

Project Proposal

H F A



We know what to do. All countries, from the richest to the poorest, should build disaster risk reduction into their development and poverty reduction plans...International donors should support the trust funds established to help poor countries cope with natural disasters.

Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General

Project Title	Making disaster risk reduction gender sensitive
Amount Requested	USD 943,550
Implementation Period	2010 – 2011 Biennium
Impact	Gender-sensitive and gender-balanced approaches in disaster risk reduction across the development and humanitarian sectors

1. Executive Summary

Disasters affect men and women differently. To building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters requires the full and active participation of both men and women alike. The Hyogo Framework adopted by 168 countries clearly emphasizes that: “A gender perspective should be integrated into all disaster risk management policies, plans and decision-making processes, including those related to risk assessment, early warning, information management and education and training.”

The national reports on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action revealed that gender perspectives in disaster risk reduction have not yet received enough attention from national authorities who are responsible for disaster risk reduction. This initiative is expected to increase further understanding of the issue and to strengthen existing capacity to address gender issues at the policy and practical levels among different stakeholders of the ISDR system.

The initiative will focus on broader, but substantive, partnership building with organizations and individuals who are willing to collaborate in promoting gender-sensitive and gender-balanced approaches in disaster risk reduction across the development and humanitarian sectors. To achieve this, the initiative will focus on advocacy among national government officials and capacity building of partners for the application of gender sensitive and balanced approach to disaster risk reduction at national and local levels.

In 2010, the focus will be dissemination and implementation of the recent joint publication of UNDP, IUCN and ISDR – Making Disaster Risk Reduction Gender Sensitive: Policy and Practical Guidelines in six UN languages and preparation for capacity building of key partners to be identified. In 2011, while continuing the activities in 2010, the focus will be on finalization of training manuals and provision of training through the partnership built 2007–2010 with key institutions at the regional level. As gender is a cross-cutting issue, the implementation of this initiative will contribute to the building of resilience of nations and communities to disasters and climate change in general, and to the achievement of the UNISDR three strategic goals set for 2010 and 2011 in particular. Our initiative will focus on the regional and global levels, but our partners will bring this initiative to national and local levels.

The primary targets of this initiative will include national governments and country based UN disaster management teams and parliamentarians. The partners of this initiative include national platforms, parliaments, regional intergovernmental organizations and NGOs, in addition to the current UNDP and IUCN. The major deliverables are to increase understanding and create an enabling environment for making disaster risk reduction gender sensitive, both at policy and practical levels, which determines the success of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and the possibilities to achieve disaster resilient nations and communities. The impact of this initiative will be multiplied by partners engaged and committed in gender mainstreaming in disaster risk

reduction. Training for capacity building will be carried out in Africa, Asia and Latin America, in close cooperation with UNISDR.

2. Context

One hundred and sixty-eight countries endorsed an overarching goal at the *World Conference on Disaster Reduction* in 2005 – to build nations and communities that are resilient to disasters – an achievement that is going to require the full and active participation of men and women both.

“A gender perspective should be integrated into all disaster risk management policies, plans and decision-making processes, including those related to risk assessment, early warning, information management and education and training.”¹

Gender perspectives have received increasing attention from multiple stakeholders, especially civil society, due to consistent global advocacy and awareness-raising efforts that have highlighted the importance of gender equality in sustainable disaster risk reduction. However, real progress in mainstreaming gender into disaster risk reduction remains inadequate. Gender considerations remain largely marginalized from disaster risk reduction efforts. National reports reveal that women are particularly marginalized at the national level – more likely to be regarded as a vulnerable group than as contributors to building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters. The slow progress is linked to lack of understanding of the gender link with disaster risk reduction, lack of political accountability and financial resources for promoting a gender perspective, and the lack of institutional and individual capacities for gender mainstreaming in disaster risk reduction.

To address this situation, the UNISDR Secretariat has decided to promote concerted action through its coordination and facilitation of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. The plan is to mainstream gender perspectives into progress with disaster risk reduction by building substantive partnerships with organizations and individuals willing to collaborate.

UNISDR believes that both gender and disaster risk reduction issues are cross-cutting development issues. It is impossible to achieve sustainable development without addressing the two issues with a concerted and consistent effort at multiple levels. Bringing gender perspectives and disaster risk reduction much closer together is a win-win option for governments and other stakeholders, contributing simultaneously to making nations and communities more resilient to disasters and to addressing gender inequality.

¹ The Hyogo Framework for Action.

