



**EMPOWERMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY IN**

# HUMANITARIAN ACTION AND CRISIS RESPONSE

**COVER**

*Rohingya refugee camp Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, March 2018.*

*Photo: UN Women/Allison Joyce*

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# FOREWORD

As global needs grow, the humanitarian community continues to look for ways to do more with what it has. 2018 was another difficult year, with humanitarian crises ever more intractable and increasingly frequent disasters linked to climate change. The humanitarian community had to reflect on how to do better in preventing sexual exploitation and abuse by its own staff. This consistent ratcheting up of demands and pressures on the humanitarian community is now our normal.

Despite this, for UN Women 2018 was an encouraging year for gender equality in humanitarian action. The case for change grew ever louder, and the consensus for that change ever wider.

We believe that women and girls are more than beneficiaries whose interests must be mainstreamed. They are part of the answer to how we can do more with the resources we have to provide more effective, rights-driven humanitarian assistance and mitigation. Time and again around the world UN Women's programmes, working closely with a wide range of partners, demonstrated how empowering women, from giving voice to generating income to supporting women-led local organisations, delivered huge returns not only for women and girls themselves, but also for those that depend on them, their communities, their societies and all of us.

UN Women exists to promote and enable. In spaces such as the Grand Bargain we helped bring humanitarian actors together to strengthen standards, guidance and norms. In spaces like the Interagency Standing Committee and in crises on the ground we led and co-led gender coordination efforts, like the IASC's Accountability Framework for its Gender Policy. On the ground hundreds of thousands of women and girls accessed our services, delivered in collaboration



*UN Women's Executive Director visits Multi-Purpose Centre in Rohingya Camp, Cox Bazaar, Bangladesh.*

with our partners, to build their resilience, engage in disaster preparedness, gain skills, an income and more. We worked with men and boys also, ensuring that they can become allies in achieving gender equality for their communities because they understand that everyone wins when the potential and strength of women and girls are brought to bear in responding to crisis. Through the Women, Peace and Humanitarian Fund we were able to facilitate provision of support to women's organisations around the world.

This report reflects what we were able to make possible, while recognizing that it is always through others that we seek and realise our biggest impacts. 2018 saw new and strengthened partnerships, including in areas of innovation and research. Through everything we did we were fortunate to receive the support of our largest number of funding partners ever in 2018. These donors, like all our stakeholders, recognise the imperative of gender in humanitarian action. They believe that humanitarian actors must be held accountable in this regard, and that empowering women and girls needs to be at the heart of everything we do. We are grateful to them for their support and partnership, as we are grateful to the wide range of partners, including the sister agencies of the United Nations, with whom we have worked and continue to work.

## **Dan Seymour**

Director Humanitarian Action and Crisis Response  
**UN WOMEN**

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# INTRODUCTION

Humanitarian needs continue to grow with nearly 132 million people in need of assistance in 2018, due to conflict, persecution and natural disasters. The average humanitarian crisis now lasts more than nine years,<sup>1</sup> and periods of forced displacement over seventeen.<sup>2</sup> The impacts on those affected are indelible, as they seek to survive and recover, depriving them, and us all, of their futures and potential.

Many of the women and girls who make up approximately half of this 132 million face daily discrimination and violence. The breakdown of protection mechanisms and destruction of essential services and economic structures in crises hits the already marginalized hardest. They see their situation further diminished due to their lack of rights and access to and control of the resources and viable coping strategies they need.

This is not a new observation. Yet our evidence and experience from 2018 suggests that humanitarian response, resilience and risk-reduction strategies continue to inadequately identify and address the rights and specific needs of women, girls, men and boys. In addition, the capacity and potential of women and girls to inform and contribute to the formulation and provision of the services and long-term solutions that they, their families and wider communities need to not only survive, but to prosper remains grossly undervalued. This is the basic reality underpinning UN Women's role in humanitarian action, based on its mandate from the General Assembly as a catalyst for gender equality, including across the work of the United Nations system as a whole.

Traditional strategies to crisis response have proven inadequate in the face of ever-increasing numbers affected by crisis and their protracted nature. Increasingly, humanitarian actors recognize the need to situate humanitarian action within the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, understanding and responding to the ways humanitarian responses can dictate the long-term trajectory for an affected population. Services for crisis-affected populations must look beyond immediate assistance, but also offer viable long-term solutions that protect their rights and maintain their dignity. This remains at the heart of UN Women's work.

Similarly, preparedness, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and resilience strategies in advance of crisis need to consider the additional risk-vulnerabilities caused by gender inequality. Women and girls face greater economic vulnerability from disasters, including those driven by climate change, as their livelihoods are more often linked to fragile economic sectors, and land prone to devastation in even low-scale crisis events.



Photo: UN Women/Rahel Steinbach

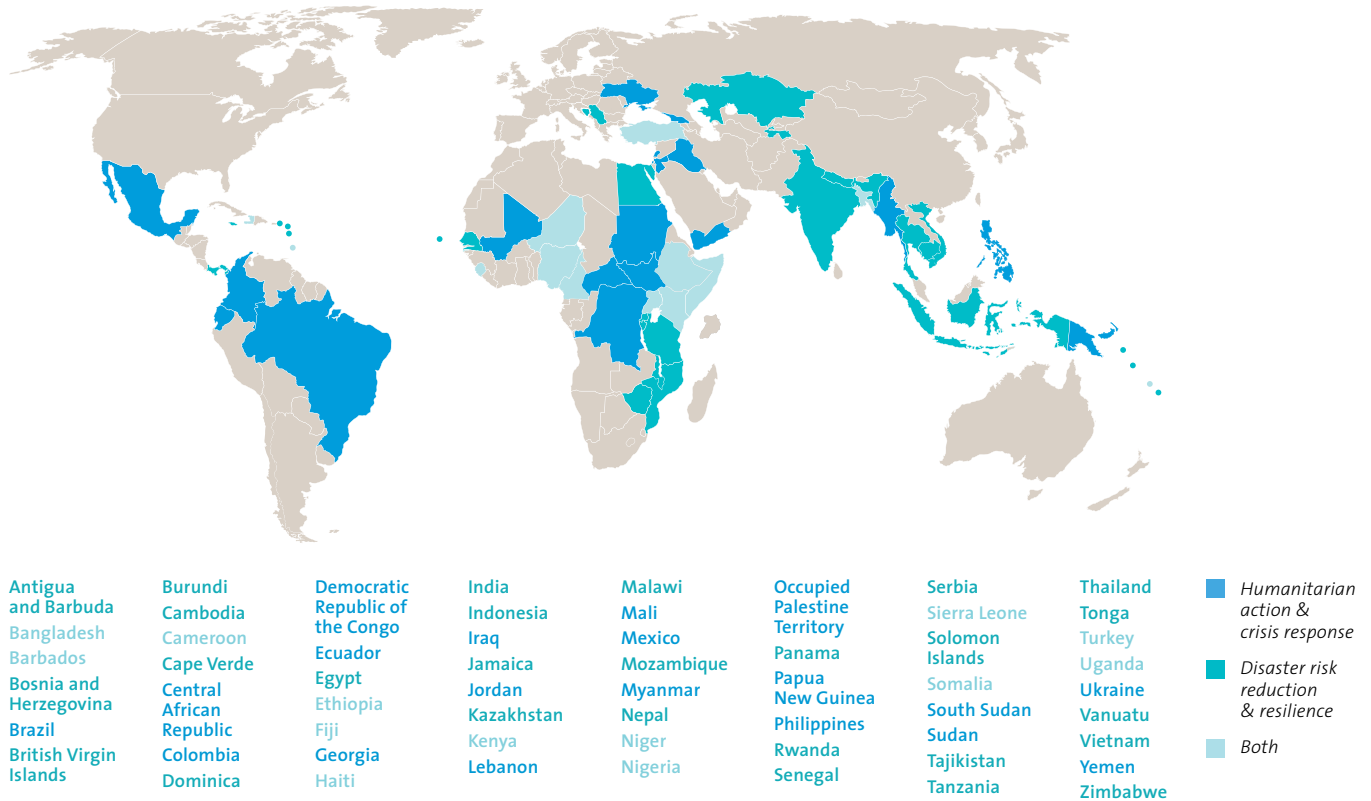
*UN Women facilitated a meeting of Somali Women's Organizations to develop a Women's Charter of Demands for gender-responsive disaster resilience and drought recovery; and to contribute to the country's Drought Impacts Needs Assessment.*

