

**THEMATIC EVALUATION:
GENDER INTEGRATION IN DISASTER
PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMS
IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

China Case Study

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MAPS



Map of China

Map of Guangxi



ACRONYMS

ARC	Australian Red Cross
ACWF	All China Women's Federation
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
BPFA	Beijing Platform for Action
CBDP	Community based Disaster Preparedness
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
Guangxi	Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region
GXRC	Red Cross Society of China Guangxi Branch
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
ISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NCDRC	National Committee for Disaster Reduction
NDRCC	National Disaster Reduction Center of China
PRC	People's Republic of China
RC/RC	Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement
RCSC	Red Cross Society of China
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timebound
ToF	Training of Facilitators
ToT	Training of Trainers
VC	Villagers Committee
VCA	Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment
VDC	Village Disaster Committee

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This case study forms part of a broader review of the integration of gender issues into Australian Red Cross (ARC)-supported disaster risk management (DRM) programs, focusing on AusAID NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP)-funded activities. The Guangxi Red Cross Society (GXRC)'s Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) Project is one of these. It aims to implement training and conduct disaster mitigation activities that can improve the resilience of selected village communities to risks and hazards during disasters as well as increase the capacity of Guangxi RC staff at all levels. The CBDP is currently in its third phase of implementation (July 2008-June 2009), following from two prior one year phases. The results of this evaluation will be used to inform future DP/DRM initiatives of the ARC.

This evaluation has shown that, based on the lessons learnt from previous phases, considerable efforts have been made in the CBDP Project Phase III to ensure that gender issues have been integrated into the design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation activities. During the CBDP Project 2007-2008 (Phase II), gender theory and practises were introduced during workshops, and strategies were implemented at all levels to achieve gender targets. Phase III has continued to incorporate gender theory and practises by:

- Collecting sex disaggregated data;
- Including information on gender issues in the narrative reporting;
- Providing gender awareness training to GXRC staff through the ARC delegate;
- Encouraging female representation in facilitator training workshops and formation of village groups; and
- Considering the different perspectives of men and women and the different impacts in disaster preparedness plans and mitigation measures.

The importance of gender issues in disaster risk reduction (DRR)/DRM and the need to integrate these issues into the project have been recognised by the GXRC program management and staff. All interviewees - both women and men - agreed that women and men should be equal in terms of political, economic and social status, as well as within the family and household. They also affirmed women's numerous contributions to the economy and their irreplaceable roles in the family.

Despite increasing the quota of women in VDCs to 40%, in some communities women's participation remains marginalised due to the traditional dominance of male views and cultural practices. Forming a separate women's group during the VCA is one measure to overcome the marginalisation of women's participation. This has been the practice in many project villages, in an attempt to give women more of a voice and address their concerns.

There are five specific gender performance indicators, mostly quantitative, identified in the project proposal, which are used as the basis for monitoring and evaluation. More indicators, especially qualitative outcome indicators, need to be developed in order to monitor the effectiveness and impact of the project.

The third phase of the CBDP project has become more proactive in reaching out to other governmental agencies, academia and civil society organisations (CSOs) to provide more holistic and collaborative training on disaster reduction, including strengthening of the gender integration module in broader disaster preparedness training. However, gender is a new concept in China, most project staff at the different levels have never heard of it before this project, and there is little information available in Chinese languages or that deal with Chinese context. A need has been identified to increase and improve the content of both the training and the gender chapter of the CBDP Project training manual to incorporate more practical advice on how to deal with the implementation challenges of gender integration.

The general recommendations for the ARC and GXRC are:

1. Develop a set of gender strategies and guidelines in CBDP, based on the experience and practices of other ARC-supported projects/previous phases of the CBDP on gender integration, and disseminate them widely among the CBDP project's stakeholders.
2. Advocate for gender integration in RCSC CBDP projects at the national level.
3. Advocate with the Chinese government to incorporate gender-sensitive CBDP into China's National Disaster Reduction Plan, drawing from this project's experience.
4. Disseminate the results and good practices of the CBDP project on gender integration to government agencies, private sector and CSOs.
5. Apply the principle and methods of the CBD project, for example, gender integration, participatory approaches and training modules in other DRR/DRM projects in Guangxi and in the CBDP if continued or extended beyond phase III.
6. Increase cooperation with other partners from women's organisations and academia to sharpen the knowledge on and application of the gender integration in risk management and disaster preparedness.

The specific recommendations for the GXRC's projects and activities, and the CBDP Project (if continued), include:

7. Develop qualitative and quantitative gender impact performance indicators to evaluate women's participation beyond their physical attendance/presence in project activities.
8. Support women-specific activities to increase the visibility of women's contribution in the VDCs and communities and the self-esteem and confidence of the women themselves.
9. Conduct more gender sensitivity training for GXRC staff and volunteers, based on the participants' needs assessment.
10. Provide participatory hands-on training that focuses on implementation challenges in integrating gender into DRM projects, as follow up to gender sensitivity training.
11. Add more content on gender issues to the current version of the CBDP Project training manual or develop a new training manual on gender and disaster preparedness, Good practices for gender integration should be included in the manual.

The recommendations for the ARC are:

12. Continue to provide technical support on gender integration to the GXRC and/or the CBDP project in the following areas:
 - a) Commission consultancies with gender experts related to increasing attention to gender considerations in project planning, implementation and M&E;
 - b) Select and translate materials on the related issues into Chinese;
 - c) Modify the training manuals to address the practical needs from the participants on how to integrate gender issues in their works; and
 - d) Exchange the experience and good practices among ARC partners in China and in the region, through study tour, forum/conference and publications.
13. Strengthen the strategic partnership with RCSC through the CBDP project and other projects in China by supporting the following actions:
 - a) Develop and disseminate IEC materials that reflect the good practices of gender integration in the CBDP Project;
 - b) Facilitate gender training for RCSC staff;
 - c) Co-sponsor with RCSC workshops and forums on gender-related issues; and
 - d) Explore the possibility to develop a joint program with RCSC to extend the good practices of gender integration in the CBDP Project to the national level.
14. Collaborate, through the RCSC, with Chinese government provincial and national agencies that design and implement policies and programs on disaster reduction to incorporate the successful gender integration approaches used in the CBDP Project.

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of Evaluation

The Australian Red Cross (ARC) has been supporting the disaster management programs of its National Society (NS) partners in Asia and the Pacific for several years. This has included disaster prevention, preparedness (DP), mitigation, response and recovery – actions collectively referred to as disaster risk management (DRM). Much of this work has been funded through the Non-Governmental Organisation Cooperation Program (ANCP) of the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), including programs in China, Mongolia, North Korea (DPRK) and four Pacific Island Countries (PICs).

DRM is a core area of the ARC's work. Within this context, the ARC and the coordinating body for all member National Societies (NS) of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), are currently updating their policies and institutional mechanisms for integrating gender considerations into DRM. Therefore, the ARC decided to evaluate gender practices in this area to identify strengths and weaknesses, and identify lessons learned (Annex 1: Terms of Reference).

The evaluation reviewed the integration of gender issues into the design, appraisal, implementation and review of ARC supported disaster management (DM) programs, focusing on ANCP supported activities, but also considering how this has translated into practice in actual emergency responses. The conclusions and lessons learned from this evaluation will be used to improve the performance and, where required, the exit strategies of the current projects, as well as feeding directly into the design of future ARC and IFRC supported projects. The findings also will offer the opportunity to strengthen programming of the ARC's Partner NS (PNS) and will offer valuable lessons to the IFRC on gender integration in a DRM context.

Objectives and Scope

The overall objective of the evaluation was: *To assess the integration of gender integration into disaster management and preparedness projects and to draw lessons learned in order to improve the gender and disaster management programming of ARC and its partners.*

The evaluation specifically aimed to:

- Analyse effectiveness of targeting within ARC supported disaster management programs in terms of the different vulnerabilities of men and women;
- Assess the extent to which the design of ARC supported disaster management programs have addressed the different roles and responsibilities of men and women in targeted communities and integrated gender issues in the project cycle in an appropriate manner;
- Review the tools which have been used to identify and address gender issues in programs and emergency responses and whether they had the results expected;
- Assess the approach to and success of capacity building of local partners (NS and communities), taking into account the different capacities and access to resources of men and women;
- Assess the effectiveness of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems in terms of responding to gender issues; and
- Outline existing best-practice tools from external institutions on gender-analysis and gender-mainstreaming and review their relevance to the programme approaches.

In addition to literature reviews and a prior assessment of gender integration in the DPRK program (December 2008), fieldwork was conducted in two countries – China and Fiji – and case studies developed. This case study focuses on the program in Guangxi, China.

Methodology

Methods Used

The methods used in the China case study included a **literature review**, primarily of project documents, and a **field assessment** (see Annex 2 for visit program). The relevant information was collected, triangulated and validated through:

- Review of secondary data and project documentation covering the period of 2007 to 2009 (See Annex 3: Bibliography);
- Semi-structured key informant interviews with various programme stakeholders (ie GXRC staff and volunteers, IFRC, community leaders, and gender expert); the interview guides can be found at Annex 4 and a list of those interviewed at Annex 5).
- Site visits to four villages where focus group discussions (FGD) took place.

The field assessment was conducted in Guangxi, China from 9 to 18 April 2009. The third phase of the CBDP project is being implemented in 14 villages in 11 counties of five cities or prefectures. The field assessment focused on four villages within three counties in three cities, which are implementing DM and DP activities (see Table 1 for details).. The criteria for the selection of the villages were based on: the types of disasters that communities generally encounter; average income of the households; ethnic diversity; and geographic location based on a village's distance from Nanning, the capital city of Guangxi.

