

GENDER EQUALITY, DISABILITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION MAINSTREAMING IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Enabling GEDSI-Responsive DRR Planning & Budgeting Tips On Strategies and Approaches



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ABBREVIATIONS

DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
GEDSI	Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion
PSEAH	Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SADD	Sex, Age and Disability-Disaggregated Data
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-based Violence
SUPER	Strengthening Urban Preparedness, Earthquake Preparedness and Response in Western Regions of Nepal

1. INTRODUCTION

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) of Nepal and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) recognises gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) as a human rights imperative, intrinsically linked to effective Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Disasters, including pandemics have differential gender, social and age specific impacts that increases exposure risks, vulnerabilities and deepens discrimination against women, girls and other marginalised groups. Social and gender dynamics also influence factors that affect resilience, preparedness levels and access to coping mechanisms that support recovery (World Bank, 2021).

What is GEDSI-responsive DRR?

Integrating a GEDSI lens into DRR policies, action plans and activities enable a better understanding of vulnerabilities among certain at-risk groups and disadvantaged populations. It ensures all DRR-related activities, cluster-based response plans and budgets are informed from a GEDSI perspective. This approach begins with collating sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data (SADDD) and vulnerability assessments that help identify categories of 'at-risk' marginalized groups, which may vary in each country context. It also ensures that all DRR preparedness, response and recovery plans include GEDSI participation, voice and agency. The GEDSI approach is rooted in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda's transformative principle to 'Leave No One Behind' (See Boxes 1 and 2).

BOX 1.

Disaster impacts, vulnerabilities and resilience – cause and effect

Vulnerable 'at-risk' Groups

- Economically weak groups: slum dwellers, migrants and informal workers, homeless and destitute communities.
- Minority groups: ethnic, religious and caste-based and sexual minorities (LGBTIQ+ communities).
- Age-specific vulnerabilities: children and the elderly.
- Spatially and physically disadvantaged groups (people with disabilities).
- Occupational vulnerabilities: sex workers, rag-pickers, child laborer.
- Gender-specific vulnerabilities: all women and girls in 'at risk' groups, single women, pregnant and lactating and LGBTIQ+.

Disaster Impacts Exposure and Vulnerability

Resilience Preparedness Response Recovery Rehabilitation

GEDSI-Responsive DRR

- Vulnerability assessments identify disadvantaged groups.
- GEDSI participation, voice and agency.
- GEDSI-informed resilient cluster activities and budgets.
- Capacity building for stakeholders and vulnerable groups.
- GEDSI-responsive communication, early warning systems and information dissemination.
- Disaggregated data, monitoring and impact assessments.

BOX 2.**Disasters – risks and vulnerability impacts****Disasters exacerbate unpaid care work burden.**

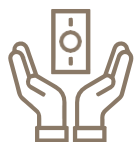
A post-earthquake disaster needs assessment in Nepal indicated that 51% of women reported spending more time fetching water and 63% reported an increase in time spent on cooking and cleaning. School closures also meant increased childcare responsibilities.

**Disasters further marginalize returnee migrant women.**

Unmarried, pregnant returnee women migrant workers in Nepal faced stigma and hostilities from their families and communities during the COVID-19 pandemic due to their unmarried status. This forced them to stay in shelters instead of returning to their families. They also faced discrimination trying to rent rooms or houses and were forced to live in overcrowded slums, impacting their health and safety.

**Disasters increase the risk of gender-based violence (GBV).**

During the COVID-19 lockdown in Nepal, when protection measures to respond to GBV and other crimes were suspended, there was an unprecedented surge in GBV incidents, thus aggravating the vulnerabilities of survivors. The Women's Rehabilitation Centre of Nepal's 'GBV Dashboard' indicates that between 24 March and 15 May 2020, 336 women and children were subjected to violence, with 55% of these cases involving intimate partner violence.

**Disasters affect livelihoods, savings and food security.**

The pandemic pushed women out of the formal economy, causing 83% of women to be out of work. This increased the proportion of women out of paid work by 337 per cent. Many women have lost control over emergency savings, which in turn affects their status of living and food security. Marginalised communities and those with chronic illnesses, including pregnant and lactating women, are finding it difficult to access basic health services as well.

Sources: OCHA and UN Women (2016); Gender in Humanitarian Action Task Team, Nepal; A Practitioner's Guide on Financing for Gender Equality in Humanitarian Action in the context of Nepal's Covid-19 Preparedness and Response Plan (2021); UN Women (2020). Risk of flood-related mortality in Nepal, Pradhan et al. (2007); Gender Dimensions of Disaster Risk and Resilience, Existing Evidence, World Bank Group (2021); The Rapid Gender Analysis Report on COVID-19 Nepal (2020).

