Ending Gender-Based Violence in Disaster Risks and Climate Resilience by 2030

Photo: AIDMI

Ending Gender-Based Violence in Disaster Risk Reduction by 2030

*By **Vishal Pathak**, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI), India*

Across the Asia-Pacific region, disasters are becoming more frequent, intense, and predictable as climate change accelerates and social inequalities deepen. Yet one of their most damaging impacts continues to receive far less attention than it deserves—the rise in gender-based violence (GBV) during and after disasters.

We build on the valuable foundation created by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) at national level, Duryog Nivaran at South Asia regional level, ADRRN at Asia Pacific level, and UN Women at Global level within the Sendai Framework of UNDRR.

When floods, cyclones, earthquakes, or heatwaves disrupt livelihoods, displace communities, and weaken everyday protection systems, violence against women and girls often increases. These patterns are well-documented across humanitarian contexts, making clear that GBV during disasters is not accidental but a foreseeable consequence of fragile protection systems and unequal social structures.

Disaster risk reduction has traditionally focused on hazards, infrastructure, and emergency response. However, building true resilience requires recognising that disasters expose and intensify existing inequalities related to gender, class, caste, age, disability, and migration status.

When these intersecting vulnerabilities are ignored in planning and policy, preparedness efforts may protect assets while leaving women and girls exposed to insecurity, harassment, and violence in evacuation routes, shelters, workplaces, and public spaces.

This issue of *Southasiadisasters.net* explores how gender-based violence intersects with disaster risk reduction, climate resilience, migration, urban heat, displacement, and recovery processes across South Asia.

The articles draw on field experience, research, and policy engagement to show that preventing violence must become a central goal of disaster governance. Integrating protection into early warning, preparedness, recovery, and climate adaptation is essential to ensure that resilience efforts safeguard dignity, safety, and rights.

Ending GBV by 2030 is therefore not only a gender justice priority—it is fundamental to achieving inclusive and accountable disaster risk reduction. ∎

> *"Disasters do not create gender inequality, but they expose and intensify it. When protection systems fail, violence against women becomes a predictable disaster risk."*

Activism Against Gender-Based Violence and Disaster Risk Reduction

By *Manish Patel, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI), India*

Ending gender-based violence (GBV) within disaster and climate contexts requires focused and sustained action across several interconnected areas.

First, GBV prevention must be integrated into disaster risk reduction and climate resilience policies so that protection and safety are embedded in preparedness, response, recovery, and adaptation planning.

Second, stronger and more accessible reporting and survivor support systems are essential, particularly for women in informal work, displacement, and disaster-affected communities where legal protections often remain out of reach.

Third, promoting women's leadership and participation in local risk governance can help ensure that safety concerns are recognised and addressed

> *"When warnings arrive, but protection does not, women are left to manage risk alone, both from nature and from violence. This must stop by 2030."*

in decision-making processes.

Fourth, an intersectional approach is necessary to understand how gender interacts with class, caste, age, disability, occupation, and migration status in shaping vulnerability and access to protection. Recognising these layered inequalities allows policies and programmes to target those most at risk.

Finally, greater investment in community awareness, action research, and institutional accountability is needed to document risks, support local solutions, and ensure that disaster and climate initiatives do not unintentionally increase harm. Together, these action areas can help ensure that by 2030 disaster resilience and climate action actively protect women's dignity, safety, and rights rather than leaving gender-based violence unaddressed. ∎

Key Action Areas:
- Integrate GBV prevention into disaster risk reduction and climate resilience policies.
- Strengthen reporting and survivor support systems for women in disaster-affected and informal settings.
- Promote women's leadership in local disaster and climate risk governance.
- Adopt an intersectional approach considering gender, class, caste, age, disability, and migration status.
- Invest in community awareness, research, and accountability to ensure climate action protects women's safety and dignity.

Listening to Women: Making Panchayat DRR Plans Safer and Stronger

*By **Preeti Bhat,** Development & Gender Expert – Mumbai, India*

Strengthening women's safety in disaster risk reduction (DRR) requires practical changes in how Panchayat-level planning is designed and implemented.

First, women's voices must be actively included in local DRR planning processes. Panchayats should ensure that women from different social groups—across caste, class, and age—participate meaningfully in village disaster management committees and consultations.

