

# The we4DRR network - a tool to empower gender-sensitive policies in disaster risk management

Understanding Risk Balkans Conference

17-19 September, 2018, Belgrade

Olivera Zurovac-Kuzman

National Environmental Affairs Adviser

OSCE Mission to Serbia



# Women in DRR



Source: American Red Cross

Women as victims

Women as rescuers

Women as leaders

Women as researchers and scientists



<http://www.who.int/gender/gwhgendernd2.pdf?ua=1>



Source: IAN, BOKU

# Review of media reporting during 2014 floods in Serbia

- **Men as the rescuers; women as the victims**  
rarely are women portrayed as anything other than frightened and defenceless victims
- **Men are portrayed as decisions-makers**
- Very few women interviewed
- **Women rescuers – a rare image**
- “Mother courage” Časlavka Stokić, Obrenovac
- Quickly forgotten by the media
- Female rescue teams- Olgica Šehović – “The woman with two hearts”
- **What the media didn't report**
- Adaptation of different categories of population to emergencies,
- Differences in needs and response of the system to these needs
- Conditions in reception centers





# Gender and DRR Networks

...we4DRR...  
women exchange for Disaster Risk Reduction



# The we4DRR network

 Federal Ministry  
Republic of Austria  
Sustainability and Tourism



- **Goals:**

- Increase the visibility of female professionals engaged in DRR
- Generate and exchange knowledge & information on gender and DRR
- Influence the development of gender-sensitive policies and politics
- Strengthen capacity development of female experts
- Strengthen the resilience of communities at risk
- Promote stronger partnerships and exchange of information



credits: we4DRR

**Network Launched:**  
2-4 March 2016  
Hittisau, Vorarlberg,  
Austria

# Outputs

- **Flyer, newsletter**, showcasing activities of the we4DRR
- Database of **female experts** dealing with DRR & gender
- Database on **resources, knowledge and practical experience**
- **Gender specific data** in research and practice
- Research **projects**, new research fields, project proposals
- Meetings, seminars, workshops and conferences
- **Training** on demand in “gender” specific topics
- **Career market**
- Platform for **Master thesis** in DRR and gender
- Developing **communication** and organizing promotional activities



Experience from the Balkan region:  
**A Gender analysis of the impact of 2014 floods in Serbia**  
Publication supported by the OSCE Mission to Serbia



### **Comparison of gender-related indicators**

Access to information;  
Means of evacuation;  
Biggest challenge during evacuation;  
Evaluation of activities of the rescue teams;  
Major concern following imminent danger;  
Behavioral patterns and challenges in collective centers,  
Biggest obstacles after returning to the affected property.

# Media, Gender and the Reporting of Emergencies

## A tool to assist journalists in gender-sensitive reporting during natural hazards



### Media as partners in emergencies

Strengthen the early warning system;  
**Improve cooperation** between authorities and media to ensure data accuracy and faster flow of information;  
Media should serve as a **reliable source of information** and a communication channel;  
Role in **early warning**;  
Media should be **included in emergency management teams**;  
Media ethics in emergencies

Promotional events across the country

Discussion with journalist associations



# **A conference organized in Belgrade aimed at strengthening multi-stakeholder cooperation to promote policies and practices for stronger gender considerations in DRR**

Organized by the OSCE Mission to Serbia and the Commissioner for Equality, on the occasion of World Water Day, 2017





## Ongoing Gender and DRR activity:

In cooperation with the Public Investment Management Office, the OSCE Mission to Serbia is supporting the development of a model **Plan for managing risks of natural hazards in local self-governance units** to strengthen the security of men and women by addressing their needs, roles and contributions. The Plan will be drafted in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

# Upcoming activities of the we4DRR network

- Recruiting new members
- Promoting the network at international Events
- Workshop and General Assembly in Graz (Austria), 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2018



credits: we4DRR

# Thank you for your attention



Member of the Steering Committee of the we4DRR Network  
OSCE Mission to Serbia  
Email: [Olivera.Zurovac-Kuzman@osce.org](mailto:Olivera.Zurovac-Kuzman@osce.org)