

UN WOMEN:

REPORT FOR THE MIDTERM REVIEW  
OF THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK  
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION  
(2015-2030)



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# REPORT FOR THE MIDTERM REVIEW OF THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (2015-2030)



**DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

**UN WOMEN**

Geneva, October 2022



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# RETROSPECTIVE REVIEW

## UN Women's major achievements since 2015

Since 2015, UN-Women has supported gender-responsive and inclusive disaster risk reduction and resilience and contributed to the Sendai Framework Outcome and Goals by: i) **securing commitment for the gender-transformative implementation of the Sendai Framework**; ii) **building an enabling environment** and supporting system-wide change including strengthening normative frameworks, and women's leadership and empowerment at all levels, providing capacity development, strengthening the collection and use of gender data and gender analysis, and mobilising networks and partners for more coordinated approaches; and by iii) **supporting targeted action** for ensuring women and girls have voice and agency to withstand multiple hazards, recover from disasters, and increase their resilience to future disasters and threats.

**UN Women's work has accelerated, following the launch of its DRR signature programme, the Women's Resilience to Disasters (WRD) Programme, financed by the Australian government in the Pacific and through its sister programmes supported by donors including the governments of**

Sweden, Japan, Canada, and the UK in Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean. The WRD programme aims to render the lives and livelihoods of women and girls resilient to disasters and threats, contributing to sustainable, secure, and thriving communities. The objective is for WRD countries to adopt gender-responsive decision-making and governance systems and enable targeted action to build the resilience of women and girls.

**Since 2015, UN Women contributed to gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and resilience policy frameworks and targeted action that strengthen women's resilience in 51 countries, covering 778 million people, through the provision of technical support and close cooperation with national governments and 1,407 women's organisations, as well as 50 UN entities.** In 2021 alone, UN-Women worked with 245 women's organisations and disaster resilience stakeholders in 47 countries to increase women's access to gender-responsive early warning systems, finance, services, resilient infrastructure, and resilient livelihoods and businesses.

*A summary of key achievements in relation to each SF Priority area is shared in the following sections.*

## Priority 1. Understanding disaster risk

UN Women has contributed to increased understanding of the gender dimensions of disaster risks.

Key achievements include the following:

- **Building the evidence base, sharing knowledge, and providing training on the gender-dimensions of disaster and climate risk including** through research, and the development or engendering of tools and training material (see *Box 1*). Critically UN Women designed, developed, and launched the Women’s Resilience to Disasters (WRD) Knowledge Hub in 2022, a “one-stop-shop” for all gender-related disaster, climate change, and resilience knowledge, tools, and expertise. It includes 1,585 resources in the WRD library, 18 topic pages, women’s perspectives, case studies, events, the WRD Expert Register, the WRD Policy Tracker, expert blogs, and specific regional pages.
- **Identifying gender gaps in current Sendai Framework implementation** including through global assessments, regional progress assessments (see *Box 1*) including in Asia Pacific, and the development of global and regional guidance notes and training to support gender-responsive implementation of the Sendai Framework including for Eastern and Southern Africa.
- **Building the evidence base including knowledge and data and advocacy on COVID-19** including the guidance “Leave no one behind in the COVID-19 prevention, response and recovery”, a joint global webinar “Learning from COVID-19 to strengthen gender-responsive DRR” in April 2021, and regional webinars including the joint UN Women and UNDRR hosted

“Gender and disaster risk reduction and response in the context of COVID-19: the Asia-Pacific region.” These resources and

### BOX 1

#### Key UN Women resources on the gender dimensions of disaster risks

- [EnGenDER gender inequality, climate change & disaster risk resilience country briefs \(2021\)](#) provide insight on the impact of climate change and disaster risk, and the cost of inaction for the nine EnGenDER programme countries, to understand the differential impact and whether institutional gender biases exist, in Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname.
- [Gender and age inequality of disaster risk \(2019\)](#), a joint publication with UNICEF, aiming to increase understanding of the gender and age dimensions of disaster risk, and help policy makers and practitioners address risk more effectively in a gender and age-responsive manner.
- [Think-piece on gender and climate change in the context of COVID-19 \(2021\)](#), which makes the connections between gender and climate change in the COVID-19 context.
- [Review of gender-responsiveness and disability inclusion in disaster risk reduction in Asia and the Pacific \(2020\)](#), which includes an assessment of the extent to which progress towards the targets of the Sendai Framework has been gender-responsive and disability inclusive.
- [Climate change, gender equality, and human rights in Asia: regional review and promising practices \(2020\)](#), which aims to provide a better understanding for policymakers in Asia on how to focus on human rights and gender equality in the context of climate change in practice.

events explored the interlinkages between gender inequalities, disaster management, and COVID-19, as well as identifying key barriers and potential paths to inclusive and equal disaster risk management during the pandemic.

