

GENDER DIMENSIONS OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT:

BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR COASTAL AQUACULTURE AND FISHING COMMUNITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES



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AQUACULTURE & FISHERIES + DISASTER + GENDER

- **Small-scale aquaculture and fisheries** play an increasingly important role in contributing to better nutrition and food security. However, these practices are vulnerable to severe weather and many nations that invest in fisheries and aquaculture are subject to frequent typhoons.
- In 2013, the Philippines faced the **largest storm to ever hit land**¹². **Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda)** affected an archipelago of low-lying islands with a population dependent on its surrounding natural resources. One year later, Typhoon Hagupit made landfall.
- The literature suggests that **women are treated differently at all stages of disaster**; from the initial warning period to the relief and recovery period^{4,7}.

- The **Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation's (APEC) study on gender integration in disaster management** in the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, and Japan revealed gaps in every phase of disaster management, and the status of gender integration in disaster management in the Philippines **has yet to be re-evaluated**¹⁰.
- This research conducted a follow-up analysis of the APEC study in order to **assess how gender integration in disaster management has changed since 2009**, with a goal of providing updated information to improve decision making in the future.

GENDER VULNERABILITIES:

- Mortality rates for women from disasters are often higher than those for men. Women also live at **two times** the poverty rate of men⁴.
- Although they are vulnerable, women are successful at leading emergency committees and aiding in disaster management -- when given the opportunity.



PHILIPPINES AND TYPHOONS:

- The Philippines suffers more natural hazards (e.g. earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, typhoons, floods, etc.) than any other country³.
- 29 million Filipinos (36% of the population) **depend on agriculture and fishing** to make a living.⁸

