



# ECOWAS Disaster Risk Reduction Gender Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030

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**GFDRR**  
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery



**WORLD BANK GROUP**



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### **Closing Remarks from the ECOWAS Commissioner**

On the Occasion of...

#### **The Regional Validation Workshop for the ECOWAS Disaster Risk Reduction Gender Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030 Dakar, Senegal, 11-12 February 2020**

I would like to thank you all very much for attending the validation workshop for the *ECOWAS Disaster Risk Reduction Gender Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030*. This has been a timely, and very important event.

We all know well that disasters have different effects between men and women: it is now time for us to ensure that all our efforts, all our funding, all our programs, are, gender responsive.

Over the last two days we have worked together to map a way forward. As our World Bank partners said at the start: This Strategy and Action Plan now belongs to us. We don't want it to stay on a flash drive or in our respective shelves. Let's own it, take it back to our respective member countries, and make it reflect our national priorities and challenges.

I am pleased to note that many best practice examples were gathered during the preparation stage of this Strategy. Our region and member states, are pioneering gender responsive approaches: before, during and after disaster strikes. There is a lot to be proud of. As mentioned at the start of the meeting, for the first time we have Gender and DRM focal points working in concert.

As ECOWAS, we will continue to be leaders on the continent for effective and inclusive disaster risk management, which, by definition, must be gender responsive.

We can start right now. Tomorrow, many of you will join us for the Flood Management meeting. Let us ensure that we approach that work with a gender lens. Showing that it is not rocket science, it is simply an enhanced approach: effective disaster risk management requires that we consider the needs of women and men, girls and boys.

Let us go forward and work together as professionals, as men and women. In the words of Wangari Maathai:

*"You can't do it alone. It's teamwork. When you do it alone you run the risk that when you are no longer there, nobody else will do it."*

On this final note I wish to thank all the participants from our member states for your excellent dedication to this work and in particular your effective contributions during the meeting. It was very interactive and you have definitely done justice to this work. Of equal importance is to thank my Director and her DRR team, the ECOWAS Gender and Development Center for a job well done and to Ndiambour Hotel management and staff for the good facilities put at our disposal.

I thank you all.

Dr Siga Fatima Jagne  
Commissioner for Social Affairs and Gender

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
AFDB	African Development Bank Group
AUDA-NEPAD	African Union Development Agency - New Partnership for Africa's Development
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CILSS	Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CORAF	West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research (CORAF-WECARD)
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECREEE	ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
ECOWARN	ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Network
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EGDC	ECOWAS Gender and Development Centre
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFDRR	Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
GRDRR SAP	Gender-Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction Strategic Plan and Plan of Action
GSAP	Gender Strategy and Action Plan
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
INGOs	International Non-Government Organizations
MDTF	Multi Donor Trust Fund
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OMC	Observation and Monitoring Centre
PADEP	Peace and Development Programme
PDNA	Post-Disaster Needs Assessment
POA	Plan of Action
R2	Result Area 2
REC	Regional Economic Community
SAP	Strategy and Action Plan
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SE4ALL	Sustainable Energy for All
SFDRR	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UHFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN WOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WASCAL	West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WAAPP	West African Agricultural Productivity Program
WB	World Bank

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The incidence of extreme weather events and disasters in the ECOWAS region has increased significantly over the last four decades — threatening socio-economic gains. As such member states, and The Commission have stepped up their responses before, during and after disasters; as well as developing mechanisms for regional coordination in a context where weather never respects national boundaries. To bolster this approach, and ensure adequate assistance to all, ECOWAS policies have increasingly highlighted how the risks and impacts associated with disasters and climate-induced hazards are not equally distributed across society. To address these essential nuances, ECOWAS has supported the gendered analysis of disaster risk, to better understand the differential abilities and challenges faced by women, men, girls and boys.

The ECOWAS Disaster Risk Reduction Gender Strategy and Action Plan (ECOWAS DRR GSAP) is an essential aspect of this work; and aims to help member states build resilience to natural hazards that is inclusive of all segments of society. While the Action Plan builds on the DRM activities agreed upon by member states<sup>1</sup>; making sure the language is gender responsive; it is in the strategy that we learn *how* to do this. By using best-practice examples of gender-responsive implementation from across the region, we underline that gender responsiveness is not about ticking a box; but rather, seeing things in a different way—with a gender lens. These examples from our member states illustrate how a gender lens can be applied across to already-planned activities to ensure that they fully address the needs of *all* our communities in their full complexity. The end result will be lives saved, as we ensure that women and men are both helped and empowered to manage natural disasters.

The ECOWAS DRR GSAP was prepared using a collaborative approach based on inclusive consultation with a range of regional, national, and sub-national stakeholders from government, private sector, civil society and academic organisations. The overarching strategy and associated actions have been informed by a gender analysis of the ECOWAS Commission and Member States based on desk-based research, face-to-face meetings, and remote consultations with the ECOWAS Commission, DRR and Gender Focal Points from Member States, as well as other government, private sector, and non-governmental stakeholders. As part of the GSAP's evolution, ECOWAS sparked new collaborations by bringing together member state DRR and Gender Focal Points for the first time. This cross-pollination of ideas and experiences has built a solid foundation for essential and ongoing cross-disciplinary collaboration. Through these interactions member state representatives saw that although country context is important all good DRR must start with a clear understanding of community needs—and work from that knowledge to develop effective, and inclusive responses.

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<sup>1</sup> The ECOWAS DRR GSAP is a *complementary* document to the ECOWAS DRR Plan of Action 2015-2030, which outlines activities and deliverables to be developed and implemented in alignment with existing ECOWAS, African Union (AU) and international strategies; namely the AU Agenda 2063, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR). Added to these is a gender lens, from the African Union's 2018-2028 Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE), and the ECOWAS Gender Policy 2005 and ECOWAS Supplementary Act on Equality of Rights between Women and Men for Sustainable Development in the ECOWAS region 2015.

## KEY DEFINITIONS OF GENDER AND GENDER EQUALITY

The ECOWAS Commission continues to demonstrate its commitment to gender by complimenting its institutional framework with strategies, policies, laws and actions. The ECOWAS DRR GSAP ensures that gender is integrated into the region's commitment to disaster risk reduction – in-line with international, continental and regional commitments to gender equality.

Term	Definition
Affirmative action	A program or a measure of orientation that seeks to correct past or current discriminations by adopting active measures, to ensure equal of opportunity in all spheres of life
Discrimination	Any type of distinction, exclusion or restriction that is aimed at impairing or nullifying the recognition of human rights and fundamental political, economic, social, cultural or civil or other freedoms, or at threatening the enjoyment or exercise of human rights and freedoms by any individual
Gender	The roles, duties and responsibilities culture and society assign to women, men, girls and boys, which change over time and space
Climate Change	All the variations of climatic characteristics in a given location over time: warming or cooling, as well as some forms of air pollution resulting from human activities that threaten to significantly alter the climate, leading to global warming
Gender equality	The equal enjoyment of rights and access to resources by women, men, girls and boys in all spheres of life
Gender equity	The fair distribution of benefits, rewards and all opportunities between men and women, girls and boys, based upon respect for their differences
Parity	refers to all measures aimed at ensuring the equal participation of women in the political sphere, in the area of employment (access to a profession, equal recruitment opportunities, employment and equal grading, equal pay) and in terms of representation at the top leadership levels of companies and institutions
Gender mainstreaming	A process of identifying gender gaps with the view to ensuring that the concerns and experiences of women, men, girls and boys are, as a whole, taken into account in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all spheres in order to guarantee equal benefits for all
Gender-based violence	All kinds of acts perpetrated against women, men, girls and boys based on their sex, causing or capable of causing physical, sexual, psychological or economic damage, including the threat to use such acts or the fact of imposing arbitrary restrictions or deprivation of fundamental freedoms in private or public life in peace time and during periods of armed or unarmed conflicts
Sex	The biological differences between females and males

Source: ECOWAS Supplementary Act Relating to Equality of Rights between Women and Men for Sustainable Development in the ECOWAS Region (2015)

## 1 INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

Reflecting a global trend, the incidence of extreme weather events and disasters in West Africa has increased significantly over the past two decades, and this trend is projected to continue in the context of a changing climate.<sup>2</sup> Actual and potential disaster risks remain a serious challenge to inclusive socio-economic development and peace and security for the region in the foreseeable future.

Disasters do not affect everyone in the same way – instead this depends on levels of vulnerability, which vary with various socially-constructed facets of identity, such as gender. In a gender-unequal world, women and girls often face the brunt of the impacts of climate change and disasters.<sup>3</sup> Without express consideration, approaches to Disaster Risk Management (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) tend to be gender-blind. As a result, solutions are invisible to gender differences, and are therefore not effective, having the potential to exacerbate gendered inequalities and disparities between women and men in terms of poverty, labour, and access to resources.

Recognising the need for a deliberate policy and technical interventions to address the differential vulnerabilities of women, men, boys and girls before, during and after a disaster event, ECOWAS in cooperation with member states has developed the ECOWAS Disaster Risk Reduction Gender Strategy and Action Plan (2020-2030) (ECOWAS DRR GSAP). Despite signalling its commitment to both disaster risk reduction and gender equality, until now there has been no strategy and action plan to bring the two fields together, to ensure gender responsive DRR. The ECOWAS DRR GSAP is a complementary document to the ECOWAS DRR Plan of Action 2015-2030, enhancing the existing strategy with continental and regional agreements on gender. The Action Plan replicates the four strategic pillars already adopted (namely understanding disaster risk, strengthen disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk, investing in DRR for resilience, and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “build back better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction). It adds a gender lens to each activity based on these agreements and provides a framework through which DRR and gender focal points at Commission and member state level can collaborate and work in partnership to ensure gender responsive DRR that reduces risk equitably for women, men, girls and boys.

## 2 GENDER RESPONSIVE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

***“Countries that do not actively promote the full participation of women in education, politics, and the workforce will struggle more than most when it comes to reducing risk and adapting to climate change.”***

**Margareta Wahlström, UN Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction**

***“Women are largely marginalized in the development of Disaster Risk Management policy and decision-making processes, and their voices go unheard.”<sup>4</sup>***

**Gender differences in vulnerability reflect the socially- and culturally-constructed roles and behaviours that we attribute to women and men.** Annex A summarises a gendered risk profile for the ECOWAS region.

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<sup>2</sup> Scheuren, J-M.; le Polain de Waroux, O.; Below, R.; Guha-Sapir, D.; Ponserre, S. (2007) “Annual Disaster Statistical Review: The Numbers and Trends”. Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED)

<sup>3</sup> UNDP (2009). “Gender Equality and UNDP. Fast Facts.” United Nations Development Programme.

<sup>4</sup> UNISDR, UNDP and IUCN, Making Disaster Risk Reduction Gender-Sensitive: Policy and Practical Guidelines, 2009, p. 24.

**Women and girls face a number of challenges during recovery and reconstruction...**

- GBV
- Livelihoods
- Land tenure/ownership
- Loss of education
- Forced and early marriages
- Reproductive health
- Mental health
- Shelter/housing
- Medical needs
- Insurance

(GFDRR Gender Strategy)

Disasters affect women, men, girls, and boys differently due to gender inequalities caused by socioeconomic conditions, cultural beliefs, and traditional practices which have repeatedly put females at a disadvantage.<sup>5</sup> This can be due to a number of factors including differences in how men and women are informed of early warning systems; the extent to which information is gender nuanced; and, the intra-household decision-making power on when and how to evacuate.<sup>6</sup> Some women may have physiological limitations

that can hamper their chances of survival.<sup>7</sup> In addition, compared to men and boys, women may face more difficulties in fleeing with their children or elderly relatives due to their assigned care responsibilities, or when pregnant.<sup>8</sup> Women are typically more vulnerable than men to the effects of disasters and climate change. Research shows that in most crisis situations, women and children account for the majority of those affected (e.g., more than 75 percent of those displaced by disasters, and typically 70-80 percent of those needing assistance in emergency situations).<sup>9</sup> As a result, mortality rates in disasters are higher for women than for men, especially in those countries where women's economic and social rights are constrained. Some studies looking at both women and children have found that they are 14 times more likely than men to die in natural disasters.<sup>10</sup>

**Gender-blind approaches to post-disaster relief and recovery can reinforce inequalities.**

Similarly, coping strategies also differ between men and women, and their participation in prevention, relief, recovery and reconstruction processes.<sup>11</sup> During the recovery and reconstruction phase, pre-existing vulnerabilities and patterns of discrimination are usually exacerbated, as women and girls may face specific risks including unequal access to assistance, discrimination in aid provision, loss of customary use of land, and inequitable access to property restitution.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Eric Neumayer and Thomas Plümper, "The Gendered Nature of Natural Disasters: The Impact of Catastrophic Events on the Gender Gap in Life Expectancy, 1981–2002," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, vol. 97, issue. 3, 2007, pp. 551–566. Neumayer and Plümper analyzed disasters in 141 countries and found that in countries where women and men enjoyed equal rights, mortality rates for both sexes were equal.