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1. OCHA – Global Humanitarian Overview 2019

2. UNHCR (2018) Figures at a Glance – Statistical Yearbooks.

IN 2018, UN WOMEN ENGAGED IN 58 COUNTRIES WITH HUMANITARIAN ACTION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE ACTIVITIES



These include selling products gathered from global commons, subsistence agriculture or informal market activity.

UN Women believes that women’s and girls’ self-reliance and empowerment is key. It allows them to build a future of their own choosing, freeing them from dependence and vulnerability. It leads to positive social and economic outcomes not only for themselves, but for their families, communities and host countries as well, meaning more effective and cost-efficient service delivery. For example, studies show that when women work, they

invest 90 percent of their income back into their families, compared with 35 percent for men.<sup>3</sup> It is the foundation of resilience, and the best, most cost-effective and smartest way to meet humanitarian needs with a long-term lens and break free of harmful, and costly, repeated cycles of crisis and suffering. This provides the underlying rationale for everything UN Women does in the humanitarian space, through its normative, coordination and operational roles. It is the thread running through its work with partners through 2018 and the basis for everything contained in this report.

3. Clinton Global Initiative – Empowering Girls and Women

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# OVERVIEW

## UN Women's Approach – Coordination, Accountability and Empowerment

UN Women works to promote equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of all efforts across the humanitarian development peace nexus. We emphasise empowerment for women and girls as a life-saving intervention to ensure their survival, protection, recovery and the sustainable improvement of their, and their communities, long-term prospects through preparedness, resilience and transformative change.

UN Women's action is based on and guided by a series of international commitments, including the World Humanitarian Summit's Agenda for Humanity, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants, Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and the Sustainable Development Goals.

UN Women supports and enables the UN and the wider humanitarian system to integrate gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls throughout all aspects of humanitarian, DRR and resilience planning and programming.

- In the field, UN Women assists UN coordinated humanitarian mechanisms to identify and address the specific rights and needs of crisis-affected and/or at-risk women and girls in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of crisis-response, DRR and resilience policies and strategies.
  - In disaster risk reduction and resilience, UN Women works with local authorities and local stakeholders to build a comprehensive package that focuses on rendering prevention, preparedness and response systems, plans and tools gender-responsive and provides targeted action enabling women and girls to withstand natural hazards, recover fully from disasters and increase their resilience to future natural hazards. Where needed, UN Women offers specific service delivery initiatives consistent with its approach of enhancing gender equality and women's empowerment, promoting self-reliance, resilience, and providing immediate lifesaving solutions to crisis affected women and girls, their families and affected communities, including host communities.
  - UN Women promotes the voices, agency and capacity of women's civil society organizations and national women's machineries in humanitarian and DRR efforts to ensure their equal representation and contribution to the decisions that directly affect their lives and the lives of those that depend upon them.
  - With its Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, UN Women manages a global pooled funding mechanism designed to support women's participation, leadership and empowerment in humanitarian response, as well as peace and security settings. It provides funding and capacity
- At the global level, through its inter-agency leadership and coordination role, UN Women supports other UN organizations in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in their humanitarian efforts, including through sharing evidence-based good practices, minimum standards and guidance tools.
  - UN Women leads on accountability and monitoring of the delivery by global humanitarian coordination systems on their commitments to gender in humanitarian action.



*Shunaxi Martínez Santiago  
at the Bonafont Race for  
a Cause 2019.*

## MOVING FORWARD EQUALITY: MEXICAN WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

**THE 2017 EARTHQUAKES** in Mexico destroyed livelihoods and communities throughout Mexico City and Juchitán de Zaragoza, Oaxaca. For women like Shunaxi Martínez Santiago, 31-years-old and a mother of 2, she lost her house and had to relocate to another town.

Before the earthquakes, Shunaxi left a stable job to pursue the dream of launching an online business. She says “It was very difficult to quit my job and dare to do something new, as I had a secure income, but I also thought of my children, of being able to spend time with them”.

Following the earthquakes Shunaxi participated in “Avancemos por la igualdad”.<sup>1</sup> The goal of the programme is to foster the economic reactivation of earthquake-impacted areas through innovative business initiatives, including training

*1. Also known as the Moving Forward Equality Programme*

*2. Translates to Craftswomen of Juchitán*

*3. (a Grupo Danone Business Unit)*



courses focused on strengthening entrepreneurial and leadership abilities. For Shunaxi, she states “I learned all about organizational skills and costs, to value my work and what it represents. I learned how to become organized, as well as to keep control of my expenses”.

In due course, she launched a cooperative called Mujeres Artesanas de Juchitán<sup>2</sup> that sells crafts through a Facebook page. The cooperative sponsors and raises funds for people suffering from illness and for individuals with disabilities.

UN Women in partnership with Bonafont<sup>3</sup> were able to create the opportunity for women like Shunaxi, and 152 other women who graduated and launched their own businesses with another 102 women who participated in gender-responsive psychological care and risk management.

development for local, women led civil society organizations working on these issues. To date 41 projects have been supported by the WPHF in 7 countries.