Table 1 Project Sites Visited

Prefecture/ City	County/District	Township	Village	Sub-village
Nanning	Long'an	Yanjiang	1.Longzhuang Village	Tanpo Sub-village
	Mashan	Bailongtan	2. Daqiu Village	Zhong Sub-village
Guilin	Yangshuo	Fuli	3. Baimashan Village	
			4. Fuli Village Committee	Fuli Village Committee Dongjie
	Quanzhou	Yongsui	5. Zuojiang Village	LijiaSub-Village
Fangchenggang	Shangsi	Jiao'an	6. Nabu Village	NafuSub-Village
	Fangcheng District	Maoling	7. Xiaotao Village	Baobei/Baonan Sub-Village
	Dongxing City	Jiangping	8. Changshan Village	Changshan Sub-Village
Hechi	Yizhou City	Shibie	9. Qingtan Village	Lahao Sub-Village
			10. Qingtan Village	Wailong Sub-Village
	Luocheng	Long'an	11. Beiyuan Village	Digao Sub-Village
			12. Dameng Village	Naleng Sub-Village
Beihai	Hepu	Dangjiang	13. Shachong Village	Shajiding/Baowu Sub-village
	Yinhai District	Fucheng	14. Ninghai Village	Xiajiatang Sub-village

(Source: Red Cross Society of China Guangxi Branch Project Office, November 20, 2008)

Note: The shaded areas indicate the field sites visited

The qualitative and quantitative data used in this evaluation report were mainly collected from the ten-day field assessment in Guangxi—from the meetings, FGDs and semi-structured interviews with community leaders, women and men villagers, members of Village Disaster Committee, volunteers, local government officials and staff at provincial, city/prefecture and county level offices and other stakeholders.

The site visit team consisted of one female consultant, Ms. Cai Yiping (Annex 6:bio data), one CBDP project assistant (female) and two senior staff from GXRC (one female and one male). Two or more local staff from the Red Cross County Office joined the team in every site visit. Every Red Cross staff member manages the implementation of a project in her or his county. The consultant facilitated the meetings and interviews, while the other team members helped with the interpretation as interviewees spoke in their local languages and dialects. The inhabitants of the three selected sites for field visits were mostly of Zhuang ethnicity, the dominant ethnicity in Guangxi.

Seven FGDs (one gender-mixed group, three women groups and three men groups) were conducted in the four villages. Around seventy beneficiaries, consisting of village leaders, VDC members, volunteers, and women and men community members, aged thirteen to seventy-two, participated in the FGDs. In Lahao Sub-Village, some boys and girls joined the group after school. In addition to FGDs and interviews, the consultant carried out visual observation at the construction sites of the mitigation projects in each village.

Sixteen in-depth interviews with key informants were carried out in order to determine the level of understanding of gender issues and degree of integration of gender considerations in the implementation of the project. The interviews also helped to identify lessons learnt and good practices from the projects, as well as to gather further suggestions and recommendations on related issues.

Table 2 Methods Used To Collect Data

Method	Total Number of Interviews	Interviewees	Selection of Participants	Notes
Focus groups	7	70 (42 males 28 females)	Stratified Random (Men and women villagers, Village leaders, VDC members, and volunteers.)	1 mixed group in Shachong Village and 6 sex-segregated groups in other 3 villages.
Individual interview	16	5 males and 10 females officials and staffs	Key informant	Project management and supervision in provincial, city/prefecture and county levels
		1 female	Key informant	Independent gender expert who conducted the gender training for the project.
On-site observation	4			

The consultant validated the main findings with the CBDP Project officer and staff during the debriefing meeting at the GXRC office.

Constraints

The villages in the 14 project sites are distributed across Guangxi Province, which made travel very time consuming. Travel between the sites took much longer than expected. To optimise the time dedicated for the field assessment, some interviews with local RC staff were conducted in the evening.

Mandarin is the sole official language of the People's Republic of China. However, Mandarin is not the lingua franca of the inhabitants in the sites, which were visited. In fact, the people have a very limited understanding of the language. They spoke local languages and dialects such as Guiliu, Hepu, Cantonese and Zhuang. These languages also vary from one community to another. In some cases, the local RC staff or community leaders acted as interpreters. As this practice may affect the content and dynamics of the FGDs, the consultant set some guidelines for the interpreters.

PROGRAMMING CONTEXT

Country Overview

China's Strategies and Actions for Disaster Reduction

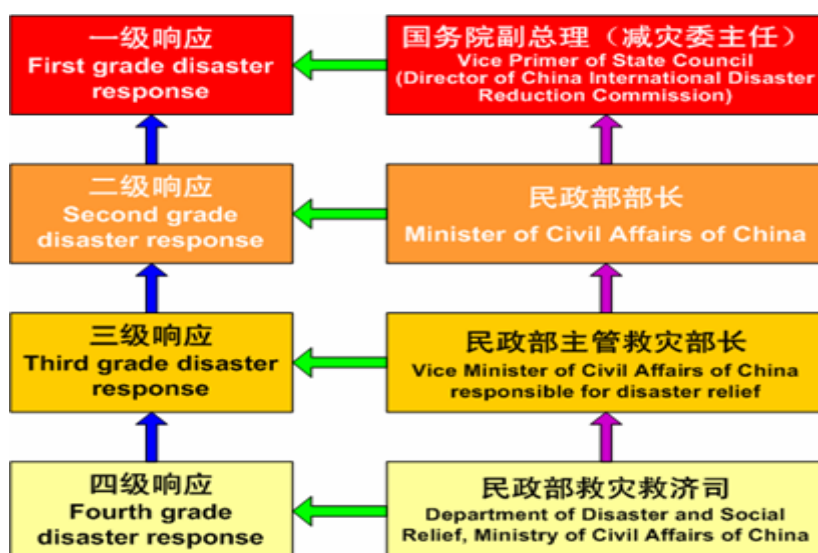
China is one of many countries that are severely affected by natural disasters across the world. Seventy-four per cent of provincial capitals and 62 per cent of municipalities are prone to high-intensity earthquakes while over 70 per cent of large cities and over half of the population are vulnerable to meteorological, seismic, geological and oceanic disasters. In the past decade, disasters in China have impacted on roughly 300 million people — the destruction of four million houses, the evacuation of four million people and over AU\$39.76 billion of direct economic losses was incurred every year on average.¹ In 2008 alone, China's deadliest earthquake in 32 years wrought immense economic losses and damages, reaching more than AU\$168 billion, far exceeding the AU\$30.16 billion reported losses from the devastating blizzard earlier that year.

Given this context, the Chinese government attaches great importance to disaster risk reduction work. It aims to scale-up of the construction of comprehensive disaster risk reduction infrastructure and capabilities in order to avert impending risks. This is also as a response to the effects of climate change. China seeks to consolidate a portfolio of integrated measures to respond to all kinds of natural disasters more effectively. These measures include: monitoring and early warning systems, disaster prevention and control, emergency response and relief, and recovery and reconstruction. China harnesses its strengths and resources to: mitigate the impact of disasters; address vulnerabilities of different segments of the population; and elevate its national capacity in integrated disaster reduction and risk prevention measures.

In April 2005, the National Commission for Disaster Reduction (NCDR) was formed, together with the creation of a Board of Experts and the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC). There are 31 ministries, agencies and civil society organisations (CSOs) represented on this joint national mechanism (see Annex 7 for the structure of the NCDR). China has instituted an *Overall National Emergency Response Plan for Public Contingencies* (2006) and identified special plans and departmental programmes in response to four categories of public contingencies that include natural disasters, accidents, public health disasters and social insecurity (see Table 3 for details)

¹ Zou Ming, *China's Disaster Reduction Strategies and Actions in the Context of Global Climatic Changes*. 2007 (<http://www.adrem.org.cn/news/ppt1>)

Table 3 National Emergency Response Plan for National Disaster Relief



In 2007, China released the *Eleventh National Five-Year Plan for Integrated Disaster Reduction*. Prior to this, the government also formulated the *Program of System-building for Public Emergency Response During the Tenure of the Eleventh Five-Year Plan* (2006) and the *National Program for Flash Flood Prevention* (2006). Disaster risk mitigation goals have been incorporated into national and local socio-economic development programmes, indicating the national government's commitment to DRM. These programs ensure that national and local disaster reduction measures and action plans are implemented and monitored. Furthermore, China has launched a *Community Disaster Reduction Campaign* and *National Disaster Reduction Contest* to add more substance to the outreach campaigns.

China is likewise active in regional and international cooperation on disaster reduction. It hosted the first-ever Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction² and Senior Officials' Meeting of Disaster Relief Departments within the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, where several multilateral and bilateral agreements were concluded.

According to its *Eleventh Five Year Plan for Integrated Disaster Reduction (2007-12)* published in August 2007, China pledged to implement the following:

- Build a sound national system for integrated disaster reduction;
- Conduct surveys and assessments on overall risks of natural disasters; build the capacity of monitoring, early warning and forecasting; and elevate the capabilities on information sourcing and services;
- Strengthen the national system of natural disaster relief programmes;
- Build the communities' resilience in disaster reduction; mobilise all social sectors into integrated disaster reduction efforts;
- Build resilience in adapting with devastating disasters;
- Improve technical support system and retool existing disaster relief equipment and technologies needed for disaster mitigation; and,
- Participate in international mechanisms and actions on disaster reduction.

² The conference adopted the Beijing Action Plan for Reducing Disaster Risks in Asia. (September, 2005)

In general, China's national plan on disaster reduction emphasises the importance of communities in mitigating the impacts of disasters, improving emergency responses; and accounting for the vulnerability of youth, elderly people and women. However, the government has yet to truly integrate a gender dimension into its comprehensive policies and programmes on disaster reduction.

Gender Policy in China

The status of Chinese women has improved immensely since 1949. However, patriarchy remains one of the defining features of traditional Chinese society and contributes to various forms of discrimination and depriving women of their rights in politic, economic, social, cultural and family life. After 1949, the Communist government declared the end of the feudal system—institutionalising women's equal rights with men in political, economic, cultural, educational and social life. Even women's human rights were strengthened through new legislation, beginning with the Marriage Law of 1950. Women were also encouraged to enter the labour force. Education became accessible at all levels.

