

# GENDER, CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND RECOVERY STRATEGY-ASIA PACIFIC

2015-2018



# Gender, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery Strategy-Asia-Pacific

*Bare legged Kate, when the floods come down, it's the poor on the creeks are the ones who drown- Australian Folksong*

## 1. Context

The Asia-Pacific Region is one of the most vulnerable regions to disasters, which is now being exacerbated by the onslaught of climate change. According to the World Risk Report<sup>1</sup>, 10 out of the 15 at most risk countries are located in Asia and the Pacific. The region accounts for over 90% of all global deaths from disasters. In addition, Asia Pacific make up almost 50% of worlds total damage due to disasters and climate change<sup>2</sup>. The region combines high exposure to frequent and damaging natural hazards with low capacity to manage the resulting risks. Research evidence also shows that certain social groups within the region experience more severe impacts of disasters and climate change than others. Because of widespread gender inequality and discrimination against women, women and girls<sup>3</sup> are typically more likely to be negatively affected by the impacts of climate change and disasters than men and face greater barriers to influence, participate in and benefit from disaster risk reduction, recovery and climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

An empirical study done by the London School of Economics shows that women and children are 14 times likely to die or be injured in a disaster than men<sup>4</sup>. For example, after the 2010 Pakistan floods, women and children made up 70% of the nearly 18 million people affected by the disaster<sup>5</sup>; 90% of the deaths in the Bangladesh 1991 cyclone were women and children<sup>6</sup>; in Myanmar, 61% of the dead in the Nargis cyclone in 2008 were women<sup>7</sup>; in the 2009 tsunami, 70% of the adults that died from tropical cyclones in both Samoa and Tonga were female<sup>8</sup>; in the recent 2014 Solomon Islands flood, anecdotal evidence suggests that only one of the 23 deaths was an adult male. Research has also shown that women and girls also are more likely to be exposed to gender based violence and trauma. In addition, women and girls often lose their homes, face a reduction in economic activities and increased workload. The same empirical study mentioned above highlights that where gender inequalities are high, women are more likely than men to experience the negative effects of hazards,

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<sup>1</sup> These include Vanuatu, Philippines, Tonga, Bangladesh, Solomon Islands, Cambodia and Papua New Guinea, with Vanuatu and Philippines ranked as the first and second most at risk countries in the world respectively. Source: World Risk Report 2014:

[http://www.worldriskreport.com/uploads/media/WorldRiskReport\\_2014\\_online-II\\_01.pdf](http://www.worldriskreport.com/uploads/media/WorldRiskReport_2014_online-II_01.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> German Watch 2014: Climate Risk Index Report 2014

<sup>3</sup> Plan International 2011: Weathering the Storm: Adolescent girls and climate change

<sup>4</sup> Neumayer Eric and Thomas Plumper 2007. 'The Gendered Nature of Natural Disasters: the impact of catastrophic events on the gender gap in life expectancy, 1981-2002.' London School of Economics and Political Science, [http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/3040/1/Gendered\\_nature\\_of\\_natural\\_disasters\\_\(LSERO\).pdf](http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/3040/1/Gendered_nature_of_natural_disasters_(LSERO).pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Islam Asiya 2010: Women's Views on News. Natural disasters impact women worse than men.

<sup>6</sup> Aguilar 2004: Climate change and disaster mitigation. IUCN. Switzerland.

<sup>7</sup> Government of the Union of Myanmar 2008: Post –Nargis Recovery and Preparedness Plan 2008

<sup>8</sup> Source: Tonga National Assessment Report to the 2014 SIDS Conference.

whereas the increased impact on women becomes less prominent in countries that have high levels of gender equality<sup>9</sup>.

Prevalent gender inequalities and power differences in Asia-Pacific limit women's ability to respond and adapt disasters and climate change impacts. It is inequities in the everyday, and not just in times of disaster, that create greater risk and reduce life chances for women and girls. Women and girls tend to have less access to or control over assets, including the resources necessary to cope, respond to hazardous events and to adapt to climate change than men do. These include access to information, education, health and assets. Their vulnerability is therefore relatively greater than men's.

In addition to the above mentioned factors, high rates of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)<sup>10</sup>, limited participation of women in politics and decision-making processes, lack of employment opportunities for women, the unequal share of unpaid work done by women, also add to the disadvantage of women when faced with disasters and climate change. These disadvantages are exacerbated by viewing women as victims or inherently vulnerable, rather than rights holders with the right to be consulted, participate and influence decisions and actions impacting their lives as well as key actors with critical contributions to their society, economy, and environment. For example, during a drought in Yap Province in the Federated States of Micronesia, women's knowledge of hydrology, due to their role in cultivating the land, meant they were able to find a good site for digging a new well which provided clean water<sup>11</sup>. However, women are often denied the opportunity for formal engagement in DRR and climate change adaptation actions. Therefore, recognising women's roles and contributions and removing structural barriers to their equal participation and leadership is critical for effective risk reduction and adaptation.

While climate change is seen as one of the greatest threats to sustainable development, a large body of research also indicates that gender inequalities have undermined the achievement of development<sup>12</sup>. Only substantial changes in policy, behaviour, thought and action across gender-disaster-climate change-and development nexus, will allow Asia and the Pacific region to overcome these challenges and progress towards the achievement of sustainable development goals.

## 2. Objective

The ultimate long-term goal is to move to a situation where the vulnerability in Asia and the Pacific to climate change and disasters is not determined by gender. This Strategy aims to:

- i. In line with the UN Women's mandate, contribute to the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of DRRR and CC efforts in Asia-Pacific;
- ii. Provide a common framework and approaches for UN Women work in Asia-Pacific to ensure effective and coordinated contribution towards the achievement of the above goal.

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<sup>9</sup> Neumayer Eric and Thomas Plumper 2007. 'The Gendered Nature of Natural Disasters: the impact of catastrophic events on the gender gap in life expectancy, 1981-2002.' London School of Economics and Political Science, [http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/3040/1/Gendered\\_nature\\_of\\_natural\\_disasters\\_\(LSERO\).pdf](http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/3040/1/Gendered_nature_of_natural_disasters_(LSERO).pdf)

<sup>10</sup> The Pacific Region ranks as having some of the highest rates of sexual and gender-based violence: see UN Women report on Violence Against Women Prevalence Data: Surveys by Country: [http://www.endvawnow.org/uploads/browser/files/vawprevalence\\_matrix\\_june2013.pdf](http://www.endvawnow.org/uploads/browser/files/vawprevalence_matrix_june2013.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> Lane, R & McNaught, R, 2009. Building Gendered Approaches to Adaptation in the Pacific. *Gender & Development*, 17:1, 67-80.

<sup>12</sup> UN Women, 2014. Pacific Brief: UN Women's Position on the Post 2015 Stand Alone Goal on Achieving Gender Equality.

To achieve these objectives, UN Women will strategically position itself in this area of work by forming strategic partnerships with national entities, the UN System, civil society, and regional intergovernmental organisations to effectively address gender equality in DRRR and CC; engaging in evidence based advocacy internally and with external partners to highlight the gaps and propose strategies for in effective integration of gender equality in DRRR and CC efforts; mobilising internal resources and capacities to support the translation of regional and national into practice and vice versa; and drawing best practices for upscaling.

### 3. Rationale

#### *i. Gender Commitments in Global Frameworks*

Gender equality and women’s participation and leadership in development have been placed as areas of vital importance in global development frameworks and agreements. The commitments on women’s empowerment and gender equality are grounded in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as Commission on Status of Women CSW resolutions (56/2 and 58/2) on gender equality and the empowerment of women in disasters.

