



PHOTO: UN WOMEN/ANTOINE RAAB

# **Breaking Silos, Building Resilience: Listening to Women-Focused Organisations for Climate Action and Disaster Risk Reduction**

# Introduction

In Asia and the Pacific, more than 62 million people were affected by natural hazards in 2020, creating a panoply of challenges, particularly for the most marginalized groups in society.<sup>1</sup> In recent years, people in the region have been exposed to a fivefold increase in the number of natural hazards (most commonly hydro-meteorological events) with increasing intensity due to the impacts of climate change. Despite declines in mortality rates from natural hazards, the number of people affected is steadily increasing. The disaster risk landscape in Asia and the Pacific also includes concurrent acute and protracted conflicts and crises, socioeconomic and political disparities, degrading ecosystems and widespread displacement, among others. Over the past decade, approximately 80 per cent of disaster-related displacements worldwide have occurred in Asia and the Pacific.<sup>2</sup> Annually, an estimated 22.7 million people, the majority of whom are

women and children, are being displaced by climate-related events.<sup>3</sup> Due to climate change, women in Asia and the Pacific are increasingly living in protracted displacement settings, where they have to grapple with child dependents, food and economic insecurity, and violence.<sup>4</sup> Driving this are deeply entrenched social inequities, such as gender inequality, that pervade the region and offset equitable disaster preparedness, response and recovery efforts.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 is an international agreement that presents concrete actions toward reducing disaster risk and building resilience. Building on previous international guidelines, such as the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015, the Sendai Framework places an emphasis on inclusive approaches to disaster risk reduction (DRR), setting a

- 1 UN ESCAP (2021) Resilience in a Riskier World: Managing Systemic Risks from Biological and Other Natural Hazards – Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2021
- 2 WMO (2021) WMO Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate and Water Extremes (1970 – 2019)

- 3 IFRC (2021) Responding to Disasters and Displacement in a Changing Climate: Case Studies Asia Pacific National Societies in Action
- 4 APWLD (2015) Climate change and natural disasters affecting women, peace and security; IFRC (2021) Responding to Disasters and Displacement in a Changing Climate: Case Studies Asia Pacific National Societies in Action

new precedent in recognizing women in all their diversity as integral actors in disaster preparedness, management, response and recovery. To support regional and national implementation of the Sendai Framework, a regional action plan was developed identifying priorities and activities at regional, national and local levels to reduce disaster risk, enhance the exchange of good practice, knowledge and information among governments and stakeholders, and strengthen cooperation. The previous Action Plan (2018 - 2021), which was limited to just Asia, concludes in 2021 and is superseded by the [Action Plan 2021 - 2024](#), which will encompass Asia and the Pacific. It aims to accelerate the region's transformation towards risk-informed development, which prioritises addressing systemic and cascading risks.

Despite regional progress over the past five years on promoting the inclusion of women and girls in implementing the Sendai Framework, there is still a need to translate commitments into concrete actions. Currently no measure exists to assess whether DRR strategies developed under the Sendai Framework meet the specific needs of women and girls or promote their leadership and meaningful engagement in disaster risk prevention, reduction and resilience.<sup>5</sup>