However, the goal of women's equality has not yet been truly fulfilled since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949. Women's issues are still subordinated within the larger political movements. In rural areas, the majority of rural women participate in collective farming and women role models have been recognised since 1958. In the cities, more women are also joining the workforce. Nonetheless, women still have limited access to land. Women's participation in the labour force is mainly through small neighbourhood workshops and collectives rather than through state-owned enterprises, thus placing them at the lower end of the economic hierarchy. Women are also underrepresented in the public sector, which employs the majority of the workforce and provides comprehensive benefits and lifetime job security.

In the late 1970s, economic reform irreversibly transformed the Chinese economic and social landscape. It created new wealth and opportunities for both women and men. However, the benefits of the reform were unevenly distributed throughout Chinese society, widening the already-existing gaps between urban and rural China; and between the more developed east and the less developed west. It also raised new constraints and barriers for women as equal partners in politics, economy and society (see Annex 38 for a summary of national laws and policies related to gender equality).

The Chinese government ratified major UN human rights treaties and International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions related to gender equality, including the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*.³ It also committed itself to the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA)⁴ and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).⁵ The Chinese government also confirms its commitment to gender equality in its "Program for the Development of Chinese Women (1995-2000) and (2001-2010)."

³ China signed the CEDAW on December 17, 1979 and ratified on September 3, 1981.

⁴ In 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women was held in Beijing, which adopted the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, which focuses on 12 critical areas of concern: women and poverty, education and training of women, women and health, violence against women, women and armed conflict, women and the economy, women in power and decision making, institutional mechanism for the advancement of women, human rights of women, women and media, women and the environment and the girl-child. UN had held 2 meetings to evaluate the implementation of the BPFA in 2000 and 2005.

⁵ The Chinese government was one of the 189 countries that supported the MDGs, which is adopted in 2000 at the United Nations Summit. MDGs is a universal set of development goals for advancing development and reducing poverty by 2015. MDGs include 8 goals, 18 targets and 48 indicators and the Goal 3 deals specifically with gender equality.

Gender Equality and Women's Development in Guangxi

Guangxi is also among the least developed areas in China. Despite the rapid growth of the national economy and progress on social development, Guangxi ranked 27th out of 31 provinces/autonomous regions/municipalities in Mainland China in the gender equality and women's development index in 2006, according to the *Evaluation Report on Gender Equality and Women's Development in China 1995-2005 and 2006-2008*⁶ (see Table 4).

Program Overview

Located in the southern part of China, Guangxi shares a border with Vietnam and has Yunnan, Guizhou, Hunan and Guangdong as its provincial neighbours. 80% of Guangxi's total land area of 236,700 square kilometres is mountainous. Administratively, it is divided into 14 prefectures, 109 counties (including 12 ethnic autonomous counties) and 1,126 towns. There are 14,363 villages that are administered by a village committee.

Guangxi's total population is around 50 million, of which 39% are ethnic minority groups. The largest ethnic minority group is Zhuang, which makes up 16 million (33%) of the population. There is also a significant number of both Dong and Miao minority peoples. The number of people in Guangxi living in rural areas is 30.4 million (63.76%).

Guangxi's GDP in 2007 was approximately AU\$92.0 million, making it China's fourth poorest province. The main source of income is from agricultural products including rice, corn, soybean, fruit, sugarcane and aquatic products. The Gross Domestic Product per capita in Guangxi is AU\$1,939. In a country with huge economic and social disparities, the per capita annual disposable income in urban areas in Guangxi is AU\$1,906 and in rural areas, AU\$504. Of the 14,369 villages, just over 4,000 are classified as poor with an average per capita income of less than AU\$152.

Every year, flooding, drought, forest fires, typhoons, severe storms, landslides, mudslides and hail affect Guangxi. The population regularly suffers from health epidemics as well. The impact of disaster includes loss of crops and livestock, damage to roads and public institutions and damage to houses and businesses. This results in a loss of income and depression as well as reduced levels of health and sanitation. In January 2008, Guangxi was hit by an exceptionally severe storm, which affected almost 14 million people. The disaster destroyed 847,000 hectares of farming area, 30,000 houses and 600 roads causing an economic loss of AU\$28.9 million. In 2005, a serious flood struck the province disrupting the lives of over seven million people and causing an economic loss of AU\$10.94 billion. 86 people were dead or missing.

The CBDP model utilises people's own experience and resourcefulness to identify risks and hazards and implement mitigation measures; its participatory methods can strengthen the coping abilities of communities and ensure program sustainability. The Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement has a clear mandate to respond to the needs of people affected by natural disasters and the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) has long played a strong and active role at the national and provincial levels, in providing relief immediately following a disaster, together with other community development programs within its mandate.

⁶ Edited by Women's Studies Institute of China (ACWF). Beijing: Social Sciences Academic Press. 2006 and 2008

Table 4 Gender Equality and Women's Development Index and Integrative Index⁷ (2000, 2004 and 2006)

		Health	Educ'n	Economy	Political participation	Family and marriage	Environment	Integrative Indicator	GDP(CHY)per capita	Integrative Indicator Rank
2000	National	78.76	78.04	71.20	40.08	67.01	57.95	66.11	NA	
	Guangxi	70.12	77.98	68.7	45.64	70.25	52.05	64.73	4419	29th
2004	National	80.13	82.32	72.83	40.66	67.01	63.4	68.23	10561	
	Guangx	74.57	80.39	72.67	46.18	70.25	52.05	66.99	7196	28th
2006	National	78.60	85.39	69.39	46.59	64.89	60.49	68.53	16084	
	Guangxi	72.80	85.95	70.33	47.53	68.76	51.66	67.36	10296	27th

(Source: Evaluation Report on Gender Equality and Women's Development in China 1995-2005 and 2006-2008)

⁷ The gender equality and women's development index is an indication developed by the Women's studies institute of China (WSIC) to show the inequalities between men and women in the following areas: health, education, economy, political participation, family and marriage life, environment.

This project responds to:

- needs of the rural poor;
- the impacts of disaster and poor health and sanitation; and
- strengthening the organisational, planning, management and accountability capacities of local communities.

An external evaluation of the first phase of the CBDP project in 2005 noted that a one-year time frame was too short, that future projects should target fewer villages over a smaller area, that all villages need to be given funding for mitigation measures, and that there should be greater emphasis on capacity-building of village disaster committees (VDCs), rather than just the implementation of 'one-off' mitigation measures. In May 2007, CBDP partners throughout China met to discuss a national CBDP model, which supported these evaluations. The current draft national CBDP model incorporates Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) methodology when selecting villages and mitigation construction projects. Some VCA training has been provided and the ARC will continue to support this development.

The GXRC Community Based Disaster Preparedness Project (Phase III, July 2008-June 2009) aims to implement training and conduct disaster-mitigation activities that can improve the resilience of selected village communities to risks and hazards during disasters as well as increase the capacity of Guangxi RC staff at all levels. The overall objectives of this project are:

1. To improve the resilience of selected village communities to risks and hazards.
2. To strengthen the capacity of GXRC staff and volunteers

The estimated number of direct beneficiaries is 11,200 men, women and children in 14 villages across 11 counties and five prefectures. The villages have low average income and limited infrastructure. They are vulnerable to sickness and disease, floods, droughts and landslides. The project is also expected to benefit GXRC staff at the provincial and local levels in terms of improved skills and knowledge in project management and institutional linkages.

FINDINGS

Baseline Survey and Design

The emphasis on gender issues is one of the highlights of the Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) Project and many efforts have been made to ensure gender integration in the project. During the CBDP Project 2007-2008 (Phase II), gender theory and practise were introduced in workshops— which were conducted for the first time in this kind of project in Guangxi. In Phase III, gender was recognised as one of the project's cross cutting themes and further strengthened in the design. Gender and environment were the two parallel cross cutting themes that were highlighted in the project proposal to AusAID.

Based on the experience and learning of Phase II, Phase III has incorporated gender considerations into its design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation by the following:

- Collection of sex-disaggregated data;
- Narrative reporting that includes information on gender issues;
- Gender-awareness training provided by the ARC delegate;

- Promotion of women's participation (if equal men and women ratios are not feasible) in facilitating training workshops and in forming village groups; and the
- Integration of the perspectives of women and men in disaster plans and mitigation measures.

In the baseline survey conducted in October 2008, the CBDP Project required that half of the interviewees should be women. This was mostly achieved, with women comprising 43.9% of interviewees in the survey. Four questions were asked to collect data on concepts, notions the gender-related issues as well as to identify the needs of women in the participating communities:

1. Do you think the concept of regarding men as superior to women exists in your village? (Yes, extremely severe; Yes, fairly severe; not severe; not at all)
2. Do you agree "men should work outside of the home while women should be taking care of the family? (Yes; No)
3. Who makes the decisions in your family? (Man, women, co-decide)
4. Do you think there is a need for women specific training to increase women's capacity? (Yes; No)⁸

According to the findings of the baseline survey, for the first question, the majority of the interviewees responded that the perception of men being superior to women existed in their communities, but only five per cent thought that this was an extremely severe problem, 23% thought it was fairly severe, while 34% thought it was not severe and 38% not at all severe. 63% disagreed with the statement in question two, which reflects traditional perceptions of the gender division of labour. The answer to question three showed that in most of the families in the survey, men and women co-decided on important family matters through negotiation. In 26% of the families, men only made the decisions while women only made the decisions among only five per cent of interviewed families. 81% of interviewees thought that women needed to participate the training to increase their capacities so that they could better play their roles in the family and community.

Vulnerability Targeting

Women, children, elderly and people with disabilities are among the most vulnerable groups in the project villages, as identified through the VCA process. Their vulnerabilities are aggravated by poverty.

