



# GENDER DIMENSIONS OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT:

## IMPLICATIONS 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**<sup>12</sup>. **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<sup>4,7</sup>.

#### PHILIPPINES AND TYPHOONS:

- The Philippines suffers more natural hazards (e.g. earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, typhoons, floods, etc.) than any other country<sup>3</sup>.
- 29 million Filipinos (36% of the population) **depend on agriculture and fishing** to make a living.<sup>8</sup>



#### TYPHOON HAIYAN (YOLANDA) 2013:

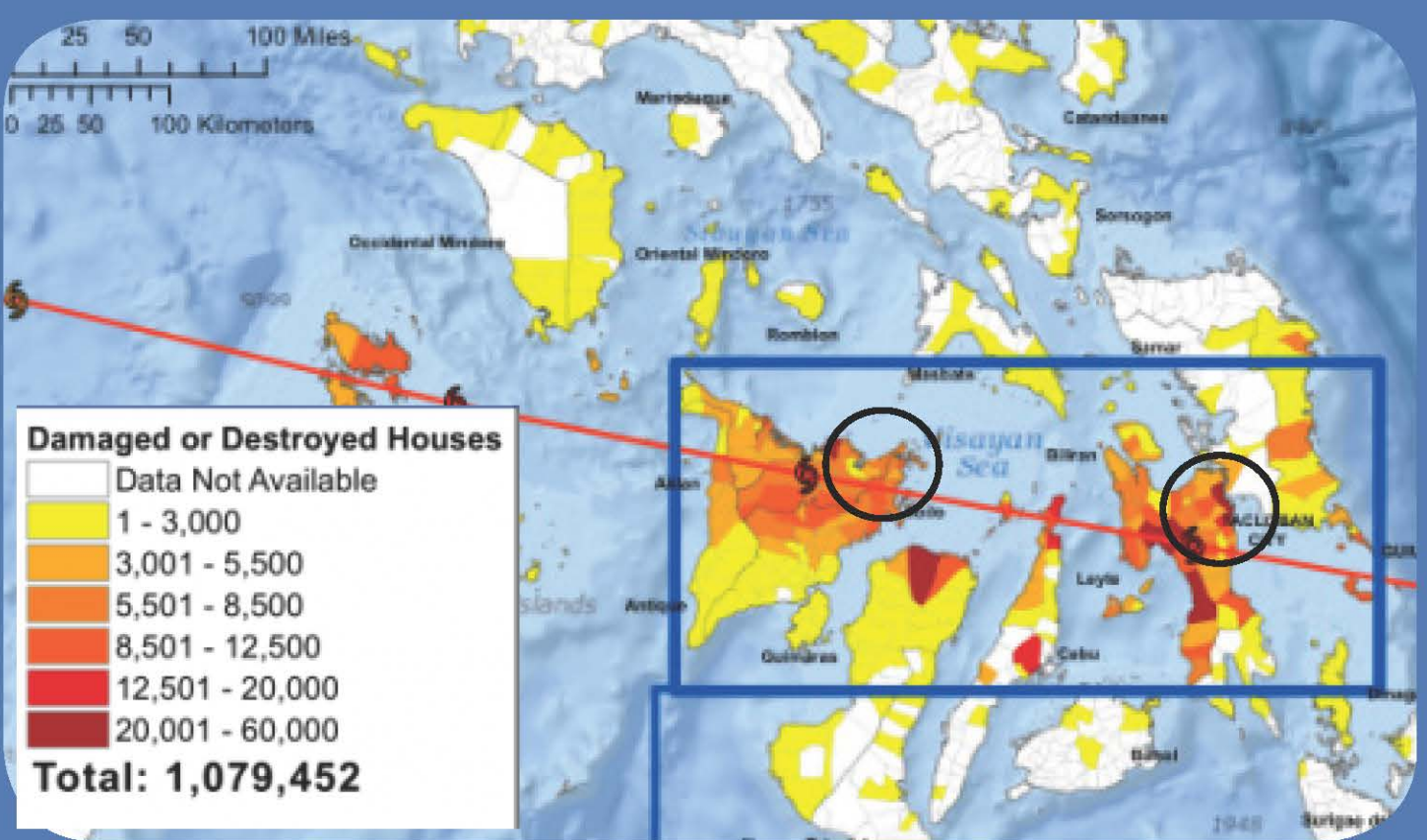


Figure 1. The typhoon's trajectory through the Visayas region of the Philippines, from east to west. Provinces are color coded according to the number of damaged homes<sup>5</sup>. Black circles indicate study focus areas.