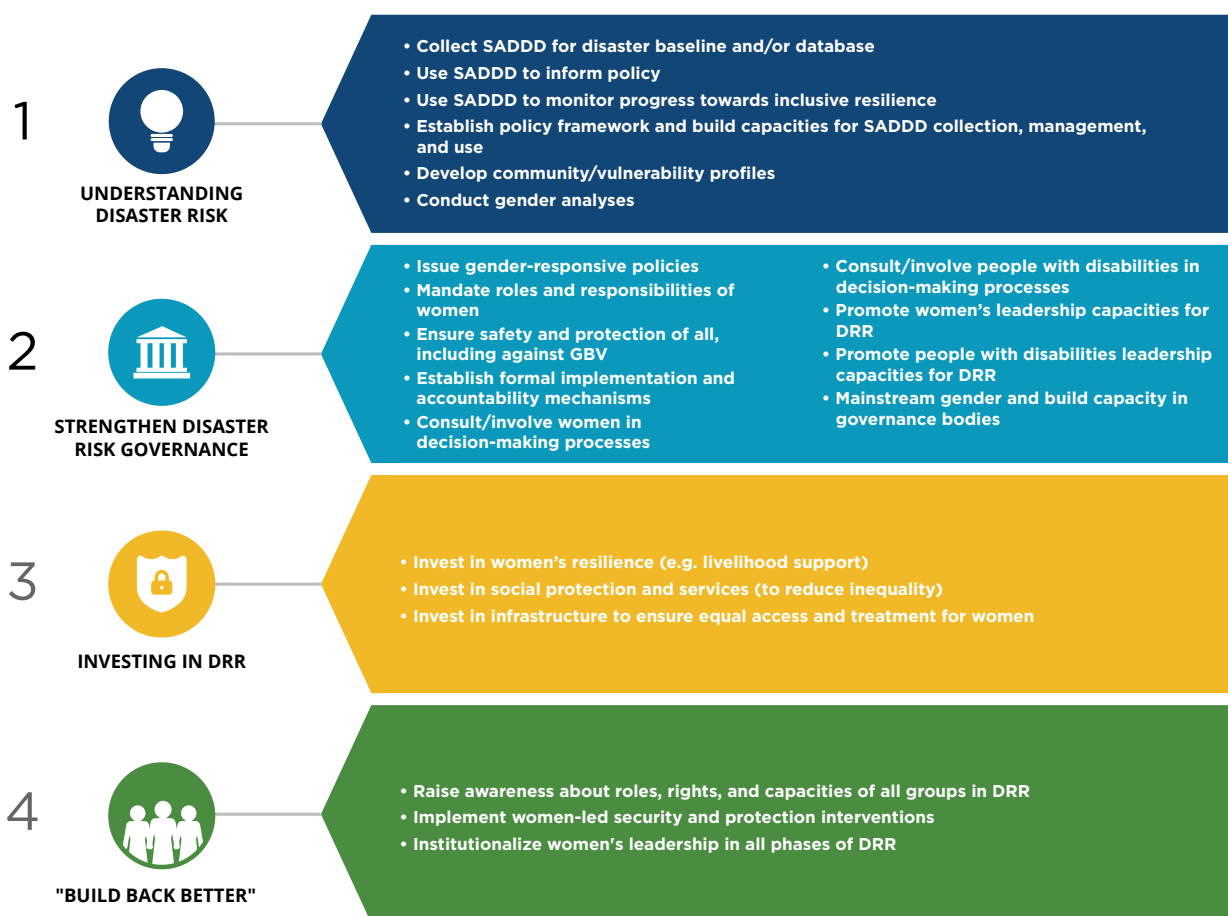
The progress review of gender commitments conducted by the Stakeholder Group for Gender and Women's Issues in DRR (GSHG), [Gender Responsive Disaster Risk Management Status Review and Recommendations for implementing the Sendai Framework for DRR in the Asia Pacific, 2021](#), asserts that greater clarity is needed on roles and responsibilities, core mandates and expectations of disaster risk management (DRM) focal institutions, as well as the responsibilities of national and provincial development institutions and women's institutions, to enable the effective realization of the Sendai Framework outcomes on gender equality and women's empowerment and leadership. Institutional coordination and interrelationships between the mandated institutions for DRM and gender also need to be strengthened. The need for better coordination between stakeholders was similarly highlighted in the [UN Women Review of Gender-Responsiveness and Disability-Inclusion in Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific](#). The document also provided benchmarks for reviewing performance on gender-responsive and socially inclusive DRR structured around the four priorities for action of the Sendai Framework (figure 1).

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5 UN Women (2020) [Review of Gender-Responsiveness and Disability-Inclusion in Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific](#); GSHG (2021) [Gender Responsive Disaster Risk Management Status Review and Recommendations for Implementing the Sendai Framework for DRR in the Asia Pacific](#)

**FIGURE 1**

**Benchmarks for reviewing performance on gender equal and socially inclusive DRR** (Adapted from: [Review of Gender-Responsiveness and Disability-Inclusion in Disaster Risk Reduction in the Pacific.](#))



To better understand enablers and barriers for gender-responsive action in implementing the Sendai Framework at country and regional levels, on behalf of the Stakeholder Group for Gender and Women's Issues in DRR, UN Women and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction co-hosted the Virtual Listening Session with Women Focused Organizations on the Asia-Pacific Action Plan 2021–2024 on 9 November 2021. The regional listening session followed up on a consultation with local and national

women focused organizations (WFOs) that took place in November 2019, and it aimed to continue supporting WFOs in amplifying their advocacy on climate change and DRR, enable exchange of good practices and lessons learned from regional, national and local levels, and jointly identify methods of engagement for gender-responsive implementation of the Sendai Framework. Discussions were structured around the four priorities for action of the Sendai Framework, in line with the [Asia-Pacific Action Plan 2021 – 2024](#):

1. Understanding disaster risk
2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk
3. Investing in DRR for resilience
4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to build back better in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

