

WIN DRR Report

The impact of WIN DRR - the Women's International Network for Disaster Risk Reduction





WIN DRR Leadership Award finalists Retno Rifa Atsari, Indonesia; Flora Vano, Vanuatu; Tavida Kamolvej, Thailand

*“Women ... are critical to effectively managing disaster risk”
and their participation is essential in “designing, resourcing and
implementing gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies,
plans and programs.”*

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015.

Cover image: Women International Network for Disaster Risk Reduction (WINDRR) Leaders Awards Ceremony, Manila, 13 October 2023. Photo: © UNDRR/Antoine Tardy.





2023 WIN DRR Excellence Award Winner Shaila Shahid with SM Prime Assistant Vice President Jessica Sy

The WIN DRR awards are unique as they come with a cash prize of US\$7,500 for the Rising Star Award winner, and US\$10,000 for the Excellence Award winner, generously sponsored by SM Prime. While there are no restrictions on the award funding, previous winners have committed to spending their funds to establish a young professionals network in Fiji, and to grow the U-INSPIRE Alliance in Indonesia to support young professionals working in science, education, technology and innovation to reduce disaster risk.

The award winners and finalists alike emphasized the motivational and morale boost that this recognition brought them and their work. One of UNDRR's strengths is bringing together broad stakeholders, which has played an important role in terms of the professional impact of the awards, several finalists across both categories have shared that because of this recognition new doors have opened to them, and they have been granted a greater level of respect in their work. For example, community leaders have been proactively engaged by their governments where previously they have had to push for a seat at the table; civil society leaders have been invited to participate in more national and regional events; and new partners are coming to the finalists with invitations to collaborate.

- Shaila Shahid, winner of the 2023 Excellence Award, was interviewed by Bangladesh media and appeared on the national news the same day with her message about the impacts of gender inequality and social disadvantage on disaster risk. The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief have requested a meeting to strategise on how to accelerate gender mainstreaming in DRR, and she has received messages from young professionals and women DRR actors who are encouraged and inspired by the recognition.
- Rahma Hanifa, the 2021 Rising Star winner, has been invited to share her experiences at national and regional (ASEAN) events.
- Soosan Momeni Mokoe from Iran said that, before she was recognized as a finalist she often felt like a lone voice advocating for a focus on DRR in Iran, where emergency response is the priority, but since her nomination she has received congratulations and many questions about DRR from the Government.

- Krishna Karkee from Nepal also received an invitation from government to share her further plans so they could collaborate.
- Nanette Antequisa, from the Philippines spoke of how the recognition ignites more recognition of her work that promotes community empowerment and local leadership in DRR, where women and different genders, ethnicities and sectors are provided equitable opportunities to lead their priority humanitarian actions in times of crisis, in addressing vulnerabilities to climate and disaster risks, and in building their resilience.
- Jazmin Aguisanda-Jerusalem is the Executive Director of the Leyte Center for Development in the Philippines, and National Chairperson of the Citizens Disaster Response Network, a national network of DRR NGOs operating in all 17 Philippines regions. Since being recognized as a WIN DRR Excellence award finalist in 2021 Jazmin said she has had greater access to institutions and partners and more opportunities to be part of national and regional events.

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 ● *“After winning the award I had the opportunity to facilitate a closed session high-level Leaders Round Table and meet global leaders in DRR at the High-Level Meeting for the Mid-term Review of the Sendai Framework in New York in May 2023, something I would never have dreamed of. I am now expanding my work to identify and support women leaders working in trans boundary water governance challenges to strengthen their capacities.*

● – Homolata Borah, 2022 Rising Star Award winner

Year	Nominations Received	Finalists	Rising Star Award Winner	Excellence Award Winner
2021	153	9 Rising Star Finalists from 7 countries 9 Excellence Award Finalists from 6 countries	Rahma Hanifa Indonesia	Vasiti Soko Fiji
2022	420	12 Rising Star Finalists from 7 countries 15 Excellence Award Finalists from 12 countries	Homolata Borah India	Esline Garaebiti Vanuatu
2023	414	6 Rising Star Finalists from 5 countries 6 Excellence Award Finalists from 5 countries	Abia Akram Pakistan	Shaila Shahid Bangladesh

“We need to go beyond the rhetoric of women’s empowerment to more fundamental changes in the way resources are managed equally by women & men.”

Homolata Borah - India



“Having women involved meaningfully in DRR as change-makers who can provide more inclusive activities, helps cover all people & recognise our diversity.”