In 1992, Agenda 21 set the stage with Chapter 24, stating: “Women have considerable knowledge and experience in managing and conserving natural resources.” By 2013, many legal instruments and norm-setting agreements had integrated text that promotes gender equality and women’s rights, including across the three key United Nations environmental agreements such as: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

With specific reference to climate change; in 2001, Parties to the UNFCCC agreed on the first text on gender equality and women’s participation, adopting two decisions at the seventh Conference of Parties in Marrakesh. Nine years later, in 2010, Parties stated that gender equality and women’s participation are necessary for effective action on all aspects of climate change. Since then, UNFCCC Parties, supported by civil society organizations and UN agencies have included gender equality issues in adopted decisions on nearly every UNFCCC thematic area, including the 2012 Decision 23/CP.18 on gender balance and women’s participation. With regard to disaster risk reduction; the International Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) of 2005 also acknowledges the importance of addressing gender inequalities in disaster risk reduction, as does the General Assembly Resolution 67/209- International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (2013)

Words on paper are crucial, however, mitigating, preparing for and responding to disasters and adapting to climate change in a gender transformative manner requires that the full and appropriate implementation of these policies is realized.

#### *ii. Gender Equality and Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery*

Despite the supporting global gender equality normative frameworks, the known vulnerabilities of women and children to climate change and disasters and also their capacities to contribute effectively to CC and DRRR measures, there has been little progress in increasing the resilience of women to these impacts. According to the 2011-2013 progress review of Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) for Asia-Pacific<sup>13</sup>, all national HFA progress reports recognise the importance of communities in DRRR.

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<sup>13</sup> UNISDR 201: Progress Review of HFA 2011-2013

However, there is a lack of effective involvement of communities in planning and decision-making on disaster risk management. In particular, the role of women in DRRR appears to be neglected even though women are more likely to be affected by disasters than men, and have a key role in promoting the resilience of their families and communities. At the same time, women have little or no say in decision-making on issues that have a major impact on disaster risk reduction. Examples from other countries also reiterate this challenge: the Fiji national report states that “*Gender issues are acknowledged but not translated into DRM policies and programmes*”; and the Samoa 2011-13 national report states that “*Gender does not currently feature strongly as an organizing principle for DRM activities in Samoa*”<sup>14</sup>. The HFA progress report<sup>15</sup> for Asia-Pacific points out that there is poor representation and participation of women groups in disaster risk reduction fora. For example, the report indicates that only 2.4% of Asia-Pacific countries reported on the participation of women’s organizations in national platforms.

Similarly sex and age disaggregated data, which is key in creating the evidence for addressing gender need and priorities in DRRR and climate change policy formulation, is equality lacking. The HFA report mentioned above also points out that gender disaggregated data was available only in 14% of the Asia-Pacific countries and many countries stated a total absence of gender disaggregated data. In Viet Nam, it was reported that while data is available, it is still very much focused on assessing damage and less on humanitarian needs and that it is not always systematically disaggregated by gender or by vulnerable groups, such as people with disabilities, children and ethnic minorities<sup>16</sup>. Furthermore, the tools that are used for assessing and understanding climatic and disaster risks and in a post disaster context do not include strong gender analysis. The HFA progress review also shows that gender aspects are included in only 33% of post-disaster needs assessment methodologies in the region<sup>17</sup>.

The ongoing Post-2015 DRR Framework consultations in Asia and the Pacific have called on national governments and other stakeholders to recognise and mobilize skills and capacities of women as a social force and channel them to enhance the efforts of resilience building.

### *iii. Gender Equality and Climate Change*

The initial scan of the National Adaptation Programme of Action to Climate Change (NAPAs) drafted in the last five years in Asia and Pacific<sup>18</sup> shows some progress in recognising the need to address gender equality as an effective way of addressing climate change<sup>19</sup>. However, none of the NAPA, with the exception of Bangladesh, provided ways and plans for addressing gender equality in climate change adaptation. In most NAPAs, the focus is on the macro-economic impacts of climate change on climate sensitive productive sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, water resources, infrastructure, without the needed analysis of the impacts on women and men who depend on these sectors for their livelihoods. The absence of measures to enhance gender equality in adaption measures is extensive despite Decision 5/CP.17 National adaptation plans, which states that in developing NAPs, consideration would be given to identifying specific needs, options and priorities on a country-driven basis, utilizing the services of national and, where appropriate, regional institutions, and to the

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<sup>14</sup> UNISDR 2014: Ten-Year Review on Progress Towards and Contributions Made by the Pacific Region to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) from 2005-2015.

<sup>15</sup> UNISDR 2014. Progress Review of HFA 2011-2013

<sup>16</sup> Ibid

<sup>17</sup> Ibid

<sup>18</sup> These countries include Bangladesh, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Timor-Leste

<sup>19</sup> Bangladesh, Myanmar and Timor-Leste acknowledged the differential impacts of climate change on gender and the need to prioritise women’s issues in climate change measures.

effective and continued promotion of participatory and **gender-sensitive approaches** coordinated with sustainable development objectives, policies, plans and programmes.

Climate change, unlike DRR<sup>20</sup>, has a number of financial instruments to support climate change adaptation and mitigation in developing countries. However, none of these financial instruments puts make the inclusion of gender equality a mandatory criterion for accessing climate finance<sup>21</sup>.

#### **iv. Gender and Humanitarian Action**

The UN Women Humanitarian Strategy<sup>22</sup> also notes that the humanitarian community has struggled to consistently take advantage of opportunities for advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in humanitarian action. And the *tyranny of the urgent* has often been cited as an excuse for inaction on these issues and service provision continues to struggle in addressing gender concerns in humanitarian action.

A study sponsored by OCHA and CARE in 2011 exploring gender and generation in humanitarian response, found that despite widespread agreement on the importance of 'Sex and Age Disaggregated Data' (SADD), humanitarian organisations are still not collecting this data<sup>23</sup>.

#### **v. UN Women Comparative Advantage**

UN Women is better placed to make the realization of these commitment possible due to its core mandate to support gender equality and women's empowerment. UN Women's mandate of enabling gender equality and women's empowerment through normative and intergovernmental engagement, coordination of the UN system and development-focussed operational programming can significantly improve the results of DRR, climate change adaptation and humanitarian action by making them more gender equal. In addition, UN Women through the UN Plan of Action DRR for Resilience<sup>24</sup> made an explicit commitment to support all partners in implementing their commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment in disaster risk reduction.

In order to better guide regional and national policy formulation and implementation on CC, DRRR and Humanitarian Action, there is an urgent need for UN Women to identify policy, institutional and financial capacities and gaps that need to be strengthened in order to enhance gender equality and women's empowerment.

## 4. Linkage with the UN Women Current Engagement

### **i. Linkage to UN Women Strategic Plan 2014-2017**

The current UN Women Strategic Plan 2014-2017, makes provision for UN Women engagement in climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction as well as humanitarian action.

The Strategic Results Framework includes a stand-alone outcome on humanitarian action as highlighted under **Impact 4- peace and security and humanitarian action are shaped by women and**

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<sup>20</sup> Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery is the main global fund DRR, which is administered by the World Bank

<sup>21</sup> The new Green Climate Finance is the first fund that is promoting the inclusion of gender equality.

<sup>22</sup> UN Women Humanitarian Strategy 2014

<sup>23</sup> Mazura D., Benelli, P., Gupta, H. and Walker, P 2011: Sex and Age Matter: Improving Humanitarian Response in Emergencies.

<sup>24</sup> UN 2013: UN Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience

*men's equal leadership and participation*. Output 4.3 extends humanitarian action to include disaster risk reduction, disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

Climate change on the other hand is not directly addressed in the impact areas and the Strategic Results Framework. However, **Impact 2- women, especially the poorest and most excluded, are economically empowered and benefit from development** recognises that climate change and disasters pose a threat to the resilience of women's livelihoods in the economic arena.