Second, safety mapping of key public spaces should be conducted with women's

> *"During disasters, women face risks that are rarely written into plans— unsafe evacuation routes, insecure water points, and fear of harassment. A disaster plan that ignores these realities is incomplete."*

participation. Evacuation routes, water points, shelters, relief distribution sites, and sanitation facilities must be assessed to identify locations where women feel unsafe.

Third, Panchayat plans should integrate clear gender-based violence (GBV) prevention measures, including

adequate lighting in public spaces, safe evacuation arrangements, and the presence of trained volunteers during emergencies.

Fourth, DRR capacity-building programmes should include awareness and training on women's protection, ensuring that local leaders, volunteers, and responders understand the safety concerns women face during disasters.

Finally, stronger coordination between Panchayats, women's groups, local services, and civil society organisations is essential to provide accessible reporting mechanisms and timely support for survivors. By embedding these actions into local disaster planning, Panchayats can move beyond hazard-focused approaches and ensure that preparedness and response efforts protect women's dignity, mobility, and safety. ■

Key Action Areas:

- Ensure women's participation in Panchayat DRR planning and decision-making.
- Conduct community safety and risk mapping of evacuation routes, shelters, and water points.
- Integrate GBV prevention measures into local disaster preparedness and response plans.
- Build awareness and capacity among Panchayat leaders, volunteers, and responders.
- Strengthen coordination with women's groups and local services for reporting and survivor support.

School Safety and Gender-Based Violence: Making Protection Central to Disaster Risk Reduction

*By **Mehul Pandya,** AIDMI, India*

Making schools safer for girls during disasters requires integrating protection into school safety and disaster risk reduction (DRR) planning.

First, schools must adopt a **gender-responsive safety framework** that addresses both physical hazards and risks of gender-based violence (GBV). Disaster preparedness plans should recognise that girls' safety, privacy, and dignity are essential elements of resilience.

Second, **safe infrastructure and facilities** must be ensured. Temporary learning spaces and evacuation shelters should include adequate lighting,

> *"When schools turn into shelters during disasters, girls need more than safe buildings — they need safety from harassment, fear, and silence."*

Key Action Areas:
- Integrate GBV prevention into school safety and DRR planning.
- Ensure safe infrastructure, including lighting and separate sanitation facilities.
- Establish confidential reporting and support mechanisms for students.
- Train teachers and staff on gender-sensitive disaster preparedness.
- Promote student awareness and participation in safety and respect.

separate and secure sanitation facilities, and supervised spaces that reduce risks of harassment and abuse.

Third, **clear and confidential reporting mechanisms** should be established so that girls know how and where to seek help if they face violence or intimidation during emergencies.

Fourth, **capacity building for teachers and school staff** is crucial. Educators and volunteers should be trained to recognise protection risks, respond sensitively to survivors, and maintain safe learning environments during crises.

Finally, **student awareness and participation** should be promoted through discussions and activities that encourage respect, safety, and non-violence among both girls and boys. When schools actively listen to girls and embed protection into preparedness planning, disaster risk reduction becomes more inclusive and effective. Safe schools not only protect education during crises but also safeguard the dignity, well-being, and future of every child. ∎

Urban Heat and Women's Enterprise Protection: Making Safety Central to City Resilience

*By **Avani Panchal**, AIDMI, India*

Strengthening the safety of women entrepreneurs in extreme heat requires integrating protection concerns into urban disaster risk reduction (DRR) and Heat Action Plans.

First, cities must adopt **gender-responsive heat resilience planning**, ensuring that policies recognise how heat amplifies risks of harassment, intimidation, and unsafe working conditions for women in informal enterprises.

Second, **mapping heat and safety hotspots** in markets,

> *"Extreme heat does not only threaten women's health and livelihoods; it reshapes public spaces in ways that increase harassment, exclusion, and insecurity for women entrepreneurs."*

vending areas, and transport hubs can help identify locations where women face both heat stress and protection risks. Such mapping should involve women entrepreneurs themselves, whose daily experiences provide critical insights.

Third, cities should invest in **safe and shaded**

workspaces, including structured vending zones with cooling infrastructure, drinking water, lighting, and sanitation facilities that reduce both heat exposure and vulnerability to harassment.

