

**MODULE 3: STRATEGIES AND TOOLS FOR  
INTEGRATING GENDER IN DRR  
Session1: Overview of Gender Mainstreaming**

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*The Key Strategy for Integrating Gender in DRR*

<b>Learning Objective</b>	<b>To make participants understand the what, why and how of Gender Mainstreaming</b>
<b>Expected Outcome</b>	<p><b>At the end of the session, participants shall be able to</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>appreciate the notion of gender mainstreaming as the overall strategy for integrating gender in various fields of development, including disaster risk reduction,</b></li> <li>• <b>explain the practical steps required in preparing a disaster risk reduction plan that takes into account the gender specific needs of men and women.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Duration</b>	<b>4 Hours</b>
<b>Methods</b>	<b>Power Point presentation, lecture discussion</b>
<b>Training Aids</b>	<b>LCD/multi media projector, white/blackboard, whiteboard pen/multi-</b>

	<b>colored chalks</b>
<b>Handouts</b>	<b>Handout 1: The What and Why of Gender Mainstreaming</b>
<b>Exercises</b>	<b>Interactive Discussion No specific exercise</b>

## **LECTURE GUIDE**

**Gender Mainstreaming** is the key strategy for the promotion of gender equality at the National Level.

**The Beijing Conference in 1995** established it as a major strategy for development and called for mainstreaming of gender in all critical areas of concern.

**The United Nations General Assembly**, during its 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session in June 2000, underscored and reinforced the importance of gender mainstreaming by following up the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

### **What is Gender Mainstreaming?**

**The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**, defined gender mainstreaming in 1997 as “a strategy for making women’s, as well as men’s, concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs in all political, economic and social spheres so that women and men benefit equally, and inequality is not perpetuated”.

**The ultimate goal, therefore, is to achieve equality between women and men.**

**Gender Equality** is the main goal of gender mainstreaming.

**Empowerment of Women** is essential to achieve gender equality.

Gender mainstreaming is not considered as an end in itself but a means to the goal of gender equality. It is an essential strategy, a means by which policies, strategies, plans and activities in all areas of development can be influenced to ensure Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women.

**Failure of previous strategies** in the '70s and '80s led to the establishment of gender mainstreaming as a key strategy in development. Special projects during the period did not bring about a change in the status of women. Marginalized activities characterized the participation of women and access to resources and power remained minimal.

**Add-on of “women’s perspective”** characterized the integration strategy for women involvement into policy development, project design and implementation, and was usually incorporated in the late stages of the planning process when all major decisions have been taken and little real impact could be achieved, thereby contributing to the failure.

**Gender Mainstreaming strategy moved from unquestioningly integrating women into the existing development agenda to changing or transforming the agenda to respond adequately to the realities and needs of both women and men.**

**Important elements in gender mainstreaming** include ensuring attention to **gender equality** from the initial stages of development processes; the use of **gender analysis** as first essential step before any decision is taken; a **focus on both women and men** and the relation between; and explicit attention to **gender perspectives visibility**.

**If gender perspectives are not visible, it is not gender mainstreaming.** **Gender perspectives** must be the center of attention in analyses, policies, planning processes and resource allocations instead of focusing on the number of women participants.

**Changes** in goals, policies, and strategies/actions need to be identified as well as in institutional structures, procedures and cultures.

**Achievements since the 4<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Women** have been made but large gaps continue to exist between policy commitments made by governments and their actual implementations.