Climate change, DRR and humanitarian response are also adequately reflected in the current UN Women Development Results Framework (DRF) for Asia-Pacific Regional. Outcomes 2.3 and 4.3 will facilitate increased UN Women's focus on these thematic areas in the region.

**Outcome 2.3:** Women's sustainable livelihoods enhanced by gender-responsive public services and access and control over means of production and resources.

- *Output 2.3.1:* Enhanced capacity at national and local levels to develop and implement gender responsive climate change mitigation strategies for sustainable livelihoods

**Outcome 4.3:** Gender equality commitments adopted and implemented in humanitarian action which includes disaster risk reduction and preparedness, response and early recovery.

- *Output 4.3.1:* National actors have capacity to take gender-responsive humanitarian action
- *Output 4.3.2:* UN Women is able to respond to humanitarian situations in the Asia-Pacific region

## **ii. Linkage to UN Women Thematic Areas**

Climate change adaptation and mitigation and DRRR also fit within a broad spectra of thematic areas that UN Women engages in including women's economic empowerment (WEE), especially in connection to green economics for countries like China and India where there has been substantial investment<sup>25</sup> in climate change adaptation and mitigation, including renewable energy, as well as the strive for blue economy in the Pacific region as highlighted during the SIDS Conference. There is a high connection between WEE and CC and DRRR. As a large proportion of women engage and derive their livelihoods from climate sensitive sectors, such as agriculture, water resources, rural markets, any degree of adverse climatic change or disasters affect their ability to engage in economic activities and consequently their vulnerabilities. Furthermore, well thought through climate change adaptation and mitigation measures can also be an effective tool for promoting economic empowerment of women.

Climate change and DRRR is also well placed to be addressed through governance. Promotion of gender equality in DRRR, and climate change adaptation and mitigation activities is influenced by collective decision making processes as pursued by the state. This includes the allocation of funds for ensuring that gender equality and women's empowerment in climate change and DRR is adequately addressed, financed and monitored. In addition, since women in Asia-Pacific are especially vulnerable, from the point of view of gender justice, adaptation resources should be channelled towards them. Women's full involvement in adaptation efforts is also essential to make sure they are effective. Key components of good governance such as responsiveness, inclusiveness and accountability are critical for DRRR and adaptation to climate change and humanitarian response. Governance requires that

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<sup>25</sup> ODI 2013: Climate Finance Regional Briefing: Asia and Pacific. Climate Finance Fundamentals Vol 8 <http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/7915.pdf>

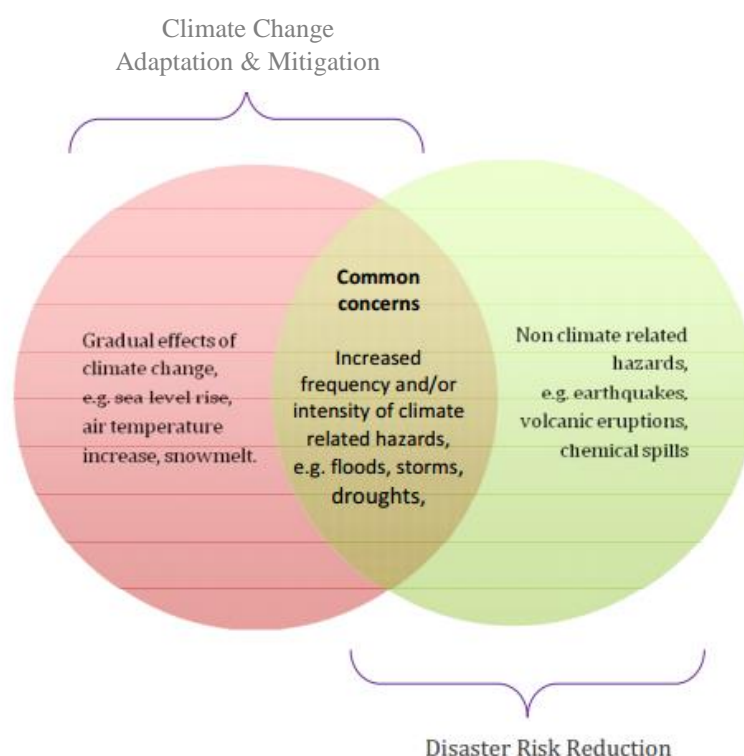
governments respond to the needs of all members of society, especially the voiceless and vulnerable women, and efforts to promote it are concerned primarily with institutional reform.

SGBV is an existing and persistent problem across Asia-Pacific with the Pacific region having some of the highest rates of violence. Evidence shows that sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) increases during and in the aftermath of a disaster. For countries that have programmes on ending violence against women (EVAW) and are disaster-prone it is logical to link EVAW with humanitarian response.

## 5. Strategy

UN Women believes that CC, gender equality and sustainable development are highly interrelated. It is therefore essential that CC and DRRR policies and measures are designed in a way that ensure women become full and equal partners as well as beneficiaries. The strategy below sets out how UN Women in Asia-Pacific will promote gender equality and women's empowerment in these thematic areas.

Climate change and disaster risk reduction are governed by different international frameworks; the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) for disasters, and United Nations Framework for Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) for climate change. They also have difference funding sources and they have different institutional frameworks at global, regional and national levels. However, at the grassroots level, climate change and disasters have common concerns as illustrated by the diagram below.



UN Women will adopt a climate change and DRRR integrated approach, however its engagement at the regional level and national levels will be differentiated along the existing institutional structures, however at the community level, and in the long run, climate and disaster risk reduction measures are similar. For example, alternative livelihoods sources that are not dependant on the natural resource base can support communities in adapting to climate change as well as coping and responding to



disasters. This shift is also in line with the current global discourse<sup>26</sup> to link DRR with climate change and some regions like the Pacific region are already linking these two thematic areas<sup>27</sup>. Humanitarian response will be addressed through with and DRR and disaster response. Humanitarian action is also linked to climate change through climate related disasters.

## 6. Gender, Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction Framework

UN Women will follow the integrated framework below to govern its work on climate change, DRRR and humanitarian response. Effective delivery of gender equality in CC and DRRR efforts requires strategic engagement and partnership with key stakeholders which have mandates to support DRRR and climate change efforts. UN Women will therefore align its work with the current CC and DRRR work streams adopted by national governments and development agencies. These work streams are largely based on the priorities identified in the HFA and in the draft Post-disaster risk reduction framework<sup>28</sup> and they focus on; *understanding and communicating disaster and climate change risks, reducing risks and managing and responding to residual risks*. Within this framework UN Women in already engaged in reducing disaster and climatic risks through DRR policy advocacy and implementation of DRRR/CC measures. In addition, UN Women has also been involved at different levels of engagement in humanitarian response and global advocacy.

