

# **The role of women in the adaptation to the variability and the climatic change: its contribution to the risk management.**

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Recently, there is evidence of an increase in the amount of severity in extreme events associated with the climate variability or climate change; witch demonstrates that the climate in this planet is changing. There is an observation of the increasing damages, and of the social economical cost associated with these phenomena's, mostly do to more people are living in hazard vulnerable conditions. The victims of natural disasters have increase 147 to 211 million between the years 1991 and 2000. In the same way more than 665.000 people have died in 2557 natural disasters, which 90% are associated with water and climate. Of these last, floods represent around 50%, diseases transmitted by the water and vectors a 28% and droughts the 11 %. Economical lost have increase from 30.000 to 70.000 million dollars between the years 1990 and1999 (UNESCO & WWAP, 2003).

The actual tendency and the introduction of new factors of risk associated to climate variability and climate change, suggest lost increase in the future, obligating actions to manage and reduce the risk of disaster associate with climates events potentially destructive. Bind work, health, poverty, education, water, climate, and disasters is not an error, is an obligation. Vulnerability of society to natural hazards and to poverty are bond, to reduce the risk of disasters is frequently united with the reduction of poverty and in the other way too (Sen, 2000).

In this context, the extreme events impact the societies in all the world, affecting differently men and women, do to the different roles they play in the society, the different access they have in the control of resources as financial and infrastructure, the few participation that women have in taking decisions with preparedness, mitigation, rehabilitation of disasters, impacting more women in developing countries. Although, women understand better the causes and local consequences in the changes of climate conditions. They have a pile of knowledge and abilities for guiding adaptation in climate variability and climate changes playing a very important role in vulnerable

communities.

This work shows how these topics connect with the millennium development goals specially; how it affects its accomplishment. It also describes the impact of climate variability and climate change in developing countries. Analyzing adaptation responses that are emerging; especially from women initiation, which can be seen in cases in Latin America and in the Caribbean. Finally, an experience of women adaptation in Ginebra (Valle del Cauca) Colombia is documented.

#### References

Sen, A. (2000). Development as freedom. New York: Random House.

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