



Handwritten notes on a whiteboard:

- CSOs
- Youth Faith-Based Orgs. Communities
- Maintained resources
- Revival of cultural methods of food security
- Introduce other ways of saving
- Prevent increasing awareness to all on the importance of

Cyclone and storm surge shelter - Kiribati
Photo: Un Women/Rahel Steinbach

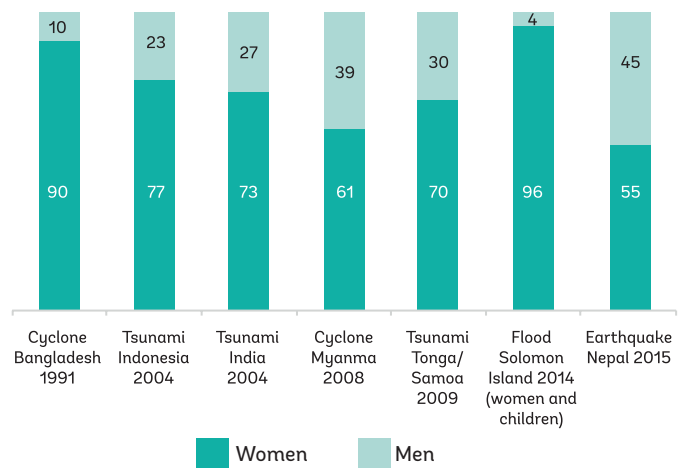
Women's Resilience to Disaster Programme in the Pacific

Rationale

The Pacific is one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world. Disaster risks converge with critical socio-economic vulnerabilities, environmental degradation, climate change, and more recently COVID-19, making the Pacific a disaster hotspot. Annual economic losses from disasters in the Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) more than doubled between 2017 and 2019.

Disasters affect women, girls, boys, and men differently. Recent UN Women and UNICEF research confirmed that women, children, and youth are among the most vulnerable to natural hazards, conflict, climate change, and other threats such as COVID-19. Similarly, analysis of mortality rates from recent disasters in Asia and the Pacific region shows that women and girls die in greater numbers and have different and uneven levels of resilience and capacity to recover.

Threats such as COVID-19 are further exacerbating the inequalities and hardships faced by women and girls including those with disabilities



Differing disaster mortality rates for women and men in Asia and the Pacific

Women's voice, agency, leadership, and participation are under-supported, under-resourced, and under-valued. Even though women and girls face disproportionate disaster and climate risks; they also bring essential knowledge, skills, resources, and experiences to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Yet their capacities remain unleveraged in conventional resilience building processes. As a result, women are generally absent in the development of resilience strategies and decision-making processes for prevention, mitigation, preparedness, and recovery.

Gaps in our understanding

The situation is compounded by significant gaps at the global, regional, and country level in relation to the following.

- **The availability and use of sex, age, and disability disaggregated data (SADDD)** to understand differential impacts.
- **Knowledge sharing** on women's resilience.
- **An enabling environment** for building women's resilience including gender-responsive capacities, leadership, policies, strategies, plans, tools, coordination mechanisms, and funding.
- **Translation of commitments into action.**
- **Private sector partnerships** for women's resilient livelihoods and businesses.



*Cyclone and storm surge shelter - Kiribati
Photo: Un Women/Rahel Steinbach*

What is the WRD Programme?

The Women's Resilience to Disasters (WRD) programme proposes a comprehensive package to strengthen the resilience of women and girls.

The WRD Programme goal:

The lives and livelihoods of women and girls are resilient to disasters and threats, contributing to sustainable, secure, and thriving communities.

The expected end-of-programme outcomes:

1) Prevention, preparedness, and recovery policy frameworks, systems, processes, and tools are gender-responsive, implemented as a result of local women's and girls' advocacy, and enable: **i)** the leadership, advocacy, and participation of women's organisations; **ii)** capacity development of DRR, gender, and resilience stakeholders; **iv)** increased access to knowledge, guidance and expertise on gender-responsive disaster resilience; and **v)** a community of practice, strategic networks, and gender-responsive coordination mechanisms and partnerships.

How does it work?

In the Pacific, the WRD will initially be implemented in Kiribati, Vanuatu, and Fiji. It has been designed for replication and upscaling in the region and worldwide.

WRD programme implementation will be driven at country level and supported by regional and global components.

