



Integrating Gender Issues: Lessons from the Tsunami

Jonathan Shott

Sustainable Development Foundation

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3 Agencies, 4 Documents, 7 Years

Ç 3 agencies:

- ñ Sustainable Development Foundation

- ñ Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation

- ñ Office of Women's Affairs and Family
Development

3 Agencies, 4 Documents, 7 Years

Ç 4 documents:

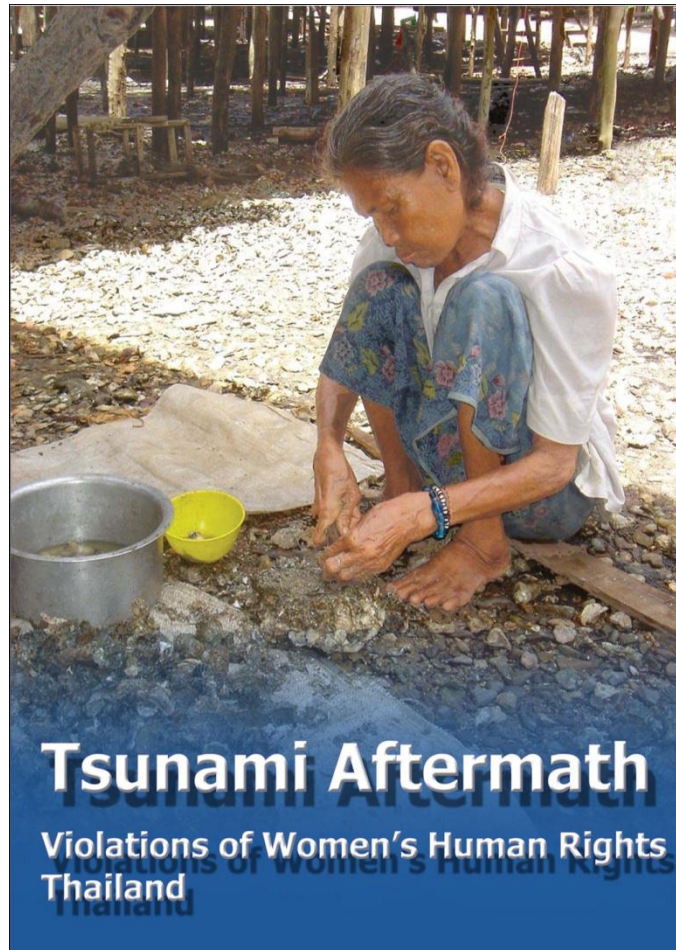
- ñ Tsunami Aftermath: Violations of Women's Human Rights, Thailand
- ñ Guidelines for Gender Sensitive Disaster Management: Practical Steps to Ensure Women's Needs are Met and Women's Human Rights are Respected and Protected During Disasters
- ñ Women in Times of Disaster: The Integration of Gender Issues and Gender Perspectives in Disaster Management (Thailand Study – The Case of the Indian Ocean Tsunami)
- ñ Disaster Management Field Manual: Gender Perspectives

3 Agencies, 4 Documents, 7 Years

Ç 7 years:

- ñ Firsthand experience of problems and deficiencies.
- ñ Identifying underlying issues and developing recommendations.
- ñ Building relationships between strategic partners.
- ñ Creating a practical field manual and campaigning for change.

Tsunami Aftermath: Violations of Women's Human Rights, Thailand



Tsunami Aftermath: Violations of Women's Human Rights, Thailand

- Ç Sustainable Development Foundation
- Ç Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development
- Ç Federation of Southern Fisher-folk
- Ç Save Andaman Network
- Ç Network of Migrant Workers
- Ç Grassroots Human Rights Education and Development Committee

Tsunami Aftermath: Violations of Women's Human Rights, Thailand

- Ç Tent camps and temporary shelters had no separate toilets and bathrooms for women.
- Ç Lack of privacy in tents, especially when several families were sharing one long tent, made women feel insecure at night and they could not change clothes in the tent. They had to walk to the toilet to get changed.