3. Progress made from 2007–2009

UNISDR started its initiative on partnership building for gender mainstreaming in disaster risk reduction in February 2007, based on an analysis of existing dynamics. UNISDR has ensured that the initiative would be implemented based on accumulated expertise in the field, facilitating the gender mainstreaming process in consultation with experts from different areas. Understanding is mutual that gender equality – which cuts across disaster risk reduction, poverty alleviation, climate change adaptation, and post disaster recovery – is an especially fundamental development issue. The issue needs to be addressed through a multi-stakeholder approach and integrated in socio-economic development processes.

Over the last two years, the initiative has generated increasing interest and support around the world, from politicians to policy and decision makers, and from academics to practitioners. With the support of a consensus of experts, the document *“Words into Action, a guideline for implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action”* was reviewed from a gender perspective, and some gender concerns were incorporated into the comprehensive document. A survey of government officials was also undertaken during the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, to determine their views.

The UNISDR secretariat has also produced a good practice publication on gender and disaster risk reduction, to raise general understanding. A gender perspective was also integrated into the Global Review for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2007. This progress made it possible to have the issue introduced at national platform session during the first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in June 2007. This resulted in growing interest from government officials who subsequently requested UNISDR to provide more guidance on gender mainstreaming in DRR.

In response to the request from Governments, UNISDR focused on its 2008 effort on the ownership and leadership of partners for gender mainstreaming in the disaster risk reduction process. UNISDR has organized meetings of experts from different fields to agree on key elements of policy and practical guidance on making disaster risk reduction gender sensitive. While preparing the guidelines, UNISDR secured the leadership of a regional organization, The Centre for Asia Women in Politics (CAPWIP), which dedicated its third Global Congress of Women in Politics and Governance to issues of gender in climate change and disaster risk reduction, with technical support from a number of UN organizations including UNEP and UNDP. The impact of this conference was far reaching on several continents, especially Africa, and its results have been shared at different global meetings, including the United Nations General Assembly. More importantly, CAPWIP has sustained its commitment to promote gender and disaster risk reduction through their regular training programmes held ever since.

To build on the gains in advocating gender perspectives in disaster risk reduction, UNISDR was able to convince the All China Women's Federation to take the lead in organizing the first International Conference on Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction in Beijing in April 2009. The Conference helped increased political and technical understanding of gender and disaster risk reduction. Participants from 43 countries met at the conference to discuss how to best implement the Hyogo Framework for Action from a gender perspective. The conference concluded with the adoption of a list of 9 achievable actions, which laid the foundation for the joint publication on *Making Disaster Risk Reduction Gender Sensitive – policy and practical guidelines* by UNDP, IUCN and UNISDR (June 2009). This was well received by participants at the second Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction and UNDP will make it available to all UNDP country offices.

The second Global Platform, attended by 152 governments and 137 organizations, 16-19 June 2009, reflected increased attention to gender perspectives. In his opening speech, the Chair stressed that women are particularly vulnerable to the impact of disasters and climate change, and asked that all participants ensure women become active participants rather than being stereotyped as passive victims. Gender perspectives have been strongly emphasized at meetings such as a round table of parliamentarians, a national platform meeting and meetings of community-based organizations, just as they were by many speakers at the closing session of the Global Platforms.

To summarize, gender perspectives have made significant inroads in disaster risk reduction but much still needs to be done to keep the momentum going. Progress in gender mainstreaming in disaster risk reduction has been slow, inconsistent and over dependent on dedicated, passionate individuals. We need to further increase institutional understanding and capacity on gender and disaster risk reduction. We need to develop a more institutional approach.

4. Goal and Objectives

The goal of the initiative is to contribute, through partnerships, to the ongoing, long-lasting global effort to promote gender equality in social, cultural and economic development, with an emphasis on disaster risk reduction.

To achieve this goal, the project will focus on the following specific objectives:

- a. To increase understanding of gender concerns and needs in disaster risk reduction
- b. To increase capacity and promote action for mainstreaming gender perspectives in disaster risk reduction

- c. To promote integration of gender perspectives in national policy and programmes in disaster risk reduction in general, and in risk assessment and early warning in particular

5. Expected Outcome

The expected outcome of this initiative will be twofold. Firstly, increased understanding, knowledge and capacity for integrating gender perspectives into disaster risk reduction and – secondly – the establishment of an enabling environment for governments and organizations to integrate gender perspectives into their disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.