GEDSI-responsive DRR in Asia and the Pacific

A UN Women review of DRR and GEDSI inclusion in national DRR policies, strategies and action plans across 26 countries in Asia and the Pacific (including Nepal) highlighted the limitations and issues concerning effective GEDSI mainstreaming in national DRR frameworks, in accordance with the international commitments (See Footnote 1). The review identified three broad areas of concern. This report has shared a list of recommendations on how these gaps can be effectively mitigated.

AREAS OF CONCERN

RECOMMENDATIONS

1

Lack of GEDSI-informed evidence, vulnerability assessments and capacities

Insufficient capacities to mainstream gender-responsive and socially inclusive DRR, due to lacking an understanding of the root causes of vulnerability.

- Utilize SADDD and qualitative analyses to improve understandings of the root causes of disaster risk, vulnerabilities and the unequal distribution of impacts.
- Address knowledge gaps on specific vulnerabilities experienced by different social groups.
- Apply an intersectional lens while implementing the Sendai Framework.¹

2

GEDSI-responsive financing gaps

Lack of stable funding for inclusive DRR.

- Use gender-responsive budgeting to secure resources for inclusive DRR and mainstream gender equality and social inclusion into dedicated institutions.
- Set up a national monitoring and evaluation mechanism to ensure the implementation of inclusive DRR.

3

GEDSI-related monitoring and coordination in DRR

Lack of coordination between stakeholders.

- Streamline SADDD collection through unified and centralized monitoring platforms and enhance capacities to applying an inclusive lens in data analysis.
- Institutionalize multi-stakeholder cooperation at all levels and bolster resources for local organizations working on gender and social inclusion.
- Ensure the meaningful participation of various groups, including women and people with disabilities.

Source: Review of Gender-Responsiveness and Disability-Inclusion in Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific.

¹The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 provides UN member states with concrete actions to protect development gains from the risk of disasters. <https://www.undrr.org/implementing-sendai-framework/what-sendai-framework>

GESDI Responsive DRR in Nepal

Gender equality and social inclusion are embedded in Nepal's constitutional preamble and provisions. The Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, 2074 directs the Executive Committee to ensure that special plans and programmes are designed for **women, children, senior citizens, Dalits, marginalized groups and communities and people with disabilities**. It acknowledges special vulnerabilities and the need to implement risk-reduction programs that are inclusive in design. The Disaster Risk Reduction National Strategic Action Plan 2018 -2030 is an important document. It presents a DRR roadmap for Nepal, with the long-term vision of building a safer, adaptive and resilient nation and ensuring sustainable development. The action plan is aligned to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and includes four priority areas and 18 priority actions, with indicators and targets. The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in Nepal was instrumental in coordinating humanitarian aid during the pandemic through seven activated clusters. UN Women Nepal, through the HC, supported the 'COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan' and a 'Monsoon Emergency Preparedness Plan.' Thanks to UN Women Nepal's support, these plans were developed with a strong GESDI focus (See Box 2).



Lay down a special plan and programme for women, children, senior citizens, Dalits, marginalized groups and communities and people with disabilities who are at disaster risk, and implement and cause to implement the same; Identify the most vulnerable communities and implement or cause to implement the risk reduction programs.

Establishment of Executive Committee and its Functions, Duties and Powers, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, 2074 Nepal

2. ENABLING GEDSI-RESPONSIVE DRR PLANNING & BUDGETING TIPS ON STRATEGIES AND APPROACHES

The Government of Nepal prepared the Disaster Risk Reduction National Strategic Action Plan 2018 -2030 with the objective to manage DRR by building resilient communities. The action plan was developed in accordance with national and international commitments.² Its long-term vision is to build a safer, adaptive and resilient nation from disaster risk through sustainable development. The expected outcome of the action plan is to substantially reduce disaster mortality and the number of affected people and mitigate losses in livelihoods, health, assets, businesses and communities. The action plan identifies four priority areas and eighteen short-, medium- and long-term strategic activities or priority actions to enable a holistic and cross-cutting approach. GEDSI principles are embedded in all priority areas and explicitly mentioned under Priority Area 2 and Priority Area 8, which calls for **‘Ensuring Inclusiveness in Disaster Risk Reduction’**.

Priority Area 1

Understanding Disaster Risk

Priority Area 2

Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance at the Federal, Provincial and Local Levels

Priority Area 3

Promoting Comprehensive Risk-Informed Private and Public Investments in Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience

Priority Area 4

Enhancing Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response and to “Build Back Better” in Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

BOX 3.

