Acknowledgements

This book began life in October 1998 with Hurricane Mitch and has developed via discussions in Nicaragua, Hawaii and India and through thinking and writing in the mountains of Switzerland and the Lake District. It is based on work undertaken over a number of years and, as such, thanks are owed to many people. Thanks are due to all those in Nicaragua who undertook the research in the communities and, more importantly, all the men and women who gave up their time to talk to us. Thanks also to the women leaders in Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador interviewed after Mitch, especially Martha Isabel Cranshaw and Maria Hamlin-Zuniga, and to Deirdre O’Reilly for all her support. The research studies were part financed by Oxfam GB and the UNDP and supported by CIIR/ICD (now Progressio). My thanks go to Patricio Cranshaw, the country representative of Progressio in Nicaragua, for all his help and hospitality. In the CCER, I thank Ricardo Zambrana and Rebeca Zuniga, and Jorge Arostegui of CIETinternational for being such great work colleagues. In Puntos de Encuentro, I thank Teresita Hernández and Vilma Castillo Aramburu for sharing their knowledge and, especially, Irela Solórzano for always welcoming me back; also, Verónica Campanile, Ana Criquillon, Amy Bank and Ana Quirós – all are inspiring people to work with. In Middlesex University, my thanks go to all the staff who covered for me while I was away in Nicaragua, and to Eleonore Kofman for her continued support. I would like to thank all those at the various Gender and Disaster conferences but, in particular, Elaine Enarson for being so welcoming and supportive of my work, and Maureen Fordham for her commitment to the GDN. I am grateful to the team at Edward Elgar for their professionalism and patience. My thanks to Hazel Johnstone, Charlie Weinberg, Allan Cochrane and Sarah Neal for their good-humoured support, and to Sylvia Chant who has supported me since my PhD and took the initiative of sending the idea for this book to Edward Elgar – many thanks. To Cathy McIlwaine who is always there to discuss ideas, for a good moan and for a good night out. My family in Huddersfield, which because of them I still call ‘home’. Most of all to Brian Linneker, who read all the manuscript not once but twice, for his knowledge and insight, who was there in Nicaragua and is an ever-constant supportive presence: many, many thanks.