6. Project Areas and Beneficiaries

The focus of this project will be on these areas:

- Awareness raising and advocacy on gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction
- Partnership building with regional and country based institutions and organizations for wider and more active implementation of gender sensitive disaster risk reduction policy, with practical guidelines published
- Development of Gender-sensitive DRR training modules with key partners (to be identified)
- Translation of gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policy and practical guidelines and training modules into more local languages, in cooperation with key partners.

The beneficiaries of the project can be divided into members of:

- national platforms for disaster risk reduction
- UN country based disaster management teams
- regional Inter-governmental organizations, and
- civil society, especially those engaged in gender or DRR

7. Implementation Strategy

The strategy for achieving the objectives of the project in a sustainable manner is to build ownership and leadership within organizations and governments, through advocacy and partnership building, provision of policy and practical guidelines, and

capacity building of targeted groups – to further push the process of gender mainstreaming in disaster risk reduction.

To achieve maximum impact, UNISDR will deploy a combination of top-down and bottom-up approaches. The top-down approach is to foster policy changes, engaging parliamentarians and fostering male champions in promoting gender perspectives in their organizations or governments. The bottom-up approach is to provide facts and convey information about good practices that have already succeeded elsewhere.

8. Output, Activity and Success Indicator

Output 1

Solid partnership built for gender mainstreaming in disaster risk reduction at the regional and national levels

Activities

- Identify potential partners at regional level for sustainable cooperation in gender and disaster risk reduction
- Hold consultations with key partners for agreement on a set of concerted actions in advocating the subject and raising capacity for implementing policy and practical guidelines for gender sensitive disaster risk reduction
- Reach agreement on institutional cooperation with clear commitment to and action in promoting gender and disaster risk reduction

Success Indicator

At least 10 institutions engaged in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Europe who will be able to partner with UNISDR to deliver the areas of activities underlined above.

Output 2

Gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policy and practical guidelines implemented extensively and actively by partners, with a set of useful feedback received for further improvement of the guidelines

Activities

- Identify institutions interested in gender and disaster risk reduction to translate and publish the policy and practical guidelines into more languages
- Disseminate policy and practical guidelines to major stakeholders.
- Follow up and monitor the implementation of the policy and practical guidelines, together with the partner institutions identified
- Collect and analyze the feedback from users in the second year of this project in 2011 to improve existing policy and guidelines.

Success Indicator

At least, 50 institutions (governments, regional organizations and NGOs and CBOs), benefit from the policy and practical guidelines on gender and disaster risk reduction in Africa, Asia, Latin America Caribbean and Europe.

Output 3

Develop institutional cooperation with regional training centres for capacity building of the targeted beneficiaries, in different languages.

Activities

- Test the initial training modules in cooperation with identified partners for additional feedback from multi-stakeholder trainees
- Organize a workshop with identified training partners to analyze and address their feedback in the revision of the tested draft training modules on gender and disaster risk reduction
- Engage in the institutions who will translate the policy and practical guidelines, to translate the training modules into different languages for wider use
- Start training programmes on gender and disaster risk reduction by training partners
- Obtain feedback from trainees in order to further improve gender and DRR training programmes.

Success Indicator

At least 500 government officials and practitioners benefit from training on gender and disaster risk reduction.

Output 4

Acceptance of gender perspectives in disaster risk reduction begins to take root in disaster risk reduction processes, with initial progress at multiple levels.

Activities

- Map existing initiatives on gender and disaster risk reduction in each region
- Build alliances with partners who are willing to, or already working to, promote gender equality in disaster risk reduction, in the context of environmental protection and climate change adaptation
- Advocate for gender perspectives whenever possible at regional and international conferences and events
- Engage high-level women leaders to promote gender perspectives in disaster risk reduction
- Promote information and knowledge sharing on gender and disaster risk reduction through UNISDR established partnerships and networks with politicians, national platforms, private sectors, local governments, gender networks and NGO networks.

Success Indicator

A joint publication on the impact and challenges in making disaster risk reduction gender sensitive is published, together with many of the 10 key institutions at the end of this project in 2011.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

The project will be monitored jointly by UNISDR Geneva and the 10 institutions identified as major partners, including current partners such as UNDP, IUCN and CAPWIP. A detail monitoring and evaluation plan will be discussed in early 2010. The project sponsors will be also invited to attend training sessions and workshops on gender and disaster risk reduction for two purposes. One is to evaluate the impact of the project based on their own participation and consultations with other partners of the project, and the other is to make sure that sponsors' views and inputs will be reflected in implementation. A final evaluation will be done based on the analysis of a survey for which questionnaires will be developed together with key partners including the project sponsor, as soon as the regional partners are identified and training programmes started in 2010.