Fourth, **accessible reporting and grievance mechanisms** must be established so women can safely report intimidation, extortion, or violence encountered in public workspaces.

Finally, **women's participation in city resilience planning** should be strengthened, ensuring their voices influence the design of Heat Action Plans and urban safety measures. When urban resilience strategies combine cooling, safety, and inclusion, they not only protect livelihoods but also strengthen the dignity, security, and economic stability of women entrepreneurs. ∎

Key Action Areas:

- Integrate gender and GBV concerns into Heat Action Plans and urban DRR strategies.
- Map unsafe and overheated enterprise zones in markets and public spaces.
- Create safe, shaded vending and working areas with water, lighting, and sanitation.
- Establish accessible complaint and protection mechanisms for women workers.
- Ensure women entrepreneurs participate in city resilience and heat planning.

Early Warning Systems and Gendered Access: From Information to Protection

*By **Grace George**, AIDMI, India*

Effective early warning systems must move beyond delivering information to ensuring that warnings can be safely acted upon by everyone, especially women.

First, early warning dissemination must be **gender-responsive**, ensuring that alerts reach women directly through trusted channels such as women's self-help groups, community leaders, ASHAs, and local networks.

Second, **mapping unsafe evacuation routes and public spaces** is essential to identify areas where women face risks of harassment or violence while responding to warnings. Women's knowledge of local environments should guide these safety assessments.

Third, **safe evacuation and shelter infrastructure** must be prioritised, including

"When women serve as messengers of early warning, the information is shared through trusted relationships, reaches households faster, inspires confidence, and enables timely, safer action during

adequate lighting, clear signage, supervised entry points, and gender-sensitive facilities that protect privacy and dignity.

Fourth, **community awareness and preparedness programmes** should address both disaster response and protection concerns, helping families

understand that safe evacuation requires attention to women's security.

Finally, **women's participation in early warning governance and communication systems** must be strengthened. When women help design, disseminate, and monitor warnings, trust increases and response improves. By embedding protection into early warning systems, disaster preparedness moves beyond technical alerts to ensure that every woman can receive, trust, and safely act on life-saving information. ■

Key Action Areas:
- Ensure gender-responsive warning dissemination through trusted women's networks.
- Map unsafe evacuation routes and risk hotspots with women's participation.
- Improve safety and privacy in evacuation shelters.
- Build community awareness on protection during evacuation.
- Strengthen women's leadership in early warning communication systems.

Post-Disaster Reconstruction and Domestic Violence: When Recovery Reshapes Power at Home

*By **Rohan Trivedi**, AIDMI, India*

Post-disaster reconstruction must go beyond rebuilding infrastructure to ensuring safety, dignity, and equity within households and communities. When reconstruction introduces new resources, housing ownership, or financial control, it can reshape household power relations. While these changes may strengthen women's agency, they can also provoke tension or violence if gender norms and protection concerns are ignored. Recovery planning must therefore recognise domestic safety as an essential part of resilience.

First, reconstruction programmes should **promote joint and transparent decision-making** in housing, finance, and asset ownership to reduce conflict within households. Second, **community-based support systems**— including women's collectives, self-help groups, and local leaders—should be strengthened to mediate disputes and provide safe spaces for dialogue.

Third, **action research and monitoring** should document how reconstruction affects household power dynamics and identify early warning signs of domestic stress.

> *"A house rebuilt without safety inside its walls cannot be truly resilient, because fear and violence undermine recovery, dignity, and long-term community strength."*

Fourth, **training for recovery practitioners and local officials** can help them recognise risks of gender-based violence and connect affected women with support services.

Finally, **integrating GBV prevention into housing and livelihood recovery programmes** ensures that reconstruction strengthens both physical resilience and social protection. By embedding these safeguards into recovery processes, reconstruction can rebuild not only homes and livelihoods but also safer and more equitable relationships within communities. ∎

Key Action Areas:
- Promote joint and transparent household decision-making in reconstruction programmes.
- Strengthen women's collectives and community support systems.
- Monitor household power dynamics through action research.
- Train recovery practitioners to identify and respond to GBV risks.
- Integrate GBV prevention into housing and livelihood recovery efforts.

