



NOTE 1



UNDERSTANDING GENDER-RESPONSIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Photo: UN Women

What is the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR)?

The [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#) was the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda. It is the successor instrument to the [Hyogo Framework for Action \(HFA\) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters](#). The Sendai Framework was the outcome of stakeholder consultations initiated in 2012 and inter-governmental negotiations from 2014 to 2015 led by the UN General Assembly. It provides the UN Member States with policy structure and concrete actions to protect development gains¹ from disaster risks linked to natural hazards or induced by human processes.²

Women, girls, boys, men, and people of diverse gender identities have [distinct vulnerabilities](#) in specific contexts that shape the way they prepare for, experience, and recover from disaster impacts (see *Figure 1*). Recent research shows that women and girls are more exposed and vulnerable, than men and boys, to disaster risk and climate change impacts³. Women and children are more likely than men to die during a disaster and where available, sex, age and disaggregated data (SADDD) confirms their higher mortality⁴. Disasters exacerbate the pre-existing gender inequalities and causes disproportionate impacts on food security, health, education, livelihoods and overall physical and mental wellbeing of women and girls. Similarly, disaster-related food insecurity forces women and girls living in poverty into transactional sex, human trafficking, exploitation, violence, forced labor, and forced marriage⁵.

Yet, women and girls have a great potential to reduce disaster and climate risk and build community and national resilience⁶. They are critical agents of change and nonetheless, their voice, agency, and capacities remain unleveraged. Effective disaster

1 UNDRR (2021). "What is Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction?" <https://www.undrr.org/implementing-sendai-framework/what-sendai-framework>

2 Hazards as: "a potentially damaging physical event, phenomenon or human activity that may cause the loss of life or injury, property damage, social and economic disruption, or environmental degradation. Hazards can include latent conditions that may represent future threats and can have different origins: natural (geological, hydrometeorological and biological) or induced by human processes (environmental degradation and technological hazards)."

3 UN Women and UNICEF (2019). "Gender and Age Inequality of Disaster Risk" <https://wrd.unwomen.org/practice/resources/gender-and-age-inequality-disaster-risk>

4 United Nations (2014). "Gender Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction A contribution by the United Nations to the consultation leading to the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction Version 2" https://www.preventionweb.net/files/40425_gender.pdf

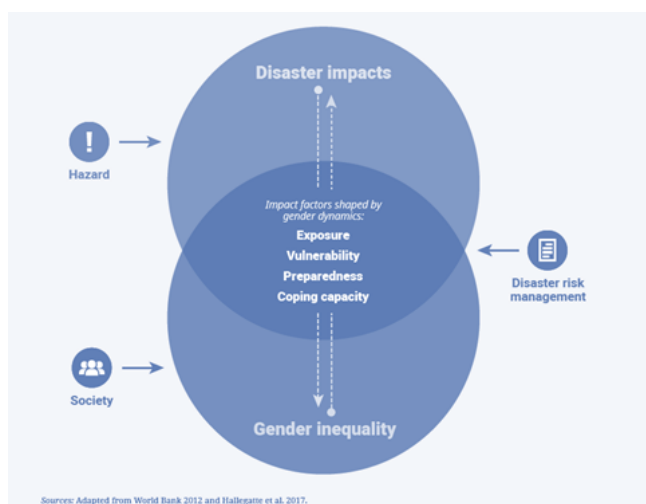
5 ADB and UN Women (2018). Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific, Baseline, and pathways for transformative change by 2030

6 UN Women (2021). Suggested Commitments for Addressing Gender Gaps in Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience: Technical Support Paper. <https://wrd.unwomen.org/practice/resources/suggested-commitments-addressing-gender-gaps-disaster-risk-reduction>

risk reduction, preparedness, and recovery require meaningful and diverse participation, engagement, and leadership, through an inclusive and accessible, all-of-society approach. If women are empowered to take on leadership roles, and to advocate for gender-responsive governance mechanisms and processes; then underlying social norms and inequalities driving unequal risk can be challenged, and women’s skills, knowledge, resources, experience, and expertise leveraged. This is the focus of UN Women’s signature intervention, the [Women’s Resilience to Disasters](#).

mechanisms, through community involvement, livelihood enhancement programmes, and access to basic healthcare services, including maternal, newborn and child health, sexual and reproductive health, food security and nutrition, housing and education, towards the eradication of poverty, to find durable solutions in the post-disaster phase and to empower and assist people disproportionately affected by disasters.” The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) identifies four Priorities for Action, and gender mainstreaming as crucial for the implementation of these at local, national, regional, and global levels:

FIGURE 1
Gender dimensions of disaster risk and resilience



Source: [World Bank \(2021\)](#)

- **Priority 1:** Understanding disaster risk;
- **Priority 2:** Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk;
- **Priority 3:** Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience; and
- **Priority 4:** Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

Who are the stakeholders for the Sendai Framework?