- Through its LEAP (Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Protection) worldwide flagship initiative for humanitarian action and crisis response, in 2018, UN Women:
  - Increased leadership and engagement by crisis affected and host community women and girls

- in relief efforts and decision-making, including through participation in refugee camp management structures and humanitarian planning processes working with women’s civil society and advocating for links between humanitarian actors, women’s rights organizations and national authorities;
- Established women’s empowerment centers and safe spaces allowing women and girls access to UN Women’s humanitarian services,

- as well as information and referral networks to humanitarian and protection/GBV services, including sexual and reproductive health care, provided by other specialized agencies.
- Helped address the GBV protection needs of women and girls through the provision of psycho-social care, referring GBV survivors to specialized professionals and preventing GBV through training, sensitizing men and boys and promoting gender equality and positive gender norms.
  - Increased crisis-affected women’s access to income from economic opportunities through livelihood programming, integrating various components and services for crisis affected and vulnerable women, including cash for work, cash-based transfers, vocational training, skills development and access to resources for agricultural production and business.
  - Contributed to gender equality by addressing gender norms in communities as well as among humanitarian actors; coordinating and facilitating norm setting and gender transformative humanitarian approaches.
- Through its disaster risk reduction and resilience initiatives and programmes in 39 countries in Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, Asia and Pacific and Eastern Europe, UN Women has been able to:
    - Achieve policy change and increase national budget allocations for gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and resilience.
    - Empower women as leaders in DRR decision-making and in preventing, preparing for and recovering from disasters at local, national and international levels.
    - Build women’s and girl’s resilience to disasters through targeted action, including climate resilient livelihoods, capacity building for disaster resilience and increased access to social protection.
    - Consolidate the knowledge base around the gender dimensions of risk through research, gender-responsive post disaster needs assessments and development of knowledge products with a large variety of world renowned partners, including the World Bank, UNDP, UNDRR, the European Union, IFRC and research entities worldwide.

## Partnerships

UN Women works closely with partners to achieve the maximum impact for women and girls. Across all of its operational humanitarian, DRR and resilience country contexts, UN Women partnered with 9 international NGOs and Red Cross/Crescent Societies and with 16 UN agencies, including UNFPA, OCHA, UNDP, UNICEF, UNDRR and WFP. Furthermore, in line with international commitments to localization and promoting women’s leadership in humanitarian contexts, UN Women supported through provision of financial and/or technical support 498 women’s organizations in humanitarian and crisis settings. This strengthened their capacities to effectively engage in humanitarian and crisis response and influence strategic prioritization and resource allocation.

### SUPPORT TO WOMEN’S ORGANIZATIONS IN 2018

# 498

women’s organizations supported

by UN Women to play a role in humanitarian response and recovery

# 100

women’s organizations supported

to engage in DRR and resilience planning and implementation

# 16

women’s organizations financially supported

by the Women’s Humanitarian and Peace Fund



In 2018 UN Women continued or initiated joint programmes with UNDP, WFP, OCHA, UNFPA, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, FAO, UN Habitat, and UN peacekeeping operations in 20 countries. These programmes covered economic empowerment, livelihoods, agriculture and food security, including LEAP; addressing child marriage; youth; preventing and countering trafficking, transporter crimes and terrorism through empowerment; preventing and addressing GBV and violence against women; access to justice for refugee and host communities; sexual and reproductive health services; demobilization, disarmament and reintegration (DDR) and other programming to transform gender norms and promote equality. UN Women also engaged in CERF activities with other partners. UN Women also engaged in joint DRR programming with UNDRR and IFRC.



Delivery of water tank for drought preparedness programme in Vietnam.

## Donors

UN Women is grateful for the support of donors for its work from the global to the country level, including that provided to the Women, Peace and Humanitarian Fund. These are:



Australia



Austria



Canada



Finland



Germany



Iceland



Ireland



Italy



Japan



Liechtenstein



Lithuania



Luxembourg



Netherlands



Norway



Spain



Sweden



United Kingdom



United States



European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)



Central Emergency Response Fund

In addition, UN Women is grateful for the support provided by Innovation Norway, Zonta International and the UN Women National Committees of Australia, Iceland, Japan, Singapore and the United States.

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# UN WOMEN'S HUMANITARIAN RESULTS

## Global Coordination, Accountability and Capacity Building

### HUMANITARIAN ACTION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

#### *Bringing gender to global coordination mechanisms:*

As the co-chair of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's (IASC) Gender Reference Group (GRG), UN Women has been instrumental in ensuring that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is a central focus in the strategic priorities of global humanitarian coordination, policy development and strategic planning. Following the endorsement of the 2017 IASC Gender Policy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls (GEEWG) in Humanitarian Action, UN Women assumed stewardship of the 'Gender Desk' which carries out the monitoring function of the policy's *Accountability Framework* to ensure that the roles and responsibilities and standards set out in the IASC Gender Policy are adhered to by the IASC and its global and field level structures and functions. UN Women initiated the data collection and analysis for the first *Accountability Framework* report which will be published in 2019.

As an active member of various inter-agency groups on DRR and resilience, including the UN DRR interagency focal point group, the core team for the UN Common Guidance on Helping Build Resilient Societies, Words into Action Advisory Committee, as well as the PDNA core group, UN Women successfully mainstreamed gender into the UN system's DRR and resilience processes and programming through provision of technical expertise, tools, knowledge and capacity building.

At the regional level, UN Women worked with partners and Member States to ensure that the gender dimensions of disasters would be adequately taken into account and reflected at the Regional Platform covering Africa and Arab States, Europe, the Americas and Asia and the Pacific. As a result, all Regional Platform outcome documents refer to the imperative of gender-responsive DRR and commitment to gender-responsive DRR and resilience.

#### *Capacity Building in Gender in Humanitarian Action:*

To further help translate the Gender Policy into practice, in 2018 UN Women finalized and published the updated IASC Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action which – as the official guidance resource of the UN led humanitarian coordination system – reflects the latest coordination mechanisms, frameworks, and commitments towards gender equality including the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, the Grand Bargain, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Over 7,000 copies of the Handbook were distributed in 43 countries.

UN Women and partners also developed a comprehensive set of face-to-face training modules based on the content of the handbook, in addition to an eLearning platform for remote learning. Utilizing these resources, accompanying training programmes were delivered in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Nigeria, and Malawi to frontline humanitarian practitioners in over 40 different agencies. In addition, UN Women undertook a series of intensive 6-day regional office trainings for its field staff in East and Southern Africa, West and Central Africa Regional Office, Europe and Central Asia and Arab States on integrating gender into the humanitarian programme cycle, as well as on

UN Women's role in global and field level humanitarian coordination. The trainings build the capacity of UN Women staff to add value to coordinated humanitarian response mechanisms, as well as to further spread skills and learning through follow up training. Country offices participating included Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Nigeria, Liberia, Mali, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Turkey, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Yemen and Egypt, Uganda, Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia.