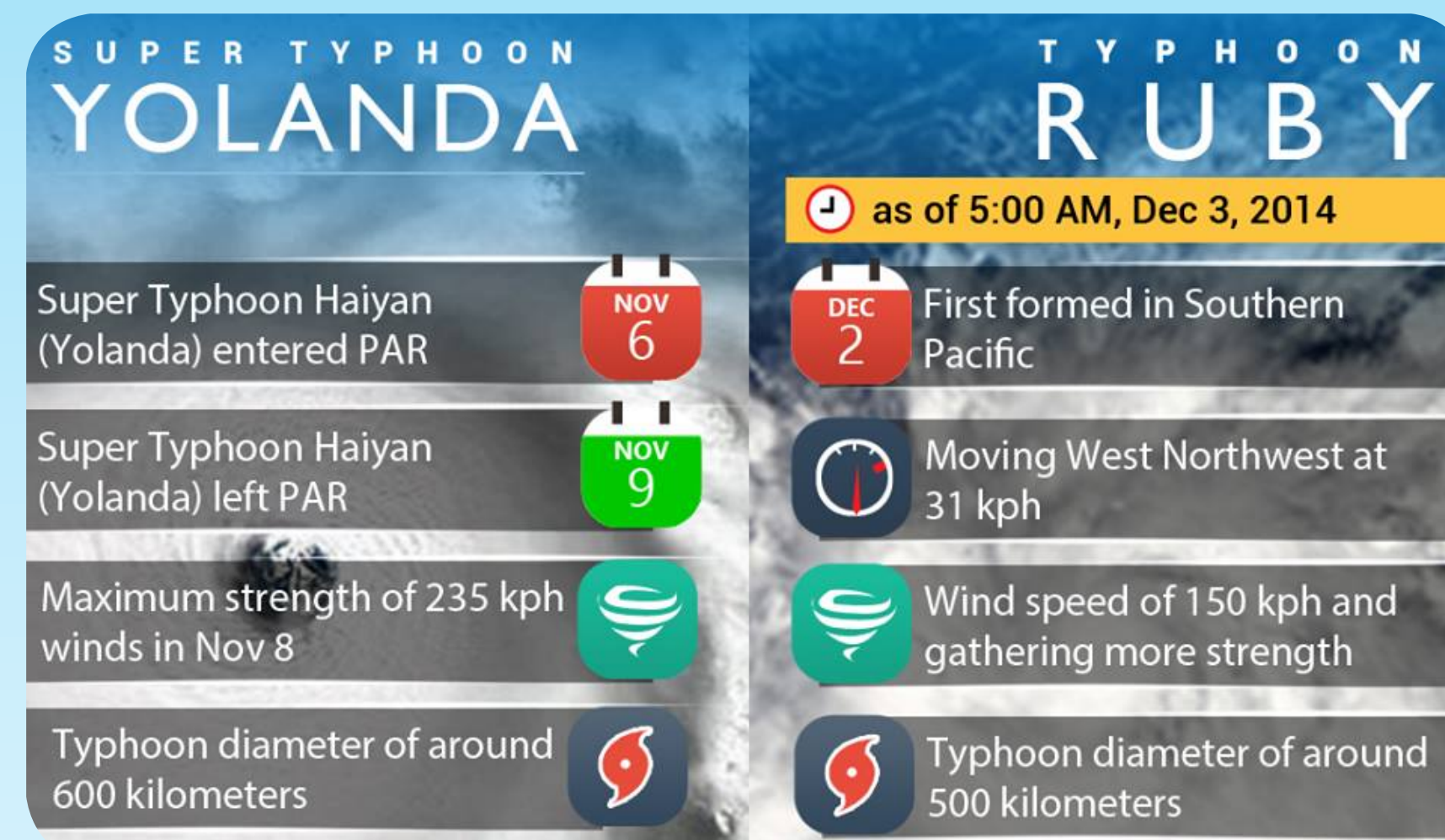


Figure 2. A schematic produced by PAGASA, NASA and the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) comparing super typhoons in Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR).

TYPHOON HAIYAN (YOLANDA) 2013:

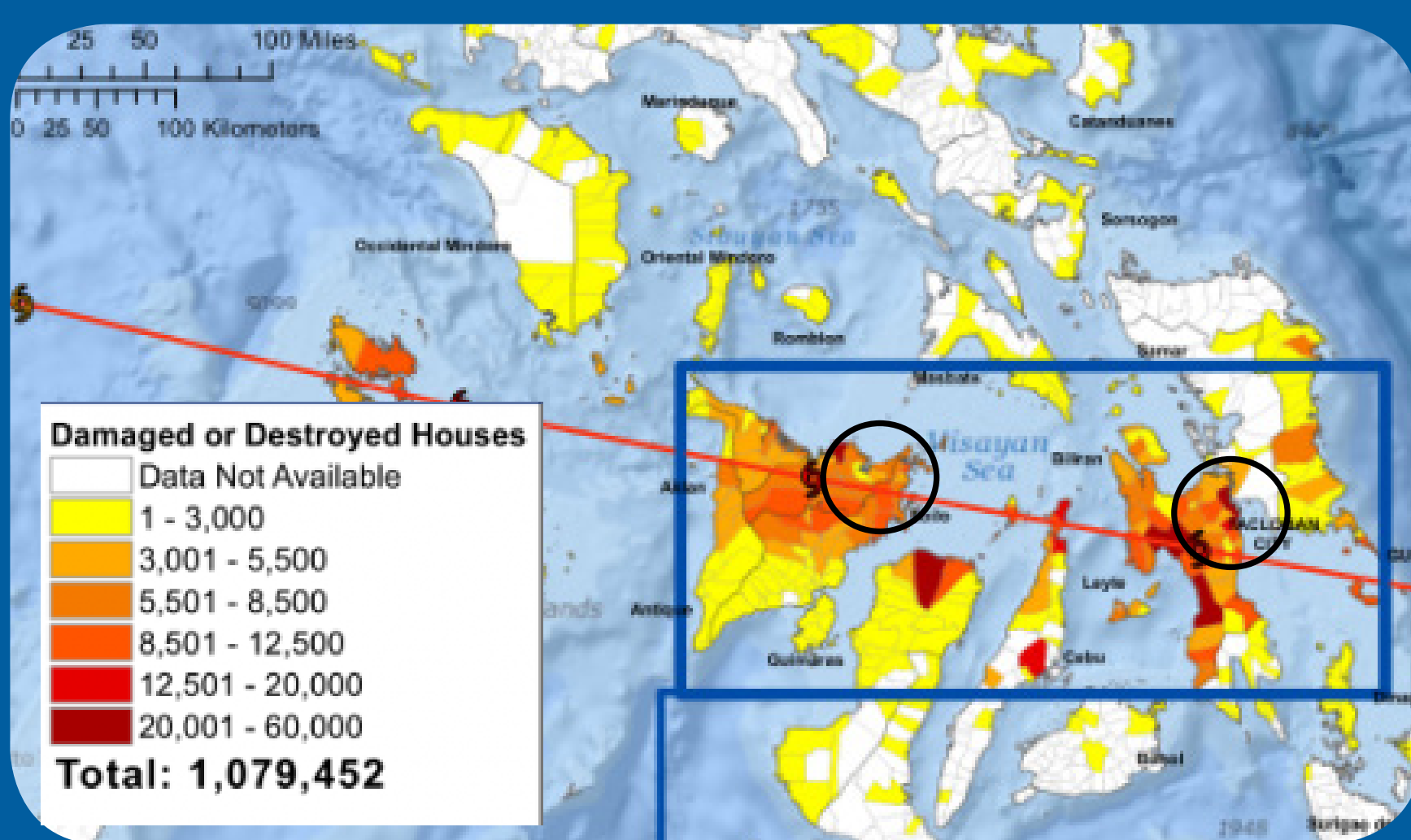


Figure 1. The typhoon's trajectory through the Visayas region of the Philippines, from east to west. Provinces are color coded according to the number of damaged homes⁶. Black circles indicate study focus areas.

