



Earthquake, Nepal, 2015. ©UNFPA Nepal

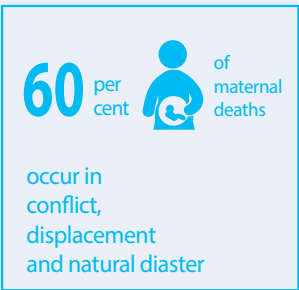
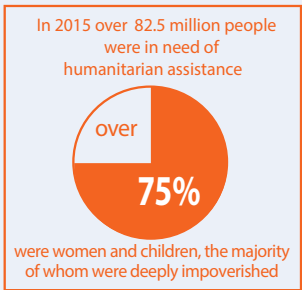
LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND:
PLACING WOMEN AND GIRLS AT THE CENTRE OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
THE EVIDENCE IS CLEAR

In disasters, the needs of women, girls, boys and men are different and distinct. Disasters exacerbate pre-existing gender based discrimination and inequalities blocking access for women and girls to basic services and rights, economic livelihoods and meaningful representation in planning and decision-making, as well as increasing risks to gender based violence. Discrimination against women and girls means that they often suffer the most in disasters and are most at risk of dying.

For example, 55% of deaths from the Nepal earthquake were women and girls. Globally, 60 percent of maternal deaths occur in humanitarian and fragile contexts. Gender-based violence against women and girls spike during humanitarian crises. During the 2011 Pakistan floods, a protection assessment highlighted that one of the main concerns for displaced women was increased domestic violence, in addition to lack of safe and private spaces and access to service.¹

Yet, disaster planning and response continues to leave women and girls behind. As of 2015, only 0.5 per cent of humanitarian funding was spent on addressing gender-based violence. Just 1 per cent of all funding to fragile states in 2015 went to women’s groups or government ministries that focus on women and girls.² The capacity and knowledge of local women’s groups are not being fully utilized despite evidence that shows this is one of the most effective ways to increase the impact of disaster risk reduction.

In order to address the specific needs of women and girls before and during a humanitarian crisis, it is crucial to meaningfully include them in every stage of planning, response and recovery to maximize the impact of humanitarian action, reduce disaster risks, and promote gender equality.



The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Agenda for Humanity and the Sustainable Development Goals all commit to reaching the most vulnerable women, girls, boys, men and the needs of diverse and at-risk groups in situations of disaster vulnerability and risk. The pledge to leave no one behind is the central theme of the 2030 Agenda and places a new obligation on our commitment to reach and transform the lives of those most at risk of being left behind.

¹ Women And Girls: Catalyzing Action To Achieve Gender Equality, High-Level Leaders’ Roundtable, World Humanitarian Summit 2016
² ibid.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction emphasizes that women and their participation are critical to effectively managing disaster risk (V.36 a i). This is ensured through gender-sensitive implementation of the four priority areas.

PRIORITY 1: UNDERSTANDING DISASTER RISK

- Every plan and every response should systematically collect and analyse **sex, age and disability disaggregated data** each and every time.
- Undertake comprehensive **gender and diversity risk assessment and analyses** to fully understand the gender and diverse capacities, vulnerabilities, and priorities associated with disaster risk, response and recovery.



Understanding Risk

PRIORITY 3: INVESTING IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION FOR RESILIENCE

- All investments in disaster risk need to be gender sensitive.
- Women are crucial social and economic agents.
- All investments should take active steps in reducing **gender inequalities**, address root causes of violence, and promote the protection of all women, girls, men and boys.
- **Strengthen national support systems** to ensure access to social safety nets and basic health care services, including maternal, newborn and child health, reproductive health, food security and nutrition, and housing and education.



Investing for Resilience

These key messages were developed by the IASC regional network working group on Gender in Humanitarian Action in support of the Guidance Note: **Gender Inclusion & Women's Empowerment at the Centre of Resilience Building**, developed by ISDR Asia Partnership's Stakeholder Group of Organisations and Individuals concerned with Gender Issues.

For more details, contact:

Andrea Cullinan, cullinan@unfpa.org, IASC GBV AoR
Priya Marwah, marwah@unfpa.org, UNFPA
Maria Holtsberg, mariah@adpc.net, ADPC
Christina Haneef, Christina.Haneef@ifrc.org, IFRC

PRIORITY 2: STRENGTHENING DISASTER RISK GOVERNANCE

- **Strengthen legal and institutional frameworks** to secure the increased and meaningful representation and participation of women, and persons from all minority, marginalized and diverse groups in every aspect of disaster risk reduction.
- **Incorporate voices and concerns of communities & local level actors** in national law making and review processes through community level consultation with gender balanced and diverse groups including people with disabilities, ethnic minorities and religious minorities.



Strengthening Governance

PRIORITY 4: ENHANCING DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR EFFECTIVE RESPONSE AND TO "BUILD BACK BETTER" IN RECOVERY, REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION

- Disaster preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction should be based on **build back better principles**. This includes addressing the root causes of vulnerability to ensure equitable economic, social, health and cultural resilience of all women, girls, boys and men.
- **Allocate gender-responsive budgets, resources, as well as gender-sensitive indicators**, for early warning, preparedness and recovery.
- **Undertake gender-sensitive risk assessments and post-disaster needs assessments**. These should be based on vulnerability and capacity analysis that take into account political, social, cultural and economic gendered roles, responsibilities and inequalities.
- **Provide accessible women's safe spaces** for responding to and addressing gender-based violence, accessing information relevant to response and recovery, and for enabling collective demands for accountability.



Preparedness & Build Back Better