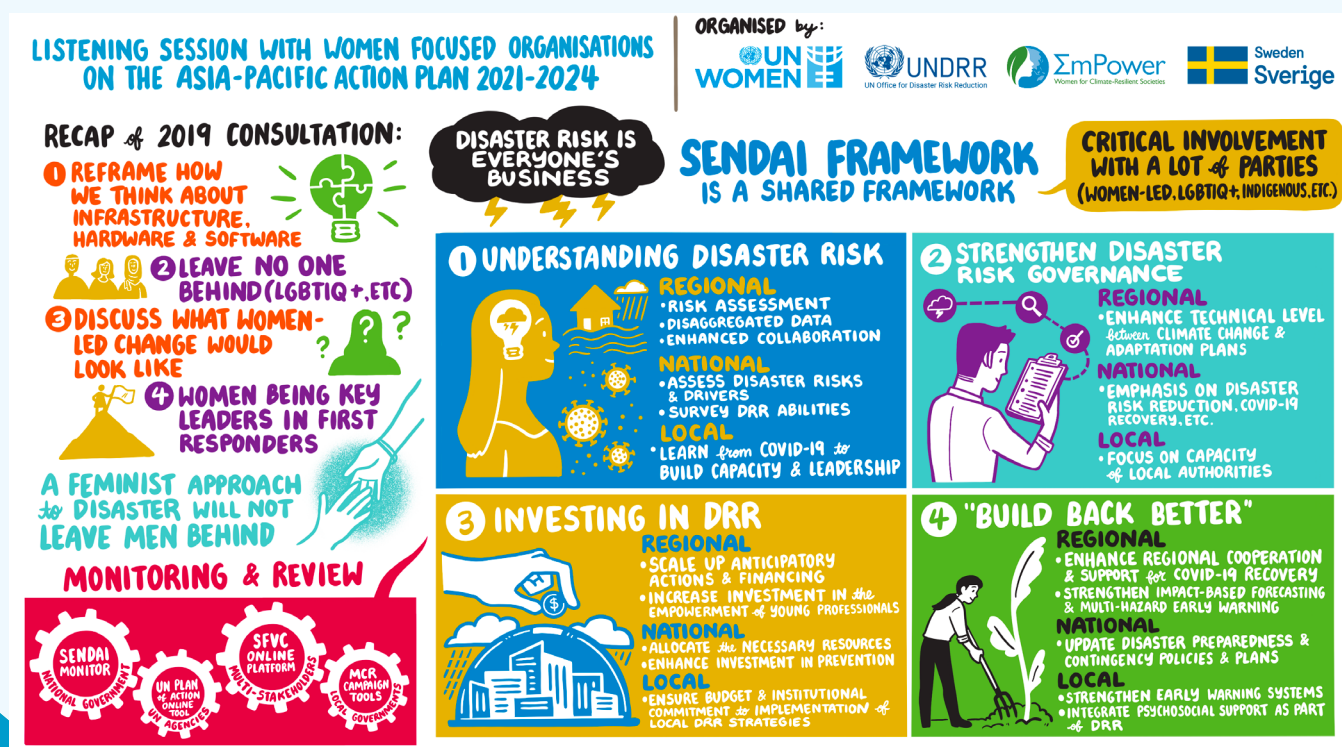
**Recommendations from WFOs in the virtual listening session highlight the need to consider:**

- i. The changing disaster risk landscape since the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the recognition of women as essential frontline actors and first responders;
- ii. The importance of cross-movement coalitions and community level interventions to ensure the meaningful engagement and empowerment of women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and other (LGBTIQ+) individuals, especially those who experience greater vulnerability to disaster risk, such as people with disabilities, to ensure no one is left behind;
- iii. The funding and resource gaps that exist for WFOs, which limit capacity-building efforts on DRM, as well as possible preparedness, response and recovery efforts, and limit the ability of WFOs to advocate and provide continued essential and life-saving services during and after crises.

# Perspectives from Women-Focused Organisations

The WFOs that participated in the listening session discussed elements of the [Asia-Pacific Action Plan 2021–2024](#) coordinated by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, and they discussed the findings of the [Gender Responsive Disaster Risk Management Status Review and Recommendations for implementing the Sendai Framework for DRR in the Asia Pacific, 2021](#), conducted by the Stakeholder Group for Gender and Women's Issues in DRR. Representatives of WFOs were invited to share and discuss both enablers and barriers to achieving gender-responsive

action in the Sendai Framework at local, country and regional levels. The participants ranged from representatives of community-based disability activists to national focal agencies and from ministries for gender or DRM to international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and multinational/ regional agencies, and the discussions were structured around the four priorities for action of the Sendai Framework. Below are graphic representations of these discussions, which highlight key messages from WFOs on the implementation of the Sendai Framework.



## LISTENING SESSION WITH WOMEN FOCUSED ORGANISATIONS ON THE ASIA-PACIFIC ACTION PLAN 2021-2024 BREAKOUT SESSION 1

ORGANISED by:



### UNDERSTANDING DISASTER RISK

IT'S VALUABLE TO INVEST  
IN **GRASSROOTS  
COMMUNITIES!**

YOUR NEIGHBOURS ARE  
GOING TO BE THE FIRST RESPONDERS



**NATURE-  
BASED  
SOLUTIONS ARE  
KEY TO MANAGING  
CLIMATE CHANGE  
& LOWER  
DISASTER  
RISK!**

SAVE THE  
MANGROVES

**WE NEED  
TO:**

- BUILD CAPACITY
- ANALYSE THE ROOT  
CAUSE OF VULNERABILITIES
- TAKE A PEOPLE-CENTERED  
APPROACH

COVID-19 HAS  
WIDENED  
THE **RICH-POOR  
GAP**



DISASTERS ARE **NOT**  
ALWAYS NATURAL

**WOMEN ARE  
DISPROPORTIONATELY  
AFFECTED**

### STRENGTHENING DISASTER RISK GOVERNANCE to MANAGE DISASTER RISK



**SUSTAINABILITY  
STRATEGIES NEED  
TO BE INTEGRATED  
AT ALL LEVELS**



**STRENGTHEN  
EARLY WARNING  
SYSTEMS**

**AGAINST NATURAL  
HAZARDS**

**DISABILITY  
RISK  
MANAGEMENT**

**REDUCE  
SEGREGATION  
OF VULNERABLE  
GROUPS IN  
THE DATA  
SYSTEM**



**WE NEED TO EMPOWER  
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES  
& LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND**