By attending disaster preparedness and emergency response training courses, exercises and assessments, community members have become more sensitive than before to the vulnerabilities of specific groups. Village disaster preparedness plans articulate suitable emergency responses and flag the measures that have to be taken to address the needs of people, particularly the more vulnerable groups. Volunteers are also assigned to liaise with vulnerable groups, should there be an emergency. A group of volunteers said, "*We calculate and list down how many elderly people and people with disabilities need to be taken care of in the evacuation so that we can assign volunteers to help them.*" Another woman commented, "*I know we should prepare some medicines in the evacuation but I never thought about the special medicine for the kids before I attended the disaster preparedness trainings.*"

Another good practice, affirmed during the FGDs, has been the recruitment of people from vulnerable groups in key project roles. In one village, for instance, it was identified that elderly individuals who live on their own are at high risk. When there was a need to recruit a

⁸ Author's translation from original Chinese version

person in charge of inspection and maintenance of the mitigation construction in the village, the VDC hired an elderly man who was among the poorest members of the community, so that he could earn money from this part-time job; this was paid by the community members as a part of a local charity programme.

However, FGD participants also mentioned the need to offer opportunities to older women. The participants said that while men can still be active in the VDC or as a Red Cross volunteer in their 60s and 70s, women in their 50s tend to withdraw from such roles because their high workloads doing housework and their role as caregivers in the family, consumes their spare time. There was no woman over the age of 60 among the participants in the FGDs in the four villages,

There is confusion between being gender-sensitive and recognising vulnerabilities. Most of the time, CRCS staff, community leaders and other community members understand gender sensitivity as the need to protect women due to their biological and physical limitations. Others are rather gender-blind as they fail to see the vulnerability and capacities of women and their specific practical needs. For example, in one of the FGDs, all of the women mentioned that their urgent need was for toilets. Since there is no single toilet in the village, women have to walk for four to five minutes to the forest, where they could be exposed to, and attacked by, men or by animals. They are afraid to go to the forest and sometimes ask their children to accompany them. Yet men do not think that constructing toilets is a priority.

Women tend to give up their own identified priorities in the formal male-dominated decision-making discussions. The GXRC should organize women-specific groups, using VCA methods, and promote women's participation in VDC to better enable women to voice their concerns. Gender sensitivity training, which is the part of the training for facilitators organised by CBDP Project for the GXRC staff and volunteers would also help them to comprehend and to address women's concerns.

Implementation

In the CBDP Project, gender integration is not only considered in the project design and planning, but also emphasised in the implementation.

Objective 1: To improve the resilience of selected village communities to risks and hazards.

Output 1.1: Community members and local stakeholders are actively engaged in project planning and implementation

Output 1.2: CBDP knowledge is increased in village communities

Output 1.3: Disaster risk reduction mitigation measures are established in targeted villages.

Based on the field assessment, the villages that were visited have all completed their mitigation construction projects to improve the villages' resilience to risks and hazards. Women and men, girls and boys, and older people are the main beneficiaries of their construction. Moreover, the community members chose the programme through a participatory and democratic process, whereby the members of the community prioritised their needs, identified their strengths and vulnerabilities and, finally, made a decision on priority activities to implement. Each household contributes their time and money and actively participates in the collective activity.

The villagers' enthusiasm for, appreciation of and ownership of the project was evident during the site visits. In one village in Yizhou, after the completion of the mitigation project, which was constructing roads within the village, they collectively decided to install the streetlights along the road. A community member commented: "*The lights are automatically run from seven till 12 pm in the evening, since many people have to work in the field and*

return home very late in the night. With these lights, we are not afraid of walking on the muddy trails in the darkness any more.”

In a village in Shangsi, the mitigation project entailed building a new bridge to connect the village with the county road network. The old bridge was less than two metres wide and was destroyed many times by floods. During these occasions, children were cut off from their school, which is located in another village beyond the bridge. Now the children can walk to school safely, as a more hazard-resistant five metre bridge has been constructed..

There is evidence from international experience of the value of involving schools in disaster preparedness education, as students often share the knowledge with their families and communities. Boys and girls are also often among the vulnerable groups that need disaster preparedness knowledge (eg Save the Children, 2008).. In the CBDP project, this proved to be an efficient way to increase DP knowledge, with the students able to describe what they had learned from their teachers about DP.

In another village in Beihai, a 60 year old woman explained: *“I moved to this village more than 30 years ago when I married and have been living here since. This road was damaged many years ago. The road got muddy every time when it is raining. So when we discussed what we should do with the money from ARC project, we decided to reconstruct this road. I am so happy to see with ARC project’s help, we finally are able to repair it. Now it is much more convenient to go to the farmlands that are located at the other end of the road.”*

Women found the disaster preparedness and emergency response training extremely practical and useful and they have applied the new knowledge to care for their family and serve the community.

“After training, I told my son do not play with fire anymore. It is dangerous” ...“I am so proud that I learnt how to clean and dress wound. I did once when there was a person injured” ... “After the DP drill, we know what we should NOT bring in the case of flood – the bank deposit card, for example. Life is most important of all, and you can easily get back your bank records after the disaster. It is no sense to looking for those valuables in the emergency and risk your life.”

- Comments of some female community members

Objective 2: To strengthen the capacity of GXRC staff and volunteers

Output 2.1: GXRC staff at all levels have further develop their relevant project management skills

Output 2.2: The presence of RC branches and volunteers is more seen and felt.

Output 2.3: GXRC institutional linkages are expanded and strengthened.

Output 2.4: The quality of programme management is improved, with effective monitoring systems

Unlike other disaster reduction projects in Guangxi, the CBDP project invested in building the capacity of GXRC staff and volunteers in programme management, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), gender integration, participatory approaches, and even specific skills like photography and power point presentations in order to document the project’s progress. In the evaluation, all the GXRC staff mentioned that they have improved their knowledge and management skills as a result of the training received and M&E processes. During training courses, women participants were given the chance to speak and report to a large group — all strengthening their self- confidence:

“After attending the facilitators training, I applied the knowledge and skills I learnt from the training into my work with local community. The community members really like the participatory approaches because they can involve and participate. We had lots of fun in the trainings in villages” a GXRC staff member remarked.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

There were five specific gender performance indicators, mostly quantitative, identified in the project proposal. These indicators were used as the basis for M&E:

- Support and participation of women, men, elderly, youth and children in the project activities in selected villages.
- Training of 30 Managers (50% women) from city and county RC branches by the provincial RC branch in project management and CBDP.
- Training of 38 facilitators (50% women) from local RC branches by the provincial RC branch in project management, CBDP, facilitation skills, DP knowledge, RC knowledge first aid.
- Training of 140 VDC members and volunteers (50% women) from village communities by trained facilitators in DP knowledge, RC knowledge, and first aid.
- Provision of information and distribution of information, education and communication (IEC) materials to 1,680 villagers in 14 villages (30% of village community, 50% women) by VDC members and volunteers about DP knowledge, RC knowledge and first aid through community meetings and home visits.

These indicators follow good evaluation principles, such as 'SMART' – ie they are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound. The project staff were also trained in how to conduct gender-sensitive M&E. These actions have enabled the project staff to accurately assess their progress in effectively reaching women through the project activities and to take corrective actions as required.

At the same time, more indicators, especially qualitative indicators, also need to be developed in order to monitor the implementation of the project more efficiently. For example, for the training, a qualitative gender indicator may be: 'Facilitators have Improved knowledge of gender issues.' Another could be: 'IEC materials contain relevant gender content and balanced images of women and indigenous peoples.' In the latter, the quality of the IEC materials in terms of gender messages has never been assessed and a gender review of the IEC materials is necessary to ensure that the images and messages in these materials are gender and culturally sensitive, that they are free of gender stereotypes and discriminating language based on gender, ethnicity, age, literacy, disability, etc. In some IEC materials, there are a lack of balanced images of women or indigenous people.

Capacity Building

Gender Equity among Volunteers and Staff

Women comprise half of the staff in the GXRC provincial office. The percentage is even higher at the city/prefectures and county level. The three staff at the CBDP Project office are all women. The female staff at GXRC enjoy the same benefits, salaries, training and career promotion opportunities as their male colleagues. A supportive and cooperative working environment allows them to pursue their professional careers. The high representation of women in the GXRC and elsewhere in China can be attributed to two reasons: (1) the RC/RC's humanitarian and relief functions are associated with women's role as caregivers; (2) women's participation in the hygiene and public health sectors is high, and the GXRC recruits many of its staff from these sectors. Women staff are also involved in Emergency Response Teams; . Their good performance on the job has gained the respect of their male colleagues and beneficiaries.

In the project villages, the GXRC recruits volunteers from among the villagers. The volunteers are crucial in facilitating training, disseminating IEC materials, and organising disaster preparedness rehearsals in the community. Women make up roughly 40 per cent of the volunteers in the community, as required by the CBDP Project. These women play active roles in mobilising other women and reaching out to the households and families in the community. Both the GXRC county office staff and community members, including village leaders and men villagers, have recognised these roles. Basically, all the volunteers are responsible for facilitating training in the villages and disseminating IEC materials. But the VDC also assigns them with various specific disaster preparedness and disaster emergency response tasks, according to their physical strength and areas of expertise. For example, men volunteers are in charge of coordination of the emergency response and protecting the elderly and people with disabilities, while women volunteers are responsible for communications and psychological counselling. The task division among men and women volunteers and VDC members often are considered as a reflection of the complementary gender roles of men and women.

One woman VDC member and volunteer said proudly: “ *I am in charge of the psychological counselling in VDC because as a woman I am very good at communication skills especially communicate with kids, women and elderly in the village. They [other VDC members and villagers] trust me.*” Another GXRC staff member commented: “*Women are the ones who bring the messages and knowledge to their family, to their neighbours after the trainings, because women are more active than men in term of networking in their communities. Women are also the main caregivers in the family and community. When women learn new knowledge, they like to share it with others. That is why women volunteers are very important for this programme.*”

Awareness of Gender Issues in DRR/DRM

During the field assessment, all interviewees - both women and men - agreed that women and men should be equal in terms of political, economic and social status as well as within the family and household. They also affirmed women’s numerous contributions to the economy and their irreplaceable roles in the family. As one RC staff said: “*The objectives of the CBDP project cannot be achieved without women’s participation.*”

Given the fact that men usually have better education and are most likely to hold decision making positions in rural communities, the implementation of the CBDP Project in the project villages has had a positive impact on the recognition of women’s roles. Community members now believe it is important to have both men and women involved in DRR/DRM. A community member commented: “*Women are more careful than men. During the drill for the DRR, men acted quickly and ran very fast to the emergency shelter. There is a woman volunteer who inspected the houses one by one and found an old woman with disability had been left behind, and she helped her to escape the house before the [mock] flood arrived.*” The positive roles played by women can be enhanced in the project by providing more training on first aid skills and encouraging women’s full participation in VDCs.