Ida Ngurah - Indonesia



Potential for expansion and priorities for the future



As the network continues to flourish and given the willingness of members to engage, the scope of work that WIN DRR members support will also increase. UNDRR will support WIN DRR members to:

- Support the implementation of the Gender Action Plan for the Sendai Framework in their countries, given the breadth of their roles across DRR.
- Engage with gender-transformative early warning systems through the EW4ALL initiative.
- Build inclusive resilient cities through the roll out of the MCR2030 gender scorecard.
- Strengthen disability inclusive DRR by upholding the rights of women with disability, including through article 11 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Maintain gender parity among speakers at regional and global platforms by drawing from the wide-range of technical expertise among WIN DRR members.

Given the impact of the WIN DRR awards UNDRR plans to expand these to other regions so women DRR leaders globally benefit from the opportunities this recognition provides, and are able to collaborate across regions.

Relationships build networks, and networks build power

“Innovation doesn’t always need to be technology, sometimes meeting with people from different backgrounds brings innovation and new perspectives.”

– Dr. Rahma Hanifa, Indonesia

In addition to the awards themselves, WIN DRR has hosted a number of events to promote networking among members. The diversity of WIN DRR members highlights the importance of championing an intersectional approach to reducing disaster risk. Feedback from WIN DRR members has highlighted that **one of the strengths of the network is to regularly bring together members to discuss diverse DRR topics in order to build relationships between members, learn from each other and hatch new collaborations across different sectors.**

WIN DRR has utilized regional and global DRR events to bring together women leaders for networking opportunities. Some key networking events include:

A 2022 Roundtable Discussion on inclusive leadership in DRR; locally-led DRR solutions; and data and tech driven approaches to DRR.

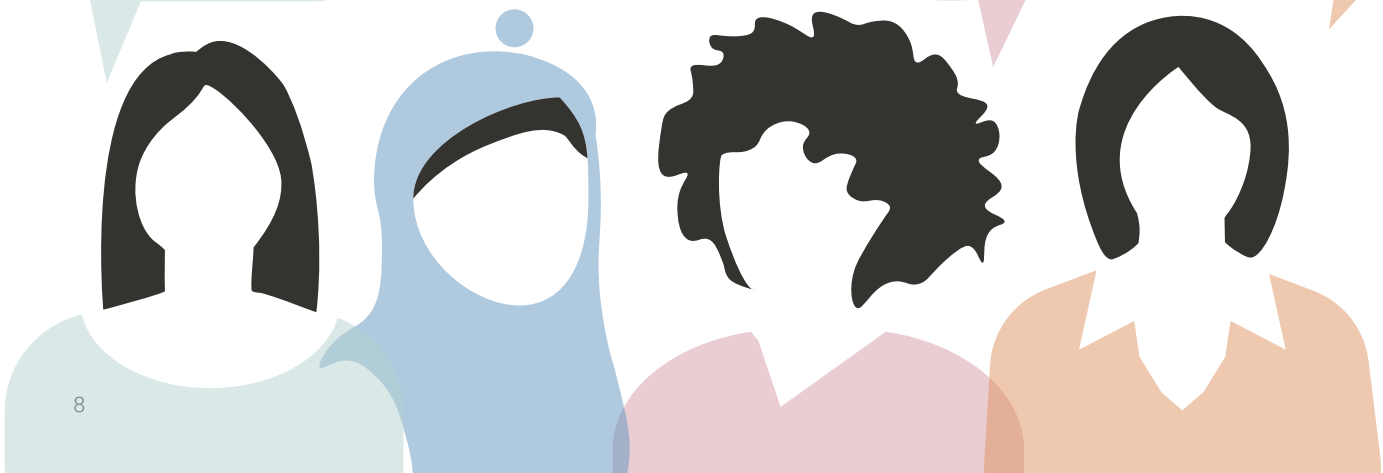
The roundtable provided an opportunity to learn from WIN DRR Leadership Award finalists and network with WIN DRR members.

A 2021 Roundtable Discussion for WIN DRR members to connect with and learn from each other.

This event enabled award finalists to plan future partnerships, including a youth-hackathon.

An event to celebrate International Women’s Day, which highlighted the need for women’s leadership in COVID-19 recovery, and recognized women who have played an essential role in their country’s COVID-19 response.

A side event at the 14th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women which examined the gaps and opportunities related to the production and use of disaggregated disaster and climate data in the Pacific, and the need to shift the focus from disaster impacts to address drivers of vulnerability.



National WIN DRR networks strengthen connections between women working across government, private sector, civil society, academia, youth at the national level. WIN DRR networks have been established in Indonesia, the Philippines and Fiji. These national networks are driven by WIN DRR members to provide professional support and share opportunities with each other. These networks are more inclusive as they operate in local languages.

- The Indonesia WIN DRR network has developed publications in Bahasa and has a very active WhatsApp group with 141 members. The network developed a communique that was presented to the Indonesian Government during the Global Platform for DRR. The network has conducted workshops for members, and has also enabled more women to be featured and acknowledged in national events by advocating for gender parity among speakers.
- The Philippines WIN DRR network was launched earlier in 2023 and has also already held several successful networking events.
- The Fiji network has focused on connecting youth and young professionals in Fiji with U-INSPIRE Alliance, with young professionals from Fiji showcasing their experience during U-INSPIRE sessions.



