

GENDER PROGRESS REPORT

Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) 2022



WRD delegates. Photo: UN Women



SUMMARY

The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR), took place between 19-22 September, 2022 with the theme: *“From Crisis to Resilience: Transforming the Asia-Pacific Region’s future through disaster risk reduction.”* The conference focused on: i) investing in resilience and preparedness; ii) shock-proofed infrastructure and systems; and iii) resilient communities. It examined three cross-cutting themes of *“Localisation,” “Inclusion,”* and *“Science, Technology and Knowledge.”*

Women’s Resilience to Disasters programme objectives at APMCDRR



The **Women’s Resilience to Disasters (WRD) programme**, supported by the Australian Government is UN Women’s signature programme in disaster risk reduction.

The **WRD programme** aims to render the lives and livelihoods of women and girls resilient to disasters and threats, including climate change, contributing to sustainable, secure, and thriving communities. The objective is for WRD countries to adopt gender-responsive risk reduction and resilience decision-making and governance systems enabling targeted action to build the resilience of women and girls. This report focuses on WRD activities and support before and during the APMCDRR. A longer UN Women report encompassing all UN Women activities at APMCDRR will be made available.

Box 1: WRD objectives for the APMCDRR

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- To advocate for a [gender-responsive and inclusive Sendai Framework Midterm review process](#);
 - To galvanise support for a [Gender Action Plan under the Sendai Framework](#) by leveraging the [agreed conclusions](#) of the 66th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 66) and ensuring reference to these in the [Co-Chair’s summary](#);
 - To support, strategically, technically and through provision of financial resources, the **visibility, agency and leadership from Pacific women agents of change** in disaster risk reduction;
 - To highlight the [Women’s Resilience to Disasters \(WRD\) programme](#) as an innovative, effective approach for leveraging women’s agency and leadership for more inclusive and effective disaster risk reduction; and
 - To socialise the [WRD Knowledge Hub](#) and [women’s leadership tool](#);
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The UN Women conference objectives (see *Box 1*) were supported by Key Gender Messages (see *Annex B*), which were shared pre-conference with WRD delegates and gender champions.

WRD contributions and results at APMCDRR

WRD supported the following:

- **Strategic preparations and positioning of Pacific women** including a delegation of nine Pacific leaders and gender champions;
- **Two pre-conference webinars** on investing in inclusive preparedness, and supporting resilient communities;
- **A Pacific Gender Experts and Champions meeting**;
- **The Government of Australia's Host Stand** including through materials, videos, and presentations;
- **Two Spotlight sessions**, on gender-transformative DRR and addressing the risks faced by people with diverse SOGIESC;
- **An Ignite Stage session** on institutionalising SADD for DRR and COVID-19 recovery; and
- **A Partner event** on realising women's leadership for resilience during which the new leadership framework and tool were launched.

Through these contributions and support, the WRD programme contributed to:

- increased visibility, voice and advocacy of Pacific women agents of change and leaders in disaster risk reduction, in all their diversity;
 - securing the gender-responsiveness of the APMCDRR 2022 Co-Chairs' Statement, which highlighted the importance of gender-transformative, disability-inclusive, and a human rights-based approach to DRR.
 - increased commitment and buy-in for the creation of a Gender Action Plan for the Sendai Framework building on CSW66 and the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction.
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Photo 1: Panellists in the WRD supported partner event

