## **GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION**

## **IN FLOOD EARLY WARNING**

## Key learning and effective practices





#### Overview

- Why gender and social inclusion matter
- Gender and inclusion study: objectives and approach
- Key recommendations
- Putting recommendations into policy and practice



## Why gender and social inclusion matter

- Disasters do not impact everyone affected uniformly
- Vulnerabilities can be complex and compounded
- Vulnerabilities are often missing in data, policy, and practice
- Unequal disaster impacts reinforce and worsen existing inequalities



#### Overview of the study

- Understanding how gender affects residents' experience of flooding and their needs from an EWS
- Quantitative and qualitative data
- Primary and secondary data
- Community surveys, key informant interviews, and Missing Voices interviews
- The Missing Voices approach is designed to include the experiences of people who are invisible in existing data



#### **Key Findings**

- Vulnerability and impact
- Risk knowledge
- Monitoring and warning
- Communication and dissemination
- Evacuation



Practical Action image: Community risk map, Nepal

### Vulnerability and impact

- Key role of social connections
- Caring responsibilities a significant driver of vulnerability

"Yes, being a single mother mattered. I cried a lot because I was all alone. I would cry and ask why life is like this. I have a lot of questions and I felt angry."

- Missing Voices interviewee



#### **Risk knowledge**

- Importance of experiential knowledge
- Underestimation of risk
- Lower levels of risk knowledge due to lower levels of access to information

"We thought the typhoon has passed because there was just light rain and some winds. Then suddenly, the waters in the canal started rising and then the flood came... We did not know what to do at first... We did not leave yet because we did not expect the waters to rise that fast. It was so fast."

- Missing Voices interviewee



#### Monitoring and warning

• Lower risk thresholds mean that monitoring and warning systems may not provide sufficient lead times for people with gendered and other social vulnerabilities

"The floodwaters rose in the evening. It was about 3-4 hours when heavy rains fell, around 5pm-9pm. That's when the people panicked and went up the roof to ask for help. There was nowhere to go at that time. The floodwaters raged from 10pm to 2am the next day."

- Key Informant, Baguio City



#### Communication and dissemination

- The timeliness, accessibility, and usefulness of communication and dissemination will be affected by social inequalities
- Preference for detailed warning information
- Importance of balancing trusted sources of warning with and need for more sources of warning

"What is important is still to follow the barangay officials. Like in our case, we followed immediately so when we got to the evacuation, it was not yet full, we were able to find a place. The siren here is working but it is the officials that people follow."

- Missing Voices Interviewee, Baguio City



#### Evacuation

- Many challenges in using evacuation and shelter facilities
- Practice of re-evacuation due to lack of resources
- Evacuation comes with its own risks, which can be higher for vulnerable populations than the flood risk

"I just felt that I was following my mother to feel safe....Hygiene was the most challenging... We do not follow our neighbours who leave early... we wait for the waters to come...My experience as a girl influenced me somehow. If my family can avoid staying in the evacuation centre, then we avoid."

- Missing Voices Interviewee, Baguio City

#### Recommendations

- Consider gender and social inequality and inclusion from the outset
- Ensure minority voices are being invited and listened to
- Build understanding of flood risk
- Build trust in communication pathways and information sources
- Provide multiple lead times for those who need longer to prepare and respond



#### Taking recommendations forward

- Collaborate with key stakeholders in FEWS
- Identify actions, roles, responsibilities, resources
- Incorporate these into existing action plans and operating procedures

Finding	Recommendation	Immediate action	Longer term action
The current one- size-fits-all early warning lead time was not effective for all, with differing needs and preferences for early warning.	Decide whether the system can immediately (or in the medium term) provide multiple lead times, providing earlier warnings to those who need additional time to respond safely.	AASCTF Pilot Project will in the current FEWS being setup, it is estimated that forecast for the next 48 to 72 hours will be generated with varying levels of accuracy (less accuracy for larger lead times). This means that the lead time will range from 1-3 hours to 2-3 days. This will be tested over the course of one monsoon in a closed prototype system (2022).	CDRRMO to integrate short term FEW (1-3 hours to 2-3 days) with existing or emerging longer term weather forecasting system lead times e.g. PAGASA forecasts

#### **Resources**

AASCTF Baguio City Gender and **Inclusion Study** 

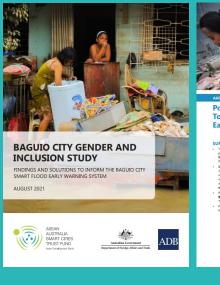
AASCTF Policy Brief - Policy and Practice Recommendations for a **Gender Transformative Flood Early** Warning System in Baguio City

From Policy Recommendations to **Practical Actions: Towards Gender Transformative Practices for Baguio City's Flood Early Warning System** 

#### For more information:

Alison Sneddon

Alison.Sneddon@practicalaction.org.uk





**Policy and Practice Recommendations : Towards a Gender Transformative Flood** Early Warning System in Baguio City

#### SUMMARY

 This policy brief provides targeted policy and practice recommendations for the Flood Early Warning System, in Baguio City, Western · Building on the findings of the Baguio City Gender and Inclusion Study, these

moving from Recommendations into Actions. This policy brief is recommended reading for recommendations will ensure that the flood early warning system integrates Gender Transformative approaches, providing a system that works stakeholders engaged in implementing different components of the Baguio Flood Early Warning System, with wider relevance for those wishing effectively for all, with no-one left behind. to learn from Baquic's investment in Gende Tomaformative Flood Early Warning

Part three provides Recommendations for the design and operation of Baguio's Flood Early Warning System.

The final section describes the next steps in

Part one of this document provides a brief Background to this initiative on Gender Transformative Early Warning.

Part two summarises the Key Findings of the Mixed Methods Gender and Inclusion Study.





#### From Policy Recommendations to Practical Actions:

Towards Gender Transformative Practices for Baguio City's Flood Early Warning System

#### PACKGROUND

Baguio City, in the Western Philippines, is part of the ASEAN Australa Smart Cities Trust Fund (AASCTT) programme. This programme. This programme. This programme. This programme. This software was followed by aims to build livable, resilient, and inclusive cities recommendations for a gender transfe across South-East Asia. Within this initiative, Baguio is Warning System (EWS) (Figure 1), building upon the across south-tast Asia, within this initiative, leagulo is aspiring to become an exemplar of an effective Flood Early Warning System (FEWS).

The Smart Flood Early Warning, Information and Mitigation System project (referred to also as the AASCTF pilot project) under the AASCTF is assisting the city with both the planning for flood mitigation and the delivery of the services of flood early warning

As a complement to this, the Gender Transformative Approach for Strengthened Development, Application, and Replication of the Baguio City Smar Flood Early Warning project is being implemented specifically to ensure appropriate, applicable, and timely early warning reaches the last mile, including the most vulnerable, recognizing that effective FEWS are people-centric. The project is implemented in partnership between Ramboll and Practical Action ulting



## Practical **ACTION**

**Alison Sneddon** 

<u>Alison.Sneddon@practicalacti</u> <u>on.org.uk</u>

# Thank YOU

