

Statement by the Community Practitioners Platform for Resilience

The Huairou Commission is a grassroots women-led social movement of over 101 community-based organizations operating in poor urban, rural, and indigenous communities across more than 45 countries around the world. We bring the constituency of women with a focus on organized grassroots women, who have a major contribution in building resilience.

As we are working with challenges and recovery opportunities of the COVID-19 pandemic, we value the Asia-Pacific Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction (APP-DRR) Forum that will highlight key regional priorities in Asia Pacific, discuss implementation of the new Asia Pacific Action Plan 2021-2024, and preview the GP22, APMCDRR and Sendai Framework Mid-Term Review. On behalf of the Community Practitioners Platform for Resilience, the Huairou Commission has identified the most important and urgent actions under each priority area for implementation of the Sendai framework using the mid-term review process in 2022 and making recommendations for creating an inclusive and resilient recovery plan to address disaster and COVID-19 crises.

We call upon UN-DRR, national and local governments, inter-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders to promote and implement pro-poor, gender-just implementation of the Sendai Framework of DRR and consider the following grassroots priorities:

Improved Understanding of Risk

1. **Refine and scale up the understanding, analysis and application of community risk and within and across communities.** Communities and governments must analyze all development plans and programs through the lens of disaster risk reduction to ensure that development reduces rather than accumulates risks. Community databases with real time, hyper local data identifying vulnerable households and communities being used by CSOs, local governments and other stakeholders are very important. Vulnerability mappings done by communities must be registered by the government to address community vulnerability and plan for it.
2. **Improve grassroots access to weather and climate information.** This is to strengthen and scale up risk informed decision -making. This also reaffirms the need for dialogue and partnerships between climate scientists and communities to combine local realities and priorities with scientific knowledge to produce community friendly information that can feed into risk-informed decision-making. Climate information should be in local vernacular languages aiming to individual subscribers using digital and smart phones.

Enhanced Risk Governance

1. **Promote institutional mechanisms that mandate grassroots women's involvement in shaping policies, programs, plans and budgets to advance disaster resilience.** There is the need to develop institutional mechanisms to mandate grassroots women's meaningful engagement in public decision-making on disaster resilience building. While on the one hand grassroots organizations and leaders acknowledged the need to strengthen their own capacities to navigate and influence institutional decision-making processes, they also called for policy makers at local, national, regional and global levels to create more enabling environments, incentivize structures and mechanisms that promote grassroots women's participation in shaping policies and programs to advance pro-poor, gender-just resilient development. Promote grassroots women leaders in local development committees and prioritize their demands for resource allocation.

2. **Target specific programs and institutional planning mechanisms and strategic allies to make these more responsive and accountable to impoverished, marginalized communities living and working in disaster-prone areas.** Grassroots organizations need to identify specific institutions, institutional mechanisms and allies in order to make government institutions more accountable to poor and disenfranchised populations.
3. **Build and activate national coordination platforms to include planning and finance entities, private sector, as well as stronger local representation especially locally focused community-based organizations and women's groups and networks.** There is the need to build and activate existing multi-stakeholder dialogue and planning mechanisms by including strategically important stakeholders such as government financial and planning entities, private sector, NGOs and especially organized communities, women's groups and other underserved communities, historically marginalized from public decision making and agenda setting.

Investing in disaster resilience

1. **Investing in financial and other kinds of resources and assets to advance the economic resilience of grassroots women.** Advancing sustainable livelihoods to build economic resilience is key to enhancing and protecting the well-being of not only women, but also their families and communities. This requires not only financial investment but also investment in other kinds of assets such as land – to reduce shocks and stresses faced by women, and a key asset for enabling grassroots women-led resilient farming and food systems.
2. **Putting flexible funds at the hands of grassroots women financing local households and local groups through localized funding and simplified procedures, involving grassroots groups in monitoring resilience funds.** This is to enable women's groups to rapidly address varied risks and vulnerabilities by easily accessing disaster funds while they learn to design and manage funds.

More effective response and building back better

1. **Ensure the inclusion of grassroots women's organizations in designing and planning of post-disaster recovery.** Having repeatedly demonstrated their leadership and agility in organizing themselves to protect their communities from the worst impact of disasters, including the Covid-19 pandemic, grassroots organizations must be at the center of recovery planning in relation to the pandemic. Recovery and rehabilitation policies need to be integrated with solutions that advance long term sustainable development priorities.
2. **Develop and strengthen localized, end to end early warning and emergency response systems that address the needs of marginalized groups.** Approaches to early warning and emergency preparedness and response need to prioritize vulnerable communities and nurture regular engagement and collaboration to build strong relationships that enable short and long term coordination between local government and communities to improve emergency response, recovery and rehabilitation processes.

Engagements and interactions are the starting point for partnerships of the entities and long-term commitment to recognizing the contributions and roles of women in building gender-just, inclusive, and resilient recovery plans including in climate change adaptation, which can benefit women in narrowing gender gaps and improving access, services and decision making.