TYPHOON HAGUPIT (RUBY) 2014:

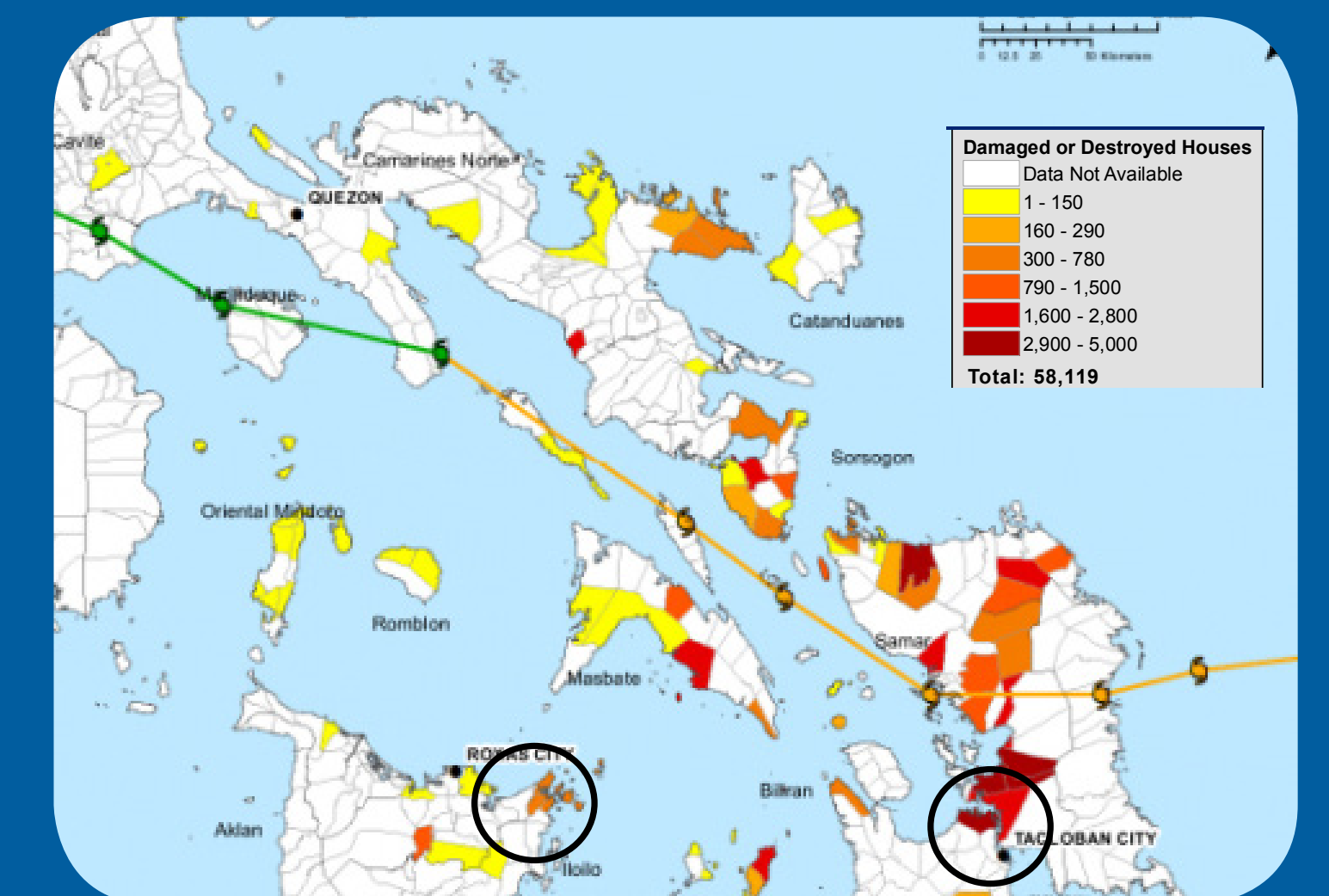


Figure 3. The typhoon's trajectory through the Visayas region of the Philippines, from east to west. Provinces are color coded according to the number of damaged homes⁶. Black circles indicate study focus areas.

