



BUILDING WOMEN'S RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS: LESSONS FROM PRACTICE, EVIDENCE FROM THE PACIFIC



© 2025. UN Women. All rights reserved.

Produced by the Disaster Risk Reduction team within the Policy, Programme and Intergovernmental Division of UN Women.

The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the United Nations or any of its affiliated organizations.

BUILDING WOMEN'S RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS: LESSONS FROM PRACTICE, EVIDENCE FROM THE PACIFIC



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

UN WOMEN

Geneva, July 2025



TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE GLOBAL CONTEXT	5
I. A TRANSFORMATIVE MODEL FOR WOMEN'S RESILIENCE	6
II. LESSONS FROM PRACTICE: COUNTRY IMPLEMENTATION	7
Fiji	8
Kiribati	10
Solomon Islands	12
Vanuatu	14
III. REGIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS	16
IV. GLOBAL IMPACT	20
V. CONCLUSION	25
VI. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	26

Cover photo: Setaita Leba from Kadavu Island in Fiji.

Photo: UN Women

THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

Disasters are not gender-neutral. While climate change is driving an increase in the frequency and severity of disasters across the globe – displacing 45.8 million people in 2024 alone¹ – these events intersect with structural inequalities, including gender, to create and compound risk. Disasters have profound social and economic impacts, with total losses estimated at over \$2.3 trillion annually² when cascading and ecosystem costs are accounted for. Their consequences are shaped by the unequal systems in which they occur, and which determine who is most exposed, who recovers fastest, and who is left behind and at risk.

Women and girls are often among the hardest hit by disasters, and they are crucial to solutions. Depending on the context, women may face higher mortality rates, greater livelihood losses and slower recovery. These unequal outcomes are not coincidental but the result of entrenched structural gender disparities that leave women with fewer resources, decision-making power, and safety nets. At the same time, women are also critical leaders and agents of resilience. They hold knowledge, experience and solutions, but remain largely under-recognized, under-supported, and under-resourced.

DRR is about preventing and reducing risks to strengthen resilience, but unless it is gender-responsive, it risks reinforcing the very gender-specific inequalities that drive disaster

impacts. When DRR efforts tackle the root causes of women's vulnerability and exposure, promote their leadership and empowerment, and respond to their lived realities, the outcomes are more equitable, effective, sustainable and far-reaching. Gender equality and women's empowerment and leadership must be central to DRR and resilience building to effectively address the inequality of risk.

This is particularly evident in areas where disaster risk is high and where gender inequalities intersect with vulnerability in acute ways, such as the Asia Pacific region. Here, innovative approaches have emerged that position women as agents of change in disaster resilience. This paper draws on the experience of the [Women's Resilience to Disasters](#) (WRD) programme, launched in 2021 by UN Women and supported by the Government of Australia, as a case study in good practice.

Implemented in Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, with complementing strong regional and global components over a period of 4 years from 2021 to 2025, the programme demonstrates the value of integrated, locally-led, gender transformative approaches. By placing women's leadership, knowledge, and priorities at the centre of DRR, WRD reimagines how disaster risk is understood and managed. This paper highlights key achievements and offers insights to strengthen gender-responsive disaster and climate resilience across the Pacific and beyond.

- 1 Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. (2025). Global report on internal displacement 2025 (GRID 2025). <https://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2025/>
- 2 United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. (2025). Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2025: Resilience Pays—Financing and Investing for Our Future. <https://www.undrr.org/gar/gar2025>



Taake lou (left) and Kareketaake Kaitonga (right) during community consultations on the impacts of sea level rise in Abaiang, Kiribati.

Photo: UN Women/Talei Tora

A transformative model for women's resilience

The Women's Resilience to Disasters (WRD) programme is UN Women's flagship transformative, strategic, and programmatic framework to address the gender dimensions of disaster and climate resilience. Launched in 2021, WRD responds directly to global, regional, and national priorities to close the gender gaps in disaster and climate contexts. More than support, WRD drives systemic change by positioning women at the centre of risk governance, climate adaptation, and resilience-building.

WRD's strength lies in its integrated and strategic set-up, which bridges local, national, regional, and global efforts. It brings together UN Women's normative, coordination and programmatic work on DRR, enabling knowledge and resource sharing across regions for maximum impact, cost-effectiveness and scale. Funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of the Government of Australia and supported by women's organisations and key UN agencies, the programme is implemented in Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu, with strong Pacific regional and global components and sister initiatives in other regions. The programme supports country-driven, locally owned solutions that are gender-transformative, disability-inclusive, and human-rights-based.

