

Conference on Tapping into the unlocked potential of women in emergencies

7 March 2014 | 12.00 - 19.00 hrs



On the occasion of International Women's Day 2014, UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education is organizing a conference on

Tapping into the unlocked potential of women in emergencies

The programme includes high level representatives dealing with disaster risk reduction and emergency sector from United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Assistant Secretary-General Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the EC Commissioner Humanitarian Aid and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Most disasters place an undue burden on women and girls, who account for over half of the 200 million people affected annually by natural disasters. The female population is often responsible for unpaid work such as providing care, water and food for households. If women and girls are left out of planning for disaster response or risk reduction measures, the special talents, skills and knowledge of half the

population are not capitalized upon and the needs of the most affected are unlikely to be met.

On a more positive note, the same destructive forces of disasters also create opportunities for women as agents of change. Disasters can provide an opportunity to redress gender disparities. For example, during the recovery period following a disaster, longstanding biases against women can be challenged by programmes that are sensitive to their needs and that involve them as equal partners in recovery work.

The conference will be a valuable and unique opportunity for the community of disaster risk reduction and emergency professionals to meet, exchange ideas and debate key issues underlying the science and practice of the feminization of emergencies.



UNESCO-IHE
Institute for Water Education

www.unesco-ihe.org/international-womens-day-conference
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