UN Women Nepal’s role in promoting GEDSI-responsive DRR

UN Women Nepal has emerged as a leader in advocating and promoting GEDSI-responsive humanitarian interventions. After the 2015 earthquake, subsequent disasters caused by landslides and floods and the COVID-19 pandemic, UN Women Nepal served as a catalyst in mainstreaming GEDSI into all aspects of DRR. UN Women Nepal proactively supports research and publishes status reports to create evidence and highlight areas of exclusion and concern. It strives to optimize its coordination mandate to achieve coherence in approaches and a synergy of results among numerous players in the humanitarian field. It exercises substantive leadership as chair of the Gender in Humanitarian Action Task Team (GiHA-TT), co-chair of four working groups of the United Nations Country Team and as an active contributor to the work of all cluster and inter-cluster initiatives of the Humanitarian Country Team. By providing meaningful leadership and bringing together multiple initiatives, UN Women Nepal supports collaborative actions that leave no one behind.

Source: UN Women Nepal COVID-19 Response Strategy, *Blazing Trails in the Humanitarian-Development Continuum*, October 2020.

² The Strategic Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction incorporates a comprehensive approach and was developed in compliance with international declarations and commitments such as Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, Asia Regional Plan adopted on Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2016; and the Cancun Declaration adopted by fifth meeting of Global Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction.

The **tips on strategies and approaches** was prepared with the objective to ensure better visibility of GEDSI and its effective mainstreaming across DRR planning and budgeting. It is envisaged that these recommendations will serve as a practical checklist to enable GEDSI-responsive humanitarian response and cluster action plans. The checklist is aligned to the priority areas and activities defined in the **Disaster Risk Reduction National Strategic Action Plan 2018 -2030**. These tips and recommendations will serve as a planning and accountability tool that will be available for use by all stakeholders, such as federal, provincial and local governments; cluster members; DRR committees and civil society organizations responsible for ensuring inclusive DRR approaches.



Conduct training programmes by developing curriculum related to disaster risk reduction for Dalits, women, children, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, vulnerable communities and all concerned stakeholders.³

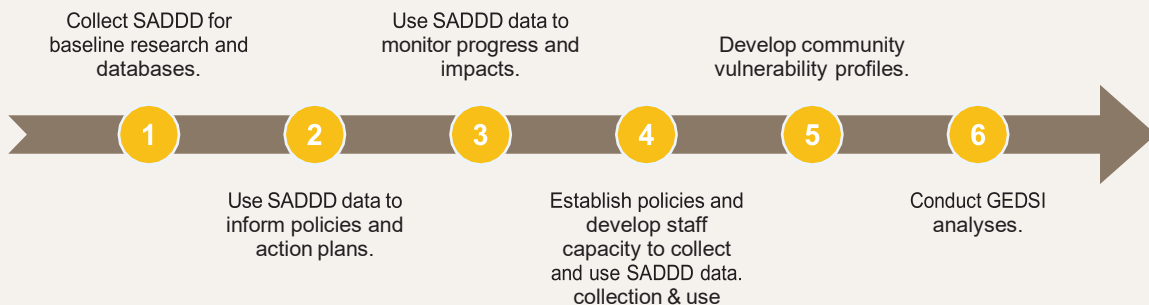


PRIORITY AREA 1

- Ensure that all exposure, vulnerability and risk assessments and mapping activities for each hazard include GEDSI perspectives and SADDD disaggregated data (See Box 3).
- The humanitarian cluster mechanism (at the federal and provincial levels), which is established for multi-hazard risk assessment, quick response teams and mapping, must include civil society (especially from vulnerable and excluded groups) and GEDSI experts.
- The information dissemination system and all communication strategies should be participatory and guided by GEDSI considerations.
- All capacity building initiatives focused on the proper use of media and modern information technology; early warning systems; preparedness; and recovery, resilience and rehabilitation should ensure equitable participation.
- Ensure that all subject-wise and inter-disciplinary curricula on different aspects of DRR and management include GEDSI perspectives and vulnerabilities.
- All DRR training centers must include GEDSI faculty and curricula.
- All research activities on issues, problems and solutions of DRR and climate change adaptation should include GEDSI impact perspectives in their methodologies.
- Ensure that adequate budgets are allocated for GEDSI mainstreaming in all priority action areas under Priority 1

BOX 4.

