Gender Lens, and Empowerment of women in Early Warnings and Disaster Risk Reduction Efforts in the TCI!

Dr. Virginia Clerveaux
Deputy Permanent Secretary
National Security Secretariat (NSS)
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Overview of the TCI

TCI Hazard Profile

TCI Vulnerability Assessment

The Caribbean Context

The TCI Context

Conclusion
Overview of the Turks & Caicos Islands

Size: 101.9 sq miles

Location: 575 miles (926km) southeast of Miami, Florida; south of the Bahamas and 90 miles (145km) north of Hispaniola.

Elevation: A maximum of 250 feet (77m).


Economy: Primarily known for tourism and as an offshore financial center.

Language: English (Primary), though Spanish and French Creole are often spoken by some residents.

Multicultural Society—with over 190 different nationalities
TCI HAZARD PROFILE

Hydro-meteorological
• Hurricane
• Storm Surge
• Tropical Storm
• Flooding
• Drought
• Climate Change

Biological
• Epidemic -
• Wildfire/Bushfire

Geological
• Earthquake
• Tsunami

Technological
• Accidents on land and sea, and in the air

Man-Made/ Anthropogenic
• Environmental Degradation particularly sand mining;
• Border Security
TCI Vulnerability Assessment

Vulnerable physical elements
- Sandy beach areas
- Low-lying sections of the islands
- Port infrastructure/Airport infrastructure
- Underwater power cables
- Building stock
- General road infrastructure

Vulnerable social elements
- Immigrants
- Population living below the poverty line
- Poor indigenous population
- Ageing population
- The disabled
- Expatriates
- Informal settlements

Vulnerable economic elements
- Tourism activities
- Fishing sector
- Financial services

Vulnerable environmental elements
- Mangroves
- Coral reefs
- Fisheries
- Protected areas
- Beaches
• Early warning system is integral to disaster preparedness, which is central to building the resilience of households and communities to disaster.

• Effective early warning systems (EWS) must people centred, thereby ensuring appropriate, applicable, and timely early warning reaches the last mile, including the most vulnerable.

• Gender is a critical consideration in ensuring effective EWS leave no one behind.

• Understanding how gender relations shape women's and men's lives is critical to disaster risk reduction (DRR). This is because women's and men's different roles, responsibilities, and access to resources influence how each will be affected by different hazards, and how they will cope with and recover from disaster.

• Applying a gender-lens to the specific vulnerability and exposure that different populations experience is critical, including to ensure that inequalities are not exacerbated when hazards strike (EGM/ENV/IP.3-2021).

• Ensuring meaningful participation and promoting the leadership of women in disaster risk governance can help to ensure that disaster risk reduction efforts are inclusive and accessible to all.
The Caribbean Context

• Through their traditional role as caregivers, household financial managers, knowledge keepers and networking capacities, engagement of Caribbean women is indispensable to interventions for community and national disaster-risk reduction.

• The role of early warning interventions to reducing hazard impacts, mitigating disaster risk and building resilience capacities is underscored. It therefore makes sense that, adoption of gender lens is vital to the effectiveness of early warning interventions and by extension, resilience capacity development.
1. Legal Framework-(Disaster Ordinance (2015) is all inclusive)

2. Mainstreamed gender in the National Disaster Work Program.

3. Ensure the Physical Security and Integrity of Women and Men in temporary shelters.
   a. Pregnant women in their third trimester are housed in the hospitals/clinics
   b. Incorporating women’s and children’s safety concerns into the design and construction of housing, as well as schools, clinics, and other physical infrastructure.

4. Training in DRR/DM offered to women and men at various times to ensure equal access.

5. DDME work closely with grassroots women’s organizations eg. the ‘Women’s Desk’/Gender Affairs, Soroptimist.
6. Through NGOs-eg. RC/MOH psychosocial support/ counseling is provided to men, women, boys and girls that promotes resilience and healing.

7. Data collectors are provided with information/trained on local first aid psychological service providers and medical facilities for referral of trauma or violence survivors as well as they are trained on cultural, religious nuances.

8. The gendered approach to community resilience develop involves an additional dimension in relation to the migrant population. Social and economic sectors of the TCI are heavily dependent on migrant workers who cannot be disaggregated from the disaster risk profile of the country.

- Migrant workers are predominantly women and as such, their engagement in early warning and early action initiatives is crucial to the disaster resilience of the households and businesses in which they work.

- Engagement of migrant women also has potential for export of positive outcomes as training received and lessons learned is often shared with families in countries of origin, thereby generate a broader impact scope for these interventions.

- Through various church groups and local radio stations we are able to keep that group informed and involved in DRR activities.
• Warnings are formulated and disseminated so that they are adequately understood by women, men, girls and boys. English, Spanish, French-Creole Speakers.

• Promote active participation in and lead by women’s groups in disaster preparedness drills and their planning.

• Disaster preparedness and response plans are enhanced so that they are gender responsive by considering gender differentiated vulnerabilities and capacities.
• Understanding how gender relations shape women's and men's lives is critical to disaster risk reduction (DRR). This is because women's and men's different roles, responsibilities, and access to resources influence how each will be affected by different hazards, and how they will cope with and recover from disaster (Maria Caterina et. al 2011).