FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA

SOMALI DISASTER MANAGEMENT AGENCY -SoDMA

GENDER STRATEGY

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1. Executive Summary

Gender inequality, intertwined with climate change and environmental crises, poses one of the greatest challenges to sustainable development. The global challenges affect all people but disproportionately impact women and girls, particularly those in vulnerable and marginalised situations. In Somalia, amidst conflict, drought, displacement, and political instability, women and girls face dire circumstances, reflected in the nations low standing in gender equality rankings. Recognising the critical role of gender equality in disaster risk management (DRM), efforts in Somalia aim to integrate gender considerations across all DRM phases, fostering resilience and equity. Gender mainstreaming in DRM is crucial for addressing unique vulnerabilities and capacities of men, women, girls, and boys, promoting inclusivity, and addressing power imbalance, and leveraging women's roles in community resilience and disaster response.

To address the gendered impacts of disasters effectively, it is imperative to integrate gender considerations into DRM initiatives. This entails recognising and addressing gender-specific vulnerabilities, ensuring equitable access to resources and decision-making processes, and promoting women's leadership in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. Despite the daunting challenges, prioritising gender-sensitive approaches is essential for building resilience and fostering inclusive and sustainable development in Somalia.

Consultations were held to understand gender considerations in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and to gather input for this gender strategy. Findings revealed that women and girls face specific vulnerabilities, including health risks, economic hardships, and psychosocial stress during disasters. Specific needs identified include access to reproductive health services, protection from gender-based violence, privacy and safety, economic empowerment, education, and leadership opportunities.

Recommendations include comprehensive data collection, gender analysis of past disasters, integration of gender considerations into all stages of disaster management, capacity building for SoDMA staff, gender-responsive programming, allocation of sufficient resources, and monitoring and evaluation of gender responsiveness in disaster management policies and guidelines.

2. Background

Somalia has faced a multitude of challenges over the last three decades, from protracted war and conflict, to drought and famine, which has had devasting impact on communities, environment and infrastructure. Located in the horn of Africa, it continues to be susceptible to man-made and natural disasters.

Somalia has been prone to recurring droughts which have devasting effects on agriculture, livestock, and water resources. Droughts have exacerbated food insecurity and malnutrition, pushing vulnerable populations to the brink of famine and displacement. In addition to the droughts, Somalia has also experienced periodic floods, particularly in riverine and coastal areas. Floods disrupt livelihoods, destroy infrastructure, and increase the risk of waterborne diseases, posing significant challenges to recovery and reconstruction efforts. Environmental degradation,

including desertification and deforestation, further exacerbate poverty and food insecurity.

The impact of disasters on vulnerable populations, particularly women and girls, is a critical issue that requires urgent attention. The intersectionality of gender and disaster risk management (DRM) is increasingly recognised as a vital aspect of addressing the disproportionate impact of disasters on marginalised groups.

Women and girls often face increased vulnerability during disasters due to pre-existing social, economic, and cultural factors. These include limited access to resources, lower socio-economic status, restricted mobility, and lack of decision-making power. As a result, they are likely to experience higher rates of mortality, injury, displacement, and loss of livelihoods compared to men.

Disasters can disrupt healthcare systems, making it difficult for women to access essential reproductive health services, maternal care, and hygiene facilities. This can lead to increased maternal and infant mortality rates, as well as heightened risks of infectious diseases and mental health issues among women and girls.

Women often bear the brunt of economic losses during disasters, especially in agrarian communities where they play a significant role in subsistence farming. Loss of crops, livestock, and productive assets can exacerbate poverty and food insecurity, further marginalising women and limiting their economic opportunities.

Disasters can disrupt education systems, disproportionately affecting girls' access to schooling. They are more likely to be tasked with caregiving responsibilities or forced into early marriage to alleviate economic burdens on their families, perpetuating cycles of poverty and gender inequality.

Somalia has one of the highest numbers of IDPs in the world as a result of war and conflict, natural disasters and political instability. Many have been displaced within the country seeking refuge in camps or informal settlements. In 2023, it was estimated that there were 4 million[1] IDPs in Somalia. IDPs, particularly women and girls, are especially vulnerable to gender-based violence in these settings. Factors such as overcrowding, lack of adequate lighting, inadequate shelter, and limited access to security measures contribute to increased risk of violence. Forms of gender-based violence can take various forms including physical violence, sexual violence, rape, forced marriage and domestic violence.

