

# Awareness & Sensitization Session for Women on Climate Change, Disasters and CBDRMC's

Reshun, Chitral  
26<sup>th</sup> April, 2021



An output report on the session held in the newly identified valley of Reshun, Chitral for women about Climate Change, Disasters, and Community Based Disaster Risk Management Committees



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**Awareness & Sensitization Consultant, KP**

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# **Awareness & Sensitization Session for Women on Climate Change, Disasters and CBDRMC's**

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## **Introduction**

Reshun, Chitral:

Reshun Valley is almost 13 km long and is home to approximately 7000 people who are residing in 9 major and 5 minor villages. The people within its communities are mostly educated and have access to many civic facilities as compared to the communities residing in the upper part of the valley. Majority of the people depend upon agriculture and livestock rearing. Rashun Gol, the main river is a source of irrigation for the agriculture lands owned by the people of the valley.

The valley shares its boundaries with Golain and Bonni in different directions. The valley of Reshun serves as a hub of different businesses and other services for the people of the area as well as other surrounding communities. The area has received flash floods in the past that have devastated public and private infrastructure across the valley. The people of the area have experienced huge floods in the year 2015 that washed out the road across the valley, houses, agriculture land, and bridges at different places. The valley is not only proven to floods from its back side but also from the main river in the front of Reshun village cutting the agricultural lands owned by the local people. Majority of the facilities including health services, educational institutes, businesses, and shops are located in the lower part of the valley, thus, they are deemed to be very vulnerable to damages caused by flooding. Due to its high vulnerability, the valley has recently been identified for interventions by the GLOF-II project.

**Awareness & Sensitization Session for Women:**

The need to involve women in all aspects of disaster risk management and disaster risk reduction is crucial to the capacity building and resilience of any community threatened by natural disasters. This is even more crucial given the fact that women tend to be the first respondents at home when a disaster strikes, as men are usually occupied at work outside of their homes. This tends to put women at a higher disadvantage as they are likely to have limited or no access to early warnings.

Therefore, there is a dire need to ensure that women are equally trained in the process of being able to survive a natural disaster as well as coping mechanisms after it. Considering the above, a session on climate change, disasters, and community based disaster risk management committees (CBDRMC's), was conducted in Reshun, Chitral on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 which was organized and executed by Ms. Amal Durrani - Awareness & Sensitization Consultant (KP). To ensure that the session was kept interactive, it was further facilitated by Ms. Mariam Zafar – Knowledge Management Consultant (KP), Ms. Navroza Sher Ali – Communication & Reporting Assistant, Bibi Saliha – Community Master Trainer Social Welfare Department (Chitral), and Ms. Nusrat Jabeen – District Officer Social Welfare Department (Chitral).

### **Objectives of the Session**

1. Ensuring maximum participation of women in the session while adhering to COVID-19 SOP's
2. Ensuring initial introduction to participants about the GLOF-II project as Reshun is a newly identified valley and have only recently seen the projects presence
3. Ensure participants are made aware of why it is essential to equally involve women in the process of disaster risk management and reduction
4. Ensure participants are made aware of the critical role women play as first respondents
5. Ensuring participants are provided with basic knowledge regarding disaster management and risk reduction
6. Ensuring participants are made aware of basic terminology such as climate change, disasters, hazards, risks, vulnerability, capacities, and what the aforementioned entail
7. Ensuring participants understand the process of preparedness and responsiveness to potential disasters
8. Ensure participants are able to identify causes of different disasters such as those of GLOF, earthquakes, avalanches, etc.
9. Ensure participants are made aware of best practices in order to adopt better adaptation and enhance their capacity development
10. Ensuring participants are aware of the process of CBDRMC's formation and its role, responsibilities, structure, and importance

11. Providing a safe space for women to freely discuss issues faced by women before, during or after a disaster, which would otherwise not be discussed due to social and cultural norms in the region. Providing input to women of how the aforementioned issues can be addressed and gaining feedback from the participants.
12. Ensuring participants are made aware of the projects Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), allowing them to route their concerns and/or complaints through the appropriate channel

### **Detailed Proceedings of the Session**

Time: 11:00 am

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

Location: Reshun, Chitral

Number of Participants: 38 women

#### **Session's Commencement:**

The session was commenced by Ms. Navroza Sher Ali – Communication & Reporting Assistant, GLOF-II project, who welcomed the participants and elaborated the agenda for the session. This was followed by a brief introduction of the project and then calling upon participants for recitation of the Holy Quran.

