Gender in EWS and CIS: implications for knowledge, education, communication, research and practice

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Early warning systems (EWS) and Climate Information Services (CIS) are essential tools in the disaster management cycle for saving lives and livelihoods, and a key component of building community resilience to natural hazards and climatic variability. Practical Action has been working with a range of stakeholders in developing flood EWS and CIS to strengthen the capacity of vulnerable communities, humanitarian actors and other relevant government authorities to manage the systems in developing countries, including Nepal, Peru, Bangladesh, India, Senegal and Niger.

Marginalised populations (such as women, children, elderly, people with disabilities, gender minorities) are often those most overlooked by disaster risk reduction and adaptation strategies, and least empowered to act upon early warning or climate information. For systems which generate and deliver early warning and climate information to be effective in building resilience and "leaving no one behind", they must be actively and explicitly inclusive of the needs and capacities of these populations.

Practical Action will share organisational lessons and findings from research into the relationship between gender and early warning and climate information service systems. The session will include:
-how gender affects knowledge of climate information and early warning systems;
-how gendered access to and inclusion in education affects the ability to understand and act on early warning and climate information;
-how gender influences the effectiveness of communication, including gendered preferences for communication channels, formats, and content;
-how research practices consider, or fail to consider, gender as an influential factor; and
-how actors in early warning and climate information systems (including producers, mediators and implementers) can practically implement gender aware, gender sensitive, and gender transformative approaches, and contribute to community resilience through their delivery.