However, gender issues are often narrowly understood as equal status between women and men, as popularised in slogans during the Mao Era (1949-1976). This interpretation leads to the neglect of different needs of women and men, even in the context of DRR/DRM. For example, some interviewees emphasised women’s essential role as mother and caregivers but did not identify women’s specific gender-related relief needs such as sanitary napkins for menstruation, underwear, and baby food. Instead, they said that they felt that these were less important priorities to address in relief provision, because they only assist part of the community. So the separate women groups in the VCA might help women to identify their needs and gain the community’s attention to and recognition of their specific needs.

Coordination/Collaboration with Other Stakeholders

The CBDP Project was implemented by GXRC. One woman senior staff of GXRC directs the project office. Three full-time staff in the project office, supported by one ARC delegate, are coordinating activities in 14 villages across 11 counties and five prefectures in Guangxi, in cooperation with the local government. This has been a big challenge since the villages are quite dispersed; it also makes it difficult to replicate and upscale good practices from one village to another. Activities to encourage shared learning events between communities, such as exchange visits, would be beneficial in future.

The project staff have identified gender experts in Guangxi with whom they have worked - and continue to work with - in conducting training, revising training modules, and occasionally providing technical advice (consultancies). The project staff have also visited other development agencies, for example, World Vision International, which has been implementing projects with strong gender perspectives in Guangxi, and other women organizations, Guangxi Women's Federation among others. These networking activities, which have also received positive feedback from the organizations visited, have aimed at soliciting and sharing good practice and exploring the possibilities for future collaboration.

The CBDP project is now more proactive in reaching out to other governmental agencies, academia and civil society organisations (CSOs) to explore a holistic and collaborative module for disaster reduction. For instance, project staff visit provincial government agencies. The ARC delegate also was invited to introduce the CBDP project in the event to commemorate the International Women's Day organised by Guangxi government. Much work still needs to be done on the advocacy and dissemination of good practices on gender integration by developing IEC materials focused on this subject and sponsoring and attending learning events, which can help sustain and expand the results of the project, as well as promote gender mainstreaming in the area of DRR/DRM.

Tools to Address Gender Issues In Programming

Gender Sensitivity Training for Project Staff and Local Partners

The importance of understanding gender issues in DRR/DRM and addressing these issues in projects has been recognised by the GXRC programme management and staff. However, since gender is a new concept in China and most CBDP Project staff at the different levels and the local partners have never heard of it before this project, there is a need to provide further gender sensitivity training.

In CBDP Project III, the trainings were conducted in three different levels targeting different audiences: (a) training of trainings (TOT) is a three days participatory training workshops for the RC staff from project cities and counties on the project management, introduction of VCA and gender issues; (b) training of facilitators (TOF) is one week intensive participatory training workshop for RC staff from project cities and counties, officials from the health department and representatives of the project villages on introduction of Red Cross, project management, first aid, VCA, participatory facilitation skills; (c) training at village level is for the community leaders, VDC members, volunteers and villagers. ARC delegate, GXRC CBDP Project officer, facilitated the TOT and TOF trainings and the facilitators who participated in the TOF conducted the trainings at village level.

Gender integration was included as a chapter of the CBDP staff/volunteer training manual and incorporated as a module in CBDP training. The project engaged a professor from the Guangxi University for Nationalities to conduct gender sensitivity training at the Training of Facilitators (TOF) and increase the stakeholders' understanding of gender integration in the project. Participatory methods were used. Also, in Phase III, the time allocated for gender

training was increased from one hour (including English-Mandarin translation) to two hours in Mandarin; this allowed more participatory interactive discussion during the training. The training emphasised the importance of collecting gender-disaggregated data and identifying the different needs of women and men, including practical exercises such as how to identify women’s needs and how to meet these needs in the risk and disaster environment. The trainer advised that participants showed interest in the content and the participants interviewed gave positive feedback on the training. However, even with an increase in time allocated from one to two hours, this is insufficient to adequately cover the topic.

Even though project staff are very proactive in researching publications on gender and related topics, unfortunately, there is little information that is available in Chinese languages or that deal with the Chinese context. More hands-on training, more examples of good practice and concrete case studies, and development of guidance focusing on “how to” would be necessary and useful for the project staff and partners, for example, how to identify the needs of different groups in the community (eg women, men and young and elderly) in VCAs; how to collect gender-segregated data in evaluation and monitoring, etc.

The concept of gender integration is introduced in GXRC’s training of trainers (ToT) and ToF. It also needs to be stressed in the training at village levels. Meanwhile, the training at village level can be also used to evaluate the outcomes of the TOT and TOF. There is a need to engage gender experts to conduct the specific gender training for the facilitators who would conduct the TOT and TOF so that the gender issues can be integrated into all the sections in the TOT and TOF trainings, not segregate from other parts of the training.

Gender Quota in VDCs and Women's Decision-Making Roles

The CBDP Project has encouraged women’s participation in project activities, as well as in implementation decision-making processes. To do so, the Project set a quota requiring that women representatives comprise a minimum of 40 per cent of the membership of the VDCs.

Table 5 Women’s Participation in VDCs

Name of village	# women	# of men	% of Women’s
Tanpo sub-village	4	5	44%
Zhong sub-village	4	7	36%
Baimashan Village	4	6	40%
Lijia Sub-Village	4	5	44%
Nafu Sub-Village	4	5	44%
Baobei/Baonan Sub-Village	4	6	40%
Changshan Sub-Village	4	7	36%
Lahao Sub-Village	4	6	40%
Wailong Sub-Village	4	6	40%
Digao Sub-Village	4	6	40%
Naleng Sub-Village	4	6	40%
Shajiding/Baowu Sub-village	4	6	40%
Fuli Village Committee	4	6	40%
Dongjie			
Xiajiatang Sub-village	3	8	27%
Total	55	85	39%

Source: GxRC CBDP Project Office

As table 5 shows, the target for women's representation in VDCs has been largely achieved. Considering that in the four villages visited, there were no women village leaders in the Villagers Committee,⁹ this achievement is a great leap forward.

VDC members are elected during the Villagers Representative Meeting. The project's emphasis on women's participation and leadership has had an impact on the village leaders and the villagers' perception on women's roles in the community—beyond their own households. Both women and men in the village are now more aware of women's contribution to the public sphere. As one male villager during a focus group discussion said: *"It has been several decades in our village there is no women village leader. The last one was in 1970's during the Cultural Revolution. Women are capable to be the leaders."*

But changing gender norms and traditional gender roles is not easy. Women's active role in the VDC depends on their educational attainment and work experience, relationship with the villagers, attitude and cooperation of other members in the VDC, and so forth. The women members of the VDC took these factors into account to ensure that elected members can effectively participate in decision-making processes and ultimately serve the community.

Forming Separate Women's Groups to Increase Visibility of Women's Concerns

As one woman VDC member pointed out: *"Yes, I participated the discussion. But I am not the one who holds the pen [makes the decisions]. Everybody can give his/her own opinion during the discussion, but there only 4 people who are holding the pens. They are men. If women can organize our own group, I would like to be the one who draw and write."*

Forming a separate women's group is one measure to overcome the marginalisation of women's participation. This has been the practice in many project villages, in an attempt to give women more of a voice and address their concerns.

In one village, women organized a quiz contest on disaster preparedness in celebration of International Women's Day. The event attracted both women and men from the community and even the local media. These kind of women-organised events also increase the visibility of women as stakeholders in the community.

The capacity and confidence that women built in the CBDP project has empower them and other women to participate in other community affairs while pursuing their rights and entitlements in the community and beyond. A woman volunteer said: *"The CBDP project organized the trainings and drills and implemented the mitigation construction, in which women are brought together. Given the chance, women can do the works as well as men do. There should be women leaders in our village."*

⁹ Villagers Committee is the autonomous organization in the village based on the Organic Law of Villagers Committees of People Republic of China promulgated in 1998. The VCs usually consist of between three and seven members, who are elected by the villager assembly. One is chair and one or two vice-chairs. Although there is variation from province to province, VCs generally oversee all the administrative matters of a village, including budget management, public utilities, dispute resolution, public safety, social order and security, health issues and local business management. By 2006, women only comprised 23% of membership in VCs and women only led approximately one per cent of VCs.

LESSONS LEARNED

1. It is important to integrate gender in the whole process of the project, including the design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation. Both qualitative and quantitative gender indicators should be developed for the monitoring and evaluation of the project.
2. Gender sensitivity training is a useful tool and a good entry point towards an understanding and appreciation of gender integration. This training needs to be of sufficient duration to adequately cover the topic. It also needs to include practical advice on how to deal with implementation challenges, based on field experience..
3. The implementation of the CBDP in three short one year phases is not a strategic way to implement either DRM or gender-integrated approaches to DRM, which require more medium-to-longer term strategic approaches to contribute towards sustainable change. The progress to date of the CBDP project with gender integration, reflected in a longer-term strategic plan, could also have more impact at provincial and national level, for instance, in the other RCSC CBDP projects and national disaster reduction programmes.

CONCLUSIONS

This evaluation has shown that considerable efforts have been made in the ARC-funded CBDP Project Phase III to ensure that gender issues, as one of the cross cutting themes, are effectively integrated into the design, implementation and M&E activities.