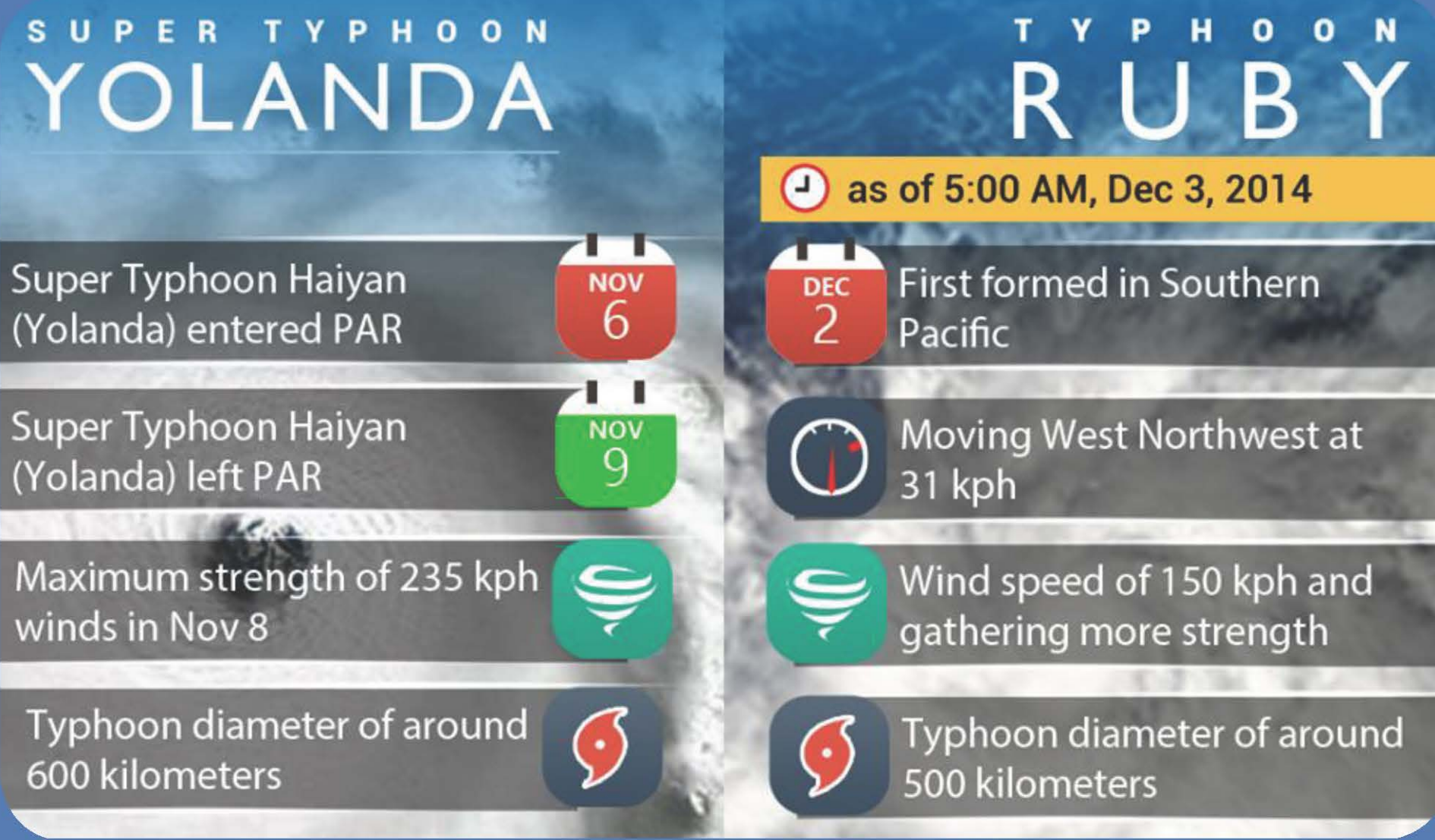


Figure 2. A schematic produced by PAGASA, NASA and the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) comparing super typhoons in Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR).