<sup>6</sup> This was the case, for example, in Bangladesh's Cyclone Gorky in 1991 in which women accounted for 90 percent of the 140,000 fatalities. Female mortality rates compared to male mortality rates were most significant within the 20-49 age group where they were 4-5 times higher. Keiko Ikeda, "Gender differences in human loss and vulnerability in natural disasters: A case study from Bangladesh," *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*, September 1995, vol. 2 no. 2, pp. 171-193. In contrast, the World Bank notes that the lack of deaths in one community affected by Hurricane Mitch in Nicaragua, was a result of women's involvement in preparedness education and other activities, including their monitoring of the early warning system. World Bank, *Gender and Climate Change: Three Things You Should Know*, 2011, p. 5

<sup>7</sup> Oxfam, *The Tsunami's Impact on Women*, Briefing Note, 2005.

<sup>8</sup> UNISDR, UNDP and IUCN, *Making Disaster Risk Reduction Gender-Sensitive: Policy and Practical Guidelines*, 2009, p. 38.

<sup>9</sup> These figures reflect the typical demographic percentage of populations in developing countries. Chew and Badras, "Caught in the Storm: The Impact of Natural Disasters on Women, Global Fund for Women," 2005, p. 4, [www.globalfundforwomen.org/storage/images/stories/downloads/disaster-report.pdf](http://www.globalfundforwomen.org/storage/images/stories/downloads/disaster-report.pdf). Lorena Aguilar, *Climate Change and Disaster Mitigation*, International Union for Conservation of Nature, 2004.

<sup>10</sup> Ariana Araujo and Andrea Quesada-Aguilar, *Gender Equality and Adaptation*, International Union for Conservation of Nature, 2007, [www.gdnonline.org/resources/IUCN\\_FactsheetAdaptation.pdf](http://www.gdnonline.org/resources/IUCN_FactsheetAdaptation.pdf); UNDP, *Gender and Disasters*, October 2010. See also: Neumayer and Plümper, *op. cit.*; Oxfam, *The Tsunami's Impact on Women*, Briefing Note, 2005, <http://www.oxfam.org/en/policy/bn050326-tsunami-women>. However, men may be more likely to engage in risky behavior, owing to prevailing social norms, which may lead to higher male mortality rates, as in was observed in reactions to Hurricane Mitch. See for example: World Bank, "Hurricane Mitch: The gender effects of coping and crises," *Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Notes*, August 2007, No. 57.

<sup>11</sup> See for example: Elaine Enarsson, "Promoting Social Justice in Disaster Reconstruction: Guidelines for Gender-Sensitive and Community-Based Planning," in K.R. Gupta, ed., *Urban Development Debates in the New Millennium* (New Delhi, India: Atlantic Publishers and Distributors, 2005), pp. 25-33, and World Bank, *Gender and Climate Change: Three Things You Should Know*, 2011, p. 7.

<sup>12</sup> See: Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) *Operational Guidelines on the Protection of Persons in Situations of Natural Disasters*, Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement, January 2011, (adopted by the IASC in 2010).



Breakdown of social structures that are often prevalent during crisis also results in protection risks for women, consequently women may face heightened risk of domestic violence, and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence and exploitation, including trafficking.<sup>13</sup>

*The strength of post-disaster recovery lies with how well it responds to the needs of both women and men. Recovery has the potential to transform unequal power relations that contribute to gender-differentiated vulnerabilities as it provides a “window of opportunity” to promote gender equality. However, it is important to be aware that attempts at promoting women’s empowerment may face a backlash as resistance to change norms can entrench those norms even further.*

WB GFDRR Gender Strategy

**Women have critical contributions to make towards disaster and climate risk management.**

Although women may not hold positions of visible political leadership in significant numbers, they are nevertheless key to a society’s social fabric and hence, its capacity for resilience. They shape behaviour and transmit culture and knowledge through kin and social networks, which are critical to risk prevention and response efforts.<sup>14</sup> Furthermore, women’s leadership in civil society organizations can ensure their participation in more formal processes of DRR, response and recovery efforts.<sup>15</sup> Women’s work matters across the economic spectrum, and must be counted in DRR efforts. Women often serve as teachers, nurses and social workers and as such are well-placed to assess community needs and implement disaster relief and recovery programs.<sup>16</sup> In rural areas women play a critical role in agricultural and pastoral livelihoods, often bearing significant responsibility for managing productive resources such as land, water, livestock, biodiversity, fodder, fuel, and food. They also contribute work and energy towards income generation and carry out a disproportional amount of daily labour in household and community spheres.<sup>17</sup>

**Significant evidence demonstrates that women are powerful agents of change during and after disasters. However, the challenge lies in translating policy into effective practice.** “A lot of actual work is being done by women, but not integrated into policies and the decision-making process. It’s a challenge for women to be visible.” (Former Governor of Chiba Prefecture in Japan, Akiko Domoto).<sup>18</sup> This gap is evident around the world. According to a 2009 Huairou Commission survey, women’s civil society organizations active in DRR in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East and North Africa region felt excluded from national emergency preparedness and other disaster risk reduction programs.<sup>19</sup> Similarly, in terms of climate change negotiations, processes and institutions, the trend is a lack of women’s formal participation, despite significant local-level engagement.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Inter-Agency Standing Committee guidelines on gender-based violence (2005) recommend that humanitarian actors assume that sexual violence is present in all displacement and emergency situations. See also: David R. Hodge and Cynthia A. Lietz, “The international sexual trafficking of women and children: A review of the literature,” Vol. 22, No. 2, 2007, pp. 163-174; Elaine Enarson, “Battered Women in Disasters: A Case Study of Gender Vulnerability,” Paper presented for ASA, 1998 ; Victoria Constance, “Disaster and Domestic Violence: Evaluating an Innovative Policy Response,” in Women in Disasters: Conference Proceedings and Recommendations, May 5-6, 1998, Vancouver, British Columbia.

<sup>14</sup> Brookings 2012. Brookings Institution: The Year of Recurring Disasters: A Review of Natural Disasters in 2012: Ferris, Petz, Stark: Chapter 4: DRM A Gender Sensitive Approach.

<sup>15</sup> For example, research has found that women’s groups played important roles in at least some peace processes even though women were not officially at the ‘negotiating table.’ See: Brookings-Bern Project on internal Displacement, Addressing Internal Displacement in Peace Processes, Peace Agreements and Peace-Building, September 2007.

<sup>16</sup> Brookings 2012. Brookings Institution: The Year of Recurring Disasters: A Review of Natural Disasters in 2012: Ferris, Petz, Stark: Chapter 4: DRM A Gender Sensitive Approach.

<sup>17</sup> Christian Nellemann et al., (eds.), Women at the Frontline of Climate Change: Gender Risks and Hopes. A Rapid Response Assessment, United Nations Environment Programme, GRID-Arendal, 2011, p. 29, www.unep.org

<sup>18</sup> UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, “Japanese experts call for gender equality,” 2012.

<sup>19</sup> Huairou Commission (HC), “Women’s Views from the Frontline,” 2009.

<sup>20</sup> Christine Haigh and Bernadette Vallely, Gender and the Climate Change Agenda: The impacts of climate change on women and public policy, Women’s Environmental Network, 2010; Christian Nellemann et al., (eds), Women at the Frontline of Climate Change: Gender Risks and Hopes. A Rapid Response Assessment, 2011, pp. 31-33; Streamlining Climate Change and Gender: Gender Equality, Climate Caucus, accessed 7 March 2013.

### **What does gender responsive DRR involve?**

The World Bank's GFDRR suggests the following steps:

#### **1. Collect and Analyse Gender-Differentiated Data**

- Consider intra-household dynamics;
- Include gender analysis in the damage and loss assessment, and pay particular attention to the informal sector;
- Propose criteria and means to disaggregate data, e.g., through the use of samples or surveys;
- Sex-, age- and disability disaggregated data (SADDD) is particularly effective.

#### **2. Communicate, Consult, and Engage with Affected Women and Men, Boys and Girls, with Inclusive and Participatory Techniques:**

- Seek out ways to access the knowledge of local women about hazards, disasters, and disaster recovery;
- Facilitate gender-specific communication forums;
- Consider how women and men use communication media;
- Make use of other community and stakeholder techniques.

#### **3. Provide Recommendations for the Prioritization of Gender-Specific Recovery Needs**

- Consider both short, and long-term priorities: in the immediate aftermath of a disaster populations must be protected from physical and psychosocial harm. In the long run, the principle should be to "build back better" in a way that is inclusive;
- Try to limit the recommendations to a few strategic and realistic actions based on available resources, partner government capacity to implement, and the socio-cultural context in the country;
- Priorities should then be included in all plans and frameworks.

## **3 ECOWAS POLICIES AND INSTITUTIONS FOR GENDER, AND GENDER AND DRR**

The international community has increasingly paid attention and made commitments to enable disaster risk reduction, actions to address climate change, and the achievement of gender equality through the empowerment of all women and girls. Key global commitments include the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; and, the Beijing Platform for Action (on Gender)(Annex B). These have been embraced by, and translated into the local context at the African Union: continent-specific policies such as the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (ARSDRR), and the AU Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, enable RECs and Member States to transform commitments into concrete activities and programmes on the ground.

ECOWAS views gender equality as an engine of regional integration and a development objective in and of itself. This recognition is reflected in Articles 61 and 63 of the Revised ECOWAS Treaty that calls on "Member States to formulate, harmonise, coordinate and implement the appropriate policies and mechanisms to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions of women."

Member States also have gender equality commitments expressed or supported through wider regional institutions, such as the African Union (AU) Charter and Maputo Protocol; the African

Union Development Agency-New Economic Partnership for African Development (AUDA-NEPAD) - fifth objective of gender equality; *le Comité Permanent InterEtats de Lutte Contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel* (CILSS) 2008 Gender Policy); and the African Development Bank (AfDB) 2001 Gender Policy and subsequent Strategies and Action Plans). ECOWAS and its Member States have made numerous commitments to sustainable energy and energy access. All ECOWAS Member States are party to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992); have signed on to the UN Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative (2011); and have shown commitment towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

### **3.1 ECOWAS Supplementary Act on Equality of Rights between Women and Men for Sustainable Development in the ECOWAS region**

The ECOWAS Supplementary Act on Gender Equality of Rights between Women and Men for Sustainable Development in the ECOWAS region (2015) contains two articles related to DRM. Article 38 - Member States to implement policies and programmes to reduce the negative impacts of climate change on citizens (women in particular) by: (a) putting in place mechanisms for the management of the ecosystem and the prevention of natural disasters, taking into account equality of rights between women and men; (b) the adoption of common gender-sensitive regional plans and programmes to protect the environment and natural resources; and (c) support for Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) campaigns on the preservation of the environment, natural resources and the effects of climate change. Article 42 mentions that Member States shall undertake to mainstream gender in the system of coordinated and harmonized management of food crises and other natural disasters (fires, floods, insect and pest infestation, drought, etcetera).

### **3.2 ECOWAS Gender Policy 2005**

The 2005 ECOWAS Gender Policy aims to create an enabling environment for equality and equity; regional approach to gender equality and human rights actions; increase participation/leadership roles of women; equitable access to quality education and women's social/cultural concerns; economic development and equitable participation from women; legal protection of men and women.

### **3.3 Other Related Policies**

The ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access was prepared by the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE). ECREEE in partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United States-based National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), developed the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access. The Policy aims to address existing barriers that may hinder the equal participation of women and men in expanding energy access in West Africa.

