

# ASSESSING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN DISASTER AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

## Overview

There is international recognition that disasters affect people differently. This is highlighted in the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#), which identifies that “*women, children, and people in vulnerable situations are disproportionately affected*” by disasters. Recent [research](#) confirms that women and girls, in particular, experience disproportionate impacts from disasters, and gender inequality has been identified as one of several underlying risk drivers increasing women’s vulnerability to multiple hazards.

Women do not just experience disasters, they also play key roles in preparing for and responding to disasters, often as first responders. However, their essential knowledge, skills, resources, and experiences are often insufficiently leveraged in disaster and climate risk reduction, recovery, climate change adaptation (CCA), post-disaster recovery, and resilience building (referenced as disaster and climate resilience building throughout this document). This is challenging to overcome whilst there is a lack of women in leadership positions and minimal participation and leadership of women’s organisations in the disaster and climate resilience building space. Gender equality and women’s empowerment are therefore essential foundations for promoting women’s leadership in, and harnessing their contributions to, disaster and climate resilience building.

The framework and tools, which can be found in full on the [Women’s Resilience to Disasters Knowledge Hub](#), were developed as part of UN Women’s flagship programme, the [Women’s Resilience to Disasters \(WRD\) programme](#). The programme focuses on building women’s voice, agency, and leadership in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and disaster resilience; ensuring that the lives and livelihoods of women and girls are resilient to threats (including climate change and COVID-19) and contributing to sustainable, secure, and thriving communities.<sup>1</sup>

### Purpose of this document

The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the framework and tools developed to assess women’s leadership and meaningful participation in disaster and climate resilience building. It provides a high-level snapshot of what the framework includes and the six domains of measurement: transformative leadership, safe and meaningful participation, collective influencing and advocacy, enabling partnerships, capacity development for leadership, and funding.



<sup>1</sup> The WRD is being implemented in the Pacific (funded by the Australian Government) with sister programmes in the Caribbean, Lake Chad Basin, and Sahel - <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/10/programme-brief-womens-resilience-to-disasters-programme-in-the-pacific>

## A snapshot of the assessment approach



### What?

Framework and tools to assess women's leadership and meaningful participation in disaster and climate resilience building. They provide organisations with an approach for assessing their progress and identifying ways they can further support women in disaster and climate resilience building.



### How?

The tools can be applied at the national, sector, or even subnational level for use by government agencies and non-government organisations.



### What does this include?

1. Assessment framework
2. Assessment rubric
3. Self-assessment tools
4. Key informant interview guides
5. Research statement



### Who is this for?

The framework and tools are intended to be adapted and contextualised by climate and disaster resilience building stakeholders (such as governments at national, sub-national and local levels, civil society, academic, technical, and regional and international organisations) to assess progress securing women's leadership in disaster and climate resilience building at the institutional, sector, subnational, or national level.

## A snapshot of the framework



### Impact Domain: Transformative Leadership

**Impact indicator:** Women and women's organisations are empowered to have/take a transformative leadership role in disaster and climate resilience building



### Results Domain: Safe and meaningful participation

**Result indicator:** Women and women's organisations are empowered to participate actively and safely in disaster and climate resilience building decision-making processes and outcomes



### Results Domain: Collective influencing and advocacy

**Result indicator:** Disaster and climate resilience building processes are influenced by the priorities, needs, and capacities of national and local groups and movements that advocate for women's leadership and gender inclusion



### Results Domain: Enabling partnerships

**Result indicator:** Equitable and complementary partnerships between local and national women's organisations and other disaster and climate resilience building actors are upheld to enable women's organisation's leadership and meaningful participation



### Results Domain: Capacity development for leadership

**Result indicator:** Women and women's organisations can engage in disaster and climate resilience building programming effectively and efficiently through targeted and relevant capacity support



### Results Domain: Funding

**Result indicator:** Women and women's organisations have targeted funding to support, lead and implement disaster and climate resilience building activities