WRD KEY ENGAGEMENTS AT THE APMCDRR 2022

Pre-conference webinars

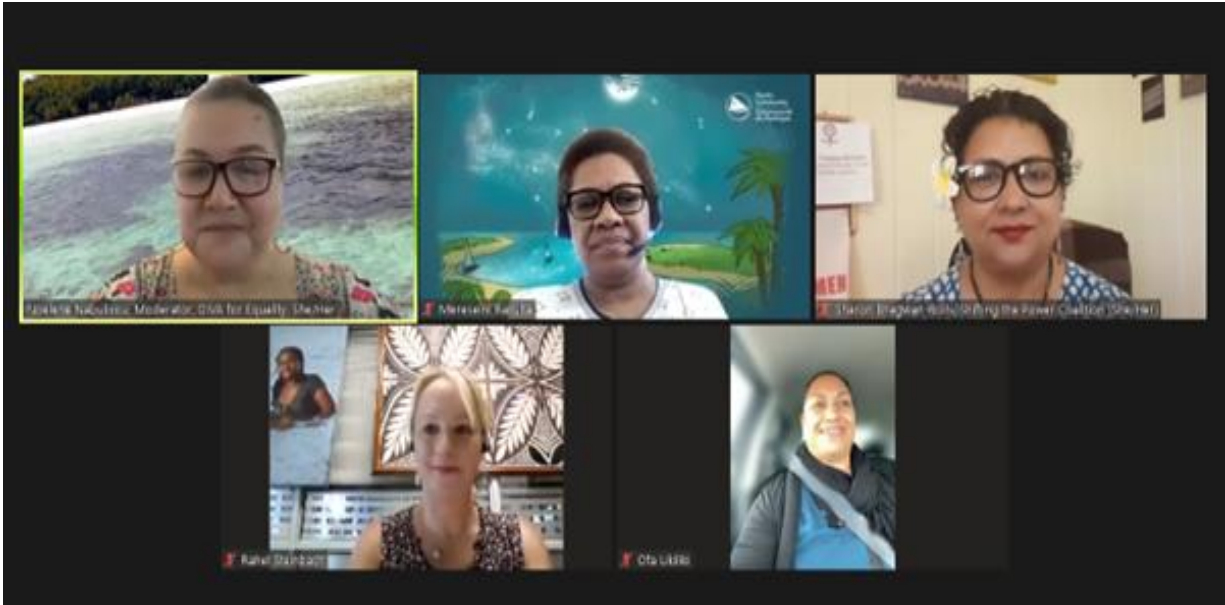


Photo 2: Speakers from the pre-conference supporting resilient communities webinar

Two webinars were convened in preparation for APMCDRR on 8 and 13 September 2022: i) [Investing in Inclusive Resilience and Preparedness](#), moderated by Sharon Bhagwan Rolls; and ii) [Pacific Approaches to Gender, Disaster Response and Supporting Resilient Communities](#), moderated by Noelene Nabulivou. The webinars together featured 11 speakers, women leaders from governments, civil society including women's organisations, the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) Agencies, UNDRR, and UN Women. It was attended by 70 participants.

Key messages and recommendations from these webinars included the importance of inclusive, people-centred, and accessible multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS) and evacuation facilities. Similarly, it was highlighted that women's organisations, disability rights organisations, and feminist coalitions have the solutions to address under-representation of Pacific Island women in local, traditional and national governance spaces, in order to achieve gender transformative action in disaster risk management and the climate change agenda, with support from programmes like the [Women's Resilience to Disasters Programme](#).

The webinars emphasised that building community resilience starts with recognising women and girls as leaders, first responders, and agents of change. Women must have equal opportunity to participate in decision-making in all facets of society. This means:

- addressing the underlying social, cultural and economic inequalities that can lead to vulnerability;
- prioritising the design of gender-responsive and disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction tools, policies, plans and initiatives;

- mainstreaming gender, including by building the local capacity of climate change and DRR experts alongside access to finance;
- supporting the meaningful participation and engagement of women at the community level;
- ensuring convergence and coherence of gender equality commitments, national gender action plans, and DRR strategies and plans;
- building understanding of the gender dimensions of disaster risk reduction; and
- increasing investment in and resource-flows to women-led civil society organisations and networks.

“We need to recognise women and girls as leaders, first responders and agents of change, not just as victims and survivors of disasters. Similarly, people with disabilities have unique knowledge and experience essential to the survival and to the resilience of their communities. Identifying these capabilities and planning for the needs of marginalised groups transforms resilience across all levels.”

– Adelaide Harvey, Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia

Pacific gender experts and champions meeting



Photo 3: Gender Experts and Champions Meeting participants. Source: UN Women

The meeting, held on 19 September 2022, brought together gender experts from women-led organisations, civil society, government, and UN partners. It involved a *talanoa* session underscoring the importance of an inclusive and gender-responsive implementation of the Sendai Framework including the Midterm Review process, and to advocate and share key messages for gender-responsive disaster risk reduction, including enhanced commitment and partnership from all stakeholders.

The event was attended by 36 participants representing disabled persons organisations, feminist movement and coalitions, gender justice and development justice activists, youth advocates and practitioners. Caitlin Wilson, Assistant Director of the Humanitarian Branch from the Government of Australia provided introductory remarks, followed by an update from the Minister for Disaster Management from Fiji, Honorable Minister Inia Seruiratu on the outcomes of the Pacific DRR Ministers Meeting, and priorities for APMCDRR. Sharon Bhagwan Rolls led a discussion with CSO representatives (from Shifting the Coalition partners from Talitha project, Diva for Equality and Pacific Disability Forum) highlighting their contributions to the

work of governments. Also in attendance was the Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls, Christine Clarke.

