Gender Inclusion, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Integration in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Workshop



14 -15 September 2022 KATHMANDU

Workshop Report





1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Context

Disasters and emergencies do not affect everyone in the same way. Barriers to integrating and understanding the GESI/GEDSI approaches into development and DRR programming can come from a lack of lived experience, expertise and confidence to take the right approach. Challenging unequal power dynamics and social exclusion can be difficult from a cultural, political or personal perspective. Gender dynamics impact both the way they are affected by disasters and their capacity to withstand and recover from them. Gender inequalities can result in gender-differentiated disaster impact, and differentiated impacts can influence gender dynamics, which in turn affect future resilience to shocks. In overall, there is a lack of clarity on the concept of Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) in the broader dimension of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM). This has distorted the methods to integrate GEDSI in the policies and programmes. Thus, a workshop was conducted by Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) with the support from National Housing and Settlement Resilience Platform (NHSRP) Empower Asia Project of CRS

The NHSRP has envisioned to collaborate with NDRRMA by providing technical assistance and facilitation to build institutional and technical capacity of NDRRMA as per the reflection through the institutional capacity assessment tool, which identified GEDSI integration in DRRM as one of the improvement areas for NDRRMA. A two-days capacity-building workshop on "GEDSI Integration in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management" was organized from 14-15 Sept 2022 by NDRRMA with support of NHSRP/CRS-Nepal.

1.2 Workshop Participants

A total of 25 participants attended the 2-days GEDSI Integration Workshop organized at Godawari Village Resort, Lalitpur. The workshop was facilitated by Ms. Sharu Joshi Shrestha, Senior GEDSI Consultant. The participants were from NDRRMA and its GEDSI Working Group members representing different ministries and civil society organizations and the representation was from Social Welfare Council (SWC), Ministry of Federal Affairs and General administration (MoFAGA), Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), NHSRP, National Federation of Disabled -Nepal (NFDN), a representative from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)/UKAid, People in Need (PIN), Plan International, CARE Nepal and CRS..

2. Workshop Objectives

The main objectives of the workshop were to develop:

- Understanding of the participants on GEDSI concepts in DRR context.
- Understanding the integration of GEDSI in DRRM and to create shared vision of the process to achieve GEDSI integration

2.1 Content of Day-1 of workshop

The Day-1 of the workshop introduced the concept of GEDSI, GESI and intersectionality along with key focus were laid on highlighting their co–relations with DRRM. Likewise, the interactions and discussions after each sharing session gave an overview of challenges and opportunities of integrating GEDSI in DRRM.

The brief agendas of the Day-1 of the workshop included - i) Know the participants, ii) Workshop inception and welcome remarks by Joint Secretary of NDRRMA, Ms. Anita Niraula, iii) Opening remarks by Chief Executive of NDRRMA, Mr. Anil Pokharel, iv) Presentation sharing by the National

Consultant on "Understanding the concept of GEDSI in DRR", v) Discussions and vi) Evaluation and closing.

2.1.1 Welcome and Opening Remarks

Joint Secretary of NDRRMA and Chair of the GEDSI Working Group, Ms. Anita Niraula in the welcome remarks gave highlights of the 8 key priority areas and stated the beginning of the process of GEDSI integration in DRRM along with the drafting of GEDSI Strategic Action Plan 2022 to advance in the pathway from risk to resilience. Ms. Niraula shared the experiences of NDRRMA on understanding the GEDSI in DRR and believed that the workshop will give clarity on the concept and its linkages with the DRRM among existing NDRRMA team. She further reinforced that the workshop will be a medium to learn on the issue in a very inclusive and comprehensive manner.

Likewise, in the opening remarks, Chief Executive of NDRRMA Mr. Anil Pokhrel highlighted the issues of GEDSI in the context of DRR whereby mentioned that the issue is dynamic as more vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of people are being identified that are affected by disasters. Mr. Pokhrel further elaborated that the vulnerability caused to a particular group of people cannot be compared or equated with the vulnerability caused to the other groups of people. Thus, it can be said that the impact caused by a particular event and episode to someone is context specific which is why the responses ought to be attempted inclusively. Mr. Pokhrel exemplified his work with an INGO where inclusivity was incorporated to design and execute programs and projects. He encouraged the participants to share their valuable ideas and experiences throughout the workshop. Mr. Pokhrel firmly believed that rich discussions in the workshop will dig out GESDI issues properly and were quite optimistic about the constructive conclusion to charter as effective way forward by two days of engrossed interactions. Finally, Mr. Pokhrel emphasized the importance of the issue that will be addressed by the workshop as way forward to the NDRRMA team and thanked NHSRP team for coordinating and supporting it.