**Deployments:** To help ensure gender is integrated in coordinated crisis-response planning at the country-level, UN Women facilitated the deployment of 21 gender in humanitarian action experts to 17 separate crisis countries. In addition, UN Women undertook six internal surge deployments – including through its newly launched Rapid Response Deployment Roster – to help its field offices with time-critical support ensuring that the humanitarian response integrated gender equality and the needs and capacities of affected women and girls. This included support to the Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh, the Venezuela refugee crisis in Colombia, and large-scale flooding in Zambia and India.

In addition, to strengthen UN Women's own capacity to promptly respond to crises, UN Women launched an internal Rapid Response Deployment Roster consisting of 15 staff members from different areas of expertise and locations as a pilot in 2018. All members underwent the six-day Gender in Humanitarian Action training as well as the Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environments (SSAFE) trainings and remain active on the roster.

**Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF):** UN Women serves as the Secretariat for the WPHF (previously the GAI). This global partnership and funding mechanism is the only financing tool in the world designed exclusively to empower local women's organisations to be a force for crisis response and lasting peace. In 2018, WPHF invested USD 3.7 million in 24 women's organizations providing humanitarian response in seven countries. Since its inception, WPHF has invested USD 10 million in 55 CSOs working to enhance women's participation in humanitarian action and directly serving 33,000 women.



UN Women promotes gender-responsiveness in normative mechanisms and processes on DRR and resilience. On this panel, Ms. Dolores Devesi (far right) from Solomon Islands was invited by UN Women and partners to speak at the the Global Platform for DRR, highlighting the leadership role of women in building community resilience.



Photo: UN Women Serbia / Jovan Gajkovic

UN Women Serbia office organized a forum for relevant stakeholders on climate change and resilience in the City of Nis, in March 2018.

## Building the Normative Framework – Development of Policies, Strategies and Action Orientated Guidance

In 2018, UN Women fed into numerous policy development and monitoring systems, as well as the creation of guidance material on how to translate their commitments, standards and roles and responsibilities into field level action. These included:

**Implementation of Grand Bargain core commitments – the Friends of Gender Group:** Through UN Women's continued role as Coordinator/Secretariat of the *Grand Bargain Friends of Gender Group*,<sup>4</sup> significant progress has been made towards the overall goal of improved leadership, coordination and policy coherence for addressing Gender Based Violence (GBV) and promoting Gender Equality and the Empowerment of refugee, displaced and other crisis-affected women and girls through the Grand Bargain.

Workstream specific gender indicators and a section dedicated exclusively to GB signatory reporting on the implementation of gender commitments across all workstream core commitments have been integrated in the 2018 GB annual reporting template. This important step towards enhanced

accountability among signatories around gender responsive humanitarian action arose from Friends of Gender Group advocacy and strategic engagement with the Grand Bargain Facilitation Group and priority workstream co-conveners.

Furthermore, engagement by UN Women and other Friends of Gender Group members led to improved performance of Grand Bargain priority workstreams (localisation, needs assessment, cash and participation revolution) on mainstreaming of GBV and gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in their workplans and strategic initiatives. UN Women supported development of technical guidance notes and convenings of global meetings with a view to mapping good practices and strengthening existing commitments to promoting women's and girls' self-reliance, resilience, livelihoods, leadership and protection. Strengthened partnerships with CARE, the Cash Learning Partnership, Women's Refugee Commission and IRC brought to the centre of global discussions entry points for strengthening gender responsive Cash Based Interventions and ensuring that cash and voucher assistance delivers results for crisis-affected women, including contributing to their livelihoods, access to income and financial resources and protection from GBV.

4. In 2018, the GB FoG consisted of **Members States** Australia, Canada, Denmark, UK, Finland, Italy, Sweden, USA; **Donors** DFID, ECHO, USAID; **INGOs** Action Aid, CARE, Christian Aid, Oxfam; **UN Entities** IOM, FAO, OCHA, UNFPA, UNICEF; **IOs** IFRC, World Bank

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*Other issues at the centre of UN Women's advocacy in relation to GB related process, included:* development of country-based funds specific to investing in capacity strengthening of local women's organisations; strengthening the engagement of local women's organisations in country-based local actor coordination forums, coalitions and networks and influence on humanitarian response plans and resource allocations; investments in strengthening institutional capacities of local women's organizations and promoting women's leadership in crisis contexts.

*Global Compact on Refugees:* UN Women contributed to the consultation process for the formulation of the Global Compact on Refugees through high-level advocacy events and through the publication of its position paper and aide memoire for the formulation of the Global Compact on Refugees titled *The Centrality of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment for the Formulation of the Global Compact on Refugees*. Throughout the process, UN Women advocated for long term, rights driven and empowerment-based durable solutions for all affected women, girls, men and boys throughout the displacement cycle.

*Mine Action Strategy:* UN Women provided technical capacity and content for the formulation of the UN's Mine Action Strategy 2019–2023 to help ensure that the official global UN strategy on mine action empowered affected and at-risk women and girls as decision makers and recipients of the services and intended outcomes of UN-led mine action programming.

*World Humanitarian Summit's Agenda for Humanity Commitments:* In partnership with Action Aid and the Women's Refugee Commission, UN Women led the analysis of the progress made by stakeholders in 2017 towards the empowerment of women

and girls in line with the World Humanitarian Summit's *Agenda for Humanity Commitments*. The paper examined and identified positive trends, innovative programs, as well as existing challenges and presented key recommendations required for advancement of gender equality in humanitarian action.

*DRR and resilience related norms, policies and processes:* UN Women contributed to the gender-responsiveness of DRR and resilience related norms, policies and processes, including the UN Common Guidance on Helping Build Resilient Societies, the Joint PDNA Declaration issued by the World Bank, the European Union and the UN System, and the Global and Regional Platforms for DRR.

*CEDAW General Recommendations No. 37:* UN Women contributed to the development of the CEDAW General Recommendation No. 37 on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change. The General Recommendation addresses the gender inequality of risk and encourages Member States to take concrete steps to achieve gender equality to reinforce the climate and disaster resilience of individuals and their communities.

*Other key publications and coordination processes on DRR and resilience:* In 2018 UN Women contributed to a number of joint publications including Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Disaster Recovery with the EU, UNDRR, Global Forum for DRR, IRP and the World Bank, the Workshop guide for facilitators on Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction in Europe and Central Asia with UNDP, and the development and delivery of a gender-responsive PDNA training which was provided to more than 30 government, civil society and UN experts from 11 African countries.

