

# CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS OF WOMEN'S RESILIENCE IN DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES



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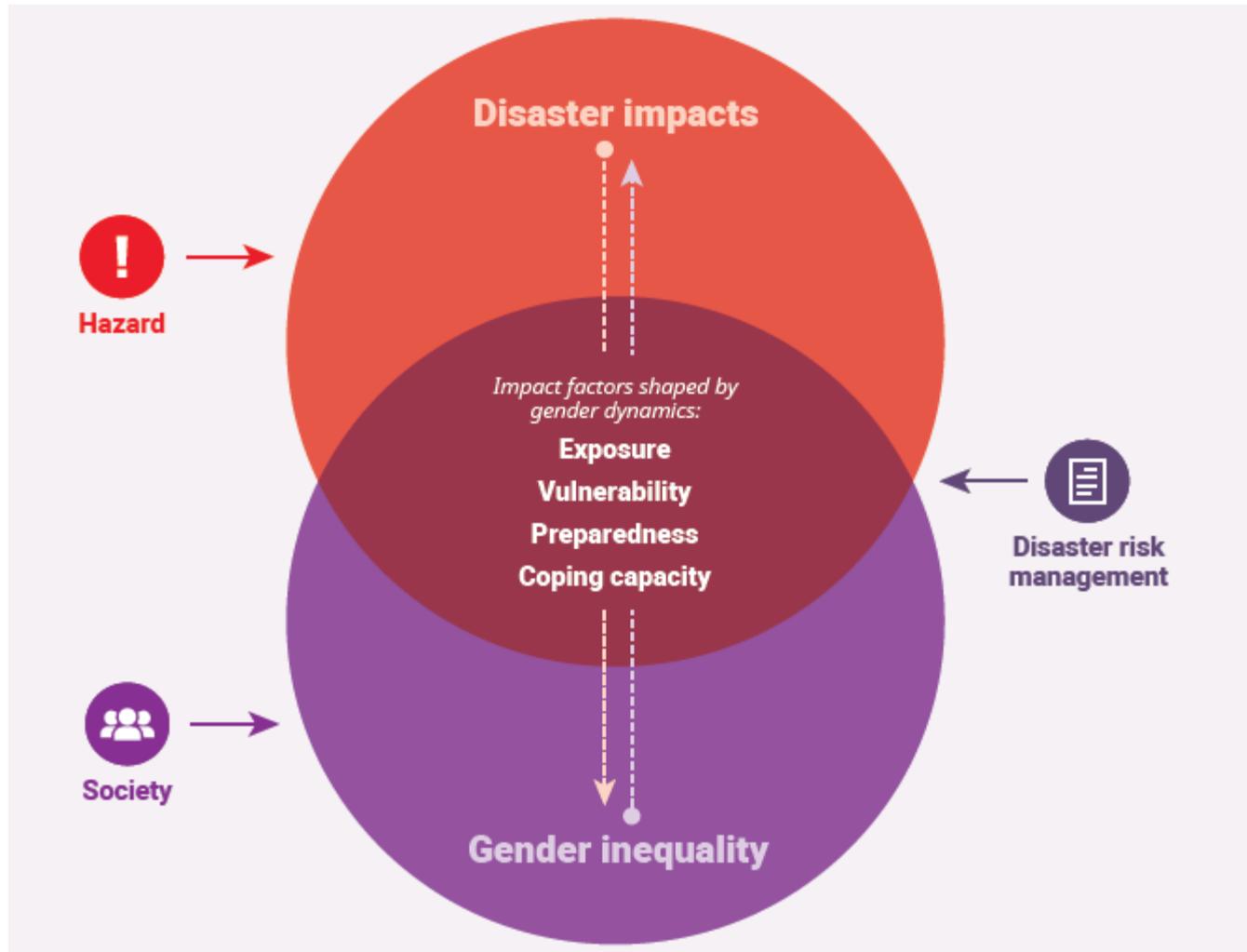
# INTRODUCTION

- Disasters and emergencies are on the rise. In 2019, 95 million people were affected by 396 disasters globally, contributing to 103 million USD in economic losses; and internally displacing 24.9 million individuals.
- Studies shows that there is a pattern of gender differentiation at all levels of the disaster process: exposure to risk, risk perception, preparedness, response, physical impact, psychological impact, recovery and reconstruction.
- Women are 14 times more likely than men to die during disasters.

# RESILIENCE DEFINITION

- Resilience is the capacity of a community to organize itself to reduce the impacts of disasters by protecting lives, livelihoods, households, assets, basic services and infrastructures (*Resilience Alliance, 2002*).
- A process linking a set of adaptive capacities to a positive trajectory of functioning and adaptation after a disaster (*Norris et al, 2008*).