2.1.2 Technical session on "Understanding the concept of GEDSI and DRR"

The first technical session was presented by Ms. Sharu Joshi on "Understanding the concept of GEDSI and DRR". In the beginning of the session, Ms. Joshi shared facts and figures of different surveys and census related with the GEDSI in DRR. She also explained how the Constitution of Nepal 2015 has categorically spelled out about the excluded community¹. Highlighting International Development Partners Group's (IDPG) GESI framework which has identified additional categories of exclusion². Further emphasis was put on the intersectionality within the excluded groups. All the groups are not excluded, and there are groups who are not considered as excluded but in reality, are living a difficult life. Hence, within the categories of exclusion, the concept of "intersectionality" is still not adequately explored, which has led to less understanding and analysis.

Ms. Joshi also presented different models of equality and highlighted how formal model of equality does not address indirect discrimination of the excluded group. Also, how the formal model of equality treats everyone the same by acknowledging the diversity in their situation and needs. By stating that GEDSI is a dynamic issue, she explained various cases of exclusions through examples. There are many potential vulnerable groups that could be added to this category along with the next emerging vulnerability group of elderly population in Nepal.

 ¹The poor, socio-culturally disadvantaged women, Dalit, Indigenous Peoples (Adibasi/Janajati),

Indigenous Nationalities (Adibasi/Janajati), Madhesis-Tharus -Muslims - Oppressed Classes, Backward Classes
 (OBC?) - Minorities, Marginalized Communities -Farmers/Peasants -Laborer -Youths -Children

[•] Senior Citizens, Gender and sexual minorities, Persons with Disabilities -Persons in Pregnancy

[·] Incapacitated and Helpless People -People from Backward Regions -Poor Khas Arya Poor Khas Arya

^{• 2} Women, Persons without citizenship, HIV/AIDS affected, Sex workers, Trafficked people,

People working in the informal sector or engaged in unsafe employment/ migration and unpaid care work,
 Earthquake or flood affected population and the landless

Furthermore, intersectionality was explicitly discussed explaining different variables that could be identified to understand multiple vulnerabilities of an individual or a group. Some of the variables discussed were gender, disability, age, poverty, geography, disaster, education, caste, culture, employment, as well as vulnerabilities due to HIVAID and sex trade that renders one into several vulnerabilities. She urged that every variable needs to be addressed in an inclusive manner. By sharing a publication on "Who is left behind in 2018' by Tribhuwan University, she shared it as a good reference to review on the topic of intersectionality. The publication helps us identify who is at the bottom of the power hierarchy. She also shared a good practice of the Center Bureau of Statistics by introducing and integrating the questions on the issue of disaster to assess capacity of wards in a separate "Community Questionnaire in Census 2021.

There is a gap in the policy implementation which can also be bridged by the participation of women and excluded groups. Currently, there is very low participation of women and excluded groups in the federal, provincial and local DRRM structure. There is a growing financial and human resources gap in all levels of government. Ms. Joshi exemplified this issue by giving an example of her first-hand experience on Anticipatory Action in Saptari district during the flood of 2021. Ms. Joshi highlighted that many existing DRR policies are in place but not aligned with the Article 38.4 that is related to women's right and their proportional participation in all structures of government. Participants were reminded that in many of the Articles of the constitution, the fundamental rights of the excluded group is thinly discussed in respect to DRR. Extensive discussion and question answers were raised by the participants throughout the sharing on intersectionality concepts linking with GEDSI and DRR.

2.1.3 Day 1 evaluation: At the end of the session, the participants were asked to share one point on 'what went well' and one point on 'what could be improved on Day 2. The summary of the evaluation is mentioned in below table:

What went well on the first day	Suggestions for the next day	
• Conceptual clarity on GEDSI and	• Incorporate group work as one of the	
intersectionality	activities to encourage discussion and	
• Excellent facilitation, very clear	exchange of ideas.	
explanations	 Methods to apply intersectionality 	
 Interactive participation 	practically	
• Participants' interest and hunger to learn	More examples on integrating GEDSI into	
-	DRR	

2.2 Content of Day-2 of Workshop

The main agendas of the Day-2 of the workshop was i) Reflect on Day-1, ii) Practical exercise to understand intersectionality: "Powerwalk Exercise", iii) presentation on "Integrating GEDSI into DRR ", iv) sharing on experiences, challenges and good practices of the INGOs, v) gallery work, vi) vision statement and vii) closing remarks.