At the regional and global levels, WRD amplifies Pacific women's voices in key DRR spaces, including the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR), the Global Platform for DRR and UN Climate Change Conferences (COPs), influencing global narratives and frameworks on gender and resilience. The programme also contributes directly to the gender-responsive implementation of international frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The programme's overarching goal is to ensure that the lives and livelihoods of women and girls are resilient to disasters and threats, thereby contributing to more sustainable, secure, and thriving communities. This is achieved by strengthening gender-responsive decision-making and governance systems, securing women's leadership and meaningful participation, and enabling women's access to finance, services, resilient infrastructure, livelihoods, and businesses. At its core, WRD's success lies in trusting, investing in, and scaling the leadership, knowledge, and power of women to build inclusive, resilient, and thriving communities and systems that protect and empower, specifically in crises.



Figure 1. WRD programme framework

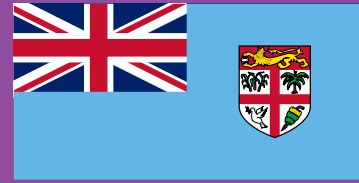


2

LESSONS FROM PRACTICE: COUNTRY IMPLEMENTATION

The country components advance different elements of WRD in line with the programme outcomes in the four target countries: Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

FIJI



WRD in Fiji has played a catalytic role in embedding gender equality and social inclusion into national disaster risk governance. The programme strategically aligned with national priorities to ensure that women's leadership, local knowledge, and inclusive approaches became integral to policy enhancement and preparedness systems. Through sustained partnership with government and civil society, the programme has driven transformative changes, from national frameworks to community-based early warning systems.

A significant achievement has been the mainstreaming of gender and inclusion across three key national policies - the National Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) Policy, Humanitarian Policy, and Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Policy. These were reviewed and revised to incorporate sex, age, and disability disaggregated data (SADDD), gender indicators, and inclusive planning frameworks, together with intensive capacity-building for government staff and DRR practitioners.

Trainings on gender assessments, disability sensitisation, and gender, disability and social inclusive monitoring and evaluation (M&E) frameworks, were complemented by local consultations with women's and disability organisations to ensure that gender-responsive risk assessments and inclusive early warning systems (EWS) could be effectively integrated into local disaster preparedness strategies.


WRD also supported the rollout of a new Monitoring & Evaluation Framework for the NDRR policy, equipping national stakeholders with tools to track gender-responsive outcomes. In parallel, the programme also co-convened 59 national stakeholders to develop a National Gender Action Plan for DRR, providing strategic guidance for future investments and coordinated action on gender equality in disaster contexts.

By fostering strong multi-sectoral partnerships, WRD has bridged government, civil society, and community-level DRR efforts in Fiji, connecting national policy efforts with grassroots engagement and effectively institutionalising women's leadership and participation in disaster preparedness and response. This integrated approach for gender-responsive DRR has strengthened inclusive governance structures and enhanced community resilience across Fiji.



Kadavu villagers in Fiji.

Photo: UN Women/Sarika Chand

A woman with short dark hair, wearing a red and white patterned shirt, is focused on planting seeds into small black pots filled with dark soil. She is using a small tool to assist. In the background, another person is partially visible, also working with the soil. The background is a vibrant, colorful pattern of tropical leaves and flowers in red, yellow, and green.

"Through ADRA and WRD we have been taught how to use resources like plants and root crops around us to make food for times of disaster, so that we don't have to create new expenses to prepare."

Senimili Biautubu, Naqarani Village, Rewa

Setting up of greenhouse through ADRA.
Photo: UN Women/Talei Tora

KIRIBATI



In Kiribati, WRD has strengthened women's leadership in disaster and climate resilience by embedding gender-responsive approaches into local systems and revitalising traditional food security practices. In a country where climate change directly threatens land, water and livelihoods, WRD's focus on women-led, culturally rooted solutions has delivered tangible, community-driven impact.

In partnership with AMAK (Aia Mwaea Ainen Kiribati), the national umbrella body for women's organisations, WRD supported the establishment of gene banks to preserve and cultivate traditional climate-resilient crops. These banks not only ensure access to essential food, medicinal plants and livelihoods during disasters but also restore traditional knowledge systems that support long-term resilience, positioning women as drivers of change that support both present and future challenges.