The Somali Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA) has been tasked with addressing these challenges as well as immediate humanitarian needs of the population. In more recent years, Somalia has been hit with the aftermaths of severe terrorist attacks, famine and drought, floods and the rise of disasters caused by climate change.

Integrating gender considerations into DRM initiatives is essential for addressing the differential impacts of disasters on women, men, and other marginalised groups. This involves recognising gender-specific vulnerabilities, ensuring equitable access to resources and decision-making processes, and promoting women's leadership in disaster preparedness, response, and recover efforts.

[1] Refugee International (2023), No Going Back: The New Urban Face of Internal Displacement in Somalia

3. Objective of this Strategy

'*Gender inequality, coupled with climate and environment crises, is the greatest sustainable development challenge of the present time. Climate change, environmental degradation and disasters affect the entire planet and all peoples, although not in the same way or to the same degree, while gender inequality results in the denial of full human rights to half of humanity. Climate change, and environmental crises and disasters, disproportionately affect women and girls, in particular those in vulnerable and marginalized situations. In turn, gender inequality and the unequal access of women to land and natural resources, finances, technology, knowledge, mobility and other assets, constrain the ability of women to respond and cope in contexts of climate and environmental crises and disasters*'[2].

And Somalia is no exception. In the midst of conflict, drought, displacement, and political instability, the circumstances facing women and girls have been extremely grave. In fact, the nation's standing in terms women's rights is alarmingly low, as indicated by its UNDP Gender Inequality score of 0.776 (where 1 signifies total gender inequality). It ranks fourth among the countries with the highest level of inequality, according to the UNDP, and twelfth on Georgetown University's Women, Peace, and Security Index[3].

Whilst gender encompasses both men and women, the focus in a country like Somalia is women and girls because of pre-existing inequalities.

Gender equality and women's empowerment are fundamental aspects of effective disaster risk management and reduction efforts. Recognising the differential impacts of disasters on women, men, girls and boys is crucial for developing inclusive and sustainable strategies. This gender strategy aims to integrate gender considerations into all phases of DRM in Somalia to ensure a more resilient and equitable nation.

Gender mainstreaming in a DRM is essential for several reasons, as it helps address the unique needs, vulnerabilities, and capacities of both men and women before, during and after crises. Gender mainstreaming allows for a more comprehensive understanding of vulnerabilities within communities. Women, men, girls and boys often experience disasters differently due to their social roles, responsibilities, access to resources and cultural norms. Failing to account for these differences lead to ineffective and biased disaster response and recovery efforts.

Gender mainstreaming helps to address power dynamics that exist within communities and societies. Women and marginalised gender groups face barriers to accessing resources, decision-making processes, and information during disasters. By integrating a gender perspective into DRM, these power imbalances can be recognised and addressed, leading to more equitable outcomes.

Women often play key roles in community resilience and disaster response, yet their contribution are often overlooked. Gender mainstreaming in DRM recognises and

[2] UNDRR (2023), A Review of Gender and the Sendai Framework, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) (page 4)

[3] https://www.concern.net/news/somali-women-girls-challenges

supports these roles, empowering women to actively participate in decision-making, planning and implementation of disaster risk reduction measures. This can enhance community resilience by leveraging diverse perspectives and resources.

Gender mainstreaming promotes inclusivity by recognising the diversity of experiences and needs within communities. By considering the specific vulnerabilities and capacities of different genders, DRM interventions can be designed to be more inclusive and responsive to the needs of all community members, including women, men, girls and boys.