Extreme Heat, Livelihoods, and Gendered Violence: Protecting Women at Work in Rapidly Warming Cities

By **Pallavi Rathod**, AIDMI, India

Extreme heat is increasingly reshaping the working conditions of women engaged in informal urban livelihoods. Street vendors, home-based workers, waste pickers, and market sellers often depend on public spaces to sustain their income, and rising temperatures are making these environments more difficult and unsafe. Protecting women's safety must therefore become an integral part of urban heat resilience planning.

First, cities need to **map unsafe hotspots** around markets, vending clusters, bus stops, and water points

"When the heat becomes unbearable, shade and water decide whether I can work or not — but going there also decides how much harassment I must tolerate."

where women face heightened risks of harassment during heatwaves. Women's lived experiences should guide this mapping so that planners can identify where heat stress and protection risks intersect.

Second, **safe and gender-sensitive cooling shelters** should be established close to livelihood areas. These shelters must ensure adequate lighting, privacy, safe entry points, and women-led management so that cooling spaces also provide a sense of safety and dignity.

Third, **safe vending zones** that combine shade structures, drinking water, sanitation facilities, and grievance redressal mechanisms can reduce both heat stress and exposure to harassment.

Fourth, **women's participation in Heat Action Plans and city resilience planning** must be strengthened so that policies reflect the realities of those working outdoors.

Finally, **anticipatory action and early warning systems** should consider livelihood safety, helping women adjust working hours and access cooling support during extreme heat events. ∎

Key Action Areas:

- Map unsafe heat hotspots around markets and workspaces.
- Establish gender-sensitive cooling shelters near livelihood areas.
- Create safe vending zones with shade, water, sanitation, and complaint systems.
- Ensure women's participation in Heat Action Plan design.
- Link early warning and anticipatory action with livelihood safety.

Disaster Displacement, Relief Camps, and GBV Risks: Making Humanitarian Shelters Safe for Women and Girls

By **Kalpesh Prajapati**, AIDMI, India

Disaster displacement often pushes families into relief camps designed primarily for speed and logistical efficiency. Yet without careful planning, these shelters can expose women and girls to harassment, abuse, and insecurity. Making humanitarian shelters safe requires integrating gender-based violence (GBV) prevention into emergency response planning.

First, **gender-sensitive camp design** must be prioritised. Camp layouts should include well-lit pathways, clearly marked entry and exit points, and safe spatial arrangements that reduce isolated or poorly monitored areas where violence may occur.

Second, **safe and separate sanitation facilities** are essential. Toilets and bathing areas must be lockable, adequately lit,

> *"We escaped the floodwaters, but in the camp, I could not sleep; fear followed us even after the river receded."*

and located close to women's sleeping areas to reduce risks during night-time movement.

Third, **confidential and accessible reporting mechanisms** should be established so that women and girls can report harassment or violence without fear of stigma or retaliation. These systems must link survivors to medical, psychosocial, and legal support.

Fourth, **women's participation in camp management and safety audits** can help identify risk areas and shape practical solutions based on lived experiences.

Finally, **training humanitarian responders and camp managers on GBV risks and survivor-centred approaches** is crucial. When shelters are designed with safety, dignity, and accountability in mind, relief camps can become spaces of protection rather than places of fear during displacement. ∎

Key Action Areas:
- Design gender-sensitive camp layouts with safe pathways, lighting, and monitored spaces.
- Provide separate, lockable, and well-lit sanitation facilities for women and girls.
- Establish confidential reporting and survivor support systems inside relief camps.
- Involve women in camp management and safety audits to identify risks.
- Train camp managers and responders on GBV prevention and survivor-centred response.

Stopping Climate-Induced Migration, Workplaces, and Sexual Harassment

*By **Jyoti Agrawal**, AIDMI, India*

Climate-induced migration is increasingly shaping labour markets across India, particularly for women moving from climate-stressed rural areas to cities in search of work. While migration may provide livelihood opportunities, it also exposes women to harassment, exploitation, and unsafe working conditions in informal sectors. Addressing these risks requires linking climate resilience with labour protection and gender justice.

First, **mapping migration routes and labour hubs** is essential to identify where women face the greatest risks of harassment and violence during travel, settlement, and employment. Such evidence can guide

> *"A climate-resilient future cannot be built on unsafe journeys or the silent suffering endured daily by migrant women worldwide today."*

Key Action Areas:
- Map migration routes and labour hubs to identify GBV risk zones.
- Strengthen workplace protection and grievance mechanisms in informal sectors.
- Increase awareness of legal rights and complaint systems for migrant women.
- Build partnerships across labour, city, and civil society institutions.
- Integrate GBV prevention into migration and disaster support programmes.

targeted interventions and policy responses.