The creation of Food Preservation Committees, in coordination with the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development (MELAD) and the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) to align with national climate-resilient agriculture strategies, revived traditional food conservation practices

and strengthened household food security. These committees oversee the maintenance of gene banks, safeguarding crops that serve as critical community assets before, during and after climate shocks.

Resource-mapping missions across outer islands helped identify local assets and potential for scaling up the model, enabling more women to participate in and benefit from food resilience initiatives. Women engaged in these efforts are better equipped with skills, tools, and income-generating opportunities that reduce vulnerability while advancing economic empowerment. By placing women at the centre of resilience-building, as knowledge holders, organisers and leaders, WRD is anchoring disaster risk reduction in Kiribati in local systems and ensuring that women drive and sustain climate resilience from the ground up.



Women of Tebunginako, Abaiang Island, Kiribati, following community consultations on the impacts of sea level rise.

Photo: UN Women/Talei Tora



Tanano Tekarika, Abaiang Island, Kiribati, during community consultations of sea level rise.

Photo: UN Women/Talei Tora

SOLOMON ISLANDS



WRD in the Solomon Islands has worked to shift disaster risk governance to be more community-driven, embedding women's leadership and disability inclusion into provincial disaster systems. Recognising the vulnerabilities of remote island communities and the structural barriers women and persons with disabilities face, the programme prioritised locally led solutions that advance inclusive governance and economic resilience.

By aligning closely with national and provincial authorities and civil society, WRD has strengthened the ability of communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters, with women and marginalised groups at the centre of these efforts. Through collaboration with Matavale Women's Association and the Disabled People's Association of Solomon Islands (DPASI), WRD supported inclusive livelihoods, including business development and skills training for women entrepreneurs and persons with disabilities. These efforts have helped communities diversify income sources, build financial security, and reduce vulnerability to external shocks.

At the institutional level, WRD supported the establishment and strengthening of Provincial Disaster Risk Management Committees, ensuring women's and disability organisations are integrated into DRR and recovery coordination and

decision-making structures. These inclusive bodies now play a central role in disaster planning and response, ensuring the needs and priorities of all community members are reflected.

WRD also supported the development of gender-responsive annual workplans for these committees, ensuring systemic consideration of gender and disability into DRR planning. Shaped by the leadership of women's and disability organisations, the workplans have led to improved coordination, stronger protection services and more effective DRR for women and girls in disaster-prone communities. By embedding equality and leadership at the local level, the programme is not only improving disaster outcomes, it is laying the foundation for more just, resilient, and inclusive systems that reflect the strength and priorities of all Solomon Islands women.



After disaster training in Fouele Village, Small Malaita, Solomon Islands with Matavale Women's Association.

Photo: MWA/Linda Bosawaki



"Before the training with Matavale on how to prepare soil for planting, our food didn't grow very well because we live in the swamp. Now we are able to grow more vegetables and have already harvested our crops."

Thomson Ramoni
Fouele Village, South Malaita, Solomon Islands

Thomson Ramoni, Solomon Islands, highlighting the impact of WRD resilient livelihood training on food security.

Photo: UN Women/Talei Tora

VANUATU



WRD in Vanuatu has strengthened community resilience by advancing women's economic empowerment as a core strategy to better prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. Despite the compounding impacts from major natural hazards, logistical and capacity challenges, the programme delivered tangible results across the country.

Through a strategic partnership with microfinance institution Vanuatu Women's Development Scheme (VANWODS), the programme supported women entrepreneurs to access disaster-resilient livelihood opportunities powered by renewable energy. Through a cost-sharing model backed by the Department of Energy and the National Green Energy Fund, 100 women and girls have been able to access solar-powered sewing machines, freezers, and other equipment via a 50% interest subsidy scheme. These tools have enabled women to maintain and even expand their businesses in the wake of disasters and amid frequent power disruptions, ensuring income continuity during all disaster phases.

VANWODS' extensive grassroots networks have been instrumental in reaching underserved areas and

integrating financial inclusion with DRR planning. Beyond access to equipment through microfinance, women have also received ongoing support for resilient business development, enhancing their economic security and strengthening their leadership in community disaster efforts.

As a result, women are now better equipped to withstand and recover from crises, not only economically but as recognised leaders in their communities. Their enhanced capacities are shifting perceptions and boosting their confidence and leadership in their communities, especially in terms of DRR and resilience-building efforts.