#### TYPHOON HAGUPIT (RUBY) 2014:

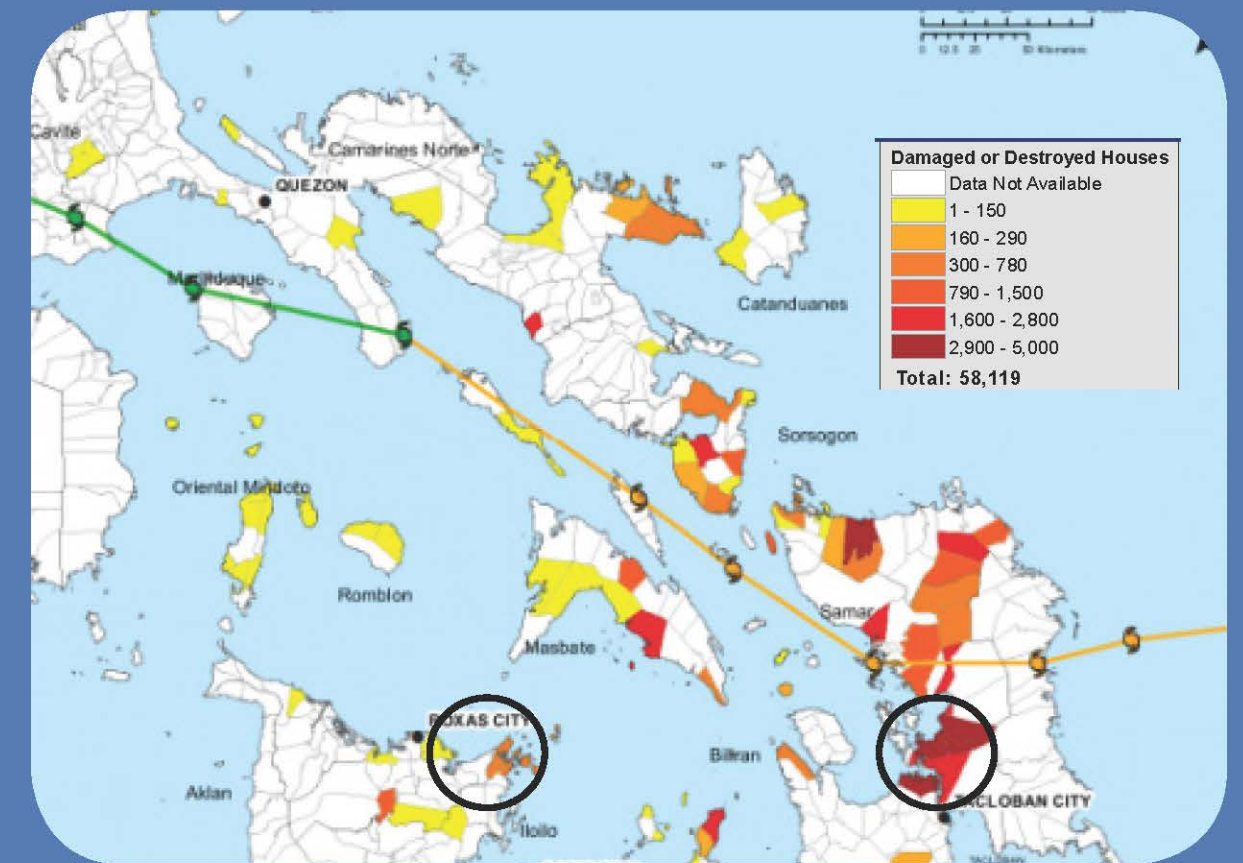


Figure 3. The typhoon's trajectory through the Visayas region of the Philippines, from east to west. Provinces are color coded according to the number of damaged homes<sup>6</sup>. Black circles indicate study focus areas.

#### 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 men<sup>4</sup>.
- Although they are vulnerable, women are successful at leading emergency committees and aiding in disaster management -- when given the opportunity.



#### 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**<sup>1</sup>.

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

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

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**...”<sup>9</sup>.

1998 ..... 2001 ..... 2009 ..... 2010 .....

#### 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 sampling**<sup>2</sup>.
  - **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.

