

Women and Housing

Inclusion and opportunities **for all**

- A prosperous city must deploy systems that will ensure equal opportunities for all, especially the most vulnerable:
 - Poor
 - Women
 - Children
 - Elderly
 - Youth
 - Disabled

Concerns and inequalities

- Evidence shows that women from isolated slum areas are forced to work closer to home than men because of the risks they face:
 - Exposure to crime
 - Difficulty in accessing transportation
- Women also usually need to be closer to home in order to care for family members and carry out household responsibilities

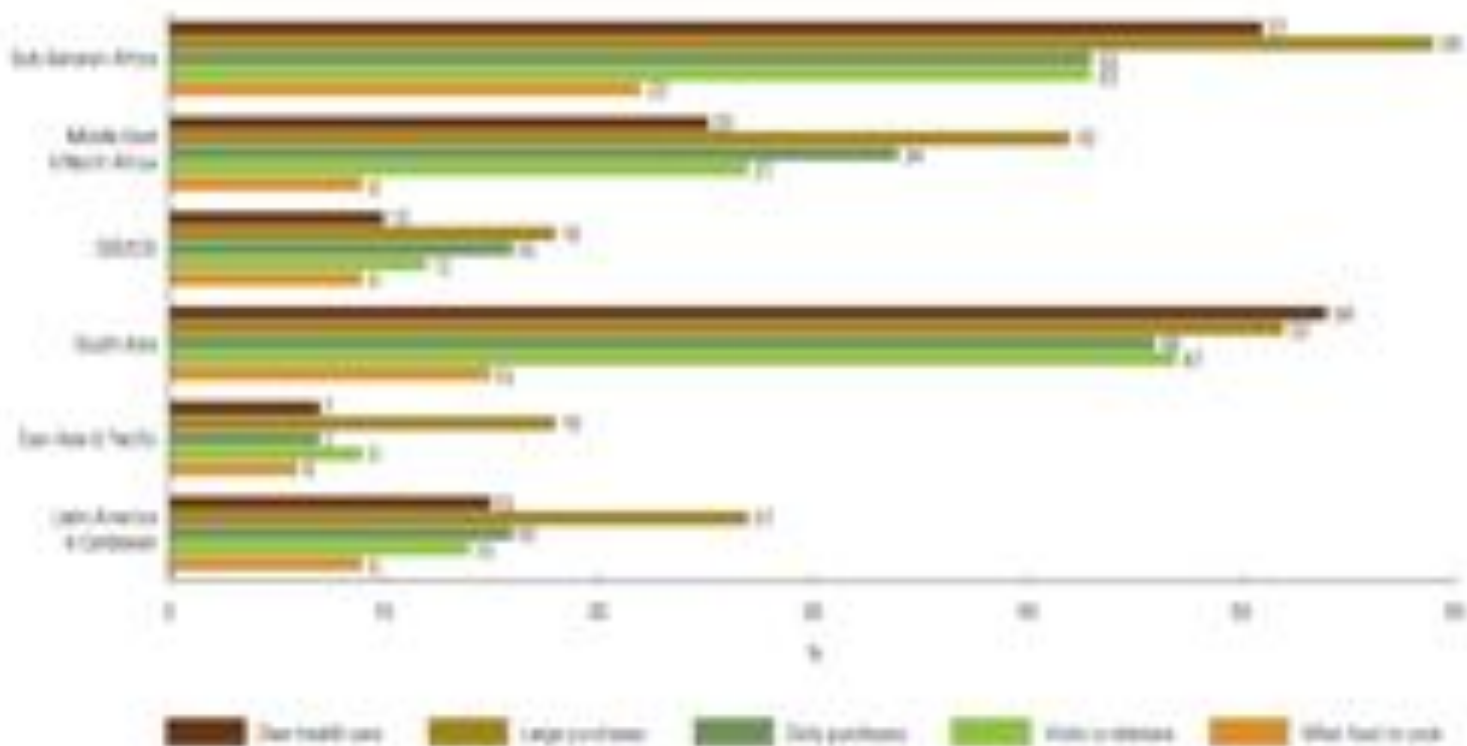
Women: limited voice, limited decision-making

- Women may not be in a position to make important decisions about what services the household should prioritize
 - They may also be pressured to favor the needs of males over those of others in the family
 - This may have consequences in relation to their access to health care and education

Gender equality in livelihood

- UN Habitat survey returns suggest that apart from setting minimum percentages for female employees there should also be the provision of gender-specific schemes
 - Maternity and childcare benefits
 - Provision of specific skills
 - Vocational training
 - Protection of women's rights in the workplace

FIGURE 1.1.3 PROPORTION (%) OF MARRIED WOMEN WITH NO PAY-BY-DEBIT INDEPENDENT PURCHASES



Source: Jhpiego.