The State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk, but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including the private sector, civil society organizations, international and national NGOs, United Nations, Red Cross, community-based organizations, women and human rights organizations, academia, and media.

Gender in Sendai Framework

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) underlines women’s participation and leadership as critical for effectively reducing disaster risk and designing, resourcing, and implementing gender-sensitive policies, plans, and programmes to build resilience. It calls for the integration of gender, age, disability, and cultural perspective in all policies and practices, and a “*people-centered preventative approach to disaster risk.*” It calls for the “*design and implementation of inclusive policies and social safety-net*



Source – UNDRR (2021) The Sendai Framework and the SDGs: <https://www.undrr.org/implementing-sendai-framework/sf-and-sdgs>

Seven Sendai Framework targets

- a. Target A - Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030.
- b. Target B - Substantially reduce the number of affected people by 2030.
- c. Target C - Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to the gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030.
- d. Target D - Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of essential services, health, and educational facilities, and develop their resilience by 2030.
- e. Target E - Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.
- f. Target F - Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries by 2030.
- g. Target G - Substantially increase the availability and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information to people by 2030.

Disaggregation in the Sendai Framework targets

Progress against the seven Sendai Framework targets (2015-2030) and related Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators are reported and monitored by the member-states in the [Sendai Framework Monitor](#).⁷ Target A and B allow for disaggregated monitoring by [sex, age, and disability disaggregated data \(SADDD\)](#) but this is NOT compulsory and is left to Member States.

As a result, only seven countries shared disaggregated data on disaster mortality under the Sendai Framework Monitor for 2019, and three countries shared disaggregated data on the number of people whose lives were destroyed or disrupted.

Thus, it becomes even more pertinent that the NDMO and Ministry of Women Affairs advocate at the highest political levels to make the SADDD collection, monitoring and analysis for DRR compulsory in a country.

⁷ UNDRR (2021) Sendai Framework Monitor: <https://sendaimonitor.undrr.org/>

BOX 1

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction targets and SADDD

Targets A and B allow for disaggregation by hazard, geography, sex, age, disability, income

Target A monitors the number of dead and missing people and Target B monitors the number of affected people (injured and ill; damaged or destroyed dwellings; livelihoods destroyed or disrupted)

Custom Targets can be created by countries to track data on other areas and demographics not covered by the global targets (e.g. number of deaths and missing by third gender or non-binary roles)

Resources

See *Note 5*:

Using gender data to inform monitoring and reporting of the Sendai Framework

Women's Resilience to Disasters Knowledge Hub (<https://www.wrd.unwomen.org>) for more resources on the barriers to gender-responsive implementation of the Sendai Framework and examples of regional implementation including the Ha Noi recommendations, which provide concrete recommendations for national governments in the Asia-Pacific region.

[Gender in Disaster Risk Management Online Training](#)

- On completion of the course, participants will be able to: understand the concept of gender, and how gender roles can affect women and men's risk and resilience to natural hazards;
- understand how women and men manage, respond and experience disasters differently due to gender roles and gender inequalities;
- understand how these differences should be addressed in DRM projects to ensure that women and men benefit equally from them;
- define approaches to better design projects to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

Challenges of not reporting gender, age, and disability disaggregated data:

Challenges that impede SADDD:

- i. lack of capacity or resources to collect and report data;
- ii. lack of awareness that gender-disaggregated data exists;
- iii. lack of clarity on already existing disaggregated data with the line ministries;
- iv. rushed, last minute reporting of data so totals are only shared; and (v) coordination in the collection of gender data.

Challenges resulting from the lack of SADDD:

- i. lack of confidence in data collected;
- ii. reluctance to use non-government partner collected data; lack of holistic perspectives due to the insufficient data from various sectors;
- iii. lack of capacity to analyse and use whatever SADDD has been collected for the policy making and planning;
- iv. data gaps – Absence of gender-disaggregated data collection has led to lack of understanding of the disproportionate impacts of disasters on women and other marginalized groups.



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