

GENDER IN POST DISASTER NEEDS ASSESSMENTS (PDNA)



Photo: UN Women

What is a PDNA?

The Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) is an internationally accepted methodology used by the UN Member States for determining the physical damage, economic loss, and costs of meeting recovery needs after a disaster through a government-led process. PDNA Guidelines indicate that the exercise should take 6-12 weeks.¹

Why is PDNA done?

The main goal of conducting a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) is to help governments assess the full extent of the disaster impacts on the country, and on the basis of these findings, produce an actionable and sustainable Recovery Strategy for mobilising financial and technical resources.

Why is gender and social inclusion crucial in PDNAs?

The aftermath of a disaster can present opportunities for new and more progressive gender roles and relationships to emerge. For example, women can assume enhanced roles in providing for their families and emerge as leaders and decision-makers in their communities; men and women can receive joint title deeds for newly constructed houses; girls who may not have had a chance to attend school may do so;

boys can be protected from recruitment or forced labour; and men can take on expanded roles in childcare. It is therefore critical that gender is mainstreamed into every step of the PDNA in order to ensure that recovery interventions are relevant, effective, and sustainable for all genders of the affected population, and ‘build-forward better’ securing more resilient and secure communities leaving no one behind.

Who does the PDNA?

A PDNA is a government-led exercise, with integrated support from the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU), the World Bank (WB), and other national and international actors including Human rights and women’s organisations and groups at all levels. Often, the national disaster management office leads and coordinates recovery but in some countries the mandate is handed to the ministry responsible for development planning in order to link risk-informed recovery to risk-informed development and potentially re-allocate development budget.

How many chapters does PDNA have?

A PDNA normally consists of the sectoral chapters identified in the table below. UN Women country staff should ensure gender equality and social inclusion issues, needs, and required actions, are mainstreamed across all sectors but at minimum the heavily impacted sectors depending on the local context (see *Table 1*).

¹ UN, EC and World Bank (2018). “Post-Disaster Needs Assessment PDNA , Lessons from a Decade of Experience” https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Final_PDNA_Evaluation_Report.pdf

TABLE 1
PDNA Sector chapters

Social sector	Infrastructure sector	Productive sector	Cross-cutting sector
Housing	Water & Sanitation	Agriculture, livestock and Fisheries	Gender
Education	Community Infrastructure	Commerce	Governance
Health	Telecommunication	Tourism	Employment, Livelihood and Social Protection
Culture	Transport	Manufacturing	Disaster risk reduction
		Macro-Economics	Environment

What is the role of UN Women Country Office staff?

UN Women Country Office staff **have a critical role to play** in ensuring that gender and social inclusion is mainstreamed as an important cross-cutting issue in PDNAs. The following steps should be followed by UN Women Country Office staff:

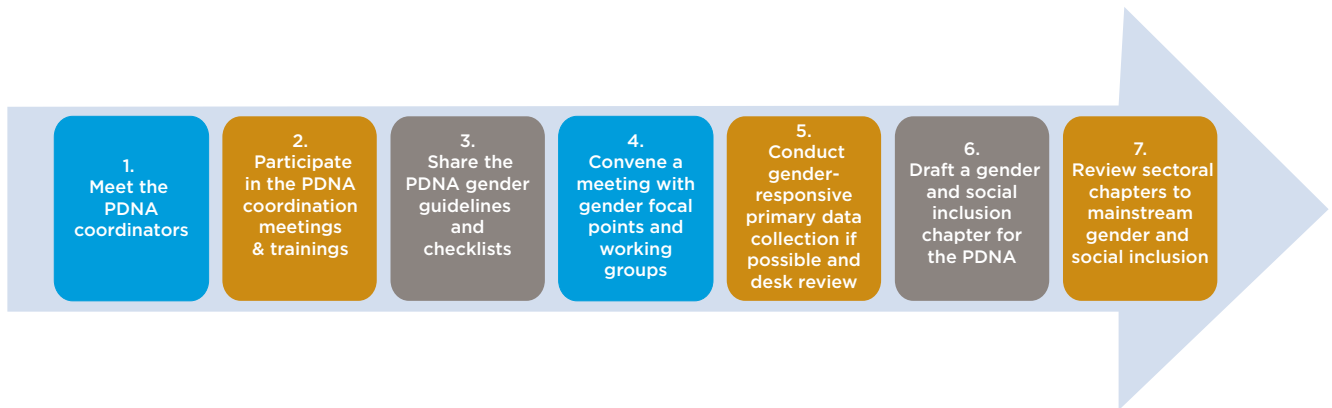
- [Meet the PDNA Coordinators](#) - for example, the Government authority that is coordinating the recovery process and PDNA, the line ministries responsible for the sectoral chapters, and lead UN stakeholders supporting the process (e.g., UNDP Africa Regional or National office) to learn about the roll-out process and deadlines for the PDNA and to advocate for a gender-responsive recovery process.
- [Ensure critical gender stakeholders and social inclusion champions](#) participate in key meetings. Ensure that the gender machineries and women’s organisations are able to meaningfully participate in the recovery process and recovery coordination mechanisms.
- [Participate in the PDNA Coordination meetings and training](#) organised by the government, World Bank, and UNDP to understand the PDNA process, sectoral issues and actively contribute to gender and social inclusion lens in all the sectors.
- [Share the sector guidelines and gender checklist](#). Share the [PDNA Gender Guideline Vol B](#) and [Gender Checklists](#) with the sectoral chapter lead authors and, as relevant, the [Covid-19 recovery needs assessment guidelines](#), which UN Women have updated to ensure they are gender-responsive.
- [Review the sector chapters for the PDNA](#) and main-

stream gender issues, needs and recommendations into each sector strategy and plan, ensuring discussion and awareness raising on gender issues with sector focal points.

- [Coordinate with the UN Gender Technical Working Group and gender focal points](#). Convene coordination meetings with the UN Gender Working Group at country level, and Gender Focal points in various sectors to collect all the assessments, information, and data on gender and social inclusion aspects in pre- and post-disaster contexts.
- [Review the household survey process](#). household surveys do not always capture adequately the needs and priorities of marginalised groups; and qualitative processes, including gender assessments and analysis, are usually also required. Ensure that data collection is gender-responsive in processes and outcomes.
- [Include a Women’s Charter of demands in PDNA](#). Coordinate with the women’s rights organisations and women’s groups to develop a Women’s Charter of demands that can be included in the PDNA reports and recovery framework process and outcome.
- [Draft a gender and social inclusion \(GESI\) chapter and support with the development of a gender-responsive budget](#). Based on the desk review and, if possible gender-responsive primary data collection, draft a Gender and Social Inclusion Chapter for the PDNA, including the estimated budget for economic losses (see the tool template in the [PDNA Gender chapter](#)). This will include targeted actions relating to; health (e.g. maternal and reproductive health); post disaster psychosocial support; securing rights or ownership of housing, land titles or property; infrastructure restoration focusing on community centres, safe spaces or

empowerment centres; livelihood restoration (e.g. women market vendors) and tailored financial services; and social protection (e.g. cash transfers).

FIGURE 1
Ensuring a gender responsive PDNA process



Note:

not all disasters require a full PDNA and some countries choose to carry out their own recovery process including assessment, planning, and drafting of a Recovery Action Plan. Further, it is not always the national disaster management agency mandated to lead the recovery process; often, ministries for planning/finance or specific sector ministries (e.g. health) lead the recovery process. What is important is that irrespective of the type of assessment, coordination mechanism, or lead agency, the recovery process and resulting recovery strategy and plan are gender-responsive and inclusive.



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