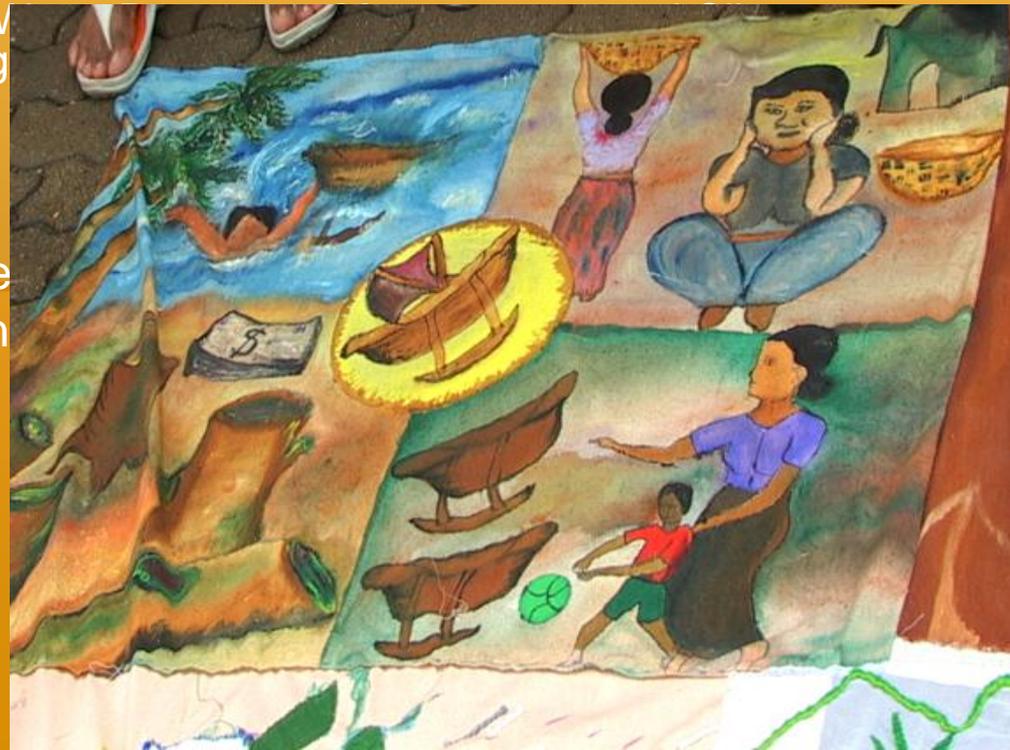


- Strengthening Public Access and Participation in Risk and Vulnerability Assessment With Gender Equality Concern



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Who we are

APWLD is a network of feminist organisations and individuals.

With 180 organizational and individual members coming from 26 countries in the region.

Members from grassroots organizations of women farmers, fisherfolks, agricultural workers, indigenous women and youth

Our work

APWLD empowers women in the region to use law as an instrument of change for equality, justice, peace and development.

APWLD uses advocacy and activism, research and training to claim and strengthen women's human rights as enshrined in UN international human rights instruments.

Climate Change and Gender Justice Programme

- Supports rural, indigenous women document the gender differentiated impacts of climate change



■ Supports initiatives at building the resilience of local communities in weathering the adverse impacts of climate change; including managing the risks and vulnerabilities that they are confronted with

- Recently completed 5 country participatory research study on the impact of climate change on women: Indonesia (fisher women), Philippines (women farmers, indigenous women) Kyrgyzstan (women farmers and pastoralist women), Sri Lanka (fisherwomen)

Fisheries/Marine ecosystem

■ Low Fish Catch

■ Reduction of fishing season because of changing weather and frequent storms



Reduced Water Supply

For women this meant long distances to fetch water, and longer hours to work to find food; water-borne diseases



Reduction of Rice production

lower income from the farm, and women are pushed to work harder to find other sources to augment their income.