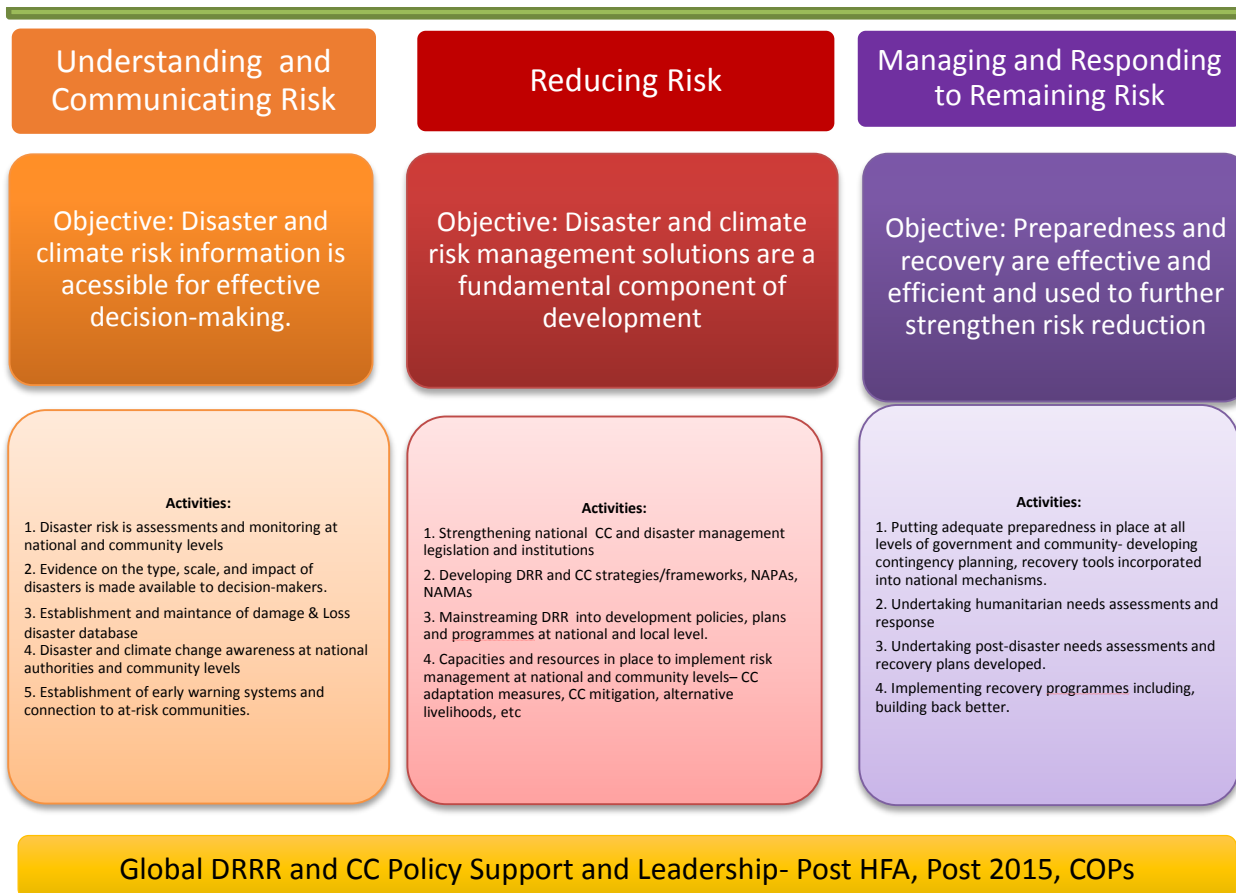
The overarching theme across this framework is the focus on developing the capacities of national and regional gender machineries and women's organisation to support, influence and provide leadership in national and regional DRRR/CC processes that shape the discourse as well as policy and programme implementation and monitoring.

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<sup>26</sup> As was evidenced by the negotiation for the post HFA in Geneva during the Prep-Com meeting for World Conference on DRR

<sup>27</sup> As evidenced by the new Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development for the Pacific (SRDP)

<sup>28</sup> See the draft framework on [http://www.wcdrr.org/preparatory/post2015#anchor\\_d](http://www.wcdrr.org/preparatory/post2015#anchor_d)



**i. Understanding and communicating Risk**

Understanding the disaster and climatic risks confronting systems and societies forms the foundation of CC and DRRR policies and implementation for most nations. It involves understanding the types, the scale and the potential consequences of disasters and climate change confronting a nation or a community. This phase also involves the understanding the interface between disaster and climate risks and the human settlements and productive sectors. Understanding disaster and climate risks presents a key entry point to influence how risks are addressed in a country from a gender perspective. UN Women can support these processes by ensuring that disaster and climate risk assessments are accompanied by gender analysis, which analyses how women and men are affected by CC and disasters as well as their immediate and strategic needs. This thematic area also provides information on how women are directly or indirectly affected by climatic impacts on productive sectors such as agriculture, water resources, health, coastal areas, and education, among other sectors.

A component of understanding risks also involves the documentation of damage and loss from climate related and other disasters. Such historical data helps countries analyse trends over a period of time, including whether there have been substantial declines in losses as the country had developed better capacities in managing and reducing with disaster risks. The DesInventar<sup>29</sup> is a global disaster loss accounting systems which documents damage and loss from disasters from different countries, including Asia. The Pacific Region has the Pacific Damage and Loss (PDaLo)<sup>30</sup> which captures similar

<sup>29</sup> Global disaster data can be accessed on: [http://www.desinventar.net/index\\_www.html](http://www.desinventar.net/index_www.html)

<sup>30</sup> The Pacific Damage and Loss can be access on: <http://www.desinventar.net/DesInventar/main.jsp?countrycode=pac>

information from Pacific Island countries. However neither the Global Disaster Management Information Systems nor the Pacific collects sex-and-age disaggregated data (SADD), which can provide key information on whether progress is being made in reducing the disproportionate number of women and children dying and getting injured from disasters. UN Women can support the establishment of systems to collect SADD to provide gendered mortality and injury trends.

Once the risks facing a country and community are documented and analysed, the next step is to communicating the risks. This is to educate relevant sector ministries and communities so that they are aware of the potential risks they face and can take necessary measures to address them. This step entails the development of CC and DRRR awareness trainings of relevant and sector line ministries

## *ii. Reducing Risks*

Reducing disaster and climatic risks involves the set-up of legislative and institutional systems to address the risks identified above. This process entails the passing of disaster management legislative laws and other sector laws that address issues of disasters and climate change such as environmental laws. It also involves the establishment and the financing of government institutions at the national and sub-national levels to address climate change and DRRR.

Reducing risk also involves the mainstreaming of climate change and DRRR into most at risk sectors, such as agriculture, water resources, natural resource management, health, biodiversity conservation etc. These sectors also form the backbone of rural women's livelihoods. Since climate change and DRRR specialists are key decision-makers that shape the discourse and the implementation of these thematic areas, it is imperative that they have a good grasp of how these element impacts on the environment, productive sectors and infrastructure as is the current practice. For effective address of disasters and climate change, it is also important that they understand how these impacts affect women, men, the elderly, and children differently, and the relationship between the impacts on reproductive sectors, upon which men and women derive their livelihoods. UN Women has a key task therefore of developing the capacities of NDMOs and climate change specialists to understand the nexus between climate change, disasters and gender and how to address these issues. Technical support can also be provided to ensure that gender equality is addressed in climate change and DRR laws, policies, strategies and programme. For sustainability, UN Women can also support the capacity development and participation on women's groups and national women machineries in DRRR platforms and climate change decision-making processes.

Reducing risk also requires building the resilience of women and men and systems and resources upon which they depend for livelihoods such as water, biodiversity resources, agriculture, markets etc and the provision of alternative livelihoods that can better withstand the impacts of climate change and disasters. This is done through climate change adaptation measures, climate change mitigation, disaster risk reduction and mitigation measures etc at the national and community levels. Resilience building is critical area where UN Women and its partners can have a greater impact in building the resilience of women to climate change and disasters. This can be done through climate proofing women's economic activities as well as providing alternative livelihoods that are less dependent on climate sensitive sectors. UN Women is already engaged in activities that promote women's economic empowerment, which is a good entry point to ensure that the activities promoted also reduce the risk to which the women and their livelihoods are exposed. UN Women is best positioned to support other UN Agencies (UNDP, FAO, World Bank) who are accredited to access funds under global Adaptation and Green Climate Fund financial instruments in ensuring that gender is addressed in climate change and DRR measures. UN Women is currently engaged in different aspects of CC and DRRR. For example, UN Women Bangladesh is currently supporting the Government of Bangladesh and other partners in

building the resilience of women to disaster and climate change impacts through the identification and strengthening of alternative livelihoods. Likewise, UN Women Vietnam concentrates on strengthening women's capacity, participation and leadership on disaster risk reduction to cope with climate change by working with national women machineries mandated to promote gender equality.

