



THE BHAWANIPUR



THE BHAWANIPUR EDUCATION SOCIETY COLLEGE
ASSEMBLY OF NATIONS

STUDY GUIDES

BESCAON

2024

THE BHAWANIPUR EDUCATION SOCIETY COLLEGE

ASSEMBLY OF NATIONS

Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings delegates,

As the Executive Board of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women at the BESC AON 2024, we would like to extend a warm welcome to you all. This background guide is intended to provide some direction for your research, but it is important to note that your real research lies beyond this guide. We expect you to do your own research and apply all of your extensive knowledge of the topics discussed in this committee.

We understand the importance and complexity of the issues we will be discussing, and we strongly recommend that you come prepared and well-researched. We also encourage you to participate actively and make it a learning experience for all of us. During the course of this committee, we will be putting you in various diplomatic and negotiating practices to give more substance to the discussions.

Our hope is that you come to this committee with motivation and a willingness to discuss the situation at hand, brainstorm together to find solutions, apply frameworks, and in the process, learn the art of diplomacy. Our goal is for you to have an enriching experience by solving real-life problems happening in the world.

Best regards,

Executive Board,

UNCSW, BESC AON

About the UNCSW

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the world's leading intergovernmental body dedicated only to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment. It was formed by ECOSOC resolution 11(II) of June 21, 1946, as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) has been an essential tool in the advancement of women for the past sixty years, expanding recognition of women's rights, documenting women's status country by country, shaping global policies on gender equality and women's empowerment, and ensuring a comprehensive gender perspective in all UN activities. The CSW's goal is to promote women's rights and gender equality by bringing together governments, UN institutions, NGOs, and other international and regional organizations.

ECOSOC expanded the Commission's mandate in 1996 with Resolution 1996/6, deciding that it should play a leading role in monitoring and reviewing progress and problems in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as mainstreaming a gender perspective into UN activities. The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the world's most powerful policy making organization devoted only to gender equality and women's empowerment. It is a United Nations organization dedicated to advancing women's political, economic, civic, social, and educational rights. The CSW also promotes equality, development, and peace, as well as monitoring policy implementation and ensuring that gender problems are addressed within the UN.

Mandate of UNCSW

CSW's original purpose, established in 1946, was to provide "recommendations and reports to ECOSOC on advancing women's rights in political, economic, social, and educational spheres... [and]... critical issues demanding prompt action in the field of women's rights." As a result of the UN Decade of Women from 1975 to 1985, as well as the Third and Fourth World Conferences on Women in Nairobi in 1985 and Beijing in 1995, this mission has been significantly increased. Following the Fourth World Conference and the adoption of the BPfA (Beijing Platform for Action), ECOSOC determined that CSW's major role is to incorporate "a gender perspective in policies and programmes," as well as to help ECOSOC and Member States in implementing and achieving the BPfA's goals.

Agenda: Advancing the role of women in Post-Crisis Complexity: Integrating responses to armed conflicts, climate challenges and natural disasters

Post-crisis complexity is a term that encapsulates the intricate web of challenges and interrelated issues that surface in the aftermath of various crises, spanning armed conflicts, climate challenges, and natural disasters. This period is characterized by multifaceted dynamics, uncertainties, and systemic disruptions that persist once the immediate crisis has waned. Understanding post-crisis complexity is crucial for comprehending how the three major sectors—social, economic, and political—contribute to a convoluted environment for women, amplifying their vulnerability and exacerbating multiple problems simultaneously.

In the aftermath of armed conflicts, post-crisis complexity intensifies as the social fabric disintegrates. Women, serving as primary caregivers and community stabilizers, bear the brunt of displacement, loss, and shattered social networks, grappling with trauma while rebuilding fractured communities. Economically, job losses, instability, and limited resources disproportionately impact women, amplifying systemic economic disadvantages, gender-based discrimination, and disrupted supply chains. In the political sphere, armed conflicts usher in

power shifts and governance challenges, hindering women's participation in decision-making. Marginalized rights and the absence of gender-sensitive policies amid political instability further compound the complexity of women's experiences, necessitating nuanced responses.