“This conference is an important opportunity for the Pacific to not only renew political will and commitment to achieving the Sendai Framework but to also advocate strongly for the Midterm Review to be as inclusive and gender responsive as possible. We need to be able to share lessons about what is working well in our region, what is not, and what support we need to achieve our commitments.” – Honorable Inia Seruiratu, Minister for Disaster Management, Fiji

Spotlight & Ignite Sessions

- The [Spotlight Session on “Gender-Transformative DRR](#) provided the space for panellists to showcase best practice and case studies that demonstrate the impacts that gender-transformative DRR can have on reducing discriminatory social norms and contributing to inclusive and sustainable risk-informed development that is grounded in human rights. A [companion paper](#) for the session was also provided to the participants.
- The [Spotlight Session on “Addressing the risks faced by LGBTQI+ People and People with diverse SOGIESC](#) highlighted the experiences of LGBTQI+ people and people with diverse SOGIESC in disasters, and provided them the space to share case studies of how they have reduced the disaster risks they face. The session also sought to build awareness among DRR stakeholders of the organisations and emerging work on the inclusion of LGBTQI+ people and people with diverse SOGIESC.



Photo 4: Panellists for the Spotlight Session on Gender-transformative DRR. Source: UNDRR



Photo 5: Panellists for the Spotlight Session on Diverse SOGIESC. Source: UNDRR

- The **Ignite Stage on “Institutionalising SADDD for Disaster Risk Reduction and COVID-19 Recovery in the Asia-Pacific Region”** was structured as an interactive game show where participants explored how much they know about gender data and how it can be used to reduce people’s disaster risk. Key issues emerging from the session included:
- i) Disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response planning and action at the community level needs to be participatory, consultative and inclusive - ensuring that no community or group is left behind particularly LGBTIQ+ people, and sexual and gender minorities;
 - ii) Humanitarian agencies need to recognise the leadership of local communities and organisations in their programming and development work;
 - iii) Humanitarian and COVID-19 response and recovery interventions must also address the rights, needs, and capacities of people with diverse SOGIESC;
 - iv) Collection, analysis, and use of SADDD is critical for gender-responsive national and regional disaster risk and climate resilience laws, policies, programmes and resourcing; and
 - v) SADDD collection, analysis, and use must ensure the safety and protection of personal data and information.

Partner Event: ‘Realising Women’s Leadership for Resilience in Asia-Pacific’

A Partner Event jointly organised by UN Women and Humanitarian Advisory Group (HAG) was held on 22 September 2022. The Event was attended by close to 50 participants and Beth Eggleston from HAG moderated the Event. *Four panellists* shared their experiences on creating an enabling environment for elevating women and youth leadership in DRR, and highlighted the barriers and opportunities they encountered while advancing women’s leadership.

1. **Flora Vano, Country Programme Manager, ActionAid (Vanuatu)** shared ActionAid’s approach to working with women on early warning systems, intergenerational learning, and emergency preparedness and response. She highlighted the importance of women defining the channels and content of the early warning messages that reach them resulting in more practical, rather than technical messages. For example, practical messages would include five-day rain forecasts reminding women to seek alternative ways of drying their laundry, or flash flood forecasts, reminding women to find other ways to house their chickens and how and where to access services from the government. Ms. Vano noted that early warning messages should also include channels that reach women with disabilities (i.e., sign language for deaf individuals). Further, traditional knowledge (i.e., certain behaviour of birds before the rain) should also be recognised and passed on from older generations to newer ones. Ms. Vano concluded by advocating the integration of traditional knowledge with scientific information and to use this as a platform to elevate women’s leadership in disaster and climate resilience.