A six-step checklist for GEDSI-informed risk understanding and analysis⁴



³ Priority Action 4 - DRR Capacity Building, Disaster Risk Reduction National Strategic Action Plan 2018 -2030

⁴ Adapted from Review of Gender-Responsiveness and Disability-Inclusion in Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific, UN Women.



Prepare and implement guidelines for the security of vulnerable groups and prevention of gender violence during emergencies.⁵



PRIORITY AREA 2

- Ensure a GEDSI balanced workforce and representation in the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority, Crisis Management Team and Humanitarian Cluster Teams, including all provincial, local and community-level Disaster Risk Management Committees and institutional structures for DRR.
- All policies, directives and action plans at the provincial and local levels are vetted from a GEDSI perspective and include activities and adequate budgets for their implementation.
- Ensure that all regulations and standard operating procedures at the national, provincial and local levels include GEDSI perspectives.
- Ensure that all focal persons, sections or divisions for DRR in sectoral ministries and departments liaise with Gender Focal Points, GEDSI experts and CSOs working on human rights on GEDSI issues and that they are trained in DRR-related GEDSI issues.
- Ensure that regulations and standard operating procedures for emergency funds and food banks include special GEDSI measures and targets.
- Ensure that standard operating procedures include financial plans of all One-Stop Crisis Management Centres.
- Ensure the full functioning of essential services during and after all emergencies and disasters (including police, judicial and health services, including mental health, counseling and social services).
- Strengthen all capacity building programmes to integrate GEDSI issues into DRR-related governance capacities at the federal, provincial and local levels and enable equitable opportunities for capacity building.

Mobilise resources for the implementation of Priority Area 8 (Box 1) and activities targeted towards the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and ensure close monitoring of all strategic activities under this priority area⁵

BOX 5.

A seven-step checklist for GEDSI-informed disaster risk governance⁶

Issue GEDSI-responsive policy.

Ensure the safety and protection of all against SGBV.

Consult and involve GEDSI experts in DRR decision-making processes.

Promote GEDSI-responsive DRR capacities at all tiers of governance.



⁵ Priority Action 6 on developing a legal and regulatory framework, Disaster Risk Reduction National Strategic Action Plan 2018 -2030.

⁶ Adapted from Review of Gender-Responsiveness and Disability-Inclusion in Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific; UN Women

BOX 6.

Ensuring inclusiveness in DRR Priority Area 8 and GEDSI-related strategic activities and outcomes

Strategic Activity: Implement a gender-sensitive and inclusive approach in all DRR processes.

Expected Outcome: Every sector will have pursued a gender sensitive and inclusive DRR approach.

Strategic Activity: Establish and institutionalize disaster risk 'concern groups' to promote their empowerment and partnership by increasing participation of the most affected, resilient-weak, and highly vulnerable groups in disaster risk governance activities.

Expected Outcome: The participation of disaster victims and vulnerable people, families and communities will be ensured through the establishment of concern groups and networking at the community level,

Strategic Activity: Prepare Gender Equality Disability and Social Inclusion Action Plans for DRR management at each level and sector.

Expected Outcome: A GEDSI action plan will be available for all concerned stakeholders.

Strategic Activity: Conduct social mobilization programmes at the local level to increase the access, representation and effective participation of citizens and at-risk communities in the formulation of DRR programmes and policies.

Expected Outcome: Social mobilization programmes for DRR management will have been conducted at the local level.

Strategic Activity: Develop and implement special DRR programmes based on prioritizing highly vulnerable groups, such as women, people with disabilities, children and elderly people.

Expected Outcome: The disaster risk and vulnerabilities of women, children, elderly persons, people with disabilities and other vulnerable communities will be reduced through the implementation of special programmes.

Source: Disaster Risk Reduction National Strategic Action Plan 2018 -2030.

BOX 7.**Promoting public investment in DRR Priority Area 10 and GEDSI-related strategic activities and outcomes**

Strategic Activity: Follow the Gender-Responsive Budgeting System while preparing the programme and budget for DRR at the federal, provincial, and local levels.

Expected Outcome: Gender equality in DRR will be established following the Gender-Responsive Budgeting System.

Strategic Activity: Allocate an adequate budget that includes the integration of GESI into annual programmes by all sectoral agencies.

Expected Outcome: A budget that includes GESI will be available for all stakeholders.

Source: *Disaster Risk Reduction National Strategic Action Plan 2018-2030*.