In the aftermath of climate-related disasters, post-crisis complexity is exacerbated by environmental factors, profoundly affecting women reliant on natural resources. For instance, in regions prone to floods, women engaged in agriculture experience crop losses and soil degradation, threatening their livelihoods. Coastal communities ravaged by storms witness disruption in fishing activities, impacting women dependent on marine resources. As ecosystems degrade, women face heightened vulnerabilities, grappling with water scarcity, loss of biodiversity, and increased exposure to climate-induced health risks. The intricate interplay between environmental degradation and women's reliance on natural resources underscores the multifaceted challenges arising in the aftermath of climate-related crises.

Armed Conflict

Distinguishing whether an armed conflict exists is crucial as it determines the application of International Humanitarian Law, which governs the permissible use of force and protection of individuals and property. IHL doesn't cover all instances of inter-State confrontation or violence like riots or isolated acts. The treaty regime recognizes two types of armed conflicts: international ones involving two or more States, and non-international conflicts involving States and non-governmental armed groups, or solely between armed groups.

International Armed Conflict (IAC)

Common Article 2 to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 states that:

"In addition to the provisions which shall be implemented in peacetime, the present Convention shall apply to all cases of declared war or of any other armed conflict which may arise between two or more of the High Contracting Parties, even if the state of war is not recognized by one of them. The Convention shall also apply to all cases of partial or total occupation of the territory of a High Contracting Party, even if the said occupation meets with no armed resistance"

An international armed conflict occurs when one or more States engage in armed force against another State, regardless of the reasons or intensity. No formal declaration of war or acknowledgment is necessary. The determination of an international armed conflict, and thus the application of International Humanitarian Law, is contingent upon actual events on the ground and factual circumstances. Additionally, under Additional Protocol I, international armed

conflicts encompass conflicts where peoples are resisting colonial domination, foreign occupation, or racist regimes to exercise their right to self-determination.

Non International Armed Conflict (NIAC)

In contrast to International Armed Conflict, the threshold for Non-International Armed Conflicts (NIACs) is higher, recognizing that during peacetime, law enforcement activities, including counterterrorism efforts, may require the use of force governed by domestic criminal and human rights law. Additional Protocol II, Article 1(2), explicitly excludes situations like internal disturbances, riots, and sporadic acts of violence from being considered armed conflicts.

Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions applies to individuals not actively involved in hostilities during a non-international armed conflict, ensuring basic protection for them. It acknowledges that parties to such conflicts can include non-State actors, regardless of their legal status under international law, as long as they are sufficiently organised to collectively comply with IHL.

In cases where third-party States intervene to support an insurgency against a territorial State, the legal relationship between the territorial State and the armed groups remains governed by NIAC rules. If the third-party State exercises significant direction and control over the insurgency groups, the relationship may shift to International Armed Conflict rules. In situations where third-party States intervene in a NIAC to support the territorial State, known as an internationalised armed conflict, IHL governing NIACs continues to apply.

The conflict between the US-led coalition and the Taliban regime in Afghanistan in 2001 initially qualified as an International Armed Conflict. However, once the Karzai Government was established and gained international recognition, the nature of the conflict shifted to a Non-International Armed Conflict, with multinational forces present to support the Afghan regime with its consent.

Challenges faced by women in post conflict situations

In conflict-affected and recovering nations, women face a dearth of economic prospects crucial for their survival. They also contend with persistent domestic and community violence, bear heavy caregiving responsibilities, and carry the enduring trauma of conflict without acknowledgment or assistance. Following conflicts, instances of violence against women typically surge, underscoring the necessity of reconstructing legal institutions. Research indicates that women tend to allocate a greater portion of their earnings towards family essentials like healthcare and education, thereby playing a significant role in post-conflict societal rehabilitation.

The absence of robust legal frameworks to safeguard women's rights, supported by efficient security and justice institutions for enforcement, has far-reaching consequences. According to the 2011 World Development Report by the World Bank, there are significant interconnections among justice, security, and development in conflict-affected regions. The report highlighted that without established rule of law and justice, insecurity and violence persist, hindering development. Moreover, this insecurity and violence, stemming from a lack of legal structures, obstruct women's involvement in nation-building endeavours such as reconstruction, peacebuilding, and development. In the absence of security, women and girls are unable to participate in essential activities like agriculture or market engagement, crucial for early recovery and family sustenance.