The setting of gender participation targets for the project's activities in its design, has given a higher profile to, and allowed the direct monitoring of, the progress of gender integration. Gender-sensitisation training, support for women-specific groups and activities, and an efficient M&E mechanism that uses SMART gender performance indicators, with an emphasis on the collection of sex-disaggregated data—are all effective and appropriate tools in pursuing the gender integration into the disaster management and preparedness projects that are supported by ARC. At the same time, the project would have benefited from the inclusion of more qualitative and outcome-oriented performance indicators to better measure its impact on gender integration. A longer timeframe for ANCP projects than one year (a reflection of the nature of its annual funding cycle) would also assist with the development of sustainable approaches to gender integration in DRM.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The general recommendations for the ARC and GXRC are:

1. Develop a set of gender strategies and guidelines in CBDP, based on the experience and practices of other ARC-supported projects/previous phases of the CBDP on gender integration, and disseminate them widely among the CBDP project's stakeholders.
2. Advocate for gender integration in RCSC CBDP projects at the national level.
3. Advocate with the Chinese government to incorporate gender-sensitive CBDP into China's National Disaster Reduction Plan, drawing from this project's experience.
4. Disseminate the results and good practices of the CBDP project on gender integration to government agencies, private sector and CSOs.
5. Apply the principle and methods of the CBD project, for example, gender integration, participatory approaches and training modules in other DRR/DRM projects in Guangxi and in the CBDP if continued or extended beyond phase III.

6. Increase cooperation with other partners from women's organisations and academia to sharpen the knowledge on and application of the gender integration in risk management and disaster preparedness.

The specific recommendations for the GXRC's projects and activities, and the CBDP Project (if continued), include:

7. Develop qualitative and quantitative gender impact performance indicators to evaluate women's participation beyond their physical attendance/presence in project activities.
8. Support women-specific activities to increase the visibility of women's contribution in the VDCs and communities and the self-esteem and confidence of the women themselves.
9. Conduct more gender sensitivity training for GXRC staff and volunteers, based on the participants' needs assessment.
10. Provide participatory hands-on training that focuses on implementation challenges in integrating gender into DRM projects, as follow up to gender sensitivity training.
11. Add more content on gender issues to the current version of the CBDP Project training manual or develop a new training manual on gender and disaster preparedness, Good practices for gender integration should be included in the manual.

The recommendations for the ARC are:

12. Continue to provide technical support on gender integration to the GXRC and/or the CBDP project in the following areas:
 - a. Commission consultancies with gender experts related to increasing attention to gender considerations in project planning, implementation and M&E;
 - b. Select and translate materials on the related issues into Chinese;
 - c. Modify the training manuals to address the practical needs from the participants on how to integrate gender issues in their works; and
 - d. Exchange the experience and good practices among ARC partners in China and in the region, through study tour, forum/conference and publications.
13. Strengthen the strategic partnership with RCSC through the CBDP project and other projects in China by supporting the following actions:
 - a. Develop and disseminate IEC materials that reflect the good practices of gender integration in the CBDP Project;
 - b. Facilitate gender training for RCSC staff;
 - c. Co-sponsor with RCSC workshops and forums on gender-related issues; and
 - d. Explore the possibility to develop a joint program with RCSC to extend the good practices of gender integration in the CBDP Project to the national level.
14. Collaborate, through the RCSC, with Chinese government provincial and national agencies that design and implement policies and programs on disaster reduction to incorporate the successful gender integration approaches used in the CBDP Project.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1 Term of Reference

Thematic Evaluation: Gender Integration in Disaster Preparedness Programs in Asia and the Pacific

1. Background

Australian Red Cross has been supporting disaster management programs with a number of its national partners in Asia and Pacific for many years. In standard Red Cross terminology 'disaster management' includes prevention, disaster preparedness (including mitigation), response and recovery. The Red Cross partners have a role as adjunct to government during natural disasters and conflict situations, the nature of which is often specified in national disaster management plans and, in some cases, legislation. Programs include strengthening communities to help them prepare for disasters, building organisational capacity to respond to emergency situations, and supporting the transition to long-term rehabilitation and development.

The 2006 White Paper on the Australian aid program emphasised the importance of the continuity between focussing on building capacity to prevent, respond to, and manage emergencies.

Funding of the AusAID NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) has largely been used to support disaster preparedness, which will be the focus of this evaluation. Specifically, ANCP funding has supported several disaster preparedness programs in:

- Mongolia, (2007/8) the ANCP supported program has supported community-based training to isolated communities to assist them to better protect their herds and prepare for extreme weather conditions.
- Guangxi (China): (2007/8 and 2008/9): the ANCP supported community-based training and mitigation construction aimed at reducing the vulnerability of rural communities to natural and environmental hazards. This includes work to increase disaster preparedness knowledge and capacity through mobilisation of volunteers and community members.
- DPRK (2005/6) the ANCP supported work aimed to raise the awareness of community based disaster preparedness (CBDP) concepts at community level, while also developing the capacity of 28 vulnerable communities to plan for and address their disaster preparedness needs (specifically development of village DP plans, risk mitigation activities, implementation of warning systems).

Through ARC, AusAID has also separately funded a regional disaster preparedness program in Pacific Island Countries (PNG, Fiji, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands) which has focused on capacity building, training, pre-positioning material and equipment. Both the Solomon Islands and PNG Red Cross participated in extensive ARC evaluations in 2007/08, so it is preferred that this evaluation will include one of the other partners with in the regional program like Fiji .

ARC is currently in the process of developing a new gender policy and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) - the overarching coordinating institution for disaster management within the Red Cross - will establish gender focal points in a range of Red Cross national partners. Given that disaster management is a core area of ARC's work, there is a strong need to evaluate gender practices in this sector to identify strengths and weaknesses, and identify lessons learned.

2 Purpose of the Evaluation

This evaluation will focus on gender within a disaster preparedness environment. It will explicitly review the integration of gender issues into the design; implementation; appraisal and review of ARC supported disaster management programs, focusing on ANCP supported preparedness activities, but also considering how this has translated into the emergency response.

The purpose of the evaluation is to review the effectiveness, appropriateness, impact and coverage of the integration of gender issues into disaster management and preparedness

projects supported by ARC, with special attention to those projects funded by ANCP-resources.

The conclusions and lessons learned from this evaluation will be used to improve the performance and, where required, the exit-strategies of the current projects. The findings will offer the opportunity to strengthen programming of the Host National Societies (HNS) and will offer valuable lessons to the IFRC on gender issues and integration in a disaster management context. The evaluation results will feed directly into the future design of ARC and IFRC supported projects, including future ANCP funding.

3 Objectives of the Evaluation

The objective of the evaluation is:

To assess the integration of gender integration into disaster management and preparedness projects and to draw lessons learned in order to improve the gender and disaster management programming of ARC and its partners:

More specifically, the evaluation will:

- Analyse effectiveness of targeting within ARC supported disaster management programs in terms of the different vulnerabilities of men and women;
- Assess the extent to which the design of ARC supported disaster management programs have addressed the different roles and responsibilities of men and women in targeted communities and integrated gender issues in the project cycle in an appropriate manner
- Review the tools which have been used to identify and address gender issues in programs and emergency responses and whether they had the results expected.
- Assess the approach to and success of the capacity building of local partners (NS and communities), taking in account the different capacities and access to resources of men and women
- Assess the effectiveness of M&E systems in terms of responding to gender issues.
- Outline existing best-practice tools from external institutions on gender-analysis and gender-mainstreaming and review their relevance to the programme approaches

4. Scope of the Evaluation

The evaluation will comprise of:

- Literature review and background study on gender and disaster preparedness
- A focused survey to be sent to National Societies who have receiving ARC support for disaster management
- Participatory field assessment of two disaster preparedness programs implemented with ARC support (China and Fiji) with participation of relevant NS program staff to increase local ownership, support capacity building in evaluation methodologies and improve the quality of the findings
- In-depth case studies of two locally specific models of implementation (China and Fiji)

The evaluation process in-country will start with an introductory meeting/workshop with all the relevant stakeholders in each of the two countries, with the intention to build a better understanding around the aim and objectives of the evaluation and prepare a work plan for the field assessment

The field assessment will focus on the communities that are or have been involved and implementation of the ARC-supported disaster management and preparedness. The assessment will include but will not be restricted to meetings, focus group discussions and semi-structured interviews with community groups, local government officials, staff of the NS, NGO-staff and other relevant stakeholder. The evaluation will actively involve the NS staff at the headquarters, relevant national government officials, senior staff of NGOs and other stakeholders.

The case study will attempt to illustrate the strategy used to integrate gender in the different activities in Fiji and Guangxi.

In November 2008, IFRC organized a review of the Red Cross' disaster management in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The role of gender in the program was assessed as part of the evaluation. The final report of the review has been made available, and the consultant will review the findings and assess the extent they coincide with the findings of the field assessment in Fiji and China.

The identification of gender-issues, the analysis how they have been integrated and the integration of gender in the project planning and implementation is a cross-cutting issues and is expected to be play a central role in the findings of the evaluation.

The evaluation team will consist of two independent consultants:

The lead consultant (contracted for 28 person days) will be responsible for:

- Design and analysis of the NS survey
- Design of participatory field assessment
- Participatory field assessments of the disaster preparedness program in Fiji
- Edit and complete the two case studies
- Facilitate ARC findings workshop
- Final report

The lead consultant will answer to the following profile:

- Master's degree in social sciences, gender studies and/or international development
- Relevant experience in the design and the implementation of disaster management programs in the Asia-Pacific region
- Relevant experience in gender analysis and gender mainstreaming
- Good understanding of and relevant work experience with community-based development and participatory field assessment
- Good understanding of the approach of ARC and the Red Cross Movement
- Excellent communication and facilitation skills in English

S/he will be supported by an **associate consultant (contracted for 15 person days)**, who will be responsible for:

- Participatory field assessments of the disaster preparedness program in Fiji
- Draft of the China case study

The associate consultant will answer to the following profile:

- Master's degree in social sciences, gender studies and/or international development
- Relevant experience in the design and the implementation of disaster management programs in the Asia and/or China
- Relevant experience in gender analysis and gender mainstreaming
- Good understanding of and relevant work experience with community-based development and participatory field assessment
- Good understanding of the approach of ARC and the Red Cross Movement
- Excellent communication and facilitation skills in Mandarin, Cantonese
- Good report writing skills in English

A background study on gender integration in disaster preparedness and management in the context of ARC and the RCRC in the Asia and Pacific has been prepared by ARC and will be available when the field assessments start.