## **SESSION GUIDE**

1. This session is meant to provide an overview of gender mainstreaming. The presentation should describe the what, why and how of gender mainstreaming. Emphasis should be given to the application of gender mainstreaming in disaster risk management.
2. Module 3 consists of 4 substantive sessions: overview of gender mainstreaming as the key strategy; gender analysis; gender programming and budgeting; action planning and gender sensitive indicators. The facilitators must try to link the sessions and using the management/governance cycle of disaster risk management.
3. This session will open and introduce the module on gender mainstreaming and will provide a perspective on what it is and how it came about. It is suggested that facilitators review with participants the salient concepts on disaster and gender that led to gender and development. Take off the discussion by reminding participants that the United Nations has taken the lead in the promotion of mainstreaming a gender perspective in development planning. Emphasize this point by highlighting the outcomes of the Beijing conference on women in 1995 and the Beijing Platform of Action, especially the consensus ECOSOC definition of gender mainstreaming and the link with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
4. It must be made clear to participants that gender mainstreaming is not an end in itself but an essential MEANS to achieve its goal of gender equality that can help bring about critical policies, strategies, plans and activities in all areas of development, including disaster risk reduction.
5. A brief view of why gender mainstreaming was established may be in order so participants can internalize better the concept of gender mainstreaming. Review with them the gender biases of the previous session as a link to the establishment.

6. Remind participants that governments committed to heed the UN's call for gender integration in their development plans. In an interactive discussion, ask random participants to share their own experiences in doing this in their respective offices/agencies/organizations. Ask them also what they observe as failures, gaps, inadequacies in the implementation and the reasons for these. It will help ease the introduction of gender mainstreaming in disaster risk reduction. Facilitators can share to participants the achievements since the 4<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Women but add also the remaining challenges that advocates and experts on gender both inside and out of the UN find. Facilitators can refer to current discourses on gender mainstreaming.

7. Facilitators must remember that this session will lay the ground for the future sessions. Take a look at **Handout 1** for guidance on the concepts and core messages to be imparted to participants. The progression of concepts begin with an explanation of the general understanding of gender mainstreaming as a strategy and a process of integrating a gender perspective in various fields of development. It is important for participants to realize that disaster risk management is a governance function and that a gender perspective must be an integral part in the discharge of such.

8. Facilitators must endeavor to explain ***why a gender perspective is important in development as a whole and in disaster risk management in particular***. A power point presentation is made available in providing participants with a general perspective of gender mainstreaming.

9. In closing this session, illustrate the management cycle and show how gender must be included at the different stages cycle, i.e. planning, programming, budgeting, implementation and monitoring. Facilitators must discuss the entry points for integrating gender, namely: policy, people, programs, and processes. The GMEF framework of the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) will be a handy tool in this discussion.

10. Facilitator must emphasize that the process of gender mainstreaming requires the proper identification of gender issues in

the arena of development such as disaster risk management. Facilitators must refer to Handout 1 (What and Why of Gender Mainstreaming) for an inventory of common gender issues in the field of disaster risk management. Try to draw the participants to share personal experiences where they witnessed or experienced gender issues in the context of disaster. The next session will delve into the identification of gender issues in greater detail.

11. In sum, this session must impart to the participants the “big picture” on gender mainstreaming, **‘the what’ and ‘the why’ of gender mainstreaming** in the context of disaster risk management. The facilitator should state **how gender mainstreaming is done** and the **various tools** attendant to the process. The succeeding sessions will discuss the most important tools that participants will need in their application of GMS in DRM.

### **Reference Materials:**

Handout 1: What and Why of Gender Mainstreaming

Basic References:

UNISDR. (2009). Making Disaster Risk Reduction Gender Sensitive:

Policy and Practical Guidelines. Geneva, Switzerland: UNISDR, UNDP, IUCN.

Masilungan, E.O. (2003). Gender (101) GAD Dictionary Transforming Government to Think and Act GAD: A Handbook on Gender and Development Training. Manila, Philippines: National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW).

NCRFW. (*n.d.*). Gender Mainstreaming Evaluation Framework (GMEF) Matrix. Manila, Philippines: NCRFW.

### **Suggested Further Readings:**

1. UN: Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women. (2002). Gender Mainstreaming: An Overview. New York: United Nations.

2. Corner, L. (1999, October). PANEL IV- Strategies for the Empowerment of Women: Capacity Building for Gender Mainstreaming. Bangkok: UNIFEM.