Girls encounter extra challenges in attaining education, primarily stemming from the fear of being specifically targeted for attacks and threats, as well as from the added burden of caregiving and household duties that they are frequently compelled to shoulder. Additionally, women are compelled to seek alternative means of supporting their families, given the increasing dependence on them for survival.

Access to vital services like healthcare, particularly sexual and reproductive health services, can be disrupted, placing women and girls at higher risk of unintended pregnancies, maternal health complications, severe reproductive injuries, and contracting sexually transmitted infections, often resulting from conflict-related sexual violence. Internally displaced women may bear a disproportionate impact from livelihood loss during displacement, such as being unable to engage in their usual livelihood activities due to land and livestock loss. Women are also disproportionately affected by housing and land loss, often due to the lack of property ownership documentation. Additionally, other significant human rights issues include unequal access to assistance, education, and training.

As highlighted by human rights experts, unilateral sanctions have detrimental effects on the human rights of vulnerable populations, particularly women. The Special Rapporteur emphasises that sanctions frequently involve fuel embargoes and hinder targeted countries from acquiring essential components to maintain critical life-supporting infrastructure, such as food, water, sanitation, healthcare, and electricity systems. When countries are unable to access fuel, the delivery of medicines and medical equipment becomes impeded, preventing people from reaching hospitals for necessary medical treatment, including prenatal care, childbirth, child vaccinations, and medical assistance. Consequently, women, often responsible for securing clean water for their families, bear a disproportionate impact. Moreover, when sanctions lead to economic downturns, women are typically the first to lose their jobs and become vulnerable to exploitation by human traffickers for sexual purposes.

Case study

Rwanda- Following the war and genocide, numerous women faced severe economic hardship, particularly those heading households. This vulnerability, though a global issue, was exacerbated by the breakdown of social networks in Rwanda. Post-genocide, a significant portion of Rwandan women found themselves destitute, lacking even basic shelter. The conflict deepened existing disparities among women and introduced new ones. Despite governmental assertions that ethnic differences are irrelevant and efforts to discourage public discourse on ethnicity, such distinctions and discrimination persist. Tutsi women survivors often harbour distrust or fear towards Hutu neighbours, suspecting their involvement in past violence. Additionally, many survivors, regardless of ethnicity, are reluctant to return to their former homes due to traumatic memories and mistrust towards former neighbours. Hutu women, both in rural and urban settings, feel insecure under the current government, as public discourse often stigmatizes all Hutu as perpetrators of genocide. In Rwanda, the stigma surrounding rape prevents many women from discussing their experiences, exacerbating their psychological distress through social isolation. Despite the upheaval caused by war and genocide, patriarchal norms deeply entrenched in Rwandan society and politics have persisted. The emphasis on militarism and military values during and after the conflict has further entrenched gender inequalities, with young women often competing for a scarce pool of eligible partners, reinforcing the subordination of women.

Following Rwanda's tragic civil war and genocide in 1994, the country witnessed a transformation in gender dynamics, challenging traditional norms in sub-Saharan Africa. With Rwanda emerging as a relatively stable nation, its approach to gender roles serves as a new model, shaped by the government's initiatives and international influence. In the post-conflict era, women played a pivotal role in shaping security policies, notably through the creation of the Forum of Rwandan Women Parliamentarians in 1996. This forum advocated for women's empowerment and equality within state institutions, leading to significant legislative achievements such as the enactment of laws addressing gender-based violence and inheritance rights. These legal reforms have had a profound impact on national security, addressing key sources of social tension and conflict. Historically, women in Rwanda experienced a decline in their traditional roles within civil society, influenced by changes brought about by the establishment of the Rwandan monarchy and subsequent colonial rule. Despite marginalisation and limited rights after independence in 1962, women's organisations in civil society played a vital role in post-conflict reconstruction efforts, contributing significantly to enhancing security. Rwandan women engage in peacebuilding leveraging their distinct roles as mediators within families and tribes, alongside the rise of feminist principles. Given their historically limited access to formal political avenues, Rwandan women have often employed informal methods, like negotiating with insurgent family members and the military. Their recognized role as mediators and reconcilers within the private sphere has been instrumental in fostering gender equity within a stable and functional society, complementing public policy advancements achieved elsewhere.