Second, **strengthening workplace protection mechanisms** in informal sectors is critical. Women migrant workers need accessible complaint systems, grievance redressal mechanisms, and stronger enforcement of protections against sexual harassment.

Third, **improving awareness of legal rights and reporting systems** can help migrant women understand available protections, including district-level complaint committees in workplaces without formal mechanisms.

Fourth, **building partnerships between labour departments, city authorities, unions, and civil society organisations** can help extend protection and monitoring to informal workplaces where migrant women are concentrated.

Finally, **integrating GBV prevention into migration and disaster support programmes** ensures that humanitarian assistance addresses safety and dignity alongside employment and shelter. Together, these actions can help ensure that migration remains a pathway to resilience rather than a source of exploitation and fear. ■

Community Preparedness, Early Warning, and Women's Protection Everywhere

*By **Pratiti Sasmal**, AIDMI, West Bengal, India*

Community preparedness and early warning systems are essential for reducing disaster risks, but their effectiveness depends on whether everyone can safely act on warnings. For many women and girls, evacuation routes, shelters, and public spaces during emergencies can become sites of harassment and insecurity. Preparedness must therefore integrate protection concerns alongside technical planning.

First, **mapping GBV risks along evacuation routes and public spaces** is critical. Communities

> *"Preparedness succeeds only when protection travels with women along every evacuation route."*

should identify poorly lit pathways, isolated areas, and congested zones where women may face harassment during evacuation. Women's knowledge of local environments should guide this mapping.

Second, **integrating safety audits into community preparedness plans** can help Panchayats assess lighting, sanitation facilities, shelter layouts, and crowd management

systems from a protection perspective.

Third, **strengthening women's leadership in community preparedness committees** ensures that safety concerns are recognised and addressed before disasters occur.

Fourth, **designing inclusive early warning communication systems** that reach women directly through trusted networks can improve both trust and timely response.

Finally, **training community volunteers and responders on gender-sensitive preparedness and protection** can help ensure that evacuation and shelter management prioritise dignity and safety. When protection is embedded into preparedness planning, early warning systems become more effective and equitable for the entire community. ■

Key Action Areas:
- Map GBV risks along evacuation routes and public spaces.
- Conduct safety audits in community preparedness planning.
- Promote women's leadership in preparedness committees.
- Use inclusive early warning communication channels.
- Train community responders on gender-sensitive protection.

Extreme Heat and Women's Safety in Public Spaces

*By **Ashna MS**, AIDMI, Kerala, India*

Extreme heat is not only a public health challenge but also a growing safety concern for women who depend on public spaces for work, mobility, and access to essential resources. As temperatures rise, the demand for shade, water, and cooling increases, often creating crowded and poorly regulated spaces where women face harassment or intimidation. Addressing these risks requires integrating women's safety into urban heat resilience planning.

First, **mapping unsafe public spaces** such as water points, bus stops, markets, and cooling shelters is essential to identify locations where women face higher risks during heatwaves. Women's lived experiences should guide this mapping process.

Second, **designing gender-sensitive cooling centres** with proper lighting, supervision, privacy, and

> *"When cooling spaces are unsafe, women are forced to choose between heat exhaustion and harassment, turning life-saving relief into another daily risk during extreme heat."*

safe entry and exit points can ensure that cooling spaces also function as safe spaces.

Third, **creating safe vending and working zones** that provide permanent shade, drinking water, seating, sanitation, and accessible complaint systems can reduce both heat stress and exposure to harassment.

Fourth, **strengthening women's participation in urban heat planning** ensures that Heat Action Plans reflect the realities of women working and moving through public spaces.

Finally, **integrating safety considerations into urban climate and disaster risk strategies** can help cities respond to heat in ways that protect both health and dignity. ∎

Key Action Areas:

- Map unsafe hotspots around water points, markets, bus stops, and cooling shelters.
- Establish gender-sensitive cooling centres with safe design and supervision.
- Create safe vending and work zones with shade, water, sanitation, and complaint systems.
- Ensure women's participation in Heat Action Plans.
- Integrate safety into urban climate and disaster resilience strategies.