- **Strengthening the collection, dissemination and use of gender data including disaggregated risk**, for example, UN Women’s initiative, Women Count, which seeks to bring about a radical shift in how gender statistics are used, created and promoted, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The approach: i) promotes a supportive policy environment to address institutional and financial constraints and to strengthen policies and practices governing the production and use of gender statistics; ii) supports efforts to improve the regular production of gender statistics, including building the technical capacity of the national statistical systems and providing financial support to improve data collection; and iii) aims to improve access to data to inform policy advocacy through solutions such as open access, dissemination tools, and user-producer dialogues, so that data users are better able to use gender statistics in policy, programmes and advocacy.
- **Mainstreaming gender analysis into assessments, tools, and templates at all levels** to increase understanding of the underlying drivers of disaster risk and ensure that gender data (both qualitative and quantitative) are used to unpack the needs, priorities, and capacities of women and girls in all their diversity. For example, the “Six-step guide to understanding the gender dimensions of disasters” helps policy makers and planners understand differential impacts of disasters and threats including through listening to “missing voices” by proactively reaching out and connecting with marginalised individuals in partnership with intermediary/grassroots organisations).

## Priority 2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk

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**UN Women has contributed to gender-responsive and inclusive DRR governance.**

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**Key achievements include the following:**

- **Advocating and engendering GLOBAL frameworks and mechanisms including opening the avenue for gender-responsive implementation of the Sendai Framework** through: a Joint UN Study (2021) with 25 UN entities on the status of UN System’s work on advancing gender equality and women’s leadership in DRR, a new consultative Global Group of Gender Experts, a CSW66 side event with nearly 400 participants on a gender-responsive Midterm review process, the provision of guidance for Member States to support gender-responsive Sendai Framework reporting; and advocacy for a Gender Action Plan for the Sendai Framework.
- **Supporting gender-responsive and inclusive REGIONAL resilience frameworks and standards** including the European Roadmap on Disaster Risk Reduction 2021-2030, which was endorsed by 55 Member States, the Asia Pacific Action Plan, and the updated Caribbean Regional Action Plan. These were amongst those normative documents with highest focus on inclusivity and gender equality thanks to close coordination and technical support by UN-Women. In addition, UN women supported development of the recently endorsed ASEAN Regional Framework on Protection, Gender, and Inclusion in Disaster Management 2021-2025, serving as the protection, gender, and mainstreaming strategy for implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2021-2025. It outlines a series of 28 target actions that fill in the “missing

links” between disaster management, gender-based violence, child protection, disability inclusion, and gender actors in the region. UN Women has further supported development and roll-out of the Pacific Resilience Standards in partnership with PIFS, UNDP, and SPC with a focus on the “Inclusion Standard,” to support implementation of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP).

*For example, since 2017 in Kenya, UN Women has worked with the National Drought Management Agency (NDMA), National Disaster Operations Centre (NDOC), and Council of Governors (COG), providing technical support in the development of the national DRM policy, strategies, and legal frameworks to ensure gender inclusion. Outcomes stemming from this technical support include the development of an inclusive and gender responsive National DRM Policy 2018 and the draft DRM Bill 2018-2020.*

- **Securing gender-responsive DRR policies and normative processes at the NATIONAL level.** Since 2015, UN Women has supported gender-responsive policies and strategies for DRR and management across the 50 countries where it has been working on DRR; contributing to Target E.
- **Developing the Women’s Resilience to Disasters Policy Tracker**, which monitors progress across 193 UN Member States in achieving gender-responsive and inclusive disaster risk reduction and resilience laws, policies, strategies, and plans. It **currently identifies 150 inclusive national and regional policy frameworks for easy replication by policy-makers worldwide and further shares good practice.**
- **Developing a tool and checklist for policy makers and practitioners** to guide development and update of gender-responsive laws and policies for disaster and climate resilience. The finalised tool will be

available [here](#).