**LIBERATE WOMEN  
FROM ECONOMIC  
OPPRESSION**

**INTEGRATING  
INDIGENOUS  
KNOWLEDGE**



## LISTENING SESSION WITH WOMEN FOCUSED ORGANISATIONS ON THE ASIA-PACIFIC ACTION PLAN 2021-2024 BREAKOUT SESSION 2

ORGANISED by:



### INVESTING IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION for RESILIENCE



**BARRIERS!**

ACCESS to  
INFORMATION  
& MOBILITY  
during  
DISASTERS



**HOW to BALANCE  
WORK & LIFE?**



**LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE**

LACK of  
INCLUSIVE  
POLICY &  
PRACTICE within

• SENDAI FRAMEWORK  
• GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS  
• REPORTING IN GOVT

**INCLUSIVE  
CASH-BASED  
PROGRAMMING**

**MEN SHOULD  
SHARE WORK  
with WOMEN  
so THEY CAN  
PARTICIPATE MEANINGFULLY  
IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES**

**ECONOMIC  
EMPOWERMENT  
-IS-  
IMPORTANT!**

TAKE A  
MORE  
**LONG TERM  
approach!**

GOVERNMENTS  
TEND TO ONLY  
RESPOND IN  
TIMES OF  
**CRISIS**

### ENHANCING DISASTER PREPAREDNESS for EFFECTIVE RESPONSE & to BUILD BACK BETTER

LOCAL WOMEN'S GROUPS  
Working on **PREPAREDNESS**



**WE RUN  
WORKSHOPS**

FOR SCHOOL  
CHILDREN

to HELP OTHER  
CHILDREN  
WITH  
SPECIAL  
NEEDS

**WE NEED  
CAPACITY  
BUILDING**

- FOR -

**ESSENTIAL  
WORKERS**

& **CARE  
WORKERS**

- FOR -

**MULTI-HAZARD  
EVENTS**

**LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE  
HAVE to FILL IN GAPS**

DUE TO LACK of FORMAL  
SUPPORT SYSTEM

e.g. **SETTING UP  
COMMUNITY  
KITCHENS &  
SAFE SPACES**



**WE NEED TO  
INCREASE  
FUNDING  
FOR WOMEN  
FOCUSED  
ORGANISATIONS!**

**SO THEY CAN HAVE  
GREATER  
CAPACITY  
to RESPOND to  
DISASTERS & PARTICIPATE IN  
(OR LEAD) DISASTER  
RISK MANAGEMENT**

## Key messages

### » COVID-19 and Climate Change are threat multipliers

- » Vulnerabilities to disasters have increased as a result of the pandemic and the climate crisis, yet DRM systems lack the necessary sex, age and disability disaggregated data (SADDD) and gender analyses to fully understand the multidimensional risks and differential impacts
- » In order to analyse and address the root cause of vulnerabilities, investments in capacity-building for WFOs are required
- » Community-level sustainable solutions, such as the women-led mangrove initiatives (see case study below), tend to be more inclusive and are key to lowering disaster risk and simultaneously empowering women
- » While the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 disproportionately impacted women and girls, it also demonstrated the capacity of women, their resilience and strength as decision-makers and leaders, to respond to crises, and it highlighted the gender gaps that need to be overcome to fully harness this potential

### » DRM needs an integrated and intersectional approach

- » Early warning systems need to be inclusive of women, girls, people with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ populations, indigenous populations and other marginalized groups; and risk communication and community

engagement strategies need to encompass the specific needs of these population groups while also including them in development processes

- » DRM should empower marginalized groups and support their participation and leadership in developing risk management strategies to ensure no one is left behind
- » National and local processes for DRM and climate change actions should be ensured and coordinated

### » Prevailing gender and social norms remain a key barrier to inclusive resilience building

- » Limited access to resources, such as information and finances, and the lack of inclusive policies and practices inhibit mobility, preparedness, resilience and response efforts during disasters
- » Social norms (related to unpaid care work and discrimination, for example) frequently prevent women and LGBTIQ+ people from accessing resources that may be available
- » **Training and upskilling to support women's economic and social empowerment promote gender equality and strengthen disaster resilience and recovery of the wider community (e.g. cash for work schemes, women friendly spaces in evacuation centres)**

### » Engaging local women's groups and WFOs can address gender gaps in DRM

- » With capacity-building and increased funding to WFOs, women's groups and local organizations to facilitate DRM, diverse populations can be reached and included at various stages of DRM
- » There is specific need to include organizations for persons living with disabilities and LGBTIQ+ groups, as well as other marginalized groups and establish formal protection mechanisms to ensure the needs of the most at-risk populations are addressed
- » Funding to WFOs and LGBTIQ+ organizations needs to be increased to ensure essential and life-saving services are available before, during and after natural hazards

