



13th Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management  
Regional Multisectoral Forum on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems for the  
Americas and the Caribbean

Position of the Women's Network of the Americas and the Caribbean for  
Disaster Risk Reduction on the Initiative for Early Warnings for All

Women's Network of the Americas and the Caribbean for Disaster Risk  
Reduction  
Working Group WG-EW4All

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## Collaborative Work

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## Methodology

An *ad hoc* Working Group was established to define a roadmap, meeting weekly. A shared Google Drive workspace facilitated collaborative work. In November 2024, the Early Warning for All Working Group (WG-EW4All) of the Women's Network of the Americas and the Caribbean for DRR developed this document through a collective collaborative process. This process included the following steps: Creation and distribution of a tool to gather key messages on EW4All, the development of a draft document for review and feedback, dedicated working sessions to integrate feedback and build the final version of the document, and a review process led by the sponsoring agencies.

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## Working Group – Early Warning for All (WG-EW4All)

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## Acronyms

**EW4All:** Early Warning for All

**GNDR:** Global Women's Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction

**WG:** Working Group

**LAC:** Latin America and the Caribbean (although the Women's Network, despite its short name containing LAC, represents the Americas and the Caribbean)

**MHEWS:** Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems

**UN Women:** United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

**Women's Network:** Women's Network of the Americas and the Caribbean for Disaster Risk Reduction

**UNDRR:** United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

## Foro Regional Multisectorial de Sistemas de Alerta Temprana Multi-Amenaza de las Américas y el Caribe

### Position of the Women's Network of the Americas and the Caribbean for Disaster Risk Reduction on the Initiative for Early Warning for All

October 13, 2021, on the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR), the Women's Network of the Americas and the Caribbean for Disaster Risk Reduction, henceforth referred to as "Women's Network, was officially launched, supported by UNDRR, UN Women, and GNDR. Today, the Women's Network brings together over 1,400 women from diverse countries and international, national, and local organizations, including community organizations, government entities, academia, and the private sector.

The objective of the Women's Network is to unite women from the Americas and the Caribbean involved in disaster risk management and reduction in a space for dialogue and collaboration to share experiences, challenges, and opportunities; generate ideas and innovative solutions; learn; and promote synergies through a human rights and intersectional gender approach. This strengthens the leadership and autonomy of women and girls.

The Women's Network recognizes that the climate crisis continues to intensify, with disproportionate impacts in Latin America and the Caribbean, severely affecting vulnerable populations, especially women and their diversities, youth, children, and adolescents. The region faces multiple threats that generate cascading effects, crossing borders, impacting entire populations, and increasing poverty and violence.

It is essential to note that, while women and girls face structural inequalities daily that perpetuate socio-economic, political, and environmental disadvantages, placing them at greater risk, they are also agents of change within their families and communities, leading disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. This transformative capacity of women is reflected in the Women's Network's approach, which is configured as a "Women's Network of Women's Networks."

In this space, each woman contributes her connections with other women, communities, and spheres of influence, creating a dynamic and powerful web of collaboration and support. This approach multiplies the reach and impact of the Women's Network, fostering a continuous flow of learning, backing, and collective action that strengthens community resilience. For this reason, multi-hazard early warning systems must be designed and operated from an inclusive and intersectional perspective, recognizing the role of women in diverse cultural, urban, and territorial contexts, such as coastal, jungle, island, Andean, and high-Andean areas.

The Women's Network supports and promotes the development of inclusive multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS) that foster accessible, equitable technological practices and multichannel, clear, and assertive risk communication for the dissemination of alerts. According to the State of MHEWS (2024), the requirement is for clear and consistent

messages issued from a single authoritative voice, one that is agreed upon and trusted by the community. The Women's Network advocates for a transformative and gender-sensitive approach to MHEWS, emphasizing that its role in supporting these systems is more essential than ever.

Within the framework of the UN Global Initiative on Early Warnings for All (2022–2027), the Women's Network established a Working Group called WG EW4ALL, composed of 53 women from the region, to contribute to its implementation. One of the main achievements of this WG has been the collaborative development of this document, which consolidates the multiple efforts led by the Women's Network and proposes strategic recommendations and requests to advance this common agenda. These efforts span the four pillars of MHEWS: Pillar 1 - Understanding disaster risk; Pillar 2 - Detection, monitoring, observation, and forecasting of hazards; Pillar 3 - Dissemination and communication of alerts; and Pillar 4 - Preparedness for response.


Among the notable initiatives of the Women's Network, particularly emphasizing Pillars 1 and 3, are the following:

**Creation and Implementation of the Gender Observatory.** During the **VIII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean (PR23)**, held in Punta del Este, Uruguay (2023), the Women's Network successfully implemented the **Gender Observatory (OdG in the acronym in Spanish)**. Key outcomes in relation to EW4ALL included: Recognition of the importance of science, technology, and innovation in disaster risk management, emphasizing their link to improving MHEWS; the need to implement MHEWS to achieve SDGs 5, 3, 4, and 17; and the relevance of creating specific mechanisms for the participation of women and persons with disabilities and a greater commitment to education and prevention in implementing MHEWS. This tool, which has been replicated in various contexts regionally and globally, has significantly contributed to achieving Pillar 1.

The OdG has immense potential for application in MHEWS by evaluating, through instruments and participatory observation by women in the Women's Network, the level of inclusion of gender and intersectionality in these systems. This tool helps identify risk perceptions, gender inequalities, and gaps in receiving and responding to early warnings, as well as detecting barriers that limit women's access to early warning information and other vulnerable groups.