2.2.1 Power Walk Exercise

The "Powerwalk Exercise" began with an imaginary story about a relief distribution programme in a school. Participants were given a meta-card with their multiple identities. The participants were asked to be part of the story by acting their assigned identity. The objective of this activity is to enable the participants to understand vulnerability associated with intersectionality.

The activity separated divided into three groups of people:

- i) those who were able to get relief packages,
- ii) those who got information but couldn't go to receive relief packages,
- iii) those who did not have information about relief distributed.

During the role play of their assigned identity, participants and a Judge Panel of three members were able to analyze the hurdles and barriers that every individual faced due to inaccessibility of information and resources. Gallery Work was exercised with an objective to sensitize the participants on different vulnerabilities that people have and the responsibility of the duty-holders to consider those during disaster response and planning. The objective was also to explore more on the issues in the GEDSI Strategy and the priority areas³.

2.2.2 Presentation on GEDSI integration in DRR

Powerwalk Exercise was followed by the presentation on GEDSI integration in DRR.⁴ The facilitator gave an overview on eight DRR priorities under the GEDSI strategic action plan and made recommendations. She highlighted the systematic interventions by establishing a dedicated unit/division within the NDRRMA, expanding the GEDSI working group to be more inclusive, bringing on board other vulnerable groups in decision making bodies, capacity building of NDRRMA including online courses such as Gender and Age Marker, Humanitarian Handbook as medium to improve the current status. She also recommended reviewing Nepal Social Inclusion Survey 2018 to map the group of people who were left behind. Likewise, reviewing the DRR policies/Guidelines/Codes/Checklist to map its alignment with the constitution of Nepal.

The second half of the Day-2 included sharing by four organizations working on GESI/GEDSI in DRR. Sujata Singh, Care Nepal; Uttam Poudel, CRS Nepal; Arisha Shrestha and Astha Pradhananga from People in Need; and Rakshya Poudel of Plan International. The presenters highlighted the lessons learnt, good practices and the challenges faced with some recommendations. They also emphasized the development of IEC materials, applications and tools on GESI/GEDSI and DRR. Some of the challenges stated by them were sustainability of the efforts initiated and inter-agency coordination. Listening to the presentations, the representative of the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration shared that unless all these efforts of INGOs are not linked at ward level, it cannot be sustainable. He suggested that the coordination of the local level with the focal ministry is essential.

The Joint Secretary of NDRRMA, Ms. Anita Niraula expressed the evolving ways of advancing tools and apps that are in use in response to programs in GESI/GEDSI, but also alerted heavy use of acronyms and English language which can create issues on convey of information.

2.2.3 Reflection on eight priorities areas

Participants were asked to discuss and write the progress made by NDRRMA on eight different priorities areas and what NDRRMA and the stakeholders can do in those key priorities areas. a. The summary of the group activity is categorized in the table below:

³ Priority 1: Understanding Disaster and Climate Risk , Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance at federal, province and local levels , Priority 3: Increased private investments in DRR for resilience , Priority 4: Enhanced disaster Preparedness for effective response , Priority 5 Build Back Better in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction, Priority 6: Research, Training and Capacity building , Priority 7: End-to-end multi hazard early warning system, Priority 8: Disaster Risk Financing