4. International and Regional Policy Framework

The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (2002) underscores the importance of integrating gender considerations into disaster reduction efforts, aligning with the broader goal of integrating disaster reduction into sustainable development policies and activities. It advocates for the integration of gender, development, environmental management, and disaster risk reduction in both research and practical applications. Moreover, it emphasises the necessity of promoting gender balance in decision-making positions to effectively manage disaster risks. There is a call to prioritise the incorporation of disaster and sustainable development planning processes, ensuring a participatory approach and the engagement of non-traditional or unconventional ideas and partners.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 represents a global agreement spanning 15 years aimed at mitigating, preventing, and responding to disaster risks worldwide. Its objective is to enhance societal and economic resilience to disasters arising from natural, biological, and technological hazards, further compounded by climate extremes and gradual onset events.

Ratified by UN Member States during the Third UN World Conference in March 2015, the Framework underscores the primary responsibility of states in reducing disaster risk while emphasising the necessity for collaboration with local government, the private sector, and other stakeholders. It specifically addresses the impact of disasters on displacement and emphasises the importance of harnessing the knowledge, skills, and capacities of migrants in the formulation and execution of disaster risk reduction strategies.

The preamble of the Sendai Framework primarily focuses on the social aspects of disaster risk reduction (DRR), aiming to reduce mortality rates, displacement, and better safeguard the well-being of individuals, communities, countries, their assets, and ecosystems, thereby enhancing resilience (paragraph 5). Additionally, it acknowledges poverty and inequality as fundamental drivers of disaster risk (paragraph 6), advocating for a people-centred and proactive approach to DRR. This entails government engaging with various stakeholders, including women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, marginalised groups, migrants, indigenous peoples, volunteers, practitioners, and older persons, in the development and implementation of policies, plans and standards (paragraph 7). Whilst women are recognised as crucial stakeholders, the specific issue of gender is not explicitly addressed at this juncture[4]. Consequently, it does not undertake a gender analysis of the entrenched social structures present in all societies, which results in women, comprising 50% of

[4] UNDRR (2023), A Review of Gender and the Sendai Framework, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) (page 9)

the population, having lesser access to power and resources than men. This includes decision-making processes regarding disaster risk reduction (DRR), where gender inequality often leads to more severe impacts and greater impoverishment for women compared to men, particularly in societies with high levels of gender disparity (like Somalia). However, there seems to be growing awareness of the impacts of structural or systematic gender inequality[5].

The Paris agreement stands as a legally binding international treaty addressing climate change. Endorsed by 196 Parties during the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, France, on 12th December 2015, it officially came into force on 4th November 2016.

At its core, the agreement aims to curb 'the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels' and endeavours to strive for limiting the temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels[6].

Despite the existing commitments to gender within the UNFCCC, the Paris Agreement, apart from the Preamble, largely overlooks gender considerations. The absence of explicit references to gender poses a risk that Parties may not adopt a gender-responsive approach when implementing the Agreement. Consequently, this oversight may reinforce existing gender norms and inequalities between men and women[7].

The term "gender" appears only three times throughout the entire Paris Agreement: once in the Preamble, once in Article 7 (which focuses on adaptation), and once in Article 1 (which focuses on capacity building). Notably, references to gender were gradually removed during the evolution of the text that culminated in the Paris Agreement[8].

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations are universal pledges aimed at fostering beneficial global transformation by 2030.

'They are an agenda to:

- End poverty, promote equality and support people's wellbeing
- Create prosperity
- Protect the planet and tackle climate change
- Promote Peace
- Encourage partnerships[9]'

These domains are intricately intertwined, prompting the SDGs to acknowledge that eradicating poverty must coincide with strategies for fostering economic advancement and addressing various social imperatives such as education,

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[5] UNDRR (2023), A Review of Gender and the Sendai Framework, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) (page 15)

[6] https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement

[7] African Working Group on Gender and Climate Change (AWGGCC) Briefing Note, Gender Analysis of the Paris Agreement and Implications for Africa (page 2)

[8] African Working Group on Gender and Climate Change (AWGGCC) Briefing Note, Gender Analysis of the Paris Agreement and Implications for Africa (page 2)

[9] https://theirworld.org/resources/sustainable-development-goals/?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwwMqvBhCtARIsAIXsZpY_WzFS_Zqh5REz4l7twGSwUQ2Z1fVYtBydtxFBa6TGDC7EqqhpH4AaAlC7EALw_wcB

healthcare, social safety nets, employment opportunities, climate change, and environmental conservation.

