



Working Sessions

Concept Note

Event title	Special Session: Women Leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction
Date and Time	Wednesday, 15 May 2019 14:30-16:00
Venue/ Room no.	Room 4
UNISDR Focal Points	Krishna Vadrevu, Office of the Director, UNISDR
Organizing Team Members	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BALAWAG Grace, Indigenous women group, Philippines 2. BLANCHARD Kevin, DRR Dynamics Ltd, UK 3. BLOMSTROM Eleanor, WEDO, USA 4. CHAVDA Shivangi, Global Network of Civil Society Orgnaizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) 5. EKLUND Martin, UNICEF 6. FLORES Ana Liz, Fundacion Humania, Argentina 7. MURPHY Rebecca, ActionAid International, UK 8. OTANO Cristina, World Bank 9. ROVINS Jane E., Disaster Reduction & Resilience Solutions, Ltd, Hong Kong 10. SABANCEVAITE Ana Gabriele. Huairou Commission, USA 11. SECAIRA Martin, CARE Netherland, Netherland 12. SHAHID Shaila, International Climate Change 13. STEINBACH Rahel, UN Women, Switzerland 14. VILLAGRAN Juan Carlos, UN SPIDER, Germany 15. ZOMMERS Zinta, MERCY CORPS EUROPE, Germany
Background and Rationale	Disaster risk reduction involves reducing disaster risks through efforts to analyse and reduce their causes. Gender-responsive reduction requires analysing and taking into account the needs, opportunities, roles and relationships of women, men, boys and girls formed by gender norms within

	<p>a given context. Gender inequalities often increase the vulnerability of women and girls because they limit their access to information and resources. Recognizing and committing to a strong focus on gender in disaster risk reduction, ensuring women's leadership at all levels and recognizing their contribution to disaster risk governance is critical to achieving the ambitious targets set out in the Sendai Framework. The active engagement of empowered female leaders in developing, implementing and monitoring inclusive national and local DRR strategies by 2020 is essential. If women are at the center of decision making and implementation, the approach is more likely to be gender informed, inclusive and transformational.</p> <p>The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 that was adopted at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015 supports an all-inclusive approach to disaster risk reduction that recognizes women's indispensable role in risk reduction efforts and emphasizes the distinct gender-specific capacities and vulnerabilities to prevent, prepare, confront, and recover from disasters. Promoting and mobilizing women's leadership and equality in building resilience is critical to the sustainability and achievement of risk reduction priorities and sustainable development goals at all levels by 2030.</p> <p>The international community has recognized the need for a strong focus on equality, women's rights and leadership in disaster risk reduction as an essential condition to achieve meaningful, sustainable, effective and transformative resilience to disaster risk. This requires distribution of power in decision making and governance; gender responsive policy, programming and monitoring and evaluation; integration of gender into vulnerability, risk and capacity assessments; the collection and use of sex and age disaggregated data; the facilitation and leveraging of contributions and leadership from women; and the promotion of meaningful female participation in disaster risk reduction processes at all levels, including as part of the development and implementation of national and local strategies for DRR and overall Sendai Framework progress monitoring.</p>
Session objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showcase DRR actions led by women and girls that exemplify the concrete results and impact that female led DRR can have • Analyze successful experiences of improving processes (with particular focus on institutional aspects, access to specific resources and financing for women and girls' empowerment and addressing formal education gap) and innovation to promote transformational change towards women-led resilience.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster the commitment of institutional actors and key stakeholders to form mutually beneficial partnerships with organized women groups in promoting the importance of female perspectives and leadership in the assessment and management of risk and in monitoring the Sendai Framework and related national and local DRR strategies' development and implementation, including through the promotion of sex and age disaggregated data and analysis.
Agenda and Structure	The session will have a dynamic “talk show” format facilitated by a moderator who will engage 4-5 panellists representing diverse perspectives on the issue. Following a brief introduction, each panellist will be asked to respond to targeted questions around specific issues within the broad theme of the session. Time will be allocated for interventions and questions from diverse stakeholders within the audience, by microphone and through an online application. The moderator will bring the session to a close with a concise summary of the key issues raised and will ask each panellist to highlight at least one concrete recommendation to accelerate the meaningful engagement and leadership of women which will help ensure disaster risk reduction effectiveness and impact.
Expected Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Specific and results-oriented recommendations to address barriers preventing women and girls' effective engagement and empowerment in DRR 2. Highlight specific examples of effective leadership by women in disaster risk reduction and the extent to which this has resulted in reducing the vulnerability of women in times of disaster. 3. Identify what additional actions can be taken to decrease the vulnerability of women and girls in times of disaster, including specific outcomes and related targets. 4. Specific recommendations for how Governments can systematically engage female leaders and women in the design, planning, implementation and monitoring of national and local DRR strategies, in support of Target E achievement by 2020.