#### **Introduction to GLOF-II Project and CBDRMC's:**

The Awareness & Sensitization Consultant (KP), Ms. Amal Durrani proceeded further by welcoming the participants to the session and giving a detailed introduction of the GLOF-II project, its objectives and what it aims to achieve through such sessions. The consultant highlighted the need to conduct awareness and sensitization sessions in order to increase the resilience and capacity building of the locals who are vulnerable to potential disasters. Participants were made aware of why the valley of Reshun has been deemed vulnerable and how the project plans on ensuring the increase in its capacity building and strengthening. It was further elaborated why it is essential to impart equal knowledge to women in order to ensure they are fully equipped to reduce the risks that they may have to face during a disaster, as well as how best to tackle the disasters aftermath and ensure they have access to livelihood sources.

### Disasters and the Role of Women:

The session was taken forward with the facilitation of members of the Social Welfare Department, Chitral, where the participants were introduced to the concepts of climate change, defining the concepts of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Disaster Risk Management (DRM), as well as understanding the terminologies of hazards, risks, vulnerabilities, and capacities. Participants were also made aware of different types of disasters, the risks associated to them, their causes, and potential means of prevention and mitigation. Different activities were carried out which included dividing the participants into groups and assigning them different topics and encouraging them to think critically regarding types of disasters, their causes, and the means of mitigating the risks associated to them. Participants were also engaged in a community mapping exercise where they asked to draw out a map of their village. This activity allowed them to think critically regarding the different facilities available within their community which can be made use of during or after a disaster. For example, identifying areas of higher ground safe from flood water and locating essential building such as community centers and schools. This activity brought to light how they can make use of what is already present in the community and what more could be added in order to facilitate them in case of the occurrence of a disaster. They were further made aware of their different vulnerabilities and potential strengths that they can draw on in order to ensure their safety and survival.

Furthermore, participants were engaged in a discussion about the importance of involvement of women in the process of DRM, as well as highlighting the role of women as first respondents during disasters. Participants were also made aware of the specific needs and requirements of women after disasters, which included touching upon the topic of premature labour caused by shock or impact of disasters. This led to an elderly lady among the participants to share a particular story regarding a woman who was almost 8 months pregnant. She stated that due to a flood that occurred in 2015, the young expecting mother went into shock even though she was not directly struck by the flooding. This led to her experiencing labour pains. However, due to inaccessibility of nearby health services and the routes to different villages being cut off, it was not until 3 days later that she was able to reach a health care facility where she delivered a still born boy. Women were provided with a safe space to speak freely without fearing judgement or societal pressures which would have been present had the session also included men. This not only allowed insight

into what the local women were hopeful for as well as their input and concerns. Women were further informed of how it is of utmost importance to ensure that their representation is present in committees that are to be formed as their equal involvement is required in order to ensure the success of the project.

Community Based Disaster Risk Management Committees’:

The Awareness & Sensitization Consultant (KP) went on to highlight the importance of the establishment of CBDRMC’s and the role these committees play in mobilizing the community which is crucial to the success of the project. Participants were made aware of the criteria upon which these committees have been formed in previously identified valleys, the responsibilities that fall under the committee’s jurisdiction, the eligibility of becoming a member, as well as the roles and responsibilities of each member within the committee. Participants were also made aware of the fact that women play an equal part in the committee’s formation as well as its operations. This point was stressed upon to ensure that women could gain confidence in the knowledge that the GLOF-II project attempts to take into equal account the opinions and concerns of women in the community.

Participants were informed that the formation of CBDRMC’s will serve the community in the long-run, allowing them to use its structure to mobilize the community for potential future projects as well. Thereby, aiding to sustainable development in the region where the communities can take on the ownership of their progress and living conditions. Participants were keen to know all the tasks that fall under the established CBDRMC’s and were departed the required knowledge such as its role in implementation of the ongoing project, proper record keeping of project activities in the region, identifying and resolving issues within the community, developing linkages with the government, non-government organizations and other stakeholders.

Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM):

As per directives of the project, participants were made aware of the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM). They were made aware of the purpose of the mechanism, which would allow them to report complaints so as to ensure their timely resolution. Participants were informed that

the mechanism was open for all and would allow them to identify and report any environmental and social concerns, thereby allowing relevant authorities to address the matter in a timely manner. The modes through which they can reach out were also highlighted (i.e. website, via phone, written letters to PMU, PIU or FO). The requirements and the GRM procedure was highlighted as well as the 5 tier solution to any given issue. Participants were appreciative of the introduced mechanism as they claimed it would allow the process to be simplified and more transparent.