Priorities Area	What did we do?	What can we do?
Priority 1: Understanding of Disaster Risk Reduction	 Radio PSAs, Jingles and IVRs, TV programmes Interaction and orientation programmes, Study on disaster reduction IEC materials that included disability issues 	 Appoint GESI focal person Form GEDSI committee inclusive of GEDSI CSOs and stakeholders Community mobilization activities Integrate digital accessibility in official websites Policy reviews from GEDSI perspective Awareness programmes Capacity building programmes
Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance at federal, province and local levels	 Ward level contingency plan SOPs for emergency response centers Consultations with provincial and local level governments Developed Directives, Working Procedures, and Standards 	Strengthen the systems from GEDSI perspective Strengthen/Build data management system from GEDSI perspective
Priority 3: Increased private investments in DRR for resilience	 Established DRR fund Deferred Drawdown Option for Catastrophe Risk (Cat	 Training on Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) NGO mobilization guide to extend partnership to align government vision. Investment in Infrastructure with universal design Resource mapping Volunteer mapping Strengthening Emergency and Disaster Center (EDC) Bipad portal localisation
Priority 4: Enhanced disaster Preparedness for effective response	 Climate smart agriculture Volunteers Management System Diver's training simulation Exercise search and research equipment Monsoon PRP and assessments 	

Priority 5: Build Back Better in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction	 Monsoon induced private housing reconstruction Fire hazard reconstruction guideline Strategy on identification of vulnerable groups and their prioritization in reconstruction of private residence Emergency activities guidelines 	 Socio-technical assistance (NGO directive) guidelines Multi-hazard reconstruction guideline Rapid Detailed Assessment Standardization Mandatory provision for joint land ownership in all the relocation Vulnerable specific support guidelines for I/NGOs to provide direct support to households.
Priority 6: Research, Training and Capacity building	 Capacity building programmes IBF in floods and pilot in landslides SMS alert E learning platform Risk studies Capacity building at the provincial and local level Financial support for Master level student to conduct thesis on the topic of disaster 	 Prioritize services for vulnerable groups Capacity building programmes for women health volunteers on DRR
Priority 7: End-to- end multi hazard early warning system	Concept note and strategy on including GEDSI in early warning system	 Information dissemination via different channels Languages (EWS-Access) Involvement of private sectors Risk insurance Municipal managed revolving funds
Priority 8: Disaster Risk Financing	 Insurance scheme support Revolving fund support by FNCCI, CDC, construction company at the community level Disaster Risk Financing Strategy DRR fund established by cooperative of Kailali and workshops 	 Involvement of private sector Award and punishment-based promotion of Risk Insurance Municipality managed revolving funds NDRRMA leering from other ministries experiences

2.2.4 Exercise on NDRRMA in one year and potential challenges

In addition to in-depth analysis, another 'Gallery Walk' exercise was conducted by asking participants to visualize where they want to see NDRRMA in one year in terms of GEDSI and DRRM and possible challenges it may face in order to achieve the one-year vision. The responses of the participants are summarized in the table below:

In one year where do we want to see NDDRMA	What could be the challenges to achieve this	
on GEDSI and DRRM work?	one-year vision?	
 Establish dedicated unit on GEDSI GEDSI sensitive responses NDRRMA policy documents implemented at local level Focal agency in emergency response Include elderly in its response Impact study on 'Road accident and its GEDSI aspects' A flagship coordination body with guidelines and policies in place and coordination with other government agencies A strong GEDSI NDDRMA Capacity build of NDDRMA on GEDSI 	 Lack of trained/skilled human resource in local level Lack of ownership of policy documents by local government Financial resources to implement plans and policies GEDSI responsive stakeholders at subnational level Implementation accountability for policies and action plans 	

After the exercise, participants were assigned to explain the summary of the Gallery Walk. Though the Gallery Walk was not entirely focused on the GEDSI, one of the key findings was there a scope of work in all key priority areas. Priority 1 on "Understanding Disaster and Climate Risk" was discussed as the most important area to make the DRRM effort inclusive. Among other priorities, disaster risk financing was an area which was concluded as the most under-resourced to make DRRM effort effective and GEDSI responsive.

At the end of Day-2, workshop feedback was given by Ms. Binita Thapa, the DRR expert and CSO representative (from NFDN) of the GESI Working Group, Mr. Ramesh Rai. They mentioned that there is a need for more of such workshops. They suggested that participants from the excluded groups should also be invited in future workshops. However, they acknowledged the fact that the facilitators addressed the issues of excluded groups.

3. Findings and Analysis

NDRRMA has many opportunities and challenges in verge of knowledge transfer from former NRA and dealing with occurrence of various types of multi-hazard scenario. In order to overcome those challenges and achieve its one-year vision, following points were suggested and summarized by the participants:

- i. Establish GEDSI unit in NDRRMA
- ii. Expansion of the GESI Working Group and create opportunities for the conversation between working group and excluded groups
- iii. Conduct research on the GEDSI related impact on the victim road accidents⁵.
- iv. Promote GEDSI sensitive behavior change
- v. Build capacity of the government officials working in the area of DRR
- vi. Formulate and Implement NDRRMA policies effectively
- vii. Introduce a focal agency in emergency response within NDRRMA
- viii. Structure the NDRRMA under Prime Minister's office
- ix. Create a flagship coordination body with guidance and policies in place and coordinated with other government agencies.

