

Natural disasters and women—we need to think about vulnerability differently

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This general paper presentation will examine measures that could improve gender responsiveness whilst addressing the mitigation of the economic impact on women in approaches to disaster preparation, emergency management, disaster relief and recover, and how a gendered approach could make a difference.

Two organisations facilitated roundtable discussions in 2014 with a range of rural and remote stakeholders to examine how women often shoulder a disproportionate burden of the effects of natural disasters. As primary family carers and as community carers, women often play key unpaid roles in disasters—both before and after. Gender concerns are often overlooked in the 'tyranny of the urgent'. During and after natural disasters, women's health and welfare is often impacted, yet these women continue undertake unpaid and voluntary work which contributes to community recovery and general resilience.

This general paper presentation will look at some key issues and measures that could improve gender responsiveness at a policy and local implementation level. The vulnerability of women will be examined and solutions proposed that would assist in improving the physical and mental health of women, as well as their economic circumstances in times of natural disasters. The **people** are our women, the **places** are those impacted by natural disasters and the **possibilities** for addressing the gendered impacts of natural disasters on women are numerous.

Anyone with an interest in natural disaster preparedness, response and recovery or an interest in women's health and economic wellbeing will learn how a gendered approach can make a difference to individuals, families and rural and remote communities.