Water Scarcity, Climate Stress, and Harassment: When Survival Becomes a Safety Risk

*By **Vaishali Tiwari,** AIDMI, Madhya Pradesh, India*

Climate-induced water scarcity is reshaping daily routines for millions of women across South Asia. As water sources become unreliable, women are forced to travel longer distances and spend more time in public spaces to secure water for their households. These journeys often expose them to harassment, intimidation, and violence, particularly along isolated routes or at overcrowded water points. Addressing water stress must therefore include a strong focus on women's safety and dignity.

First, **mapping unsafe routes and harassment hotspots** around water collection points can help identify where women face

> *"Water security means access without fear, ensuring women are never harmed while collecting water."*

Key Action Areas:

- Map unsafe routes and harassment hotspots around water collection areas.
- Design safer water points with lighting, visibility, and secure waiting areas.
- Promote community-based water storage and harvesting systems.
- Strengthen women's leadership in water governance and management.
- Integrate safety and GBV prevention into water and drought adaptation planning.

the greatest risks. Women's experiences should guide this mapping to ensure that local realities inform planning.

Second, **designing safe and accessible water points** with adequate lighting, clear visibility, and safe waiting areas can reduce risks during water collection, particularly during early morning or evening hours.

Third, **promoting community-led water management systems** such as rainwater harvesting and

local storage can reduce the need for long-distance travel to collect water.

Fourth, **strengthening women's participation in water governance** ensures that water systems respond to safety concerns and everyday needs.

Finally, **integrating protection considerations into drought response and climate adaptation planning** can help ensure that water security initiatives safeguard both access and safety for women and girls. ∎

Climate-Induced Migration and Workplace Violence: Women on the Move, Risks at Work

*By **Aysha Imam**, AIDMI, India*

Climate-induced migration is increasingly shaping labour markets across South Asia, pushing many women into informal urban work in search of survival. While migration may offer income opportunities, it often exposes women to harassment, exploitation, and unsafe working conditions during travel, settlement, and employment. Addressing these risks requires linking climate resilience with labour protection and gender justice.

First, **mapping migration routes, transit hubs, and**

> *"When climate stress forces women to walk farther for water, every step negotiates survival, safety."*

labour clusters is essential to identify where migrant women face the highest risks of harassment and violence. Evidence from such mapping can guide safer mobility and targeted protection measures.

Second, **strengthening workplace protection mechanisms** in informal sectors is critical. Accessible grievance redressal systems, labour monitoring, and accountability mechanisms

must extend to worksites such as construction areas, brick kilns, and domestic labour networks.

Third, **improving safe transport and accommodation for migrant workers** can reduce risks during travel and settlement. Women-friendly transport options, safe worker housing, and basic services such as lighting, sanitation, and childcare are essential.

Fourth, **building partnerships between labour departments, city authorities, unions, and civil society organisations** can help extend protection and oversight to informal workplaces.

Finally, **integrating GBV prevention into migration, disaster, and climate adaptation programmes** ensures that resilience strategies safeguard women's dignity, safety, and rights. ∎

Key Action Areas:
- Map migration routes and labour hubs to identify GBV risk zones.
- Strengthen workplace grievance and protection mechanisms.
- Provide safer transport and accommodation for migrant women workers.
- Build partnerships across labour, city, and civil society institutions.
- Integrate GBV prevention into climate migration and disaster programmes.

Nature-Based Solutions Must Protect Women, Not Put Them at Risk

*By **Manisha Padia**, AIDMI, India*

Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) are increasingly recognised as key strategies for addressing climate change while supporting livelihoods and ecosystem restoration. However, participation in NbS activities can expose women to safety risks, particularly when work takes place in isolated locations such as wetlands, forests, riverbanks, or peri-urban green zones. Ensuring that these climate initiatives protect women requires integrating gender and safety considerations from the outset.

First, **assessing and mapping GBV risks in NbS work settings** is essential. This includes identifying unsafe travel routes, isolated worksites, and power dynamics within project teams that may expose women to harassment or intimidation.

Second, **ensuring safe work arrangements** can significantly reduce risk.