Leslie Davis, Vanuatu, with solar power which provided a lifeline after the December 2024 earthquake.

Photo: UN Women/Talei Tora



"I was really glad when I got connected to the solar. I sew and get all the electricity from the sun. I sew all my family's clothes [...] I have also been making an added income through sewing."

Georgette Davis
VANWODS solar project

Georgette Davis, Vanuatu, levelling up with solar power, cold storage and a sewing machine.

Photo: UN Women/Talei Tora



3

REGIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The regional component focuses on knowledge management, advocacy, and policy and technical support, feeding into existing regional mechanisms, movements, and coalitions including with the Pacific Resilience Partnership.

Regional CSO Pacific learning workshop.

Photo: UN Women/Talei Tora



Supporting Pacific women's leadership in climate and disaster risk reduction

Pacific delegation at COP28

Photo: SPREP

A central focus of the WRD programme's regional work has been elevating Pacific women as leaders and change-makers in climate and disaster resilience. By building their technical expertise, WRD has strengthened their participation and influence in key regional and global platforms and normative processes, including the UN Climate Change Conference (COP), the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR), the Global Platform for DRR, the SIDS4 conference, and the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

Through targeted training, knowledge-sharing events, mentorship, and facilitated engagement, WRD has equipped Pacific women with the tools and skills to influence policy and advocate effectively for gender-responsive DRR. WRD-facilitated initiatives, such as Gender Champions events at global and regional platforms, have opened up direct engagement with government leaders, senior officials, and experts in gender, DRR, and resilience. These efforts have boosted Pacific women's confidence and visibility to contribute meaningfully to technical discussions and high-level negotiations.

WRD has helped ensure that Pacific priorities and gender perspectives are reflected in international outcomes, contributing to more inclusive and effective climate and disaster policies. As a result, Pacific women have catalysed tangible change and concrete results:

- Kiribati and Vanuatu are the most recent countries in the Pacific to appoint national gender and climate change focal points with the UNFCCC.
- The Gender and Social Inclusion Technical Working Group, established under WRD, is now a critical body



Gender champions and experts meeting hosted by WRD at the APMCDRR 2022 in Australia.

Photo: UN Women

aligning gender-responsive DRR efforts across Pacific governments and civil society, directly contributing to the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP).

- Women's organisations supported by WRD significantly contributed to the SIDS4 Gender Equality Forum [Communique](#) and delivered a closing statement at the conference conclusion.

- Pacific gender experts supported by WRD were instrumental in advocating for a gender-responsive Sendai Framework Midterm Review process,

resulting also in Pacific-specific priorities reflected in the development of the Sendai Gender Action Plan.

- Pacific women and women's organisations successfully influenced and contributed to the outcomes and conclusions of Climate Change Conferences (COPs), Commissions on the Status of Women (CSWs), the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States(SIDS4), Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR), and the Global Platforms for DRR (GPDRR) from 2022 to 2025.

Advancing disability-inclusive resilience with the Pacific Disability Forum

Recognising the intersection between gender, disability, and disaster vulnerability, WRD forged a strategic partnership with the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) to embed disability inclusion in DRR systems and policy. Through both technical and financial support, WRD has strengthened PDF's institutional capacity to lead advocacy and coordination across the region as well as the capacity of DRR practitioners and disability advocates to address the intersecting needs of gender and disability in DRR and resilience-building efforts.

This partnership has contributed to more inclusive and effective DRR approaches across the Pacific region, ensuring that both gender and disability

perspectives are embedded in data-informed and grounded resilience frameworks and practice. Key achievements include:

- Joint support to the revision of the region's 10-year Pacific Disability Inclusive Resilience Development Strategy, ensuring stronger integration of gender and disability priorities in resilience planning, together with PDF, boosting its advocacy capacity on behalf of Pacific Organizations for Persons with Disabilities.

- PDF's facilitation of a targeted training for DRR practitioners, including representatives from organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), on gender-responsive data collection and analysis in DRR governance.

*Pacific Disability Forum
regional convening for
disability inclusion in
disasters and climate
action in 2024.*

Photo: UN Women/Talei Tora



Shaping gender-responsive DRR through academia

Complementing the work on policy and practice, WRD has worked to successfully advance gender-responsive DRR in higher education, shaping the training and education of future DRR practitioners in the Pacific region. In collaboration with the University of South Pacific (USP), WRD has influenced academic practices to embed gender considerations into disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change curricula.