Rise of slums

- These areas of informal settlements , severe poverty and housing distress have particular implications on women
 - Safety
 - Health and access to education
 - Employment opportunities

Homeless People's Federation Philippines

- HPFPI implemented a savings-based, community led housing programme among the informal settlers in the Payatas dumpsite
 - The program encouraged informal settlers who earned their livelihood in and around the dumpsite to save regularly whatever money they had for their future use

Payatas Scavengers Association

- Organized in 1992 with 150 original saver-members
 - The savings were used for various purposes, such as children's education needs, startup capital for livelihood activities and emergencies

Payatas Scavengers Association

- 1995
 - The families faced the threat of eviction
 - The members of PSAI agreed to use their savings to buy a private lot where they could eventually relocate
 - They began to build up their individual savings (pooled as a group saving) in 1996 to acquire a titled property

Payatas Scavengers Association

- Although HPFP does really have a rigid policy of working only with women, in many cases, it is the mothers (nanays) who become members in the savings groups
 - This is partly because the men often have to travel away from the home for their jobs and it is the women who are left at home
 - Note: Other micro-finance or loan groups do have policies of working only with women, because of the better track record of women for paying back their loans

Matina, Davao

- This is another savings group that HPFPI works with and again, it is the mothers who are the main clients
 - Usually, the entry point of these groups is for livelihoods for women who must stay close to home and therefore have limited options
 - Also, women are also the ones who are most concerned in terms of the basics of health, which includes housing and caring for their families

Core Shelter Assistance Program- DSWD (Davao Oriental)



- Because the men have to work away from the home, women are taking on the role of fulfilling the “sweat equity” requirement for the housing projects

Estero de San Miguel (Legarda)



- The Nagkakaisang Mamayan ng Legard, a community living along the Estero de San Miguel-Legarda is proposing on-site housing as an alternative to off-site
- 185 families are living here







- Difficult conditions in terms of space
- Sanitation and water

National Housing Authority initiatives

- Limited space
 - Economic housing: 18 sq.m.
 - Socialized housing: 22 sq.m.
- NHA is now proposing that the minimum standard be increased to 22 sq.m. and to transition to a “loftable” design
 - This was part of the effort in the NHA’s gender and development program
 - Recognizing the limited privacy afforded by the small space and the impact that this has, particularly on women and children



Special concerns in post-disaster context: Humanitarian agencies and protection

- A number of humanitarian agencies have protection mandates for particularly vulnerable groups
 - Child protection
 - Gender-based violence
 - Housing, land and property
 - Mine action
 - Rule of law and justice




Special concerns in post-disaster areas

- Women are particularly vulnerable in post-disaster contexts
 - Because of the limited health care facilities post-disaster, women are forced to give birth and care for their newborns in makeshift “hospitals”
 - Usually, local government offices, such as the Mayor or Vice-Mayor’s office will be turned into a delivery room
 - Problems of hygiene and cleanliness, as well as additional stress on the mother
 - Increase in maternal mortality









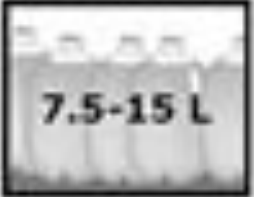

Water and sanitation

- The use of communal water and sanitation facilities, in refugee or displaced situations can increase the vulnerability of women and girls

Technical Standards and Practice

Type of Facility		SPHERE indicator	
Camp area	Total open space	30-45 m ² per person	 35 - 40 m ²
	Fire breaks	2 m = minimum distance between tents	
Living area	Covered floor area	3.5 m ² per person	

Technical Standards and Practice

	<p>Water points</p>	<p>1 water tap per 250 people 500 m from tent.</p>	 <p>=  x maximum 250 Maximum 500 m </p>
	<p>Latrines</p>	<p>1 per 20 people 50 m away from tent</p>	 <p>=  x maximum 20 Maximum 50 m </p>
	<p>Refuse Disposal</p>	<p>100 m from tent</p>	 <p>Maximum 100 m </p>
<p>Water Use</p>	<p>Total Basic Water Needs</p>	<p>7.5 - 15 liters per person per day Survival water intake need; basic hygiene; basic cooking.</p>	 <p>7.5-15 L =  x 1 per day</p>

“Women Friendly Spaces”

- Evacuation centers and temporary bunkhouses are also insufficient in terms providing spaces for women, ex. areas where they can breastfeed their infants
- Privacy is also a major concern, since many of the evacuation and temporary shelter facilities are overcrowded
 - There have been reports of rape and trafficking occurring in the Yolanda-affected areas

Yolanda bunkhouses

- Substandard and “indecently small”: 8.64 sq.m. per unit, per family

Questions

- What are the gender concerns in the city you live in? What do you feel are the primary challenges or concerns for women?
- What are the factors that hinder or enable women's participation or inclusion?
 - Political?
 - Economic?
 - Cultural?
 - Social?

- What are some of the ways forward for addressing these concerns?
 - In your experience, what has worked or not worked?