Tsunami Aftermath: Violations of Women's Human Rights, Thailand

- Ç There were no kitchens in temporary shelters which created additional problems for women who had to take care of food for the family.
- Ç Women who could not access temporary housing were left to seek shelter, food, milk for their children and other basic needs. The Thai Government's eligibility criteria for temporary housing clearly discriminated against the poor and the needy as those who could not present proof of house ownership before the tsunami were denied access to temporary housing.

Tsunami Aftermath: Violations of Women's Human Rights, Thailand

- Ç Women with pre-school age children were denied access to government support and were told to wait until their children grow up to go to school where they can receive support for children.
- Ç Women were (indirectly) discriminated even in death as the government assistance for funerals provided twice as much money for a man's death than for a woman's based on the assumption that men were heads of households and breadwinners.

A Widow from Ban Nam Kem: Field Interview, February 2006

Ç Before the tsunami, my family was comfortable. I had a small shop selling grocery in Ban Nam Kem, while my husband had a boat repairing garage. He was the breadwinner of our family. Before the tsunami, we used to earn between 70,000 – 80,000 THB per month. The tsunami washed away our home and my husband died instantly. The support from the government was only short term. Over the last one year, I have to shoulder all the household expenditure and support my three children.

A Widow from Ban Nam Kem: Field Interview, February 2006

Ç My youngest daughter (4 years old) did not get any support from the government, but we got help from a foreigner who pays for her to go to a private school for two years. This helps a lot because she doesn't have to be home until 5 PM because normally I work all day and I do not have time to pick her up and look after her. Presently, I try to earn some income from selling fish in the market. In the morning, I get up to buy fish from the fish landing market in the village and take them to the market. Daily income is around 100 THB. We are so poor and do not have enough money that I had to finally sell my husband's boat repairing garage for 30,000 THB. We are still living on that and struggling very badly.

Sea Gypsy, Mother of Two Children, Thap Tawan: Field Interview, February 2006

Ç We, the Moken in Thap Tawan village, never got any help from the government. When they came to distribute aid in the temporary house, we always waited for our names to be called. But we were waiting in vain. We even have identification cards but we were never included. I don't understand why. Our names were never on the list because we are not Thai. During the first days we stayed in a tent but they didn't give me temporary home so I went to stay in the mountains.