# A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR CONSIDERING GENDER RESILIENCE AND DISASTER IMPACTS



Sources: Adapted from World Bank 2012 and Hallegatte et al. 2017

# METHODS

- **Search Strategy**

(“women’s resilience”) **AND** (challenges OR barriers OR problems OR difficulties) **AND** (disaster\* OR risk OR emergenc\* OR crises)

- **Databases**

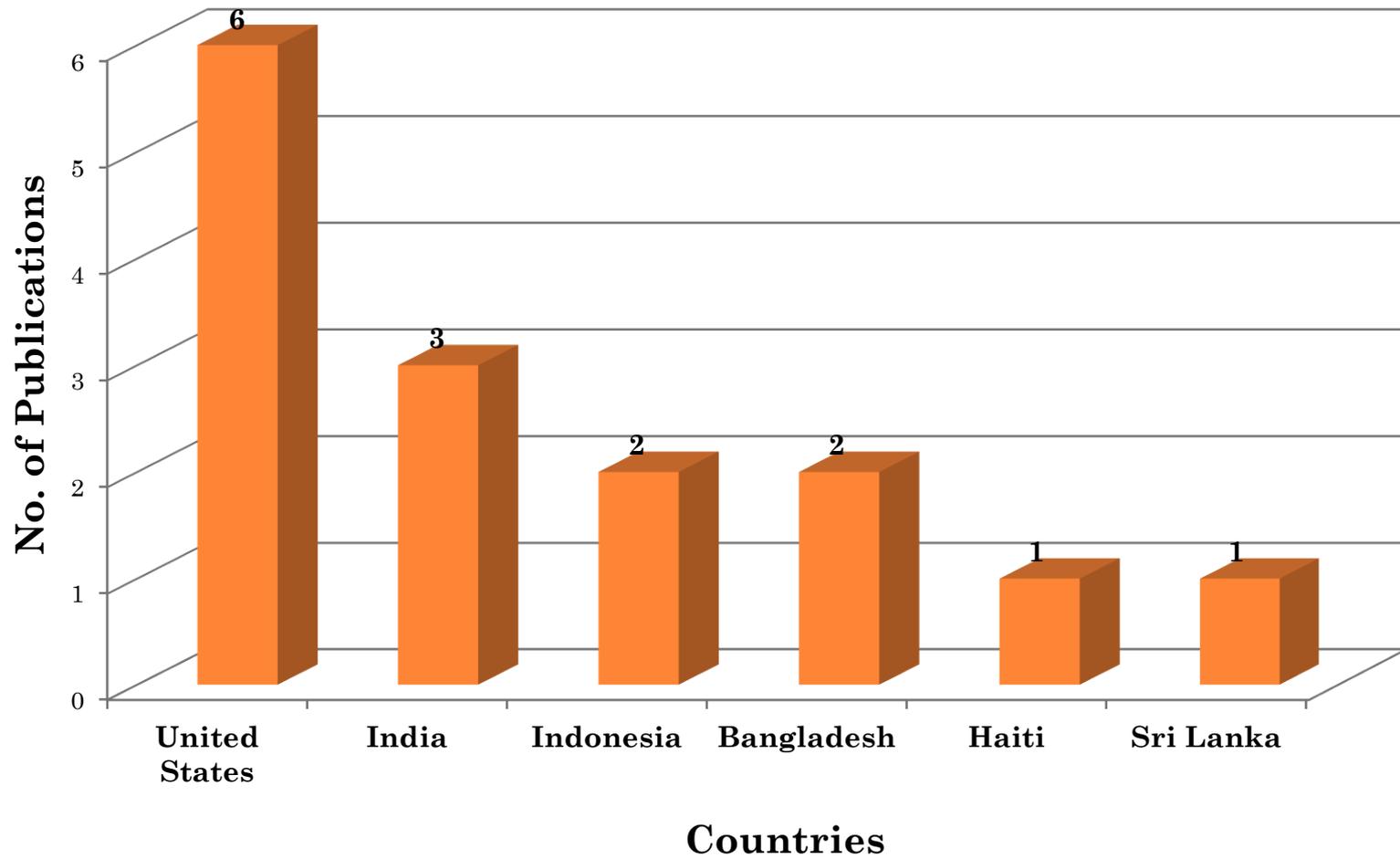
- Science direct
- PubMed
- Scopus
- Web of Science
- Google Scholar

# INCLUSION & EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
Addressing the research question	focusing on modeling or theoretical concepts
Original study	Out of the research question
Time limited to 2000-2020	-



# RESULTS



# RESULTS

- **Women are at high risk in various stages of disaster:**
  - i) **Discrimination and unequal access** to opportunities, natural resources and other productive assets such as land
  - ii) **Access to** finance, technology, knowledge, and mobility
  - iii) **Socially constructed differences** in capacities and capabilities
  - iv) **Discriminatory** social, cultural, and legal norms and practices