Photo 6: Panellists of the Partner Event. Source: UNDRR

2. **Vasiti Soko, Director of the National Disaster Management Office (Fiji)** talked about her leadership journey as the first woman director of the NDMO in the region, particularly her experience growing up in a family of many male members who enabled her to follow her passion and become a leader in the spaces she engages in. She highlighted the need to sensitise men on gender and the critical point of having men championing women in key spaces, including advancing policies that are gender-responsive. Ms. Soko also talked about the importance of having informal support groups not only for adult women but also for the youth. For instance, some initiatives she has led include organising a women's resilience group which hosts monthly discussions for women, allowing them to talk about their own advocacy in their living spaces and circles; and organising a youth group to enable young people to establish their own solutions for disasters. Ms. Soko also discussed how it was important to deliberately engage in actions that facilitate women's leadership in the NDMO (i.e. ensuring that lists of trainees on community-based disaster resilience includes women) and acknowledged the support that the [WRD Programme](#) is providing the NDMO, including reviewing humanitarian and disaster resilience policies to ensure they are gender-responsiveness.

“The journey towards women’s leadership is a journey we cannot do on our own - we have to take them [men] with us.” (Vasiti Soko, NDMO Fiji)

3. **Fega Pangestika, a Disaster Management Analyst from Cerdas Antisipasi Risiko Bencana (CARI!) Indonesia**, talked about research they had conducted that mapped the extent of women's participation in disaster risk management practices in Indonesia and identified key enablers and barriers to women's participation in DRM practices in their country. She discussed how their research found that many Indonesian women were still unable to effectively participate in disaster risk reduction and climate resilience efforts. However, the research also found that when women are given opportunities, support, and the enabling environment to participate, they create partnerships with the government and stakeholders and identify innovative actions that allow them to achieve what has not been achieved before. She noted that the establishment of the Indonesia Women's Forum in DRR has been critical to ensuring women's voices are heard and participation secured, as the Forum allows women to share knowledge, best practices, and build one another's capacities. Ms. Pangestika also recognised UN Women's support through the [WRD Programme](#), particularly in their action planning, knowledge management, advocacy, and capacity development for women.

“When women are given the opportunity, the support and the enabling environment to participate, they do things that are not usually done before.” (Fega Pangestika, CARI! Indonesia)

4. **Susan Grey, Executive Director Branch of FemLINK (Pacific)**, discussed how organisations can better support young women to engage and lead in disaster and climate resilience, and confirmed the important role of traditional knowledge in supporting women to lead and support DRR interventions. She emphasised how youth and women typically serve as first responders and so need to be trained on how to carry out damage assessments, where to send assessment forms, and how to link up with CSO partners for recovery and rebuilding work. She also highlighted the need to encourage women to use traditional knowledge to support DRR interventions in communities, such as for food preservation during times of disasters. Finally, she recognised how programmes like the [Women's Resilience to Disasters](#) are much needed in Kiribati because it supports the government, CSOs and DRR stakeholders like the Red Cross Society to build community resilience.

Following the panellist discussions, **Rahel Steinbach, the WRD Global Coordinator and DRR Team Lead from UN Women** introduced the [Framework and Tools for Assessing Women's Leadership in Disaster and Climate Resilience](#), which can be applied at the organisational, sector, national, or subnational level. Tool implementation can provide a baseline and benchmark for measuring progress securing women's safe and meaningful participation, collective influencing and advocacy, enabling partnerships, building capacity, and securing funding. She also discussed how the implementation of the framework and tools in Vanuatu has created momentum and identified positive practices which leverage women's agency and leadership. She also drew from a study¹ across 91 countries, which showed that electing women politicians can help enact more ambitious climate change policies, and lead to the adoption of more inclusive climate change policies.

James Gilling of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade-Australia provided the “closing remarks.” He shared his gratitude to the panellists, UN Women, and HAG for the discussions and highlighted key takeaways, particularly on the need to be deliberate in advancing women's leadership in disaster risk reduction and climate change; and the need to develop networks, including champions among men, to advance women's leadership and participation in spaces where women are still not able to participate.

“The word DELIBERATE is one of my key takeaways. With the existing distribution of power, if you're not deliberate then it just replicates power. NETWORKING is my second takeaway. In this session, we have seen the power of networks in the absence of more holistic fundamental change. The creation of networks is a way of protecting you [women leaders] or at least of dealing with some of the inherent prejudices you experience.” (James Gilling, DFAT, Australian Government)

¹ Gender and climate change: Do female parliamentarians make difference? Astghik Maviskalyan, Yashar Tarvedi, [European Journal of Political Economy](#), Volume 56, January 2019, Pages 151-164

Australia Host Stand: WRD Presentation

Makereta Konrote, WRD Gender and DRR Advisor provided a brief overview of the [Women's Resilience to Disasters \(WRD\)](#) programme, a flagship programme for the Australian Government, and UN Women's signature DRR intervention. She firstly shared the rationale behind the WRD programme including the gender inequalities of risk and women's exclusion from DRR, and highlighted critical gender gaps in DRR including gender-responsive and inclusive DRR governance. Ms. Konrote noted that the WRD programme was closing gaps in the enabling environment for inclusive DRR, supporting targeted action (such as disability and gender inclusive early warning systems) and increasing access to tools and knowledge through the [WRD Knowledge Hub](#). Key comments from Ms. Konrote can be found [here](#).