In 2017, the ECOWAS Commission in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO) released a Diagnostic Study to underpin the formulation and implementation of Decent Work and to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment for all. Several Departments of ECOWAS, member states and relevant stakeholders contributed to the Diagnostic Study which revealed the decent work deficits in the region and highlighted areas needing intervention in the world of work.

Three priority areas were identified based on findings of the Study:

1. Promoting Employment Opportunities
2. Extending Social Protection Coverage
3. Effective Implementation of International Labour Standards

**Other gender-related policies and strategies include:**

- Roadmap for Supplementary Act on Gender Equality
- ECOWAS Plan of Action: Gender and Migration
- ECOWAS Plan of Action: Gender and Trade (2015-2020)
- ECOWAS Regional Plan of Action for Combating Obstetric Fistula in West Africa
- ECOWAS Parliament Gender Strategy
- ECOWAS Gender and Elections Strategic Framework (GESF) and Action Plan (2016)

**Other ECOWAS-relevant policies and strategies include:**

- ECOWAS Environmental Policy (2008)
- ECOWAS Strategic Programme on Reduction of Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in West Africa (2017)
- ECOWAS Regional Strategy on Reduction of Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in West Africa (2012)

### **3.4 ECOWAS Gender and Development Centre**

The ECOWAS Gender and Development Centre (EGDC) was established in 2003 through Decision A/DEC 16/1/03 of the Conference of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government to provide ECOWAS with a specialized agency on gender and development. The Centre sits under the Commissioner for Social Affairs and Gender office. The EGDC is responsible for the promotion of gender equality and equity in the region, and the implementation of gender policies and action plans at the decentralized level.

The EGDC has the following roles and objectives:

- To mobilize women and empower them to be active participants in the regional integration process;
- To mainstream Gender in ECOWAS institutions and member States;
- Work with Member States to implement the Gender Policy and Strategic Plan
- Research into gender issues
- Work with Member States to collect, collate and analyse sex-disaggregated data
- Conduct sensitization, training and capacity building in Member States
- Perform an advocacy role
- Network and form partnerships with Civil Society
- To disseminate information through various media including a newsletter

Since its creation, EGDC has adopted the following tools:

- 2004: Adoption of the EGDC Action Plan 2005-2007
- 2008: Adoption of the EGDC Strategic Plan 2009-2013
- 2010: Adoption of the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820

## 4 ECOWAS PRIORITIES ON GENDER RESPONSIVE DRR

To *update* and *enhance* its DRR Plan of Action (2015-2030) with lessons learned to date, and the incorporation of a gender lens; ECOWAS DRR and Gender staff, with oversight by the World Bank, engaged an international consultant team based across the region, to conduct stakeholder consultations. As part of this analysis, member state focal points for DRR and Gender gave critical feedback and in puts during a five-day conference—the first to fully combine DRR with Gender. In addition, the team also consulted with relevant government agencies, NGOs and donors active in supporting disaster risk reduction and women' empowerment efforts in ECCAS member states. The findings of these consultations offered many insights into the barriers and opportunities for gender-responsive disaster risk reduction. (For a full list of interviewees, see Annex D).

### 4.1 Key Findings on Current Situation of Gender and DRR in ECOWAS

#### Success

- **Country Level Best Practice:** Interviews revealed many innovative examples of gender-responsive DRR approaches across ECOWAS member states (see Annex for examples).
- **Support for Gender-Responsive DRR:** The Stakeholder consultations were considered a useful mechanism for gaining buy-in and insight for gender-responsive DRR. There was overwhelming support across member state focal points, NGOS, academia and the private sector for Gender-responsive DRR as a matter of necessity to improve the effectiveness of disaster risk interventions. There was also strong support for ECOWAS guidance in this area.
- **Communication:** Interviewees often noted that a lot of good interventions were taking place, but often weren't 'advertised' either within or between countries: however when news reports and articles covered these topics, support grew for gender interventions as the general public could see they were useful.

#### Challenges

- **Understanding Gender-Responsive DRR:** There is also confusion regarding the definition of gender, and ensuring its effective and strategic representation. The aforementioned constraints also lead to a limited understanding of the gendered nature of risk. The basic understanding of the gendered nature of disaster risk is an important prerequisite for gender sensitive DRR and CCA. Despite the differences between women and men in how they view hazards and their potential effects—this is seldom taken into account in disaster risk planning or response.
- **Lack of Data:** sex- and age- disaggregated data is still not the norm (ideally sex, age and disability-disaggregated data). Although it is widely recognized that there is a need for sex-disaggregated data (and indicators), this information is typically not being collected. Even when rapid assessment forms are disaggregated for gender, disability, and age – in line with the Sendai Framework, this disaggregation does not translate into application at the local level.
- **Gender is Institutionally Marginalized within Member States** and the integration of gender in national governmental plans, policies and institutional structures for DRR or CCA is often not strategic—even where policies exist.
- **Implementing Gender Responsive DRR in the Preparedness, Response and Rehabilitation Cycle:** although strong DRR coordination efforts exist in the region, procedures often do not include considerations for gender, or make little mention of it. Integration is also limited in functional structures, such as national disaster management technical committees, which often lack adequate representation of gender ministries or women's organizations. In addition, there is a big gap in mainstreaming gender in planning throughout the entire DRR cycle, from preparedness through to response and recovery. Implementation of gender interventions remains a challenge in member states, despite the inclusion of gender in many policies and strategies (including in climate change). A part of

- this is the lack of coordination between ministries and focal points responsible for gender mainstreaming. As a result, gender is often pigeonholed, and is not fully mainstreamed within institutions and programming for DRR and other sectors.
- **Limited human and financial capacity means that gender is often missing in planning and policy:** Gender human resources are often standalone departments, usually with one gender expert responsible for gender mainstreaming within the entire institution. For example, it is common for organizations to have one “gender person” who ends up ticking the gender boxes in all projects, playing more of an M&E function, as opposed to mainstreaming gender throughout the programme or project planning cycle. Even when Gender Focal Points are appointed in ministries and institutions, they often lack technical expertise in gender as they are appointed and not necessarily experts or sufficiently trained in gender concepts, gender analysis or how to mainstream gender within their institution and respective activities.
  - **There is poor representation of women in decision-making levels of disaster governance.** This is particularly at the district and community level related to socio-culturally prescribed gender norms that limits women’s involvement in decision making. The lack of women’s voices in DRR remains an issue that results in gender-blind DRR strategies and responses, which often reinforce and perpetuate inequalities between women and men. There is a need to proactively address the lack of women’s voices in disaster governance at all levels including the involvement of women in decision-making and planning in leadership positions such as chairpersons as well as gender balanced needs assessment and response teams. In terms of response structures, women’s voices are also negligible, often marginalized limited to the protection and sexual exploitation and abuse clusters—but not integrated so much (if at all) in any of the others. This results in gender-blind solutions that exacerbate inequalities.
  - **Development of protocols and processes addressing the barriers faced by women** is needed to ensure active participation in decision-making and involvement in DRR activities.
  - **Donors tend to be guided by sector-specific programs, which then end up being the focus of programs in member states.** Even international mandates on DRR have weak mention of gender—Sendai for example includes women’s leadership, gender sensitive policies and a reference to sexual and reproductive health care services. However, women are often included together with girls and marginalized groups, furthering the ‘victim’ paradigm; the term ‘gender equality’ does not appear in the text, nor is there a reference to women’s human rights.
  - **Business engagement in DRR has been largely limited to the provision of ad-hoc financial or in-kind support in response to natural disaster recovery efforts,** with CSR as the main driver. The development of national regulations to make DRR an integral part of business planning is also limited. Under the Sendai Framework, the private sector was included in all sections of the text but there was no correlating text for private sector accountability or regulation.
  - **There is a need to develop protocols and processes that address the barriers that women face in actively participating** in decision making and involvement in DRR activities. To address this, there is a need to better understand the position of women and girls as well as men and boys – in terms of understanding differences in knowledge, capacity, and priorities. There is also an opportunity to develop gender guidelines in protocols for contingency planning (for drought, flood and fire) emergency response, and the formation of DRR committees at village, constituency, region and national levels. If tools for DRR planning include clear guidelines for gender mainstreaming, (e.g. how many men, how many women) then there is greater opportunity for activities to actually be gender mainstreamed.

The recommendations from the stakeholder interventions are summarized below, using the Sendai Framework to organize priorities:

Priorities	Objectives
<b>Priority 1:</b> Support a gender-sensitive approach to risk identification and assessment that includes inputs from women and men to inform gender-responsive DRR that challenge the structures giving rise to inequality	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve understanding of the baseline situation of gendered risk</li> <li>2. Promote greater understanding and improved awareness of the gendered nature of disaster risk</li> </ol>
<b>Priority 2:</b> Enable a gender-equitable governance structure (including institutions and policies) that creates a conducive environment to encourage gender-responsive DRR	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Promote the integration of gender into the ECOWAS Commission, regional partners and member states' DRR agenda and programmes; and ensuring that Member States include a gender focus in their revised DRR Strategies and POAs aligned to Sendai</li> <li>4. Use convening power to support development of a gender and DRR platform and a community of practice of experts in DRR and gender who can support gender mainstreaming</li> <li>5. Support equal participation and representation at decision-making levels of disaster governance in ECOWAS, member states, and regional partners</li> </ol>
<b>Priority 3:</b> Ensure equal opportunities for women and men to mitigate risk and build resilience in the context of a changing climate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Promote and support gender-responsive resilience-building through regional and national level programming</li> <li>7. Support and promote the development of an evidence base to advocate for gender-responsive resilience building</li> <li>8. Forge strategic partnerships with government and non-government organisations, including the private sector, to promote investment in gender-responsive resilience building</li> </ol>
<b>Priority 4:</b> Promote equal opportunities for participation by, and equal opportunities to benefit from, women and men at all stages of the DRR cycle	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Support strengthening of regional and national capacity for gender-responsive disaster response</li> <li>10. Promote gender-responsive recovery built around gender-equitable inclusion in decision-making and linking of recovery with other stages in the DRR cycle (response and risk mitigation) to support transformation of gender norms and creation of more equitable resilience</li> </ol>

## 4.2 What does Gender Responsive DRR Look Like?

### How to Develop a Gender Responsive Action Plan

The ECOWAS Gender Responsive DRR POA 2020-2030 mainstreams gender into the 2015 DRR Strategy and POA. As such, it is based on the four pillars of the Sendai Framework, and its monitoring and implementation will be governed by the arrangements already elaborated in the DRR Strategy and POA 2015 of that document. This DRR Gender Strategy and Action Plan is informed by the insights and recommendations from the Stakeholder Consultations as applied to the Activity Framework, and in compliance with the African Union's Gender Strategy. In the 2015 POA, under some priority areas, gender-responsive activities were agreed upon, in others they have likely taken place but this was not explicitly mentioned. Under the 2020-2030 POA, *all* activities are gender mainstreamed, as per the rationale outlined in the previous sections.