### *iii. Managing Residual Risk*

Stands on the principle that even when effective climate and disaster risk measures are in place, there is still risk that persists against which governments and communities must prepare for and act through emergency response. Managing residual risks encompasses disaster preparedness and recovery planning to deal with disasters.

This step also involves the establishment of early warning systems to warn communities of impending disasters. Gender equality is one of the factors that determine whether an individual gets early warning information on time or not. Evidence suggests that communication channels used for early warning information are often not easily accessible by women. For example the “digital divide” in access to and control over computers and the Internet is still a barrier to reaching women in many parts of the Asia. In addition, men also often control use of the family radio or television. However, women are powerful communicators often consulted by others to assess the credibility of received information and its source. UN Women can support the design and implementation of these measures by ensuring that disaster and climate change awareness programmes and early warning information are gender responsive.

This is also the stage where humanitarian needs assessments, disaster needs assessments are undertaken; and humanitarian response and recovery plans are implemented. During disaster emergencies, gender is often side-lined on the basis of ‘it’s an emergency’ alibi. By marginalising the skills and capacities of women in humanitarian action and post disaster recovery, the opportunity to harness the full capacity of a nation and communities to respond are lost. As a result, non-inclusive recovery efforts may cement the social inequalities between women and men. Integrating gender equality in humanitarian response and recovery therefore ensures that the whole population is able to get back to its feet fast.

UN Women’s approach to humanitarian action leverages its mandate for a system wide gender-responsive policy and programme, ensuring the specific needs of men, women, boys and girls are met. UN Women will work towards implementing such approach at the country, regional and global levels. In this respect, UN Women has played a substantive role in mainstreaming gender in humanitarian response in disaster emergency in a number of countries in the Pacific Region<sup>31</sup>. UN Women also provides GENCAPs<sup>32</sup> to support country offices, national governments, the UN system and other humanitarian actors in building the capacity in addressing gender in humanitarian response. However UN Women still faces challenges in identifying entry points in supporting gender equality and women’s empowerment in humanitarian response and post disaster recovery. This is largely due to limited

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<sup>31</sup> Including Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga and Solomon Islands

<sup>32</sup> Gender Standby Capacity Project (GENCAP) – seeks to facilitate and strengthen capacity and leadership of humanitarians to undertake and promote gender equality programming to ensure the distinct needs of women, girls, boys and men of all ages, are taken into account in humanitarian action at global, regional, and country levels. Gender Capacity Advisers are deployed to support the Humanitarian Coordinator, Humanitarian Country Teams, UN agencies, cluster leads, NGOs and governments.

capacity and shortage of staff to support all humanitarian clusters<sup>33</sup> in conducting needs assessments and also because UN Women does not have a leading role in any of the humanitarian clusters.

In the Pacific Region, UN Women co-leads the GBV sub-cluster which falls within the Protection Cluster led by OHCHR. It focuses on developing cluster capacities and setting formal and informal protection systems to respond to and support GBV in emergencies. The Pacific region and other countries in Asia also deploy GENCAPs and Humanitarian Advisors through SURGE<sup>34</sup> capacities to support gender mainstreaming in humanitarian response. Through these deployments, UN Women supports the mainstreaming of gender in humanitarian needs assessment in general and the protection cluster in particular. Within the UN Women work thematic streams; ending violence against women (EVAW) can support humanitarian response in ensuring the mechanisms are in place to protect women and children against sexual and gender based violence.

#### ***iv. Global Support and Leadership***

Climate change and DRR are framed and shaped by regional and global policies. The international Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Hyogo Framework for Action – HFA expires in 2015 and a new framework will be agreed upon by countries in Sendai in March 2015. UN Women will play a critical role of ensuring that gender equality, women’s participation and leadership are one of the priorities for new DRR Framework. These processes are led by UN Women Headquarters and supported by the regional offices and implemented by country offices. At the regional level, UN Women is also supporting post-2015 DRR consultation processes by ensuring that gender is integrated into regional and national post-HFA priorities and positions and will continue to do so with the corporate guidance from UN Women Headquarters. In preparation for Humanitarian Summit, which is scheduled to take place in 2016, UN Women Headquarters and the regional offices will support the regional consultation processes in preparation for the summit.

With reference to climate change; a new universal climate regime is expected to be adopted in Paris in 2015 and to come into effect in 2020. The terms of the agreement will have a direct bearing on how UN Women will engage in climate change adaptation and mitigation policy and practice. The participation in, and influence of climate change negotiations and global climate change policy development will be guided by UN Women Headquarters and the implications communicated to regional and national levels. The establishment of the new Green Climate Fund, which recognise gender equality as a key component for effective climate change adaptation and mitigation, presents immediate opportunities for UN Women to influence the operationalising of gender sensitive approach to the Fund. It also creates good entry point for regional offices and country offices to pilot how gender equality and women empowerment could be achieved in practice through partnerships with UN agencies accredited to access this funding.

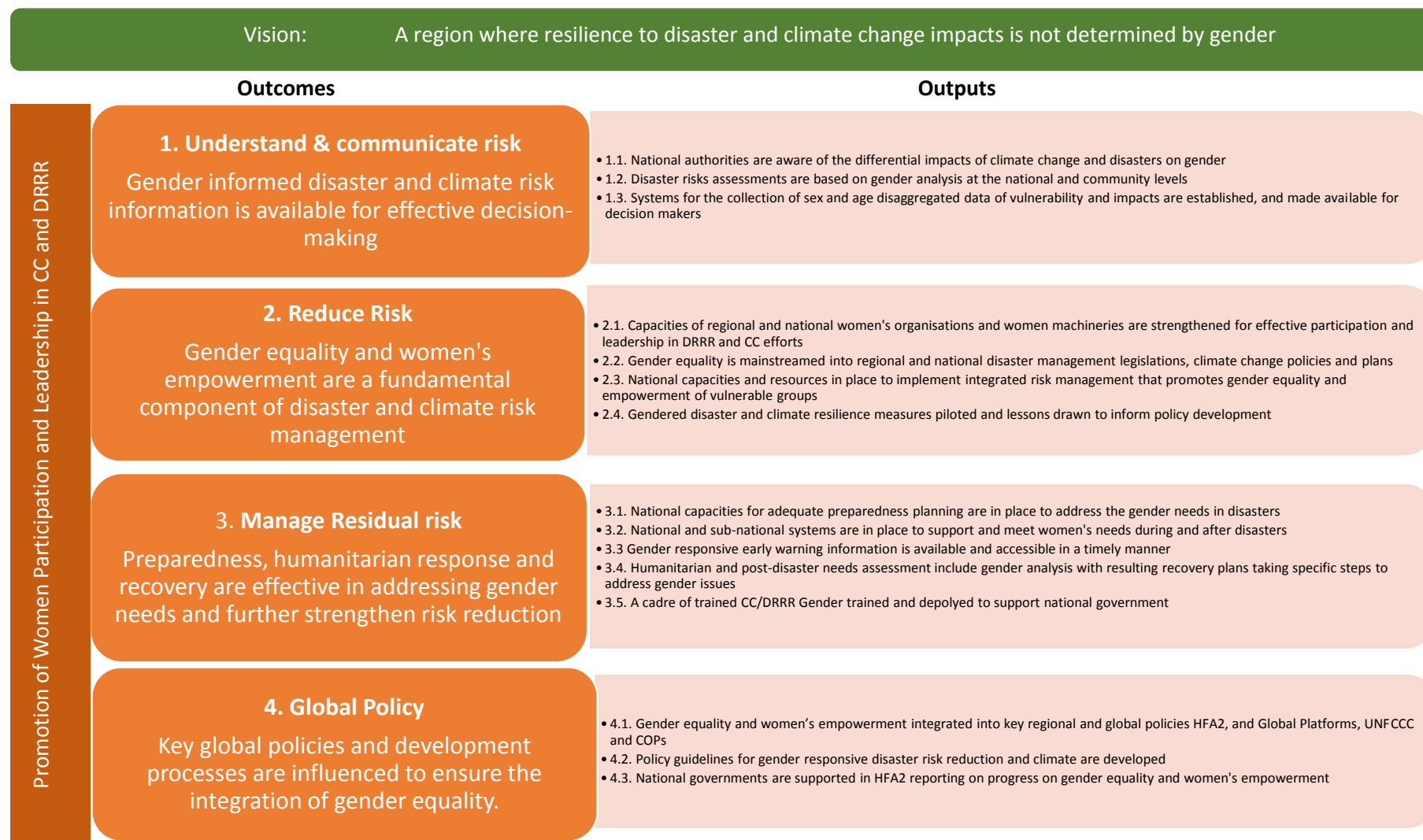
Within these thematic areas, and based on the current capacities, human and financial resources, UN Women will focus on the achievement of the following Outcomes and Outputs in the next five years.

