

The Importance of Gender Equality in the use of ICTs for Disaster Management

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Perhaps you are wondering why **gender equality** is an issue in the use of **ICTs for Disaster Management?**

I invite you to consider the **disaster management & ICT ecosystems & processing and value chains:**

DRM

- Policy makers
- Regulators
- Disaster managers
- Infrastructure & service providers
- First responders: formal & informal
- Victims
- etc.

ICT products & services

- Concept
- Design
- Development
- Deployment
- Maintenance & support
- Use
- etc.



The 84-page ITU report includes coverage of:

1. Gendered disaster and digital asymmetries - including the importance of women's **participation** in the full DRM cycle & ICT product & service life cycles
2. Contender I&C technologies for the reduction of gender-based disaster vulnerabilities
3. ICT services to address vulnerability factors
4. Unintended consequences
5. Analysis
6. Recommendations
 - i. Principled foundations
 - ii. Alliances and advocates
 - iii. Stratified targets
 - iv. Strategies for early adopters
 - v. Strategies by ICT service
 - vi. Strategies specific to key vulnerability factors
 - vii. Research and innovation
7. Conclusions

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Emergency-Telecommunications/Pages/Women-ICT-and-Emergency-Telecommunications.aspx>

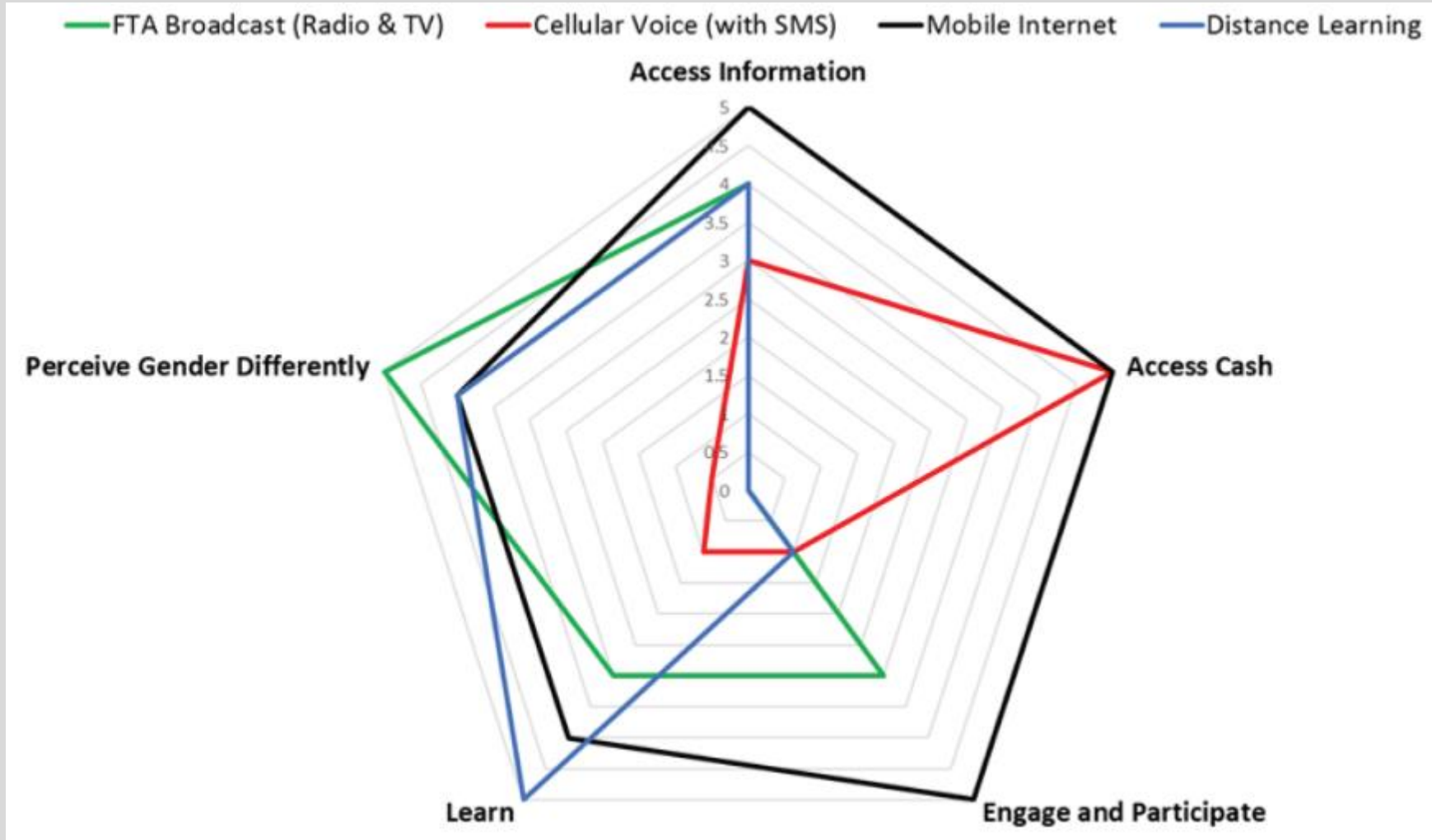
Women, ICT and emergency telecommunications: opportunities and constraints

