

Adopting Intersectionality to Disaster Risk Reduction Using Disability as an Example

Wednesday, 17 May 2023, 3:00pm – 4:30pm

Conference Room 8, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Background

Main findings and recommendations of the midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 indicate that ‘Governments need to recommit to ensure that multisectoral, multi-scalar and multi-stakeholder mechanisms are in place’. Furthermore ‘Governments must develop institutional structures to engage and mobilize the expertise of scientific, academic, private sector, civil society and local stakeholders, creating platforms and spaces for such stakeholders to be listened to and exert a meaningful influence over risk-informed decision-making processes.’

This increased call for strengthened disaster risk governance is key to addressing inequality based on gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, class and other forms of discrimination. While firm steps have been taken at some levels to address the inequalities and ensure inclusion of the groups at highest risk, it is evident that adopting an intersectional approach in disaster risk governance has not reached the key status it deserves. For example, research shows that women and adolescent girls with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by disasters¹. This is partly due to lack of intersectionality in the design and implementation of DRR activities where specific barriers for women and girls with disabilities is not considered, but it is for granted that inclusion of women or inclusion of persons with disabilities per say would be sufficient to address challenges faced by women and adolescent girls with disabilities.

In this event, we will critically examine what intersectionality means in risk-informed decision-making, investment and behaviour. Representatives of different stakeholder groups will come together to assess whether and to what extent they have adopted intersectionality in their work and try to identify feasible and concrete actions to strengthen intersectionality.

Objectives

- Explore the meaning of intersectionality in the context of disaster risk reduction and how adoption of intersectionality may contribute in advancing implementation of Sendai Framework.
- Identify concrete recommendations to strengthen intersectionality in risk-informed decision-making, investment and behaviour

¹ <https://wrd.unwomen.org/practice/risk/intersectionality>

Format

The event will be organized in an interview style. National disaster risk reduction focal points, UNWOMEN, and selected representatives from UNDRR Stakeholder groups will be interviewed and share their ideas for increased intersectionality in risk-informed decision-making, investment and behaviour implementation.

The audience will be invited to identify one concrete action about what, based on their specific or respective roles, they can do to integrate intersectionality in their work.

The event will result in the identification of key recommendations on improved intersectionality in disaster risk reduction.

Participants

The event will be open to all. It is targeted to any Member State, UN agency, civil society, academia, or other stakeholder representative implementing DRR

Guiding questions

1. What does intersectionality mean in risk-informed decision-making, investment and behaviour?
2. What steps, if any, are being taken to adopt intersectionality in your work? Please share some concrete examples, especially on disability-inclusion and accessibility.
3. What are the challenges that you have been facing in adopting the intersectionality approach in your work?



Programme


Opening Segment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Elham Youssefian, Inclusive Humanitarian Action and DRR Advisor, International Disability Alliance • Marcie Roth, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer for the World Institute on Disability • Ms. Paola Albrito, Director, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
Interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National DRR Focal Point: Mr. Karl Tarring, National Coordinator for Sendai Framework, Sweden • Private Sector: Mr. Fernando Britto, CEO of AI Systems Research (AISR) in Brazil, Vice-Chair UNDRR ARISE, • Science: Dr. Chadi Abdallah, Lebanese National Council For Scientific Research Center for Remote Sensing, and Chair of UNDRR’s Arab Region Science and Technology Group • Women Resilience to Disasters: Ms Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls, Regional Representative - Shifting the Power Coalition and Programme Manager

	- Pacific Women's Mediators Network, member of Women's Resilience to Disasters Board
Interactive Segment	Feedback from the floor on concrete actions to ensure intersectionality
Closing Segment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Elham Youssefian, Inclusive Humanitarian Action and DRR Advisor, International Disability Alliance • Marcie Roth, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer for the World Institute on Disability


Contact Information

For further information, kindly contact Stefanie Dannenmann-Di Palma (dannenmann@un.org) or visit <https://sendaiframework-mtr.undrr.org/>

	<p>Ms. Elham Youssefian, Inclusive Humanitarian Action and DRR Advisor, International Disability Alliance and Global Action on Disability (GLAD Network)</p> <p>Elham joined the IDA Secretariat in November 2019 as the Inclusive Humanitarian Action and DRR Advisor. She is responsible for leading and coordinating the implementation of IDA's strategy to promote and support the effective enforcement of inclusive humanitarian action and disaster risk reduction</p>
	<p>Ms Marcie Roth, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, World Institute on Disability</p> <p>Marcie Roth is Executive Director and CEO of the World Institute on Disability, one of the first global disability-led organizations, advancing the rights of 1.3 billion people with disabilities worldwide.</p> <p>Recently named by Forbes Magazine to their Fifty Over 50 Impact List, and by Womens eNews as one of their 21 Leaders for the 21st Century, Marcie has served in executive leadership roles for advocacy and public policy organizations since 1995, leading coalitions committed to operationalizing accessibility and inclusion as intersectional imperatives for equity, diversity and global social justice.</p> <p>Appointed by President Obama to the U.S Department of Homeland Security - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) from 2009 to 2017, she served as Senior Advisor to the Administrator, establishing and directing the Office of Disability Integration and Coordination. Marcie represented the U.S. government internationally as an expert on</p>