- **Supporting important advances in gender-mainstreaming in GLOBAL and REGIONAL coordination mechanisms** (e.g. COP26, CSW66, regional platforms for DRR, 7<sup>th</sup> Global Platform for DRR, MHEWS-III, WRC 5, APMCDRR2022) to ensure a stronger focus on key gender inclusion including: securing speaking slots to elevate the voices of Pacific women; preparing technical support papers; negotiating gender-responsive events; and preparing gender-responsive concept notes, preparation processes, panels, and outcome documents include the CSW Agreed Conclusions. Importantly for the Global Platform, UN Women contributed to over 14 events and organised the first in-person Gender Champions and WRD Expert meeting at the 7<sup>th</sup> Global Platform uniting more than 50 gender champions, from across the world – see our UNW summary report for more details.

*For example, the 66th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66 - March 2022) agreed language is a major achievement. Given the critical priority theme “Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes,” UN Women was involved in extensive preparations for CSW66. UN Women contributed to the work of the CSW66 Expert Group Meeting, provided technical assistance including to the Secretary General report on the CSW66 priority theme, and engaged with the organisation of several side events, including one focusing on a gender-responsive Sendai Framework Mid-Term Review (together with UNDRR and UNFPA), and a ministerial level Small Island Developing States (SIDS) side event bringing the Pacific and Caribbean stakeholders together.*



- [Establishing a Women’s Resilience to Disasters GLOBAL community of practice](#) of over 400 practitioners and experts to support global exchange of experience, good practice, and tools; alongside technical briefings on key [WRD topics](#); and working with WINDRR to support the establishment of regional networks for women’s leadership in DRR, including in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- [Securing gender-responsive interagency processes including ensuring a gender-responsive reporting processes for the UN Plan of Action on DRR for resilience](#), engendering the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) - a global inter-agency partnership that supports country efforts to reduce disaster and climate risks by building their capacity, and engendering the COVID-19 Recovery Needs Assessment (CRNA) coordination group work. Importantly, UN-Women has fostered a close cooperation with UNFPA and UNDRR to ensure global coordination mechanisms support women’s empowerment and leadership.
- [Carrying out global advocacy and social media campaigns in support of WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP and of gender equality in DRR and resilience](#) including holding [webinars](#), preparing social media and videos on the benefits and opportunities for women’s leadership (e.g., the [global video on women’s leadership](#) and the [APMCDRR 2022 women’s leadership video](#)), and providing a platform for women and their representative organisations in global, regional, and national DRR mechanisms to elevate their voices. For example, UN Women supported nine Pacific women leaders and gender champions at the APMCDRR.
- [Developing a Toolkit for assessing women’s leadership in disaster and climate risk reduction and resilience \(2022\)](#), which can be used to assess progress, identify gaps, barriers, and opportunities for women’s transformative leadership at the national, subnational or organisational level.
- [Developing a Framework and tools for measuring women’s leadership and meaningful participation \(2022\) in COVID-19 responses](#), for assessing the progress and impact of women’s leadership and meaningful participation in the COVID-19 response.
- [Developing the “Towards gender equality and women’s leadership for resilience to disaster risks in Latin America and the Caribbean”](#) report in 2022, which identifies the extent gender approaches and the empowerment of women are mainstreamed into DRR in the region, and analyses the current situation, achievements, and challenges.
- [Building capacities for women and women’s organisations to lead and meaningful participate in DRR and resilience](#), for example, in 2020 in Colombia UN Women supported the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD) through the “Women leaders and defenders from Chocó: Humanitarian Agents and Cartographers” project. Similarly, UN Women helped strengthen local women leaders’ capacities in political advocacy during the development of Territorial Development Plans, local DRM Plans<sup>13</sup>, and an Emergency Action Plan for Disaster Risk.

### Priority 3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience

UN Women has contributed to increased investment in gender-transformative DRR for resilience including for women's organisations

Key achievements include the following:

- **Increasing donor investment in gender-responsive and inclusive interventions** including UN Women's signature the Women's Resilience to Disasters programme, which ensures the lives and livelihoods of women and girls are resilient to disasters and threats.
- **Securing funding for women's organisations including through the WRD grants mechanism**, which allocates funds for grassroots women's organisations, disability organisations, youth organisations, and LGBTIQ+ organisations to implement targeted actions for building women's resilience to disasters. Further, UN Women works with **over 500 women's organisations across the globe** and has completed research and analysis on "Closing the funding gap for women-focused organisations (WFO) responding to COVID-19 in Asia and the Pacific" (2022), which recommended that: i) donors should target and urgently channel funding to local WFOs; and that ii) targeting funding towards WFOs is critical to reach the "last mile" and to leave no one behind.
- **Supporting gender-responsive and inclusive budgets, expenditure, and funding including through technical support**, for example in Fiji (including the review and revision of budget submission templates) as well as through research and tool development, and capacity development, for example "The status of women and men report: innovating financing, climate change and disaster risk

reduction in the Caribbean (2022)." The report focuses on coping mechanisms adopted by men and women in response to large- and small-scale, sudden and slow-onset, frequent and infrequent, and natural or man-made hazards. The report profiles the Caribbean to provide insights into areas of vulnerability, climate change, and DRR methods adopted in the region.

- **Supporting integration of gender analysis and gender equality into climate and disaster risk finance and insurance** including development of a guide on Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance (CDRFI) Gender analysis in non-traditional sectors: climate and disaster risk finance and insurance (2022); and a technical guidance note (together with UNDP) on "Mainstreaming gender equality in integrated national financing (2021)", for national governments, civil society organisations, the UN system, and the private sector. Together with UNCDF, UN Women is also advancing piloting of parametric micro-insurance schemes with women's organisations.
- **Ensuring women and girls are able to reduce disaster risks through supporting locally appropriate mechanisms, assets, services, and products that build resilience** and ensuring innovative and alternative climate and disaster resilience livelihoods and capacity development for women's disaster and climate resilient businesses.

*For example, in 2020 in Jamaica, after the COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted the tourism and hospitality sector, UN Women through the EnGenDER project provided support for women to increase **business resilience by distributing cash subventions to provide a temporary safety net to the most impacted vendors**. The subventions were presented to 417 women craft vendors operating under lease arrangements across six craft markets.*

Similarly, in 2020, UN Women helped ease climate risks for women farmers in the mountains of Viet Nam and helped them to adopt more “climate-resilient” methods. Agricultural engineers of the programme introduced a new chicken breed that can easily adapt to the region’s more intense weather and rainfall; and taught women farmers how to reduce disaster risks, such as by sheltering their chickens on higher ground before the storm season. UN Women further provided capacity strengthening on business development and market access, so women farmers can sell their chickens at high and stable prices. The farmers have formed groups to exchange ideas on how to solve problems in production and processing.

In the context of the programme “**Strengthening Resilience of Women and Girls affected by conflicts, violent extremism and climate change in the Lake Chad Region**” (2019-2021), UN Women established multipurpose empowerment centres that enable women and girls to convene in a safe space to access livelihood, protection, and empowerment services. In Damaturu, Nigeria, an estimated 1,005 conflict and disaster affected women gained income generation skills (fashion design, knitting, cosmetics, food processing and handcraft) and earned income, while cultivating lasting friendships, strengthening social cohesion, and finding psychosocial and legal support. The trained women were also supported with business starter kits.

#### Priority 4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery

UN Women has contributed to ensuring gender-responsive preparedness and recovery.

Key achievements include the following:

- **Ensuring Target E is inclusive** thereby implementing the call of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres that every person on earth should be protected by early warning systems in the next five years. UN Women works with women's organisations and networks to ensure that early warning systems and preparedness interventions are

*For example, in 2018, training was conducted in Viet Nam with the expertise of UN Women, to develop disaster preparedness plans in disaster-prone communes in eight provinces involving over 600 commune members with 50 percent women’s participation. The capacity building initiatives provided women in the communities the key steps of disaster preparedness and response by adopting the “4 on the spot” motto: leadership on-the-spot, human resources on-the-spot, materials on-the-spot, and logistics on-the-spot.*

*In the Philippines in 2020, UN Women supported, together with UNDP, the Community Quick-response Teams (CQRTs). This mechanism that institutionalises women-led early warning and early response in South Upi and acts as parallel support to local government units and the Department of Social Welfare and Development. It responds to cycles of displacement in communities affected by violence, that have resulted in the overcrowding of underfunded evacuation facilities and have exposed women and girls to harassment and gender-based violence.*

*In 2020, Markets in Vanuatu have strengthened preparedness towards the impacts of COVID-19, thanks to the WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) support received through the UN Women’s Markets for Change (M4C) Project. Items supplied include essential WASH and cleaning materials, reusable washable facemasks, water blasters, infra-red thermometers, sinks, a rubbish collection trailer, public announcement systems, LED TV screens, and audio systems.*

*UN Women in the Pacific organised a [webinar](#) in September 2022 to discuss the importance of including diverse voices, demonstrate localisation approaches that promote inclusion, celebrating women’s innovation and leadership in disaster preparedness. It highlighted that Pacific Island communities can build on Pacific Island women’s local, traditional knowledge, technical expertise, and innovation to ensure inclusive and accessible multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS).*

gender-responsive.