## UN WOMEN'S HUMANITARIAN ACTION/LEAP IN NUMBERS

# 33

crisis context countries

with UN Women humanitarian response operations

# 235,000

women and girls, and

# 89,000

men and boys

as direct beneficiaries of UN Women's humanitarian action programmes

# 66

safe spaces and/or empowerment centers

operational in 13 UN Women country programmes

# 61,500

women and more than

# 4,500

men in over 18 countries

received livelihoods support

# 35,226

women and more than

# 7,384

men in over 12 countries

benefited from UN Women leadership programming in humanitarian and crisis contexts

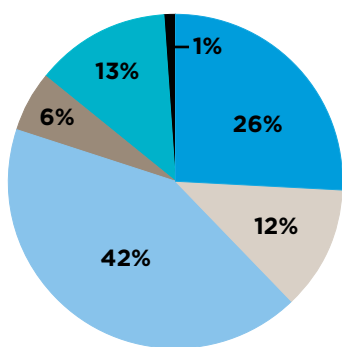
### LEAP: Addressing Immediate Needs – Supporting Leadership, Empowerment, Protection and Livelihoods in Humanitarian Contexts

In 2018, UN Women provided humanitarian action and crisis response services to 235,000 crisis affected women and girls, and 89,000 men and boys across 33 crisis context countries. Throughout these efforts, UN Women maintained its focus on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus by considering both the immediate life-saving response as well as the long-term prospects, self-reliance and sustainable resilience of crisis affected and at-risk women and girls.

*Empowerment of Women and Girls as Leaders and Decision Makers:* UN Women continued to prioritize partnerships and funding for local women's organizations to build their leadership skills and meaningfully engage and influence decision making processes both in relation to humanitarian planning, prioritization and resource allocations directed to support the needs and priorities of refugee and IDP women and girls, as well as decision making in host communities. In 2018, over 35,226 women and more than 7,384 men in over 12 countries benefited from UN Women leadership programming in humanitarian and crisis contexts in 2018. UN Women helped build the capacity of more than 498 local women's organizations in 28 countries, and supported and facilitated women leaders from refugee, IDP and affected communities in 20 countries to influence decision-making on humanitarian response and recovery or resilience efforts, both locally and globally.

Additional support was provided through the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund which is explicitly designed to fund and capacitate women's civil society that is engaged in representing the voices of women in humanitarian response efforts. In 2018, 16 CSO groups were assisted in 6 countries (Vanuatu, Fiji, Jordan, Palau, Samoa, and the Solomon Islands).

### TOTAL NUMBER OF CRISIS-AFFECTED WOMEN AND GIRLS WHO DIRECTLY ACCESSED LEAP SERVICES



PERCENTAGE OF DIRECT FEMALE BENEFICIARIES ACCESSING DIFFERENT TYPES OF SERVICES

- Livelihoods activities
- Leadership and empowerment training
- Community awareness & prevention activities addressing GBV
- SRHR awareness building
- GBV response services including referrals
- Capacity building of partners in EVAW

**235,000 women and girls**

directly accessed services provided by UN Women's humanitarian action and crisis response interventions



## EMPOWERMENT THROUGH LEARNING AND COMMUNICATION FOR SYRIANS IN TURKEY

“I CAME TO GAZIANTEP, TURKEY, with my husband and four children two years ago. When I first came from Syria, I felt very lonely (...). I didn't go out and interact with anyone. My life took a turn when (I heard about) the SADA Women-Only Centre. The team informed me about the courses and activities of SADA, and I decided to apply for some courses. I've been attending the centre for one year, taking Turkish and computer operating courses. Learning Turkish is important for me as I want to communicate with the host community”, says Zuke El Hasan, a Syrian refugee who has lived in Gaziantep since 2016.

In Turkey, the SADA Women Empowerment and Solidarity Centre provides livelihood skills, psychosocial support and referral services to both refugees and host community women. “I also transformed into a new person, I'm more open and feel more comfortable. I can now communicate and interact with the Turkish community. In the centre, there is a mixture of Syrian and Turkish women and we learn to be together. (...) For example, we stopped some cases of early marriages and supported the girls to go back to school. Most of us came here as depressed and broken people but we are going to leave as educated, informed individuals with new lives”, says Zuke El Hasan.

**Comprehensive Services in Safe Spaces and Empowerment Centers:** To deliver its humanitarian services and in contexts where it was appropriate to run them, 66 Safe Spaces and/or Empowerment Centers were functioning in 2018 in 13 UN Women country programmes, including 26 newly opened centers. These spaces offered women and girls access to empowerment services such as livelihoods, education, and leadership training. They also offered access to protection, psychosocial support and sexual and reproductive health services, including through referral to partner agencies.

**Addressing GBV in humanitarian and crisis settings:** As a contribution to overall GBV efforts by humanitarian actors, UN Women focused on psycho-social care, referring GBV survivors to specialized partner agencies, such as UNFPA, and preventing GBV through training, sensitizing men and boys and promoting gender equality and positive gender norms. In 2018, more than 73,600 women and over 25,000 men in over 14 countries benefited from UN Women GBV and protection services and awareness-raising, including through prevention,

### TOTAL NUMBER OF SAFE SPACES IN 2018 UNDER ONGOING FUNDING AGREEMENTS

	EXISTING SAFE SPACES	NEW SAFE SPACES EST. IN 2018
Run by UN Women	16	20
Run by CSOs	11	1
Run by gov. authorities	12	1
Joint management	1	4
<b>66 TOTAL:</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>26</b>



## PROTECTION THROUGH SELF RELIANCE IN CAMEROON

**“THE SOCIAL WORKER** at the women empowerment center referred my case to the medical center after counselling me. Since I already knew how to sew, I was given a sewing machine to help me start my tailoring business. I now sew dresses and display, so people can know I am a good tailor and bring their dresses to me. My dream is to save up some money and rent a shop in the market where I can have more customers and earn more money. Now that I know my rights, I will ask the support from the social worker to summon the father of my first child (...), so he can start supporting us and send his child to school”, says Marie-Noelle Tchived, a 22-year-old Cameroonian IDP and single mother of three who had suffered psychological and sexual assault.

