

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE WITH A GENDER APPROACH: GRASSROOTS WOMEN MANAGING DISASTER RISK AND THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN PERU

LIMA AND LAMBAYEQUE, PERU

Context

Peru has tools and a system for Disaster Risk Management (DRM); however, at the level of neighbourhoods and human settlements, more is needed in concrete terms. This impacts the vulnerability of many communities and families to the effects of climate change and other natural phenomena such as cold, floods, landslides and earthquakes, among other phenomena.

Faced with this situation of state inefficiency and scarce prevention measures, women and their organizations have been the ones to respond immediately and lead actions in scenarios of disasters and humanitarian crises.

Objectives

This project seeks to consolidate the protagonism and active role of women in Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change (CC), expressed in strengthening the capacities of grassroots women leaders to design strategies for prevention, mitigation and resilience in the face of disasters such as cold, floods, landslides, earthquakes and tsunamis.

Action lines

There are four lines of action addressed by the project, among which are:

- Capacity building of women leaders and joint work with local authorities on communities' physical and social vulnerability in the face of disaster risk and the effects of climate change to ensure their resilience and security.
- Development of technical advisory services for collecting information and proposing improvements in the homes of families in vulnerable situations.
- 3. Strengthening food security practices in grassroots women for implementing and managing community gardens.
- Development of evidence for advocacy based on mapping of Local Governance in DRM, and identification of institutional capacities and public budget of Municipal and Regional Government, enabling women to advocate for



Groots Peru working with grassroots women in the development of community mapping. Lambayeque region. Photo: Groots Peru

public policies and resources to ensure resilient and safe communities.

Approach

The project worked under the diamond methodology using community mapping tools, peer learning exchange and local dialogue.

There are four areas that are strengthened under this methodology:

- a) Organization and leadership of grassroots women through workshops on disaster risk management and climate change with women leaders and local stakeholders in Lima and Lambayeque.
- Resilient development through awareness raising and local initiatives. In this regard, the project has been developing studies for housing improvement, network building and coalition building.
- c) Based on mapping local governance tools and instruments and strategic alliances with decision-makers, the diamond approach seeks to influence public policies.
- d) The promotion of a network of networks to work in synergy to achieve the project's main objective.

Impacts

Among the most significant impacts of the project, we would like to point out that,

- through workshops and roundtables, sixty women leaders have strengthened their capacities regarding their physical and social vulnerability to disaster risk and the effects of climate change in their communities.
- ten families in vulnerable situations have had their homes assessed to improve their safety conditions in the face of disaster risks; two have received financial support and accompaniment for the execution of minor works.
- twenty women have strengthened their food security practices and afforestation of degraded areas.
- two community gardens with drip irrigation have been implemented.
- women leaders have Local Governance in Disaster Risk Management mappings, which identifies institutional capacities and the public budget of the Municipal and Regional Governments.
- local authorities in Metropolitan Lima and the Lambayeque Region have been working with women leaders to develop resilient and safe communities.



Grassroots women working in a community garden implemented in the Lambayeque Region, Peru.

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