## COVID-19 spotlight

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed many problems with how disaster response interventions are conducted, including the response to natural hazards. Edge Effect Director, Emily Dwyer, discussed the report [‘We Don’t Do A Lot For Them Specifically’](#), looking at how social protection programmes and cash based assistance did not reach LGBTIQ+ people during the pandemic. More needs to be done to ensure that response efforts, especially cash based interventions and social protection programmes, are reaching the most

**“IT’S GOING TO BE YOUR NEIGHBOUR WHO WILL BE THE FIRST RESPONDER DURING A DISASTER, IT’S NOT THE GOVERNMENT OR NGOS, IT’S YOUR COMMUNITY...”**

Minet Aguisanda-Jerusalem  
Executive Director for Leyte Center for Development (LCDE)

marginalized and in need during disasters and hazards. The report provides detailed guidance on how to make cash programmes more inclusive.

### Case study

Minet Aguisanda-Jerusalem, Executive Director for Leyte Center for Development (LCDE), shared her experiences with community-based, sustainable, women-led mangrove initiatives. After Typhoon Haiyan, LCDE and other NGOs invested in planning community- and nature-based initiatives. One of the projects included planting mangroves as a method for natural resilience against storm surges. Previous evidence suggested that had the mangroves in Leyte and Eastern Samar not been decimated, the storm surge in those areas would have dissipated 70 to 80 per cent of Typhoon Haiyan's strength.<sup>6</sup> Among many positive environmental benefits, mangroves provide coastal protection, shoreline

<sup>6</sup> Cris Larano, 2013, “Philippines Plans Mangrove Forest to Protect Coasts from Storms”, *Wall Street Journal*, 28 November.

stabilization and climate regulation, which is becoming increasingly vital with the impacts of climate change. They also provide cash flow opportunities and revenue streams for coastal communities that are directly impacted by king tides and storm surges caused by climate change. LCDE is involved in a collaborative project, INCREASE, with CARE, Agri-Aqua Development Coalition Mindanao, Assistance and Cooperation for Community Resilience and Development, Inc., and Cordillera Disaster Response and Development Services, to lead work on DRR and climate change adaptation with high-risk communities together with local government units, civil society organizations and national government agencies. The project aims to increase the resilience to natural, climate and environmental hazards of 45,000 women and men smallholder farmers and fishers across four provinces in the country, with a special focus on 720 extremely poor female-headed households.<sup>7</sup> It also demonstrates that coordinated response between institutions at various levels is effective in ensuring commitments on gender equality and social inclusion are implemented.

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7 CARE (2019) CARE, Skala, local orgs to increase resilience of Philippine communities to natural hazards.

# Mobilizing women and communities for disaster risk resilience

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the ways in which vulnerabilities to disasters are systemic and interconnected, and they have the potential to compound one another. The link between climate change and vulnerability is multidimensional and the feminization of poverty, food insecurity, forced migration and resource depletion within the context of climate change means disaster risk and impacts are not gender neutral. Global extreme poverty has risen for the first time in 20 years with estimations indicating the pandemic and compounding forces of conflict and climate change will push an additional 150 million people into poverty by the end of 2021.<sup>8</sup> In Asia and the Pacific, women represent two thirds of the poor.<sup>9</sup> Key studies also indicate that disasters kill more women, at a younger age than men, and these impacts are never merely determined by nature alone.<sup>10</sup> The disproportionate mortality rate lies in the fact that in Asia and the Pacific women's exposure to hazards is often different to men due to gender roles, and women in general have lower socioeconomic status, precipitating unequal access to information, resources

and opportunities and unequal exposure to risks, increasing their vulnerability to natural hazards.<sup>11</sup> It is paramount to comprehensively address the underlying drivers of disaster risks across the region to prevent further escalations towards protracted crises that disrupt national and regional economies, population dynamics, social networks and the daily lives of people throughout the region.

In an increasingly globalized world, regional consequences ripple outwards, affecting populations and ecosystems globally. Climate driven disasters can lead to and intensify conflicts, while not necessarily a connection of causality, the interconnectedness is irrefutable – the majority of the top 25 countries most vulnerable to climate change are engaged in conflict, and it is clear that conflicts and their related humanitarian crises are becoming increasingly complex, protracted, and exacerbated by climate change.<sup>12</sup> Since 2010, the number of forcibly displaced people in the world has doubled.<sup>13</sup> Currently, existing frameworks do not adequately address

8 The World Bank (2020) COVID-19 to Add as Many as 150 Million Extreme Poor by 2021

9 UN Women (n.d.) Economic Empowerment

10 ADB (2014) Gender-Inclusive Disaster Risk Management

11 ADB (2014) Gender-Inclusive Disaster Risk Management

12 ICRC (2020) Seven things you need to know about climate change and conflict

13 World Economic Forum (2021) This is the global refugee situation, in numbers

the specific needs of people displaced by climate change, and international law does not recognize people displaced by climate change as refugees.<sup>14</sup> This gap in protection for people affected by climate change needs to be tackled in a more institutional manner with gender and disability sensitive policies to protect affected populations and provide alternative pathways to prepare and promote adaptation and resilience in the context of unprecedented climate conditions. Advancing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach is an important step towards more effectively and coherently meeting needs, reducing risks and building resiliency. However, as reiterated by Stakeholder Group for Gender and Women's Issues in DRR for implementation of the Sendai Framework, the triple nexus approach also needs to better define respective roles across sectors and identify where integrated actions can be pursued, and this work needs to be rooted in local contexts, take place with local partnerships and make use of networks to pool resources and expertise.