Over the last five years, Cameroon has experienced multiple security crises and the number of people requiring humanitarian assistance has reached 3.3 million, with women making up approximately 53 per cent of the population. UN Women’s humanitarian response in 2018 has been funded by CERF and the Government of Japan and focuses on multifaceted support and protection of women and girl survivors of GBV in conflict affected areas, including women fleeing the Boko Haram insurgency. In 2018, UN Women and its partners (MINPROFF ALVF and LUKMEF) provided multifaceted support to over 802 survivors of GBV, including income-generating activities and skills development. UN Women has further contributed to awareness raising of over 37,027 persons on GBV related issues through its sensitization campaign.

immediate response services (including distribution of dignity kits, psycho-social care and referrals), empowerment, participation, facilitation of long-term resilience, sensitization, advocacy, promoting accountability, building the capacity of national actors, coordination and building links with other areas of UN Women’s response.

*Promoting the livelihoods of crisis affected women and men in humanitarian settings:* UN Women provided livelihoods support, as part of the its Leadership, Empowerment Access and Protection (LEAP) programme to over 61,500 women and more than 4,500 men in over 18 countries. These interventions enhanced women’s and men’s self-reliance, recovery and resilience through economic empowerment and income.

UN Women livelihood interventions include business grants, loans and skills development (primarily for micro and small enterprises), cash for work, vocational training and job placements, access to

land, resources and inputs for agricultural production. As part of its livelihoods programming, UN Women reinforced its commitment to increased use of cash and voucher assistance (CVA) for UN Women programming and in partnership with other humanitarian actors. UN Women Country Offices provided cash transfers (unconditional or cash-for-work) for women in 7 countries in 2018, and other funding modalities such as business and start-up loans in several others. In total, over US\$2.2 million was paid to 7,600 women and 1,900 men affected by crisis in 7 countries through unconditional cash transfers or transfers as part of cash-for-work schemes, and other funding modalities such as business and start-up loans.

Through the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Funding mechanism, UN Women also supported over 50,000 women through livelihoods interventions in Burundi, Jordan and Colombia that included income-generation training, entrepreneurial start-up finance assistance and employment creation.





Photo: UN Women

Marie-Noelle Tchived, a GBV survivor who received a sewing machine to enable her to start a tailoring business in Cameroon.

**Protection Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA):** UN Women raised the level of attention to PSEA among humanitarian workers and community members in Uganda, Ethiopia, PNG and Myanmar, and strengthened their capacity to plan and implement gender-sensitive programmes in all phases by enhancing their commitment to PSEA and to communication strategies tailored for women and girls. For instance, in Uganda, UN Women’s trainings and learning sessions on PSEA reached over 300 humanitarian workers and 125 community members. UN Women’s guidance helped make the Community Based Complaint Mechanism more accessible and practical for women and girls. In Ethiopia, UN Women funded the first PSEA training on community-based complaints mechanism (CBCM) and chaired the PSEA Network. In Papua New Guinea, UN Women secured signatories to the code-of-conduct and delivered briefings on PSEA to local volunteers. In Kenya, UN Women helped increase the numbers of female security personnel capacitated to promote gender equality and act on issues around SGBV thereby creating an enabling environment for the physical security and safety of women and girls. This recognized the positive role that women officers play in broadening the range of skills, capacities and level of discipline among all categories of personnel, enhancing operational effectiveness and building trust with the local population.

## LEAP: ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES

**37,834**

women and girls accessing services offering livelihood support



**9,287**

women and girls accessing services offering vocational training



**4,626**

women and girls accessing services offering support to gain formal/informal job



**1,050**

women and girls accessing services offering support for agricultural production



**3,325**

women and girls accessing services offering business set-up support



**724**

women and girls accessing services offering unconditional cash transfer



**4,472**

women and girls accessing services offering cash for work



## INNOVATION

**WITH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT** of Innovation Norway, in 2018, UN Women played a critical role in diverse fora drawing attention to the importance of integrating gender into all stages of the explorations of blockchain technology in humanitarian settings. UN Women hosted a *'Blockchain Simulation Lab and Live Test'* in partnership with Innovation Norway and UN Office of Information and Communications Technology. This four-day simulation lab explored with a range of stakeholders how blockchain solutions could work in practice in a humanitarian context and examined practical applications. During the event, private sector companies presented cutting-edge blockchain-based solutions that addressed current challenges faced by women and girls in humanitarian settings. The test and simulation lab allowed UN Women to examine and experience first-hand the solutions and offered an opportu-

nity for UN Women's personnel and partners to learn about the potential of blockchain technology for gender equality.

Following the Blockchain Lab, UN Women assessed the potential of blockchain technology as a tool to empower crisis-affected women and girls through the field testing of a mobile banking app in the Kalobeyei settlement in Kenya. The field testing yielded important information on the risk-factors, enablers, and challenges displaced women and girls face in accessing socioeconomic opportunities powered by this technology. In Jordan, UN Women consolidated its partnership with WFP to use blockchain technology to assist Syrian refugee women participating in cash for work programmes at the Za'atari and Azraq refugee camps, putting the system in place for the first transactions to take place in 2019 as part of the Building Block inter-agency pilot.

*Supporting women's empowerment and inclusion in the design of weather forecast based financing and preparedness in Vietnam.*



# IMPACT IN COUNTRIES

## IRAQ

In April 2018, funded by the EU MADAD Fund, UN Women started a partnership with the Women's Empowerment Organization (WEO) to strengthen the resilience of women and girls in three locations in Iraq: Baserma, Kawgorsk and Erbil city. The WEO-UN Women supported women's centre in Baserma received a total of 359 beneficiaries in 2018. The centre provides case management, psychosocial counselling, legal aid and referrals. WEO is providing legal support sessions for individuals and group specialized psychosocial counselling and case management for women and girls who have survived GBV in camp and community settings. The centre further provides women-to-women dialogue sessions in Baserma on adolescent pregnancies, child marriages, access to education and women's economic empowerment. Separate dialogue sessions were provided to community leaders for awareness on key GBV concepts.

## SOUTH SUDAN

In 2018, the Women's Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Protection in Crisis Response (LEAP) programme was generously supported by the Government of Japan. Through advocacy by UN Women and women's groups, a total of eight acres of agricultural land was allocated for agricultural activities, market space, vocational training centres and demonstration farms. Five farmer groups (100 women) who have benefited from UN Women capacity-building prepared land for sorghum and sesame farming for both home consumption and sales to enhance their livelihoods and resilience.

