



Photo: Pexels

Disaster-Ready Guide 5

Is your country disaster-ready?

This document is designed to be read onscreen
as it contains hyperlinks

This leaflet is designed to inspire Zonta clubs to find out more about their national disaster preparedness and response strategies and if they adequately consider the needs of women and girls.

Answer the questions in the boxes provided and share the responses with your club members.

What are the main hazards and risks that your country faces?

Disasters can strike anytime, anywhere, and affect anyone. They can cause loss of lives, injuries, damages, and disruptions to essential services and livelihoods. They can also worsen existing inequalities and vulnerabilities, especially for women and girls, who often face greater risks and barriers in disaster situations.

Different countries face different types of hazards, such as floods, cyclones, earthquakes, droughts, fires, landslides, and pandemics. Some hazards are more frequent, intense, or widespread than others, depending on the geographic, climatic, and socio-economic factors of each country.

Knowing the main hazards and risks that your country faces can help you understand the potential impacts and consequences of disasters, and the measures needed to prevent, mitigate, or cope with them.

Find out the main hazards and risks facing your country from the:

- ***National agency coordinating disaster management activities***
- ***National agency providing information and advice on natural hazards and climate change.***

What is a national disaster response strategy?

A national disaster response strategy outlines the goals, objectives, and key actions that the country will take to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. It should be based on a comprehensive assessment of the country's disaster risk and capacity, and reflect the needs and priorities of the affected communities.

Where can you find your national disaster response strategy?

There are several international frameworks that provide guidance and support for national disaster response strategies. Nations regularly report on their progress in implementing these frameworks:

- The [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#), outlines seven targets and four priorities for action to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks. All reports are [mapped and analysed](#) against the global targets. ***Has your country adopted the Sendai Framework?***
- The [Paris Agreement](#) on climate change, seeks to limit the global average temperature rise to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and preferably to 1.5°C. This is how countries [report and review](#) their progress on the Paris Agreement. ***Has your country adopted the Paris Agreement?***
- The [17 Sustainable Development Goals](#), aim to end poverty, achieve gender equality, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity for all. [SDG Progress Reports](#) are published annually. ***Has your country adopted the SDGs?***

The national disaster response strategy should be aligned with these frameworks, and demonstrate how the country is contributing to their goals and targets. It should also show how the country is collaborating with other countries and stakeholders in the region and globally to enhance disaster preparedness and resilience.

The [UN Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction](#) describes the worldwide efforts to reduce disaster risk.

Why is it important to address the needs of women and girls in the national disaster response strategy?

Women and girls are not only victims of disasters, but also agents of change and resilience. They have valuable knowledge, skills, and resources that can help their families and communities cope with and recover from disasters. However, they also face specific challenges and barriers that can limit their access to information, services, and opportunities in disaster situations. These include gender-based violence, discrimination, poverty, lack of education, and lack of representation and participation in decision-making.

The needs of women and girls should be considered and addressed in the national disaster response strategy, to ensure that they are protected from harm, empowered to act, and included in the solutions. This is not only a matter of human rights and justice, but also a matter of effectiveness and sustainability. By addressing the needs of women and girls, the country can reduce their vulnerability, enhance their resilience, and leverage their potential to contribute to the disaster response and recovery.

Ideally, disaster response plans should collect gendered data to understand and address the specific needs, risks, and impacts of disasters on people of different genders.

Why is collecting gendered data important?

Gendered data can help disaster response plans to:

- Provide humanitarian assistance that is appropriate, accessible, and safe for women, men, girls, and boys.
- Prevent and respond to gender-based violence, which often increases during and after disasters.
- Promote the participation and leadership of women and gender-diverse people in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.
- Ensure that disaster response and recovery interventions do not reinforce or worsen existing gender inequalities, but rather contribute to gender equality and human rights.

Some examples of gendered data that are collected in disaster response plans are:

- The number and proportion of women, men, girls, and boys affected by the disaster, disaggregated by age, disability, and other relevant factors.
- The specific risks and vulnerabilities of women, men, girls, and boys in the disaster context, such as exposure to violence, discrimination, or exploitation.
- The different roles and responsibilities of women, men, girls, and boys in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, such as participation in decision-making, leadership, and coordination.
- The different needs and preferences of women, men, girls, and boys in terms of humanitarian assistance, such as food, water, sanitation, health, shelter, protection, and education.

Collecting gendered data can make disaster response plans more inclusive, effective and accountable.

Does your national disaster response strategy collect gendered data?

How to promote gender-responsive disaster management?

To promote gender-responsive disaster management, you can:

- ***Learn and educate others about gender and disaster issues.***
- ***Join or create a network or coalition of gender and disaster actors and collaborate with them.***
- ***Engage with your national disaster management authorities and other stakeholders.***
- ***Participate in disaster risk assessment, planning, and decision-making processes, and ensure that all genders are heard and considered.***

Further reading

[A practical guide to gender-sensitive approaches for disaster management](#)

[Climate action and disaster risk reduction](#)

[Gender, adaptation and disaster risk reduction](#)

[Gender responsive disaster risk management](#)

[Gender dimensions of disaster risk and resilience](#)

[Climate Reports](#) contains links to all of the major climate-related reports from the United Nations

The Zonta Says NOW [Disaster-Ready Guides](#) support *Action Guide 02: Disaster Preparedness and Response*.