There is an urgent need for multifaceted, innovative, climate resilient and gender-sensitive interventions with sufficient monitoring and evaluation systems to track gaps between policies and practice. Despite the Sendai Framework's acknowledgement of the need to collect and use SADDD for planning and reporting, there remains a need to further support common understandings, coherent and consistent capacities, systems, and resources for the collection and use of SADDD, as well as a need to complement data with gender and social diversity analyses for all aspects of DRR planning,

implementation, monitoring and reporting. The lack of SADDD and gender analyses in DRM means the risk and impacts of disasters on women and girls, LGBTIQ+ populations and people with disabilities, are not prioritized. SADDD collection, management and use, complimented by gender analyses is essential to better understand the root causes of vulnerability and identify entry points, establish policy frameworks and build capacities for transforming disaster risk resilience. The current means of measuring progress against the Sendai Framework include reporting through the Sendai Framework Monitor, an online database that national statistics offices and other entities can use to share SADDD. However, despite the importance of SADDD in informing gender responsive and disability inclusive DRR strategies, it remains an optional and largely absent component.<sup>15</sup> When developing, leveraging and implementing technological advances, as well as infrastructure and sociopolitical innovations to mollify potential impacts of natural hazards, all stakeholders must consider and understand the complex web of factors that pose threats to people in all their diversity in Asia and the Pacific, especially those who are most marginalized, and include their unique experiences and perspectives to ensure no one is left behind.

Women are agents of change, and they have particular experiences, skills and knowledge to contribute to DRM. While often playing a key role in their family and community, the underrepresentation of women, particularly in all levels of formal disaster risk management, limits opportunities to leverage these skills

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14 Brookings Institute (2019) *The climate crisis, migration, and refugees*

15 UN Women (2020) *Review of Gender-Responsiveness and Disability-Inclusion in Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific*

and knowledge in ways that could have resounding impacts to strengthen resilience and recovery. Global studies show a return of between \$1.70 and \$150.00 for every dollar spent on programming for women and girls, with a media value of \$8.00 for every dollar spent.<sup>16</sup> Estimates also indicate that \$4.5 trillion could be added to the annual gross domestic product (GDP) of the region by 2025 by advancing women's equality.<sup>17</sup> This demonstrates that inclusion of women in DRM has the potential to create disruptive action with positive outcomes. Yet many countries continue to ignore potential economic benefits, and fail to prioritize women-focused or women-led initiatives, ultimately challenging their ability to effectively influence and inform DRM actions. The *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2021* of UNESCAP estimated that annual economic losses could double to nearly \$1.344 billion, which is equivalent to 4.2 per cent of the regional GDP. By establishing gender-responsive and inclusive measures that utilize women's knowledge, skills and capacities, countries would not only strengthen DRM but would simultaneously advance women's equality and economic opportunities.

Climate smart technologies and adaptation strategies have the potential to mitigate climate change impacts at the community level. Coupled with adaptive social protection programmes that reach the most marginalized, they can support affected communities to strengthen adaptive capacity by improving livelihoods and access to resources. Applying gender-

responsive frameworks to climate sensitive livelihood activities can reduce vulnerability and build the resilience of women, their families and communities. Numerous cases of women implementing adaptation initiatives, like the mangrove cultivation case study, reflect the positive impacts of applying a gendered approach to DRM. Beyond the environmental advantages, such as preventing coastal erosion, flooding and carbon sequestering, women and communities are supported with sustainable livelihoods, skills development, leadership opportunities and resource security.<sup>18</sup>

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the ways in which inclusive gender-responsive strategies and plans can strengthen recovery efforts and how capacities of women and communities can be leveraged to respond to crises. While the pandemic impacts have been catastrophic, response efforts would have been severely diminished without the leadership of women, especially considering the majority of frontline healthcare workers globally are women and the pandemic has significantly increased women's unpaid care and domestic work. Countries led by women appeared to have decisive, innovative, honest and empathetic responses that led to strong tracking systems, effective lockdowns and other measures, and efficient risk communication and community engagement strategies.<sup>19</sup> By leveraging this momentum and investing in women's empowerment and leadership, disaster mitigation, preparedness and response could be improved in unprecedented ways.

