

REGIONAL PLATFORMS FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION – 2021: GENDER-RELATED OUTCOMES

Photo: UN Women/ Joe Saade

Regional platforms

The regional disaster risk reduction (DRR) platforms are **multi-stakeholder forums** that reflect the commitment of governments to coordinate and implement disaster risk reduction activities linked to international and national efforts. The latest regional platforms were held between November and December, 2021.

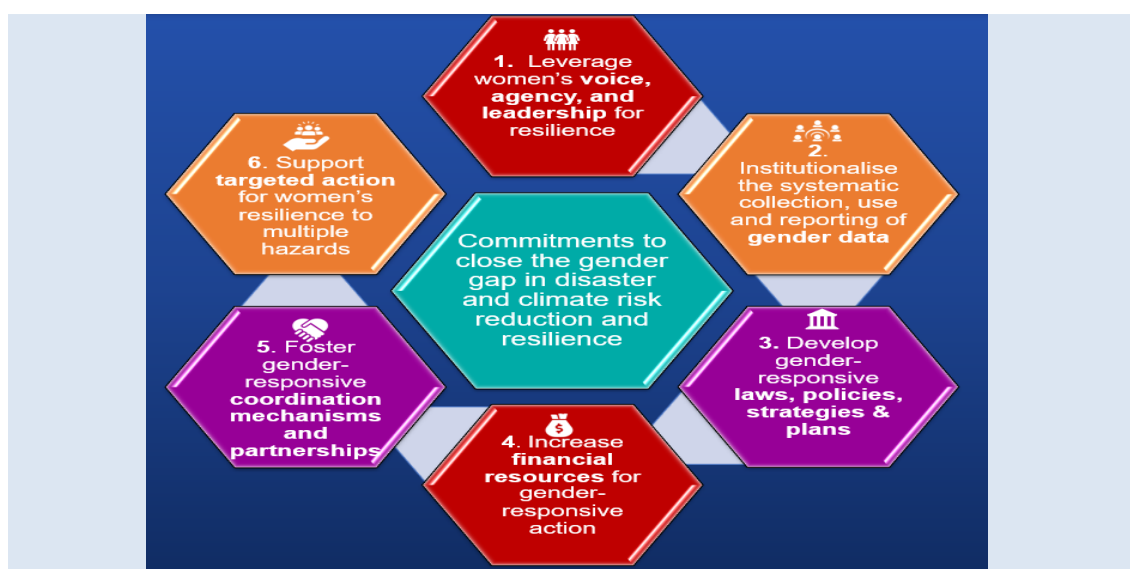
UN Women is working with stakeholders across the regions to ensure gender-responsive implementation of the Sendai Framework. This includes ensuring disaster risk reduction commitments, policy and planning frameworks, coordination mechanisms, and interventions are gender-responsive. Notably, UN Women has provided support for the regional DRR platforms, from preparing a [technical support paper](#) with suggested commitments for addressing gender gaps (see *Figure 1*), through to organising side events, and preparing statements.

Global platform

The Global Platform on DRR will take place in Bali, Indonesia between the 23-28 May, 2022. Although there are specific thematic sessions (TS) that focus on gender-responsive DRR and inclusion – namely *Diversity in DRR Leadership (TS7)* and *Leaving No One Behind (TS8)* – it will be important to close gender gaps across all [Sendai Framework](#) priorities and global platform sessions. This will ensure concrete commitment and actions for key stakeholders in the co-Chair's summary.

UN Women has been involved in developing the **concept notes** and website content for four plenary Global Platform sessions and is planning a side event on the gender-responsive implementation of the Sendai Framework. A key priority has been to secure the meaningful participation of women's organisations at the forum and create space to share their voices and demands on disaster risk reduction and resilience.

Figure 1: UN Women suggested commitments for addressing the gender gaps in DRR and resilience





Gender-related outcomes from the regional platforms (2021)

Americas and Caribbean



The 7th Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction for the Americas and the Caribbean (1-4th November, 2021) was entitled “[Building resilient economies](#).” It focused on raising awareness on the increasing economic and human cost of disasters in the Americas and the Caribbean, including the special challenges facing Small Island Developing States (SIDS). It was chaired by the Government of Jamaica. UN Women was involved in establishing the LAC Women's Network for DRR.



KEY OUTCOMES:

Adoption of the updated [Regional Action Plan](#) (2015-2030), which calls to:

“Promote the incorporation of knowledge on hazards and the use of disaster risk information, including knowledge on the differentiated needs of women, youth, indigenous peoples...”

“Promote inclusivity across disaster risk governance frameworks, integrating voices and enabling participation and an understanding of the differentiated needs of women, youth, indigenous people, Afro-descendants and other minorities.”

