



Concept Note

Working Session 3: Gender Dimensions of Loss and Damage

Type of Event	<input type="checkbox"/> Plenary <input type="checkbox"/> Thematic Session <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Working Session <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Lab <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Title of the Event	Loss and Damage: Gender Dimensions
Relevant Conference Plenary	<input type="checkbox"/> Plenary 1: <input type="checkbox"/> Plenary 2: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plenary 3: Reducing Loss and Damage: Saving Lives and Protecting Investments <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-Cutting Issue
Background and Rationale	<p>This working session has been organized by UN Women in close collaboration with UNDRR and UNFPA. The session will focus on the critical contribution of women and girls in reducing disaster damages and losses through their effective and consistent engagement in disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and recovery processes given the increasing exposure to disaster risks and subsequent impacts across the region. It will highlight the underutilized potential of women and girls, their networks, skills and knowledge and how empowering them can lead to more transformative, effective, and sustainable DRR interventions. The discussions will explore the different impacts of disasters on women, girls, men, and boys, emphasizing the importance of women's participation and leadership in DRR coordination structures, resilience building interventions, preparedness and early warning systems. It will also address the need for gender transformative DRR policies that ensure equitable access to resources, opportunities and safety, thereby protecting everybody's lives and investments from the adverse effects of disasters.</p> <p>The session is in resonance with the theme "Act Now for the Resilient Africa We Want". It is envisioned that the sessions' outcomes and recommendations will contribute to the overall Africa Regional Platform's outcomes related to "Reducing Loss and Damage: Saving lives and protecting investments". The session aligns with Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 gender priorities identified in the Global Gender Action Plan (GAP).</p> <p>The Sendai GAP that was launched early this year aims to accelerate progress towards the mutually reinforcing goals of gender equality and the prevention and reduction of disaster risk by ensuring DRR efforts are gender responsive, promote and support women's empowerment and leadership¹.</p>
Session Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The session will demonstrate the relevance of gender in contributing to disaster loss and damages and more importantly how inclusive DRR can contribute to protection of investments and resilience of communities. The session will be informed by the 9 Sendai GAP

¹[Gender Action Plan to Support Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 \(undrr.org\)](https://www.undrr.org/gender-action-plan-to-support-implementation-of-the-sendai-framework-for-disaster-risk-reduction-2015-2030)



	<p>objectives and overall Sendai priorities. The session will also provide an opportunity for participants to showcase interventions that contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Sendai GAP and demonstrate the applicability to the African context. Specifically, the session will focus on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlighting Differential Impacts: Women and girls often face increased risks of gender-based violence, loss lives and livelihoods during and after disasters. By recognizing these differences, the session aims to advocate/support DRR measures that are responsive to the gendered needs of crisis affected communities. • Promoting Women's Leadership: Women's participation and leadership in DRR efforts including gender-based violence can lead to more comprehensive and effective disaster management including reduction in damage and losses. The session will emphasize the need to empowering women in decision-making roles, ensuring their voices are heard and included in DRR planning and implementation mechanisms. • Advocate for Equitable Access to Resources: Women, girls and other marginalized groups often have less access to information, financial resources, and decision-making platforms owing to pre-existing gender inequalities and negative social norms that puts their safety and protection at risk. Thus, the session aims to discuss and proffer recommendations on reduction of these inequalities and thus enhanced resilience to future shocks. • Inclusive Policy Development: Strengthening advocacy for gender responsive processes including developing & implementing gender responsive policy frameworks, preparedness planning and creating early warning systems that are accessible to all as well as supporting disaster recovery efforts that consider the specific needs of women and vulnerable groups.
<p>Expected Outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced Understanding of the role of gender and protection of women and girls in reducing loss & damage and protecting investments in disaster contexts: Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the importance of inclusive DRR strategies, safety and protection through panel discussions, human interest stories and case studies shared to show case the role of women, men and youth in reducing disaster loss and damages and in building overall resilience of women and girls. • Increased awareness of SF DRR Sendai Gender Action Plan: Participants will have an opportunity to learn more about the GAP and strategies to support its implementation at all levels. • Strengthened Advocacy for Gender Inclusion & protection from GBV in all DRR Measures: Participants will acquire information and knowledge to support advocacy for gender inclusion and protection in disaster risk reduction initiatives by recognizing the pivotal role of women and girl play as DRR change agents and how advocacy can lead to tangible policy changes and impactful outcomes. • Strengthened Networking, Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange: Participants will have an opportunity to build valuable alliances and collaborations, both at the individual and organizational levels, which will extend beyond the session and contribute to long-term engagement and collective action in DRR. Also they will exchange knowledge and best





	<p>practices on gender inclusive DRR and resilience building to support their work.</p> <p>Through the Facilitator, the session will summarize and share key points and recommendations and share this with relevant stakeholders as well as the AfRP Drafting Committee for possible inclusion in the Windhoek Declaration. Post session, UN Women, UNDRR and UNFPA aims to create a forum where the women representatives can facilitate discussions to socialize the Windhoek Declaration among stakeholders at regional and national levels.</p>
Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction and welcome (5 mins) • Opening statements by the Speakers (10 mins) • Setting the scene – Gender and DRR in Africa (Sendai Framework & GAP) (10 mins) • Breakout Group Discussion - World Cafe style (30 mins) • Group One: What inclusive disaster preparedness and response approaches can be deployed to cushion people of diverse genders on potential loss and/or damage because of natural hazards like drought and flooding. • Group Two: What are the key strategies, viable contingency plans and best practices at the national and subnational levels that could and should be in place to support minority and at-risk groups especially those that are excluded or discriminated against based on their genders • Plenary Discussion: Key messages and Next Steps (20 mins) Each group summarizes the key insights and recommendations from the Breakout session. Consolidated action steps and practical solutions are shared with all participants. • Wrap Up Session (10 mins)
Moderator of the Session	Ms. Eve Silima Wanjala, Gender & Social Inclusion Consultant, UNDRR
List of Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Beatrice Teya, Humanitarian and DRR Specialist UN Women East and Southern Africa • Ms. Hawa Abdulghafoor, Gender-based violence coordinator - Tana River County, Kenya Government Gender Focal Point • Ms. Madina Affadine, President Women's Humanitarian Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Chad • Mr. Saturnin Epie, Chief UNFPA Representative to the African Union (AU) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
Reference Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Resilience to Disasters (WRD) Programme • The Gender Action Plan to support implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai GAP)
Public narrative [For the website]	<p>This working session has been organized by UN Women in close collaboration with UNDRR and UNFPA. The session will focus on the critical contribution of women and girls in reducing disaster damages and losses through their effective and consistent engagement in disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and recovery processes given the increasing exposure to disaster risks and subsequent impacts across the region. It will highlight the underutilized potential of women and girls, their networks, skills and</p>



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