South Sudan- The crisis in Sudan has inflicted severe suffering on its population, particularly impacting women and girls who are highly vulnerable during conflicts. Khartoum, the capital

city, has been the focal point of the crisis, resulting in widespread devastation across many neighbourhoods. In the midst of this violence, women and girls are facing numerous challenges, including limited access to essential resources like food, water, and medical assistance, as well as heightened risks of violence and abuse. Urgent action is imperative to safeguard the well-being of women and girls in Sudan. In central and northern Khartoum, women and girls are enduring horrific sexual violence perpetrated by paramilitary forces, with families trapped in once secure homes now at the mercy of armed men. The situation is exacerbated by the severe strain on healthcare facilities, many of which are damaged or understaffed, leaving survivors of gender-based violence and pregnant women at significant risk. Women in urban areas, often engaged in informal street vending to support their families, are particularly vulnerable, continuing to work despite the ongoing conflict due to limited alternatives.

In response to the conflict, a coalition of over 49 women-led peace, humanitarian, and civil society groups has formed the Peace for Sudan Platform. With backing from the UN Women Sudan office, this platform brings together representatives from various regions of Sudan to facilitate communication and drive collective advocacy efforts led by women. The war has spurred increased collaboration among women's organisations, fostering strong solidarity across Sudanese states. Initiatives like the Women Against War network and the Mothers of Sudan campaign are actively engaged in documenting violations, advocating for peace, and pressuring international stakeholders to support resolution efforts. These groups also offer vital assistance to affected families, including shelter, medical aid, and support for those displaced or trapped in conflict zones like Khartoum. The Peace for Sudan platform focuses on women-led initiatives across states to address the crisis, prioritising dialogue promotion between conflicting parties, provision of essential aid, and empowerment of women to advocate for peace and halt violations against women. Additionally, it seeks to foster collaboration among diverse women's organisations and facilitate knowledge exchange.

United Nations Initiatives

Security Council Resolution 1325 - The resolution emphasises the significant role women play in conflict prevention and resolution, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response, and post-conflict reconstruction. It stresses the importance of ensuring women's equal participation and full involvement in all initiatives aimed at maintaining and promoting peace and security. Resolution 1325 urges all stakeholders to enhance women's participation and integrate gender perspectives into all United Nations peace and security endeavours. Additionally, it calls on conflicting parties to implement specific measures to safeguard women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, during armed conflicts. The resolution outlines various operational mandates that have implications for both Member States and United Nations entities.

The UN's Seven-point action plan on gender-responsive peacebuilding outlines specific pledges for UN entities to enhance women's political involvement, such as offering support for temporary special measures in electoral assistance after conflicts.

The UN's Strategic Framework on Women and Peace and Security provides clear goals, commitments, and deadlines for promoting women's participation in post-conflict governance.

Recognizing the crucial role of women's participation in peacekeeping operations for mission success, which enhances force credibility, improves protection efforts, increases reporting of gender-based crimes, and reduces incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers, it's noteworthy that only about 3% of UN military peacekeepers are women on average. To encourage troop-contributing countries to deploy more female peacekeepers, UN Women conducts training programs for female military officers. These courses offer a platform for women in the armed forces to gain exposure, receive additional training, and access opportunities for professional growth. Moreover, UN Women supports the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) in training military peacekeepers to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence in their deployment areas. This includes collaborating with women's civil society organisations on the ground and testing a method to monitor mission expenditures on gender equality and women's protection.

Through a collaboration with the Peacebuilding Commission and its secretariat, the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), UN Women ensures that gender considerations are integrated into all UN peacebuilding endeavours. This partnership aims to allocate 15% of post-conflict recovery funds to projects specifically designed to advance gender equality. In various nations, UN Women facilitates gender-sensitive initiatives in security sector reform and the demobilisation and reintegration of former combatants. Furthermore, UN Women advocates for the increased representation of women in post-conflict governance institutions, a strategy proven to boost social investment and foster long-term stability.