Several observations were noted by the consultant which included the following:

- i. Women were eager to take part in the session.
- ii. Women actively asked questions regarding the project as well as the formation and role to be played by CBDRMC's.
- iii. Women felt comfortable and confident discussing sensitive topics such as issues specific to women.
- iv. Women were more outspoken and confident during the discussion and not hesitant to put forward their views and concerns.
- v. Women of the valley required further sessions which are designed specifically for them and which address issues such as premature labour and potential livelihood opportunities.
- vi. Women were appreciative of the session as the concepts and activities were new to them and they were eager to put forward their opinion that they wanted to take part in further such sessions.



## ANNEX I - Pictures









Image 1: Participants in a group activity highlighting the causes of disasters



Image 2: Participant presenting her group work of community mapping



Image 3: Participants at the local community center in Reshun, Chitral



## ANNEX II – Attendance sheet



GREEN CLIMATE FUND

### GLOF II PAKISTAN

#### Awareness & Sensitization Session for Women on Climate Change, Disasters and CBDRM

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2021      Time: 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM      Venue: Reshun, Chitral

S/NO	Name	Designation	Dept/Organization	Email	Cell#	Signature
1.	Amad Durrani	Awareness & Sensitization Consultant (M.P)	GLOF-11	amad.durrani11@gmail.com	03415267866	Amad Durrani
2.	Nawroza Sher Ali	Comm. & Reporting Assistant (UNDP)	GLOF-11	nawroza.ali@undp.org	0340898126	Nawroza Sher Ali
3.	Nusrat Jabeen	District Office SWD	Said wife	n.jabeen.daya@gmail.com	03402309235	Nusrat Jabeen
4.	Bibi Saliha	Teacher	F.C.P.S	Nil	0522981196	Bibi Saliha
5.	Rahima Begum	Housewife	"	"	03421799622	Rahima Begum
6.	Sultana kowsar	Housewife	F.A.C	"	0349988188	Sultana kowsar
7.	Khudraun Jamal	House wife	FAY	"	03338188172	Khudraun Jamal
8.	Amboosin Babal	House women	F.S.C	"	0321933084	Amboosin Babal
9.	Kai Begim	House wife	"	"	0943484197	Kai Begim
10.	Suraya	House wife	"	"	"	Suraya
11.	Bibi Zakira	House wife	"	"	0943484180	Bibi Zakira
12.	Nusrat Jabin	"	"	"	03449261684	Nusrat Jabin
13.	Nasiba Bibi	"	F.A.C	"	03468795626	Nasiba Bibi
14.	Sultana Parvaz	House wife	"	"	03209105152	Sultana Parvaz

GLOF II PAKISTAN

No	Name	Designation	Sex	Age	Number	Signature
15.	BiBi Rabia	House Wife	F		03464166921	Rabia
16.	Spiner nayab	"	F		03099384991	Saif
17.	Hasina bihi	"	F		03446073078	Hasina
18.	Fariha Bibi	"	F		93209077291	Fariha
19.	Bibi Sakina	"	F		03409181960	Sakina
20.	Hasina Bibi	"	F		03464166921	Hasina
21.	Shahida BiBi	"	F		03450915578	Shahida
22.	Habiba mehmood	"	F		03440916438	Habiba
23.	Shahjuma wadiy	"	F		03443484961	Shahjuma
24.	Hazrat bisi	"	F		03219723909	Hazrat
25.	Zaitoon Jamal	"	F		03279381789	Zaitoon
26.	Hasina	"	F		03208521190	Hasina
27.	Husna	Student	F		03209350623	Husna
28.	INSHIA	Student	F		02218910016	INSHIA
29.	Sakina Bibi	"	F		03238914682	Sakina
30.	Neelofar Benazir Teacher	"	F		0340577	Neelofar
31.	Silhat Bibi	House wife	F		03470167499	Silhat
32.	Mariam Zafar	Consultant GLOF-II	UNDP		05552008539	Mariam Zafar



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	Name	Designation	Email	Dept	P.No	Sign
33.	Zarina Muwad	Teacher	hu.zarina14@gmail.com	-	03209045846	<i>Zarina</i>
34.	Nazia Bibi	Housewife	-	-	03055032344	<i>Nazia</i>
35.	Sulhamida	Teacher	-	-	0341323599	<i>Sulhamida</i>
36.	Yasmin	Student	-	-	0324823705	<i>Yasmin</i>
37.	Fahima bibi	Student	Fahim Gajani.com	-	03480771873	<i>Fahim</i>
38.	Sheza Ahmad	Student	-	-	0340-9174190	<i>Sheza</i>
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