Gender-responsive DRR *starts* with an Action Plan that anticipates a gender lens for every single activity. While there is often some mystery around *how* to conduct gender mainstreaming in practice; the POA takes the simple approach of applying a gender lens to the *usual* activities carried out by ECOWAS to support disaster risk response. These activities relate to risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery, and are:

- i. Advocacy and public awareness campaigns
- ii. Formulation of Regional Policy Frameworks and Guidance to Member States
- iii. Data Sharing Protocols
- iv. Knowledge Management and Capacity Building
- v. Regional Early Warning Mechanisms
- vi. Regional Level Risk Assessment
- vii. Contingency Funding

Across the four priority areas for Sendai, a gender lens can be applied to activities, to ensure compliance with the African Union’s policies for gender, and responsiveness to member states who want DRR to be gender-responsive:

**Table 1: Gender-Responsive DRR: Sendai Framework<sup>21</sup>**

Sendai Pillar	Gender Lens	Country Examples
<b>1. Understanding disaster risk</b>	Technical analysis needs to understand the gendered nature of disaster risk, considering the unique needs of women and men, girls and boys, and apply this gender analysis to DRR. <i>Get the facts</i> by undertaking gender analysis and collect sex disaggregated data.	The West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) prepared a study on ‘Gender-Specific Responses to Climate Variability in a Semi-Arid Ecosystem in Northern Benin’  Women and Youth Development Initiative (WOYODEV) partnered with the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction sex-disaggregated data collection project
<b>2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk</b>	Empower women with the opportunities and agency to fully participate within institutional arrangements and policy formulation: the African Union conducts a year survey of gender balance within its organization.	Cape Verde’s Law of Parity established quotas for progressive integration of women in various social spheres; Côte d’Ivoire and Burkina Faso also have quotas for women’s representation in political parties.  Côte d’Ivoire launched an Observatory for Equity and Gender in 2014 to work with the multi-stakeholder National Platform for Risk Reduction and Disaster Management to implement their National Disaster Risk Management Strategy and Plan of Action – where

<sup>21</sup> UNISDR, UNDP and IUCN, Making Disaster Risk Reduction Gender-Sensitive: Policy and Practical Guidelines, 2009.



		gender and vulnerable persons are included.
<b>3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience</b>	Ensure equitable resource allocation: targeted actions to promote gender equality need to be adequately funded and mainstreamed in recovery budgets. Monitoring and evaluation are essential to ensure gender equality principles trickle down to implementation.	All Cape Verde's data collection is sex-disaggregated and progress is monitored by an independent Observatory.
<b>4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better"</b>	The immense contributions women make to recovery need to be amplified up to the national and local policy levels by considering gender parity in response and recovery decision-making structures and ensuring women's needs are represented.	Gender Action Plan created in Cape Verde for the project on "Capacity Building for Building Back Better"  Cape Verde strengthened the disaster recovery component of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy to promote gender equality in the context of disaster management and contribute to "building back better".

The African Union's Gender Strategy can also be used to discern gender-responsive activities across the four Sendai pillars that will apply a gender lens to existing approaches:

**Table 2: African Union Gender Strategy Applied to Sendai Framework**

	<b>1. Maximising outcomes, opportunities and Tech E-dividends</b>	<b>2. Dignity, Security and Resilience</b>	<b>3. Effective Law, Policies and Institutions</b>	<b>4. Leadership, Voice and Visibility</b>
<b>Understanding disaster risk</b>	Develop gender-responsive education, training, research and technology programmes	Awareness and advocacy of timely and gender responsive information on early warning and response	Develop standards and guidelines for harmonization of policies, strategies and action plans of member states' gender and DRR interventions	Collection, analysis, and dissemination of gender-disaggregated data
<b>Strengthen disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk</b>	Training on gender-DRR nexus for relevant stakeholders – DRR and Gender FPs, other sectors	Support specialized regional institutions for gender-responsive DRR services. Gender-responsive training and forecasting of extreme hydrometeorological events and training in CSA	Promote integration of gender into the Commission, regional partners and member states' DRR agenda and programs – gender-responsive revised DRR Strategies	Support equal participation and representation at decision-making levels of disaster governance

			aligned to Sendai	
<b>Investing in DRR for resilience</b>	Support development of gender and DRR financing facility	Advocate and support private sector for gender-responsive DRR interventions	Support development of standardized gender-responsive DRR regulations for member states	Promote institutionalisation of gender in DRR interventions – who, what, why, how within ECOWAS and member states
<b>Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction</b>	Strengthen collaboration with CSOs and NGOs to support gender-responsive interventions	Support development of gender vulnerability hotspots in the region to identify targeted actions for gender-responsive disaster preparedness	Support development of a gender and DRR platform	Support gender-parity at decision-making levels of disaster governance in ECOWAS, member states, and regional partners. representation in decision-making and involvement in DRR activities

### How to Implement a Gender Responsive Action Plan

An Action Plan is just a starting point for gender-responsive DRM; the rubber really hits the road during implementation. Although country context is important, **all good DRR must start with a clear understanding of community needs—and work from that knowledge to develop effective, and inclusive activities.** Below best-practice examples from across the ECOWAS region, shared during stake-holder consultations; illustrate how different member states have used a gender lens approach to ensure that activities across each Sendai Pillar are gender-responsive.

Note that in some cases, effective implementation of the gender-responsive POA will require extra effort for some activities: in terms of resources, staff expertise, data collection, analysis and development of procedures, protocols, guidance notes, and training manuals. As noted in previous sections, this work is neither excessively expensive, nor particularly technically challenging; especially given the wealth of global, regional and country-level approaches already in action. It will require active collaboration and partnership of DRR and gender focal points at Commission and member state level who, together, already have the skills and content knowledge to implement the strategy. The first step, a mind-set shift to gender responsive DRR, is perhaps the most challenging.

### Gender Responsive DRR: Policies and Legislation

**The Government of Côte d'Ivoire** has been taking the necessary steps to align its policies and strategies with the Sendai Framework for Action. A strategy and action plan aligned to the four pillars of Sendai has been prepared – the National Disaster Risk Management Strategy and Plan of Action – where gender and vulnerable persons are included. The country also has a National Action Plan for DRR Capacity Building (2016-2020). The Prime Minister’s Office houses the National Platform for Risk Reduction and Disaster Management, which is tasked with implementing the National Disaster Risk Management Strategy and POA. Representatives from various arms of government, the private sector, and civil society participate in the work of the Platform. Cote d'Ivoire

launched an Observatory for Equity and Gender (ONEG) in 2014, and the Observatory closely works with the Platform to ensure that gender is adequately addressed.

**The Government of Niger** enacted a Rural Code to govern access to and use of land and other natural resources in 2004. Land tenure is governed by a variety of unsynchronized laws ranging from customary, Islamic and civil laws. The Rural Code is aimed to enable women to directly own and use land as they wish. But initial trends show that more often than not women are being allocated the least productive, often abandoned, lands that men cannot put to any use.

**In Cape Verde**, gender equality is viewed as a transversal issue and is mainstreamed across government through ministries and as part of the Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development (*Plano Estratégico de Desenvolvimento Sustentável*). High level support was signalled by the creation of an Interministerial Commission for Mainstreaming Gender (presided over by the Cape Verde Institute for Equality and Gender Equity (*Instituto Cabo-verdiano para a Igualdade e Equidade do Género*) under a resolution of the council of ministers in 2019, which monitors the extent of mainstreaming in public policy. This is in addition to National Plans for Gender Equality (*Plano Nacional de Igualdade de Género*), the latest iteration of which covers 2019-21, which highlights how this mainstreaming should take place and promote sex-disaggregated data collection and analysis of gendered vulnerability in relation to DRR.

**ECOWAS ensured that the DRR GSAP was prepared using a collaborative approach** based on inclusive consultation with a range of regional, national, and sub-national stakeholders from government, private sector, civil society and academic organisations. The overarching strategy and associated actions have been informed by a gender analysis of the ECOWAS Commission and Member States based on desk-based research, face-to-face meetings, and remote consultations with the ECOWAS Commission, DRR and Gender Focal Points from Member States, as well as other government, private sector, and non-governmental stakeholders. As part of the GSAP's evolution, ECOWAS sparked new collaborations by bringing together member state DRR and Gender Focal Points for the first time. This cross-pollination of ideas and experiences has built a solid foundation for essential and ongoing cross-disciplinary collaboration. Through these interactions member state representatives saw that although country context is important all good DRR must start with a clear understanding of community needs—and work from that knowledge to develop effective, and inclusive responses.

### **Gender Responsive DRR: Inclusive Programming**

**The Ghana Ffulso Salwa Road and Community Development Project** included construction of a 147.5km road between Ffulso and Salwa, as well as key socio-economic infrastructure, with the primary and direct beneficiaries including communities in the immediate vicinity of the road. The ancillary works component includes water supply, rehabilitation of schools and health centres, construction of markets and lorry parks, and improvement of tourist attractions. A participatory approach was taken in project identification, design and implementation – public consultations were held in selected communities, about 40% of participants were women. Petty trading and agro-processing are the main sources of income for women along the road corridor - the burden faced by women forced to carry heavy loads to market was lightened as a result of the road. The construction of boreholes and water and sanitation facilities also freed up girls' and women's time to pursue educational and productive activities. Selected women's agro-processing groups were provided with agro-processing equipment – to ease drudgery in cassava, shea nuts, groundnuts, shea butter, and groundnut processing. Timesaving, increased output and value addition to the products will reap socio-economic benefits including women's profit margins and incomes.

**The AfDB, in partnership with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility (IPPF), and the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) is funding a regional project feasibility study on 'Business Opportunities for West African Women in a Changing Energy Value Chain'.** The project aims to contribute to the advancement of gender equality, by empowering women entrepreneurs in the region to provide goods and services in the context of a regional transition

towards smarter energy production, distribution, and consumption. The project will develop regional energy infrastructure and enhance business opportunities for 16 women businesses in select 4 (Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Senegal, Ghana) countries in the ECOWAS region. This will include identifying opportunities and challenges faced by women owned small and medium businesses in the energy sectors to achieve domestic and regional linkages—thereby increasing economic growth and prosperity in the region. It reached a combined total of 1 000 listeners' clubs with roughly 24 500 members and direct beneficiaries, and 147 000 indirect beneficiaries. It is now seated in Burundi, Mauritania and Senegal.

**The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)** developed an innovative technique of reclaiming severely degraded, abandoned farmlands in Western Africa to successfully bring them back into profitable agricultural production. More than half of Sahelian soils are severely degraded, continuously losing nutrients and organic matter through wind and water erosion resulting in hard-to-plough encrusted lateritic soils that characterise many abandoned farms across countries such as Niger. Droughts account for crop failure in two out of every five years. Extremely adverse weather conditions in the Sahel and growing population pressure are adversely affecting agricultural production in the region. In Niger, population pressure has progressively led to highly fragmented farm holdings whose ownership and farming rights are generally vested in men. This has in turn systematically edged women out of farming leaving them without means of adequately caring for their families or making an income. ICRISAT worked with local NGOs to help women form associations and gain access to communal village wasteland. This has made a significant contribution to the semi-arid Sudano-Sahelian region, whose few arable lands are under extreme pressure to produce more food for a growing population in the backdrop of climatic variations that threaten the region's fragile agricultural production, and food security. The recovered degraded lands, which had been allocated to disadvantaged women, are giving back Niger's largely marginalised women their socioeconomic rights to making a livelihood through agriculture. By working with women to grow indigenous vegetable and fruit trees, the project has not only restored the self-worth of women, but also enabled them to better care for their children and families and earn an income in the process.

**The CORAF Multi-Donor Trust Fund Project (MDTF) was launched to support integrated agricultural research for development within West and Central Africa, with the aim of contributing to sustainable improvements in the productivity, competitiveness and markets of the agricultural systems in West and Central Africa.** The project found that more women accessed, adopted and used innovative technologies to improve agriculture productivity in West Africa during the period 2013-2016 than expected. Women nearly doubled their participation relative to their target. Specifically, close to 44,000 women were reached compared to a baseline of about 22,000 representing a 200 percent increase. Innovation platforms were central to the increasing adoption and use of technologies and innovations by women in the MDTF project, they were created through the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP) as part of a larger program to improve food systems in West Africa. The platforms served as spaces for the informal exchange, learning, sharing, and adoption of agricultural technologies, innovations and best practices among major food chain players in a given community. Funded by the World Bank and other donors, the program was considered a major success story in West Africa, and actors are looking to scale up this model in view of agricultural transformation in the region.

**In Burkina Faso,** the *Union des Associations des Tisseuses du Kadiogo* (ATK) is the leading organization in Burkina's weaving industry - the board and 1000 members are exclusively women. It was first created as an association to empower women, but the company is now an economic interest group with headquarters in Ouagadougou. ATK is well positioned in terms of quality of products, reputation on local and international markets since it has been in operation for more than two decades. ATK produces around 800,000 meters (production of the 700 active members) of woven products per year and the annual revenue is around USD325, 000. Practices in the cotton value chain are detrimental to the environment due to the use of harmful chemicals such as synthetic fertilisers and pesticide. ATK has been making efforts to incorporate environmentally

friendly practices – to limit poisoning of the water, soil or air, and in providing with protective gear to workers to avoid health problems caused by chemicals.

