

 Art University of Tehran

Bam Earthquake
 through gender lens

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Iran natural disasters profile



Among the 40 different types of natural disasters observable in different parts of the world, 31 types have been identified in the Islamic Republic of Iran



The main types of natural disasters in Iran are:

- ☛ periodic droughts
- ☛ floods
- ☛ dust storms
- ☛ sandstorms
- ☛ earthquakes

Bam City

- ☛ Bam is an economically important area in Iran for the production and export of dates
- ☛ The socio-economic context of the desert city and the district was, and remains, generally poor, with high levels of unemployment.
- ☛ In particular, the rural areas around Bam are poor and have suffered several years of drought and crop failures.
- ☛ Bam is on a major route for illegal drugs from Afghanistan.

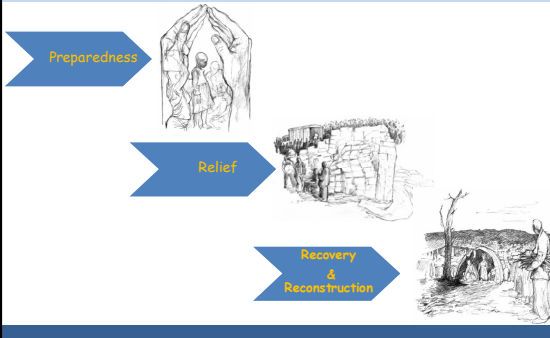
Bam earthquake

On December 26, 2003, an earthquake measuring 6.5 on the Richter scale struck the city of Bam and its surrounding villages in Kerman province, south-eastern Iran.

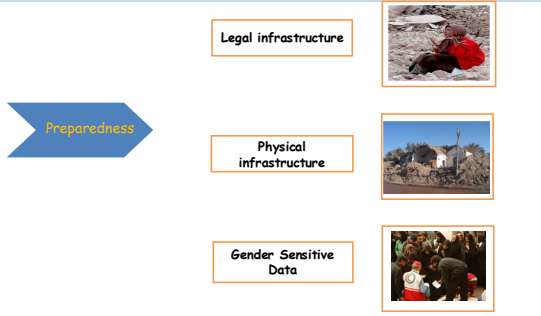
- ☛ the earthquake killed more than 30,000 people
- ☛ the earthquake rendered more than 75,000 people homeless
- ☛ the earthquake severely damaged or destroyed about 85% of the houses, commercial units, health facilities and administrative buildings in the city of Bam and surrounding villages.




Disaster management phases

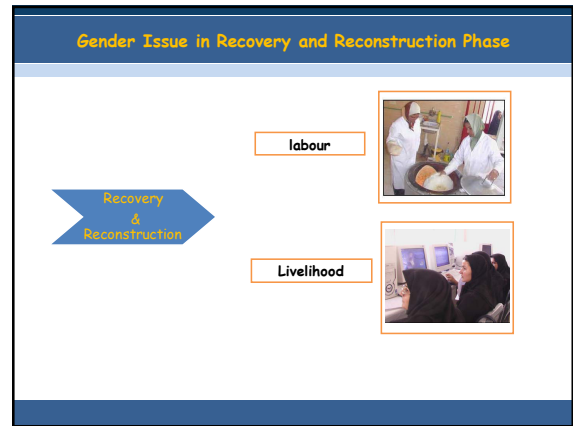
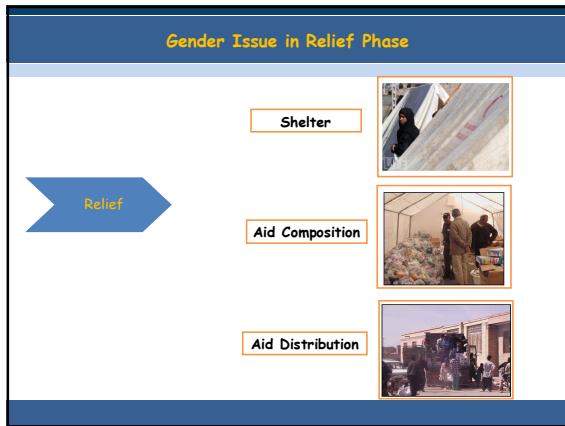


Preparedness → Relief → Recovery & Reconstruction

Gender Issue in Preparedness Phase



- Legal infrastructure 
- Physical infrastructure 
- Gender Sensitive Data 



Policy map

Policy mapping helps evaluate the extent to which gender concerns are reflected in policies and programs

At each administrative level, policies can be grouped as:

- Disaster specific policies having a gender aspect
- General policies on gender

Policies can be mapped and categorised on the basis of:

- Locus of responsibility at each administrative/ institutional level
- Status (whether it is existing or not in place)
- How gender mainstreaming is to be undertaken

It systematically identifies progress areas and provides guidance for policy reform

Iran Policy Map

| National Government | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| | Enacted | Not in place |
| Disaster policy | special fund for vulnerable gender groups | gender-sensitive preparedness framework |
| | special fund for vulnerable gender groups' education and training | Crisis team blueprint to include gender ministry Gender ministry to participate in development |
| General policy | national ID registry | equal property ownership and inheritance legislation |
| | establishing Centre for Women's Participation | Gender-sensitive staffing, training and programming across departments: tends to lag |
| | Provide shelters for victims of domestic violence - existing initiatives need strengthening | Compliance with gender-sensitive legislation and policy to be monitored |
| | Legislation against domestic and sexual violence / child abuse / child labour | |

