

Women in the Wet Season

Incorporating local knowledge in mitigation for hazardous weather



Tapping into existing networks

Every community has organisations that can help tap into women's networks.

These include welfare groups, citizens' organisations, parents' associations and childcare committees, employers, disability support groups, or other groups in your area.

Pre-cyclone clean-up day

Having a well-advertised pre-cyclone clean-up day acts as a reminder to start preparing and planning for cyclone season.

Clean-up days can be a community activity and can help ensure that people with special needs are helped to prepare and plan their own strategies.



Local radio talk-back

Local radio is a great way to communicate to a wide audience, including the elderly and housebound.

Talk-back programs encourage people to phone in with questions or problems and share their experiences and strategies with the community.



Women play a vital role in preparing their communities for the hazards of the wet season.

In most communities, it is the women who take on responsibility for preparing their household for the event of a cyclone or a flood.

Women who have experienced many wet seasons have valuable local knowledge. They have developed strategies to suit their own needs and circumstances, and have tried-and-tested ways to deal with the threat of cyclones and flooding.

Women are an often overlooked resource in hazardous weather mitigation planning.

Women's networks and organisations are a valuable source of planning advice for their communities. They are also a good conduit for information from local government and emergency planning organisations.



For all these questions, there are different answers and strategies to suit different people's circumstances and needs.

People with local knowledge may be in a better position to answer specific questions than official emergency management organisations.

The advice of other women can help newcomers and the less experienced to plan their own strategies.

Every community has different needs, depending on its size, location and facilities.

Within communities there are also different groups, each with their own needs.

People with children, people who don't speak English as a first language, elderly or disabled people, and those on low incomes all need to develop their own plans for the wet season.

Women's organisations and personal networks are part of all these communities, and are a vital resource for planning advice.



Simple leaflets

Many people find official guidelines for cyclone planning complicated and hard to follow.

Pictorial leaflets, showing what to do at each level of cyclone alert, can help.

Website information

Websites provide up-to-date information on cyclone and flood warnings, weather forecasts, and road conditions. These can be vital to help communities in short-term planning.

While not everyone has access to websites, women's networks can spread the information by word of mouth.



Talks to address specific local issues

Women's groups such as the Country Women's Association, or other community groups, will often have a forum for public talks and meetings.

These can be a good place to answer questions specific to the community, such as what to do during floods.