USP has successfully incorporated gender dimensions following a comprehensive review and modification of six postgraduate courses and four case studies.

Furthermore, WRD built the capacity of university faculty to strengthen their ability to teach and apply the necessary gender-responsive tools, frameworks, and analytical skills.

By supporting the inclusion of gender considerations in higher education curricula, WRD has contributed to institutional change and the nurturing of a new generation of DRR professionals capable of designing, implementing and advocating for inclusive and equitable disaster resilience strategies across the Pacific.

Four officials from the National Disaster Management Office and Ministries of Women from Solomon Islands, Fiji, and Kiribati were supported to attend the training on gender-transformative disaster risk reduction organized by the WRD Global Team, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (ROAP), and UN Women's Centre of Excellence in Seoul, Korea.

Photo: UN Women/Kwanju Kim



Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls, Noelene Nabulivou, and Asenaca Vakacegu, WRD representation at the Gender Equality Forum on the occasion of the SIDS4 Conference in Antigua and Barbuda.

Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown



4

GLOBAL IMPACT

Globally, WRD advances gender-responsive disaster and climate resilience through technical support, advocacy, knowledge sharing, and UN system coordination. It fosters partnerships, scales impact, and connects practitioners through knowledge exchange and global networks.

UN Women's Executive Director, Ms Sima Bahous, delivering remarks at the event on accelerating action for gender responsive Disaster Risk Reduction on the margins of the High-Level Meeting on the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework.

Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown



Global policy agendas: Sendai GAP and Recommendation 4.2

Special Session on the Sendai GAP at the 8th Global Platform for DRR in Geneva. Photo: Antoine Tardy for UNDRR

Through the Women's Resilience to Disasters (WRD) Programme, UN Women has been driving global transformation by embedding gender equality at the core of DRR and climate resilience. Informed by the pioneering experience in the Pacific, the programme has elevated the imperative of women's resilience in global policy agendas, moving from advocacy to systems change.

These efforts are firmly embedded within UN Women's coordination mandate on gender equality, and its active engagement in key interagency mechanisms such as the [Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative](#) (CADRI), [Early Warnings for All](#) (EW4All), and the [UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience](#), which is being implemented by close to 50 UN entities. Within this broader architecture, UN Women has worked to ensure that gender-responsive DRR is not a siloed priority but a system-wide imperative.

A landmark achievement was the adoption of a dedicated sub-recommendation (4.2) on gender-responsive DRR and climate change adaptation within the [2030 Recommendations of the UN Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience \(2023–2030\)](#). Adopted in November 2023, it reinforces system-wide alignment with the Sendai Framework's gender commitments and complements the UN Plan of Action on DRR for Resilience.

Building on this momentum following the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, UN Women, in collaboration with UNDRR and

UNFPA, spearheaded the development of the [Gender Action Plan to Support Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030](#) (Sendai GAP) a direct result of years of sustained advocacy and coalition-building with women's movements, specifically from climate-vulnerable regions. The GAP, launched on the sidelines of the 68th Commission on the Status of Women in March 2024, was crafted through a consultative Member State-led process that engaged 70 governments and over 500 non-state stakeholders, including women's organisations. It provides a transformative roadmap for integrating gender and social inclusion into national and local DRR planning and budgeting and supports the gender-responsive implementation of the Sendai Framework.

The establishment of the GAP represents a significant step toward ensuring long-term, integrated and complementary approaches to resilience that bridge across the Sendai Framework and all three Rio Conventions. It reflects growing global consensus and sustained political will to break down siloes and centre gender equality in disaster risk reduction and climate action, ensuring that the resilience of women, particularly in the most vulnerable contexts, is recognised, resourced, and realised by 2030.

Contribution to UN Women's global DRR and resilience portfolio growth

When UN Women first began its global work on DRR in 2017, it had active disaster risk reduction activities and projects in just eight countries. Since then, that number has grown to 67 countries, with 24 having projects or programmes while the remaining ones provide targeted technical support. The launch of the WRD programme in 2021 marked a turning point. More than a standalone initiative, WRD became the organising engine behind a rapidly expanding portfolio, bringing strategic focus, coherence and ambition to UN Women's approach to resilience with a dedicated global framework to advance women's resilience to disasters and climate shocks.