“Empower women... to publicly lead and promote gender equitable and universally accessible response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction approaches is critical to building resilience.”

Creation of the [Latin America and Caribbean \(LAC\) Women's Network of Women for DRR](#) for sharing experiences, challenges, opportunities, solutions and to support collaboration.

Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration, which acknowledges the need to enhance risk governance through [multi-stakeholder engagement](#); recognises the [disproportionate disaster impacts](#) on women and girls; recognises the need to apply [equitable, participatory, and inclusive approaches](#); and commits to taking note of the [perspectives of women's organisations](#), addressing [underlying factors that create risk](#), and promoting [awareness and knowledge](#) on prevention and resilience among women and girls.

Africa



The 8th Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was held between the 16th – 18th November 2021 on the theme “[Towards disaster risk-informed development for a resilient Africa in a Covid-19 transformed World](#).” The meeting was hosted by the Republic of Kenya and co-organised by the African Union Commission, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and UNDRR.

UN Women organised the Stakeholder Consultation Group - African Women's Network event, which firstly explored the role played by women to strengthen gender mainstreaming into DRR, and secondly provided a platform for women to discuss and elaborate their charter of demands. UN Women participated as a keynote speaker in the pre-conference session: “Gender and DRR/DRM in times of COVID-19.” UN Women was also part of the Drafting committee of the Final Declaration and secured a seat at the Africa Working group, which will monitor its implementation and will inform the Global Platform on DRR.



KEY OUTCOMES:

Adoption of the [Nairobi Declaration](#) on accelerating the path to achieving the goals and targets of the [Programme of Action](#) (2015-2030) for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa. This includes a call to:

“Develop and implement disaster risk-informed, inclusive, holistic and gender-sensitive strategies, programmes, and plans of action at all levels.”

“Gender sensitive and inclusive disaster risk reduction strategies, programmes and plans of action, in coherence with climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, combating desertification, sustainable development actions and Great Green Wall initiative at all levels.”

Adoption of the [Matrix of the Programme of Action](#) (Phase II: 2021-2025) to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. This includes targets on gender, disability and age [disaggregated data](#), gender and inclusion [mainstreaming in DRR](#), and [gender-responsive DRR policies](#), strategies, plans, and legal frameworks.

Arab States



The 5th Arab Regional Platform for DRR (8-11th November 2021) “[From risk to resilience: accelerating local action for DRR](#)” was hosted by the government of Morocco. Building on UN Women’s [regional work](#), which highlights the gender dimensions of disasters, the platform was designed to be **multi-stakeholder, inclusive, innovative, interactive** taking “into account gender considerations.”



KEY OUTCOMES:

Adoption of the “[Rabat Declaration for Disaster Risk Reduction](#).” This includes a call to:

“Strengthen the active participation of women and youth in leading the development and implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies, policies, plans, and programmes through the adoption of a gender-based approach that takes into account the needs of women, elderly, children, youth, and persons with disabilities”

Launch of the [regional assessment report on DRR](#) in the Arab region, which includes a section on women and girls and highlights: the gap in women’s public leadership and decision-making on climate change and disasters at all levels; the structural drivers and impacts of climate and disaster risks on women as well as the capacities of women and girls; and gender gaps in mainstream interventions on climate change, disasters, and migration.

Release of a voluntary action statement (2021-2024) from the “[Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Voluntary Stakeholder Group](#)”, which is co-chaired by UN Women and the Arab Water Council. The statement commits to supporting governments in the region by:

- 1) Promoting gender-sensitive data collection, research, and tools for policy development and implementation;
- 2) Promoting women’s and girls’ participation in decision-making; and
- 3) Advocacy and capacity strengthening to mainstream gender equality and women’s rights into policy design and implementation.

Release of a [Prioritised Plan of Action](#) (2021-2024) for the [Arab Strategy For DRR](#) (2030), which includes promoting and supporting [gender equity-responsive DRR actions](#) at the regional level; and the collection, use, and reporting of [disaggregated data](#) at the national and local level on disasters and priorities.

Photo: UN Women at the first ever Africa-Arab Platform on DRR in 2018

Europe



The triennial European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR) was held between the 24th – 26th November 2021 and focused on the theme: “[Working together to reduce disaster risks](#).” It was hosted by the government of Portugal, and UN Women co-hosted a side event at the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR) on “[Progress and challenges in the gender-responsive implementation of the Sendai Framework](#).”