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<sup>33</sup> Humanitarian Clusters are groups of humanitarian organizations (UN and non-UN) working in the main sectors of humanitarian action, e.g. shelter and health. They are created when clear humanitarian needs exist within a sector, when there are numerous actors within sectors and when national authorities need coordination support

<sup>34</sup> SURGE- Swift deployment of experienced gender experts and other specialized humanitarian personnel when there are unforeseen emergencies and disasters.

The achievement will follow a phased approach by capitalising on the low hanging fruits based on current climate change and DRRR activities (primarily done under reducing risks) for the first two years before expanding to reach all aspects of climate and DRRR.



Promotion of Women Participation and Leadership in CC and DRRR

## 7. Resources and Results Framework (2015- 2018)

Outputs	Output Indicators	Proposed Activities	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total Budget
<b>Outcome 1: Gender informed disaster and climate risk information is available for effective decision-making</b>							
<b>Output 1.1:</b> Enhanced knowledge and capacity of Regional and National authorities of differential impacts of climate change and disasters on gender	<p><b>Indicator:</b> No. of countries that have received training on gender, CC and DRRR</p> <p><b>Overall Target:</b> 10 countries</p> <p><b>2015:</b> 2 countries</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> One regional workshop</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· National and regional trainings and information sharing on gender, CC/ DRRR</li> <li>· Collection of region specific gender, CC and DRR case studies and best practices</li> <li>· Drafting and publications of gender, CC and knowledge products</li> </ul>	40,000	50,000	70,000	70,000	\$230,000
<b>Output 1.2:</b> Disaster risks assessments are based on gender analysis at the national and community levels	<p><b>Indicator:</b> No. of countries conducting disaster risk assessments that have incorporated gender analysis</p> <p><b>Overall Target:</b> 4 countries</p> <p><b>2015:00:00</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Revision of current risk assessment tools to include collection of gendered data and analysis</li> <li>· Trainings on the use and collection and analysis of SADD in risk assessments</li> <li>· Conduct of vulnerability assessments/ gender analysis of risk assessments at regional and national level</li> </ul>			50,000	80,000	\$130,000

	<b>Baseline:</b> none based on the assessment the Global Risk Identification Programme (GRIP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research on DRRR and CC impacts on gender and policy implications</li> </ul>					
<b>Output 1.3:</b> Systems for the collection of sex & age disaggregated data of vulnerability and impacts established, and made available for decision makers	<b>Indicator:</b> No. of countries that are supported in developing systems for the collection and reporting of SADD  <b>Target:</b> 3 countries  <b>2015:00:00</b>  <b>Baseline:</b> None of HFA reporting countries provide SADD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and chain analysis of current systems of collecting disaster information</li> <li>Develop systems for the collection of sex and age disaggregated data at the local to regional level</li> <li>In collaboration with statistics offices, NDMAs/Os; pilot the collection of SADD as part of HFA</li> <li>Draw lessons and upscale successful interventions</li> </ul>			50,000	100,000	\$150,000
<b>Total Output Budget</b>			<b>40,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>170,000</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>\$510,000</b>
<b>Outcome 2: Gender equality and women’s empowerment are a fundamental component of disaster and climate risk management</b>							
<b>Output 2.1:</b> Capacities of women's organisations and women machineries are strengthened for effective participation and leadership in DRRR and CC efforts	<b>Indicator:</b> National gender machineries and civil society that report to have confidence in addressing gender concerns in DRR and CC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the participation of gender machineries in CC, DRR and humanitarian action fora</li> <li>Training of gender machineries on the nexus of</li> </ul>	20,000	20000	30000	30000	100,000



	<p>gender, CC, DRR and humanitarian response</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 50% of targeted institutions report positive results</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> Gender machineries disconnected from formal DRRR and CC processes, except for Vietnam</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Hands on support to gender machineries in mainstreaming gender during disasters</li> <li>· Advocacy for greater integration of gender in CC and DRR regional and national policy frameworks</li> </ul>					
<p><b>Output 2.1:</b> Regional and national disaster management legislations, climate change policies and plans integrate gender equality and women's empowerment</p>	<p><b>Indicator:</b> No. of DRR Laws and strategies that integrate gender</p> <p><b>Target:</b> at least 3 and 3 strategies laws revised in the Pacific Region and 1 in Asia</p> <p>2015:00:00</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> TBD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Integration of gender in ASEAN and PIF DRR and CC strategies</li> <li>· Support national countries in reviewing DRR laws and provide recommendation on gender gaps</li> <li>· Provide technical inputs in strengthening gender elements of DRR laws</li> <li>· Provide technical inputs in the formulation of national integrated DRR and CC policies and measures</li> <li>· Support the participation of national women machineries in the review and formulation of DRR and CC laws and policies.</li> </ul>		40,000	50,000	50,000	\$140,000

<p><b>Output 2.2:</b> National capacities and resources in place to implement integrated risk management that promotes gender equality and empowerment of vulnerable groups</p>	<p><b>Indicator:</b> No. of countries where national NDMOs and CC technical specialists and national gender machineries supported on gender mainstreaming in DRR/CC</p> <p><b>Target:</b> Government staff trained in at least five countries</p> <p><b>2015:01:00</b></p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> TBD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Regional and national trainings on DRR/CC and gender mainstreaming for relevant national ministries</li> <li>· Capacity development workshops with national women machineries</li> <li>· Technical support to relevant ministries (CC, NDMOs and national women machineries) in the implementation of DRR/CC activities</li> </ul>	40,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	\$190,000
<p><b>Output 2.3:</b> Gendered disaster and climate resilience measures piloted and lessons drawn to inform policy development</p>	<p><b>Indicator:</b> No. of projects conducted in Asia-Pacific</p> <p><b>Target:</b> At least 3 new programmes are piloted in Asia and Pacific region</p> <p><b>2015:01:00</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Review of current DRRR/CC programmes and expansions</li> <li>· Proposal development for DRRR, climate change mitigation and adaptation</li> <li>· Small grants to NDMOs and CC departments to support the implementation of gender and CC/DRR project</li> <li>· Implementation through partnership</li> <li>· Publications of lessons learned</li> </ul>	200,000	500,000	800,000	800,000	\$2,300,000