Iran Policy Map

| State government | | |
|------------------|--|---|
| | enacted | not in place |
| Disaster policy | Special fund for vulnerable gender groups' temporary shelter | Gender-sensitive recovery needs assessment |
| | Gender-sensitive infrastructure reconstruction priorities | Data on the informal economy at disposal of disaster managers |
| | Gender data from health and social services at disposal of disaster managers | Monitoring and enforcement of gender-sensitive policy compliance |
| | Joint titling of houses built with government aid | |
| General policy | Recruitment of women police officers | Compliance with gender-sensitive legislation and policy |
| | Provide and advertise shelters for victims of domestic violence | Data to be estimated on the informal economy |
| | Support women and men's self help groups | Gender budgeting and gender-sensitive staffing, training and programming across departments tend to lag |
| | Police and judiciary to receive gender-sensitive training | |

Iran Policy Map

| District level | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| | enacted | not in place |
| Disaster policy | Enforce regular disaster drills | Gender-sensitive disaster management plan |
| | Relief monitoring committees to include a number of women | Data on domestic violence at disposal of disaster managers |
| | Maintain early warning system that reaches all gender groups | |
| General policy | | Collect domestic violence data with help of women's self help groups |
| | | Gender budgeting |
| Disaster Management Institution | Support gender-sensitive reconstruction needs assessment | Deliver gender-sensitive preparedness training, and disseminate guidelines to other organisations |
| | | Maintain and distribute gender-sensitive checklists, codes of conduct, guidelines, legal information |

Recommendations to engendered risk management system

Preparedness phase:

- Mainstreaming gender as a cross cutting issue into all national/ provincial /local plans
- Governmental and non-governmental bodies should be required to provide gender-, class- sensitive social indicator data for the purposes of emergency planning.
- Revising organizational mandates and relevant laws and regulations to include priority attention to all populations designated for highly vulnerable at the local level

Recommendations to engendered risk management system

Relief phase:

- Direct assistance, as feasible, to assist crisis shelters and other community action groups to develop effective in- house disaster plans.
- Increased consultation and interaction between emergency planners and local community groups serving vulnerable populations.
- Establish a registration center which estimates survivor's specific needs.

Recommendations to engendered risk management system

Recovery and Reconstruction phase:

- Using reconstruction as a means of revitalizing the local economy by focusing on both the pre-existing micro-enterprises and creating new livelihood options.
- Using recovery programme as an opportunity to participate affected women and men in activities.
- Providing childcare centres which free up time for parents and prevent women's double or triple duty.

Bibliography

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Preparedness

Legal infrastructure

Physical infrastructure

Gender Sensitive Data

In Iran, there are many discriminatory laws in legal system.

✓Islamic inheritance laws allocate land to the relative of the death owner regardless of whether or not the heir is local.

✓Based on the Islamic civic law, women do not have rights to land after their husband's death.

☹ In Bam earthquake, these laws brought about trouble for women who lost their husbands, and women who had lost their children or in-laws (who inherit the land). So they had to remain in the shelters for longer time.

Preparedness

Legal infrastructure

Physical infrastructure

Gender Sensitive Data

In Bam, most houses were constructed of mud and dried brick. The houses were often planned by family members and built by amateur workers.

According to official data, 80 to 90 percent of these houses were destroyed in the immediate area of Bam.

☹ it is hard to present a specific data of the dead and injured males and females since many residents have fled Bam, and others are staying with relatives elsewhere in Iran. Since the earthquake hit the city at night, there seems to be no definitive difference for both genders.

Preparedness

Legal infrastructure

Physical infrastructure

Gender Sensitive Data

Iran has a national ID system now, but at the time of Bam earthquake this system had not been completed.

⇒ In Bam case, there was no gender sensitive data before and after the earthquake.

Relief

Shelter

Aid Composition

Aid Distribution

⇒ Executive shelter provided for women

⇒ Prioritized women headed households in toilet repair

⇒ Provided separate latrines, sanitation and bathing facilities.

Relief

Shelter

Aid Composition

Aid Distribution

⇒ The basic needs of disaster victims was responded by distributing essential food and non-food items to those in need including dietary staples, blankets, hygienic kits for women, and supplies of milk for children.

⇒ Dress codes, Chador and Manteau, were provided but not in specific packages, for example, women had problem to find trousers for their Manteau.

Relief

Shelter

Aid Composition

Aid Distribution

⇒ In Iran among other places in the Islamic world, relief teams operated by the Red Crescent Society now include women, so female survivors can more freely discuss their needs

⇒ In Bam earthquake, aid kits distributed base on temporary shelter and without considering survivor's characteristic such as age, sex, etc.

Recovery & Reconstruction

labour

livelihood

⇒ In Bam earthquake, International Labor Organization (ILO) designed projects to improve the socio-economic conditions of women in Bam.

⇒ These projects enable 5000 women to regain economic footholds through self employment and simultaneous building up of their life skills and community networks

⇒ One of the priorities was employing local people for reconstructions with the aim of creating job opportunities nevertheless women were excluded.

Recovery & Reconstruction

labour

livelihood

⇒ Relief international agency established many programs for women such as micro-credit for livestock, store ownership loans, interest-free community loan fund, handmade products, and establishment of a bakery

⇒ Helping school drop-outs, mostly girls, to attend specific courses in Kerman which were not available in bam