The SDGs officially commenced on 1st January 2016. While they are not obligatory for nations, they stand out due to their universal nature, urging action from all 193 United Nations member countries, regardless of their economic status[10].

An often-overlooked facet of policy coherence in discussions concerning Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) pertains to the overarching nature of SDG 5, aimed at attaining gender equality and empowering all women and girls. SDG 5 was designed not as an isolated goal exclusively pursued by specialised agencies like UN Women and UNFPA, but rather as a comprehensive, cross cutting objective to be mainstreamed across all 17 SDGs, including those typically associated with DRR. In fact, gender related aspects are embedded with the targets and indicators of most SDGs outlined in the Global Indicator Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development following the 2019 Refinement (A/RES/71/313, E/CN.3/2018/2, E/CN.3/2019/2). However, there remains a significant deficit in the reporting of gender-disaggregated data on these indicators[11].

In the realm of women's issues, policy coherence necessitates addressing the ramifications of SDG 5 concerning gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls with the scope of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). It involves acknowledging that States have undertaken a binding commitment to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). CEDAW mandates States parties to prevent both direct and indirect discrimination and to promote the equality through their own initiatives. Additionally, States are required to ensure that these rights are respected by all entities within their jurisdiction, including through the enactment and enforcement of laws and policies. Consequently, both States and other actors involved in DRR have mandates to pursue gender equality as an integral component of all DRR efforts. This encompasses both gender mainstreaming and the adoption of specific gender-transformative policies and initiatives aimed at reducing discrimination and enhancing equality[12].

The IGAD Gender Equality Strategy 2023-2030 establishes the strategic framework for prioritising interventions in line with the implementation of IGAD Vision 2050. It builds upon various ongoing programs aimed at fostering resilient ecosystems and economic growth. These programs include the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI), the regional CAADP Compact, the Institutional Strengthening Action Program (ISAP), as well as initiatives focused on agriculture, livestock, fisheries, food security, natural resources, environmental protection, regional economic cooperation, integration, social development, peace, security, gender affairs, and other strategies and policy papers that support IGAD's regional programs. The primary focus areas of this Strategy are food security, socio-

[10] https://theirworld.org/resources/sustainable-development-goals/?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwwMqvBhCtARIsAIXsZpY_WzFS_Zqh5REz4l7twGSwUQ2Z1fVYtBydtxFBa6TGDC7EqqhpH4AaAlC7EALw_wcB

[11] UNDRR (2023), A Review of Gender and the Sendai Framework, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) (page 5)

[12] UNDRR (2023), A Review of Gender and the Sendai Framework, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) (page 5)

economic developments, sustainable utilization of transboundary resources, and peace and security. Furthermore, several interventions are outlined under corporate development services[13].

The IGAD gender strategy delineates an approach aimed at translating IGAD's commitment to gender equality, inclusion, and empowerment into tangible outcomes. It also lays out an accountability framework to ensure policy oversight and achievement of these outcomes.

IGAD officially endorsed a Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in February 2019. This strategy acknowledges the importance of gender equality, emphasising the necessity for gender-sensitive approach across its strategic priorities. It aims to address vulnerabilities by gender, age, and disability in policy, strategy, planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluating processes. Additionally, it includes provisions for enhancing capacity to tackle gender and DRM issues at both IGAD and member state levels. However, it lacks a definitive roadmap for operationalising these objectives.

5. National policy and legislation

The Somali Provisional Federal Constitution recognizes the rights of women and supports gender equality, elimination of violence against women, FGC and prohibition of discrimination. The constitution also states that women and other marginalized groups '*who have long suffered discrimination get the necessary support to realize their socio-economic rights'*[14]. The constitution emphasises the importance of women's effective participation in all spheres of life, including public office and in decision-making.

The Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development within the Federal Government of Somalia is tasked with advancing the advocacy and safeguarding of gender equality and human rights, encompassing the rights of women, children, and other marginalised populations.

Whilst the Provisional Federal Constitution of Somalia guarantees equal rights to both men and women, there are no mechanism in place to implement the numerous equality provisions outlined in the Constitution[15].