	<p>whole community inclusive global disaster risk reduction from 2012-2017 and has served as a leader throughout the development and implementation of the United Nations <i>Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030</i>.</p> <p>Marcie provides expert consultation to governments, corporations, health systems, and the United Nations. She launched the Global Alliance for Disaster Resource Acceleration in 2020, bringing corporate and foundation funders together with local disability-led organizations to accelerate humanitarian relief directly to disaster-impacted communities where and when it's needed most. Marcie has a BS in Public Safety Administration and has served as a Hilton Foundation Fellow and Harvard University Kennedy School Senior Executive Fellow.</p>
	<p>Ms. Paola Albrito Director, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)</p> <p>The Office of the UN Secretary-General has appointed Ms. Paola Albrito as the next Director of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) effective 1 October 2022.</p> <p>Previously, Ms. Albrito served as the Chief of the Intergovernmental Processes, Interagency Cooperation and Partnership Branch at UNDRR's headquarters in Geneva. In that capacity, she steadily built new partnerships and renewed traditional ones, both within the UN system and with stakeholder groups. Before moving to Geneva, she led the UNDRR Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia in Brussels, which covers 55 countries. During her tenure, she elevated the disaster risk reduction agenda to the highest political levels within the Europe region.</p> <p>Prior to joining UNDRR in 2004 and as part of her experience in the Djibouti Resident Coordinator's office, she developed and coordinated policy guidance, facilitated climate adaptation and development strategies, and she acted as the focal point for humanitarian appeals, emergency, and rapid response. Her past experiences also include time with the International Labor Organization and the United Nations Staff System College.</p>

	<p>Mr. Karl Tarring, National Coordinator for Sendai Framework, Sweden</p> <p>Karl Tarring is the National Coordinator for Sendai Framework in Sweden, based at the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB). His previous roles include Head of Asia Operations for the Swedish Red Cross as well as Operational Manager for the Red Cross Treatment Centre for Victims of War and Torture.</p>
	<p>Mr. Fernando Britto, CEO of AI Systems Research (AISR) in Brazil, Vice-Chair UNDRR ARISE</p> <p>Fernando Perez de Britto has extensive experience in ESG+R, analytics, artificial intelligence and decision support solutions for private organizations, where he has a master's degree in the area.</p> <p>Since 2002, founder and CEO of AI Systems Research (AISR), an impact, innovation and high technology hub focused mainly on strategic planning, decision processes based on data analysis, simulation and analysis of scenarios, risk management and compliance, innovation management. He is responsible for AISR's socioenvironmental initiative "Making Smart Cities".</p> <p>Member of the Global Board of the UNDRR ARISE since 2017 and current Vice-Chair, and Co- Chair Emeritus of the UNDRR Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM). Received the UN Sasakawa Award in 2019.</p>
	<p>Dr. Chadi Abdallah, Lebanese National Council For Scientific Research Center for Remote Sensing, and Chair of UNDRR's Arab Region Science and Technology Group</p> <p>Chadi Abdallah (h-index 14), (Mr) Director of Researcher and Geologist holding a PhD in GIS and RS of natural resources (Paris VI University-France), a Post-doc in Radar Interferometry (University of Missouri-USA). Researcher at the Lebanese National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS-L), Remote Sensing Center. Principle Investigator on several projects related to natural disasters, water information management, modelling and decision-making; assessment, monitoring and management of natural resources and sustainable development.</p> <p>Deputy Director and responsible of the Early Warning System platform, Chair of the Arab Science and Technology Advisory</p>

	<p>Group (Arab-STAG) for Disaster Risk Reduction of the UNDRR, Member of the CIHEAM scientific Advisory board. Managing Editor for the Lebanese Science Journal (LSJ). Authored and co-authored over 80 scientific papers in peer-reviewed international journals, and conference proceedings.</p>
	<p>Ms Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls, Regional Representative - Shifting the Power Coalition and Programme Manager - Pacific Women's Mediators Network, member of Women's Resilience to Disasters Board</p> <p>Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls is a second-generation Fiji Island feminist working on the intersection of gender, media, communications and peace by supporting the development and production of appropriate and accessible media.</p> <p>Through the Shifting the Power Coalition Sharon has supported the movement-led approach that has supported the development of appropriate and accessible information and communication systems in a drive for gender and disability inclusive multi hazard early warning systems as well as supporting intersectional and inter-generational action from early warning to response and recovery with a focus on greater investment in feminist funding models.</p>