Give special attention to improving social security, basic health, reproductive health, child health, adolescents' health and nutrition in disaster risk areas.⁷

**PRIORITY AREA 3**

- Invest in funding programmes related to employment, skills development and health services to increase the resilience of disadvantaged populations.
- Identify goods and services produced by economically marginalised communities, especially women's groups, in disaster risk areas. Plan and budget interventions that enhance market access to these goods and services.
- Ensure that all alternate means of livelihood are designed from a GEDSI perspective and benefit socially disadvantaged pockets of disaster-affected communities.
- Ensure that all allocations made in public sector budgets towards DRR integrate gender budget principles.⁸
- Offer a tax rebate to private sector actors to promote investments in DRR activities, which must include specific actions to enhance GEDSI-responsive interventions.
- Ensure that all corporate social responsibility programmes and funding designed for post-disaster recovery and reconstruction integrate GEDSI and gender budget considerations.
- Ensure that all disaster-resilient interventions, such as risk transfers, insurance and social security programmes, benefit the most marginalised communities and are GEDSI-responsive.
- Review social security programmes among targeted groups, communities, and geographical areas to ensure that they include GESI disaggregated data on the target beneficiaries.
- Ensure that strategic activities relating to gender-responsive budgets indicated in the action plan are implemented and monitored (See Boxes 6, 7 and 8).
- Identify and track GESI priority funding in the strategic action plan.
- Refer to Box 8, a three-step checklist for GEDSI-responsive private and public investments in disaster risk reduction for resilience.

⁷ Priority Action 9: Promoting Investment for Building Resilience, Disaster Risk Reduction National Strategic Action Plan 2018 -2030.

⁸ It is recommended that all public sector units make a provision to allocate a minimum of five percent of their annual budgets toward DRR.

BOX 8.

A three-step checklist for GEDSI-responsive private and public investments in DRR for resilience



BOX 9.

Allocating GEDSI-responsive budgets

Global studies suggest that there are substantial funding gaps between budgets requested and money allocated towards financing gender programmes. These funding gaps range from 31 to 33 per cent for GBV response and prevention, 43 per cent for reproductive health interventions and 50 per cent for child protection (UNFPA, UN Women, 2020).

Tips on how cluster teams can plan and allocate GEDSI-responsive budgets

- Ensure that government funding for existing gender programming – on protection, sexual and reproductive health and livelihoods/skills-trainings – are not withdrawn or redirected to other programmes during times of crisis and disasters.
- Allocate budgets for a part-time or full-time GEDSI specialist.
- Clearly assess collective resource requirements for GEDSI activities – specific, supportive, and neutral – across clusters and allocated funds according to the priorities.¹⁰
- Ensure that cluster plans identify and ensure adequate budgets for specific and supportive activities.
- Coordinate cluster teams to prepare cost estimates and funding requirements based on the prevailing unit costing norms or projected beneficiary needs to deliver specific and supportive activities. Team members should have data on cost estimates of GEDSI-based interventions.
- Coordinate team members to assess cluster-based activities to understand GEDSI priorities in cluster allocations.
- Facilitate clusters to engage in activity planning and budget discussions with CSOs and women's networks.
- Make cluster plans, activities, and budgets available in public domains.
- Create a mechanism to track and monitor spending on specific and supportive activities.
- Ensure that cluster monitoring reports include SADD data on beneficiaries and key achievements.
- Prepare cluster teams to ascertain that GEDSI allocations are spent efficiently and as planned.
- Invest resources in building the individual and institutional GEDSI capacities of national stakeholders.

⁹ Adapted from Review of Gender-Responsiveness and Disability-Inclusion in Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific; UN Women

¹⁰ Model Gender-Responsive Budget Guidelines (2077) was prepared for the province and local levels.

Specific or Direct Activities**Gender Budget Code 1**

Activities that primarily and explicitly target women/girls or the benefits fall on women/girls. For example: Projects to prevent VAW, promote sexual and reproductive health care or increase women's transformative leadership and economic empowerment. Specific actions also include activities in which the 'objective' relates to GESI goals. For example: gender-related trainings, workshops and research in which the total budget of activities is more than 60 per cent of the total budget.

Supportive or Indirect Activities**Gender Budget Code 2**

Activities that promote women's empowerment and gender equality. A sub-activity that includes/budgets for 'tailored' interventions to address the vulnerability and needs of women/girls. For example: Female returnee migrants may face stigma and social exclusion, especially pregnant returnees. Given these disadvantages, a project for returnee migrants may have to plan and budget tailored interventions to mitigate these specific disadvantages. Likewise, a project setting up a multipurpose community center may plan and budget 'additional gender-responsive features,' such as baby feeding rooms, dignity kits, items specific to menstrual health or female security guards to ensure girls' safety. Such sub-activities comprise 10 to 59 per cent of the total programme budget.

