

ENGAGING WOMEN IN DISASTER MITIGATION

WORLD BANK WORKSHOP
WASHINGTON DC
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HURRICANE DISASTER IMPACT - JAMAICA

- In 1988 Hurricane Gilbert left:
 - 500,000 persons homeless
 - J\$400-600m in housing and infrastructure damage



CHALLENGE

Reconstruction programmes:

- Lacked community consultation and participation
- Omitted mitigation measures
- Were not gender sensitive

CONSTRUCTION RESOURCE & DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

- Train women as:
 - Community organisers
 - Housing and construction practioners



WOMEN MOBILISE FOR CHANGE

A CRDC implemented programme assisted women to

- Identify women's disaster priorities
- Improve construction skills
- Promote safe building techniques



OUTCOMES

- Women led the promotion and adoption of disaster safe building techniques in six parishes
- 1050 households incorporated safe roofing techniques
- 50% of the households were headed by women benefitted

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Empowered women in communities are:

- Advocating for security of tenure
- Mobilising savings for land
- building learning centres
- Supporting other communities with disaster training



LESSONS LEARNT

- COMMUNITIES ARE THE REAL EXPERTS
 - USE AND SCALE UP TECHNOLOGIES
 - PROMOTE STANDARDS
 - CREATE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGAEMENTS FOR LAND AND FINANCE