### **Gender Responsive DRR: Gender Analysis and Understanding the Gendered Nature of Risk**

**The West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) prepared a study on 'Gender-Specific Responses to Climate Variability in a Semi-Arid Ecosystem in Northern Benin'**. Highly erratic rainfall patterns in northern Benin complicate the ability of rural farmers to engage in subsistence agriculture. The research explored gender-specific responses to climate variability in the context of agrarian Benin. A household survey was conducted (n = 260) with an experimental gaming exercise among a subset of the survey respondents. Although men and women from the sample population were found to be equally aware of climate variability and shared similar coping strategies, their specific land-use strategies, preferences, and motivations were distinct. Over the long term, these differences would likely lead to dissimilar coping strategies and vulnerability to the effects of climate change. Examination of gender-specific land-use responses to climate change and anticipatory learning can enhance efforts to improve adaptability and resilience among rural subsistence farmers.

**In Nigeria, the Women and Youth Development Initiative (WOYODEV) partnered with the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction** has a data collection project covering six Nigerian States (age and sex disaggregated) to better understand the gender differentiated challenges faced in DRR.

### **Gender Responsive DRR: Building Back Better and Encouraging Women's Participation in Decision-Making**

**Across West Africa, FAO Dimitra community listeners' clubs are helping rural populations participate in the development of both their communities and themselves.** The clubs enable members – women, men and youth – to share concerns and take collective action. Collaborating with rural radio stations that feed and broadcast their discussions, the clubs have become agents of change in agriculture but also in other aspects of society, taking on sensitive issues such as HIV/AIDS, early marriage and the rights of women to inherit land. The approach boosts members' self-confidence - especially women's - and raises awareness about the needs and priorities of rural populations. Members have played crucial roles in helping resolve community conflicts peacefully and giving rural women an increased role in decision-making. Discussions are always action-oriented, clubs build members' skills in such areas as: agricultural and livestock practices, reducing food shortages and strengthening resilience, hygiene and sanitation, health and nutrition, and food safety. As a result of its exchanges, the listeners' club in Tera, Niger, proved instrumental in alerting local officials about locusts in the region in September 2011. Simply by preventing livestock from wandering, Kiota's club members have reduced animal waste in public places and are encouraging neighbouring villages to do the same.

## 5 ECOWAS GENDER RESPONSIVE PLAN OF ACTION 2020-2030

**Table 3: ECOWAS Gender Responsive Plan of Action 2020-2030**

Sendai 1: Understanding Disaster Risk					
Priority for Action	Activities	Expected Results	Indicators	Budget US\$	Timeline
Promote the understanding of gender responsive early warning, integrating indigenous knowledge and traditional practices : risk knowledge, technical monitoring, early warning service, dissemination, and preparedness	-ECOWAS collaborates with member states and regional centres for development and sharing of standardised gender responsive tools; -ECOWAS in partnership with member states will conduct early awareness campaigns on the concept of gender responsive early warning	-Gender responsive tools such as monitoring, hazard and risk assessments are developed, strengthened and provided to member states	-ECOWAS campaign on “understanding gender responsive risk” is designed and launched -Regional knowledge exchange on “understanding gender responsive risk” conducted every two years	100,000	• Annual update  • Every 2 Years
				100,000	
				600,000	
Develop, use and upgrade of gender responsive indicators for disaster risk and vulnerability at all levels (regional and national levels)	-ECOWAS provides guidance on the use of standardised gender responsive indicators; -ECOWAS provides guidance on the required reporting by member states	-Standard sets of gender responsive hazard and vulnerability indicators formulated, discussed, reviewed by member countries and regional stakeholders, and published	-Guidance note for standardization of gender responsive indicators published; -Official indicator reporting template published -Training on indicator reporting provided to member states -Online and offline reporting tool available at all times	150,000	• Annual update  Every two years
				100,000	
				50,000	
				200,000	
				50,000	
Support the strengthening of gender responsive hazard monitoring capacity of regional disaster management	-ECOWAS convenes regional centres (ECOWAS water resources centre, ACMAD, CILSS) for closer collaboration on gender responsive hazard monitoring and providing hazard and early warning information	-Cluster group of ECOWAS water resources centre, ACMAD, CILSS, and other regional centres established and collaborating closely on gender responsive hazard monitoring and providing hazard and early	-Cluster group updates information collection protocols to be gender responsive -Cluster group provides clients with gender responsive products on	50,000	Ongoing
				200,000	
				400,000	

services and institutions	to member states and regional stakeholders	warning information to member states and regional stakeholders	hazard monitoring and early warning information -Regional bulletin on hazard monitoring published regularly; -Bi-annual meetings of cluster group on hazard monitoring		
Develop and strengthen gender responsive disaster information channels : develop and pilot regional disaster information service	-ECOWAS to convene member states and relevant stakeholders for development of standardised gender responsive disaster information channels	-Data-sharing protocols are established and online tools for data sharing have been developed	-Establish protocols for gender responsive data collection of: hazard risks management, early warning communication and GIS risk mapping applications in member states	500,000	Ongoing
Support programmes to monitor & review national progress in gender responsive disaster risk management: undertake and publish regional and national baseline assessments	-ECOWAS to provide member states with guidance on monitoring and review processes in national gender responsive disaster risk management; -ECOWAS to guide member states on standardised preparation and sharing of regional and national baseline assessments	-Database on disaster risk management with core and gender indicators (SFDRR) developed with regular monitoring provided by member states	-Database with gender responsive core indicators developed and accessible on ECOWAS website; -Monitoring reports are provided annually	50,000 200,000	Annually
Promote gender responsiveness of DRR fora (including the seasonal climate outlook forum) as a regional awareness and disaster preparedness mechanism	-ECOWAS (co) organizes regional DRR fora (including the climate outlook forum) in West Africa and promotes gender-responsive DRR regularly as a preparedness mechanism	-Gender parity (at Commission, member state, and other levels) at all DRR fora (including the seasonal climate outlook forum) is achieved; -Establishment of a gender-responsive regional awareness and disaster preparedness mechanism	-DRR/Climate outlook forum organized annually -Gender sensitive climate information disseminated -Regional disaster preparedness session conducted annually -Invitees include at least 50% women	800,000 100,000 400,000	Annually
Support public awareness and advocacy of gender responsive disaster reduction	-ECOWAS to promote public awareness and advocacy campaigns on gender responsive DRR at regional and national levels;	-Increased public awareness and advocacy campaigns on gender responsive DRR at regional and national levels	-Number of annual information campaigns (regional) held on gender responsive disaster risk and climate change	1 million	Annually

	-Information campaigns (regional) held on gender responsive disaster risk and climate change at regional and national levels				
Develop gender responsive disaster education, training, research and technology Programmes	-ECOWAS to provide guidance on standardised gender-responsive disaster education, training, research and technology programmes for member states	-Gender responsive disaster education, training, research and technology programmes developed	-Number of workshops, trainings and research programs organized	500,000	Annually
<b>Sendai 2: Strengthen Disaster Risk Governance to Manage Disaster Risk</b>					
<b>Priority for Action</b>		<b>Expected Results</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Budget US\$</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Promote and integrate gender responsive DRR into the ECOWAS and national development agendas (including the agricultural, economic, social and environmental policies and programs): agree on the POA	-Gender responsive DRR principles are incorporated in the agricultural, economic, social and environmental policies and programs of ECOWAS and national development agendas; -ECOWAS reviews and updates the regional Gender responsive DRR POA; -ECOWAS Agriculture Policy and related strategies are gender-risk informed	-ECOWAS and national development agendas include gender responsive DRR; -ECOWAS agricultural, economic, social and environmental policies and programs of ECOWAS and national development agendas agree on the POA	-Revised ECOWAS Gender responsive DRR Strategy + POA in line with the priorities of the SFDRR and AU Gender Strategy -Number of ECOWAS policies and national development agendas with dedicated "Gender responsive DRR chapter" -Number of ECOWAS policies and national development agendas with gender indicators -Guidance note of Gender responsive DRR policy mainstreaming published	200,000 200,000 300,000	2021 -2026 (with annual updates)



Support creation, strengthening and regional networking of national platforms for gender responsive DRR policy, legislation, finance mechanisms and community and volunteer participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-ECOWAS maintains regional Gender Responsive DRR Platform;</li> <li>-ECOWAS provides specific guidance on new gender responsive approach in regional and national DRR platforms;</li> <li>-ECOWAS provides technical assistance to member states in set-up and maintenance of national gender responsive DRR Platforms;</li> <li>-ECOWAS provides member states with guidance on Gender responsive DRR policy framework</li> <li>-All member states are involved in discussions for the advancement of the Gender responsive DRR agenda in the region</li> </ul>	-Creation, strengthening and regional networking of national platforms for gender responsive DRR policy, legislation, finance mechanisms and community and volunteer participation established by ECOWAS member states, regional centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-ECOWAS Regional gender responsive DRR Platform convened annually: DRR and Gender focal points invited</li> <li>-Data collected on gender of participants and steps taken to achieve 50:50 participation in line with AU Gender Strategy</li> <li>-Data collected on # of women's groups participating in regional DRR platform and steps taken to promote attendance</li> </ul>	400,000 50,000 100,000 50,000 400,000	Annually
Develop and strengthen specialized regional institutions for gender responsive DRR services	-ECOWAS regional centres, ACMAD and AGRHYMET, sustainably supported to provide training and forecasting of extreme hydro-meteorological events and their effect on men and women	-Stronger collaboration of ECOWAS with specialised regional institutions for gender responsive DRR services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-# of training events regularly provided by ACMAD, and AGRHYMET;</li> <li>-# of forecasting products developed and disseminated by ECOWAS regional centres, ACMAD and AGRHYMET</li> <li>-Forecasting products adapted where feasible to disaggregate gender impacts</li> </ul>	400,000 400,000	Ongoing
Develop gender responsive DRR capacity of ECOWAS, member states and partners	-ECOWAS Commission committed to increase gender responsive DRR sustainable staffing in DRR unit: include a team of gender experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Team of gender experts recruited at DRR Unit;</li> <li>-Increase in number of gender responsive DRR interventions at regional and national levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Adequate number of female staff hired and assigned at the ECOWAS DRR Unit as regular staff;</li> <li>-ECOWAS has DRR gender experts available to support the commission and member states</li> </ul>	800,000 300,000	2021-Ongoing
Advance progress towards gender parity in participation in all DRR-related	-ECOWAS proactively encourages increases in participation of women participants in meetings	-Gender parity achieved in all DRR related regional structures, platforms and fora	-Data collected on gender of participants and steps taken to achieve 50:50	No additional budget (see "Support	Annually

regional structures, platforms and fora			participation in line with AU Gender Strategy -Data collected on # of women's groups participating in regional DRR platform and steps taken to promote attendance	creation, strengthening and regional networking of national platforms for gender responsive DRR policy, legislation, finance mechanisms and community and volunteer participation")	
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**Sendai 3: Investing in DRR for resilience**

Priority for Action	Expected Results	Indicators	Budget US\$	Timeline
Support integration of gender responsive DRR strategies with Gender responsive climate adaptation, particularly drought and flood management and desertification control	-ECOWAS to prepare gender responsive DRR strategies , and integrate with gender responsive climate adaptation (including drought and flood management and desertification control) -ECOWAS Climate Change Policy is revised to be gender responsive, and aligned with the gender responsive DRR Policy	-The establishment of a regional program related to gender responsive climate change adaptation for agriculture and farming	100,000 100,00	2021- Yearly update
Support mainstreaming of gender responsive DRR into health sector development interventions	-ECOWAS to prepare joint framework for monitoring and reporting of gender responsive health epidemics and disasters -ECOWAS to convene national and regional health and gender experts for regional collaboration between ECOWAS and member states	-Joint framework for monitoring and reporting of gender responsive health epidemics and disasters formulated -Joint cluster of experts on health and gender responsive DRR meet regularly to enhance regional collaboration between ECOWAS and member states	400,000	2021 Yearly update