> **Key Action Areas:**
> - Map GBV risks in NbS work locations and travel routes.
> - Ensure safe work arrangements through group work, daylight hours, and transport support.
> - Strengthen transparent wages and grievance mechanisms.
> - Promote women's leadership in NbS planning and governance.
> - Integrate GBV prevention into NbS monitoring and evaluation.

Organising women to work in groups, aligning work hours with daylight, and providing safe transport options can help protect women participating in restoration activities.

Third, **strengthening transparent and accountable work systems** is critical. Fair wage payments, clear supervision, and accessible

"Nature-based solutions succeed best when women work without fear, lead with confidence, shape decisions, access resources equally, and transform climate action into justice for communities."

complaint mechanisms can reduce exploitation and power abuse.

Fourth, **establishing women-led NbS committees and decision-making structures** can ensure that safety concerns are addressed in project planning and implementation.

Finally, **integrating GBV prevention into NbS monitoring and evaluation frameworks** can help ensure that climate solutions promote both environmental sustainability and women's dignity, participation, and safety. ∎

आपदा जोखिम न्यूनीकरण में लैंगिक-आधारित हिंसा: एशिया-प्रशांत क्षेत्र के लिए प्राथमिक कार्य क्षेत्र

By राणा महेन्द्र, एआईईडीएमआई

एशिया-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में आपदाओं की बढ़ती आवृत्ति और तीव्रता के साथ लैंगिक-आधारित हिंसा (GBV) के जोखिम भी बढ़ रहे हैं। आपदा के दौरान विस्थापन, संसाधनों की कमी, अस्थायी आश्रय और कमजोर सुरक्षा व्यवस्थाएँ महिलाओं और लड़कियों को अधिक असुरक्षित बना देती हैं। इसलिए आपदा जोखिम न्यूनीकरण (DRR) में GBV की रोकथाम को एक केंद्रीय घटक के रूप में शामिल करना आवश्यक है, ताकि आपदा प्रबंधन प्रणाली सुरक्षा, सम्मान और समानता को सुनिश्चित कर सके।

सबसे पहले, आपदा जोखिम शासन में महिलाओं की भागीदारी और

> *"लैंगिक-आधारित हिंसा को नजरअंदाज कर किया गया आपदा प्रबंधन न तो प्रभावी होता है, न ही न्यायपूर्ण।"*

नेतृत्व को मजबूत करना जरूरी है। जब महिलाएँ स्थानीय आपदा प्रबंधन समितियों और निर्णय-प्रक्रियाओं में शामिल होती हैं, तो सुरक्षा और संरक्षण से जुड़े मुद्दे बेहतर तरीके से सामने आते हैं और नीतियों में वास्तविक अनुभवों को स्थान मिलता है।

दूसरा, लैंगिक-संवेदनशील डेटा संग्रह और विश्लेषण को बढ़ावा देना आवश्यक है। लिंग, आयु और विकलांगता के आधार पर अलग-अलग डेटा (sex-disaggregated data) उपलब्ध होने से GBV के वास्तविक जोखिमों को समझना और प्रभावी, लक्षित नीतियाँ बनाना संभव होता है।

तीसरा, लैंगिक-उत्तरदायी आपदा तैयारी और निवेश जरूरी है, जिसमें सुरक्षित आश्रय स्थल, प्रकाश व्यवस्था, स्वच्छ शौचालय, स्वास्थ्य सेवाएँ और सुलभ शिकायत तंत्र शामिल हों।

चौथा, डिजिटल और प्रौद्योगिकी-आधारित हिंसा से सुरक्षा पर ध्यान देना चाहिए, क्योंकि आपदा के समय डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म का उपयोग बढ़ जाता है और ऑनलाइन उत्पीड़न के जोखिम भी सामने आते हैं।

पाँचवाँ, बहु-हितधारक सहयोग को मजबूत करना आवश्यक है ताकि सरकार, नागरिक समाज और महिला समूह मिलकर सुरक्षित, समावेशी और न्यायपूर्ण आपदा प्रबंधन प्रणाली विकसित कर सकें। ∎

मुख्य कार्य क्षेत्र :