KEY OUTCOMES:

Investigation of three key priorities in the gender side event including progress, tools, and approaches for gender-responsive disaster risk reduction; the extent to which the expanding evidence base and rising awareness can be reflected in policies, decisions, and investments; and increasing women’s participation in DRR decision-making and leadership.

Ministerial signing of the “[Prevention Pledge](#),” which commits to an “all-of society approach,” “[inclusive multi-hazard early warning systems](#),” calls for increased investment in disaster resilience through promoting laws and actions that address future climate and disaster risk “[leaving no one behind](#),” commits to improving knowledge, monitoring, and evaluation taking into consideration “[those disproportionately affected by disasters](#),” and commits to “[inclusive and collaborative decision-making](#)” and “multi-stakeholder approaches.”

Emphasis of “[inclusive-all-of society approaches](#)” supported by **budget** and institutionalised collaboration to build resilience in the [Chair’s Summary](#), with recognition that DRR is a collective responsibility for leaving no one behind.

Endorsement of the European Roadmap on Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR 2021-2030), which with UN Women’s input, supports the gender-responsive Sendai Framework implementation by:

“Highlighting more effective arrangements ... for more risk-informed, gender-responsive, age-sensitive and inclusive policies, strategies, programmes, and approaches.”

A call in the EFDRR to *inter alia*:

- Invest in and apply [inclusive and accessible approaches](#), tools and disaggregated data;
- [Understand and communicate the disproportionate impacts](#) on people with disabilities, different genders and age;
- Institutionalise a [multi-stakeholder](#), inclusive approach;
- Support effective and inclusive [protection and safety nets](#);
- Leverage transparent and sustainable [investments](#) for gender-responsive, age-sensitive, and inclusive DRR at all levels; and
- Strengthen [gender-responsive and inclusive preparedness](#) and invest in [accessible early warning systems](#).

Asia-Pacific



The Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) has been delayed until September 2022. However, a special session of the Asia Pacific Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction (APP-DRR) Forum took place between the 8th-9th December 2021.

UN Women provided input to the [Gender Stakeholder Group statement](#) and presentation, which emphasised: i) the importance of measuring gender mainstreaming progress; ii) increasing clarity on roles and functional coordination for gender-responsive disaster risk reduction; iii) ensuring clear strategies to ensure women are represented in decision-making spaces; iv) integrating efforts to prevent gender-based violence (GBV) in every stage of disaster risk management; and v) securing dedicated resources to sustain and enhance women's resilience to disasters.

UN Women's shared a statement on taking advantage of the opportunities of COVID-19 and the Sendai Framework mid-term review to highlight the persistent gaps in women's agency, meaningful participation and leadership, and the need to accelerate implementation of priorities



KEY OUTCOMES:

Endorsement of the [Asia Pacific Action Plan](#) (2021-24), which notes that addressing intersectionality and discrimination are key to reducing vulnerabilities and leaving no one behind. Key actions include:

SF Priority 1: i) enhance methodologies/collection of disaggregated risk and impact data; ii) support policy makers understand the root causes of vulnerability (e.g. discrimination and social norms); and iii) ensure accessible risk, forecast, early warning, and disaster impact information (given disproportionate risks).

Priority 2: i) support meaningful participation; ii) promote collaboration; iii) increase diversity and inclusivity in leadership and decision making; iv) promote access to GBV and sexual, reproductive health in strategies and plans; and v) promote inclusion of people living with disabilities.

Priorities 3 & 4: i) promote gender budgeting for finance; ii) protect and promote the rights of marginalised groups; and iii) promote participation in preparedness planning and resourcing for early action.

Summary of progress:

- Significant progress has been achieved mainstreaming gender into regional disaster risk reduction action plans and commitments.
- The Covid-19 pandemic has however, revealed critical gender gaps and challenges that still exist in addressing underlying inequalities driving the disproportionate risks faced by women and girls.

Next steps:

- **Build on progress achieved to date** and ensure the voices, needs, and priorities of women and girls are mainstreamed across all sessions of the Global Platform on DRR.
- **Continue to advocate for the inclusion of gender and the empowerment and meaningful participation** of women and girls in the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework (2023).
- **Continue to close gender gaps** and secure commitment to:
 1. Leveraging **women's voice, agency, and leadership** for resilience;
 2. Institutionalising the systematic collect, use, and reporting of **gender data** (including SADD);
 3. Developing **gender-responsive laws, policies, strategies, plans, and projects**;
 4. Increasing **financial resources** for gender-responsive action;
 5. Fostering **gender-responsive coordination mechanisms and partnerships**; and
 6. Supporting **targeted action** for women's resilience to multiple hazards including pandemics.

Find out more: wrd.unwomen.org/engage/events

Contact us: wrd@unwomen.org