

How to support developing countries in mainstreaming
DRM by utilizing lessons from GEJE

Session 1

Key messages and Lessons on Vulnerable people

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3-6 Ensuring Sensitivity in Response and Equality in Recovery

This chapter covers:

1. Elderly
2. Children
3. Disabled
4. Gender

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Valuable contributions by

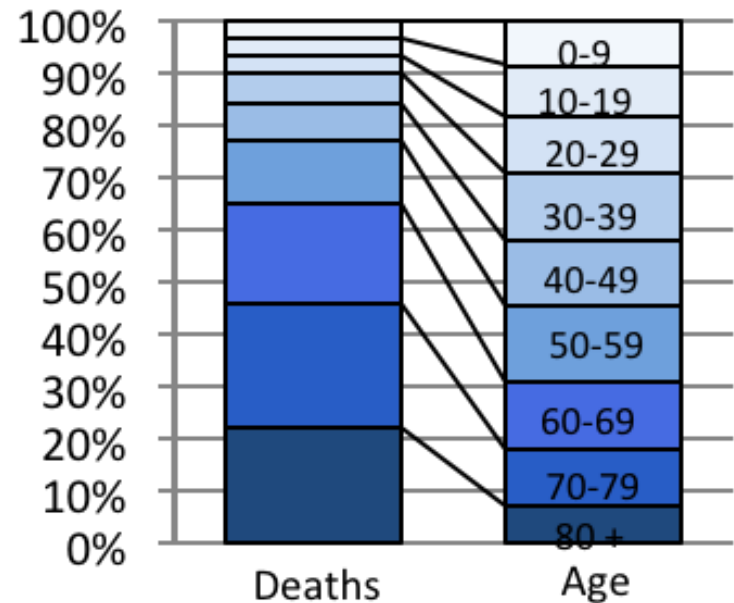
- Emi Kiyota, Ibasho;
- Akiko Domoto, Women and Disaster Network Japan; and
- Hiroko Hara, Japan's Network for Women and Health (WHJ)

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Findings:

1. Elderly

- 2/3 of deaths occurred among people over 60 years old.
- Severe damage of elderly care facilities (52 out of 1,165 facilities in the three prefectures)
- Very few welfare evacuation centers for special needs care established in the affected area.
- No relief items for the elderly (i.e: soft food and diapers, etc.)



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2. Children

- 727 children and young people (0-19 years old) lost their lives (As of Oct. 31, 2011).
- 240 children lost both their mother and father. (Of these 160 were adopted by relatives.)
- Female-headed households face more severe situation financially, such as 24 % are employed full time compared to 47 % who are unemployed or looking for work.
- Many of children who lost parents in the disaster may face difficulties to go higher education in the future.
- Single Father Japan was established before the disaster to support single fathers. The organization provide counseling and open lectures, etc.

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3. People with disabilities

- High mortality rate for people with disabilities in the three affected prefectures such as 40 people in one care-house in Minami-Sanriku town.
- “It seems there are no people with disabilities in the affected areas”.
→couldn't go to or stay at emergency centers with other people; no consideration and no facilities.

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4. Gender

Definition:

Gender refers to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female and the relationship between women and men and girls and boys, as well as the relations between women and those between men.

These attributes, opportunities and relationships are socially constructed and are learned through socialization processes. Gender determines what is expected, allowed and valued in a woman or a man in a given context.

Background: Women's situation in Japan

- Less access to social and economic opportunities.
- Higher poverty rate compare to males (28.1% vs. 22.9% in 2007).
- Different hourly wage rate.
- Fewer positions of higher section managers in private corporations.



These situations reinforced lack of gender sensitivities in times of disaster.

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- Gender related response of the National Government after the disaster.

March 16: “Disaster response based on the needs of women and women with children” Gender Equality Bureau, Cabinet office→To related agencies;

March 18: Dispatch staff from Gender Equality Bureau to disaster headquarters in Miyagi prefecture;

March 24: Information on consultation services for affected women,

March 30: Announcement of the consultation services addressing issues causing the distress of women and violence against women in the affected areas; and

April 6: Establishment of a working team for measures to ensure safety and public security in disaster- affected areas.



