

EMPOWERING YOUTH LEADERSHIP: DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND INCLUSION



Maria Eliza Miranda Nunes, a 19-year-old youth leader from Leo-lima, participated in the Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (DRR-CCA) and Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) awareness-raising training in January 2024. The training, facilitated by NAFOFILA, aimed to enhance community knowledge and capacity on Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) to promote resilience.

Maria Eliza found the training sessions extremely valuable, especially in understanding core concepts such as hazards, vulnerability, capacity, and climate change. She appreciated how the interconnected topics prepared her for practical actions. *“Ha’u aprende ona koñesimentu barak kona-ba RRD-AMK no GEDSI durante sesaun formasaun ne’ebé fasilita husi NAFOFILA konteúdu prinsipál husi definisaun báziku hanesan perigu vulnerabilidade kapasidade risku dezastre no dezastre. klimá ka mudansa klimatika no mós abordajen CBDRM. Sesaun hirak-ne’e hotu liga ba malu atu komprende no halo asaun ba prátika.”* (“I have learned a lot about DRR-CCA and GEDSI during the training sessions facilitated by NAFOFILA. The main content, such as basic definitions of hazards, vulnerability, capacity, disaster risk, and disaster, as well as climate and climate change, are all interconnected to understand and put into practice.”)

MOTIVATION AND FUTURE ASPIRATIONS

The training motivated Maria Eliza to take an active role in promoting herself as a youth champion of change for DRR-CCA in her community. She expressed her enthusiasm for learning the concepts and applying them practically. *“Ha’u interesse tebes atu aprende atu komprende ho klaru konseitu no definisaun sira hodi asegura ha’u-nia kumprimentu iha asaun prátika sira. Treinamentu ida-ne’e fó motivasaun mai ha’u atu hola parte ativu hodi promove ha’u-nia an nu’udar kampaun juventude iha RRD-AMK iha futuru.”* (“I am very interested in learning to clearly understand the concepts and definitions to ensure I can apply them in practical actions. This training has motivated me to take an active role in promoting myself as a youth champion of change in DRR-CCA in the future.”)

Maria Eliza actively shares the knowledge she gained from the training with her peers and the broader community during regular hamlet-level meetings. She has observed a positive shift in the community’s motivation to adopt the CBDRM approach over traditional practices. *“Ha’u sempre hola inisiativa atu fahe koñesimentu ne’ebé ha’u hetan husi treinamentu ne’e ba ha’u-nia kolega foin-sa’e sira no ba comunidade sira durante enkontru regulár comunidade nian iha nivel aldeia. Mudansa imediata sira-ne’e hale’u ona motivasaun comunidade nian atu muda sira-nia prátika tradisionál ba aprosimasaun JRDBK.”* (“I always take the initiative to share the knowledge I gained from this training with my youth colleagues and the community during regular hamlet-level meetings. Immediate changes include the community’s motivation to shift from traditional practices to the CBDRM approach.”)

One of the main challenges Maria Eliza faced was the low literacy levels in her community. To address this, she used visual aids and shared success stories and study cases to raise awareness. *“Dezafiu prinsipál sira mak komunidade barak la hatene lee no hakerek tanba ne’e solusaun ba konsiénsia mak uza leitura sira no haree ba estudu kazu sira-ne’e ka konta istória susesu.”* (“The main challenges are that most of the community can’t read and write, so the solution for awareness-raising is using lectures, visual aids, and sharing study cases or success stories.”)

PERSONAL IMPACT

The training had a significant impact on Maria Eliza’s confidence and motivation. She is eager to deepen her knowledge of DRR-CCA at both the local and global levels, especially in connection to community development and resilience building. *“Sesaun formasaun hotu-hotu fó motivasaun mai ha’u atu aprende liután kona-ba asuntu RRD-AMK nian iha nivel lokál no globál hodi haforsa ha’u-nia koñesimentu pesoál, liuliu iha relasaun ho dezenvolvimentu komunidade no konstrusaun reziliensia.”* (“All the training sessions have motivated me to learn more about DRR-CCA, both locally and globally, to enrich my personal knowledge, especially in connection to community development and resilience building.”)

Maria Eliza expressed her gratitude to NAFOFILA for facilitating the training, which significantly improved her knowledge of DRR-CCA and gender and social inclusiveness. She is now committed to sharing her learnings with a wider audience, especially youth

members, and helping the community reduce the impact of disasters. *“Inisiativa formasaun ida-ne’e, di’ak loos mai hau no ha’u-nia apresiasaun maka’as ba NAFOFILA ba fasilitasaun ida-ne’e ha’u-nia koñesimentu kona-ba RRD-AMK nune’e mós aplikasaun ba jéneru no inkluzividade sosiál. akresenta tan katak ida-ne’e motiva tebes ha’u atu fahe koñesimentu no esperiénsia sira ne’ebé ha’u hetan ba komunidade ne’ebé luan liu liuliu membru foin-sa’e sira.”* (“This capacity-building initiative has been very fruitful for me, and I greatly appreciate NAFOFILA for facilitating this training. It significantly improved my knowledge of DRR-CCA and the application of gender and social inclusiveness. Moreover, it has motivated me to share the knowledge and experiences I gained with the wider community, especially youth members.”)



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