

Training Course on Gender and Diversity in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

The degree of damage and harm caused by natural hazards is different depending on factors such as gender, age, and disability. Particularly in developing countries, death tolls are higher among women than among men, and post-disaster unemployment rates also tend to be higher among women.

Based on its disaster experiences, Japan launched the “Sendai Cooperation Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction” in 2015. The Initiative underscores the importance of women’s participation in decision-making at all stages – from risk reduction, through relief to recovery and reconstruction. Since 2016, Japan has organized training courses on “Gender and Diversity in Disaster Risk Reduction”, which focus on strengthening disaster risk reduction (DRR) from a gender and diversity perspective. Through this project, participants, mainly from Asian and Latin American countries, learn why women are disproportionately affected by disasters and what sort of gender issues emerge in a disaster’s aftermath. Participants learned to recognize the active roles that women play in DRR in their communities, and the importance of developing gender-responsive DRR policies and action plans. They took these lessons back to their ministries responsible for social welfare, women’s and children’s affairs, and disaster management, as well as NGOs engaging vulnerable groups and providing DRR services to communities.



Residents of Higashimatsu-shima City are explaining their experience of the disaster and the recovery planning to training participants (2016).

Credit: JICA