Neutral**Gender Budget Code 3**

Activities that do not identify or address barriers to women's empowerment and gender equality. A programme is neutral if the total budget of the specific activity is 9 per cent or less of the total budget of the project and programme.



Store an adequate amount of essential special foods, medicines, sanitary materials and auxiliary equipment needed for women, pregnant women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities and patients in local-level storage houses.¹¹



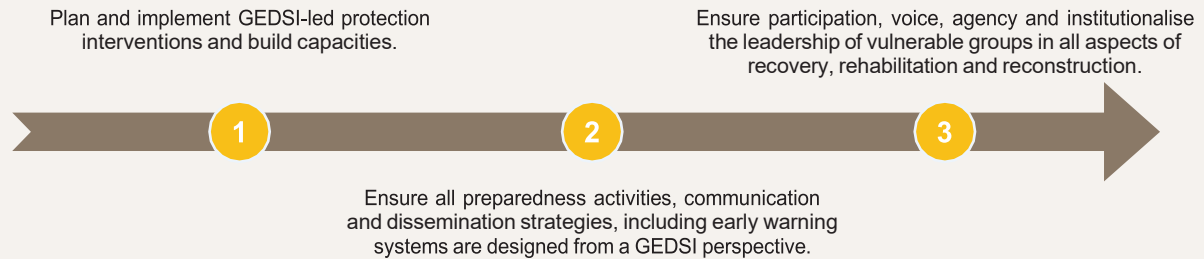
PRIORITY AREA 4

- Ensure that all local-level initiatives on institutional, policy and programme-related capacity building for disaster preparedness and response include GEDSI considerations and involve the active participation of CSOs and women's groups.
- Develop provincial and local-level disaster preparedness and response plans in a participatory manner and ensure that they include GEDSI-related activities and budgets.
- Organize emergency operations and trauma centres at the provincial and local levels to strictly follow GEDSI-related protocols in their design and management.
- Ensure that all emergency action plans, such as the immigration emergency action plans, ensure GEDSI-related vulnerabilities and include affirmative actions and budgets to mitigate problems.
- Budget for dignity kits to be housed at and distributed through emergency logistic processes, including storage facilities and warehouses.
- Mainstream GEDSI issues into plans and trainings on multi-hazard warning systems for disaster preparedness, including in the standard operating procedures of these systems.
- Promote and encourage female participation in all community-based DRR responses, including search and rescue operations at the local-level and related trainings.
- Incorporate GEDSI-related indicators and disaggregated data in all monitoring and evaluation procedures at all levels.
- Ensure adequate budgets for strengthening special communication and dissemination activities that are customized for vulnerable groups who face access barriers due to disability, gender, age and literacy levels.
- Recruit and train an equitable and diverse workforce as part of search and rescue operations.
- Make adequate budgetary allocations that ensure compliance to core humanitarian standards while assisting disaster-affected individuals and community members.
- Ensure that all post-disaster relief, rescue and rehabilitation services are GEDSI-informed and enable these groups to access these activities. Provide women with skills training in post-disaster relief and rehabilitation work, such as social counseling, protection services, logistics and accounting.
- All guidelines and plans associated with recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction should be vetted from a GEDSI lens and include special provisions on inclusion and better integration.
- Ensure that all strategic activities relating to GEDSI in the action plan are implemented and monitored (See Boxes 9 and 10).

¹¹ Priority Action 13: Strengthening Disaster Preparedness for Effective Disaster Response Strengthening.

BOX 10.

A three-step checklist for GEDSI-responsive disaster preparedness – recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction



BOX 11.

Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Priority Action 13 - 18

Developing a Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Disaster Preparedness

Strategic Activity: Ensure the access, representation and effective participation of women, children, elderly people, people with disabilities, indigenous groups and vulnerable communities in early warning systems.

Expected Outcome: The early warning system will be inclusive.

Strategic Activity: Develop information materials (books, brochures, notices, electronic messages, etc.) on early warning systems for vulnerable target communities, including women, children, elderly people, people with disabilities, indigenous communities, Dalits, etc.).

Expected Outcome: Targeted groups will be well informed about early warning systems.

Promotion of Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction

Strategic Activity: Strengthen the existing Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction and Management System.

Expected Outcome: The communities will be empowered in DRR.

Strategic Activity: Develop and enforce guidelines for collaboration between local authorities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in forging partnerships between community-based groups.

Expected Outcome: Local concerns and interests in DRR management will be addressed in partnership between the local authorities, communities and NGOs.

Strategic Activity: Ensure access, representation and the effective participation of women, children, elderly people, people with disabilities and vulnerable communities in the programmes and policy formulation of community-based organizations for disaster risk management.

