

CREWS Operational Procedures Note N°3

Gender-Sensitive Programming

Adopted by the CREWS Steering Committee on 29 June 2017.

The objective of the CREWS initiative is to significantly increase the capacity to generate and communicate effective, impact-based, multi-hazard, gender-informed, early warnings and risk information to protect lives, livelihoods, and assets in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

CREWS Members



CREWS Observers



CREWS Implementing Partners



CREWS Operational Procedures Note N°3– Gender-Sensitive Programming

1. The objective of this Operational Procedures Note is to ensure that CREWS, through its investments, contributes to the ability of relevant national and local institutions to provide gender-sensitive early warning systems and climate risk information. The Note provides the procedures for the CREWS Steering Committee, the Implementing Partners and the Secretariat to translate current programming principles and institutional commitments into measurable actions and results for gender equality.
2. The terms used in this Note are compliant with the Gender Equity Glossary of UNWomen¹.
3. CREWS recognises that a gender-sensitive approach needs to be ensured in each of the four components of early warning systems.
 - i. Understanding risk: The vulnerability of women and men, girls and boys differs as a result of economic, social, physical and environmental contexts. Effective early warning systems and climate services depend on understanding these groups and their specific vulnerabilities and capacities through gender- and age-disaggregated assessments.
 - ii. Observing and monitoring climate risk: The monitoring of hazard parameters and precursors requires the knowledge and abilities of women and men. As women’s roles differ from those of men in society, women’s contributions to project design, planning and implementation can increase the usefulness of the climate services provided through observation and monitoring to a broader segment of society.
 - iii. Communicating and disseminating alerts and climate information: Gender affects the processing and dissemination of understandable warnings as women and men access information differently (for example, through different media, at different times, trust different sources...). Women’s involvement in the dissemination of climate information and warnings increases the number of people informed.
 - iv. Responding to warnings and climate information: Women have developed capacities to adapt to climate risk, prevent disasters and respond to climate information and warnings. As in most societies women are responsible for children and the elderly, ensuring women receive climate information and warnings protects a larger and more vulnerable segment of the population. Understanding, accepting and respecting gender differences can improve response to warnings by empowering women to protect themselves and others.
4. One of the programming principles that guides CREWS project development is principle (d) Gender-sensitive, which states that CREWS “recognizes that women’s empowerment is fundamental for building resilience and that men and women access, process, interpret and respond to information and warnings in different ways.”
5. The CREWS Implementing Partners are committed to gender equality within their institutions as well as in their services/operations. The Implementing Partners’ relevant policies are summarized in Annex 1.
6. The CREWS Steering Committee, in its decision 2.2 taken at its Second Meeting on 9 November 2016, requested the Secretariat to develop, in consultation with the gender experts of the Implementing Partners organizations, an Operational Procedures Note on Gender-Sensitive Programming for CREWS.
7. The CREWS Operational Procedures Note No 3—Gender-Sensitive Programming was developed based on a presentation (CREWS/SC.2/Infdoc3) made at the Second Meeting of the Steering Committee and ensuing discussions and consultations.
8. The following actions will be carried-out by the CREWS entities to ensure gender-sensitive programming.
9. The Steering Committee will:
 - i. Include, as appropriate, gender considerations in CREWS Objectives and Operational Guidelines and call for the development of specific guidelines

¹ See <https://trainingcentre.unwomen.org/mod/glossary/view.php>. According to this glossary, gender-sensitive development projects, programmes and policies are those that “attempt to redress existing gender inequalities.”

- ii. Ensure CREWS projects measure and report on gender aspects
 - iii. Allocate, as appropriate, resources for gender-sensitive programming
10. The Implementing Partners will:
- i. Ensure gender-sensitive project development, implementation and reporting, in line with their respective policies and procedures
 - ii. Include gender-sensitive indicators in the project monitoring plans
 - iii. Report on activities to promote gender equality in their projects
11. In the development and implementation of CREWS-supported projects, Implementing Partners will, as appropriate, undertake the following activities to promote gender equality:
- i. Conduct a gender analysis at the beginning of the project to identify gaps and opportunities to:
 - ensure that project activities do not exacerbate gender inequalities (by developing mitigation measures);
 - ensure that women and men can equally participate in and benefit from the project; and,
 - identify opportunities and include specific interventions to promote gender equality.