# RESULTS

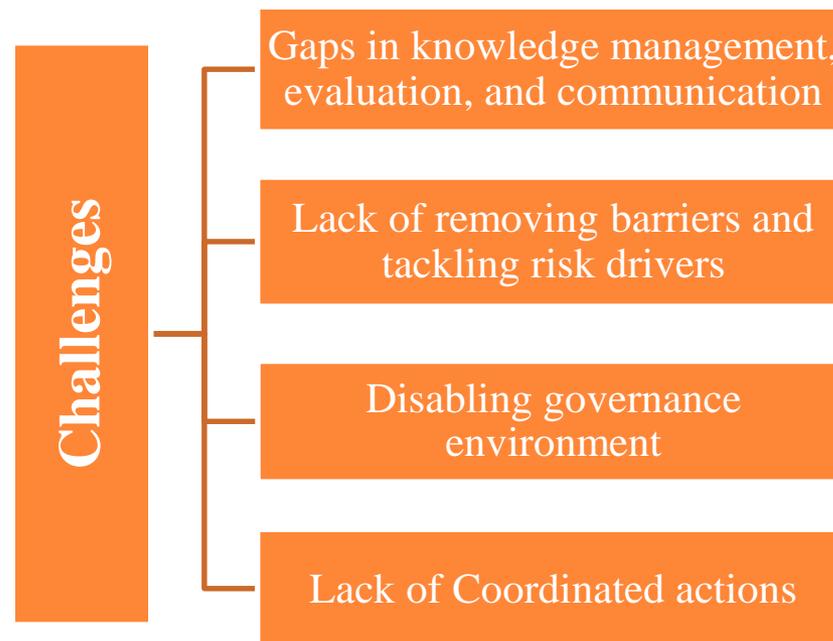
- Gender and disaster literature shows that women and community-based women's organizations display a lot of strength and resilience in coping with natural disasters, and that women collective mobilization and relief efforts at the community level are essential for responding to local needs and promoting effective disaster management strategies.

# RESULTS-LEVEL OF CHALLENGES

- Household level challenges
  - *Gender norms, values and practices (increase workload, loss of livelihood opportunities, deprivation from relief material and etc.)*
  - *Increase rates of domestic violence*
- Facility level challenges
  - *Lack of needed services for women*
  - *Shortage of medicines and equipment*
  - *Lack of security in camps for women and girls*
- Community level challenges
  - *Displacement*
  - *Access*
  - *Lack of women's participation in the relief and reconstruction processes*

# RESULTS- CHALLENGES CATEGORIES

- There are significant governance and system-level gaps at global, regional, and country levels that act as a barrier to build the climate and disaster resilience of women and girls.



# DISCUSSION

- Gaps in knowledge management, evaluation, and communication.
  - *Women's disaster adaptive and recovery capacity through indigenous knowledge to enhance resilience*
  - *Having the ability to be innovators and change makers in spite of proper training and financial support to plan for new resilient livelihoods*
- Removing barriers and tackling risk drivers
  - *Gender inequalities in access to finance, technology, natural resources and other productive assets*
  - *Tackling other root causes of women's disproportionate risk including gender norms.*

# DISCUSSION

- Enabling governance environment

- *Women's participation in CBOs and NGOs for disaster management, empowerment and decision making for building communities' resilience to disasters.*

- *Formulating disaster management policies focusing on women, girls in disaster prone countries*

- Coordinated actions

- *Adopting integrated approach with communities, government, civil society, academic institutions and the private sectors. This improve gender equality; giving women more control over resources and decision making.*

## STRATEGIES

### ○ **Short-term:**

- Right to information and non-discrimination
- Right to security and safety
- Economic and social rights
- Special attention to the needs of women and girls

## STRATEGIES

### ○ Long-term:

- Participating the affected communities, including women in the rehabilitation and resources management.
- The government must facilitate social and economic reconstruction of the affected community by providing access to fair and adequate funding to enable employment generation and restoration of livelihoods.

# CONCLUSION

## ○ Addressing the following needs:

- **Builds an enabling environment** for women's resilience.
- **Simplifies disaster risk reduction and makes it relevant** and understandable for everyone.
- **Promotes coordinated actions across sectors and levels** e.g. disaster management, climate change, gender, resilience.
- **Helps women and communities recover from COVID-19** and prepare for future pandemics.
- **Provides a platform for women's voices and needs** to increase resilience to disasters.

# REFERENCES

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- Why are women more vulnerable during disasters? Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development; 2005.
- Building social resilience, protecting and empowering those most at risk. GFDRR; 2015.
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*Thanks for your attention*