Expected Outcome: Community-based DRR efforts will be inclusive.

Strengthening Communication and Dissemination Systems for Disaster Preparedness

Strategic Activity: Follow tailored communication and information dissemination procedures for vulnerable groups (e.g. those who are illiterate or have disabilities, such as being blind, deaf, etc.).

Expected Outcome: Access of vulnerable groups to disaster information will increase.

Capacity Building for Search and Rescue Efforts

Strategic Activity: Increase the access of vulnerable and deprived communities to post-disaster relief, rescue and rehabilitation services provided by the government and non-governmental sectors.

Expected Outcome: Deprived communities will have access to relief, rescue and rehabilitation services.

Strategic Activity: Make special arrangements to ensure the security and other requirements of women, children, elderly people and people with disabilities in search, rescue and response efforts.

Expected Outcome: Vulnerable groups will be safe during disasters.

Promoting the “Build Back Better” Approach in Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

Strategic Activity: Address the special needs of women, children, elderly people and people with disabilities in the reconstruction and renovation of physical infrastructure in disaster-affected areas. For example: retirement homes, orphanage and community buildings.

Expected Outcome: More physical infrastructure will be friendly to women, children, elderly people and people with disabilities.

Source: Disaster Risk Reduction National Strategic Action Plan 2018-2030.

3. STRENGTHENING GEDSI-INFORMED URBAN PREPAREDNESS, EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TIPS ON STRATEGIES AND APPROACHES



To ensure inclusion, SUPER will be informed by a GESI analysis on gender discrimination and how inequalities could be exacerbated in communities during disasters, looking across sex, age, disability, diversity, and recommend remedial measures in preparedness plans, disaster risk reduction and response, with inclusion at the centre of its work.

UNDP, 2020

The National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy, 2075 recommends extending the Disaster Risk Reduction Platform to the local levels and emphasizes the importance of strengthening decentralized DRR. It also requires that disaster risk management plans be prepared alongside local development plans. The Local Government Operation Act, 2074 includes all aspects disaster management at the level of urban and rural municipalities in Nepal. The Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act for Local Government, 2075 is a model act that requires constitution of local and ward-level disaster management committees. It also outlines the roles and responsibilities of these committees. The Local Level Disaster Management Fund Operation Guideline, 2075 empowers local governments to mobilize the fund during emergencies and for the purpose of post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation.

Strengthening DRR governance at the provincial and local levels.

The Strengthening Urban Preparedness, Earthquake Preparedness and Response in Western Regions of Nepal (SUPER) project was created with the goal of advancing municipal and provincial preparedness for impending urban and earthquake risks. It seeks to foster an effective disaster response in select provinces and local bodies in Nepal's western region (UNDP, 2020). SUPER strives to build ownership of the project approach by ensuring public finances towards DRR and management are featured in the government's annual plans. It is envisaged that the project will prove sustainable in the future, with active involvement from the community, private sector, academia and international institutions. The project includes five result areas that will be achieved through fostering an improved understanding of risk, DRR management capacities and coordination between stakeholders to effectively reduce and manage earthquake and urban risks. Engaging at-risk communities and the private sector are key strategies guiding the SUPER project.¹²

¹² SUPER is implemented by a UNDP-led consortium that includes UNICEF Nepal and UN Women Nepal as consortium members. The project works with multiple stakeholders at the provincial and local levels in western Nepal.

BOX 12.**UN Women Nepal's support to the SUPER project**

SUPER is guided by a strong GEDSI perspective, which is embedded in the design and implementation of various activities. UN Women Nepal actively contributes towards effective GEDSI integration through a two-pronged approach: (i) integration of a GEDSI and protection lens across all programme activities and (ii) targeted interventions. UN Women Nepal:

- Provides GEDSI-related technical support to the project through impact modeling exercises.
- Supports the institutionalization of the SADD database and advises consortium members on all aspects of GEDSI-responsive DRR.
- Supports knowledge products, IEC and training materials related to GEDSI integration, factsheets and research.
- Supports stakeholders in mapping and identifying civil society networks in the provinces to collaborate for effective DRR action plans and build their capacities.
- Coordinated and provided technical support to conduct Women Safety Audits and GEDSI analyses.
- Helped prepare comprehensive Protection Package and development of relevant guidelines.
- Provided GEDSI perspectives for a scenario-based costing analysis on earthquake preparedness.

