



Gender Equality and Social Inclusion:

Sendai Framework Midterm Review in the Pacific – Emerging Findings

September 2022

As a contribution to the Sendai Framework Midterm Review in the Pacific, this document provides emerging findings that highlight best practices that promote and integrate gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and resilience. Common themes are reported that have emerged across Australian Government funded investments implemented between 2015 – 2022. Pathways for community resilience that promote and integrate GESI are also included, as are emerging gaps and priorities for the region and linkages to Sendai Framework and key Pacific regional policies.

Emerging themes and trends in DRR and gender equality and social inclusion in the Pacific



Women are leaders in reducing risk

Women are leading activities in multi-hazard early warning systems and risk informed development, and participating in anticipatory actions to proactively reduce risks.

Women's leadership in early action and resilience building at community level is demonstrated across multiple initiatives, including in Vanuatu, Fiji and Papua New Guinea. Initiatives support women's dissemination of targeted risk warnings through multiple communication channels (SMS, two-way radio, local radio, podcasts etc.).



Pacific women are building disaster and climate resilience at community levels

Women's leadership and participation at local level is contributing to stronger and more resilient communities.

At community level, there is evidence of women's formal and informal leadership and participation in resilience building activities. Civil society-led initiatives are supporting diverse women's agency and leadership for preparedness, response and recovery, e.g. women community mobilisers who connect to provincial networks. Shifting the Power Coalition is leading such initiatives through its 13 women-led organisations across the Pacific.



Women are advocates and communicators of DRR and climate action from global to local contexts

Women from national governments are being upskilled as global climate negotiators. At local level, women knowledge brokers are translating risk information for communities.

Formal training is supporting women in government to play negotiator roles in national delegations to global UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) meetings. Mechanisms for ongoing leadership are provided through mentoring, training of trainers and developing new opportunities to engage. Women are also being trained to translate technical weather and climate information into local languages and in contextually relevant approaches for local communities.



Women leaders enable shifts in mindsets and gender norms, normalising GESI in DRR and paving the way for transformative change

Changes in mindsets of women's traditional roles are occurring as a result of diverse women leading DRR and resilience building activities.

Initiatives supporting women in leadership positions are contributing to shifts in traditional views of women's roles. Communities see the positive outcomes of women's leadership and participation in DRR activities, with husbands and male community leaders voicing pride in women's achievements. Shifts are also occurring with the emergence of gender diverse and LGBTQI+ focused civil society organisations in climate and disaster resilience dialogue.



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Pathways that promote GESI for community resilience:

- **Women-led partnerships and coalitions** build momentum and amplify diverse experiences for a collective and stronger voice for advocacy on climate and disaster resilience.
- **Economic empowerment of women** for effective disaster preparedness, response and recovery, supports women’s agency and enables women and their communities to build back better and be more resilient to multiple risks.
- **Long term partnerships between local women leaders, national agencies** (e.g. NDMO, Met Services) **and regional organisations** (e.g. SPC, SPREP, PIFS) support two-way dialogue for ongoing gender responsive approaches in DRR.
- **Direct influences on individuals’ and physical and policy environments** have enabled positive developments e.g. upskilling women leaders as change agents; policy change through incentives; upgrading local market infrastructure.

Emerging gaps and priorities:

- **Structural barriers limit women’s participation** and leadership in DRR at different levels (regional to community level) e.g. women’s expertise and knowledge is not always valued; women are not always invited to decision making forums or processes.
- **Inadequate disaster risk financing** for women-led organisations; or limited funding allocated to gender related components within programs.
- **Gaps in policy environments** (regional, national, local) in mainstreaming gender equality and addressing GESI dimensions in government practice, including LGBTQI+, disability and intersectional considerations.
- **COVID-19 restrictions have delayed progress** towards anticipated outcomes of gender-focused DRR programs due to necessary changes in program delivery.

Links to the Sendai Framework and Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP)

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Sendai Priority Areas

Actions to implement **Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk** and **Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness to “Build Back Better”** demonstrate commitment to integrate women’s voice in DRR policies and strategies. More is needed to better mainstream and operationalise gender considerations as the norm in government policy.

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FRDP and Pacific Resilience Standards

Progress contributes to FRDP’s **Goal 3: Strengthened disaster preparedness, response and recovery** and implementing **guiding principle: Integrate gender considerations, advocate and support equitable participation of men and women in the planning and implementation of all activities**. Pacific Resilience Standards: linking to **“Include”** Guiding Principle through integrating gender considerations. A greater focus on addressing the root causes of inequity and exclusion are needed.

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Sendai Targets

Gender-responsive and community-inclusive approaches are contributing to progress towards **Target G: Substantially increase the availability of, and access to, multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030**.

Key Australian Government funded investments included in this review: Shifting the Power Coalition; Social Protection Approaches to COVID-19 – Expert Advice (SPACE); Vanuatu Skills Partnership; Tonga’s Outer Islands Renewable Energy Project (OIREP); Pacific Islands Emergency Management Alliance (PIEMA); UNDP’s Gov4Res; Markets for Change; Women’s Resilience to Disaster Program, Gender Inequality of Risk and Promoting Community Resilience Project in Solomon Islands; Pacific Women Climate Negotiators Program.

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