- **Engendering the Post Disaster Needs Assessment Process by providing [gender guidance](#)** as well as providing guidance on gender-responsive recovery and reconstruction efforts across all sectors in the resource: “[Gender equality and women’s empowerment in disaster recovery \(2021\)](#)”, published with the World Bank, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, the European Union, and UNDRR amongst others.
- **Supporting rapid gender assessments following key disasters** to ensure gender and social inclusion are integral to risk-informed recovery. UN Women has provided technical support to gender-responsive disaster risk and post-disaster needs assessments,

*For example, in 2015, after southeast Albania was affected by extensive flooding in the aftermath of an earthquake, [UN Women undertook a rapid gender assessment](#) of post disaster impacts to complement the Government’s Assessment, which did not fully consider the gendered impacts of the floods. The gender assessment therefore ensured that women’s disadvantaged and marginalised roles in the flooded areas was considered and enabled gender-responsive compensation and recovery.*

including in **nine countries, covering 291 million people in 2021.**

- **Preparing gender guidance for [Covid Recovery Needs Assessment \(CRNA\)](#)** and is providing ongoing support for more broader pandemic recovery needs assessment guidance.
- **Supporting COVID-19 recovery and ensuring long-term recovery benefits for women** by building data and knowledge, policy and technical advice, and programmatic interventions with a focus on: i) ensuring gender-based violence, including domestic violence, is mitigated and reduced; ii) social protection and economic stimulus packages serve women and girls; iii) promoting people support and equal sharing of unpaid care work; iv) supporting women and girls lead and participate in COVID-19 response

*For example, in Bangladesh in 2020, UN Women implemented a cash assistance project comprising cash grant support along with COVID-19 prevention-related awareness raising messages to approximately 2,322 households of women-headed families, persons with disabilities, the elderly, sex workers, and transgender individuals. During the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, along with the aftermath of cyclone Amphan, and month-long monsoon flooding, the most marginalised groups in the disaster-prone areas lost their livelihoods and sources of income with significant impacts for food security and access to services and infrastructure including shelter.*

*In Nepal, The Women Friendly Disaster Management (WFDM) Group, together with UN Women, has supported the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in implementing the Project, ‘**People to People Support for Building Community Resilience through Recovery and Reconstruction in Nepal**’, from May 2019 to July 2020. Along this line, the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion*

*Checklist for Community Centre (MPCC) was developed with technical assistance from WFDM and UN Women, through a series of consultations with **municipality-level stakeholders in seven municipalities in Nepal.***

planning and decision-making; and v) ensuring data and coordination mechanisms include gender perspectives.

- **Implementing rapid Gender Assessment surveys (RGAs) on the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 in 45 countries**, were

***For example, in 2020 in Serbia**, UN Women provided targeted gender-responsive disaster risk management support to the COVID-19 Recovery Needs Assessment (CRNA) including mainstreaming gender and gender analysis. As a result: i) gender-specific data was made available; ii) awareness was raised on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on women (drawing upon the findings of the Rapid Gender Analysis); iii) gender was mainstreamed into the recovery planning; and iv) the national Gender Machinery was supported to engage in the development and implementation of the CRNA.*

conducted by UN Women in partnership with national statistical offices, governmental entities, international partners, or private sector.

- **Developing the [UNDP-UN Women Gender Response Tracker](#)** to provide information on how countries are integrating gender equality in their policy responses to COVID-19. This provides guidance for policymakers and evidence for advocates to ensure a gender-sensitive COVID-19 policy response and recovery.

# PROSPECTIVE REVIEW

Three key issues should be prioritised to accelerate gender-responsive and inclusive implementation of the Sendai Framework to 2030 and beyond.

1. **Strengthen implementation of the SF Guiding Principles.** Although the past seven years have seen a focus on the four SF Priority Actions and seven SF Targets, there has been limited progress implementing the SF Guiding Principles through policies and practice, and leveraging these commitments to ensure transformative and inclusive DRR.

