



GDN e-Resources No. 09

New resources for GDN members (14-18 April)

Details of the following are available at <http://www.gdnonline.org>.

1) A warm welcome to our new Network members from the US and Australia!

2) **Rethinking Disasters. Why death and destruction is not nature's fault but human failure.** A destructive combination of earthquakes, floods, droughts and other hazards make South Asia as the world's most disaster-prone region. The effects are aggravated by climate change, unsuitable social and development policies, and environmental degradation. The effect is to slow or block development and keep millions trapped in poverty. It does not have to be this way. Oxfam's experience shows that successful disaster risk reduction policies, integrated into development work, save lives and money, making vulnerable communities more resilient and protecting development gains. This report examines how to achieve those goals - and the cost of failure. Published 2008 by Oxfam India. Download the full article from Oxfam: http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/conflict_disasters/oxfam_india_rethinking_disasters.html

3) **El Papel de la Mujeres en la Adaptación a la Variabilidad y el Cambio Climático.** (Spanish version of last week's resource, *Women's role in adapting to climate change and variability*) Dado que las mujeres hacen más actividades de las que se reconocen y se les valora en la comunidad de cambio climático (CC), este artículo resalta su importante papel en la adaptación y en la búsqueda de comunidades más seguras, que las lleva a comprender mejor las causas y consecuencias de cambios en las condiciones climáticas. Se concluye que producto de sus roles en la sociedad (rol productivo, reproductivo y comunitario), las mujeres poseen importantes conocimientos y habilidades para orientar la adaptación; se reconoce la importancia de la equidad de género en estos procesos; y se plantea la relación entre CC, variabilidad climática y el logro de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. 2008. Carvajal Y., M. Quintero-Angel, y M. Garcia-Vargas. Descarga el artículo aquí: http://www.gdnonline.org/resources/Carvajal_etal_Mujeres_Adaptacion_Variabilidad.pdf

4) **Análisis de la vulnerabilidad del sistema de agua potable y alcantarillado asociado a inundaciones, adaptación al cambio climático y perspectiva de género en una zona urbano-marginal de la Cuenca Binacional Puyango- Tumbes.** (Analysis of vulnerability to floods of potable water system and associated sewage system, adaptation to climatic change and gender perspective in an urban-marginal zone of the Binational River basin in Puyango - Tumbes) Un iniciativa de Asociación Regional Mujeres Ingenieras compartido por un miembro de GDN de Perú, Bertha Garcia. Descarga detalles el proyecto aquí: http://www.gdnonline.org/resources/AsociaciónRegionalMujeresIngenieras_iniciativa.pdf

Note: To help translate this document or other GDN's key resources to English or other language, please email us: gdn@gdnonline.org.

5) **The Gendered Nature of Natural Disasters: The Impact of Catastrophic Events on the Gender Gap in Life Expectancy, 1981-2002.** Eric Neumayer and Thomas Plümper. January 2007. The paper addresses the specific vulnerability of girls and women with respect to mortality from natural disasters and their aftermath. We find, first, that natural disasters lower the life expectancy of women more than that of men. In other words, natural disasters (and their subsequent impact) on average kill more women than men or kill women at an earlier age than men. Since female life expectancy is generally higher than that of males, for most countries natural disasters narrow the gender gap in life expectancy. Second, the stronger the disaster (as approximated by the number of people killed relative to population size), the stronger this effect on the gender gap in life expectancy. That is, major calamities lead to more severe impacts on female life expectancy (relative to that of males) than smaller disasters. Third, the higher women's socio-economic status, the weaker this effect on the gender gap in life expectancy. In other words, taken together our results show that it is the socially constructed gender-specific vulnerability of females built into everyday socio-economic patterns that lead to the relatively higher female disaster mortality rates compared to men. Download the full document from http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=874965

6) **The Unequal Burden of War: The Effect of Armed Conflict on the Gender Gap in Life Expectancy.** Thomas Plümper and Eric Neumayer. February 2006. Most combatants in armed conflict are men, so naturally men are the major direct victims of military operations. Yet, armed conflicts have important indirect negative consequences on agriculture, infrastructure, public health provision and social order. These indirect consequences are often overlooked and under-appreciated. They will also affect women and arguably more so than men. This article provides the first rigorous analysis of the impact of armed conflict on female relative to male life expectancy. We find that over the entire conflict period interstate and civil wars on average affect women more adversely than men. In peace times, women typically live longer than men. Hence, armed conflict tends to decrease the gap between female and male life expectancy. For civil wars, we find that it is ethnic wars that are damaging to women and particularly so if they take place in 'failed' states. Our findings challenge policy makers as well as international and humanitarian organizations to develop policies that tackle the large indirect and long-term negative health impacts of armed conflicts. Download the full document from <http://ssrn.com/abstract=692503>

7) **"Disasters caused by human failures not nature"** - Oxfam India. "The Kashmir earthquake killed 75,000 people. That's more than twelve times as many people as died in Japan's Great Hanshin earthquake, which was of similar strength," says Oxfam's regional director for South Asia, Ashvin Dayal. "Why? Poverty, exclusion, inequality, and unsuitable policies raise risks for poor people, women, and minorities especially." Read more from Oxfam's website: http://www.oxfam.org.uk/applications/blogs/pressoffice/2008/04/disasters_cause_d_by_human_fail.html

8) **"Controversial appointment of UNIFEM Executive Director."** - Resource Net, AWID. The appointment of Spain's Inés Alberdi as UNIFEM's Executive Director last week has attracted significant interest, with mixed reactions from different women's rights activists and organizations. Rochelle Jones from AWID explores some of the initial responses to Alberdi's appointment, and highlights the main issues raised. Download and read the full article from http://gdnonline.org/resources/AWID_Jones_Controversial_appointment_UNIFEM.doc

9) **Update on the Mary Fran Myers Award (MFM) 2008.** We have just concluded the submission of nominations for the 2008 MFM Award and we have received seven outstanding applications from Cameroon, India, Iran, Mexico, and the US. Please visit our website for further announcement.

10) We would like to share our resources here in GDN to as many people as possible, if you have friends or colleagues who share our advocacy, please ask them to join us and register with the Gender and Disaster Network:
<http://www.gdnonline.org/register.php>

*The GDN e-Resources is a compilation of materials, events, announcements, images available for viewing or download from the GDN website. For comments and/or to submit materials for posting, please send an email to gdn@gdnonline.org. Join the Gender and Disaster Network:
<http://www.gdnonline.org/register.php>