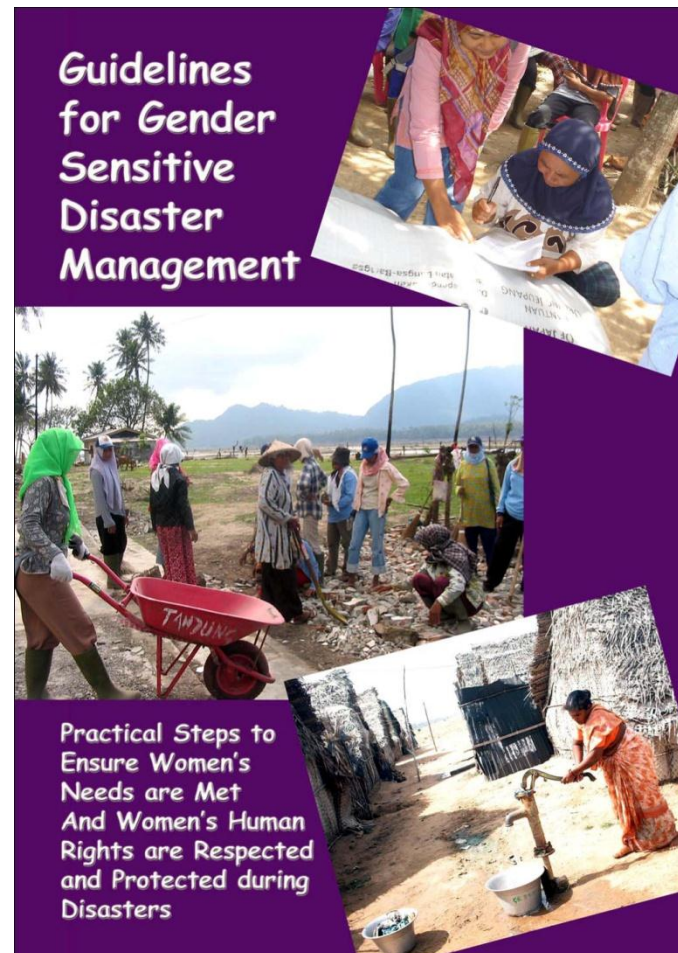
Rape by Thai Men in Koh Kaw Khao

Ç Koh Kaw Khao Island in Takuapa District is one of the areas in Phang Nga Province affected by the tsunami. Burmese migrant workers have been working in construction, plantation and fishery industries on the island. On October 13, 2005, a group of Burmese construction workers living on the island were threatened and assaulted by several Thai men around 9:30 pm.

Rape by Thai Men in Koh Kaw Khao

Ç One Burmese girl was raped by the Thai men. The girl was treated at Takuapa Hospital. The victim said, “They put a knife against my neck and threatened with an iron stick. And I was raped by an old guy. I will recognize him if I meet him again.” But she was afraid of pursuing a legal case against the rapist. Her father and one child were also beaten by the Thai men and treated at the hospital. Other Burmese people were tied for several hours that night.

Guidelines for Gender Sensitive Disaster Management: Practical Steps to Ensure Women's Needs are Met and Women's Human Rights are Respected and Protected During Disasters



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Ç Gender neutral relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts based on the assumption that men's and women's needs are similar result in:

- ñ Women giving birth in unsafe conditions.
- ñ Malnourished infants because their malnourished mothers cannot breastfeed them.

Guidelines for Gender Sensitive Disaster Management: Practical Steps to Ensure Women's Needs are Met and Women's Human Rights are Respected and Protected During Disasters

- ñ Sexual abuse of women because there are no protection measures and no separate toilets and bathrooms in camps and temporary shelters.
- ñ Widows and women headed households were unable to restore their livelihoods because employment generation assistance focused on areas which predominantly employ men.
- ñ Widows and women headed households were unable to access food and other aid supplies because of restrictions on their movements (e.g. purdah in Pakistan).

Immediate Responses During the Disaster Relief Phase

- Ç Identify specific needs of women.
- Ç Ensure that emergency relief supplies include women's specific requirements.
- Ç Ensure women's access to sufficient and adequate food.
- Ç Food distribution should be equitable, transparent and respect human dignity.
- Ç Aid distribution for women should be handled by women.

Immediate Responses During the Disaster Relief Phase

- Ç Ensure that women's menstrual needs are met.
- Ç Ensure that all disaster affected people have access to adequate shelters.
- Ç Ensure women's access to adequate toilet and bathing facilities.
- Ç Ensure women's access to free health care services.
- Ç Ensure security and safety of women and children.
- Ç Protect women from violence and abuse.
- Ç Ensure women's access to psycho-social counseling.

Mid-term Responses During the Recovery Phase

- Ç Ensure women's participation in management of camps and temporary shelters.
- Ç Ensure women's equal access to compensation payments and rehabilitation measures.
- Ç Eliminate head of household concept.
- Ç Ensure women's access to information on relief and rehabilitation measures.
- Ç Ensure children's access to education.