In 2016, the Federal Government of Somalia adopted the National Gender Policy. It's goal being to 'promote gender equality and sustainable human development in Somalia by ensuring that equal value is placed on the contributions of women and men as equal parents in post conflict reconstruction process and national development'[16].

The policy goes on to state:

[13] https://igad.int/download/the-igad-regional-gender-equality-strategy-2023-2030-equality-inclusion-and-empowerment/
[14] Somali Provisional Constitution, Article 27
[15] The National Gender Policy
[16] The National Gender Policy (page 10)

'*The purpose of this policy is to establish a framework to guide the process of developing legislations, policy formulations implementation and programmes that will promote equal rights and opportunities for women and men in all spheres of life*'[17].

Following a three-day Somali Women's Convention, which took place in Mogadishu in March 2019, the Women's Charter was issued. The Charter advocates for the comprehensive inclusion of women in all facets of political, economic, and social life in Somalia. This initiative coincides with ongoing review process of the constitution and the development of crucial electoral and political legislation.

In particular, the Charter urges for a fifty percent representation quota for women across all levels of government, including within the security sector and public administration. Additionally, it advocates for a policy of zero tolerance towards gender-based violence and for the inclusion of women's rights within the revised Constitution, as well as in finalised electoral, security, and political laws.

The Charter also highlights the significance of socio-economic rights, emphasising women's equal access to land, economic opportunities, and technologies as essential elements for ensuring long-term resilience and stability.

The National Development Plan – 9 goal 'is to reduce poverty and inequality through inclusive economic growth and employment, improved security and rule of law, and strengthened political stability'[18]. Through its consultations, it was found that the key drivers of poverty were 'conflict and political stability; natural disasters; insecurity and the weak rule of law; and poor governance[19].' The NDP – 9 goes on to say:

'*Disaggregated data, along with the levels of severity of poverty, indicate that internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the rural population (both agro-pastoralists and nomads) have the highest rates of monetary poverty. An additional 10 percent of the population live within 20 percent of the poverty line, making almost 80 percent of the entire Somali population vulnerable to external shocks such as natural disasters, conflict and economic disruption, however small*.[20]

Not surprisingly, the NDP notes:

'*Lack of empowerment has led to exclusion, a feature of poverty that impacts three groups disproportionately, particularly when it comes to economic participation: women, IDPs and youth. Although the most current Population Estimate Survey (PESS) was completed in 2014, estimates have been prepared for relevant demographic groups. Women represent 56 percent of the population and generate up to 70 percent of household income but are under-represented in the formal labour force. Somalia has a predominantly young population, with over 80 percent estimated to be under the age of 35, enduring an unemployment rate of approximately 70 percent. As of 2107, almost 2.1 million (of an estimate 15 million) Somalis were categorized as internally displaced. For these three groups, poverty rates are high and socio-economic outcomes are substantially low. The result is*

[17] The National Gender Policy (page 10)
[18] The National Development Plan – 9 (page 20)
[19] The National Development Plan – 9 (page 21)
[20] The National Development Plan – 9 (page 22)

significant inequality and lost opportunity. Location, cultural norms and clannism are factors that deepen the consequences of exclusion[21]*.*'

The poverty analysis of the NDP -9 'identifies the following groups as the most vulnerable: rural Somalis (including both agro-pastoralist and nomads); women; youth; other excluded groups, including persons with disabilities; and IDPs'[22].

It further states that:

'*Lack of physical safety for Somali communities comes primarily from two root causes: conflict and natural disaster, in the form of droughts (and associated famine) and floods. Many of Somalia's poor have been impacted by both disturbances, exacerbating the impacts of poverty*.[23]'

As part of its Pillar 4, Social Development, the NDP acknowledges the social costs of disasters, making Disaster Risk Management all the more relevant to this pillar and proposes the following specific strategic interventions:

- *Implement National Disaster Management Policy*
- *Promote gender equality in disaster risk reduction*
- *Strengthen MoHADM and other state and local disaster agencies and drought committees*
- *Improve coordination capacities of humanitarian response agencies at national and sub-national levels*
- *Fully implement priorities set out in the Somali Recovery and Resilience Framework (RRF)*
- *Design and implement an early warning system, working with existing systems such as those within FSNU, IPC*[24]*'.*

