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Counting Women: using disaggregated data to build a resilient and inclusive Blue Pacific Continent

29 April 2021

Side event at the 14th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women

#PreventionSavesLives
#PacificWomenTriennial



“Quality data has the power to inform, to transform our actions. Data about inequalities is instrumental for disaster risk reduction efforts to give voice to women.”

Julie-Ann Guivarra, Ambassador for Gender Equality, Australia

DRR CHALLENGE

Pacific Islands countries have considerable experience with reducing disaster risk and adapting to climate change. Nevertheless, the region faces a daunting spectrum of natural hazards as disaster risks converge with critical socio-economic vulnerabilities, environmental degradation, and climate change, making the Pacific a disaster hotspot. Countries across the region are facing consecutive and compounded disasters, testing the limits of even the most resilient communities and emphasising the need to address multi-hazard, compounded risks.

At the same time, disasters impact women, men, girls, boys, and people of diverse gender identities very differently. Yet a dearth of disaggregated data limits our understanding of this differential risk and impact, and therefore what can be done to reduce it. Data is essential to understanding all dimensions of climate and disaster risk from vulnerability and capacity, to exposure and hazard characteristics.

This side event at the 14th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women examined the gaps and opportunities related to the production and use of disaggregated disaster and climate data to build a resilient and inclusive Blue Pacific, through sharing of experience by female leaders from different sectors and across the Pacific.

WEBINAR OBJECTIVE

The event:

- Demonstrated the importance of collecting and using disaggregated data, particularly by sex, to understand the differential risk and impact faced by those most severely impacted by climate induced disasters.
- Explored the ways in which disaggregated disaster data has been used to inform policies, programmes and investments in the Pacific, to reduce the impact of climate induced disasters on women.
- Identified and promoted the use of technology to improve the collection, analysis, reporting, sharing and usage of disaggregated data across the Pacific.
- Highlighted women’s leadership in improving disaggregated data for resilience.

PANELISTS

- Ms. Litea Biukoto, Disaster Risk Team Leader, Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division of the Pacific Community (moderator)
- Ms. Taiaopo Faumuina, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Bureau of Statistics, Samoa
- Ms. Susan Grey, Executive Director, femLINKpacific
- Ms. Julie-Ann Guivarra, Ambassador for Gender Equality, Australia
- Ms. Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction (video message)
- Ms. Ruth Timauku, Provincial Disaster Coordinator, Makira, Solomon Islands (video message)

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Increase efforts to ensure the collection of, access to, and analysis of disaster data disaggregated by sex, age, and disability in the Pacific

- Include disaggregated data in national and regional reports on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Explore how technology and open data sources can help improve and inform data collection and use.
- Invest not just in data collection but data analysis to support risk-informed development that leaves no one behind.
- Establish a Pacific Group on Disaster Statistics to allow countries and partners to share best practices in disaggregated disaster data collection, analysis, and use, in a similar model to the Pacific Group on Disability Statistics.
- Develop a standardized regional tool for disaster data that supports a holistic and systematic approach that informs risk analysis.
 - Develop standard questionnaires so that disaster data with different levels of disaggregated can be used across the Pacific community.

2. Strengthen collaboration to ensure an all-of-society, cross-sectoral approach to collecting and using data to reduce disaster and climate risks

- Promote inclusive DRR efforts that empower and give space to women and girls, in all their diversity, to participate in the collection of disaster and climate change data.
- Support the role of women's leadership in collection and use of disaggregated disaster and climate related data.

- Consolidate data collected by a range of actors on disaster risk reduction and gender equality, to better understand disaster risks and vulnerability, particularly for marginalized groups.
- Strengthen linkages between National Disaster Management Offices, National Statistics Offices, and other relevant Ministries to collect and share data to inform decision-making.
- Invest in data capacity, capability, and technology among diverse actors in the Pacific.

3. Collect data with respect, ensuring engagement and sharing with communities

- Recognise the ways in which multiple and intersecting identities overlap to create an individual's unique risk and vulnerability profile, and expand data collected from sex, age, and disability to deepen this understanding.
 - Disaster data should also be disaggregated by geography given the specific challenges faced by rural and outer island women.
 - Disaster data should also be disaggregated by gender identity to recognize the unique risks faced by fa'afafine and other people with non-binary gender identities.
 - Disaster data should also be disaggregated by ethnicity to recognize the challenges experienced by different ethnicities.
- Improve transparency in sharing data and information by ensuring that data are publicly available and regularly published for the people, and that people understand how their data is being used to inform policy and guide decision making and investments.
- Discuss and share data collection methods and best practices, including both what data is being collected and how it is being collected.

Acknowledgements

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References for further reading

- <https://www.undrr.org/gender>
- <https://www.undrr.org/womens-leadership>

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