with 7.3 magnitudes hit Nepal on May 12, 2015. The earthquake caused extensive damage to buildings and was even felt in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. Many historic buildings collapsed, temples have been ruined, and roads were destroyed. Among the worst-hit districts was Sindhupalchowk – where more than 2,000 died.

Immediately after the occurrence of the earthquake, the senior women rights activists formed a women's core group charter under the leadership of UN Women where we discussed that the support for the earthquake-affected should include all 3 Rs support i.e. Relief, Reconstruction and Rehabilitation support. It was the worst quake to strike the region in more than 80 years. The damage done by the quake has put a strain on its citizens that will last for many years.

The women's rights organizations made an effort to serve the earthquake-affected people of almost all the hard-hit districts. We have built many counseling centers in different affected areas, distributed women-friendly dignity kits which consisted of needed items for women such as clothes, blanket, sanitary pad, toothpaste, toothbrush, candle, matchstick, food for infants, etc. Similarly, a safe and secure multipurpose women's center was constructed specially for pregnant and post-natal women.

We have PDNA volumes I and II where there is clearly written and mentioned to involve women on equality basis, in different kinds of work like plumber, mason, carpenter, etc. Advocacy was done to incorporate the issues mentioned in PDNA.

A two days national conference on Gender Responsive Disaster Management was organized by Women Group Working on Common Charter of Demand on Humanitarian Response in partnership with IM Swedish Development Partner and UN Women Nepal Country office among I/NGOs, Line Ministries, Government Agencies, CSOs, UN-Agencies, Media, NRA, Independent Experts, and 2 women from each 14 affected districts. The program was organized to facilitate the government efforts in post-earthquake recovery and reconstruction, to hear the voices of affected women, and to create a positive pressure on the Nepal Government to ensure that woman's issues are properly addressed in every reconstruction effort.

During the conference, the 15-points “Kathmandu Declaration 2016” was produced to make all post-earthquakes process women-friendly.

We have been doing continuous advocacy for the gender-responsive budget, inclusive approach, men engagement process, etc. We are also trying to involve women based on a gender perspective in a document of PDNA and PDRF.

Despite having so much of good work done, we are also facing some challenges like the Constitution has made provisions to increase the participation of women in all State mechanism, but the implementation part needs to be improved. There is a lack of meaningful participation, gender-disaggregated data, information center, pure drinking water and sanitation, alternative livelihood. Similarly, nutritious food to pregnant women has not been provided sufficiently.

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