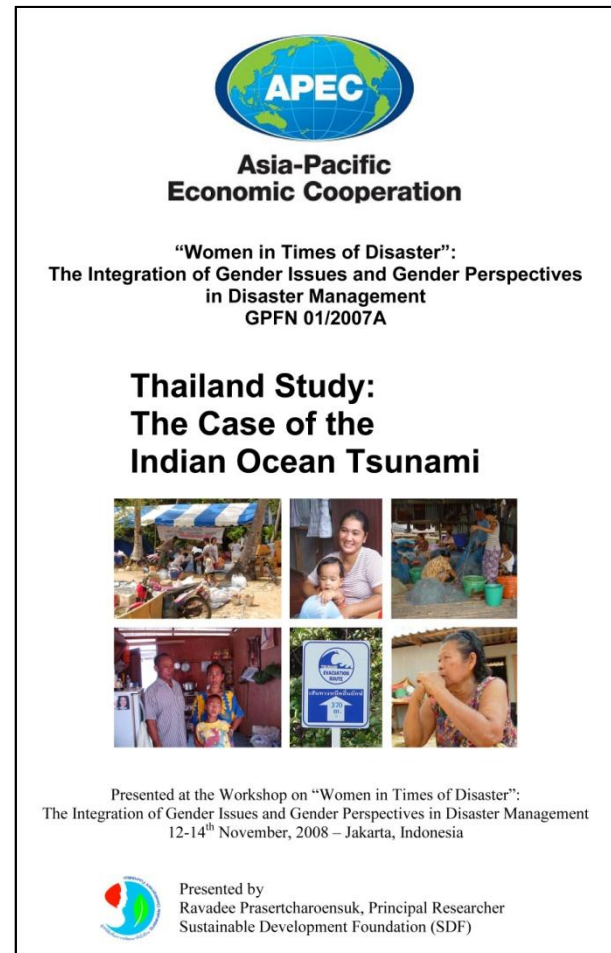
Long Term Responses During the Reconstruction Phase

- Ç Ensure women's participation in decision making processes for rehabilitation and reconstruction.
- Ç Ensure that reconstruction of houses meets women's and family needs.
- Ç Ensure women's equal ownership rights to land, house and property.
- Ç Ensure women's equal access to livelihood opportunities.
- Ç Raising women's awareness of their human rights.
- Ç Mobilize and empower women to advocate for their human rights.

Long Term Responses During the Reconstruction Phase

- Ç Protect vulnerable and marginalized groups.
- Ç Protect migrant workers.
- Ç Reach out to widows and women headed households, disabled and elderly.
- Ç Reach out to low caste people.
- Ç Ensure stateless people's access to relief support.
- Ç Protect women – victims of disasters and armed conflict situations.

Women in Times of Disaster: The Integration of Gender Issues and Gender Perspectives in Disaster Management (Thailand Study – The Case of the Indian Ocean Tsunami)



Women in Times of Disaster: The Integration of Gender Issues
and Gender Perspectives in Disaster Management (Thailand
Study – The Case of the Indian Ocean Tsunami)

- Ç Sustainable Development Foundation
- Ç Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation – Gender Focal
Point Network (APEC-GFPN)
- Ç Philippines Women's University
- Ç Foundation for Women
- Ç Save Andaman Network
- Ç Department of Disaster Prevention and
Mitigation
- Ç Office of Women's Affairs and Family
Development

Recommendations: Overarching Principles

- Ç Founded on humanitarian principles.
- Ç Firm basis in human rights.
- Ç Outreach to marginalized groups.

Recommendations:

Member Economies

- Ç Upgrade status and raise priority of disaster management plans, and reform and integrate.
- Ç Mainstreaming gender and human rights in existing disaster management master plans.
- Ç Gender balance in national decision-making body.
- Ç Structure and operational mechanism of organization.
- Ç Promotion of knowledge, understanding and awareness of operational personnel at all levels.

Recommendations: Member Economies

- Ç Development of knowledge.
- Ç Development of gender-based databases.
- Ç Improvement of regulations and measures that favor integration of gender roles in disaster mitigation.
- Ç Allocation of budget for implementation and training.

Recommendations:

APEC

- Ç Integration of APEC guidelines with overall economic and social development mechanisms of APEC.
- Ç Awareness raising and promoting implementation of APEC guidelines.
- Ç Creating measures to ensure implementation of gender and disaster guidelines.
- Ç Long-term commitment from APEC regarding gender and disaster.
- Ç Dissemination of information and identity building of APEC.