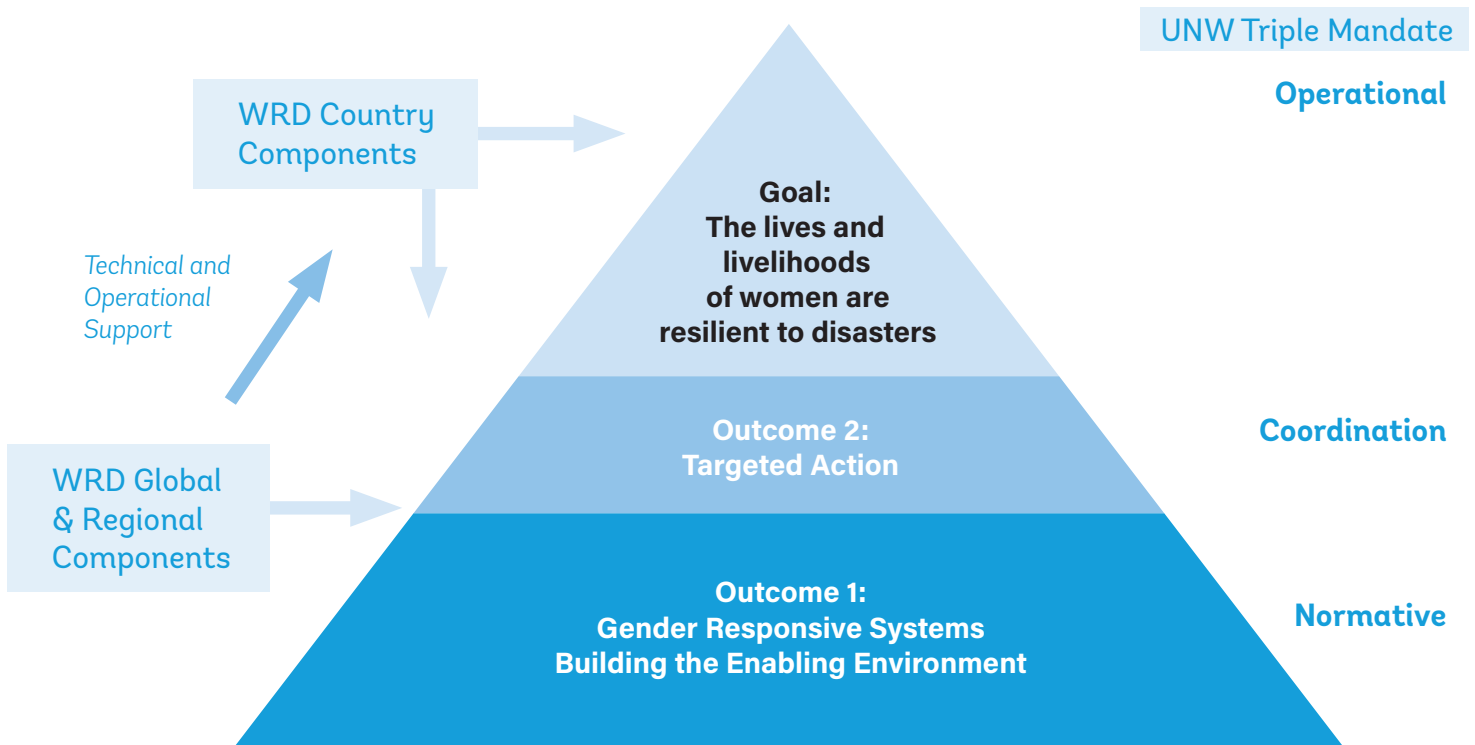
The country components will provide targeted action to strengthen women's resilience and build gender responsive systems, advancing different elements of the WRD depending on the national context, policy priorities, existing initiatives, needs, and capacities.

At the regional level, the focus will be on knowledge management, advocacy, gender and disability support for regional mechanisms, movements and coalitions, including the Pacific Resilience Partnership.

The global component will advance gender responsiveness in global DRR and climate processes, ensure global knowledge sharing and advocacy on women leadership for disaster resilience, and provide a platform for sharing good practice and voices from the Pacific.

The WRD approach adapts to the changing COVID-19 context and is guided by the principles of localisation and ownership in recognition of the importance of country driven and locally-owned action focused on local priorities. The WRD also aligns with the Pacific Resilience Standards linked to the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP).

The WRD Global, Regional, and Country Components



The WRD Knowledge Hub is an integral part of the WRD programme. Access to knowledge, research, tools, experts, good practice, women's perspective, and learning opportunities on gender-responsive disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery is facilitated through the WRD Knowledge Hub.

The WRD Knowledge Hub has been established to build a network of DRR, climate, gender, and resilience stakeholders including women's organisations at all levels working to help build women's resilience.

WRD Funding

The WRD Programme is funded by:



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