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Emergency-Telecommunications/Pages/Women-ICT-and-Emergency-Telecommunications.aspx>



In partnership with:

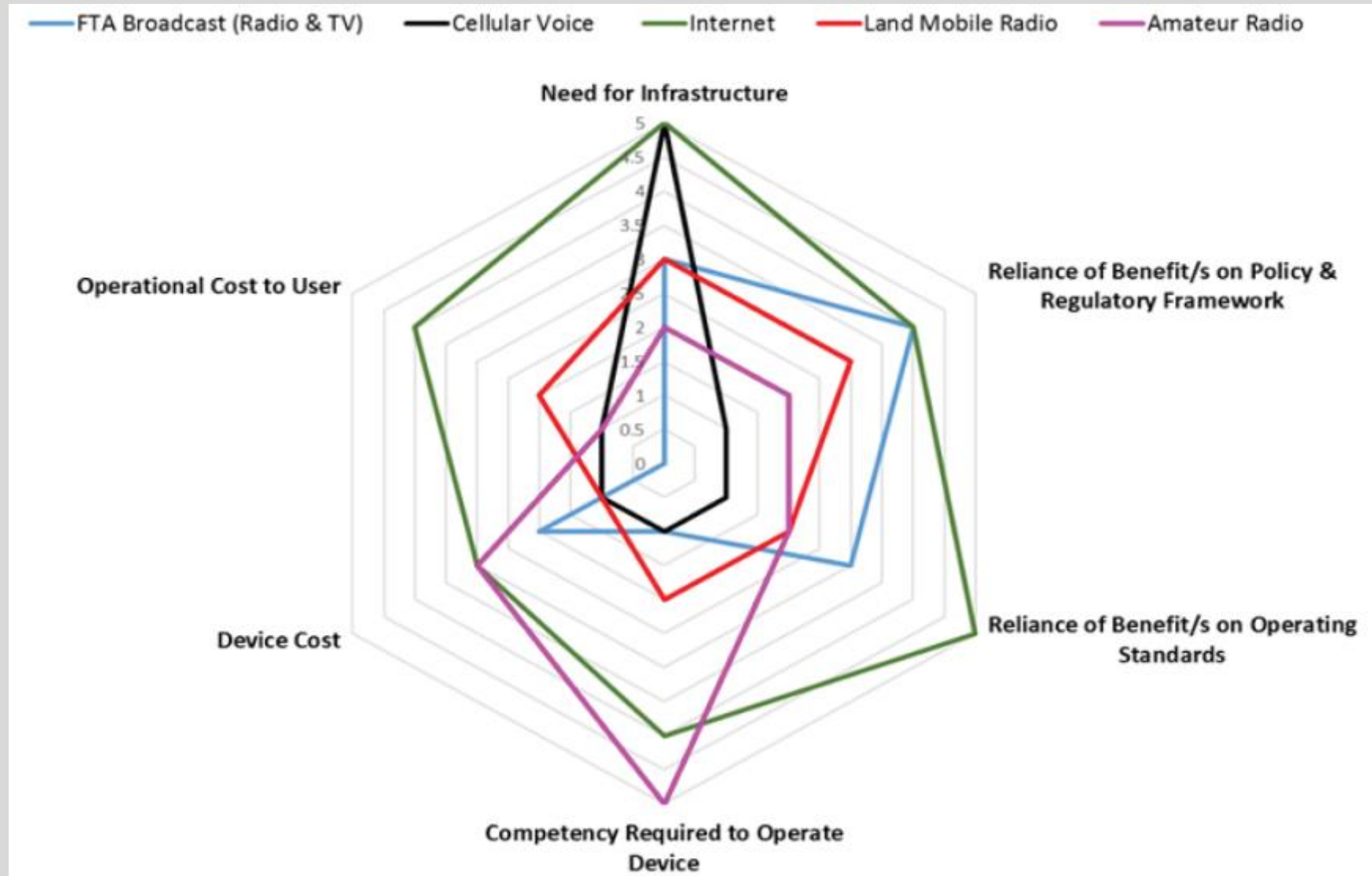
Factors that lead to gendered disaster vulnerabilities and perpetuate the gendered digital divide; with comparative capabilities of popular ICTs