16 Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group Asia and the Pacific (2020) [Closing the Funding Gap for Women-Focused Organizations Responding to COVID-19 in Asia and the Pacific](#)

17 McKinsey & Company (2018) [The power of parity: Advancing women's equality in Asia Pacific](#)

18 IUCN (2017) [Gender equity is key to mangrove restoration](#)

19 Forbes (2020) [What Do Countries With The Best Coronavirus Responses Have in Common? Women Leaders](#)

In the coming years, it is likely that hazards will only further increase in frequency and intensity due to climate variability and temperature spikes, which will exacerbate the primary risk drivers leading to gender inequality and poverty. The pandemic has highlighted the complexity and interlinkages of risk factors facing the Asia-Pacific region. While most countries have been severely impacted in confronting the crises and overlapping natural hazards facing their respective populations and infrastructures, there remains a tremendous need to better understand and address not only the biological and environmental factors contributing to climate change but the socioeconomic threats that undermine inclusive and sustainable progress in the region.



PHOTO: UN WOMEN/EVELIN JAITA KARMOKAR

# The Action Plan and Priorities for Action

The [Asia-Pacific Action Plan 2021–2024](#) is structured to reflect the four priorities of the Sendai Framework and has identified actions at three levels (regional, national, and local). The following is adapted from the [Asia-Pacific Action Plan 2021 – 2024](#), and the Gender Responsive Disaster Risk Management Status Review and Recommendations for implementing the Sendai Framework for DRR in the Asia Pacific, conducted by the Stakeholder Group for Gender and Women’s Issues in DRR. This report calls upon governments, local governments, and all stakeholders to take into account the implementation of the plan below with outlined considerations and suggestions.

## 1. UNDERSTANDING DISASTER RISK

<b>Regional</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ risk assessment</li><li>➤ disaggregated data</li><li>➤ enhanced collaboration</li></ul>
<b>National</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ assess disaster risks and drivers</li><li>➤ survey DRR capacities</li><li>➤ strengthen linkage between sectors</li><li>➤ deepen understanding of root causes of vulnerability</li><li>➤ improve public awareness</li><li>➤ strengthen early detection of biological hazards</li></ul>
<b>Local</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ learn from COVID-19 to build capacity and leadership of all</li><li>➤ enhance capacities on inclusive collection, analysis and use of disaggregated data</li><li>➤ make risk information publicly available in accessible formats</li><li>➤ promote local and indigenous knowledge</li></ul>
<b>Example Gender-Responsive Recommendation (GSHG)</b>	Revisit and harmonize assessment tools to ensure integration of gender equality and social inclusion, disaster loss and damage etc. to provide adequate guidance to other sectoral entities to collect, analyse and use disaggregated data by 2022 (national disaster focal institutions supported by relevant United Nations entities and other regional focal institutions)

## 2. STRENGTHENING DISASTER RISK GOVERNANCE TO MANAGE DISASTER RISK

<b>Regional</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ enhance cooperation to build evidence on the linkages between climate change, DRR and COVID-19 recovery and its impact to women and communities</li> <li>➤ support implementation of subregional frameworks</li> <li>➤ support meaningful participation of women as an enabler of inclusive resilience building</li> <li>➤ strengthen regional partnerships and build a community of practice for gender-responsive climate change adaptation and DRR</li> <li>➤ promote the health aspects of the Sendai Framework</li> </ul>
<b>National</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ adopt coherent planning and implementation consistent with national development policies, nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and global frameworks and commitments</li> <li>➤ strengthen collaboration between national and local disaster management organizations and WFOs</li> <li>➤ strengthen the role of women's machinery in DRM and climate change</li> <li>➤ review legal, regulatory and policy instruments</li> <li>➤ increase diversity and inclusivity of national representation</li> <li>➤ develop, implement and monitor gender-responsive DRR and climate actions</li> <li>➤ promote and support universal access to sexual and reproductive health and services, and prevent and respond to gender-based violence adopt coherent planning and implementation</li> </ul>
<b>Local</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ strengthen capacity of local authorities</li> <li>➤ promote urban resilience that combines social, environmental and economic aspects</li> <li>➤ better integrate school safety and children's participation in local DRR</li> </ul>
<b>Example Gender-Responsive Recommendation (GSHG)</b>	<p>As NDCs are binding national commitments that need to be gender responsive, ensure that one or two of the most vulnerable adaptation sectors in each country incorporate gender equality and social inclusion indicators within the adaptation targets of the 2021 revised nationally determined contributions (2024).</p>