Promote private sector risk reduction strategies in the formal and informal sectors	-ECOWAS to prepare standardised guidance notes on gender responsive DRR private sector risk reduction strategies in the formal and informal sectors	-Guidance notes on private sector risk reduction and mainstreaming of gender responsive DRR in private sector operations disseminated	-Guidance note published and disseminated	100,000	2021 Yearly update
Support member states with the building of gender responsive resilient infrastructure in all sectors	-ECOWAS to prepare guidance notes on construction of gender responsive resilient infrastructure	-Member states are supported to build gender responsive resilient infrastructure	-Number of training workshops on the building of GR-resilient infrastructure	400,000	Annual
Make all DRR funding gender-responsive	-ECOWAS to advocate member states about legislative and budgetary support for gender responsive DRR interventions at all levels; -ECOWAS to prepare and disseminate advocacy materials and guidance notes making the case for legislative and budgetary support for gender responsive DRR interventions	-Increased legislative and budgetary support for gender responsive DRR interventions at all levels	-Budget, at least 5 % of ECOWAS operational budget allocated to gender responsive DRR -Guidance note and monitoring mechanism on national gender responsive DRR budget allocations provided	50,000	
-Set up a fund to support gender responsive DRR	-ECOWAS to mobilise resources for a regional contingency fund (Emergency Management Fund) established at the regional level; -ECOWAS to provide support on formulation, review and establishment of a regional risk insurance and transfer mechanism; -Guidance provided by ECOWAS for establishment of a gender responsive Emergency Management; -Guidance provided by ECOWAS to establish (micro-) insurance mechanism for recovery at the national level that takes into account unique needs of men and women, including risk profiles	-A regional DRR Fund is established	-Number of member states beneficiaries of the fund -Analytical work in support of the establishment of a gender responsive regional contingency fund formulated -Regional contingency fund established with clear guidelines for gender responsive replenishment, monitoring and accountability -Analytical work in support of the establishment of a gender responsive regional risk transfer mechanism formulated and reviewed	TBD  350,000 400,000 400,000	2021  ongoing
<b>Sendai 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction</b>					
<b>Priority for Action</b>		<b>Expected Results</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Budget US\$</b>	<b>Timeline</b>

<p>Promote the understanding and practice of gender-responsive risk identification and assessments: development and use of guidelines, standard procedures, operational manuals, handbooks, maps, training modules</p>	<p>-ECOWAS prepares and promotes gender-responsive guidance on hazard, vulnerability, and risk assessments, explicit inclusion of analysis on how these affect men and women differently and differential responses</p>	<p>-Increased understanding and capacities in member states to develop effective gender-responsive early warning communication systems and GIS risk mapping for DRR/ DRR planning: -Hazard Assessment Risk maps published at regional, national, and local levels that differentiate impacts on men and women</p>	<p>-Gender responsive guidelines related to risk identification and hazards are regularly updated and published; -Gender responsive training modules are regularly updated, accessible online and promoted with member states -Protocols exist between ECOWAS- member states and among member states for sharing of information on hazards, risks management, early warning communication, and risk mapping -Hazard database is operational</p>	<p>350,000  450,000</p>	<p>• Annual update</p>
<p>Support strengthening of gender responsive hazard-monitoring capacity of institutions by setting up a robust technological base (equipment and systems) for risk surveillance and monitoring</p>	<p>-ECOWAS to support research and advocacy for addressing the gender-responsiveness of available database and information on DRR and CCA</p>	<p>-ECOWAS Observation and Monitoring Centre (surveillance system) is active, collects global, regional, and member state information that is gender disaggregated, and communicates information to member states and the ECOWAS at all times -Increased understanding of gender responsive DRR through research and advocacy</p>	<p>-Gender responsive surveillance and early warning system is active, covering: -Regional flood forecasting -Severe weather forecasting -Wild-fire observation -Coastal hazard monitoring -Drought monitoring -Publications on gender dimensions during disasters available on ECOWAS website -Strong promotional campaigns from ECOWAS to involve women's groups in disaster's response as well as preparedness (i.e. women's group leaders to provide information to</p>	<p>4 million  100,000 50,000 200,000</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

			women on shelters, food availability)		
Develop, train in the use of, and ensure data is collected for gender-sensitive disaster management and humanitarian indicators for all levels	- ECOWAS to prepare standardised guidance on collection of gender sensitive disaster management and humanitarian indicators at all levels -ECOWAS to support training workshops of ECOWAS institutions and member states on collection of gender sensitive disaster management and humanitarian indicators at all levels	- ECOWAS institutions and member states are aware of, and regularly collecting data for gender-sensitive indicators	-Gender-sensitive disaster management and humanitarian indicators are selected -Gender-sensitive indicators are regularly updated at regional and national level -Publications on gender dimensions during disasters available on ECOWAS website	20,000 10,000 10,000	2020-ongoing
Support strengthening of national disaster response capacities and reorientation towards a gender responsive DRR focus	-Gender responsive DRR process and framework with focus to build back better formulated -Awareness raising, orientation, and capacity building to build back better after disasters through the incorporation of gender responsive DRR into disaster recovery processes among member states is promoted	-Regional and National rapid response capacities in terms of gender responsiveness, skills and logistics and enhanced	-Reports and updates of enhanced gender responsive and technical capacities produced -Build back better' initiative is included in the gender responsive DRR national frameworks -Awareness raising campaign on building back better and gender responsive DRR has been formulated and is promoted in member states	50,000 150,000 300,000	2021-Ongoing
Develop gender sensitive information sharing programmes & cooperation among disaster managers, gender experts and the development community	-ECOWAS to convene a workshop with disaster managers, gender experts and the development community	-Expert cluster and coordination group of gender-responsive response and recovery has been established	-Expert and donor coordination group on gender responsive DRR meets at least once a year	50,000	Annually
Enhance regional and national contingency planning through preparation of	-Preparation, review and adoption of a Regional Gender Responsive Emergency Management Plan	-Integration of gender responsive regional and national contingency planning -Regional Gender Responsive Emergency Management Plan	-Regional gender responsive Emergency Management Plan adopted with all activities gender responsive	100,000 50,000 300,000	2021-Updated every 5 years

gender responsive Emergency Management Plan that links the disaster mechanism to relevant programmes (OMC and PADEP)		linking the disaster mechanism to relevant programmes (OMC and PADEP) adopted and updated	-Simulation exercises conducted annually;	200,000	
Facilitate sustainable, gender responsive recovery and reconstruction with a risk reduction and building back better approach	-Preparation and dissemination of an ECOWAS-specific Post Disaster Needs Assessment and Recovery Framework	-ECOWAS-specific Post-Disaster Needs Assessment and Recovery Framework (RF) manual formulated and promoted that is fully gender responsive -gender responsive specific PDNA's produced (as required)	-ECOWAS PDNA (men and women) and Recovery Framework formulated; -Number of experts trained in ECOWAS specific PDNA and RF (gender of participants monitored and 50:50 ratio promoted)	50,000 300,000	2021- Updated every 2 years
Develop regional gender responsive disaster response capability, including the EERT, as part of the regional mechanism for disaster management	-Convene a regional gender responsive DRR workshop with experts of different DRR disciplines -Prepare guidance notes on gender responsive DRR (in line with different disciplines) for the ECOWAS region	-Gender responsive roster of experts of different disciplines of DRR for the ECOWAS region established; -Regional cluster of emergency response and recovery experts for the EERT established;	-Number of experts within each discipline applicable related to gender responsive DRR; -Available database of male and female experts provided by ECOWAS & member states for emergency/ disaster response at all times	100,000 100,000	2021- Updated every 2 years
Coordinate and support review and rehearsal of regional gender responsive preparedness and contingency plans for major hazards	-Prepare guidance notes on regional gender responsive preparedness and contingency plans for major hazards -Convene member states for a workshop on regional gender responsive preparedness and contingency plans for major hazards -Share best practices on regional gender responsive preparedness and contingency plans for major hazards	-Member states' disaster preparedness and contingency plans strengthened through activities that are gender mainstreamed; -Joint respective multi-hazard simulation exercises	-Increased number of countries with gender responsive preparedness and contingency plans for DRR	300,000 100,000	2021- Updated every 2 years

## **ECOWAS DRR GSAP ANNEXES**

## ANNEX A: GENDER RESPONSIVE REGIONAL RISK PROFILE

The incidence of extreme weather events and disasters in West Africa has increased significantly over the past two decades.<sup>22</sup> This trend will continue as climate change is expected to exacerbate existing exposure to sudden shocks and slow on-set stresses that are already being faced throughout the region—severe droughts particularly in the Sahel, floods around the Gulf of Guinea states, in addition to sea-level rise and coastal erosion in low lying coastal areas. Low and erratic rainfall patterns during the last three to four decades have contributed to increased desertification, food insecurity, and natural resource degradation.<sup>23</sup> Compounding these hazards are environmental stresses such as deforestation, forest degradation, coastal wetlands degradation, and other hazards such as coastal erosion, sea level rise, invasive alien species, and wildland fire.

The ECOWAS region is one of the poorest and most environmentally degraded in the world, and is considered one of the world's most vulnerable regions to climate change, with temperature increases to be projected to be 1.5 times higher than in the rest of the world.<sup>24</sup> In addition, the region is considered highly vulnerable to humanitarian crises and disasters that could overwhelm national response capacity according to the INFORM Global Risk Index comprising of three dimensions – hazards and exposure, vulnerability and lack of coping capacity.<sup>25</sup> Climate vulnerability is compounded by the region's high dependence on rainfed agriculture and its natural resources to support food security and livelihoods, rapid population growth, and chronic humanitarian crises due to recurrent drought, flooding, food insecurity, epidemics, and violent conflict. Increased climate variability, including increased temperatures and more concentrated and erratic rainfall, will exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, stemming from high levels of poverty, and generally low capacities to plan for, cope with and respond to climate change and extreme weather events.

**Table 4: Risk Index and Human Development Indicators of ECOWAS Member States**

INFORM. (2019). INFORM Report 2019: Shared Evidence for Managing Crises and Disasters.

Country	2019 Global Risk Index	Risk Category	2017 HDI/189	2017 GDI Index	2017 GNI Rank/160
BENIN	4.4	Medium	163	0.875	146
BURKINA FASO	5.2	High	183	0.870	145
CABO VERDE	2.6	Low	125	0.949	...
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	6.0	High	170	0.841	155
The GAMBIA	4.1	Medium	174	0.890	149
GHANA	3.8	Medium	140	0.910	131
GUINEA	4.6	Medium	175	0.810	...
GUINEA BISSAU	5.1	High	177	...	...
LIBERIA	5.3	High	181	0.846	154
MALI	6.4	High	182	0.811	157
NIGER	6.7	Very High	189	0.812	151
NIGERIA	6.9	Very High	157	0.868	....
SENEGAL	5.0	High	164	0.911	124
SIERRA LEONE	5.3	High	184	0.872	150
TOGO	4.6	Medium	165	0.822	140

<sup>22</sup> Scheuren, J-M.; le Polain de Waroux, O.; Below, R.; Guha-Sapir, D.; Ponserre, S. (2007) "Annual Disaster Statistical Review: The Numbers and Trends". Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED).

<sup>23</sup> Ibrahim, B., J. Polcher, H. Karambiri, and B. Rockel. (2012). "Characterization of the Rainy Season in Burkina Faso and its Representation by Regional Climate Models." *Climate Dynamics* 39 (6): 1287–1302.

<sup>24</sup> USAID (2017). *Climate Change Risk in West Africa Sahel: Regional Fact Sheet*. April 2017. Climate Change Adaptation, Thought Leadership and Assessments (ATLAS).

<sup>25</sup> INFORM. (2019). *INFORM Report 2019: Shared Evidence for Managing Crises and Disasters*.