⁵ During the conflict, 13000 died. In the same time period, 1700 Nepali died. Later in eight years of time period 19,000 people died.

4. Evaluation from the Post-workshop Survey

The participants' evaluation to the workshop on the basis of the survey conducted can be concluded in the following points:

i) Content:

The participants mentioned that they gained clarity in the concept of GEDSI and the ways it can be integrated in DRR. There needs to be more space to discuss the content and explore more opinions for the way forward. One of the participants quoted that the workshop ensured that the government should not take it lightly as "GEDSI is not optional, but it is mandatory and should be made mandatory". All of the participants responded with strong agreement of scaling up the better understanding of the concept of GEDSI and its importance to integration in DRR. Some participants quoted that workshop has provided a good space to learn, unlearn and relearn.

ii) Engagement and Discussion:

While participants found exercise and activities included productive, they believe more activities could have been included.

iii) Participants

The workshop was catered for the NDRRMA in the area of DRR which was a good approach. The participants also mentioned that the room had inclusive participation which encouraged a healthy and productive discussion. However, some of the participants believed that representatives from all tiers of government should have also been included as they are also a major stakeholder in DRR. Some also suggested that the participation from INGOs should have been encouraged as the collaboration with them in the topic is also a crucial effort.

iii) Facilitator:

The participants were impressed by the energy of the facilitator. Some of them mentioned that the fact it was facilitated by a resource person made it easier to grasp the concept and think critically. The participants also praised the facilitator's diverse knowledge on intersectionality. When asked if the facilitators organized the session in an engaging and interesting way, participants responded with a positive note with over 92 percent agreement.

iv) Logistics of workshop:

One of the participants quoted that the location was not disability friendly. Likewise, other participants suggested that sending reference materials before the workshop would have been helpful. Some participants also suggested improving time management and conducting workshops within the allocated time period. *The quantitative summary of the survey analysis is found in Annex 2*.

5. Closing Remark of Workshop

As a concluding remark given by Joint Secretary of NDRRMA, Ms. Anita Niraula thanked everyone for an achievable vision statement. She particularly thanked NHSRP-CRS and Empower Asia Project for very effective support to the NDRRMA and requested that it should be continued. She thanked the facilitator for bringing a broader dimension of the GEDSI and alerting the NDRRMA that the work should be aligned with the fundamental rights secured by the constitution of Nepal. She thanked the facilitator for effectively achieving two objectives of the workshop: i) conceptual clarity on GEDSI in DRR and ii) identifying key working areas for integrating of GEDSI in DRR.

Annex I: Workshop Agenda



Gender Equality, Disability & Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Integration in DRRM Workshop Agenda Hotel Godavari Village Resort 14 – 15 September 2022(Wednesday-Thursday)

