



### **What is it?**

The *GIR* is a joint initiative by UN Women, IFRC and UNISDR to address the high and unequal risk exposure of women and girls to the impact of climate related natural disasters and the detrimental effect this has on the levels of resilience of themselves as individuals, as well as of their households and their wider communities. As such, the programme provides a mechanism to support countries to operationalize and achieve the commitments for gender sensitive implementation of the Sendai Framework<sup>1</sup> with a specific focus on reaching the Target e, ‘*Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020*’ and to contribute to delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### **Background and Justification**

Women, in particular ones living in poverty, are disproportionately affected by disasters and have different and uneven levels of resilience and capacity to recover. Women with little or no power and or wealth due to socio-economic barriers are less likely to cope with natural hazards. Thus, women and girls face distinct needs and heightened vulnerabilities during and in the aftermath of disasters. Although disasters reinforce, perpetuate and increase gender inequality, women’s actual and potential contributions to disaster risk reduction (DRR), their leadership as first responders, and their central role in community resilience are untapped assets in DRR and resilience building strategies.

The risks, vulnerabilities and needs of women and girls have been neglected in the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) discourse and actions for long. The HFA (Hyogo Framework of Action, the precursor of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction) monitoring reports have been confirming that. Evidence and

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<sup>1</sup> UNISDR. 2015. “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.” Accessed March 2017: [http://www.unisdr.org/files/43291\\_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf)

research show that women and girls are most vulnerable to disasters. Statistical analysis on 141 countries found that women were more likely to die, or die sooner, than men in disasters.<sup>2</sup>

Commitments in the existing policy frameworks e.g. ‘Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030’ together with increased recognition of the importance of integration of gender-equality for effective and sustainable DRR have not yet been translated into concrete actions. DRR and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) policies, programmes and actions still tend to be at best gender-neutral if not gender blind. The following gaps continue to impede the realization of effective and gender-responsive DRR policies and programmes.

**1. Lack of data and gender analysis to support gender responsive DRR policy formulation and action:**

Almost 90% of the countries reporting to the Hyogo Framework Agreement did not collect sex and age disaggregated data (SADD) making it impossible to identify the separate needs and vulnerabilities of women, girls, men and boys.<sup>3</sup> Similarly, there is seldom any contextual gender analysis done for DRR or humanitarian actions, leading to a lack of knowledge and understanding of the gender-dynamics that affect and influence the results of interventions. UN Women’s review of the 26 strategic response plans developed for the world’s major humanitarian crises in 2015, demonstrated that only 23% did some form of gender analysis.

**2. Lack of substantive women’s participation and leadership in DRR:** Women are seldom enabled to express their needs, views and opinions in the formulation of DRR planning and programmes. Women’s local and national representative organisations, women’s machineries and gender advocates, who are often most knowledgeable about the specific needs and capacities of women in disaster prone and/or affected regions, are mostly absent from the processes of planning and implementing DRR interventions.

**3. Insufficient Investment in addressing gender inequality in DRR and building women’s resilience as a strategy to build community resilience:** Despite the fact that women and girls constitute the bigger portion of the worst impacted in any disaster, there is inadequate financial resources and allocations to address gender-specific risk reduction, preparedness and recovery measures and thereby put the global commitments into action at local, national and international levels. For example, women’s empowerment organisations and institutions received just 0.4% of gender equality focused aid provided to fragile states in 2012-2013.<sup>4</sup>

**4. A Lack of political prioritization** – there is little political attention to ensuring that disaster risk management policies take into account the gender inequality of risk. Institutions and organisations that work on disaster risk management tend not to talk to institutions and organisations that work on gender equality because they often do not see what gender has to do with their work.

### **GIR Programme Objectives and Strategy**

The Goal of the global programme is **to reduce the loss of lives and livelihoods and to enhance the resilience of communities to natural hazards in a changing climate by addressing the gender inequality which drives greater loss and exposure to risk.** GIR will contribute to the following Outcomes:

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<sup>2</sup>Neumayer, E. and T. Pluemper (2007) “The gendered nature of natural disasters: the impact of catastrophic events on the gender gap in life expectancy, 1981–2002” *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 97 (3) 551-566.

<sup>3</sup> UN ISDR. 2015. Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction: Risk and Poverty in a Changing Climate, Geneva, Switzerland: UNISDR.