Despite strong regional economic growth in recent years, economic gains have not translated into broad-based economic and social development. The region is still among the poorest regions in sub-Saharan Africa, with approximately 43 percent of the population living below the international \$1.90 per day poverty line.<sup>26</sup> The tragic consequences of these high poverty rates in human development terms are also apparent from available data, with women particularly affected. According to a comparative compilation by region of UNDP's Gender Inequality Index, West Africa scores as the first most gender unequal among African regions followed by Central Africa.<sup>27</sup> Persistent challenges confronted by women in the region include illiteracy, barriers issuing from customs and traditions, lack of gender sensitivity in macro-economic policies and budgets, and limited access to governance and land rights particularly for rural women, as well as productive resources.<sup>28</sup>

In the coming years, vulnerability to natural hazards in the ECOWAS region will likely worsen due to several factors, such as high poverty levels, rapid population growth, and chronic humanitarian crises due to recurrent drought, flooding, food insecurity, epidemics, and violent conflict. The impacts will have profound implications for the decline of water availability, and increased food insecurity, with the potential to exacerbate social discord, and ongoing conflict in the region. The greatest impacts will be felt by the rural poor, the majority of whom are women and girls; the vast majority being landless, marginally employed, and disproportionately dependent on small-scale natural resource-based livelihoods which are contingent on favourable climate conditions.<sup>29</sup>

The majority of droughts in the ECOWAS region occur in the Sahel – due to its semi-arid and sub-humid conditions. The Sahel has a very short growing season limited to three to four months of variable summer rainfall (June–September), and is highly vulnerable to climate shocks due to its limited crop production.<sup>30</sup> Heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture and pastoralism further exacerbate drought incidences and its impacts on water availability and food security. The region is still recovering from the food crisis brought about by the severe droughts experienced in 2005, 2008, 2010 and 2012, which has exacerbated issues of food insecurity, environmental degradation, and pervasive poverty.<sup>31</sup> Prolonged dry spells, drought conditions, and strong winds often trigger uncontrolled wildfires, which can destroy large areas of agricultural land and forest, as seen during the severe drought in the 1980s, which triggered wildfire and saw around 50 percent of the region's vegetation cover destroyed.<sup>32</sup>

The dependence of West Africa's economy on agriculture, representing approximately 35 percent of the region's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 60 percent of the active labour force means that much of the population is vulnerable to drought incidences and increased climate variability.<sup>33</sup> The material impacts of drought on rural women is well documented, whereby drought induced crop failures are linked to food deficits, reduced income, increased male migration, and consequently an increase in the burden of labour for women.<sup>34</sup> Drought and its impacts on agriculture, livestock, and water resources, presents additional challenges for women due to their disproportionate dependence on small-scale natural resource-based livelihoods which are contingent on favourable climate conditions, such as rainfall and temperature.

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<sup>26</sup> AfDB. (2018). "West Africa Economic Outlook 2018. African Development Bank Group.

<sup>27</sup> UNDP, Central Africa: a Sub-Region Falling Behind?, UNDP Sub-Regional Strategy Assessment Report No. 1, March 2017

<sup>28</sup> UNWOMEN. (2014). "The Gender Agenda in West and Central Africa. Target 2015: Progress on the Horizon?" United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

<sup>29</sup> IFAD. (2015). "Gender and Rural Development Brief: West and Central Africa". International Fund for Agricultural Development.

<sup>30</sup> USAID (2017). Climate Change Risk in West Africa Sahel: Regional Fact Sheet. April 2017. Climate Change Adaptation, Thought Leadership and Assessments (ATLAS).

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> FAO. (2007). "Fire Management Global Assessment 2006. A thematic study prepared in the framework of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2005." Food and Agriculture Organisation.

<sup>33</sup> USAID. (2019) "Agriculture and Food Security: West Africa Region."

<sup>34</sup> Tichagwa, W. (1994). "The Effects of Drought on the Condition of Women. Gender and Development. Volume 2, 1994 – Issue 1: Women and Emergencies.

Women are estimated to comprise of 70 percent of the population active in the agriculture sector in the region as a whole and 89 percent in the Sahel – and continue to take over a growing share of responsibility for agriculture as able-bodied men and boys have joined the rural exodus in the face of rural unemployment.<sup>35</sup> As a result, frequent and more intense climate-related extreme weather events, such as droughts and floods, and associated impacts related to economic losses, increased food and nutrition insecurity, and loss of livelihoods, have a disproportionate impact on women and girls, having the potential to exacerbate existing gendered inequalities. This is further complicated by higher poverty rates among women and socially ascribed roles and responsibilities, which further place the burden of labour on women for most domestic work.

Droughts trigger longer hours in the fields as farmers try to diversify their crops, or replant seeds to ensure a sufficient harvest, with women having to repeat replanting sometimes up to seven times during the dry season for lack of water.<sup>36</sup> Droughts also negatively impact food and nutrition security, whereby women and girls often bear the brunt of these impacts at the household level as they reduce their calorie intake in favour of the male head of the household or boys. Malnutrition, both acute and chronic, is a likely occurrence following a disaster such as droughts or floods. The risk of malnutrition is higher for the most vulnerable population groups due to the lack of food and the deteriorating hygiene and sanitation conditions. This is especially true for children, pregnant and lactating women, elderly and the chronically ill.

In addition to their involvement in agriculture, women are responsible for the bulk of domestic labour – particularly the fetching of water and energy sources, including charcoal and firewood, for cooking and heating. In the context of increased water stress and the prevalence of drought, women and girls are forced to travel farther distances to collect water, placing a greater burden on women's reproductive time and labour, and increasing the risk of gender-based violence as their travel time increases.<sup>37</sup>

In rural Senegal for example, rainy seasons are shorter than previous seasons and there has been a 35 percent decline in total rainfall over the last two decades. As a result, women now have to walk longer distances to fetch drinking, cooking and washing water.<sup>38</sup> Household responsibilities and the burden of care faced by women means that they also take care of their children, the elderly and those in ill health. These responsibilities can take around five hours a day, and drought incidences place a further burden on women's time, health, and safety. Being faced with longer distances in search of natural resources not only impacts their quality of life, they are also more vulnerable to incidences of gender-based violence.

In addition to droughts, flooding is a common occurrence throughout West Africa. The most prominent river systems in the ECOWAS region are the Niger, Senegal, and Volta rivers, as well as several smaller rivers, with seasonal floods frequently occurring. Notably, the densely populated delta regions of the major river systems, such as the Niger delta, suffer from major floods. The impact is exacerbated by weak flood protection, insufficient urban drainage systems, and increased runoff due to land degradation. Urban floods are a constant threat throughout the region – rapidly growing urban areas are often situated in low-lying river deltas or coastal areas directly exposed to sea-level rise, coastal surge, and inundation. Women tend to be more severely impacted during and after flooding due to various issues: warning information tends to be transmitted to men in public spaces; cultural and behavioural restrictions, and socially ascribed roles affecting women's

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<sup>35</sup> IFAD. (2015). "Gender and Rural Development Brief: West and Central Africa". International Fund for Agricultural Development.

<sup>36</sup> Murungweni, C.; Van Wijk, M. T.; Smaling, E. M. A.; Giller, K. E. (2016) "Climate-smart crop production in semi-arid areas through increased knowledge of varieties, environment and management factors." *Nutr. Cycl. Agroecosyst.* 105:183–197.

<sup>37</sup> Le Masson, V. (2016). "Gender and Resilience: from Theory to Practice". BRACED. Working paper, 60 p.

<sup>38</sup> WEDO. (2003). "Untapped Connections: Gender, Water and Poverty. Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO).

mobility (e.g. not allowed to leave the house without a male chaperone; caring for children, elderly or sick) or limited ability to swim.

As rapid onset disasters, flooding impacts range from far reaching damage to infrastructure, housing, and agriculture, often having devastating impacts on livelihoods and food security. The impacts of floods are particularly pronounced for women, especially for female headed households who comprise the vast majority of subsistence farmers in the region. Flooding often results in the complete devastation of crops, or a significant decrease in yields, in turn compounding issues of existing vulnerability such as acute malnutrition and food insecurity. Flooding also results in the disruption of critical infrastructure, such as access to water and sanitation, as well as health care facilities. As a result, women have limited access to safe deliveries, increasing their risk of unsafe pregnancies, exposing pregnant women to life threatening complications. In addition, it is common for flooding to be associated with outbreaks of epidemics and waterborne diseases, such as cholera, typhoid, and diarrhoea. Women and children are often the most affected by these outbreaks, due to limited access to water and sanitation facilities, exposing women and girls exposed to a greater gender based violence risk as they have to travel more often and or farther to distant and unsafe locations, such as water collection points, sanitation facilities and health centres.

Furthermore, sexual and gender-based violence tends to increase during and after disasters as well other forms of harassment and abuse.<sup>39</sup> In disaster relief situations, displaced women and girls are at heightened risk of experiencing sexual gender-based violence at aid distribution points; in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities; in unsafe shelter arrangements such as communal tents; and in areas where lighting is poor. The perpetrators are often in positions of authority (police, security officials, community leaders, teachers, employers, landlords, humanitarian workers), requesting sexual favours in return for humanitarian aid, such as food, medicine.

Women and girls are also more likely than men to die during a disaster due to cultural and behavioural restrictions, affecting women's mobility and socially ascribed roles and responsibilities (e.g. caring for children, elderly or sick.<sup>40</sup> Depending on the culture, restrictive dress codes affect the mobility of women in a way that may prove deadly during sudden disasters, particularly floods, as skills that could be essential to survival, such as tree climbing and swimming, are often taught only to boys. Moreover, women tend to be reluctant to go to safe shelters during disasters for fear of losing their children and their household assets, such as livestock. Women also tend to be more vulnerable to sudden disasters given their limited access to early warnings or information pertinent for disaster prevention. For example, women may not receive early warnings if it is only transmitted to men in public spaces.<sup>41</sup> In addition, endowments and human capital in the form of access to health, education and social protection programs affect how women and girls are able to access relief services.

Due to women's socio-economic marginalization, limited access to credit, control over household financial resources and lack of property or inheritance rights leaves them with few resources to rebuild or build back better when disasters occur. The recovery burden is difficult for female-headed households, including widows, who act as are the sole source of income provider and care main caregiver for their children. Impacts tend to be more pronounced on vulnerable groups, which include women and youth, who are highly represented in the informal sector and in subsistence agriculture. The same issue applies to control and access to finance, which is especially challenging in the case of migration where husbands leave rural areas, and women are in left to deal with disaster response, yet do not have access to capital or credit to effectively cope with the aftermath.

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<sup>39</sup> Neumayer, E., and Plumper, T. (2007). "The Gendered Nature of Natural Disasters: the Impact of Catastrophic Events on the Gender Gap in Life Expectancy 1981- 2002". *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* / 8.

<sup>40</sup> Peterson, K. (2007). "Reaching out to Women when Disaster Strikes." Soroptimist White Paper. Soroptimist International of the Americas, Philadelphia.

<sup>41</sup> UNDP (2012). "Overview of Linkages between Gender and Climate Change". Gender and Climate Change Training Module 1, United Nations Development Program Capacity Development Series.

Further, men and boys are much more mobile than women and girls. When disasters strike, they often migrate to urban areas to seek unskilled labouring jobs to finance their recovery. Comparatively, women and girls are not as mobile given socially ascribed roles and responsibilities and expectations to remain in the home to care for the family even though they have neither the resources nor the authority to do so. In addition, disparities in access to land rights negatively impact the ability for women, particularly in the rural areas women to rebuild in the aftermath of a disaster. For example, rules governing property and the transfer of land are less favourable to women. As a result, when a man dies, women and family are often left without land, leaving them highly vulnerable to falling into poverty in the aftermath of a disaster, perpetuating inequalities between women and men.

## ANNEX B: GLOBAL FRAMEWORKS AND POLICIES FOR GENDER RESPONSIVE DRR

### Global

#### **The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR)**

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (which updated the Hyogo Framework for Action HFA 2005-2015) was adopted by 187-member states at the 3rd UN World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in March 2015 in Sendai, Japan. The adoption of Sendai galvanized AU Heads of State and Governments to express their strong commitment to disaster risk reduction. The Framework includes women's leadership goals, gender-sensitive policies and a reference to sexual and reproductive health care services. However, women are often included together with girls and marginalized groups, furthering the 'victim' paradigm; the term 'gender equality' does not appear in the text, nor is there a reference to women's human rights.

The four priorities of the SFDRR are:

1. Understanding disaster risk.
2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk.
3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience.
4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

#### **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Gender Action Plan**

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) adopted its first-ever Gender Action Plan (GAP) at the 2017 Conference of Parties (COP). The UNFCCC GAP was created under the Lima Work Programme on Gender—seeking to advance women's full, equal and meaningful participation, and promote gender-responsive climate policy. The GAP aims to support and enhance the implementation of gender-related decisions and mandates so far adopted in the UNFCCC process through a set of specific activities.

