



FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME



ADDRESSING THE GENDER INEQUALITY OF RISK IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

Photo © UN Women.

The issue

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by disasters. In order to address the underlying key drivers of disaster risk, it is of crucial importance to address the gender inequality of risk and promote community resilience.

The risks associated with natural disasters, food price hikes, pandemics, protracted crises are increasing faster than attempts to prevent, mitigate and reduce them. In the past decade, disasters have continued to exact a heavy toll across the world with over 700 thousand lives lost, 1.7 billion people affected and economic losses of USD 1.4 trillion. The increasing effects of climate change further exacerbates disaster risks and disproportionately affects women and girls.

Research shows that the multiple discriminations that women face are key underlying drivers that make women more vulnerable in crises and post disasters situations. Following the 1991 cyclone in Bangladesh, the female death rate within the age group 20-44 was 71 per 1,000, compared to 15 per 1,000 for men. Similarly, in Indonesia and Sri Lanka, more than 70 per cent of the fatalities from the 2004 tsunami were women and when Cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar in 2008, 61 per cent of the fatalities were women. Grounded in the commitments of the international community, this programme will contribute towards the achievement of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Our strategy for change

UN Women has developed this Global Flagship Programme to mitigate the gender inequalities of loss of lives and livelihoods and enhance the resilience and recovery of communities to natural hazards in a changing climate. UN Women has identified the following four priority outcome areas, which will require actions from a coalition of partners to achieve transformative change:

- 1. Strengthen assessments of the gender dimensions of disaster risk**, particularly in terms of women's vulnerability, capacity and exposure to hazards by increasing the engagement of women in disaster risk assessments,

UN WOMEN'S FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME INITIATIVES

Addressing the Gender Inequality of Risk and promoting Community Resilience to Natural Hazards in a Changing Climate is one of UN Women's Flagship Programming Initiatives designed to ensure the effective integration of gender in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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developing gender-sensitive data collection instruments and tools that ensure the collection of sex and age disaggregated data.

2. Promote gender-responsive National Disaster Risk Management Policy and Governance by supporting the integration of specific policy responses that address the identified gender inequality of risk into disaster risk management policies, promoting inter-sectoral and multi-level coordination mechanisms and monitoring of the reduction of gender-specific disaster risk.

3. Close the financing gap for gender-responsive prevention, preparedness and recovery by promoting national and local budget allocations to address gender-specific prevention, preparedness and recovery, particularly in productive and social infrastructure and service. Gender-responsive private sector investment and appropriate financing products, including social protection and insurances, also need to be developed and made accessible to women.

4. Strengthen the capacity of women to prevent, prepare for, and recover from, disasters in a changing climate by developing and implementing gender-responsive early-warning and early-action systems and by increasing the engagement of women in preparation of local disaster preparedness plans.

How the Programme works

The initiative is being designed as a Global Programme which includes a portfolio of country and regional projects supported by a global policy component.

Since this is the first global programme initiative in this area, the results achieved in the pilot countries will be systematically aggregated and reported against the Sendai Framework Targets, including the revised UN Plan of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience. The programme will be piloted in five countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific. UN Women Global Policy Support Unit on DRR will provide regional and country offices with technical support and advisory services to improve data collection, monitoring and evaluation, knowledge production and research capacities.

COVER PHOTO: *In Viet Nam UN Women supports Viet Nam's Women's Union strengthen the role of women in disaster risk-reduction and disaster-reduction management.*

FACTS AND FIGURES - GENDER INEQUALITY OF RISK

- In 1991, the cyclone in Bangladesh killed 140,000 people. Within the age group 20-44, the female death rate was 71 per 1000, compared to 15 per 1000 for men (Mushtaque 1993).
- More than 70% of the fatalities from the 2004 tsunami in Sri Lanka and Indonesia were women (UN ESCAP 2013).
- Of those killed by Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar in 2008, 61 percent were women and girls. In some severely affected villages, the death rate of those aged 18 to 60 for women was double that of men (Myanmar Government, ASEAN & UN 2008).
- The death toll for women and girls following the devastating earthquake in Nepal in 2015 was 55% (UN Women 2015).
- There is still a lack of data and understanding of the gender dimensions of disaster risk. Sixty-two of 70 reporting countries within the mid-term review of the Hyogo Framework of Action did not collect gender-disaggregated vulnerability and capacity information during the period 2009-2011.

Partnerships for change

To create the enabling environment for such processes and outcomes to occur will require the mobilization, coordination, and capacity-building of a broad range of stakeholders.

UN Women will build on the strategic partnerships it enjoys at the corporate, regional and country levels with the UN family, Member States, women's machineries, women's organizations and civil society organizations in close coordination with UNISDR. The Flagship Programme Initiative presents a unique opportunity for a UN Joint Programme that is implemented globally with a direct impact at the field level. The programme is designed to contribute towards the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the achievements of multiple SDGs.

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