With WRD's programmatic framework at the core, UN Women had the clarity and coherence needed to make a strong case to donors, governments, and UN partners that resilience efforts are only truly effective when they centre gender equality, women's leadership and local ownership. In the wake of escalating climate-related disasters and the global COVID-19 pandemic, WRD's relevance only deepened, highlighting that women's leadership and inclusive systems are essential to recovery, peace and resilience.

From its inception, WRD was designed to be global in scope and locally grounded, supported by robust regional and global components. Crucially, WRD has served as an umbrella for sister initiatives implemented by UN Women, such as [EmPower](#) in Southeast Asia, [EnGenDER](#) in the Caribbean, and the [Sahel Resilience Project](#). Each initiative is tailored to local contexts but united by a shared vision: strengthening women's resilience and leadership in the face of escalating disaster and climate risks. WRD ties them together, providing shared tools, common objectives, deepened country-to-global linkages, and stronger advocacy pathways to elevate women's resilience and accelerate gender-responsive DRR.

This integrated approach has driven steady portfolio expansion. Donor recognition, policy traction, and increasing demand for UN Women's technical expertise have all contributed to a fourfold increase in annual DRR funding — from USD 4.4 million in 2016 to USD 18.1 million in 2024. WRD's momentum also underpins UN Women's leadership across the UN Plan of Action on DRR for Resilience, in close cooperation with 49 other UN entities and key partners such as UNDRR, WMO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNEP and UNICEF. Across all levels, WRD works hand-in-hand with over 1600 women's organisations around the world, anchoring impact and resilience in the lived experiences of women everywhere.

Ultimately, it's about scaling up cost-effectively and properly. WRD has laid the foundations for lasting systems change: resilience that is rooted in local agency, structured around women's leadership, and realised through policies and programmes that respond to the realities of those most at risk. It repositions gender equality as the essential lever for resilience that works, for women and men, for communities, and for systems that serve them.

Regional training on gender-responsive DRR for women's organisations in Dakar, as part of the Sahel Resilience Project.

Photo: UN Women / Serigne Bassirou Mbacke



The Women's Resilience to Disasters (WRD) Knowledge Hub

A cornerstone of the Women's Resilience to Disasters (WRD) Programme, the [WRD Knowledge Hub](#) serves as a global one-stop shop for gender-responsive disaster and climate resilience knowledge. It was created to address a long-standing gap: while evidence on gender, disasters, and climate risks existed, it was fragmented across mandates, platforms, and regions — making access and application uneven and often inaccessible to the people and practitioners who needed it most.

The WRD Knowledge Hub brings it all together. For the first time, practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and women leaders have a centralised space to access tools, share experiences, and elevate women's voices of climate resilience. The Hub not only increases access to knowledge and practical resources, but also helps translate that knowledge into transformative action.

At its heart, the Hub is about community — a space where diverse actors working on disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change adaptation, gender equality, and resilience can connect, learn, and collaborate. It targets systemic gaps in the global evidence base, in governance, and in access to tools that address the gender and intersectional dimensions of risk. It is especially designed to support those working to protect and empower women and girls affected by the compounding threats of disasters and climate change.

Key features of the WRD Knowledge Hub include:

- The WRD Policy Tracker, tracking gender-responsiveness and inclusion of DRR and resilience policies across 193 UN Member States;

- The WRD Thematic Framework (see figure in the next page), which guides knowledge across thematic areas;

- An Experts Register and Community of Practice, bringing together leading voices on gender and resilience from 79 countries and 32 languages;

- A curated Resource and Events Library, offering access to data, case studies, tools, and learning opportunities.

Crucially, the Hub prioritises the voices and knowledge of Pacific women, who are on the front lines of climate change. Their stories, innovations, and leadership are showcased to inspire and inform action far beyond the region, ensuring their lived experiences shape the systems meant to support them.

By centralising knowledge, fostering collaboration, and amplifying underrepresented voices, the WRD Knowledge Hub is a catalyst for gender-responsive resilience-building, globally and locally.