	<b>Baseline:</b> No. of activities implemented in Fiji, Vietnam, Bangladesh and Vanuatu	· Community of Practice (COP) workshops					
<b>Total</b>			<b>260,000</b>	<b>610,000</b>	<b>930,000</b>	<b>930,000</b>	<b>\$2,730,000</b>
<b>Outcome 3: Preparedness, humanitarian response and recovery are effective in addressing gender needs and further strengthen risk reduction</b>							
<b>Output 3.1:</b> Regional and National capacities for adequate disaster preparedness planning are in place to address the gender needs	No. of countries that have received training on gender equality and women's empowerment in emergencies	· National and regional trainings of NDMAs, humanitarian actors and relevant actors · Tools and guidelines made available to NDMAs and other relevant humanitarian actors	30,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	\$180,000
<b>Output 3.2:</b> National and sub-national systems are in place to support and meet women's needs during and after disasters	<b>Indicator:</b> No. of countries with systems in place to prevent and address gender-based violence in disaster emergencies  <b>Target:</b> 3 countries  <b>2015:01:00</b>  <b>Baseline:</b> None exists in the Pacific Region and it's unclear if there are local mechanism	· Mapping of existence or absence of systems that support GBV in emergencies  · Establishment and strengthening of local systems to support GBV in emergencies · Training of humanitarian actors on gender in emergencies · Establishment of systems for collection of SADD in humanitarian emergencies  · Capacity development of national gender machineries in support gender analysis of	25,000	30,000	50,000	50,000	\$155,000

	to support GBV in emergencies	humanitarian needs assessments clusters					
<b>Output 3.3:</b> Humanitarian and post-disaster needs assessment include gender analysis with resulting recovery plans taking specific steps to address gender issues	<p><b>Indicator:</b> No. of countries, experiencing disasters that have done gender analysis as part of HNAs/PDNAs</p> <p><b>Overall Target:</b> at least 50% of countries facing disasters are supported</p> <p><b>2015:</b> 2 countries facing humanitarian disasters</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> at least two countries per year have been supported</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creation and training of national humanitarian and gender experts for humanitarian response and post-disaster needs assessments</li> <li>Deployment of gender advisors during disaster emergencies</li> <li>Support gender analysis of protection cluster during disaster emergencies</li> <li>Supporting gender analysis humanitarian needs assessments of all clusters</li> <li>Support gender mainstreaming in post-disaster needs assessments</li> <li>Technical inputs into post-disaster recovery frameworks and implementation</li> <li>Training of humanitarian cluster members on gender and humanitarian response</li> </ul>	50,000	100,000	150,000	150,000	\$450,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>105,000</b>	<b>180,000</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>\$785,000</b>
<b>Outcome 4: Key global policies and development processes are influenced to ensure the integration of gender equality</b>							

<p><b>Output 4.1:</b> Gender equality and women's empowerment integrated into key regional and global frameworks</p>	<p><b>Indicator:</b> No. of DRR and CC global and regional policies that reflect gender equality and women's empowerment</p> <p><b>Target:</b> HFA2 and New global CC Agreement, Humanitarian Summit</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Participation in regional and global DRRR/CC policies and for a</li> <li>· Drafting of inputs into regional and global draft frameworks</li> <li>· Direct lobbying with member states</li> <li>· Advocacy through side events etc on gender and DRRR</li> <li>· Support to gender advocates to influence regional and global DRR and CC processes</li> <li>· Drafting and publication of position papers on DRRR/ CC in relation to global polies</li> </ul>	15,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	\$75,000
<p><b>Output 4.2:</b> Policy guidelines for gender responsive DRR and climate are developed</p>	<p><b>Indicator:</b> No. of regional policy guidelines on gender, CC and DRRR developed</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 1 per year</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 5 SIDS Policy Briefs in 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Evidence based Research</li> <li>· Drafting of policy and position papers on DRRR/CC and Gender</li> <li>· Support the drafting of regional policies on DRRR/CC</li> </ul>	30,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	\$150,000
<p><b>Output 4.3:</b> National governments are supported in HFA2 reporting on progress on gender</p>	<p><b>Indicator:</b> % of the countries submitting national HFA reports have provide an assessment on the progress</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Technical review and inputs in national report</li> </ul>	10,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	\$55,000

	on gender equality based on SADD						
	<b>Overall Target:</b> at least 30% of countries by 2018	· Technical support in the collection and verification of gender equality data					
	<b>Baseline:</b> 14%						
<b>Output 4 Total</b>			<b>55,000</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>\$280,000</b>
<b>Programme Cost</b>			<b>460,000</b>	<b>915,000</b>	<b>1,425,000</b>	<b>1,505,000</b>	<b>\$4,305,000</b>
<b>Programme Management and Monitoring and Evaluation</b>							
Programme Management + M&E	Programme management 1xP3 post		200,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	1,400,000
	Monitoring and Evaluation 1xP3 post						
	Missions and travel		20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	\$80,000
<b>Total Management + M&amp;E</b>			<b>220,000</b>	<b>420,000</b>	<b>420,000</b>	<b>420,000</b>	<b>\$1,480,000</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>680,000</b>	<b>1,335,000</b>	<b>1,845,000</b>	<b>1,925,000</b>	<b>\$5,785,000</b>

## 8. Detailed Approach

The framework discussed above sets the parameters within which UN Women Regional Office and country offices can engage in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in climate change and DRRR. Strengthening of UN Women's capacity and that of its partners will be done through a multifaceted approach:

### **1. Capacity development (External)**

The aim of this strategy is to ensure that adequate capacity, financing and institutional structures exist in line ministries with the mandate in addressing climate change and disasters as well as the promotion of gender equality to understand and address the needs and priorities of women and girls. UN Women will proactively pursue capacity development of NDMOs, climate change technical specialists and gender machineries to promote women's participation and engagement in Climate change and DRR dialogue. Capacity development will also be extended towards the UN System, civil society organizations and other relevant regional, national and local stakeholders to enable their effective address of gender equality and women's empowerment in climate change, DRR and humanitarian action efforts.

UN Women will also strengthen participation of affected populations, particularly women and girls in all aspects of DRRR, climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts as well as humanitarian response. UN Women will build synergies between advocacy and prevention and response programmes on Gender-based Violence and Ending Violence Against Women. UN Women will also support participation of women civil society organizations as first responders in humanitarian action efforts. UN Women will also play a pivotal role in raising awareness about the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment, through leadership and activate participation in Climate change and DRRR.

### **2. Technical Expertise**

UN Women will provide technical advice and tools for mainstreaming gender into climate change and DRRR legislation, policies, strategies and plans as well as technical support in implementing, monitoring and evaluation of these programme through relevant institutions at the regional and national levels. For example, UN Women Fiji MCO is providing technical support to SPC in the implementation of an EU funded programme covering 15 Pacific Island countries. For countries engaging in climate and disaster risk assessments, UN Women, where it has country office presence, will support gender analysis and vulnerability assessment to ensure that the needs, priorities and capacities of women, men and children are identified and to provide a holistic understanding of risk for decision making processes.

Technical support will also be provided to national gender machineries and CSOs to strengthen their knowledge and skills for effective participation, advocacy and decision-making processes within the climate change and DRR and arenas

From a humanitarian perspective, UN Women will support the UN and Humanitarian Country Teams with the guidance and tools to ensure gender-responsive humanitarian response plans and programmes. UN Women will leverage and work through the existing humanitarian architecture, such as the cluster teams and other established Gender Theme Groups within UNCTs. In the context of rapid onset and where it has no or limited country presence, depending on the capacity of the UN system and requests, UN Women will be ready to support and provide the necessary short term

gender expertise/capacity to ensure the coordinated efforts of HCTs and Cluster System incorporate gender equality and women's empowerment in their operations. The region will tap into the standby capacity rosters (to be established by HQ) to provide flexible expertise to complement its capacity to support the humanitarian coordination mechanisms. GENCAPs and Gender and Protection Advisors currently fill in some of this gap in Asia-Pacific.