<sup>4</sup> Calculated based on figures cited in OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality (2015) “Financing UN Security Council Resolution 1325: Aid in support of gender equality and women’s rights in fragile contexts”. p. 1

**Outcome 1: Gender dimensions of disaster risk, particularly in terms of women’s exposure to hazards, vulnerability and capacity are understood and assessed**

This outcome ensures (i) that disaster management actors are undertaking gender responsive and inclusive risk assessments, including through the provision of technical support and guidance, and that the participation of women is promoted, (ii) data collection instruments and tools are gender responsive and sex and age disaggregated data is collected, analyzed and used to inform decision making at national, regional and global level; (3) the evidence base on the gender inequality of risk is consolidated and disseminated, including through the establishment of a scientific platform, through a community of practice and by bringing evidence and knowledge to policy dialogues and global and regional events

**Outcome 2: DRM policy and risk governance is gender responsive and well resourced**

Under this outcome (i) Support the disaster management machineries and local government and other relevant parties to integrate gender equality aspects into national and local level DRR policies, strategies, plans and budgets; (ii) support Institutionalization of capacity of DRM bodies to mainstream gender equality considerations into disaster management in terms of dedicated human resources, capacity building and training, representation of women’s organizations in National Disaster Platforms; (iii) monitor and track the progress on implementation of the gender commitments under the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, including using a Sendai Gender Scorecard

**Outcome 3: women’s capacity to prevent, prepare for and recover from natural hazards in a changing climate is strengthened**

Though this outcome GIR will work with stakeholders to enhance the resilience and ability to recover of women by supporting their access to recovery services and products such as micro insurance, disaster compensation and social protection. It will also enhance women’s access to sustainable and alternative livelihoods that can withstand hazards, by engaging actors providing agricultural, livelihood and entrepreneurial services, vocational training as well as supportive local infrastructures, and technologies. Strengthen women’s access to and engagement and leadership in the development of early warning and early action, including protection mechanisms, will furthermore, ensure that women are better prepared when disaster strikes.

**Outcome 4: Women’s participation and leadership in disaster risk reduction and resilience building is strengthened**

In order to leverage women’s agency and leadership (i) address capacity gaps for broader women’s organizations and civil society to influence DRR policy making and implementation, facilitate coalition building through the establishment of a global network, bringing together women organizations and gender advocates to articulate women’s needs and priorities with regards DRR; (ii) ensure the strengthened participation and engagement of women in disaster risk governance, planning and assessments, this includes supporting women’s participation in local disaster management committees, national disaster management platforms, global DRR policy fora.

**Programme Implementation**

The implementation of GiR will be driven at the country level – starting with a number of select pilot countries in Asia and the Pacific (Afghanistan, Pacific (Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga) Vietnam, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan), Africa (South Sudan, Malawi, Uganda and the Lake Chad region - Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon) and Latin America and the Caribbean (Haiti, Belize, Eastern Caribbean Islands, Guatemala, Honduras and Ecuador), followed by Eastern Europe and Central Asia (Tajikistan, Serbia, Moldova and Bosnia-

Herzegovina). Country level activities will be supported with regional and global components, complementing and supporting national level work. The Regional and global interventions will bring further gender expertise advocacy and discourse in DRR related intergovernmental processes, and will provide guidance and tracking tools, while facilitating intra-regional and cross regional knowledge exchange. *Regional consultations in Africa and Asia/Pacific in March 2017 defined locally led plans of action for support under this programme's first phase. GIR will bolster partnerships with regional entities of the three partner agencies while further strengthening working ties with relevant national actors e.g. disaster management and women's machineries, academia, private sector, etc.*

### **The Partnership**

Together, UN Women, IFRC and UNISDR are well positioned to bring about transformative change due to their experiences, complementary mandates and vast networks. The collaboration will leverage IFRC's strong global network, positioning and outreach, in addition to their unique disaster law and policy expertise; UNISDR's substantial expertise, leadership, convening power on DRR and mobilization capacity of stakeholders; as well as UN Women's global body of knowledge and expertise on gender equality and women's empowerment and its strong network with women and civil society organizations through its field presence.

The Programme will be launched at the special session on 'Women's Leadership in DRR' at Global Platform for DRR at Cancun in May 2017, with a call for countries to champion Gender responsive DRR and support the global initiative.

The programme will be implemented in close partnership with government's women and disaster management machineries, CSOs, and women organizations and other relevant actors.

**Programme Period:** 3 years (mid 2017 – mid 2020)