ANNEX 2 Agenda of the Field Assessment

Time	Itinerary	Activities
April 9	Arrival in Nanning	Reviewed the document, prepared the interviewed GXRC project staff in Nanning
April 10	Morning: Nanning RCSGX Office Afternoon: travel to Beihai Evening: arrival in Beihai	Met with GXRC officials and CBDP project staff; Traveled to Beihai in the afternoon; Interviewed local staff in Beihai in the evening.
April 11	From Beihai to 2 villages Back to Beihai	Visited 1 village in morning, 1 village in afternoon. Facilitated a focus group discussion
April 12	From Beihai to Nanning	Interviewed GXRC project staff. Attended the discussion during the site visit in Beihai.
April 13	From Nanning to Shangsi	Met with Shangsi GXRC officials and CBDP project staff
April 14	Visit 1 village in Shangsi Back to Nanning	Visited 1 village in Shangsi in the morning; Interviewed the head officer from the Fangchenggang Red Cross Branch in the afternoon; Traveled back to Nanning in the afternoon; Interviewed Professor Chen Yuan (trainer for the gender training for Project) in the evening.
April 15	From Nanning to Yizhou	Interviewed an ARC delegate to CBDP project in the morning; Traveled to Yizhou from Nanning; Interviewed Yizhou GXRC officials and CBDP project staff.
April 16	Visit 1 village in Yizhou Travel back to Nanning	Visited 1 village in Yizhou in the morning; Traveled back to Nanning in the afternoon;
April 17	Nanning	Prepared the debriefing report in the morning; Attended the debriefing and discussion with CBDP project staffs.
April 18	Leave Nanning	Translated materials and write ups

ANNEX 3 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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ANNEX 4 Interview Question Guides

Male/Female Focus Group Discussion & Semi-Structured Interview Guides

Introduction

Hello, our names are ... and we are conducting an independent evaluation of the disaster preparedness assistance that the AusRC, in partnership with the (Chinese/Fiji) Red Cross, has provided to your community. To help us to make this assessment, we would like to learn your views and experiences about the project. The FGD should take around 45 minutes of your time. We do not work for the AusRC, (Chinese/Fiji) Red Cross or any of its partners, and we cannot provide any assistance or make any recommendations about assistance. Participation is completely voluntary and there is no problem if you decide you don't want to participate. When we write our report, we will not use your names and you cannot be identified. Would you like to ask us any questions about the evaluation?

Main Questions:

1. Socio-economic profile of participants – sex, age, marital status, children, gender division of labour, etc
2. Please tell us about the CBDP/DP project in your community. In what ways were you involved in it?
3. Were there any other activities being implemented by other agencies to help your community with disaster preparedness, in addition to the ARC/(CRC/FRC) assistance? Please describe them.
4. Can you tell me about the hazard mapping/VCA process? [ie how was it done, how were women and men/children involved in the process]
5. What are the main natural hazards and risks in this place? Who are the people in your community that are most at risk from the impacts of these hazards? Why? How have they been included in the project?
6. How were people chosen to participate in the Village Disaster Committee/Emergency Response Team/as volunteers? How many women and men are involved and what are their/your roles? How did/do they report back to the community on progress?
7. How did your community decide on what kind of DP activities you wanted to do? Who was involved in making the decisions? What did/do different community members/government contribute to the activities?
8. How easy or difficult is/was it for you to participate in project activities? Why?
9. What kind of training and/or information have you received from the CRC/FRC? How useful was this?
10. How often have you been visited by the CRC/FRC or ARC? What kind of feedback have they asked from you? What happened as a result?
11. Overall, how well do you think the project has taken into account the different roles, needs and views of women and men in this community? How well has the CRC/FRC or ARC involved women and men in decision-making?
12. Overall, what have you liked the most about the project? What have you liked the least?
13. How much has the BRCS assistance assisted to make your community a safer place to live?
14. What else does your community need or plan to do in future to reduce the risk of disasters?
15. If this project were to be done again, what would you do the same? What would you do differently?

Project Staff & Volunteer Interview Outline

Introduction

Hello, our names are ... and we are conducting an independent evaluation of the disaster preparedness assistance that the AusRC has provided to your National Society.

The main purpose of the evaluation is to find out how gender considerations (ie the different roles and needs of women and men) have been included in the CBDP/DP projects and what have been the main challenges and achievements in ensuring that men and women have been involved in and benefited from the activities equally. This is not an evaluation of how

the FRC/CRC has performed on the project, the idea is to learn from your experience how to improve attention to the needs of women and men in future DP programs/projects/activities supported by the ARC.

We will also interview other CRC/FRC staff and volunteers, partner organisations like the government, and beneficiary communities. Fieldwork also is being conducted in Fiji/China and has already been carried out in North Korea. All of this feedback will be synthesised and form the primary input into the evaluation report.

We do not work for the AusRC, (Chinese/Fiji) Red Cross or any of its partners. When we write our report, we will not use your names and you cannot be identified. Would you like to ask us any questions about the evaluation?

Questions:

1. Please describe your role in the CBDP/DP project.
2. What is your understanding of what “gender integration” means and how it applies to this project/your work?
3. What is the policy/approach of your government to gender integration?
4. Have you ever received any specific training or information on gender issues/integration through this project or through another organisation? If yes, how helpful was this to your work on this project?
5. How were differences in the needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of men, women, boys and girls identified during the planning of the project? What were the differences and how have they been taken into account during the design and implementation of the project? [probes/prompts: decision-making structures, staff/volunteers/ emergency response teams, training, dev’t /dissemination of IEC materials, review of contents of relief stocks, choice of and labour contribution to mitigation works, gender disaggregated data, etc]
6. In what ways have women/men been involved as staff and volunteers on the project? More broadly, what kinds of roles do women/men play in your National Society? [national and branch levels]
7. What systems and methods have you used to monitor the impacts of the project on men, women, boys and girls? What have been the results?
8. Overall, in your view, what have been the main challenges of ensuring the full participation of women and men, girls and boys in the project. How have you dealt with these challenges?
9. Overall, in your view, what have been the main achievements of the project in terms of ensuring the full participation of women and men, girls and boys?
10. What would you recommend be done the same in future DP projects to ensure the full participation of men, women, boys and girls? What should be done differently?

ANNEX 5 List of Interviewees

ARC delegate in GXRC

Ms. Kara Jenkinson

GXRC

Mr. Fang Nanting, Deputy President of GXRC

Ms. He Baoxia, GXRC CBDP Project officer

Ms. Li Hong, Deputy Director of Organisation Development department, GXRC/Project Office Director

Ms. Wu Weiting, GXRC CBDP Project assistant

GXRC staffs at county and city levels

Ms. Chen Shaoqun, GXRC Beihai branch staff

Mr. Chen Zhiman, Director of GXRC Beihai branch

Ms. Lee, Deputy Director of GXRC Shangsi branch

Mr. Liang Yan, Deputy Director of GXRC Fangchenggang branch

Ms. Meng Shaozhen, Director of GXRC Shangsi branch

Mr. Wu, Director of Hepu county RC branch

Ms. Wu, Director of GXRC Yizhou branch

Ms. Xie Ying, GXRC Beihai branch staff

Community leaders/ VDC members/ volunteers and community members

Mr. Bao Jiashun, Shachong Village, VDC member

Mr. Bao Youen, Shachong Village, villager

Mr. Chen Dali, Xiajiatang Village, VDC member

Mr. Chen Wuhui, Xiajiatang Village, VDC member

Mr. Chen Wuqiang, Xiajiatang Village, Villager

Mr. Chen Wusong, Xiajiatang Village, VDC member

Ms. Cun Xiuying, Nage sub-village, Villager

Ms. He Baozhen, Wailong village, VDC member

Mr. Huang Qin, Shachong Village Chinese Communist Party branch secretary

Ms. Huang Xiu, Shachong village doctor

Mr. Jiang Quanyao, Shachong Village, VDC member

Mr. Kang Qilan, Director of Shangchong Villagers Committee

Ms. Lao Chunyan, RC volunteer/villager

Mr. Li Jincheng, Wailong Village, villager

Ms. Li Pailian, Xiajiatang Village, VDC member

Mr. Li Yuquan, Nage sub-village Chinese Communist Party branch secretary and VDC chair