## BANGLADESH

Extreme violence and discrimination have driven over 727,000 Rohingya refugees across the border into Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Thousands of Rohingya women and girls are vulnerable to the health and security risks of crowded camp settings. At night, women find it difficult to visit camp latrines due to



*Women participating in a course on mobile repairing, at the Social Development Center of Tarik El Jdide.*

inadequate lighting and security and hundreds of incidents of GBV continue to be reported every week. More than 17,226 Rohingya women have accessed dedicated Multi-Purpose Women's Centres (MPWC) supported by UN Women since January 2018 in partnership with Action Aid and with technical assistance from Dhaka's Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA). The centres provide a welcome respite from the conditions of the refugee camps, offering a space for women to discuss, consult with medical staff and practice vocational skills. MPWCs provide the most at-risk and marginalized Rohingya women with life-saving information, training, support, skills and separate toilets and enclosed bathing areas providing women a sense of security and the physical space they lack in their plastic homes. The MPWCs are one-stop hubs for women to access information on GBV and participate in leadership, life skills and livelihood training initiatives. Progress has been made in improving women's participation in refugee camp leadership. In June 2018, participatory elections were piloted in Nayapara refugee camp where women were elected for half of the leadership positions. Based on this pilot, a governance task force was established to promote a harmonized and gender-responsive camp governance model.



*Under the Tree Dialogue with women on ending gender-based violence in Mingkaman, South Sudan.*

## **LEBANON**

In 2018, UN Women along with implementing partners ABAAD, Safadi Foundation, and Fair Trade Lebanon, implemented a programme which managed to strengthen the resilience of 1,221 women and girls, including Syrian refugees, and Lebanese host community members, through income generating activities and protection services. Women were able to acquire new skills and generate income,

which enhanced their role in their households and enabled them to participate in decision-making processes. A total number of 602 women and girls acquired new skills, out of which 275 women were able to generate income through temporary jobs arranged by UN Women in partnership with 68 private sector enterprises.

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## Empowerment into Coordinated Planning and Programming

**Humanitarian Response:** In 35 crisis context countries in 2018, UN Women directly engaged in humanitarian coordination mechanisms by contributing to various stages of the humanitarian programme cycle from needs-assessment and analysis, strategic planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. For example, in Fiji, UN Women led the Pacific Humanitarian Protection Cluster and provided dedicated gender expertise in cooperation with UNFPA, UNICEF and CSO members for training on GiHA and gender based violence in emergencies (GBViE), assessment tools, standards, guidance, technical assistance, and deployments.

In 20 humanitarian country contexts, UN Women worked within the humanitarian inter-agency gender coordination group or its equivalent, often leading the body in collaboration with a partner UN agency to ensure a coordinated and evidence-based approach in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the relevant humanitarian response. Partly through such coordination groups, in ten countries, UN Women field offices have trained over 1,250 personnel from partner organizations on gender in humanitarian action in 2018.

**DRR and Resilience:** UN Women trained policy makers, civil society professionals and international development experts from 11 African countries on gender-responsive post disaster needs assessment. UN Women was requested by the Government of Kerala, India, to provide the gender leadership and coordination function for the post-disaster needs assessment conducted after the August 2018 floods, the worst seen since 1924, affecting 5.4 million people. Similarly, UN Women supported the government of Somalia to reflect the gender-specific needs and contributions of 6.7 million women, men, boys and girls in Somalia's drought impact needs assessment and worked with local women's organizations to develop a Women's Charter of Demands and to empower Somali women as leaders of change.

UN Women also assisted in the coordinated development and review of national plans, strategies, policies, assessment and coordination mechanisms on DRR and resilience in 16 countries. These plans and policies reduce the gender inequality of disaster risk with the ultimate objective to increase the number of lives and livelihoods saved when disaster hits.

## COORDINATION

**IN THE OPT,** UN Women contributed to the commitment of the HCT to a gender-responsive approach, reflected in the decision to roll-out the IASC Gender and Age Marker in the 2019 planning cycle, replacing the IASC Gender Marker and ensuring high-quality humanitarian programming in line with international standards. Two training courses were organized (one in the West Bank and another in Gaza) to provide an in-depth explanation of and exercises on the GAM

to members of the Humanitarian Gender Group, Gender Focal Points (GFP) and cluster coordinators. As a follow-up to these sessions, the trained GFPs and cluster coordinators, together with UN Women, conducted 15 training sessions on the new GAM, targeting approximately 200 cluster members in the West Bank and Gaza. Jointly with OCHA, UN Women also organized three open-day clinics for cluster members in preparation of the 2019 HRP project submissions.



Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

Guatemala – Rural Women Diversify Incomes and Build Resilience.

## Strengthening women’s resilience to disasters and reducing the gender dimensions of disaster risk

In disaster risk reduction (DRR) and resilience building, UN Women worked to empower women as leaders, leveraging their full potential for disaster prevention, preparedness and response to break down the gender-specific barriers which increase women’s disaster vulnerability and hamper women’s and their communities’ recovery after disasters hit. UN Women promoted gender-responsive DRR and resilience building through technical and policy support, provision of gender expertise to DRR mechanisms and processes, and by implementing programmes and projects for gender-responsive DRR and resilience building, including the Global Programme on Women’s Resilience to Disasters and the Gender Inequality of Risk Programme.

In 2018, UN Women worked around 4 thematic areas:

1. understanding, assessing and increasing the awareness on the gender dimensions of disaster risk;
2. ensuring the gender-responsiveness of DRR and resilience policies, tools, strategies, and budgets;
3. increasing women’s capacity to prevent, prepare for and recover from disasters through targeted action such as increasing women’s access to disaster resilient livelihoods, social protection and disaster compensation;
4. strengthening women’s participation and leadership in DRR and resilience.

## DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE DATA

**39**

countries

had UN Women disaster risk reduction and resilience activities

**90,907**

women and girls and

**13,809**

men and boys

in 21 countries directly benefited from UN Women’s services to enhance their resilience against disasters and facilitate their participation and leadership in the development of disaster risk reduction and resilience strategies and programmes

**77** MILLION  
in 16 countries

were reached through gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and resilience policies, strategies, plans, needs assessment and coordination mechanisms

**97**

partners

in 31 disaster risk reduction and resilience operational country contexts from the UN, academia, CSOs and NGO, international organizations, and the private sector

**100+**

women’s organizations

were supported to contribute to national disaster risk reduction policy making



*Top photo: The Rakiraki market stalls after Tropical Cyclone Winston hit the area in 2016.*

*Bottom photo: Varanisee Maisamoa, President of Rakiraki Market Vendors Association.*



## MARKETS FOR CHANGE BUILDING RESILIENCE AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS IN FIJI

**IN FEBRUARY 2016**, Tropical Cyclone Winston swept across Fiji, devastating homes, farms, roads and markets. Rakiraki Market and its accommodation centre for women vendors was among the many impacted structures.

“For most of us women market vendors, we focus only on coming to the market to make money. But what if there is a cyclone or flooding that makes it impossible for us to be in the market?” explained Varanisee Maisamoa, President of Rakiraki Market Vendors Association. Varanisee and other women lost their livelihoods and were ill-prepared to mitigate its impacts.