Recommendations:

Civil Society

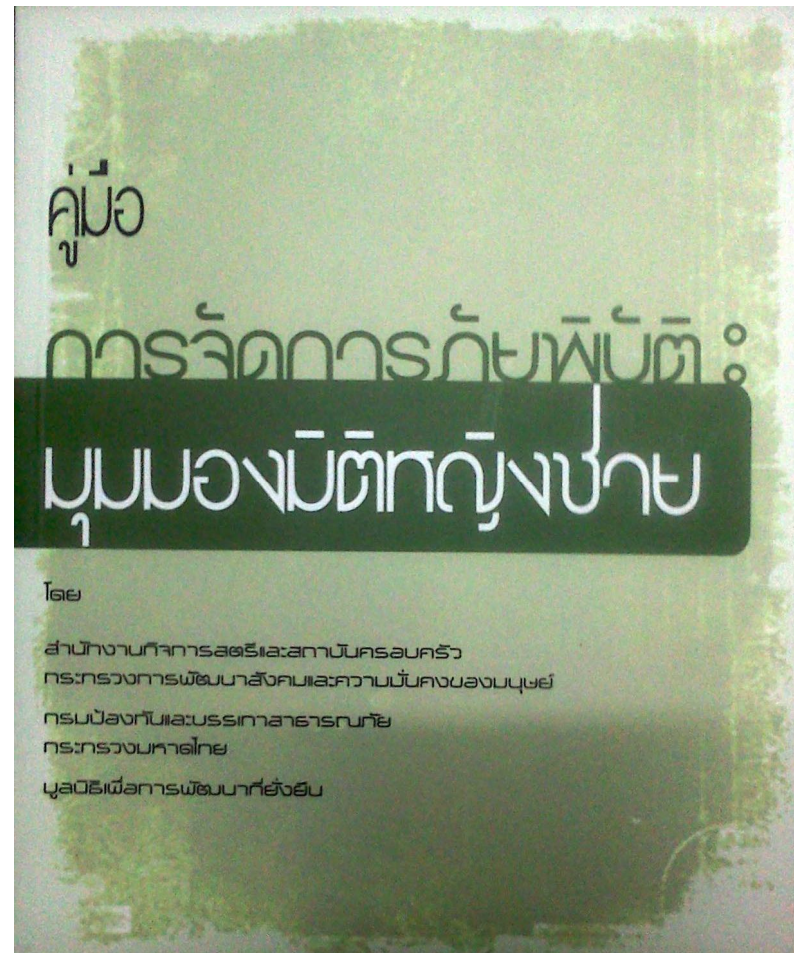
- Ç Awareness raising and capacity building for civil society.
- Ç Dissemination of knowledge and lessons learned from the civil society sector.

Recommendations:

Multilateral Aid Agencies

- Ç Integration of disaster interventions into wider context.
- Ç Strategic funding in order to promote gender and disaster.

Disaster Management Field Manual: Gender Perspectives



Disaster Management Field Manual: Gender Perspectives

Ç Sustainable Development Foundation

Ç Department of Disaster Prevention and
Mitigation

Ç Office of Women's Affairs and Family
Development

Disaster Management Field Manual: Gender Perspectives

Ç Foundation for Women

Ç RaksThai Foundation

Ç ActionAid Thailand

Ç Save Andaman Network

Ç Education for Development Foundation

Disaster Management Field Manual: Gender Perspectives

Ç Department for the Promotion of Local
Administration

Ç Department of Mental Health

Ç Chulalongkorn University Social Research
Institute

Disaster Management Field Manual: Gender Perspectives

- Ç Government agency responsible for integrating gender issues.
- Ç Gender focal points of line government agencies.
- Ç Three-party memorandum of understanding.
- Ç Field manual used to train government officials.
- Ç Gender issues being integrated in climate change adaptation projects at central and local levels.



Jonathan Shott
Project Manager and
Disaster Management Consultant

Sustainable Development Foundation

jonathan.shott@talk21.com

+66 (0) 89 523 7520

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