The guidance on GEDSI strategies and approaches were developed to advise cluster team members in planning, budgeting and implementing effective GEDSI mainstreaming and integration across all project activities and result areas. It is envisaged that this will help province-based cluster teams, civil society and at-risk communities to ensure inclusive disaster risk preparedness, response and management at the provincial and local levels. The recommendations are aligned with the SUPER project result areas.

**RESULT 1**

A shared understanding is developed on managing earthquakes and urban risks.

- Conduct risk assessments at the local level to enhance at-risk communities' understanding of GEDSI perspectives.
- Create a sex, age and diversity disaggregated database for targeted interventions.
- Integrate GEDSI perspectives into the methodology and sampling approach of all rapid assessments.
- Plan and conduct Women Safety Audits in all public spaces in urban areas, including at safe houses and shelters.
- Maintain a database of local GEDSI experts who can guide vulnerability assessments.
- Document good practices related to ensuring GEDSI-informed assessments, reviews and data collation.
- Ensure that budgets are assigned for GEDSI experts and for any GEDSI-focused vulnerability.



RESULT 2

Systems are strengthened at the provincial and local levels through coordination mechanisms and plans.

- Ensure that all systems strengthening activities at the provincial and local levels are guided by GEDSI principles and vetted by experts.
- Support provincial and municipal systems in enhancing the effectiveness of GEDSI-informed humanitarian preparedness and response architecture. Take affirmative measures to involve elected women representatives in all planning meetings.
- Ensure participatory and diverse planning in the formulation of provincial earthquake response frameworks and other action plans based on anticipated impacts on the most vulnerable and disadvantaged population groups.
- Integrate GEDSI issues into all capacity building activities on disaster risks, preparedness and management. Ensure that women participate in all trainings and capacity building initiatives and that these efforts contain adequate budgets.
- Document the GEDSI-related best practices and impacts of institutional strengthening activities.



RESULT 3

Cluster-specific preparedness, coordination and inter-linkages are improved between provincial governments, local governments and humanitarian stakeholders.

- Ensure all cluster response plans are GEDSI-responsive and follow gender-responsive budgeting principles. Identify gender-targeted and mainstreaming activities across clusters.
- Ensure the coordination and engagement of all gender actors, women's groups and disability networks. All cluster team members must receive GEDSI and gender budgeting training.
- Foster GEDSI awareness across all thematic groups and create a standalone group with oversight and coordination responsibilities for improved and inclusive coordination between actors.
- Connect women-focused organizations, women-led organizations of persons with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ networks with coordinating bodies in preparedness.
- Ensure that women are provided with trainings and skill-building opportunities that enhance their livelihood potential and expertise in disaster risk preparedness activities.
- Identify goods and services produced by economically marginalised communities, especially women's groups, in disaster risk areas. Plan and budget interventions that enhance market access to these goods and services.
- Provide trainings on basic protection packages to government stakeholders, priority clusters members and duty bearers to design and implement gender-responsive disaster preparedness activities that incorporating SGBV, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and gender-responsive budgeting.
- Identify and document all best practices.



RESULT 4

Specific measures for reducing disaster risk in urban municipalities and provinces are demonstrated through enhanced preparedness.

- Use a GEDSI perspective while designing all measures on reducing disaster risks in urban municipalities and preparedness actions.
- Identify activities and resources for special interventions, such as preventing GBV and trafficking among girls and children. Plan coordination mechanisms across government and non-government stakeholders to address this issue.
- Ensure that all guidelines, standard operating procedures and directives represent and address GEDSI issues.
- Engage at-risk communities to ensure the equal representation of women in planning early warning systems and involve their participation in the implementation phase.
- Integrate GEDSI indicators into Cluster-Based Information Management Systems at the provincial and local levels and maintain disaggregated data.



RESULT 5

Advocacy and policy engagement enhances humanitarian preparedness and reduces disaster risks.

- Ensure all advocacy and policy engagement for enhancing humanitarian preparedness and reducing disaster risks include GEDSI issues and perspectives.
- Advocate for the improved financing of GEDSI activities in sectoral plans and budgets.
- Ensure the active engagement of agencies of vulnerable and excluded groups in DRR decisions.
- Advocate for upscaling, replication and sustenance of GEDSI-informed disaster preparedness and risk reduction actions. Identify GEDSI-related best practices and showcase them for replication.
- Create empirical evidence and databases on GEDSI-related vulnerabilities, which should include recommendations for mitigating them.
- Organize regular dissemination and learning-sharing workshops at the municipal, provincial and national levels, including exposure visits for cross learning on GEDSI-informed risk reduction and preparedness plans. Prioritise the need for gender-responsive budgeting in cluster-based activities and budgets.

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