Mr. Li Fa, Xiajiatang Village, VDC member

Mr. Li Kun, Xiajiatang Village, VDC member

Mr. Li Qicheng, Xiajiatang Village, VDC member

Mr. Li Qihui, Xiajiatang Village, Villager

Mr. Li Nan, Xiajiatang Village, VDC member

Mr. Li Tingyou, Xiajiatang Village, Villager

Mr. Li Wang, Xiajiatang Village, VDC member

Ms. Lin Cui, Nage sub-village, Villager

Ms. Lin Guohong, Nage sub-village, Villager

Mr. Lin Guoguan, Nage sub-village, Villager

Mr. Lin Jianfan, Nage sub-village, Volunteer

Ms. Lin Jiankui, Nage sub-village, VDC member

Mr. Lin Jianwu, Nage sub-village, Villager

Ms. Lin Shaoxin, Nage sub-village, student
 Mr. Lin Xin, Nage sub-village, Villager
 Mr. Lin Xing, Nage sub-village, VDC member
 Mr. Lin Yan, Nage sub-village, Volunteer
 Ms. Lu Daling, Xiajiatang Village, Villager
 Mr. Luo Yuanxiu, Xiajiatang Village, Villager
 Mr. Luo Youheng, Wailong Village, villager
 Mr. Luo Youyi, Wailong Village, villager
 Ms. Luo Yuanlian, Shachong Village, VDC member
 Mr. Mo Guangheng, Wailong village, VDC member
 Ms. Mo Xiaoling, Wailong Village, villager
 Ms. Pang Lan, Xiajiatang Village, VDC member
 Ms. Qin Sanqun, Wailong Village, villager
 Ms. Qin Yune, Wailong village, VDC member
 Mr. Shi Jiarong, Shachong Village, VDC member
 Mr. Shu Quanyao, Shachong Village, VDC member
 Ms. Shu Xiangmei, Shachong Village, VDC member
 Ms. Shu Xiangyan, Shachong Village, VDC member
 Ms. Su Yue, Wailong Village, villager
 Ms. Su Yunjiao, Wailong Village, villager
 Mr. Tan Zhangliang, Assistant to Director of Shangchong Villagers Committee/RC volunteer
 Ms. Wang Lihua, Xiajiatang Village, VDC member
 Mr. Wang Mingchun, Deputy Director of Xiajiatang Villagers Committee
 Mr. Wei Bingke, Wailong Village, villager
 Mr. Wei Bingzhong, Wailong Village, villager
 Ms. Wei Liying, Wailong village, volunteer
 Ms. Wei Na, Wailong village, VDC member
 Ms. Wei Shaoying, Wailong village, volunteer
 Ms. Wei Shiqun, Wailong Village, villager
 Mr. Wei Shujun, Deputy Director of Wailong Villagers Committee
 Mr. Wei Xiaobing, Wailong Village, villager
 Mr. Wei Xiaohe, Wailong Village, villager
 Mr. Wei Zhijun, Wailong village, VDC member
 Mr. Wei Ziyun, Wailong Village, villager
 Ms. Wu Fengxian, Wailong Village, villager
 Mr. Wu Rongfeng, Xiajiatang Village Chinese Communist Party branch secretary and VDC chair
 Mr. Xu Daicheng, Wailong Village, villager
 Ms. Yao chundai, director of Xiajiatang Village women's federation
 Ms. Zhang Shilin, Nage sub-village, VDC member

Gender expert

Ms. Chen Yuan, Professor/ Vice Director of Centre of Gender and Development Research, Guangxi University for Nationalities,

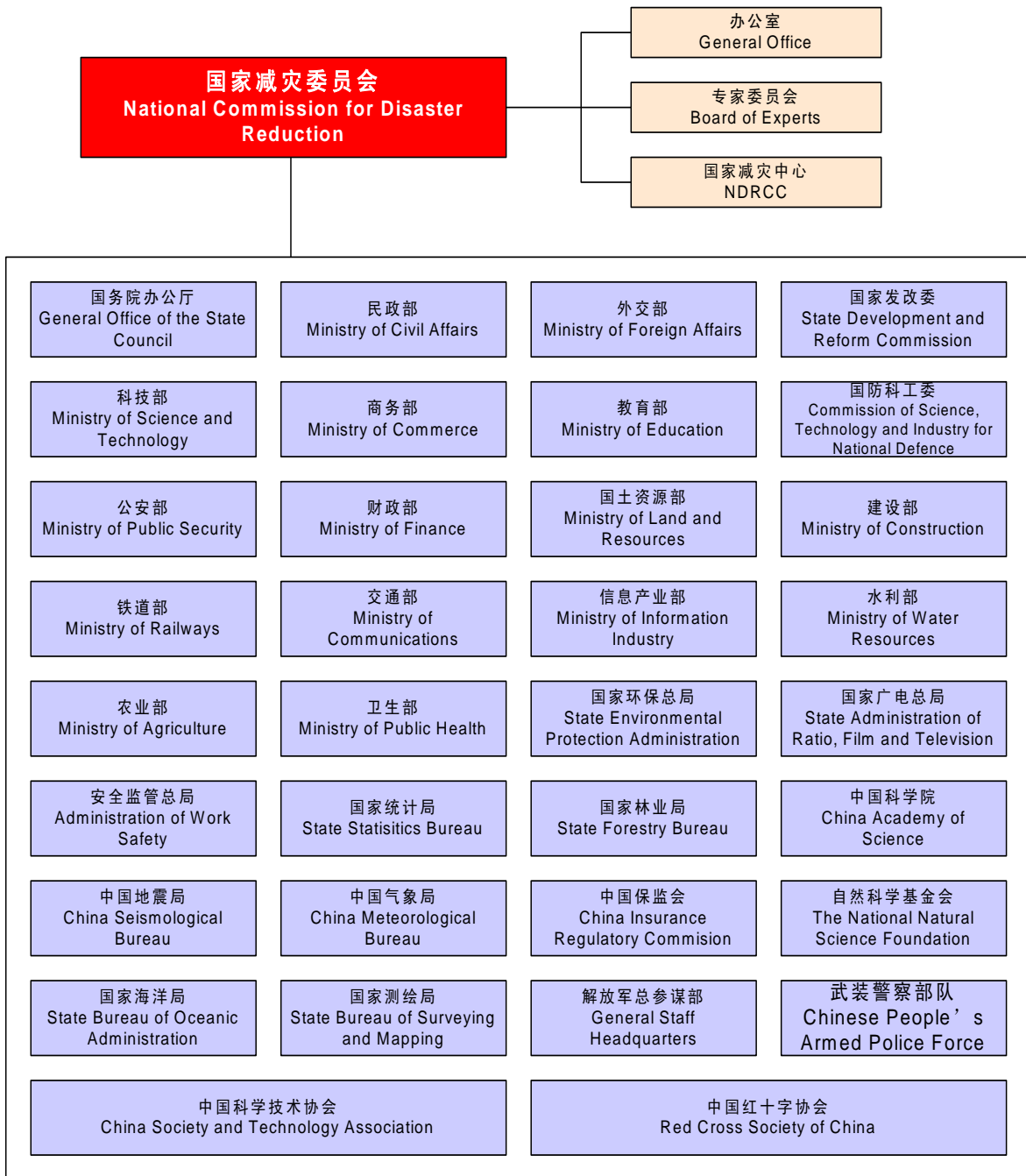
ANNEX 6 Bio data of Consultant

Ms. Cai Yiping has been working on gender and development issues in China for 15 years by engaging in many projects, such as elimination of gender-based violence, poverty reduction, reproductive health, gender awareness training etc, with various stakeholders from UN and bilateral development agencies, government partners, Chinese civil society as well as the private sectors.

She has the firm commitment and extensive working experience on gender equality in China, especially on gender sensitivity training, gender analysis and gender mainstreaming. She is also familiar with the 2006 White Paper on the Australian aid program and AusAID gender policy, from her previous consultancy as gender specialist for China-Australia Governance Project in 2007.

Ms. Cai Yiping worked as the journalist for the national newspaper “China Women’s Daily” from 1995 to 2005 and a researcher at Women’s Studies Institute of China from 2006-2008 before she joined Isis International, the development communication organization based in Philippines with special focus on Asia Pacific.

ANNEX 7 Structure of National Commission for Disaster Reduction (NCDR)



ANNEX 8 Chronology of national laws and policies related to gender equality

1950. *The Marriage Law of the People's Republic of China* abrogated arranged and forced marriage as well as the feudal marriage system that regarded men as superior to women. It put into practice the new marriage system of democracy and monogamy to ensure the equality of both women and men and safeguard the legal rights and interests of women and children.

1954. The first *Constitution of the People's Republic of China* stipulated women's enjoyment of equal rights with men in all aspects of life — in political, economic, cultural, social and family life.

1980. New *Marriage Law of the People's Republic of China* revised and improved 1950 Marriage Law.

1982. The revised *Constitution of the People's Republic of China* maintained the equal rights of women and men as earlier provided in 1954 Constitution. It provides for the protection of women's human rights; the principle of equal remuneration for women and men workers for work of the same value; and women's equal access in capacity-building and cadreship, among others. The 1982 Constitution also prohibits the maltreatment of the elderly, women and children. (Chapter II, the Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens: Article 48).

1985. The *Law of Inheritance of the People's Republic of China*, particularly Article 9 provides for women's equal rights with men to their rights to inheritance. The Ministry of Public Health issued the *Standard and Requirement of Health Care for Pregnant Women in Urban and Rural Areas*.

1986. *The General Rules of the Civil Law of the People's Republic of China* stipulates that citizens shall freely enjoy the rights of marriage. Mercenary marriages or marriage upon arbitrary decision by any third party are prohibited. The law also provides protection for the family, elderly, mothers and children. It declares women's equal enjoyment of civil rights.

1988. *Regulations on Labour Protection of Women Employees* was issued by the State Council.

1992. The *Law of the People's Republic of China on Protection of Rights and Interests of Women* consolidates all laws and regulations that protect the rights and interests of women.

1994. The *Labour Law of the People's Republic of China* provides for women's equal enjoyment of employment rights with men. It includes provisions specific to women particularly on menstruation, childbearing and breast-feeding.

1995. *The Program for the Development of Chinese Women (1995-2000)* is the State Council's first programme on women's development.

President Jiang Zemin delivered a speech in the welcome ceremony of delegations for the 4th United Nations Conference on Women, where he articulated that gender equality is a national policy in Chinese social development.

2001. *The Program for the Development of Chinese Women (2001-2010)* was issued and implemented. The *Marriage Law of the People's Republic of China* was amended, adding a provision that prohibits domestic violence.

2002 *The Population and Family Planning Law of the People's Republic of China* was implemented. The *Law of the People's Republic of China on Rural Land Contracting* was adopted.

2004. *Amendments to Constitution of the People's Republic of China* affirmed women's enjoyment of the equal rights with men.

2005. The *Law on Protection of Women's Rights and Interests of the People's Republic of China* was amended, featuring new provisions that prohibit domestic violence and sexual harassment.

2006. *Law on Compulsory Education* ensures girls' equal access to education with boys.