

Note: These concept notes are as received from partner organizations.



**2017 EFDRR Open Forum
Istanbul, Turkey
26-28 March 2017**

Concept Note for Pre-conference events on 26 March 2017

Event title	Gender-Responsive Strategies for Disaster Risk Reduction
Event code	PRE-1
Date and Time	Sunday, 26 March 2017, 09:00 – 10:30
Venue/ Room no.	TBC
Theme/ topic to be addressed	Ensuring gender responsive strategies for DRR
Organizers	UN Women Contact: Alia El-Yassir, Deputy Regional Director, Europe and Central Asia Regional Office, UN Women In cooperation with UNISDR Regional Office for Europe

<p>Session Objectives</p>	<p>Based on an exchange of global and regional experience, the session will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present the imperative for addressing the gender inequality of risk in promoting community resilience • Provide perspectives on the challenges and opportunities of integrating of gender equality and the empowerment of women in DRR • Provide good practices on improving gender responsiveness in DRR
<p>Background and context</p>	<p>The Sendai Framework called for a “gender, age, disability and cultural perspective in all policies and practices; and the promotion of women and youth leadership” while also emphasizing that “women and their participation are critical to effectively managing disaster risk.”</p> <p>Gender inequality is a risk driver which affects the vulnerability of women and girls to hazards and their capacity to prepare, prevent and recover from disaster. Gender-based discrimination often results in women’s unequal access to information, productive resources, such as land and credit as well as opportunities such as education, training or disaster compensation, leading to decreased resilience to withstand natural hazards, greater risk of food insecurity, sexual and gender based violence, loss of livelihood and assets.</p> <p>At the same time, women’s potential and actual engagement and leadership in disaster risk reduction is often overlooked despite their unique roles in resilience building, disaster response and recovery. Women are often first responders when disaster strikes, tending to the needs of their families and communities and coping with the adverse impact on their livelihood and possessions. Strengthening the participation of women in disaster management and decision making is a logic strategy to ensure gender responsive and effective disaster risk reduction.</p> <p>Serbia is an example of a country which since 2014 has undergone repeated floods, droughts, and landslides and made strides in designing and implementing more gender-responsive DRR. This, despite being ranked in the 2016 World Risk Report, as a country under “high risk” of disaster. During the 2014 floods, the Council for Gender Equality of the Republic of Serbia issued detailed recommendations on gender-sensitive response, and a gender sensitive PDNA uncovered some of the specific challenges that women and girls faced in the flood’s aftermath. The Republic of Serbia recognizes the importance of gender issues in their national DRR reporting to UNISDR, and numerous national policy documents clearly stating political commitment to mainstream gender issues into DRR.</p> <p>But throughout Europe there are still significant gaps in evidence, capacity and participation related to gender equality and the empowerment of women in DRR. A significant scale up of support to member states and gender advocates is required to ensure effective delivery on gender commitments under the Sendai Framework. In addition, important best practices and lessons learned with great potential to accelerate global progress, are emerging from the efforts to localize and implement the Sendai Framework.</p> <p>This side event will bring together gender experts and DRR stakeholders to discuss the challenges and opportunities in Europe to enhance understanding of the gender dimensions of disaster risk; integrate gender equality aspects into national and local level DRR regulatory frameworks, policies, strategies and guidance; and strengthen women’s agency and leadership.</p>

Session format and programme	Tentative Agenda		
	09.05-09.15	Setting the Scene and introductions	Moderator: Alia El Yassir, Deputy Regional Director, UN Women Europe and Central Asia
	09:15 - 09:25	The imperative for focusing on gender and DRR: the Sendai Framework and regional platforms' integration of gender perspectives	Paola Albrito, Head, UNISDR Regional Office for Europe
	09.25-09.35	Gender and national DRR programming	Sandra Nedeljkovic, Deputy Director, Public Investment and Management Office, Government of Serbia
	09.35-09.45	Existing gaps and opportunities to include gender in DRR policy and implementation	Kevin Blanchard, Director, DRR Dynamics, UK
	09.45-10.00	Global aspects and collaboration on Inequality of Risk	Hiba Qasas, Chief, Crisis Prevention, Preparedness and Response, Geneva, UN Women.
	10.00 – 10.30	Discussion and closing remarks	Led by Alia El Yassir

Intended main outcome and Key messages	<p>Key message: To address the inequality of risk and promote community resilience, attention to gender equality and the leadership of women must be at the core of DRR strategies. To collectively accelerate action to deliver concrete results in line with commitments, investment must be made to strengthen the evidence base on gender dimensions of risk, institutionalize gender capacity in disaster management, base decision making on sex and age disaggregated data and gender analysis and facilitate women's leadership and contributions in DRR and resilience</p> <p>Outcomes: Key priorities and recommendations for strengthening attention to gender dimensions of risk in Europe</p>
---	--

**List of
Speakers and
their
interventions**

Moderator: Alia El Yassir, Deputy Regional Director, UN Women Europe and Central Asia

Panelist 1: Paola Albrito, Head, UNISDR Regional Office for Europe. The Sendai imperative for inclusion of gender and women in DRR. How this has been included to date in regional and national platforms.

Panelist 2: Sandra Nedeljkovic, Deputy Director, Public Investment and Management Office, Government of Serbia. Gender mainstreaming of DRR planning, response, and recovery through Government planning, programmes and funding. The importance of women's participation in national and local DRR structures and the guidelines for gender sensitive municipal DRR plans (gender dimensions of the access to information, exposure to risks and recovery).

Panelist 3: Kevin Blanchard, Director, DRR Dynamics. Critical gaps in Gender mainstreaming of DRR planning, response, and recovery. Encouraging women and girls within DRR science and policy development.

Panelist 4: Hiba Qasas, Chief, Crisis Prevention, Preparedness and Response, Geneva, UN Women. Will summarize the discussion and key recommendation. Will present on opportunities for more effectively integrating gender in DRR in policy, planning and practice