



# GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

## BACKGROUND

Women and excluded groups are disproportionately vulnerable to the impacts of disaster risk. In developing countries such as Nepal, the death ratio can reach 4 women to every man when a disaster strikes. In most cases, the needs and responsibilities of women and socially excluded groups are not adequately considered in the design and planning of disaster response and recovery, making it critical to recognize the role of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) in crisis situations.

## UNDP'S ROLE

The UNDP Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Programme aims to mainstream GESI strategies into all stages of disaster risk management, including disaster preparedness, disaster reduction, and disaster response and recovery. UNDP's goal is to promote women and

socially excluded groups not only as beneficiaries, but as change agents and leaders of the communities. The United Nations Development Programme places gender equality and female empowerment as a fundamental human rights principle and an effective means and approach to achieving development.

## ACTIONS TAKEN/ FUTURE OUTLOOK

Women and socially excluded groups are supported to establish Disaster Risk Management linkages with micro-level development interventions, including piloting micro-insurance among vulnerable communities across Nepal. UNDP encourages local-level community volunteers to support social inclusion and women's participation to develop a cadre of women campaigners and volunteers. UNDP's activities such as female mason training and targeting

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*Targeted women's for trainings such as Search and Rescue is an ideal means of empowering women as agents of change in their communities (Photo: UNDP)*

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*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

**Comprehensive  
Disaster Risk Management  
Programme (CDRMP)  
UNDP Nepal**



▲ Tulla Maya Sunuwar (Photo: UNDP)

## Helping to build a strong future

Tulla Maya Sunuwar, 20 years old, is from Sindhuli. She is proud that she could support herself for higher studies working in the construction industry as a helper and mason for the past 2 and half years.

Even though she faces discrimination in terms of lack of support from her family and getting lower pay than her male counterparts, she is proud that she is able to support her higher education with the money she earns as a mason.

"People have low value on doing this kind of work but I can proudly say that I am continuing my study only because of this work."

Tulla Maya Sunuwar was one of the 30 female participants in the exclusive training for female masons on earthquake resilient construction techniques organized for the first time in Nepal by the Kathmandu Metropolitan City and supported by UNDP Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Programme. This is part of an ongoing effort by UNDP/CDRMP to develop women leaders as change agents in disaster risk reduction.

women's groups for First Aid certification are important steps in enhancing the capacities of women and promoting them as leaders and change agents in Nepal.

This project promotes active participation of women and socially excluded groups in the DRR program both as decision makers and recipients of the program services. UNDP seeks to achieve this objective by proactively including these groups in planning and implementing components by promoting GESI-sensitive knowledge management systems, monitoring and evaluation frameworks, documentation procedures, and mainstreaming initiatives in all components of DRR. In 2011, the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Strategy for UNDP was developed with outcome indicators for each program component; since then program and financial tracking mechanisms have been incorporated into UNDP reporting frameworks to ensure GESI disaggregated data is maintained.

## Gender inequality is a weak link - strengthening that link strengthens resilience



Photo: NRRC

When a disaster does strike, women and girls are more negatively affected due to gender inequality. They are expected to carry out their traditional roles in more dire circumstances, which includes locating clean water and food at farther distances. Gender inequality puts women, children, and entire communities in danger when natural hazards strike. The weakest link can mean the destruction of the entire chain.

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