- आपदा शासन में महिलाओं की भागीदारी और नेतृत्व को बढ़ाना।
- लैंगिक-संवेदनशील और विभेदित डेटा संग्रह को मजबूत करना।
- सुरक्षित आश्रय और सेवाओं सहित लैंगिक-उत्तरदायी तैयारी में निवेश।
- डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म पर लैंगिक हिंसा से सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करना।
- सरकार, नागरिक समाज और महिला संगठनों के बीच सहयोग बढ़ाना।

Gender-Based Violence in Disaster Response is Predictable—and Preventable in the Asia Pacific

*By **Alash Yadav**, AIDMI, India*

Across the Asia-Pacific region, disasters repeatedly expose and intensify existing gender inequalities. Evidence from practitioners and regional dialogues shows that gender-based violence (GBV) increases during disasters because protection systems weaken, livelihoods collapse, and stress rises within households and communities. Preventing GBV, therefore, requires embedding protection into disaster governance rather than treating it as a secondary concern.

First, **recognising GBV as a core disaster risk** is essential. Disaster risk assessments, preparedness plans, and response frameworks must explicitly include violence prevention and protection measures.

Second, **strengthening gender-sensitive data and monitoring systems** can help make GBV visible in disaster contexts.

> *GBV in disasters is predictable – and preventable when protection is embedded into disaster governance, data systems, early warning, livelihoods recovery, and women's leadership.*

Collecting sex-disaggregated data and documenting protection risks allows governments and agencies to design more effective policies.

Third, **integrating protection into early warning and anticipatory action systems** ensures that preparedness plans include safe evacuation routes, well-lit shelters, privacy, and accessible reporting mechanisms.

Fourth, **supporting livelihood recovery as a protection strategy** can reduce economic stress and household tensions that often drive violence after disasters.

Finally, **ensuring participation of women, survivors, and local organisations in disaster governance** can help shape policies that reflect lived realities and strengthen accountability. Together, these actions can shift disaster management toward protection-centred governance that actively prevents violence rather than responding after harm occurs. ■

Key Action Areas:
- Recognise GBV as a core disaster risk in DRR policies.
- Strengthen gender-sensitive data collection and monitoring.
- Integrate protection into early warning and anticipatory action.
- Support livelihood recovery to reduce economic drivers of violence.
- Promote women's leadership and participation in disaster governance.

Ending Gender-Based Violence around Disasters: Areas of Action by 2030

*By **Mihir R. Bhatt,** All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI), India*

Ending gender-based violence (GBV) in disaster contexts requires moving from recognition to action and it is possible to do so by 2030. As disasters become more frequent and intense across the Asia-Pacific region, disaster risk reduction must evolve to address not only physical hazards but also the social risks that emerge during crises. Evidence from humanitarian practice shows that violence often increases when livelihoods collapse, displacement occurs, and protection systems weaken. Preventing GBV, therefore, requires embedding protection, dignity, and safety within every stage of disaster governance—from preparedness and early warning to recovery and climate adaptation.

By 2030, disaster and climate resilience strategies must explicitly recognise GBV as a core disaster risk. Policies and risk assessments should incorporate gender-sensitive data and monitoring systems that make violence visible in disaster contexts. Early warning and anticipatory action frameworks should integrate protection measures such as safe evacuation routes, secure shelters, adequate lighting, and accessible reporting mechanisms. Preparedness that includes these safeguards can reduce risks before emergencies escalate.

Economic security must also be treated as a protection strategy. Livelihood recovery programmes that support women's work, income stability, and access to resources can reduce the economic stress that often fuels violence after disasters. Recovery planning should therefore integrate safety considerations into housing reconstruction, labour systems, and social protection schemes.

Equally important is strengthening the leadership and participation of women, survivors, and local organisations in disaster governance. When affected communities shape policies and preparedness systems, disaster risk reduction becomes more responsive to real safety concerns and local knowledge. By embedding these actions into disaster risk reduction and climate resilience efforts, governments and institutions can ensure that resilience by 2030 protects not only infrastructure and economies but also the dignity, safety, and rights of women and girls now and everywhere. ∎

> *"By 2030, success in disaster risk reduction will not only be measured by lives saved from hazards, but also by lives protected from violence."*

CONTRIBUTION

This issue draws from the work of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in India; Duryog Nivaran in South Asia, ADRRN at Asia Pacific; and UN Women and UNDRR at the global level, with a focus on AIDMI's work with disaster-affected women across the past 12 disasters.

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