METHODOLOGY:

- An in-depth review of current and past literature on gender integration in disaster management in fishing and aquaculture communities;
- Secondary data collected for data triangulation;
- 28 Semi-structured interviews
 - The interviewees were selected via snowball sampling².
 - 17 women and 11 men were interviewed.

	Disaster Management	Fisheries/aquaculture	Women's empowerment	Total
International	3	1		4
National	4	1	1	6
Provincial	2	6	1	9
Municipal	2	5	2	9
Total	11	13	4	28

Table 1. Breakdown of interview respondents by sector and scale of governance.

FISHERIES, DISASTER MANAGEMENT, AND GENDER-RELEVANT LEGISLATION IN THE PHILIPPINES:

Republic Act No. 8550 is one of the first major pieces of legislation to recognize gender differences in fisheries and aquaculture. It required the **formal recognition of women who are directly and indirectly engaged in fisheries**¹.

1998

Three-year Framework Plan for Women was passed in 2001, which provided guidelines on methods for preparing **gender and development plans**.

2001.....

APEC conducted a study **examining the status of gender integration in disaster management** in the Philippines.

2009.....

The Philippines Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act was passed in 2010 which aims to "ensure that disaster risk reduction and climate change measures are **gender responsive**..."⁹.

2010.....

RESULTS: GENERAL TRENDS IN RESPONSES

BY SCALE:

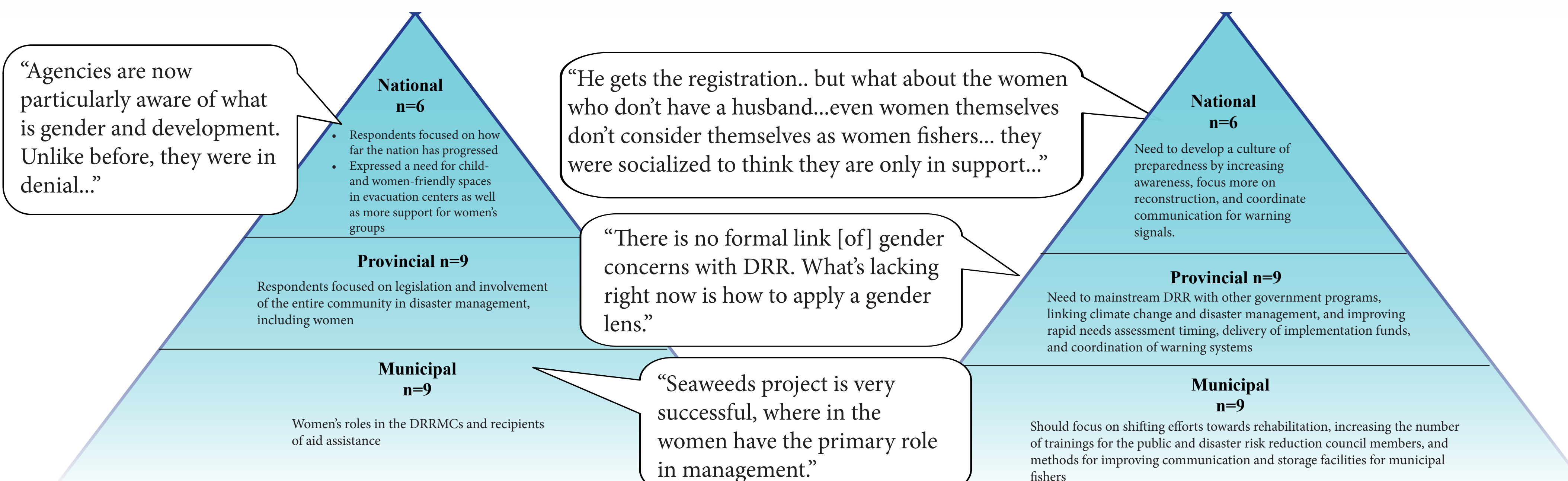


Figure 4. Breakdown of response trends according to perceived level of gender integration.

Figure 5. Breakdown of response trends according to areas for improvement for disaster management.

BY SECTOR:

	Level of gender integration	Areas for improvement for disaster management
Disaster Management	Respondents' main concerns are the conditions at evacuation centers.	Disaster managers feel there needs to be: • A more substantial shift in focus toward rehabilitation; • Improved functions of the disaster risk reduction management councils; • Better integration of preparedness into the school system; • Better provisions for reconstruction efforts; and • A more coordinated information processing and record keeping.
Fisheries and aquaculture	Respondents in fisheries and aquaculture said they work to build capacity of women fishers through livelihood projects and facilitate international aid funds for women-targeted programs.	Fisheries and aquaculture respondents felt the main areas of improvement in DRR include: awareness, facilities, preparation, implementation of laws, better storage facilities for fish, and communication.

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