**Collection, Systematization, and Communication of Best Practices** focusing on science, technology, and innovation for resilience, leadership, and the autonomy of women and girls in DRR. Leveraging the extensive presence of the Women's Network in the region, successful experiences and lessons learned from good practices have been identified and documented, including cases of MHEWS, contributing to achieving Pillar 3. A total of 43 cases have been collected from the following countries: Argentina (7), Brazil (3), Colombia (12), Costa Rica (3), Ecuador (1), Guatemala (2), Mexico (3), Panama (1), Peru (4), Uruguay (4), and Venezuela (3).

**Contributions to the Development of the Gender Action Plan** to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR (2015–2030), the Women's Network achieved the inclusion of Action 5.7, related to Target G of the Sendai Framework, which seeks the implementation of MHEWS and anticipatory action for multiple hazards that are gender-responsive and



inclusive. At the first in-person meeting of the Women's Network in Panama City in October 2024, the commitment to continue this process was reaffirmed, ensuring ongoing monitoring and contributions to the Gender Action Plan, advancing Pillar 1.

**Capacity Building.** It is essential to remember that “no one can act on what they are not prepared to see.” It is not enough to issue an alert or have a well-designed emergency plan. Success in these efforts depends on risk perception, participation, knowledge, and ownership of MHEWS by all individuals, with a particular emphasis on women and their diversities. The Women's Network actively participates

in regional platforms, congresses, and virtual seminars, promoting and amplifying the message of the importance of integrating an intersectional gender perspective into DRR actions. By sharing knowledge and experiences for adaptation in changing conditions, the Women's Network helps bridge the gap between available information and effective action, contributing to achieving Pillars 1 and 3.


**Local-Level Resilience Self-Assessment Tools**, like the **MCR2030 Gender Scorecard Addendum for Gender Equality and Intersectionality** aim to incorporate a gender perspective into DRR by recognizing the differentiated impacts of disasters on individuals and addressing these impacts while fostering resilience. Specifically, the tool includes considerations regarding MHEWS. The Women's Network supports the implementation of this tool, initially in Colombia, with plans to expand it to the broader region, contributing to achieving Pillars 1 and 3.

Consequently, from this Forum, the Women's Network calls for the integration of an intersectional gender approach into MHEWS, recognizing that women face multiple barriers that condition their experiences in disaster preparedness and response. Conditions such as living in poverty, with disabilities, on small islands, in conflict or remote areas, or belonging to historically marginalized communities—such as Indigenous, Afro-descendant, migrant, or displaced women—exacerbate the specific risks they face.

The Women's Network encourages States to implement MHEWS in a decentralized manner, ensuring they are socially relevant and aligned with nature, emphasizing the importance of planning that integrates diversity. This includes recognizing the role of rural, Indigenous, Afro-descendant, Latin American, and Caribbean women as transformative agents, capable of leading and communicating alerts aligned with local needs. These women contribute their profound knowledge of adaptation practices, early warnings, and social appropriation of territories, which respond to their connection with ecosystems such as forests, oceans, and rivers.

The Women's Network offers its capabilities to strengthen cross-border collaboration, recognizing that threats do not respect borders and require a regional cooperative approach in MHEWS. This involves facilitating the exchange of information and access to best practices and resources, creating partnerships, and improving effective response capacities in the region. The Women's Network facilitates dialogue among stakeholders, civil society, the private sector, governments, and academia, contributing to the early detection of threats, vulnerabilities, and capacities, considering the geographic context.

The Women's Network invites States to ensure that MHEWS are flexible and adaptable, capable of continuing to operate even during recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction phases. Many countries in the region are currently undergoing reconstruction processes,



weakened by multiple disasters. MHEWS must incorporate advanced technological strategies while simultaneously relying on simple and accessible systems that allow adaptation to the continuous cycles of crisis and recovery. Furthermore, these systems must leverage traditional organizational mechanisms of diverse ethnic and religious communities, integrating their knowledge and practices into disaster risk reduction.

The Women's Network urges this Forum to act as a catalyst for aligning efforts between the Sendai Gender Action Plan (GAP) and the EW4ALL Action Plan, particularly regarding Actions 5.7, 24, and 25. Additionally, the Women's Network will continue supporting the GT EW4ALL Working Group to help achieve the objectives of this Action Plan. Similarly, we encourage ongoing commitment to integrating and strengthening the voices of women in regional policy discussions to create MHEWS that not only inform but also generate meaningful transformations.

The Women's Network calls for the identification and elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls within the context of MHEWS. It also calls for recognizing the intrinsic connection of women as life creators with nature, the sea, ecosystems, and the land—elements that nurture and sustain the identity of the region and our role in building resilience.

The Women's Network urges States to ensure that funding aimed at strengthening MHEWS is invested in specific and flexible funds, aligned with the priorities and realities of Latin American and Caribbean women. These funds should promote the participation of women in creating, implementing, and evaluating early warning systems, ensuring their role as leaders and agents of change is recognized and supported.

Finally, the Women's Network of the Americas and the Caribbean for DRR urges States and policymakers to commit to a community-led, inclusive, and culturally adapted multi-hazard early warning system. By centering the perspectives, knowledge, and strengths of women, we can build a safer, more responsive, and equitable MHEWS that leaves no one behind.



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To join the Women's Network, please complete the following form:

[Registration Form](#) (available in English and Spanish).

Membership in the Women's Network is **voluntary** and **free of charge**.

*Together, let's  
build resilience!*

**To register to the LAC Network,  
please fill in this form**