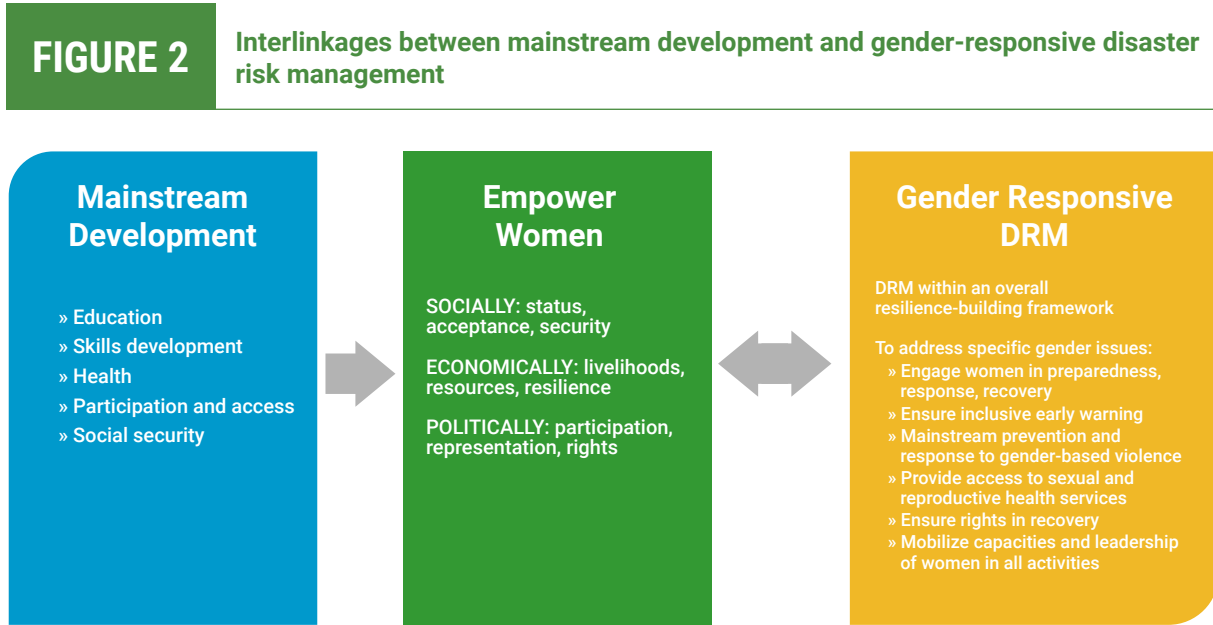
### 3. INVESTING IN DRR FOR RESILIENCE

<b>Regional</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Scale up anticipatory actions and financing</li> <li>➤ increase investment in the empowerment of young researchers and professionals</li> <li>➤ enhance engagement of central banks and international financial institutions</li> <li>➤ support localization by financing local and grassroots groups, including WFOs</li> <li>➤ support establishment of accountability mechanisms for climate/DRM finance tracking</li> </ul>
<b>National</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ allocate the necessary resources</li> <li>➤ encourage integrated financing of DRR and climate change adaptation</li> <li>➤ enhance nationwide investment in prevention and mitigation</li> <li>➤ strengthen public financing tracking mechanism</li> <li>➤ adopt gender-responsive budgeting</li> <li>➤ develop standards based on universal design principles for inclusive, climate and disaster resilient infrastructure</li> <li>➤ ensure essential services are resilient and accessible to and inclusive of all</li> </ul>
<b>Local</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ ensure budget and institutional commitment to implementation of local DRR strategies</li> <li>➤ integrate universal design to accessible, inclusive, livable and resilient cities and infrastructure</li> <li>➤ enhance business resilience and encourage private sector investment in resilience</li> <li>➤ finance local, community, women's rights and women-led organizations to reduce disaster risks</li> </ul>
<b>Example Gender-Responsive Recommendation (GSHG)</b>	<p>In investments that promote livelihood resilience, such as allocations through national budgets, social security, stimulus packages and risk insurance, include a specific share for women. Each country may select a vulnerable sector or two to focus on by 2024.</p>

#### 4. ENHANCING DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR EFFECTIVE RESPONSE AND TO BUILD BACK BETTER IN RECOVERY, REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION

<b>Regional</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ enhance regional cooperation and support for COVID-19 recovery</li> <li>➤ strengthen impact-based forecasting and multi-hazard early warning</li> <li>➤ share knowledge and best practices</li> </ul>
<b>National</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ update disaster preparedness and contingency policies and plans</li> <li>➤ strengthen collaboration on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus</li> <li>➤ evaluate the social, economic, health, psychological and gendered impacts of COVID-19</li> <li>➤ ensure all new investments, infrastructure and public programmes are risk informed</li> <li>➤ protect and promote the rights of marginalized groups during evacuation and displacement</li> <li>➤ leverage new technologies</li> </ul>
<b>Local</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ strengthen early warning systems</li> <li>➤ promote meaningful participation and leadership of marginalized groups</li> <li>➤ develop education continuity plans</li> <li>➤ integrate psychosocial support as part of DRR</li> <li>➤ promote and facilitate the development of business continuity plans</li> </ul>
<b>Example Gender-Responsive Recommendation (GSHG)</b>	Preparedness, response and post disaster recovery (including green recovery) must target and engage women (minimum 40 per cent by 2024)

The review by the Stakeholder Group for Gender and Women’s Issues in DRR highlights that turning gender and social inclusion commitments in DRM into action requires coordinated inputs and implementation from a range of national and subnational institutions beyond DRM institutions (see figure 2).<sup>20</sup>



Adapted from: [Gender Responsive Disaster Risk Management Status Review and Recommendations for implementing the Sendai Framework for DRR in the Asia Pacific, 2021.](#)

20 GSHG (2021) Gender Responsive Disaster Risk Management Status Review and Recommendations for Implementing the Sendai Framework for DRR in the Asia Pacific

For more information  
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