UN Women's program on "Gender-Sensitive Transitional Justice" assists women in participating in comprehensive post-conflict justice initiatives globally, including in Kosovo, Colombia, and the Philippines. Additionally, through a roster in collaboration with Justice Rapid Response, UN Women has dispatched gender advisors and sexual violence investigators to all UN Commissions of Inquiry formed since 2009, as well as to fact-finding missions, investigations by the International Criminal Court, and national accountability proceedings.

Climate Change and Displacement

The impacts of climate change have far-reaching consequences, contributing to displacement and exacerbating living conditions, particularly for those who are already displaced. The strain on limited natural resources, such as drinking water, is intensifying in regions hosting refugees. Agricultural struggles, with crops and livestock facing challenges in extreme weather conditions,

further threaten the livelihoods of vulnerable populations. Climate change acts as a threat multiplier, amplifying existing tensions and escalating the potential for conflicts.

The escalation in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, such as heavy rainfall, prolonged droughts, desertification, environmental degradation, sea-level rise, and cyclones, is compelling over 20 million people each year to migrate within their countries. Some individuals are compelled to cross international borders due to climate change and related disasters, potentially requiring international protection. In response to these challenges, both refugee and human rights laws play crucial roles in addressing the complex intersections of climate-induced displacement.

The Global Compact on Refugees, endorsed by an overwhelming majority in the UN General Assembly in December 2018, directly acknowledges the pressing issue of climate change. The compact recognizes that climate, environmental degradation, and disasters are increasingly interconnected with the drivers of refugee movements. This international agreement highlights the need for coordinated efforts to address the multifaceted challenges posed by climate-induced displacement and emphasizes the importance of upholding the rights and protection of those affected.

Vulnerable Populations

Climate change disproportionately impacts various vulnerable groups, exacerbating existing inequalities and amplifying their susceptibility to adverse consequences. Indigenous communities, often deeply connected to their ecosystems, face threats to their traditional ways of life as changing weather patterns disrupt their livelihoods and cultural practices. Women, particularly in developing countries, bear a disproportionate burden as they are often responsible for securing water, food, and fuel for their families, and are more vulnerable to the impacts of natural disasters. Children are also highly vulnerable, with climate-related events jeopardizing their health, education, and overall well-being. Low-income populations and marginalized communities, lacking resources and adaptive capacities, find it challenging to cope with the escalating impacts of climate change, leading to increased social and economic disparities. The elderly, persons with disabilities, and those living in informal settlements are additional vulnerable groups facing heightened risks and challenges in the face of climate-related changes. Addressing the specific vulnerabilities of these groups is crucial for creating effective climate resilience and adaptation strategies.

In addition, competition over dwindling natural resources, intensified by climate change, has the potential to ignite conflicts or exacerbate existing vulnerabilities within communities. A poignant example is the water scarcity-driven tensions in the Middle East, particularly in the Jordan River Basin. Climate change-induced shifts in precipitation patterns and rising temperatures have strained water resources, exacerbating historic disputes among Israel, Jordan, and Palestine over

access to the Jordan River. Similarly, in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Lake Chad Basin has witnessed conflicts fueled by competition for diminishing water and land resources, exacerbated by climate-induced desertification. Beyond resource competition, climate change can magnify socio-economic disparities, contributing to conflicts. In the case of Bangladesh, the combination of sea-level rise and extreme weather events heightens the vulnerability of coastal communities. This has led to internal migration and increased competition over limited arable land, exacerbating social tensions. While climate change itself does not directly cause conflict, its role as a catalyst is evident in these cases, underscoring the need for sustainable resource management and conflict resolution strategies in a changing climate.

Women and Climate Change

Women's vulnerability to climate change is deeply rooted in a complex interplay of social, economic, and cultural factors. The stark reality is that 70 percent of the 1.3 billion people living in conditions of poverty are women, underscoring the disproportionate impact of economic disparities on them. Within urban settings, 40 percent of the poorest households are led by women, highlighting the economic challenges faced by female-headed households.

