

# GENDER-RESPONSIVE INVESTMENTS IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

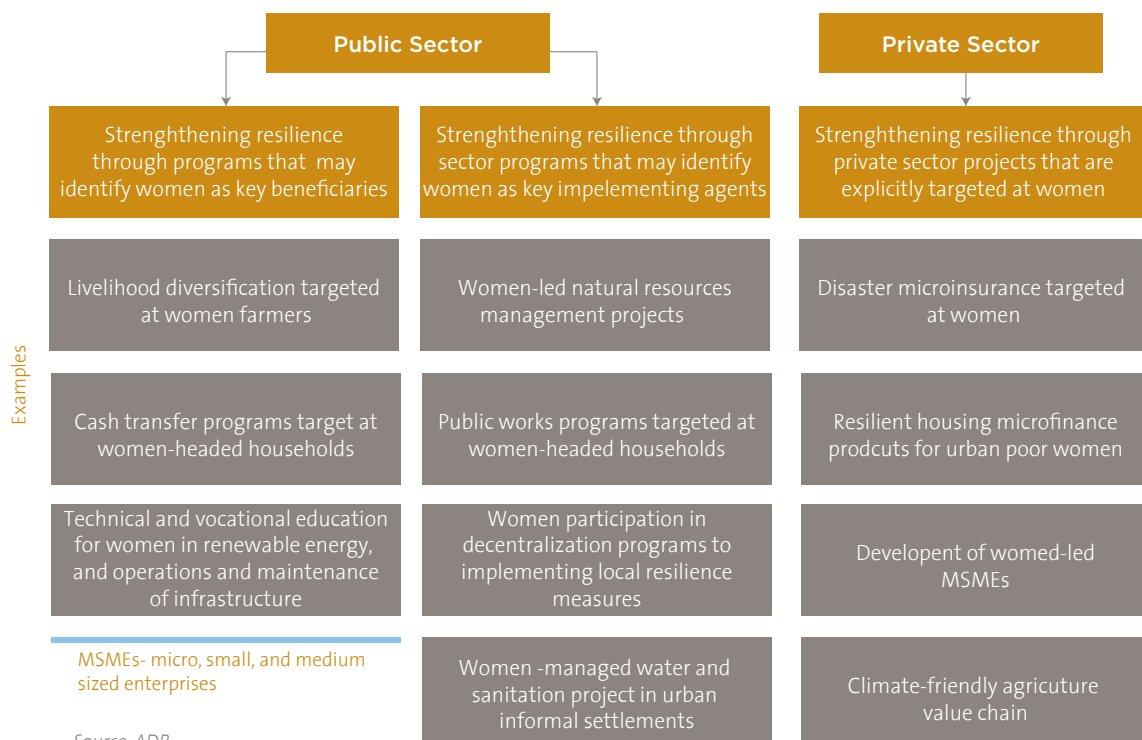
Photo: UN Women

## What is gender-responsive investments in DRR and resilience?

**Gender-responsive investments address gender differences and involve the meaningful leadership and participation of women and girls, men and boys, and non-binary people.** It ensures that all DRR/resilience investment decisions by all types of actors, yield equitable benefits for people of all genders and social groups.

FIGURE 1

Examples of gender-responsive investments for DRR and resilience



Source: ADB

## What are the core principles of investments in women's resilience?

Investments in women's resilience to natural hazards and climate change should consider the following core principles:

1. **Address structural inequalities** between men and women that lead to the persistence of women's chronic vulnerabilities both pre and post disasters.
2. **Recognise and promote women's existing capacities** and build their resilience by strengthening their capacity to adapt to, anticipate, and absorb the impacts of natural hazards, including those influenced by climate change and variability.
3. **Directly benefit women**, not just as co-benefits.
4. **Designed and implemented by women**, who should be the primary beneficiaries and/or users.
5. **Seek to generate financial returns** where possible.
6. **Seek to create transformational change.**

## Why are gender-responsive investments in DRR critical for women's resilience?

**The gender-responsive investments in DRR continue to remain a low priority** especially in areas such as women's livelihoods, urban resilience, social protection, infrastructure development, leadership and senior managerial capacities.

The Agenda 2030 for sustainable development and the legal treaty - [Convention for Elimination of Discrimination Against Women \(CEDAW\)](#) and its [Recommendations 37](#) on Disaster Risk Reduction and Gender will not be operationalised unless adequate budgetary allocations back up gender-responsive commitments and plans.

## When to implement?

**Gender-responsive investments and budget allocations for gender mainstreaming should be an integral part of disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and risk informed development/resilience.** However, economic investments in gender responsive DRR and resilience is the most crucial out of all phases as it prevents loss of lives and economic assets.

**Investing in disaster risk reduction and building resilience**

**saves more than lives and livelihoods**, it is also a good return on investment. Every US\$1 invested in risk reduction and prevention can save up to US\$15 in post-disaster recovery. Every US\$1 invested in making infrastructure disaster-resilient saves US\$4 in reconstruction.<sup>1</sup>

Who will coordinate and develop the gender-responsive investment plans and allocate budgets?

The Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Women Affairs in close coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Development Planning, and National Disaster Management Office should design the investment plan. Coordination with the line ministries such as the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Livelihoods, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Environment and Climate, are crucial to mainstreaming and allocation of gender responsive investments.

**In addition, other stakeholders such as private sector, civil society organisations, media and academia** should also design their gender responsive DRR plans backed up with adequate funding earmarked for gender inclusion.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.undrr.org/about-undrr/funding>

## Resources

[Enhancing Women-Focused Investments in Climate and Disaster Resilience](#) report aims to

- i. *reinforce the dialogue on the importance of women-focused investments in climate and disaster resilience;*
- ii. *identify key characteristics of such investments; and*
- iii. *discuss the wider enabling environment that can make such investments effective.*

The report primarily aims to inform senior officials from sector ministries and their counterparts in ministries of planning and finance.

[Gender-Responsive Budgeting: A Tool for Financing Gender Equality Commitments, Applying Gender Budget Analysis Tools/Approaches in a Post-Disaster Context](#)

[National Disaster Risk Management Fund \(NDRMF\) - Toolkit for Mainstreaming Gender in Disaster Risk Reduction \(DRR\) & Climate Change Projects, A Practical Manual to Support the Integration of Gender Equality.](#)

This Gender Toolkit prepared by National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) in Pakistan aims to ensure gender integration through programming and projects financed by NDRMF. This toolkit includes guidance on how to under-take a gender analysis, identifies what needs to be done to ensure gender is mainstreamed at different stages of project cycle, outlines how gender can be integrated into the Results Framework, data collection, and usage for enhanced impacts, and identifies effective performance measurement mechanisms contributing to overall improved compliance monitoring.

For more information, please visit the "[Budgets, expenditure, and funding](#)" page on the Women's Resilience to Disasters Knowledge Hub a one-stop-shop for all gender and disaster knowledge: [wrd.unwomen.org](http://wrd.unwomen.org)



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