



Action Guide 02

Disaster Preparedness and Response

Zonta International's [Statement on Climate Change: a Gender Equality Issue](#) (the Statement) contains recommendations for Zontians and governments to promote gender-equal climate justice.

Zonta Says NOW is developing a series of Action Guides to implement the Statement. The Action Guides focus on selected recommendations and use Zonta Says NOW's five-step process to generate some ideas for action. The five steps are: gather the facts, lead by example, use our voice, advocate, and collaborate.

The Zonta Says NOW Working Group encourages members, clubs, districts, and Unions/Caucuses to use the Action Guides as a starting point. **Every country has different priorities and cultures, so please feel free to adapt and add actions as required.** Please email any suggested improvements to info@zontasaysnow.org.au.

Recommendations covered by this Action Guide:
<i>Zonta International calls on governments to include women in the formation of disaster preparedness and response plans. These plans should:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Recognize the unique needs of women and girls.</i> • <i>Prioritize their health and safety.</i> • <i>Include responses to gender-based violence.</i>

Anyone can be impacted by an extreme weather event, so it makes sense to be prepared for a disaster before it happens.

1. Gather the facts

Ideas for action	Yes/No
Increase your awareness of disaster preparedness and response by accessing information from reputable sources, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction • UN Women's Resilience to Disasters Knowledge Hub • Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies • World Bank's Gender Dynamics of Disaster Risk and Resilience 	
Who leads disaster preparedness and responses locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally?	
What are the biggest climate threats in your community - floods, sea-level rise, drought, heat, fires, storms, or other hazards?	
Which parts of your community will be most impacted? For example, people in flood-prone areas, people in high fire-risk areas, the poor who cannot afford cooling/heating, or the elderly, the disabled, and single parents with young children who cannot move quickly?	
What happens to women who have fled a disaster? What is in place to ensure their safety? Are there products and facilities to handle menstrual health and incontinence?	
Where can you find resources to help householders to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare disaster plans? • Respond in a disaster? • Recover from a disaster? • Know what to do if you are on holiday or away from home during a disaster? 	

Ideas for action	Yes/No
Where can you find information about your local area disaster response plans and what do they include? Are there early warning systems and how do they work? How do you find out if disaster relief funding is available?	
How are disaster response systems tested? Are evacuation and response procedures practised? Are local communities included?	
Where can you find gendered data for your region or country on people experiencing extreme climate events, displacement, and the status of women? For example, data on migration/immigration demographics, refugees, human trafficking, and gender-based violence.	
Do any members have expertise or experience in disasters? Are they willing to share it with club members?	

2. Lead by example

Ideas for action	Yes/No
Individual actions:	
Get to know your neighbors as it helps to make your community more resilient.	
Prepare a home disaster plan that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of critical information including passports, birth certificates, driving licenses, insurances, medications, doctors, utilities, will, and any other information you may need. • List of evacuation items to pack in a bag such as medications, phone, passport, pets, radio, batteries, and other items that you think you may need. • Where you will go in an emergency and who you will tell. 	
Train in first aid and/or mental health first aid.	
Train in early warning systems in disaster management.	
Club actions:	
Invite local emergency services, local disaster management groups, NGOs and Red Cross or Red Crescent to speak to the club to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe local disaster management planning processes. • Explain how local disaster plans cater for menstrual health, incontinence, disability and child and elder care. • Describe how women feature in their organization's goals, strategies, or action plan and whether there are women on their board or in senior roles. • Identify how Zonta may best support the community during a disaster. 	
Invite women who have been impacted by climate change-related disasters to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share their stories at meetings e.g., women from a refugee agency. • Identify areas where Zonta may advocate for improvements. 	
Educate members to prepare for disasters e.g., host a home disaster planning workshop.	
Encourage members to undertake first aid training (physical and mental).	

3. Use our voice

Ideas for action	Yes/No
Individual actions:	
Share what you have learned about disaster preparedness and the actions you have taken, with your family, friends, neighbours, work colleagues and on social media.	
Make presentations in schools and organizations, highlighting disaster preparedness and response issues.	
Club actions:	
Host a community event on how to plan for a natural disaster with speakers from local agencies.	
Include a disaster planning session at an area workshop or district conference.	

4. Advocate

<i>Ideas for action</i>	Yes/No
<i>Club actions:</i>	
Advocate to local disaster management committees to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safeguard women's health and safety during an emergency • Involve women in the management of shelters and refugee camps. 	
Advocate for support for (and support) those parts of your community identified as most at risk from climate-related disasters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example: In Ghana, Zontians support income generation and scholarships to prevent girls in rural communities from migrating for work to cities, where they are often vulnerable to trafficking and violence. • Example: In Nigeria, Zontians advocate for trauma counselling, rehabilitation, and economic support where possible, for women impacted by floods. 	
Find out if there are training courses available that could be useful for learning about and responding to local environmental risks and advocate for them to be widely publicized.	
Advocate for gender equality measures that are inclusive – meeting the needs of the elderly and people with disability in the context of climate change impact planning and disaster management.	
Advocate for the education of children to be field-based rather than merely classroom-based.	
Advocate for and support the training of youth to be climate champions.	

5. Collaborate

<i>Ideas for action</i>	Yes/No
<i>Club actions:</i>	
Invite other Zonta and GZ, and Z clubs to attend a seminar on local disaster response initiatives and careers.	
Work with other women's groups, e.g., Soroptimists, BPW to advocate for climate/natural disaster refugee women in our city/state/country.	
Work with partners in the community in a service project to address the needs of people after a disaster.	
Collaborate with local government or local gardening groups/experts to encourage community members to grow vegetables for home consumption.	
Develop emergency evacuation planning tools and resources with a women's refuge. Note that many items needed before leaving home quickly are the same for climate disasters or violence.	
Collaborate. Create a partnership with an emergency organization. Develop a guide/video/podcast to raise awareness of local disaster management agencies and useful websites.	