Time	Session Plan	Methodology	Responsible		
Day 1 Day 1 Objectives and Understanding GEDSI concepts in DRR context					
1:00-2:00	Arrival and Registration	Participatory	Rahul		
2:15-2:30	Why GEDSI in DRR	Remark	Mr. Anil Pokahrel CEO, NDRRMA		
2:00 – 2:15	Workshop objectives: Setting the tone- basic concepts of GEDSI, helping participants understand diversity	Remarks	Ms. Anita Niraula, Joint Secretary, NDRRMA		
2:30 – 3:00	Ignite session with self-introduction on GEDSI & DRRM	Participatory	NDRRMA		
3:00 - 5:00	Looking at GEDSI Issues in DRRM	Presentation followed by Q&A	National Consultant		
5:00-5:10	Evaluation	Use of meta-cards	National Consultant		
5:10 - 5:15	Wrap up	Reflection	CRS		
7:00 - 8:00	Dinner				
Day 2 Objectives: U	Inderstanding the integration of GEDSI in DRRM	Í	•		
8:00 - 9:00	Breakfast				
9:00 - 9:15	Recap	Participatory	NDRRMA		
9:15- 10:00	Power Walk	Individual exercise	National Consultant		
10:00-11:00	Integrating GEDSI into DRRM	Presentation followed by group discussions	National Consultant		
9:15-10:00	Lessons learnt/best practices and challenges integrating GEDSI into DRRM	Experience sharing:DRR responses, early warning system, risk reduction and reconstruction	Representatives of AIN		
10.00-11.00	Gallery-walk exercise Exercise –Where are we now and what can be done on priority areas of GEDSI strategic plan of action?	Participatory group work	National Consultant		
11:00 – 11:15 Tea	Break				
11:15- 1:00	Gallery Work: i) What does NDRRMA look like from GEDSI perspective in 1 year? ii) What are the challenges? What resources do NDRRMA need?	Participatory group work	National Consultant		
1:00-2:00 Lunch Bro					
2:00-3:00	Shared understanding for future pathway: Vision Statement for NDRRMA	Group Work	National Consultant		
3:00 – 3:30	Evaluation	Online survey	Ms. Rupa Pandey, CRS		
3:30-4:00	Closing	Speech	i) Ms. Binita Thapa, DRR expert ii) Mr. Ramesh Sharma, GESI Working Group iii) Ms. Anita Niraula, Joint Secretary, NDRRMA		

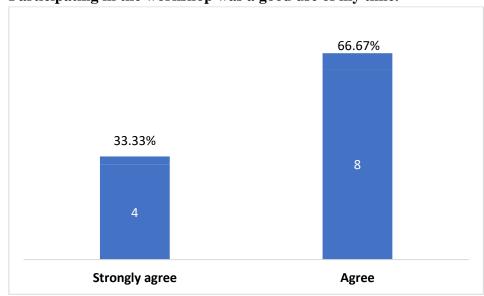
Annex II: Analysis of Event Evaluation

At the end of the workshop, MS Office Survey link was shared with participants for their feedback on the workshop. The analysis of participants' response is presented below:

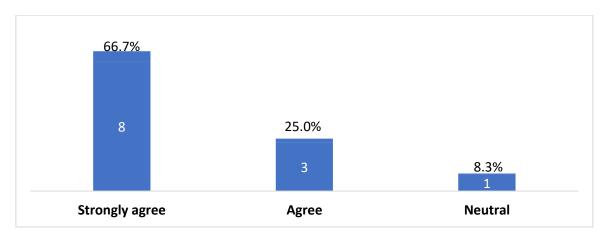
I. Overall rating of the workshop



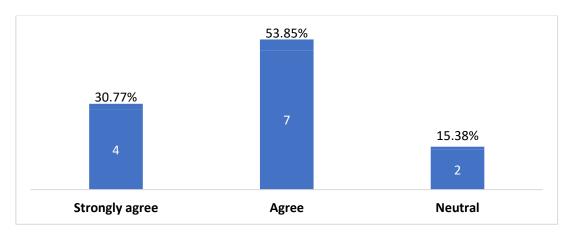
II. Participating in the workshop was a good use of my time.



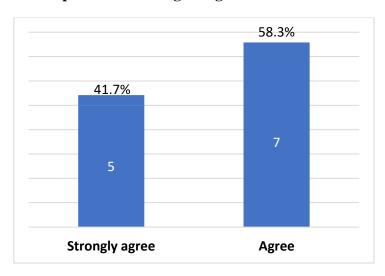
III. The facilitators organized the sessions in an engaging and interesting way



IV. The sessions were successful to achieve workshop objectives



V. Participating in the workshop helped me to better understand the concept of GEDSI and its importance on integrating in DRR



VI. Most appreciated TWO things about the workshop

- Context specific rich contents with interactive sessions and discussions initiated by maximum number of participants
- Excellent facilitation by the resource person

VII. What TWO top recommendations do you have for future workshops?

- This type of workshop should be planned in advance properly and must have included participants from organizations that works on core GESI/GEDSI programs in order to dive deeper into the subject matter so that action plan by NDRRMA is more context specific.
- The sessions should be properly designed and should allot significantly more time for discussions.

Additional TWO feedbacks for future

- i. Proper disability friendly venues should be selected for future workshops/programs.
- ii. Proper GESI/GEDSI practices should be internalized by all in various aspects of operations, management and interventions organizations and institutions.

Annex IV: Representative Photographs of the workshop