The Work Plan for 2010–2011

Activities	YEAR 2010–2011							
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8
1. Identify potential partners at regional level for sustainable cooperation in gender and disaster risk reduction	-----							
2. Hold consultations with key partners for agreement of a set of concerted actions in advocating the subject and raising capacity for implementing policy and practical guidelines for gender sensitive disaster risk reduction		---						
3. Reach agreement on institutional cooperation with clear commitment to and action in promoting gender and disaster risk reduction			----					
4. Identify institutions interested in gender and disaster risk reduction to translate and publish the policy and practical guidelines into more languages	-----	----	----					
5. Disseminate the policy and practical guidelines to the major stakeholders identified in 4.1 session			----	----				
6. Follow up and monitor the implementation of the policy and practical guidelines, together with the partner institutions identified								
7. Collect and analyze the feedbacks from users in the second year of this project in 2011 to improve the existing policy and practical guidelines								
Test the initial training modules in cooperation with identified partners for additional feedbacks from multi-stakeholder trainees								
8. Organize a workshop with identified training partners to analyze and address the feedbacks in the revision of the tested draft training modules on gender and disaster risk reduction								
9. Engage in the institutions who will translated the policy and practical guidelines to translate the training modules into different languages for a wider use by partners								
10. Start the training programmes on gender and disaster risk reduction by training partners								
11.4 Map existing initiatives on gender and disaster risk reduction in each region								

12. Build alliances with partners who are willing or working to promote gender equality in disaster risk reduction, in the context of environmental protection and climate change adaptation								
13. Advocate for gender perspectives whenever possible at regional and international conferences and events								
14. Promote information and knowledge sharing on gender and disaster risk reduction through UNISDR established partnerships and networks with politicians, national platforms, local governments, gender networks and NGO								

Estimated Two-Year Project Cost (Jan 2010 – Dec. 2011)

Work Areas and Activities	Budget (US\$)
Area 1: Advocacy and awareness-raising on gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction.	105,000
1.1 Identify potential partners at regional level for sustainable cooperation in gender and disaster risk reduction; 1.2 Hold consultations with key partners for agreement of a set of concerted actions in advocating the subject and raising capacity for implementing policy and practical guidelines for gender sensitive disaster risk reduction; 1.3 Reach agreement on institutional cooperation with clear commitment to and action in promoting gender and disaster risk reduction	25,000 60,000 20,000
Area 2: Partnership building with regional and country-based institutions and organizations for a wider and active implementation of gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policy and practical guidelines published.	170,000
2.1 Identify and engage institutions interested in gender and disaster risk reduction to translate and publish the policy and practical guidelines into more languages 2.2 Disseminate the policy and practical guidelines to the major stakeholders identified in 4.1 session 2.3 Follow up and monitor the implementation of the policy and practical guidelines, together with the partner institutions identified 2.4 Collect and analyze the feedbacks from users in the second year of this project in 2011 to improve the existing policy and practical guidelines	100,000 25,000 30,000 15,000
Area 3: Development of Gender-sensitive DRR training modules with key partner to be identified.	400,000
3.1 Test the initial training modules in cooperation with identified partners for additional feedbacks from multi-stakeholder trainees 3.2 Organize a workshop with identified training partners to analyze and address the feedbacks in the revision of the tested draft training modules on gender and disaster risk reduction 3.3 Engage in the institutions who will translated the policy and practical guidelines to translate the training modules into different languages for a wider use by partners 3.4 Start the training programmes on gender and disaster risk reduction by training partners	60,000 30,000 40,000 250,000

3.5	Support and participate the training programme on gender and DRR training programme for feedbacks from trainees for further modification of the training modules in cooperation with trainers	20,000
Area 4: Translation of gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policy and practical guidelines and training modules into more local languages, in cooperation with established and consolidated key partners.		160,000
4.1	Map existing initiatives on gender and disaster risk reduction in each region	30,000
4.2	Build alliances with partners who are willing or working to promote gender equality in disaster risk reduction, in the context of environmental protection and climate change adaptation	20,000
4.3	Advocate for gender perspectives whenever possible at regional and international conferences and events	30,000
4.4	Engage high-level women leaders to promote gender perspectives in disaster risk reduction	40,000
4.5	Promote information/knowledge sharing on gender and DRR through partnerships and networks with politicians, national and local governments, gender networks and NGO.	40,000
Sub-total Programme Activity		USD 835,000
Programme Support Cost (13%)		USD 108,550
Total cost		USD 943,550