Document results of the analysis in the CREWS project status and results reports, including baseline and targets identified to increase women’s engagement through the project in climate information services and early warning systems.
 - ii. Invite female experts and women’s groups to planning meetings and capacity building opportunities. Jointly (with female experts and women’s groups) identify potential obstacles to participation and provide incentives to facilitate women’s participation, such as transportation, financial support, or childcare. Prepare a list of women’s groups and document actions taken to secure their participation, as well as lessons learned, for inclusion in the project status and results reports.
 - iii. Whenever possible, hold preparatory women-only meetings in advance of meetings with men to encourage their meaningful participation in the subsequent meeting with men. Document lessons learned in the project status and results reports.
 - iv. If culturally appropriate, hold separate stakeholder meetings and trainings for men and women. Document the results of meetings and ensure issues identified by both genders are addressed in project implementation.
 - v. Document and report on the number of women and men participating in relevant meetings and trainings. Aim for parity in participation. A minimum of 30% women’s participation is expected of CREWS-supported meetings and trainings.
 - vi. Consider offering fellowships for women to increase their participation in climate information services and early warning systems. This may include financially supporting participation of women in an existing training or capacity-building programme available locally through CREWS funding or by targeting women for fellowships in a CREWS-project training or activity.
 - vii. Report on the proportion of CREWS funding spent on the inclusion of women in project activities in the project results report. These activities are financed through the Implementing Partners’ project funds.
 - viii. In the preparation of impact assessments strive to disaggregate data by gender.
 - ix. Include a description in the project status and results reports of any sexual discrimination issues in local partner institutions affecting the project and any measures the project can take to address concerns.
12. The CREWS Secretariat will:
- i. Regularly review the operational guidance on gender sensitive programming for early warning and compile good practices
 - ii. Apply a gender lens to the CREWS monitoring and evaluation framework

- iii. Include a section on gender-sensitive programming in the CREWS annual report
13. As directed by the Steering Committee at its second meeting, the Secretariat will develop gender-inclusiveness indicators for monitoring and evaluating CREWS projects. As per the United Nations Evaluation Group's Guidance on Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluation² gender considerations will be incorporated as appropriate in all phases of evaluation: in the terms of reference, in the evaluation criteria and questions, in the methods, tools and data analysis techniques, as well as in the findings and recommendations.

² <http://www.uneval.org/document/download/2695>

Annex 1: Gender-Equality Policies of CREWS Implementing Partners

The CREWS Implementing Partners have gender-equality policies, and in some cases, action plans to operationalize them. These are summarized below.

- The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Gender Equality Policy**³ states, “The overall goal is to achieve gender equality within WMO. The provision of enhanced and gendersensitive weather, hydrological, climate and related environmental services will contribute to an improved response to human needs related to weather, climate and water.” The Policy is being implemented through the WMO Gender Action Plan, which identifies priority actions in the timeframe for 2016-2019. Regarding the provision of climate services, the Policy stipulates in article 4.4.1:

“WMO will endeavour to ensure equitable access to, interpretation of and use of information and services by both women and men. Efforts will be made to ensure effective participation of both women and men in public education and awareness activities as well as in user forums. The diverse needs of both women and men users will be taken into account and gender sensitive programmes and projects will be designed and implemented accordingly. WMO will further seek to increase the involvement of women in the development of weather, hydrological, climate and related environmental products and services. “

- The **Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) Gender Action Plan**⁴ addresses two critical aspects of gender and disaster risk management (DRM): understanding and addressing the different needs of men and women in DRM investments; and, promoting women’s empowerment for broader resilience strengthening. GFDRR’s Gender Action Plan accompanies the World Bank Group’s new Gender Strategy 2016-2023⁵, and operationalizes it for GFDRR’s activities.

GFDRR will track gender inclusion across its portfolio, measuring the achievement of expected results, outcomes, and out-puts. The target is to ensure that the portfolio is 100% gender-informed (i.e., not just tagged for the gender theme), working through two main avenues: (i) improving understanding of how to effectively engender activities through dedicated re-sources, building capacity, and (ii) strengthening the body of analytical work and tools to help implementing teams effectively engender their activities. The plan incorporates specific indicators into GFDRR’s existing monitoring and evaluation systems to better track gender outcomes across the portfolio. The target is to ensure that 50% of the projects in the active portfolio incorporate specific actions to address gender inequality.

- The **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) Policy on Gender Mainstreaming in Disaster Risk Reduction**⁶ states: “To translate its commitment to making DRR gender sensitive into action UNISDR Secretariat policy consists of these four elements: Allocate human and financial resources in the UNISDR Secretariat for facilitating gender mainstreaming in DRR, especially in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action; Integrate gender mainstreaming in all areas of the UNISDR Secretariat’s work, with an emphasis on work planning, monitoring and reporting; Advocate implementation of policy and guidance on the principles for making DRR gender sensitive in the ISDR system; and Empower women in DRR through knowledge and capacity building in a partnership of country based UN agencies, governments and civil societies.”

3 See https://ane4bf-datap1.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/wmocms/s3fs-public/WMO_Gender_Equality_Policy_2.pdf?cDwDm7FfR8sCGQ05JlkMPHZwHZ_3Cn3K

4 See <https://www.gfdr.org/sites/default/files/gfdr-gender-action-plan.pdf>

5 See <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/820851467992505410/World-Bank-Group-gender-strategy-FY16-23-gender-equality-poverty-reduction-and-inclusive-growth>

6 See http://www.unisdr.org/files/42359_unisdrpolicyongender.pdf