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Shelter management

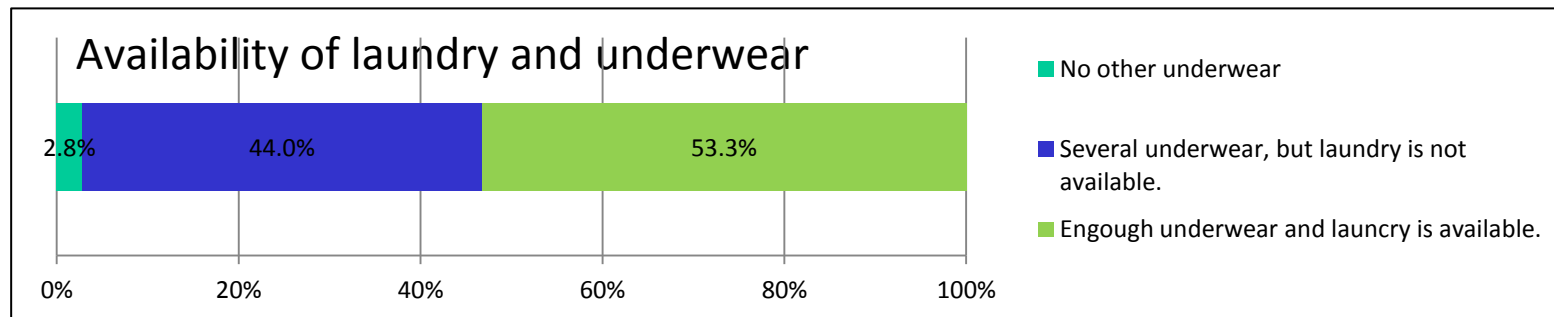
- No gender sensitive management in emergency shelters
 - Lack of privacy for women and children, especially for adolescent girls, pregnant women, women with infants and children.
 - Allowing anyone free access to shelters at night → increasing fear and risk of sexual harassment, and stress.
 - Women needed to change their clothes under blankets or in a toilet.
- No gender sensitive relief items and distribution.
 - Lack of women specific items such as napkins, underwear, and skin lotions, and no consideration for the distribution methods.

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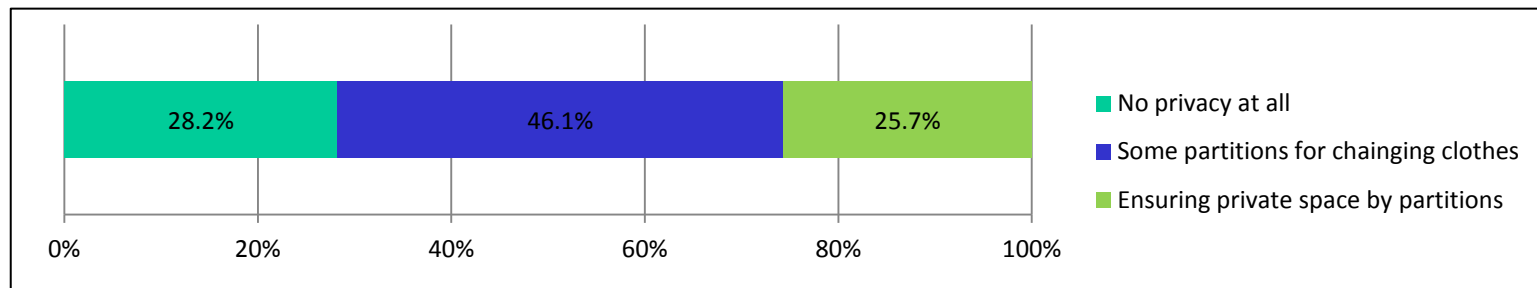
Result of Reality checks for emergency shelters in the three prefectures.

Survey by Cabinet Office April 6-10, 2011.

Target: 1047 shelters, Answered by 323 (Collected rate: 30.9%)



Privacy protection



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Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Domestic Violence (DV)

Various forms from sexual taunting to physical harassment.

Several reported cases of rape and some reported cases of forcible indecency confirmed in the three affected prefectures after the disaster → not in the affected areas.

98 were recognized as GBV, which has a clear linkage to the disaster. Many of these involved violent acts by husbands who had increased their alcohol consumption after the disaster.

Maternal Care

Lack of privacy to breastfeed.

Gave up nursing and changed to powdered milk.

Workload and livelihoods

Cooking three times a day by women.

Increased workload at evacuation centers. → It depends on ways of shelter management.

Men's needs

A need for counseling for men as well as women.

Special counseling for child rearing if they have become single parents or if they have lost their means of livelihood.

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Lessons:

- Data collection disaggregated by gender and age, and including the disabled, is needed .
- After a disaster, it is too late to start advocating for gender-sensitive perspectives, and other issues of vulnerabilities.
- The livelihoods of women also need to be supported. Equal opportunities for income generation during relief and recovery should be provided.
- Evacuation sites should be designed and integrated into neighborhood and city planning before a disaster.
- Engaging marginalized groups actively in the design and implementation of recovery efforts contributes to their recovery and to the future resilience of the community.

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Recommendations:

- The needs and impacts of different groups can be quite varied.
- Rights-based approaches should be adopted.
- Establish specific monitoring mechanisms to ensure that women and children can access recovery resources, participate publicly in planning and decision making, and organize to sustain their involvement throughout the recovery process.
- Sexual harassment and domestic violence comes in various forms. Ensure the creation of safe and secure spaces. Protection shelters and consultation services for victims should be established in collaboration with NGOs, government, and the police.
- For longer-term recovery, support can be designed to help upgrade the living standards of the poor, to enable the most marginalized to participate, and to establish mechanisms that promote an inclusive, more resilient society.

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Thank you.

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