#### **Beijing Platform for Action**

The Beijing Platform for Action (1995) is one of the most comprehensive global policy frameworks and blueprints for action and continues to be a source of guidance and inspiration to realize gender equality and the human rights of women and girls. The Platform for Action covers 12 critical areas of concern: poverty; education and training; health; violence; armed conflict; economy; power and decision-making; institutional mechanisms; human rights; media; environment; and the girl child. For each critical area of concern, strategic objectives are identified, as well as a detailed catalogue of related actions to be taken by Governments and other stakeholders, at national, regional and international level.

### Continental

#### **AU Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

The 2018-2027 AU Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) lays out the implementation plan of Aspiration 6 of Agenda 2063; and the principles enshrined in Article 4 (I) of the AU's Constitutive Act: "promotion of gender equality" as well key continental and global commitments. The strategy was adopted by the Executive Council in July 2018. This strategy is the organization's roadmap to meeting its commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment. According to the Strategy, pockets of good practice show that rapid change is possible in the area of gender. For example, thirteen Africa countries are now among the world's leading countries on women's representation in national parliaments. This underscores the importance of temporary special measures in advancing gender parity in decision-making. The Strategy is organized under 4 main pillars, which are each then "unpacked" into four different tiers

which include in descending order: Outcomes, Outputs, Interventions and Activities. The table below lists the top level “Pillar” with the desired “Outcome”.

<b>AU Gender Strategy: Pillars for Gender Equality</b>			
<b>1. Maximising outcomes, opportunities &amp; tech</b>	<b>2. Dignity, Security and Resilience</b>	<b>3. Effective Law, Policies and Institutions</b>	<b>4. Leadership, Voice and Visibility</b>
<p><b>1.1 Education and Work:</b> Compulsory and free education for girls and women from age 3 to 18; market- oriented vocational training and literacy programmes for youth and women</p>	<p><b>2.1 Health, SRH and RR*, Harmful Traditional Practices:</b> Women and girls achieve higher chances of survival, improved nutrition and wellness and their bodily integrity is protected</p>	<p><b>3.1 The Maputo Protocol:</b> National laws &amp; judicial systems protect and fulfil women’s ownership and inheritance rights, education, wage equality, civil liberties and physical integrity as provided for by the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women</p>	<p><b>4.1 Leadership:</b> Equal participation and demonstrated influence of women and girls in all leadership and decision-making positions.</p>
<p><b>1.2 Economic Empowerment:</b> Income autonomy and social protection for women and girls</p>	<p><b>2.2 Ending Violence Against Women (VAW):</b> All forms of violence against women and girls is reduced, criminalised and condemned by society; women participate equally in peace processes</p>	<p><b>3.2 Norm Setting:</b> National laws and policies protect and enable women’s full access and enjoyment of the opportunities and benefits of Agenda 2063 and other continental projects</p>	<p><b>4.2 Voice:</b> Women and girls have equal voice and exercise agency in the home, community and public spaces</p>
<p><b>1.3. Digital Inclusion:</b> <i>Women and girls become more active users and influencers of the technological space and gender enabling ETech solutions are funded</i></p>	<p><b>2.3 Human Security:</b> Commitments to gender equality and women’s empowerment in humanitarian action, migration and COP Plan of Action for women achieve higher levels of implementation</p>	<p><b>3.3 Institutional Gender Governance Systems:</b> Institutions and organs of the AU, Member States, RECs and civil society have the capacity to implement existing commitments; pro-actively forecast and address new challenges and demonstrate accountability</p>	<p><b>4.3 Visibility:</b> Women and girls are more visible and portrayed as equal contributors to society in the media, literature and cultural resources.</p>
<p><b>Cross cutting strategies:</b> Identify scalable high impact programmes synergized and owned at regional and national levels; Accelerate financing and institutional capacity building, including</p>			

CSOs\*\*; Identify strategic partnerships and synergies; Undertake innovative campaigns and continuous dialogues to transform social norms; Remove contradiction between statutory provisions and practices; Enforce existing commitments; Mobilization; Enhance political and social accountability; Adopt and advocate for temporary special measures to level the playing field; Evidence-based decision making; Document and share what works; Find new and innovative ways of measuring success and affirming good practice.

## ANNEX C: NATIONAL POLICIES IN SUPPORT OF DRR, GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Country	DRM		Gender		Climate	
	Lead ministry	Policies, strategies and plans	Lead ministry	Policies, strategies and plans	Lead ministry	Policies, strategies and plans
<b>BENIN</b>	Ministry of Interior and Public Security	(OTHER) -National Contingency Plan (2015) -ALAFIA 2025 Strategy ( <i>Stratégies de développement du Bénin à long terme</i> ) -Growth Strategy for Poverty Reduction	Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development	National Policy on Gender Promotion in Benin (2008)	Ministry of Living Environment and Sustainable Development	-National Strategy for Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Development -National Adaptation Programme of Action (2008) -National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (2005) -Low carbon and Climate Change Resilient Development Strategy (2016-2025)
<b>BURKINA FASO</b>	Office of the Prime Minister	-Law 2012-2014 – Framework Law on the Prevention and Management of Risks, Humanitarian Crises and Disasters (2014) -National Multi-Hazard Contingency Plan for Disaster Preparedness and Response 2013 (rolling) - <i>Plan d'Action National pour le Renforcement des Capacités pour la Réduction des Risques, la Préparation et la Réponse aux Urgences au Burkina Faso 2016-2020</i>	Ministry of Women, National Solidarity and the Family	Burkina Faso National Gender Policy (2009)	Ministry of the Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change	-National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2015) -National Action Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change and Variability 2015
<b>CABO VERDE</b>	National Civil Protection	<i>Estratégia nacional de redução de riscos de desastres (2010-2030)</i>	<i>Instituto Cabo-verdiano para</i>	- Plano Nacional de Igualdade de Género	Ministry of Environment and Agriculture	National Adaptation Programme of Action (2007)



	and Fire Agency		<i>a Igualdade e Equidade do Género (ICIEG)</i>	(PNIG)(2019-21; previous iterations include 2015-18; and the preceding <i>Plano nacional para igualdade e equidade de género (2005-09; 1996-2000)</i> <i>-Plano nacional de combate a violencia baseadas no genero (2006)</i>		Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development (2017-2021)
<b>CÔTE D'IVOIRE</b>	Office of the Prime Minister  Platform for Risk Reduction and Disaster Management	<i>-Plan d'Organisation des Secours (ORSEC) (2014)</i> <i>-Plan d'action national pour le renforcement des capacités en matière de RRC en Côte d'Ivoire (2016-2020)</i> <i>-National Disaster Risk Management Strategy and Plan of Action (2011) (OTHER)</i> <i>Strategy for Relaunching Development and Reducing Poverty (2009)</i>	Ministry of Solidarity, Family, Women and Children	<i>-Plan stratégique de l'éducation des filles en Côte d'Ivoire (2007)</i> <i>-Politique nationale de l'égalité des chances, l'équité et le genre (2009)</i> <i>-Stratégie nationale de lutte contre les violences basées sur le Genre (SNLVBG) (2012)</i> <i>-Plan d'action pour l'implémentation de la Résolution 1325 du Conseil de Sécurité sur les Femmes, Paix et Sécurité : adopté pour la période (2008-2012)</i>	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	<i>Cadre National de Gestion du Risque Acridien (2014)</i>
<b>The GAMBIA</b>	National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA)	<i>-National Disaster Management Programme: Strategic Action Plan (2008-2011)</i> <i>-National Disaster Management Policy (2007)</i>	Ministry of Women's Affairs	<i>-The Gambia National Gender Policy (2010-2020)</i> <i>-The Gambia Gender and Women</i>	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources	Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020)

		-National Disaster Management Bill (2008) -National Disaster Management Act (2008)		Empowerment Policy (2010-2020) -National Policy for the Advancement of Gambian Women (1999-2009)		
<b>GHANA</b>	Ministry of the Interior		Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection	National Gender Policy (2015)	Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation	-National Action Programme to Combat Drought and Desertification (2002) -National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2012) -National Climate-Smart Agriculture and Food Security Action Plan (2016-2020) -National Climate Change Master Plan Action Programmes (2015-2020) -National Climate Change Policy (2013)
<b>GUINEA</b>	National Agency for Disaster Management and Environmental Emergencies	National Plan for Disaster Management (1996)	Ministry of Social Action, the Promotion of Women's Interests and Childhood	National Gender Policy (2011)	Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development	- <i>Plan d'action nationale d'adaptation aux changements climatiques de la République de Guinée (2007)</i> - <i>Programme d'action nationale de lutte contre la désertification (2006)</i>
<b>GUINEA BISSAU</b>	National Civil Protection Agency		Ministry of Women, Family and National Solidarity	- <i>Plano de Acção Nacional para a Implementação da Resolução 1325 (2000)</i> - <i>Política Nacional para a Promoção da Igualdade e Equidade de Género (2014)</i>	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	National Programme of Action of Adaptation to Climate Change (2007)

<b>LIBERIA</b>	National Civil Protection Agency	National Disaster Management Policy (2012)	Ministry of Gender, Children and Civil Protection	-The Liberia National Gender Policy (2009) -The Liberia National Action Plan for the Implementation of United Nations Resolution 1325 (2009)	Environmental Protection Agency	-National Policy and Response Strategy on Climate Change (2018) -National Adaptation Programme of Action (2008)
<b>MALI</b>	Civil Protection Agency	- <i>Plan national de contingence multirisque de préparation et de réponse aux catastrophes (2010)</i> - <i>Stratégie Nationale pour la Réduction des Risques de Catastrophes (2016)</i>	Ministry for the Promotion of Women, the Family, and Children	- <i>Politique nationale genre du Mali (PNG-Mali) (2011)</i> - <i>Plan d'actions du politique national genre du Mali (2011-2013)</i>	Ministry of Environment	- <i>Cadre de gestion du risque acridien (CGRA) (2011)</i> -Locust Risk Management Framework (2012) -National Action Program on Adaptation to Climate Change (2007)
<b>NIGER</b>	Office of the Prime Minister	- <i>Plan d'Action National de Renforcement des Capacités pour la Réduction des Risques de Catastrophe (2015)</i> - <i>Plan National de Contingence Multirisque Niger (2013)</i> (OTHER) Accelerated Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (2008-2012)	Ministry of Population, Promotion of Women, Protection of Children	<i>Politique nationale genre (2008-2018)</i>  <i>Plan décennal de mise en œuvre de la politique nationale de genre (2009-2018)</i>	Ministry of Environment	- <i>Plan national de gestion du risque acridien (PGRA) (2012)</i> -National Adaptation Plan for Action (2006) - <i>Plan d'Action National de Renforcement des Capacités pour la Réduction des Risques de Catastrophe (2015)</i> - <i>Plan National de Contingence Multirisque Niger (2013)</i>
<b>NIGERIA</b>	National Emergency Management Agency		Federal Ministry of Gender Affairs	-Gender Policy Strategic Framework - implementation plan (2008-2013) -National Gender Strategic Implementation Framework (NGSF)	Federal Ministry of Environment	-National Policy on Climate Change (2013) -Nigeria Vision 2020 (2010) -Nigerian Biofuel and Incentives Policy (2007)  Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (2017-2020)

<b>SENEGAL</b>	Civil Protection Agency	-National Disaster Management Framework (2012) -(OTHER) <i>Stratégie nationale de développement économique et social (SNDES) (2013-2017)</i>	Ministry of Women, Family and Gender	<i>Stratégie nationale pour l'égalité et l'équité de genre au Sénégal (2015)</i>	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	National Action Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change (2012)
<b>SIERRA LEONE</b>	Disaster Management Department, Office of National Security	Disaster Management Policy (2006)  National Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan (2006)	Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs	-National Policy on Gender Mainstreaming (2009) -National Gender Strategic Plan 2009-2012 -National Action Plan (SILNAP) on United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (2009) -UNSCR 1820 on Sexual Violence (2010) -National Policy on the Advancement of Women (2009)	Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment	National Adaptation Plan for Action (2007)
<b>TOGO</b>	Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources		Ministry of Social Action	<i>Politique nationale pour l'équité et l'égalité de genre du Togo (2011)</i>	Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources	-National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2017) -National Adaptation Programme for Action (2009)

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