#### RESULTS: GENERAL TRENDS IN RESPONSES

##### BY SCALE:

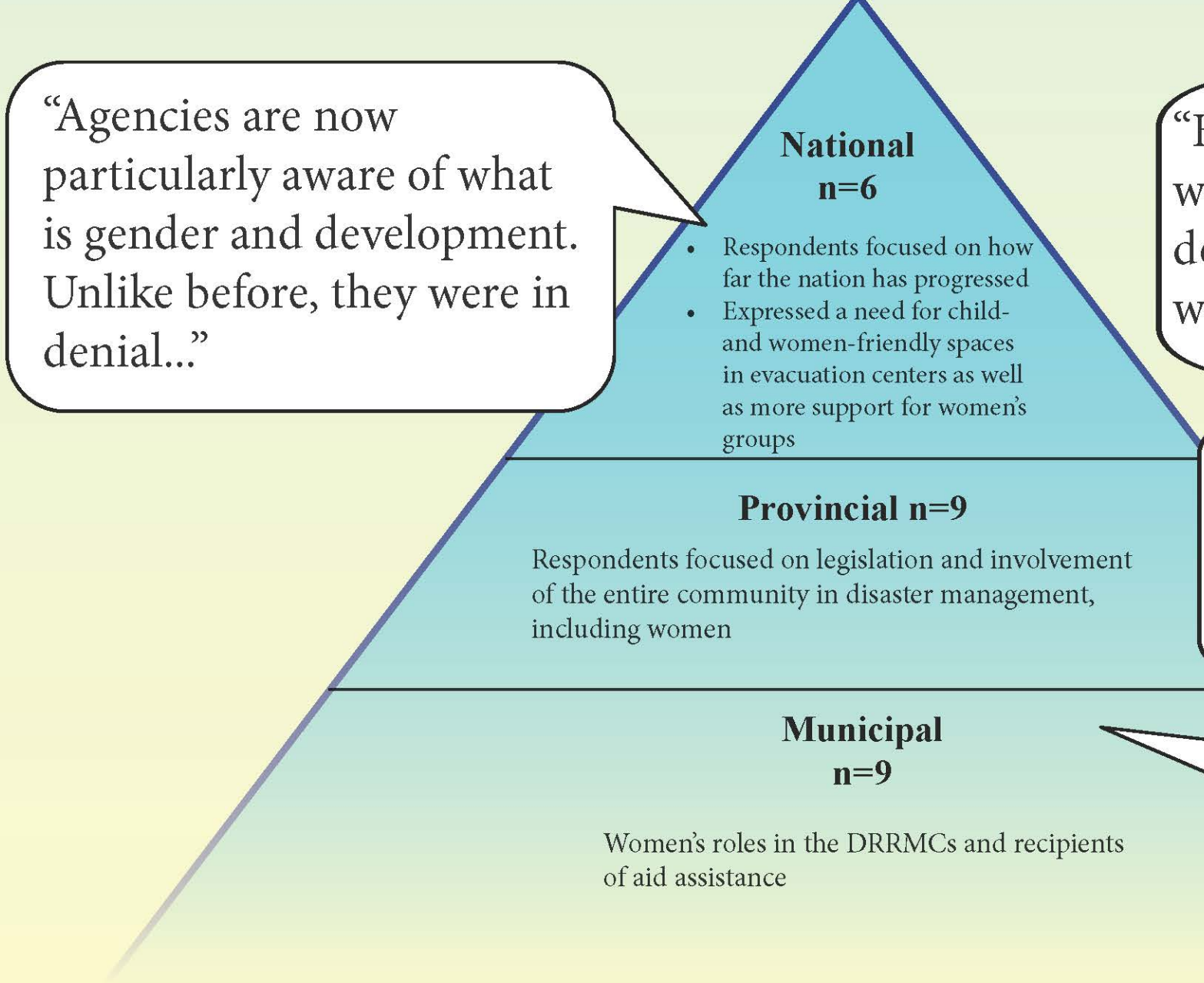


Figure 4. Breakdown of response trends according to **perceived level of gender integration**.

“He gets the registration.. but what about the women who don't have a husband...even women themselves don't consider themselves as women fishers... they were socialized to think they are only in support...”

“There is no formal link [of] gender concerns with DRR. What's lacking right now is how to apply a gender lens.”

“Seaweeds project is very successful, where in the women have the primary role in management.”

