

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Disaster risk reduction, Climate Change and Sustainable Development

DRAFT Action Statement of the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Africa Stakeholder Group

Africa-Arab Platform on Disaster risk reduction

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Preamble

This statement is guided by the following mutually reinforcing mechanisms that promote and protect gender equality and the empowerment of women in disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery: The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Sendai Framework for Disaster risk reduction, the Africa Programme of Action for the Implementing of the Sendai Frameworks, the Paris Agreement, World Humanitarian Summit, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, the African Union Agenda 2063, the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

- Acknowledging past and current achievements, commitments and efforts made by all disaster risk reduction stakeholders on advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women in resilience building and climate change adaptation.
- Noting that by June 2018, over 49 million people were affected by either drought, conflict, displacement, flooding or epidemics¹, the impact of which are often felt most by women, children, the elderly, and people living with disabilities.
- Reiterating that women are disproportionately affected by disasters, particularly those that are climate-induced, and have unequal levels of resilience and capacity to recover. Research shows that in most disasters, mortality amongst women is higher than that of men² and women have a harder time recovering from disasters due to gender-specific barriers.
- Reinforcing that gender inequality heightens exposure to risk, increases vulnerability and restricts capacity. It shapes women's and girls' lack of access to timely information and adequate resources

¹ OCHA Humanitarian Snapshot for Horn of Africa and Southern Africa Regions (June 2018)

² Peterson, K., 'Reaching Out to Women when Disaster Strikes', White paper, Soroptimist, 2007

to anticipate, respond, and recover from disasters and to effectively contribute to resilience building.

- Recognizing women's contributions to disaster risk reduction, their leadership as first responders, and their central role in community resilience are untapped in disaster risk reduction and resilience building strategies.
- Reiterating that the importance of the collection of sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data (SADDD) should be promoted to identify the distinct needs and challenges of women and girls in disasters, and to inform more effective disaster risk reduction and resilience building policies and programmes at all levels.

Call for Commitments to Action

The Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Africa Stakeholder Group calls upon Member States to:

1. Make deliberate efforts to invest in disaggregated data and evidence-based research on the gender-differentiated impacts of disasters, including on GDP and the economy, to inform policy and programmes at all levels.
2. Increase gender-responsive financial commitments to disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and ecosystem management to enhance resilience at all levels.
3. Adopt a gender-sensitive integrated risk management approach that links disaster risk reduction to climate change adaptation and ecosystem management.
4. Ensure policy decision making spaces in disaster risk reduction are gender-equitable and keep communities at the center.
5. Foster strategic and innovative partnerships with private sector and foundations to make gender-responsive and climate-friendly financial commitments and provide technical assistance to address disaster risk reduction.

We commit to enhance coordination efforts in advocacy and communication on gender-inclusive policy and programmes on disaster risk reduction and climate change.

We commit to a coordinated process of building the capacity, knowledge and confidence of women to strategically position themselves in governance and coordination platforms on disaster risk reduction and climate change.

We commit to strengthen women's leadership to effectively participate in disaster risk reduction mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery both at the national and local levels.

We commit to critically engage with strategic and innovative partners on the issues of inclusivity in disaster risk reduction and climate change.