**Critical SF Guiding Principles linked to gender-responsive and inclusive DRR relate to:** protecting human rights, all-of society engagement and partnerships, coordination mechanisms with relevant stakeholders, inclusive risk-informed decision-making drawing upon disaggregated data, and addressing underlying risk drivers. Key implementation gaps are highlighted in Boxes 2-5.

## BOX 2: PRINCIPLE D: ALL-OF-SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT & PARTNERSHIP, EMPOWERMENT, AND INTEGRATING GENDER, AGE, DISABILITY & CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES

### Gap in empowerment, and inclusive, accessible, and non-discriminatory participation

According to the UNDP and UN Women Global Gender Response Tracker, women made up less than one quarter of all national-level COVID-19 committees. Yet when women are empowered to take on leadership roles, to safely and meaningfully participate in DRR and recovery decision-making, and to collectively influence and advocate for gender-responsive governance and processes; then underlying social norms and inequalities driving disproportionate disaster risks can be challenged; women's skills, knowledge, resources, experience, and expertise can be leveraged; and the needs and priorities of women in all their diversity can be addressed to ensure more effective DRR and resilience.

## BOX 3: PRINCIPLE E: COORDINATION MECHANISMS WITH RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS AT ALL LEVELS

### Gap in gender-responsive and inclusive coordination mechanisms

Research highlights a lack of coordination between stakeholders as one of the main challenges to inclusive disaster risk reduction. Yet collaboration, partnership, coalitions, and cooperation between all actors involved in DRR and risk-informed resilient development, is critical for bridging traditional silos and mainstreaming gender equality and social inclusion. Similarly, bringing non-traditional DRR actors to the table including ministries for women, and partnering with grassroots women's organisations and those representing high risk or marginalised groups – such as people living with disabilities - will challenge social norms that inhibit progress towards gender-responsive action, and help address the needs and priorities of women in all their diversity.

#### BOX 4: PRINCIPLE G: INCLUSIVE RISK-INFORMED DECISION-MAKING

##### Gap in open exchange, dissemination, and use of disaggregated data (including by sex, age, and disability) & use of traditional knowledge

Only seven countries shared disaggregated data on disaster mortality under the SFM for 2019, and three countries shared disaggregated data on the number of people whose livelihoods were destroyed or disrupted. Yet gender data both qualitative and quantitative data disaggregated by sex, age, and disability (SADDD) help unpack gendered risk and differentiated impacts of disasters and interventions.

Importantly qualitative gender data helps identify social and cultural norms and roles, which alongside gender analysis are essential for understanding the root causes of vulnerability. Further, women are the custodians of critical traditional and community knowledge, practices, and skills; and this must be valued, reinforced, and woven together with scientific information on risks and resilience.

#### BOX 5: PRINCIPLE J: ADDRESSING UNDERLYING RISK FACTORS

##### Gap in addressing the underlying disaster risk factors including gender inequality

The Sendai Framework has made progress by drawing attention to the diverging ways in which women experience disasters including highlighting their increased vulnerability in certain disaster situations. However, while the Sendai Framework mentions gender equality and women's empowerment at many points, it does not address the underlying drivers of gender-based risk in disasters or provide a concrete basis for addressing these. Achieving gender equality and women's empowerment through the Sendai Framework implementation in order to build women's resilience to disasters, will only be achieved if we address the underlying causes of disproportionate risk and identify ways to transform harmful gender norms, roles, and relations.

- Leverage the findings of the Midterm Review of the SF.** The Midterm Review offers a unique opportunity to close critical gender gaps in disaster risk prevention, mitigation, preparedness, and recovery. UN Women has worked with partners across the globe to support and advocate for a gender-responsive process. This included calls at key global conferences including CSW66 and the GP 2022, working with UNDRR to prepare gender guidance, and support Member States on inclusive and gender-responsive consultation and reporting processes. This collective effort needs to be leveraged to ensure the voices of women and the progress, good practices, and challenges are shared and provide a foundation for strengthening action.
- Develop a “Gender Action Plan” for the Sendai Framework as a vehicle for driving forward gender-responsive implementation.** Disaster risk reduction has traditionally had a strong numerical focus, with a tendency to emphasise the targets (e.g., the SF targets), rather than simultaneously progressing more qualitative elements including how to deliver on gender-responsive implementation. In response, UN Women proposed the development of a Gender Action Plan (similar to those prepared for other Rio Conventions and in alignment with these) as one of the recommendations in the Joint gender and disaster UN Study, to explore with Member States. This would support gender-responsive implementation of the Sendai Framework to 2030, highlight priorities for supporting implementation of the Guiding Principles, share good practices, customising Sendai Monitor indicators, and identify critical actions for strengthening gender-responsive and inclusive DRR.