Photo 7. WRD Delegates and partners at Australia Host Stand. Source: UN Women

UN WOMEN COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH

UN Women's WRD team in the Pacific, with the support of the Global WRD team, established a APMCDRR advocacy, communications, and social media strategy, which guided the development of social media assets, key messages, and their dissemination to key gender and DRR partners, networks, and stakeholders during the AMPCDRR and its associated conferences. An overview of communications material is summarised below, and a selection of social media posts shared in *Annex A*.

- WRD Key messages for APMCDRR (see *Annex B*);
- [UN Women official statement for the APMCDRR](#);
- [Press release: Pacific women pave the way for gender-responsive resilience](#);
- APMCDRR Trello Board;
- [APMCDRR Leadership video](#);
- [WRD Pacific video](#);
- WRD posters (for the Australia Host stand) (see *Annex C*); and
- WRD key achievements factsheet.

ANNEX A: Selection of Social Media Posts by UN Women, DFAT, and other Partners



The **#Pacific** Gender Experts & Champions Meeting **#APMCDRR** brought together stakeholders incld **@AusAmbGender** for an engaging discussion on **#genderequality** + women's leadership in **#DRR** officiated by **@ISeruiratu**, organized by **@wrdrhub** supported by **@dfat** & implemented by **@UN_Women**.

Traduire le Tweet



Shifting the Power Coalition et 8 autres personnes

7:46 AM · 20 sept. 2022 · Twitter Web App



Day 1 of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction **#APMCDRR**. Through our Women's Resilience to Disasters programme in the Pacific, we are supporting ten **#Pacific** women to attend the conference incld **@FijiNDMO** Director **@SokoVasiti** **#APMCDRR** **#genderequality**

Traduire le Tweet



Women's Resilience to Disasters et UNDRR Asia-Pacific

2:42 AM · 19 sept. 2022 · Twitter Web App



Women's Resilience to Disasters @wrdrhub · 22 sept.
We asked women leaders and practitioners from **#Asia** and the **#Pacific** how we can support women's leadership in **#DisasterRiskReduction**! **#APMCDRR2022**
@dfat @sida @un_women @unwomenpacific @unwomenasia @humadgrp

How can we support women's leadership in disaster risk reduction?



Australian Aid WOMEN'S RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS Sida HUMANITARIAN ADVISORY GROUP

155 vues

0:00 / 2:15



Women's Resilience to Disasters @wrdrhub · 20 sept.
Are you interested in understanding good practice to support and elevate women's leadership & empowerment in disaster risk reduction?
Join **@un_women** and **@humadgrp** at the **#APMCDRR2022** event "Realising women's leadership for resilience in the Asia-Pacific region!"





Faith Pwe'a, Remina Williams and Esther Nabuti are attending #APMCDRR this week to bring young #Pacific women's voices, solutions and leadership to the regional platform, as part of our Women's Resilience to Disasters (WRD) programme Pacific delegation at the conference.

Traduire le Tweet



Women's Resilience to Disasters et 4 autres personnes

6:14 AM · 21 sept. 2022 · Twitter Web App



Pleased to organise this #APMCDRR event with @dfat & @HumAdGrp. We discussed the framework & toolkit for assessing women's leadership in disaster risk reduction & climate resilience, developed by @UN_Women & @HumAdGrp, and successfully piloted in Vanuatu.

wrdsn.unwomen.org/practice/listi...

Traduire le Tweet



6:11 PM · 23 sept. 2022 · Twitter Web App



Women's Resilience to Disasters @wrdsn · 21 sept.
It is only with system-wide change, collective advocacy, and coherent and targeted action at all levels, will we truly move beyond the "vulnerability discourse" to #genderequality, women's empowerment and leadership in #DRR.