The WRD Knowledge Hub at a glance



463,948 visitors

increasing from
14,200 in 2022



1,880 resources

205 events



+500 WRD Community
of Practice members

86 experts registered

Key insights from the WRD Policy Tracker

- **266** national and regional frameworks analyzed across **193 UN Member States**

- **92 countries** now include gender commitments in their DRR frameworks (up from 71 in 2022)

- **31 countries** have frameworks inclusive of all seven high-risk groups outlined in the Sendai Framework

- Nearly **half** of all frameworks remain **non-binding plans or strategies**, limiting accountability

- The **Pacific** leads globally in inclusive frameworks with **100%** of its countries including at least one high-risk group

[Read the full brief here.](#)



3 Pillars of 15 Topics & 3 Cross-cutting Issues



Figure 2. WRD thematic framework, the architecture for targeted knowledge management and technical support

FROM RISK TO RESILIENCE: WOMEN LEADING THE WAY

At its heart, the Women's Resilience to Disasters (WRD) Programme is about trust - in the leadership, knowledge, and solutions that women bring to disaster and climate resilience. It is built on the understanding that true resilience cannot be achieved without centring women's voices, especially those most affected by crisis: Indigenous women, women with disabilities, young women, and grassroots leaders who are often excluded from formal systems but are essential to recovery and transformation.

WRD has proven that when women are trusted, resourced, and included from the start, systems change. Institutions become more inclusive, responses become more effective, and communities become more resilient. The path ahead is about deepening and expanding this model, ensuring that women's leadership drives the design, governance, and financing of resilience at every level.

Looking forward, there is rich opportunity to further embed WRD's approach across critical areas: from climate security and the Oceans of Peace agenda, to the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) framework, the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus, and global work on loss and damage, cultural heritage, and Indigenous knowledge systems. Engaging youth leadership, strengthening gender-responsive data, and investing in national and local institutions, especially women's organisations, will be essential.

The WRD model is ready to be replicated and scaled as a blueprint for inclusive resilience. With the right partnerships and continued commitment, it can help close the gaps that still leave too many women vulnerable and unlock the transformative potential of women's leadership in shaping a more resilient world.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This publication was produced as part of the Women's Resilience to Disasters (WRD) programme, financed by the Government of Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and implemented by UN Women's Fiji Multi-Country Office and UN Women's global DRR team with technical support from the Asia Pacific Regional Office.

Implementing partners

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Fiji
FemLink Pacific
Aia Mwaea Ainen Kiribati (AMAK)
Ministry of Women, Youth, Sport and Social Affairs
Disabled Peoples Association of Solomon Islands
Matavale Women's Association Solomon Islands
Care Vanuatu
VANWODS Microfinance Inc Vanuatu
World Vision Vanuatu
UNDRR

Regional Partners

University of the South Pacific
Pacific Disability Forum
Diverse Voices and Action for Equality

WRD Board

Paula Gerhardt
Ilisapeci Masivesi
Nelly Caleb
Emeline Siale Ilolahia

Teea Tira
Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls
Gabrielle Emery
Sofia Calltorp
Hulda Ouma
Alison Davidian

WRD team

Anne Kautu
Beretikira Bakaa
Camille Adle
Christina Holland
Everlyn Fiualakwa
Janneth Tanghwa
Kelera Dimaimuri
Lanieta Tokalauvere
Makereta Konrote
Maria Campuzano
Marie-Luise Walther
Mathilde Duchemin
Michiyo Yamada
Mike Ravono
Naheed Ahmed
Olita Antonio
Oonagh Wallace

Priyanka Teeluck
Rahel Steinbach
Sainimere Veitata
Sarah Selby
Srruthi Raaja
Talei Tora
Tanja Tuominen
Theerawich Tansprasert
Titiana Marawa
Toshihisa Nakamura
Tristram Viulu
Virana Lini
Winnie Laava
Yvette Tari

And support from

Delphine Serumaga
Gaella Mortel
Galina Corgoja
Israela Abrahamson
Kan Mra
Kate Kinsela
Maria Holtsberg
Paivi Kannisto
Sarah Hendriks

© 2025. UN Women. All rights reserved.

Publication developed by: Oonagh Wallace and Maria Campuzano, UN Women

Design: Maria Campuzano, UN Women

Peer review:

Rahel Steinbach, WRD Global Coordinator, UN Women

Makereta Konrote, DRR Programme Specialist, UN Women

Lanieta Tokalauvere, Gender and Resilience Programme Analyst, UN Women



UN WOMEN IS THE UN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN. A GLOBAL CHAMPION FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS, UN WOMEN WAS ESTABLISHED TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS ON MEETING THEIR NEEDS WORLDWIDE.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities: Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems; Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy; All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence; Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.



220 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10017, USA

www.unwomen.org
www.facebook.com/unwomen
www.twitter.com/un_women
www.youtube.com/unwomen
www.flickr.com/unwomen