



Women's International Network on Disaster Risk Reduction

Promoting women's leadership in the Asia-Pacific Region

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The Women's International Network on Disaster Risk Reduction is supported by UNDRR and the Australian Government to promote and support women's leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction in the Asia Pacific.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction outlines the inclusive, all-of-society approach that must be taken to reduce disaster risk. It acknowledges both the specific vulnerabilities that women face in disasters, due to pervasive gender inequality that exists across all societies, while recognising the indispensable role of women in risk reduction efforts. The Sendai Framework emphasises that a gender equitable and universally accessible approach is key, and it calls for the mobilisation of women's leadership in building resilience.

Women's participation in decision-making is enshrined in international human rights frameworks including the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, yet there is still great disparity in the number of women playing a leadership role in disaster risk management.

WIN DRR supports the implementation of the Sendai Framework by empowering women to attain leadership and enhance their role in decision-making in disaster risk reduction in Asia Pacific.



“We’re supporting the National Disaster Management Office NDMO using Geospatial Information Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction,” says Joy, “providing technical support for hazard preparedness, response and for COVID-19.”

Joy works as the technical coordinator for the Common Sensing Project with the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM) in the Solomon Islands.

In a country where patriarchal norms continue to hold many women back, Joy has distinguished herself with work on multiple disasters including floods, cyclones and COVID-19. She prioritises the needs and views of women in reducing disaster risk.

“Women and their participation are critical to effectively managing disaster risk and designing, resourcing and implementing gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes.”

- Sendai Framework for
Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015

What is WIN DRR?

WIN DRR is a professional network to support women working in disaster risk reduction, in all their diversity. The overall goal of WIN DRR is to empower women to attain leadership and enhance their role in decision-making in disaster risk reduction in Asia Pacific. There are four components to the programme:

Building the evidence base

WIN DRR commissions research on women's decision-making in disaster risk reduction, documents good practices and case studies, and disseminates them widely.

Strengthening leadership capacities

WIN DRR provides professional development opportunities and leadership training, and mentorship and peer-to-peer support programmes for women working in disaster risk reduction.



Recognising women's achievements

WIN DRR supports women's participation in disaster risk reduction conferences and events, and presents annual awards for women's leadership.

Supporting institutions to enhance women's leadership

WIN DRR supports institutions working on disaster risk reduction to adopt strategies and policies to help reduce the barriers women face in advancing their careers, and enhance women's leadership.

Why does women's leadership matter?



Women's equal participation and leadership in public life, including disaster risk reduction, is both an important goal in itself and essential for achieving a broad range of development goals and reducing disaster risk.

Gender discrimination limits the control that women and girls have over decisions that govern their lives, as well as their access to resources and opportunities. This heightens their exposure to risk, resulting in women and girls experiencing higher mortality, morbidity and loss of livelihoods during disasters than men. Disasters also exacerbate pre-existing gender inequalities and compound intersecting forms of discrimination against, for example, women living with disabilities, women living in poverty, and women with diverse gender identities and sexual orientations.

The vulnerability and exposure of women and girls to disaster risk is economically, socially and culturally constructed and can be reduced. Well-designed disaster risk reduction initiatives that provide for women's full and effective participation can advance gender equality and women's empowerment, while achieving sustainable development and disaster risk reduction objectives.

Diversity in leadership improves organizational performance, and women's leadership can help ensure disaster risk reduction is gender-responsive.



A 'Blue Brigade' volunteer from the Ministry of Health speaks to a group of women in the village of Tilsivan in Chattisgarh, India. The sessions help raise issues about pregnant women and children and planning for disasters.

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Contact

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