UN Women’s Markets for Change programme builds upon nearly six years of local initiatives. Rakiraki Market now has a Category-5 cyclone resilient infrastructure equipped with a rainwater

harvesting system, flood resistant drainage, and a gender-responsive design. “Our vendors also know what to do before, during and after a disaster,” adds Maisamoa.

Further west, Ateca Ligatabua sold fruits and vegetables in Ba market for 15 years. “When I started selling in Ba market, we sometimes slept in the market by the table,” recalls Ligatabua, because it cost too much to travel back to their villages every day. In 2011, an accommodation centre was built by the local Town Council as a result of consultations with women market vendors and that changed everything for their livelihoods and market access. Since then, women market vendors have developed leadership skills and knowledge about climate resilience, strengthening their collective ability to shape reconstruction efforts.

As part of UN Women's policy work with national and local authorities, UN partners and local civil society, including women's groups, over 77 million people in 16 countries now live with strengthened gender-responsive DRR and resilience policies, strategies, plans, needs assessment and coordination mechanisms.

Over the year, eight additional countries supported by UN Women appointed gender focal points in their respective national disaster platforms, enhancing the voice of women in the design, implementation and monitoring of national DRR and resilience policies, plans and programmes.

In addition, 90,907 women and girls and 13,809 men and boys in 21 countries directly benefited from UN Women's services to enhance their resilience against disasters and facilitate their participation and leadership in the development of DRR and resilience strategies and programmes.

This included building the technical capacity of women to engage in decision making processes in the formulation of national DRR and resilience policies that identify and address the needs of at-risk women and girls, promoting women's leadership and empowerment in DRR and resilience, and strengthening the disaster resilience of women and girls through alternative, sustainable livelihoods.

To leverage expertise and strengthen buy-in and reach for gender-responsive DRR and resilience, UN Women partnered with 16 UN agencies including UNICEF, UNDRR, UNDP, FAO and UNFPA, 56 CSOs and NGOs including women's organisations, 2 private sector companies, 3 academic entities, and 20 other entities such as national level line ministries, totaling altogether 97 partners in 31 operational country contexts.

*Distribution of water tank as one of early action identified by women and men in Gia Lai province before the drought season.*





# IMPACT IN COUNTRIES

## ASIAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON DRR

The 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR (AMCDRR) concluded with the adoption of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration Action Plan 2018–2020 of the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. Prior to the AMCDRR, UN Women joined a wide range of civil society, non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies in the ISDR Asia Partnership Gender Stakeholder Group to advocate for gender-responsive key outcomes, including at a plenary event on gender and inclusiveness.

As a result, Asian governments pledged to give women leading roles in efforts to reduce the high risks they face from disasters, therefore ensuring the recognition and promotion of gender-responsive DRR by improving collection of disaggregated data on sex, age and disability, and meeting the specific needs of women and girls in programmes to stem gender-based violence.

## DOMINICA

In September 2017, Category 5 Hurricane Maria battered the small island nation of Dominica. Less than six months after, UN Women coordinated a Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) to assess the impact of the Hurricane on smallholder women farmers in the western and southern districts of the island. 76 per cent of smallholder women farmers reported major losses, with their crops wiped out, equipment and tools destroyed. Many women farmers in the country were already at a disadvantage in the agricultural sector since prices for their crops were set for them by the traders. Post-Hurricane Maria, UN Women is currently supporting women farmers' groups to jump start production by facilitat-



Photo: UN Women Photo/Sharon Carter-Burke

*UN Women providing equipment to women farmers, Dominica.*

ing the acquisition of labour and equipment. The gender-responsive PDNA did not only inform UN Women programming but also that of other development actors, such as the World Bank and the national government in their efforts to rebuild Dominica for a more equal, climate-resilient future.

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## SERBIA

To address the disproportionate impact of disasters on women and girls, UN Women in Serbia partnered with the National Coordination Body for Gender Equality and women's organizations, to ensure policies and capacities on DRR fully integrate gender equality and women's rights.

UN Women facilitated capacity building on how to mainstream gender into the national DRR programme together with women's organizations and supported a gender analysis of national DRR mechanisms. This resulted in the identification of several gender gaps which were rectified and adopted in the national DRR programme. To reach this goal, UN Women strengthened the capacity of 15 women's organizations in DRR and resilience and conducted outreach in 9 municipalities targeting 381 gender and DRR experts (252 women and 129 men).

## SOLOMON ISLANDS

Since 2017, the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund has directly benefited 11,573 women and girls, reached a total of 20,150 persons and indirectly benefited 1,919,243 people throughout the Pacific. UN Women collaborated with Oxfam Solomon Islands to launch a Womanitarian Toolkit emphasising 4 thematic areas, namely gender, leadership, and disaster preparedness and response. The toolkit enabled men and women to develop an understanding of DRR dynamics and the collective efforts needed to allow, improve, advance and recognise women's contribution in this space. 280 women and girls benefited from this training with a total of 8,000 indirect beneficiaries. 6 women have been elected as chairs and co-chairs of their village disaster committees as a result of the gender mainstreaming efforts of the programme.

## SOMALIA

In February 2017, Somalia declared the ongoing drought a national disaster with half the country's population (6.2 million) in need of humanitarian assistance. 3.1 million were at crisis and emergency levels, while another 3.1 million people were in stress. Women and children represented around 84 per cent of the drought induced displacement since late 2016. As a response to the national disaster declared by Somalia, UN Women, together with its UN sister agencies, the World Bank and the European Union, assessed and reflected the gender-specific needs and contributions of 6.7 million women, men, boys and girls in Somalia's gender-responsive drought impact needs assessment. To amplify women's voices and leadership for drought recovery, UN Women brought together Somali women's organizations covering thematic areas as diverse as disaster resilience, malnutrition, health, farming, child development, community concerns, peace, humanitarian integrity and protection, who jointly developed a Women's Charter of Demands and recommendations for gender-responsive disaster resilience and drought recovery.

## VIETNAM

In 2015 alone, different natural hazards, caused damage and losses in agriculture and aquaculture totalling 8.1 trillion VND (3.6 billion USD). In rural areas, 63% of working women are engaged in the agricultural sector. In partnership with FAO and Save the Children, UN Women supported the inclusion and empowerment of women in the design of localized gender-responsive weather forecasting and ensuring gender-responsive early warning systems to facilitate early action and reduce total loss. The project aims to ensure that drought forecasts and early warning are available to communities in a systematic way by incorporating SMS (short message service) technologies. To ensure sustainability, the programme is also identifying existing funding mechanisms to support the gender-responsive preparedness actions of 14 organizations reaching 16,000 women, men, boys and girls.



**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 implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.



**Planet 50-50 by 2030  
Step It Up for Gender Equality**

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