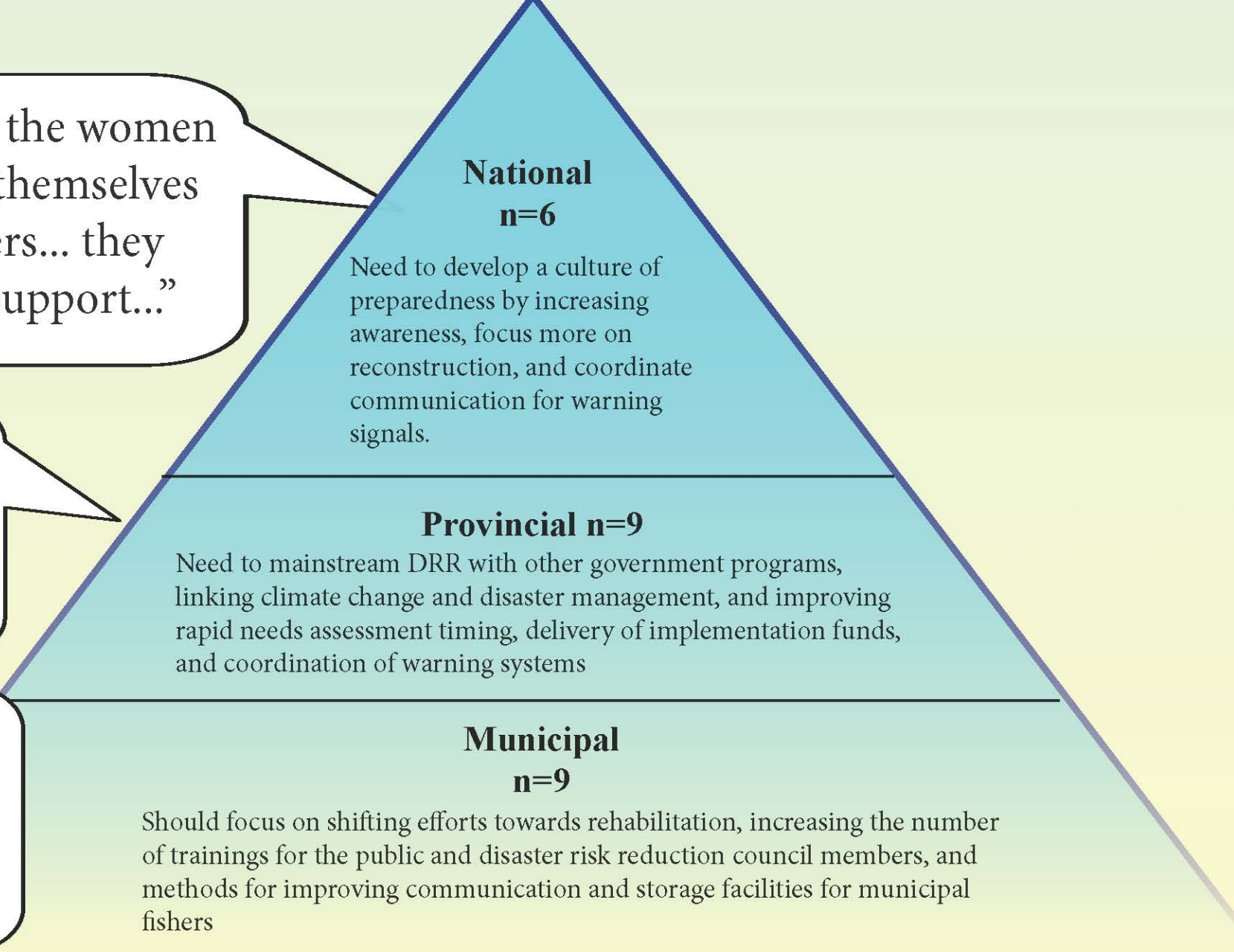


Figure 5. Breakdown of response trends according to **areas for improvement for disaster management**.

##### 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A more substantial shift in focus toward rehabilitation;</li><li>• Improved functions of the disaster risk reduction management councils;</li><li>• Better integration of preparedness into the school system;</li><li>• Better provisions for reconstruction efforts; and</li><li>• A more coordinated information processing and record keeping.</li></ul>
Fisheries and aquaculture	Respondents in fisheries and aquaculture said they work to build capacity of women fishers through livelihood projects and facilitate implementation of laws, better storage facilities for fish, and communication.	

Table 2. Breakdown of response trends according to **areas for improvement for disaster management and level of gender integration**

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