ITU report on **Women, ICT and emergency telecommunications: opportunities**

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Emergency-Telecommunications/Pages/Women-ICT-and-Emergency-Telecommunications.aspx>

Comparative features of underlying telecom services that address disaster vulnerability



ITU report on **Women, ICT and emergency telecommunications: opportunities**

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Experiences from the Field: Amateur Radio

In the ITU report on **Women, ICT and emergency telecommunications: opportunities and constraints**, Gisele, a TT HAM, shares her experience as the only woman volunteer labourer in a 6-week UN International Organization for Migration (IOM) recovery mission in Dominica, post Maria; and in other countries.



Gisele encourages volunteers to have radios to assist with immediate relief and emphasizes the importance that ICT **also** plays in rallying volunteers to assist with recovery.

She notes that gender biases impacted all of her recovery missions through asymmetries in the allocation of duties and resources. Yet she has noted the deep appreciation that heads of beneficiary households, usually women, have expressed for the female presence of, and interactivity with, female volunteers.

ITU report on **Women, ICT and emergency telecommunications: opportunities**

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Emergency-Telecommunications/Pages/Women-ICT-and-Emergency-Telecommunications.aspx>

Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams (REACT)

The ITU report discusses license-free land mobile radio, LMR, which is used by private & public safety orgs for critical & emcomms.

REACT, deployed to EOCs, command posts, shelters and relief crews, uses LMR to pass info on injuries, impact location, damages etc. Volunteers participate in damage assessments & needs analyses to aid rapid decision making and action to assist victims.

Vice Chair of the Board of REACT International, Ravindranath Goswami, indicated that women play an important role in ensuring diversity & balance across the spectrum of comms responsibilities: planning, command, liaison, crafting and dissemination of public information, managing of control stations and assessments. After-action reviews regularly reveal the important contributions of women, their exemplary performance in, inter alia, enhanced order, care, attention to detail, smoothness of operations & composure.

Yet Lisa Henzell, officer at a TT team, shared that her inputs are often “looked at as complaints or rants, lacking substance” and that many women in the field feel obliged to work twice as hard to be recognized or included.

Non-profit org of volunteers who provide radio services to the public



*ITU report on **Women, ICT and emergency telecommunications: opportunities***

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Emergency-Telecommunications/Pages/Women-ICT-and-Emergency-Telecommunications.aspx>



Training & Mentorship Opportunities

- We have heard of **CDEMA** training programmes
- **REACT** offers several courses, with certification, including:
 - training on the US Incident Command System and National Incident Management System (NIMS) through a partnership with FEMA
 - Instructor-led, on-demand training on the Amateur Radio Technician Class curriculum is available at <http://tech.ttreact.com/>
- **CITEL** (Inter-American Telecommunication Commission) opportunities include a Joint event of the **Network of Women** for WRC-23 and other CITEL teams on CITEL & ITU organizations and their processes to create Radio Regs:
11:00 – 1:00, October 15, 2021
Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82672924010?pwd=RG1kSS9UWEZnckUwaFo0bmtYbTZCUT09>; Password: Oea123
- Many other opportunities are available for t&m on ICT in general and with a particular focus on women. Reach out to me: kim.Mallalieu@sta.uwi.edu

Now on to Isabelle & Aarti!



Isabelle Carboni
Insights Director
GSMA Mobile for Development



Aarti Holla
Secretary General
EMEA Satellite Operators Association
(ESOA)



APPENDIX

Overview of CITEL & the ITU: (i) Orgs & (ii) Regs Dev Processes

Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) announced last night a Joint event of the Network of Women for WRC-23 initiative (NOW4WRC23), PCC.II Mentoring Program and Working Group on World Radiocommunications Conferences (WG-WRC23) that provides an overview of CITEL and the ITU, and their processes to create Radiocommunications Regulations. English/Spanish interpretation.

Date: October 15, 2021

Meeting LINK: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82672924010?pwd=RG1kSS9UWEZnckUwaFo0bmtYbTZCUT09>
Password: Oea123

Questions?

- CITEL Regional Co- Chair of the Network of Women for WRC-23 (NOW4WRC23), Mrs. Jennifer Manner (Jennifer.Manner@echostar.com)
- Coordinator of CITEL's Mentoring program of Permanent Consultative Committee II (PCC.II), Mr. Carmelo Rivera (carmelo.rivera@aces-inc.com)
- Chairman of the Working Group on World Radiocommunications Conferences (WG-WRC23), Mr. Víctor Martínez (victor.martinezv@ift.org.mx)

with copy to the Secretariat of CITEL (mmunoz@oas.org)