Potential for expansion and priorities for the future



Given the impact from WIN DRR to date, UNDRR is motivated to continue to expand WIN DRR to other regions beyond Asia-Pacific. In 2021 UNDRR’s Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean established the LAC Women’s Network for DRR which currently has over 1,300 members, and there is interest from both Africa and the Arab States region to further expand the network.

Additional national networks will also be supported across the Asia-Pacific region, with discussions currently underway in Nepal, India and the Maldives.

There is ambition to support more regular networking events, including with other regional networks once established. In addition, WIN DRR has received requests from members to focus on specific events targeting senior leaders, scientists, and community advocates.

Strengthening leadership capacities

“How many new young women are coming on board excites me. They bring fresh ideas and dynamic innovation.”

- Jane Rovins, New Zealand

WIN DRR provides professional development opportunities and leadership training, and mentorship and peer-to-peer support for women working in disaster risk reduction. The expertise found among WIN DRR members has also been widely drawn upon at regional and global DRR events, and WIN DRR members have played a key role in ensuring gender parity among speakers at the 2022 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the 2022 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction. WIN DRR members have also taken up prominent speaking roles during the high-level meeting on the midterm review on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, and other technical discussions on disaster risk reduction such as the ASEAN Roundtable on Partnerships for Change.



2021 WIN DRR Excellence Award Winner Vasiti Soko, Fiji speaks at the High-Level Meeting for the Mid-term Review of the Sendai Framework in New York (L), 2022 WIN DRR Excellence Award Winnd Esline Garaebiti, Vanuatu speaks at the APMCDRR in Brisbane (R)

Through WIN DRR training has been delivered to 236 women leaders, including 60 young Pacific women, on gender-responsive disaster risk reduction. The wide range of women trained have developed inclusive disaster risk reduction plans for their organizations, communities, or countries which they are now implementing. The youth training was delivered in partnership with Shifting the Power Coalition in the Pacific and covered understanding the disaster risk concepts and trends, the implementation of global frameworks for risk informed sustainable development, and gender

and inclusion within disaster risk reduction and management. WIN DRR has also supported UNITAR’s Women Leadership for Disaster Risk Reduction course, delivering training that covers disaster and climate risk trends, the coherence between global frameworks for risk-informed sustainable development and how gender equality and women’s empowerment and leadership fits in these frameworks, how climate and disaster risk is exacerbating inequalities and how gender equality and women’s empowerment can reduce disaster risk, as well as the vital role of women’s leadership in disaster risk reduction.



“The increasing participation & role of women in disaster risk management & DRR projects has brought positive changes.”

Dr Doan Thi Tuyet Nga - Viet Nam



“As women drive more DRR and disaster management activities we are seeing a more comprehensive approach to disaster management.”

Jane Rovins - Aotearoa New Zealand



Potential for expansion and priorities for the future

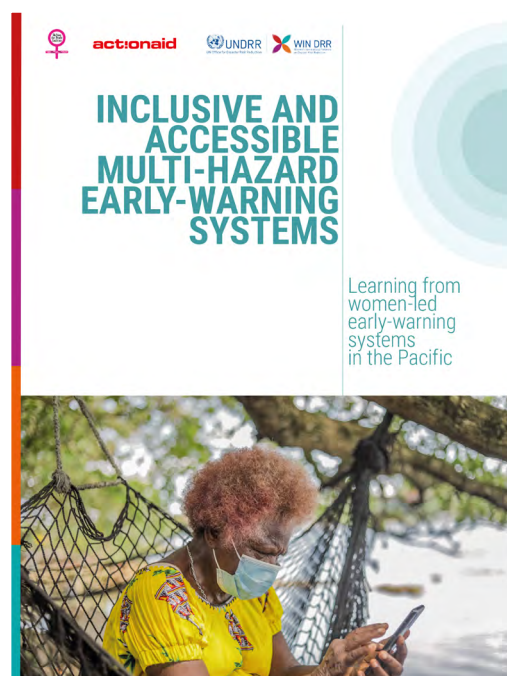


WIN DRR members are requesting more in-person training opportunities to strengthen their leadership capacities, including media training, negotiation and advocacy workshops on communicating with different audiences.

Building the evidence base for women's leadership

“As Indigenous women we have to talk more than ten times to convince a donor that we have knowledge. And then when we walk in to join the table, we see that the decision has already been made in another place.”