In the realm of food production, where women play a dominant role (50-80 percent), the disconcerting statistic emerges that they own less than 10 percent of the land. This disparity in land ownership contributes to their vulnerability, limiting their economic agency and resilience in the face of climate-induced challenges. The situation is exacerbated in rural areas, where women bear the brunt of responsibilities related to household water supply, energy for cooking and heating, and food security. In the Near East, for example, women contribute up to 50 percent of the agricultural workforce, often engaging in time-consuming and labor-intensive tasks with manual tools.

Despite being integral to communities highly dependent on local natural resources for their livelihoods, women face limited access to and control of environmental goods and services. Their negligible participation in decision-making processes and the unequal distribution of environmental management benefits further constrain their ability to address climate change effectively.

Extreme weather events, such as droughts and floods, disproportionately burden women, who often work harder to secure household livelihoods during these crises. This increased workload leaves them with less time for education, skill development, and income generation. The repercussions are evident in Africa, where female illiteracy rates exceeded 55 percent in 2000, compared to 41 percent for men. Coupled with restricted access to resources and decision-making, limited mobility puts women in situations where they bear a disproportionate burden of climate change impacts.

Societal norms and childcare responsibilities often hinder women from migrating, seeking refuge, or working when disasters strike. This restricted mobility places additional burdens on women, forcing them to travel longer distances for essential resources like drinking water and fuel. In many developing countries, women already grapple with gender inequalities across various domains, including human rights, political and economic status, land ownership, housing conditions, exposure to violence, education, and health. Climate change serves as an additional stressor that amplifies women's vulnerability, compounding existing challenges.

During times of conflict, women face heightened risks of domestic violence, sexual intimidation, human trafficking, and rape. The intersecting vulnerabilities of gender inequality and climate change create a perilous situation for women in many societies. As climate change continues to unfold, addressing the complex web of social, economic, and cultural factors is essential to building resilience and fostering gender equality, ensuring that women are not left disproportionately burdened by the impacts of a changing climate

Effects of natural disasters on women

Pre-existing, structural gender inequalities mean that disasters affect women and girls in different ways than they affect boys and men.

- Existing gender inequality across all sectors of society heightens women's exposure to disaster risk, thus weakening the resilience of communities as a whole. By harnessing local expertise, situational nuance and capitalizing on the existing, yet often hidden, skills that women have, women's empowerment in disaster risk reduction improves resilience overall.

- The vulnerability of females increases when they are in a lower socioeconomic group, particularly in the Global South. This vulnerability impacts preparedness, evacuation, response, number of deaths and recovery. The reasons for this vulnerability can often be traced to the roles females hold in society and existing gender and cultural norms where they live. Traditional gender roles dictate that women are responsible for managing household duties and resources. This includes household chores like collecting water and firewood, preparing meals, caring for the children, and cleaning, on the one hand, and working on farms on the other.

constrained.

- In all countries, violence against women and girls is a factor post-disaster. Sexual assaults, physical abuse and human trafficking increase after a disaster. From an Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) perspective, this often stems from stress due to financial concerns, disaster-trauma heightened mental health issues, increased substance use, etc. Sexual violence may occur in crowded housing situations (e.g. against or by a host family member). Stress is exacerbated in crowded shelters or temporary housing which may lead to aggressive behavior, including sexual

aggression. In war-torn areas – including refugee encampments and internally displaced persons camps – sexual violence is often seen as a means of control of the population.

- In cultural communities that require modest clothing, women and girls may find it harder to run away from danger (i.e. an approaching tsunami or a collapsed building) because of the barriers their clothing may create. Additionally, modest dress and/or cultural norms may mean females engage in different cultural and recreational activities. This could mean girls may not be taught how to swim or to climb trees. This creates barriers that make it difficult to take care of themselves when trying to survive flooding.

- During recovery, women and girls may have to work harder to carry out the functions of daily living for their families. This can include lining up for relief supplies, having to travel farther to access water or cooking in challenging conditions. These activities often happen during the day, limiting the access women and girls have to education or outside employment.

