



# Women's leadership and empowerment in disaster risk reduction

Disaster risk is intrinsically gendered. Existing gender-inequalities in society heighten the risk of disproportionate impacts of disasters on women. Despite this, women are the natural first responders in emergencies so they must be acknowledged and empowered to take on leadership roles in disaster risk reduction.

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and partners are exploring entry points to ensure that disaster and climate resilience issues, which affect women more than men, receive adequate attention and resources. This will form the basis for regional learning on how to break the vicious cycle of disasters and gender inequalities in Asia and the Pacific.

We are also supporting the integration of rights-based approaches into localized preparedness efforts and strengthening the meaningful participation of women in DRR planning and decision-making at all levels.

*Gender-equality in DRR goes beyond meeting women's specific needs after a disaster, to support their inclusion and participation in decision-making before the disaster.*

## Key activities



Promotion of women's leadership



Mapping knowledge and best practices in using SADD for women's empowerment and leadership in DRR



Promoting inclusion and protection-sensitive approaches before, during and after disasters

**'Women's leadership and empowerment in disaster risk reduction'** is one of the key areas of the program 'Building Resilience through Inclusive and Climate-Adaptive Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia-Pacific (BRDR 2018-2022)'. BRDR puts gender-equal, rights-based, and inclusive approaches at the heart of building resilience and strengthening regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction.

## Progress updates

We have laid down the groundwork for collaboration with national and local-level implementing partners and women's rights organizations. We have also identified specific disaster-related gender concerns regarding the level of awareness and visibility of women in DRR. Besides, advocacy needs for increasing women leadership in DRR were also evaluated.

Research on the status of rights-based and inclusive approaches in DRR in Nepal and the Philippines were carried out which evidenced that the gendered impacts of disasters go beyond the immediate loss of life to more deeply-rooted gender inequalities which are exacerbated by disasters and climate change.

### BRDR program partners



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