- Flora Vano, Vanuatu



Career Barriers and Motivations for Women and Men Working in Disaster Risk Reduction: A Snapshot in the Asia-Pacific Region

May 2023



THE GLOBAL INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

Midterm Review
SENDAI FRAMEWORK
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030

UNDRR
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UNDRR
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WIN DRR
Women's International Network on Disaster Risk Reduction



Building a resilient Pacific

Pacific women leaders reducing disaster risk

UNDRR
UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

WIN DRR
Women's International Network on Disaster Risk Reduction

Australian Aid

WIN DRR commissions research on women's decision-making in disaster risk reduction, documents good practices and case studies, and disseminates them widely. WIN DRR has developed a number of research reports, policy briefs, good practices and case studies, many in close partnership with other organizations working in this area. These include:

Career barriers and motivations for women and men in disaster risk reduction in Asia-Pacific, developed in partnership with the Global Institute for Women's Leadership: explores enablers and barriers to women's careers and leadership aspirations in DRR and offers insight into what organisations and the DRR profession more broadly can do to improve women and men's career outcomes in DRR.

Inclusive and accessible multi-hazard early warning systems: Learning from women-led early warning systems in the Pacific: supports governments and partners to develop inclusive and accessible multi-hazard early warning systems by drawing on lessons from the success of a number of women-led and disability inclusive early warning systems in the Pacific Region.

Building a resilient Pacific: seeks to recognize and celebrate just a few of the many amazing women leading disaster risk reduction efforts across the Pacific including Esline Garaebiti's perspectives on geo-hazards and early warning systems; Muliagatele Filomean Nelson on loss and damage and climate change in Samoa; and Berna Gorong on the impact of nature-based solutions in the Federated States of Micronesia, among many others.

How can I make this better?' Profiles of women's leadership in disaster risk reduction in Asia and the Pacific: these profiles recognise women's leadership in DRR to inspire other women doing the same. The collection includes Dr. Rahma Hanifa on the role of women's leadership in risk knowledge; Lea Ivy Manzanero on community-led DRR in the Philippines; and Rumana Khan on the growing crisis of climate-related disasters in Bangladesh, among many others.

Potential for expansion and priorities for the future



WIN DRR is currently undertaking a study on the resilience of women-led MSME in the Philippines which includes piloting the multi-hazard business QRE tool with women-led MSMEs and developing a short training toolkit for women who own MSMEs.

There are several other planned research studies as well as plan to more broadly share and socialize findings from the studies to date.

Reducing the barriers women face in advancing their careers

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- *“At the government and community level the solutions require transformative change, and such a transformative change is not possible without the leadership and initiatives by women.”*
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- Homolata Borah, India

Through advocacy and outreach and by highlighting the impact that equitable and inclusive leadership has, WIN DRR supports institutions to reduce the barriers that women face in their careers. Knowing the barriers is the first step to addressing them so in partnership with the Global Institute for Women’s Leadership, WIN DRR conducted a survey to identify barriers to women’s career advancement, well-being and longevity in DRR. Some of the barriers identified include: women’s lower willingness to sacrifice for their careers (influenced by lower expectations that these sacrifices will be rewarded), care demands placed on women with children, organisational constraints on women’s workplace authenticity, lower work-life balance and lower quality professional relationships with co-workers and especially senior colleagues.

The establishment of a national network in Indonesia has helped to promote and recognize the importance of hearing women’s voices in DRR discussions and decision-making across the country. As part of its commitment to support WIN DRR Indonesia the Indonesian Society for Disaster Management has pledged to stop all-male panels and will draw on the expertise found within WIN DRR Indonesia to support this aim.

“With more women involved in disaster risk reduction, their skills, experiences, & capabilities in times of catastrophes are finally being recognized.”

Reena Bajracharya – Nepal



Supported by **Australian Aid** **SM PRIME**



WIN DRR Advocacy

WIN DRR uses communications and social media to advocate for women's leadership by sharing positive stories that highlight successful women, address discriminatory ideas and beliefs, and demonstrate the impact of strategies and policies to enhance women's leadership.

2022 Rising Star Award winner Homolata Borah from India, was a guest on the [BBC's The Conversation](#).

A [WIN DRR knowledge base](#) on PreventionWeb has over 60 profiles of WIN DRR members uploaded, with profiles shared widely across UNDRR's social media platforms.

A short video on 2021 WIN DRR Rising Star Rahma Hanifa received over 10,000 views, with videos of other finalists and winners also very popular.

The WIN DRR twitter page has over 1,200 followers, and the private members only group on LinkedIn has 515 members. A regular newsletter engages membership of over 1,000.

UNDRR has a dedicated webpage on [women's leadership](#), prominently featuring WIN DRR as UNDRR's flagship women's leadership programme.

Potential for expansion and priorities for the future



Building on the research findings, WIN DRR will work with institutions to reduce the barriers women face in advancing their careers, and continue to advocate for, and share the successes of greater women's leadership in disaster risk reduction.

