

## CHAMPIONING GRASSROOTS DRIVEN RISK REDUCTION

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### Background

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GROOTS' community resilience work is in LAC and Asia

Entry point was post-disaster experiences in Turkey, India, Jamaica, Honduras, Peru

Grassroots women empowered to actively participate in relief, recovery, reconstruction and sustain their involvement in long term development

Disasters exposed what was wrong with development

Opportunity for women to renegotiate their relationships with their communities and with institutional actors and upgrade the living conditions of their communities: housing, livelihoods, basic services and increasing accountability to communities.

## Women as Agents of Recovery

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- Directing and distributing aid
- Creating safe spaces for women and children
- Addressing food security
- Managing community information
- Supervising house construction
- Restoring and upgrading livelihoods
- Monitoring and evaluating relief, recovery, reconstruction
- Managing construction of safe housing or infrastructure
- Sustaining participation of communities and women within these communities in long-term development and poverty reduction processes
- Engaging and collaborating with local/national government

## Positioning Grassroots Women as Drivers of Resilience

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### COMMUNITY TRAINER'S INITIATIVE

- Building on existing experiences and capacities
- Supporting grassroots leaders to scale up effective practices, systematize their knowledge through community trainers initiative in LAC, Asia
- 300 grassroots trainers who participate in local exchanges and have developed their own tools to transfer their practices such as retrofitting roofs, improving access to in health and sanitation, federating self help groups for livelihoods, developing seedbanks, using risk mapping as an organizing and advocacy tool and emergency response
- India: Formation of a grassroots women's trainer network in Tamil Nadu as a learning and advocacy platform

### Challenges

- To shift women from more intuitive learning/ teaching processes to more systematized, structured learning
- To shift NGO role from trainers to facilitators

## Demonstrating Grassroots Driven Practice

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- Series of pilots launched in India and LAC
- Demonstrating what are the elements of a grassroots driven resilience process to reduce vulnerability to disasters
- How can communities engage and collaborate with local authorities to advance their DRR priorities and link these to poverty reduction programs
- Pilots are located inside a network which enables scaling up.
- Pilots: planting bio shield, growing plants in drought areas that will provide fuel and fodder, water harvesting, developing emergency response plans, developing linkages with markets and cultivation of drought resistant crops, seed banks to protect indigenous species
- Linking pilots to ongoing development programs and up-streaming policy lessons through national and regional bodies

## Engaging Institutions

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### **Contradicting the of women as victims and passive beneficiaries**

- Trainings at the World Bank
- Advisory panel receiving the findings of the WB's evaluation of their disaster portfolio
- Policy dialogue with UNDP (film, case studies)
- Evaluations of community participation and Gender in the UNDP-DRM Program in India
- Gender and DRR training for CONRED and Women's Commission members in Guatemala
- Piloting the Community Disaster Resilience Fund with Provention
- Partnering with National Disaster Management Authority of India and CEPREDENAC, Central America to upstream lessons emerging from pilots supported by South- South Fund within WB's GFDRR

## Framing Resilience

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- Grassroots friendly framework is needed to help women analyze and articulate their work in terms of DRR

### INSIGHTS FROM LAC AND ASIA

- Clear identification of vulnerabilities which are linked to lack of basic services, infrastructure, insecure housing, lack of livelihoods opportunities
- Reducing vulnerabilities require:
  1. **Technical Component:** construction of housing and small infrastructure, developing seed banks
  2. **Organization** to sustain action
  3. **Access to decision making** to influence local and national governments

## Challenges

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- Women continue to be classified as 'vulnerable' and marginalized from decision making processes in spite of their substantial contributions to community resilience.
- Resistance from the institutions to formalize grassroots women's roles within resilience programs
- Lack of mechanisms linking national programs to grassroots initiatives
- Most of DRR is focused on preparedness for emergency response not really connected to vulnerability reduction

Thank you

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ANY QUESTIONS OR  
COMMENTS?