## UN WOMEN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE DRR

- **Draw upon good practice implementing Guiding Principles.** For example, the WRD supported Pacific Resilience Standards, which operationalise the ten Guiding Principles of the Framework for Regional Development in the Pacific. The “Inclusion Standard” provides guidance, good practice and progress criteria for ensuring resilience building inter alia is inclusive, builds empowerment, leadership and meaningful participation, protects human rights, and addresses inequality as an underlying root cause of risk. It is important to build upon such guidance, good practice, and experience to identify targeted actions for implementing the SF Guiding Principles – including addressing inequality and exclusion as a root cause of disasters.
- **Develop a Gender Action Plan for the Sendai Framework.** UN Women intends to support the development of a Gender Action Plan building upon its experience providing technical support for the development of similar Gender Action Plans, for example for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. A SF Gender Action Plan will ensure that women can influence DRR decisions, that women and men are represented equally in all aspects of the SF as a way to increase its effectiveness, and will help practitioners and stakeholders leverage co-benefits between gender equality and DRR action to achieve sustainable development. Recent conferences and consultations (e.g. CSW66, GP2022, and APMCDRR) have already highlighted a high level of buy-in for such a Gender Action Plan.
- **Prioritise development, update, and implementation of regional and national gender-responsive DRR/CC/resilience policies and strategies.** By integrating the needs and priorities of women in all their diversity and addressing the underlying drivers of risk, inclusive frameworks provide a solid foundation, mandate, and the institutional arrangements for gender equality, women’s empowerment, and leadership in DRR. These must address the structural barriers, capacity gaps, and discriminatory attitudes that restrict women’s meaningful participation. These should commit to special temporary measures (e.g. quotas, targets, timelines) and tools for leveraging women’s voice, agency, and leadership and empowering women as leaders; aiming for 50 percent of women in decision-making roles for DRR and resilience. Such support could also build on UN Women’s new policy tool<sup>1</sup> and experience.

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<sup>1</sup> This is forthcoming and will be shared on the WRD Knowledge Hub: <https://wrw.unwomen.org/practice/listing-toolbox/gender-responsive-and-inclusive-laws-and-policies-disaster-and-climate>



- **Institutionalise the systematic collection, use, and reporting of gender data including sex, age, and disability data at all levels and the use of intersectional gender analysis** including through both country commitments and reporting requirements for the Sendai Monitor. Gender data should: i) build intersectional understanding of the root causes of vulnerability; ii) inform risk and needs assessments, policy, and programme development; and iii) monitor progress towards addressing the gender inequalities of disaster and climate risks. UN Women stands ready to support this process with the tools and technical support and is centralising all key data and knowledge on its WRD Knowledge Hub.
  
- **Increase financial resources for gender equality, women's empowerment and leadership in disaster and climate risk reduction and resilience** including stable, long-term funding for grassroots women's organisations, for women's machineries to ensure mainstreaming gender equality and social inclusion into DRR, and foster gender-responsive coordination mechanisms and partnerships to secure more inclusive decision-making – bringing non-traditional actors including LGBTIQ+ and disability organisations - to the table. This will include advocating for scaling up of targeted funding and ensuring gender-responsive budgeting for prevention, preparedness and risk-informed recovery across all sectors.
  
- **Build critical partnerships and coalitions to support targeted action** given significant gaps in women's access to gender-responsive and people-centred early warning systems, finance, resources, assets, services, adaptive social protection, and infrastructure that build resilience and support women's resilient livelihood and businesses. It is only through collective power, coalitions, and partnerships (including UN Women's partnerships with 500 women's organisations) and regional networks (e.g. WINDRR) and global networks such as the WRD Community of Practice, will we together overcome barriers and walk the talk to ensure a resilient, just, secure, and sustainable future for all.

UN WOMEN IS THE UN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN. A GLOBAL CHAMPION FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS, UN WOMEN WAS ESTABLISHED TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS ON MEETING THEIR NEEDS WORLDWIDE.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities: i) women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems; ii) Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy; iii) all women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence; and iv) women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention, mitigation, and preparedness of disasters, conflicts and humanitarian action. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.



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