UN Women will also provide guidance on gender mainstreaming in assessments, gender analysis and programme implementation to ensure the needs and vulnerabilities of all men, women, boys and girls in a crisis affected population are identified and appropriately addressed. Given its close and ongoing work with gender machineries and network of civil society organizations at country level, particularly with women led organizations, UN Women will ensure their engagement in incorporating gender equality and women's empowerment priorities in national recovery plans.

### ***3. Gender, Climate Change and DRR Research***

Research will continually enhance the understanding of the nexus between climate change, disaster and gender gaps. It will also provide information on recommendations for address the gaps. In this regard, UN Women will commission two studies in Asia and the Pacific. In addition to this strategy, the studies and their findings will provide and insight into the challenges and capacities that women have in addressing disasters as well as coping and adapting to the changing climate. The study will also review the policy, institutional and financial gaps in strengthening gender equality in climate change and DRRR at national and regional levels. The finding and recommendations of the studies will guide UN Women on how it engages in these thematic areas and will also guide gender, climate change and DRRR advocacy.

In addition to regional studies UN Women China and Vietnam are also engaged in conducting gender and climate change/DRR studies that will enrich the understanding of the gender and the climate change/DRR nexus as well as identify entry points for strengthening gender equality and women's empowerment in DRR and climate change. The studies will also provide the much needed evidence-based information for advocacy for not just UN Women in these countries but for all stakeholders with interest in mainstreaming gender equality in climate change and DRR.

### ***4. Evidence Based Advocacy***

The proposed research above will inform and spearhead much of the advocacy work that UN Women will engage in climate change and DRRR in the coming year. Advocacy will take place through participation in, and development of policy position papers for national, regional and global policy dialogues on climate change, DRRR and humanitarian action. This will include the drafting of position papers as guided by UN Women Headquarters; participation and presentation at regional consultation workshops. One such example preparations for the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction scheduled to take place in Sendai in 2015, Asia-Pacific consultations for the Humanitarian Summit to take place in 2016, COPs etc. Advocacy will also include training and the sponsorship of gender and climate change advocates from the region to promote gender equality and women's participation in regional and global fora. In 2014, UN Women Asia-Pacific sponsored gender advocates to advocate for stronger reflection of gender and women's empowerment normative language in the preparation of the Small Island Development States (SIDS) Outcome Document, the UN Climate Change Summit in New York.



## **5. Development and Expansion of Key Strategic Partnerships**

For effective use of human and financial resources, UN Women will seek strategic partnership with key climate change and DRRR actors. Limitations in financial and human resources and technical expertise also necessitated the need for synergistic relationships with other key partners. In the spirit of aid effectiveness, UN Women will seek partnership with UNDP, UNISDR, UNEP, WOCAN, OCHA and ASEAN, SPC, PIFS, national women machineries, academia and other key partners in Asia-Pacific in its effort to advance gender equality in climate change and DRRR policy development and implementation. For example, UN Women is supporting ASEAN in strengthening gender mainstreaming in different aspects of DRRR. In the Pacific region, UN Women will continue to strengthen its relationship and delivery of its commitment to SPC<sup>35</sup> in the Pacific region as well as the strategic collaboration with UNDP and GIZ, national governments academia and others. For example, UN Women is currently working with UNDP in reviewing how gender equality is addressed through Climate Public Expenditure and Investment Review (CPEIR) in the region.

## **6. DRR and climate change adaptation and mitigation interventions**

Policy must continually be informed by practice and realities on the ground. As such UN Women will support other partners in the implementation of climate change and DRRR efforts as is the case with the MOU with SPC in the Pacific region. UN Women will also engage in resource mobilisation for direct implementation of climate change and DRR implementation as in the case with Bangladesh. UN Women will consolidate and review of the performance of current mitigation project such as the female solar engineer projects conducted in Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands and seek way forward to learn and expand these initiatives.

UN Women will focus on countries where there is already some level of engagement in these thematic areas, build on those and expand. The focus countries include Vietnam, China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, India<sup>36</sup>, and Fiji MCO (Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Samoa). Possible expansions include Cambodia and Laos.

## **7. Synergistic Linkage to Other UN Women Practice Areas**

Climate change and DRRR are cross-cutting issues, and should therefore be integrated in nearly every aspect of development in high risk countries. There are clear linkages between climate change/DRRR and women's economic empowerment, ending violence against women, governance as discussed above. In addition to climate change and DRRR stand-alone project proposed above, UN Women can gain from low hanging fruits by capitalising on already existing practice programmes and project. For example UN Women in Fiji is exploring linkages between DRRR and gender based violence, which is extremely high in the aftermath of a disaster. The office also aims at ensuring that the programme promoting women's economic empowerment through markets is resilience to disasters.

### **v. Resource Mobilisation**

In order to be effective, UN Women will need to engage on multiple levels including: being able to offer technical support and advice at the regional and country office level; engage on a number of regional and global policy processes; and implementation of gender, climate change and DRRR interventions. Currently the region is staff by a regional climate change and DRRR Advisor and two GENCAPs to support humanitarian work. Taking into account limited staff capacity and the

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<sup>35</sup> UN Women and SPC signed a memorandum of Understanding to work together in promoting gender equality and the resilience in a EU funded project ' Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific'

<sup>36</sup> Through a climate change project implemented in Maldives.

commitments made by UN Women to support its partners such as SPC, UNDP, UNEP, ASEAN, etc in the drafting and implementing climate change and DRRR policies, recruitment of additional regional and CO staff where demand for dedicated technical expertise cannot be met by the current office structures will be essential. Fiji Multi-country office is exploring the possibility to get additional staff through Volunteer Services Abroad (VSA) and JPO programmes to support this work.

The fulfilment of the commitments that UN Women has already made with its partners requires financial resources. As such UN Women is exploring access to a number of donors that support climate change, DRR and gender equality. Approach has been made to Japan and EU. Efforts are also been made with HQ to explore substantial funding source in line with current trends on climate finance and DRR.

### **8. Staff Capacity Development**

UN Women Asia-Pacific will strengthen and sustain its capacity at the Regional and Country level to ensure that adequate policy guidance and technical expertise is provided on normative, coordination and capacity building priorities for gender equality in climate change and DRRR. Capacity development will take form of regional and national trainings of national staff in the Asia-Pacific region to enhance their understanding and skills in supporting gender analysis of climate change, DRRR and humanitarian action.

Hand-on technical support on climate change and DRR will be provided through the Gender and Climate Change Advisor, while the GENCAP at the regional office will support staff capacity development in 2015. The Gender and Protection Advisor in the Pacific will support staff capacity development as well as the capacity of Pacific Island Islands in the most disaster prone islands. South-south exchange and communities of practice will also be adopted, particularly for countries and islands<sup>37</sup> that already have on-going programmes. UN Women will also continue with capacity building of UN Women senior national staff to create a pool of cadre that could be deployed on detail assignments to support integration of gender equality in humanitarian action and post-disaster recovery as required.

UN Women will also pursue strategic partnerships with key humanitarian stakeholders (OCHA, UNHRC, NDMO/As, NGOs and National Women Machineries) offering stand-by personnel through technical rosters.

### **9. Documentation of Lessons Learned and Sharing of Best Practices**

UN Women intends to continually learn from its engagement in climate change, DRRR and Humanitarian action through monitoring and evaluation. Documentation of best practices will therefore be a key component of its work in this area. Best practices will not only inform and shape the regional work, but also how UN Women will engage in these thematic areas in other regions.

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<sup>37</sup> Vietnam, Bangladesh, Pakistan, China, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Tonga