- The long-term effects of floods and other natural catastrophes are equally devastating. The economic shock caused by such a disaster can create an environment of negative growth for women who have been socially and economically deprived. For example, flood damage usually precipitates a dramatic and sustained fall in agricultural employment, severely constraining women's future opportunities outside the home.

SDG 2030

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals to transform our world. They were designed to be a “blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all” and part of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They were agreed by 193 countries in September 2015.

Each of the 17 goals strive for the universal reduction of climate change and poverty, and the improvement of education, health, and economic growth. The United Nations describes the SDGs as seeking to “protect the planet, and improve the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere.”

The SDGs provide worldwide guidance for addressing each of these goals. Crises within the SDGs are faced by most countries and can only be addressed if we work as one global community. The 17 SDGs are integrated—they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability, heightening the need for their implementation more than ever. The 5 pillars, also known as 5 Ps of sustainable development, encompass 5 overarching areas that each of the SDGs address which are of critical importance. They are: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships, sustainability sitting at the core of each.

Disaster risk reduction

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) is based on reducing

- 1) the scale, frequency and damage caused by natural hazards like earthquakes, floods, droughts and cyclones, through an ethic of prevention and
- 2) the vulnerability of individual and society to damage by these hazards to individuals and society

A disaster's severity depends on how much impact a hazard has on society and the environment. The scale of the impact in turn depends on the choices we make for our lives and for our environment. Each decision and action makes us more vulnerable to disasters - or more resilient to them.

Reducing exposure to hazards, lessening vulnerability of people and property, sensible management of land and the environment, and improving preparedness and early warning for adverse events are all examples of disaster risk reduction. DRR involves every part of society, every part of government, and every part of the professional and private sector.

Sustainable Development and DRR:

DRR includes disciplines like disaster management, disaster mitigation and disaster preparedness, but DRR is also part of sustainable development. In order for development activities to be sustainable they must also reduce disaster risk.

1. The Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World (1994), was the first major international framework for disaster risk reduction, recognized the interrelation between sustainable development and DRR,
2. Millennium Development Goals ,
3. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (Johannesburg, September 2002),
4. The “Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015)” and to the “Future We Want” (Rio, June 2012),
5. The Sendai Framework for DRR (Sendai, March 2016),
6. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (New York, September 2015).

Crises and disasters have different impacts on men, women, girls, and boys of all ages, and the consequences are not gender-neutral. Many international strategies and frameworks have identified women as one of the key stakeholders in any disaster management efforts due to many

reasons. Women play a significant role in disaster response and recovery stages specifically at household level. The empowerment of women is a critical ingredient in building disaster resilience. Women are often the designers and builders of community resilience at the local level.

However, their roles in organizational decision making, particularly in disaster risk governance, is limited. This has created equity and equality issues among one of the most affected communities from hazards.

Few reasons and their consequences:

- In many countries of the world, women are more likely to be numbered amongst the poor, landless, and malnourished, and these existing vulnerabilities are enhanced when a disaster strikes. Women are more likely to be responsible for food and water provision, for the care and emotional work within the household, and for the protection of their families in the immediate disaster period.
- Those women who have lost husbands in disasters will become sole providers for families.
- During a disaster, women may be constrained by cultural norms that restrict their movement, they may lack access to adequate information and shelters may be gender-insensitive, all of which may explain why women are more likely to die in a disaster.

Frameworks

SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was approved at the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction on 18th March 2015, held in Sendai, located in Japan. This voluntary, non-binding agreement, with seven targets and four priorities for action, is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015). The framework has a time frame of 15 years, i.e., 2015-2030. United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) is tasked with the implementation, follow-up, support and review of the Sendai Framework.

SAMOA PATHWAY

An official document formally adopted by UN Member States as the outcome of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, in which countries recognize the need to support and invest in these nations so they can achieve sustainable development. It also established a unique intergovernmental SIDS Partnership Framework, designed to monitor progress of existing, and stimulate the launch of new, genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of SIDS.

ADDIS ABABA ACTION AGENDA

The Action Agenda establishes a strong foundation to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It provides a new global framework for financing sustainable development by aligning all financing flows and policies with economic, social and environmental priorities.