AGRICULTURE

DROUGHT



Flooding and Soil Erosion



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Vulnerability defined

- “the degree to which a system is susceptible to, and unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change..is a function of the character, magnitude, and the rate of climate change and variation to which a system is exposed, the sensitivity and adaptive capacity of that system (IPCC, 2007)
- > As a social framework the condition(economic, political, cultural) of social groups and their capacity to cope in the stresses posed by adverse impacts of climate change.

Need to strengthen the capacity of the most vulnerable

- Climate change change affects us all, but not all have equal capacities to cope and adapt.

- when flashfloods come, the raging waters does not distinguish between the communities of the poor or the residential areas of the rich; it destroys all properties and belongings, that come across its way; claim the lives of the rich and the poor.

- but the capacity to bounce back and build homes and livelihood again, the poor are the least

- able to cope and are therefore the most vulnerable

Important to define who the vulnerable are

- < the primary target to be involved and their participation strengthened in climate change risks and vulnerability assessments
- < crucial in the effectivity of the implementation of adaptation programs.
-

Why are women vulnerable?

- women's coping capacity is limited and made worse with persisting economic, political and cultural discrimination and gender inequalities .
- Women are not a homogeneous group; layers of marginalization and experiences of discrimination

Vulnerability and agency for change

- while vulnerable women are holders of significant knowledge and skills related to mitigation, adaptation and the reduction of risks in the face of climate change, making them crucial agents for change.

- > the poor are vulnerable, they are the primary and direct victims of the adverse effects of climate change,
- > can be agents for change with their familiarity with their environs and communities and natural resources, such as the indigenous peoples.
- > they are important participants in the any risk and vulnerabilities assessments and in building resilience of communities against deleterious effects of climate change,

- *Recommendations*

- *How to strengthen the capacity of the vulnerable groups*

Public participation by social mobilization

- people's organization and the different sectoral organizations existing in the communities such as women, youth, farmers, faith based organizations, and other vulnerable groups in the communities.

- ***Ensuring Local democracy*** - that local people have the resources and the authority to manage climate change programs to meet their basic needs.
- ***A fundamental transformation in gender relations*** – women need to be able to participate as full and equal partners in the process of development, and gain voice in the decisions that affect their lives.

Bridge scientific and traditional knowledge

- Push for the recognition of traditional/local knowledge having equal value with that of conventional science;
- involve the participation of professionals and the scientific community to bridge this knowledge dichotomy.
- > basis for instituting risks and vulnerability assessments in communities;
- > basis for increasing awareness of the people in the communities; greater appreciation of the phenomenon of climate change when knowledge start from what they have in the communities; ownership
-

Link with local government authorities

- Community initiatives should be closely linked with local government authorities; with governments challenged to exercise due diligence in addressing climate change

Strengthen and expand the leadership roles of the women

- > they are the fixtures in the communities;
- > key roles of women as gatekeepers of seeds, herbalists, food producers, food preservers and protectors and conservators of the ecosystem
- Strengthen these roles to reduce vulnerabilities of families in terms of food security and health needs ;



- **Recognize women's important roles in and contributions to sustainable development and natural resource management.**



Case Study: determining impacts and defining women's vulnerabilities in the face of climate change

Key Questions

- A) What have been the characteristics of changing climate and major issues related to the changes in the rural sector in your country?
- B) What are the impacts of those changes in the community (including children) and the resulting effects on women and men?

Key Questions

- C) How has the existing inequalities between men and women and based on other social factors make women more vulnerable to those impacts and vice versa?
- D) How women and men have been coping with those negative changes and impacts? What are the women's roles in the family and in the community in these practices?

Key Questions

- E) What are the potentials and needs of women to respond to the situation? What are the obstacles?
- F) What are the suggestions/demands the women make to improve their resilience?

Key Questions

- G) What are the women's strategies in addressing climate change and impact on their livelihood?
- H) What are the major indicators for women's empowerment and disempowerment?

Key Questions

- I) Are there exceptional initiatives, coping mechanisms or tools that women in their communities have made to withstand climate change impacts?

■ Thank you

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