#APMCDRR2022

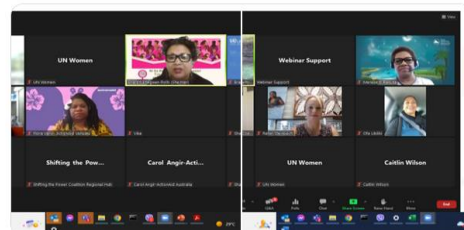


UN Women Pacific et 4 autres personnes



That's a wrap for our #Gender #DRR webinar series in the lead up to the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on #DRR. Thanks to everyone who tuned in, participated and to our moderators @sharonfiji @noelenen. Let's continue those discussions at #APMCDRR which starts today in 🇺🇸!

Traduire le Tweet



UNDRR Asia-Pacific et 5 autres personnes

2:05 AM · 19 sept. 2022 · Twitter Web App

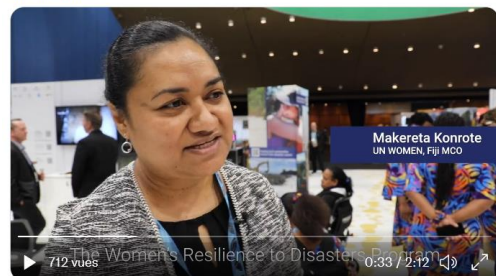


Caitlin Wilson
@AusHumanitarian

Today at the #APMCDRR2022 our Pacific partners discussed the importance of disability inclusive and gender responsive disaster resilience.

@ActionAid_au @wrdsn @unwomenpacific

Traduire le Tweet



11:19 AM · 21 sept. 2022 · Twitter Web App



Humanitarian Advisory Group @HumAdGrp · 23 sept.

It was wonderful to hear from women leading #DRR efforts in the #Pacific and about the @unwomen toolkit for assessing women's leadership in disaster and climate resilience at #APMCDRR2022

Funded by @dfat, you can access the toolkit via @wrdsn:

wrdsn.unwomen.org/practice/listi...



Rahel Steinbach et 9 autres personnes

ANNEX B: WRD Key messages for the APMCDRR

- The APMCDRR must leverage the significant normative gains and the blueprint for gender-responsive and inclusive DRR and climate change, shared in the [Agreed Conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW 66\)](#) to ensure gender-just DRR and climate justice.
- We must continue to secure critical progress to enable a **gender-responsive Midterm Review** of the Sendai Framework for DRR, harnessing the opportunity to call for a stronger focus on dedicated gender-responsive and gender-transformative actions in future implementation of the Sendai Framework.
- We must secure a common position across Asia and the Pacific in support of the creation of a **Gender Action Plan (GAP) for the Sendai Framework for DRR**, which is coherent with existing GAPs, to ensure gender transformative implementation through to 2030.
- We must work collectively to ensure the lives and livelihoods of women and girls are resilient to disasters and threats such as climate change. **The Women's Resilience to Disasters (WRD) programme** is supporting women in the Pacific lead and meaningfully participate in DRR and resilience building whilst challenging the underlying gender norms, roles, and relations, which contribute to the disproportionate disaster impacts for women, girls, and people with disabilities and their exclusion from decision making.
- We must close gaps in women's leadership in DRR and resilience building and leverage women's voice, agency, and leadership for resilience to benefit from their essential knowledge, skills, resources, and expertise. A new [WRD tool](#) helps countries, sectors, and organisations assess **women's leadership in disaster and climate resilience** to identify progress alongside barriers and opportunities to harness women's meaningful participation and transformative leadership.
- We must close the significant gaps in the sharing and uptake of good practices and tools identified in a recent [UN Joint Study on Gender and DRR](#). The [Women's Resilience to Disasters \(WRD\) Knowledge Hub](#) offers a "one-stop-shop" for all gender-related disaster, climate, and resilience knowledge, expertise, and tools. We should use this critical platform to centralise learning and knowledge, and to amplify women's messages and demands around gender-responsive climate and disaster resilience.

These messages are aligned with the ["Suggested commitments for addressing gender gaps in DRR and resilience,"](#) shared by the WRD/UN Women team at the Global Platform, 2022.



Annex C: WRD Posters





The Women's Resilience to Disasters Knowledge Hub
centralises knowledge,
resources, tools, expertise, and
good practice for enabling
women's resilience to disasters.

 **WOMEN'S RESILIENCE
TO DISASTERS
KNOWLEDGE HUB**

wrd.unwomen.org

Australian Aid 



SCAN ME



Photo: UN Women

For more information, please visit: wrd.unwomen.org