The NDP – 9 recognises the significance of gender mainstreaming and identifies it as one of the cross-cutting imperatives that 'are the essential warp onto which programming responses to the NDP-9 goals are women[25]'. As an imperative, it 'shall inform and shape all interventions undertaken by the government and its development partners under the rubric of NDP-9'[26]. It goes on to state:

'*Strengthen gender and other kinds of social equity – Interventions and programme objectives will focus on reaching the most disadvantaged and vulnerable social groups. Particular attention will be paid in this regard to women and girls' equity and empowerment. To this end, all programme and policy data shall be gender-disaggregated, and all NDP-9 interventions will include a gender analysis as well as targets and indicators that are appropriately gendered*[27]*.*'

6. Consultations

[21] The National Development Plan – 9 (page22)
[22] The National Development Plan – 9 (page23)
[23] The National Development Plan – 9 (page93)
[24] The National Development Plan – 9 (page274)
[25] The National Development Plan – 9 (page 105)
[26] The National Development Plan – 9 (page 105)
[27] The National Development Plan – 9 (page 105)

The mandate of SoDMA is to address the immediate needs of disaster-affected populations in the most impoverished communities while also tackling the root cause of vulnerability. SoDMA acknowledges the connection between poverty and gender disparity, emphasizing the importance of designing, planning, and responding to the needs of affected women, girls, men, and boys in a manner that fosters gender equality, a challenging task in Somalia.

With the establishment of a Gender Unit, SoDMA aims to enhance gender integration within humanitarian response initiatives and promote interventions that are sensitive to gender considerations, ultimately reducing the vulnerabilities faced by women, children, and other marginalised groups. With this in mind, SoDMA commissioned the development of this gender strategy.

Prior to drafting this strategy, consultations were held with relevant stakeholders. They were held in Mogadishu on Thursday 15th and Sunday 18th February 2024. Whilst the consultations were held in Mogadishu, participants did include representatives from federal member states.

The objective of the consultations were to allow participants to gain a better understanding of gender considerations in disaster risk and reduction, to discuss gender responsiveness in DRR as well as to get their input on the gender strategy. The findings are below:

Current situation for women and girls in disaster situations in Somalia:

- Women and girls often face heightened vulnerabilities during disasters due to existing gender inequalities, social norms, and limited access to resources and decision-making power. They may be more vulnerable to violence, exploitation and discrimination
- Women and girls face specific health risks, including maternal health concerns, lack of access to reproductive health services, and increased risk of gender-based violence including sexual violence
- Disasters can disrupt livelihoods, and women, especially those in vulnerable communities, face economic hardships due to loss of income-generating activities, limited access to employment opportunities, and increased caregiving responsibilities
- Women and girls experience heightened psychosocial stress and trauma during disasters, including PTSD, often made worse by their caregiving roles and responsibilities

Specific needs of women and girls during and after disaster situations:

- Ensuring access to reproductive health services, maternal care, and menstrual hygiene products, all very important for their health and dignity
- Protection from gender-based violence by providing safe spaces, psychosocial support, and specialised services for victims / survivors of violence as well as access to justice
- Privacy and safety for women and girls, who require a safe space for personal hygiene, breastfeeding and menstrual management, adequate shelter, lighting and sanitation facilities for their safety and dignity
- Supporting with women’s economic empowerment through access to livelihood opportunities, financial assistance, and skills training to help

mitigate the impact of economic losses and enhances their resilience to future disasters
- Ensuring access to education and relevant information empowers women and girls to make informed decisions, protect themselves, and participate in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts
- Promoting women's participation and leadership in decision-making processes related to disaster risk reduction, response and recovery is essential for ensuring inclusive and effective strategies that address their needs and priorities
- Providing psychosocial support services tailored to the needs of women and girls help address trauma, promoting their mental health and resilience in the aftermaths of disasters
- Ensuring equitable access to clean water, sanitation facilities, and hygiene supplies is critical for promoting women and girls' health, preventing disease, and maintaining their dignity during and after disasters.

Recommendations

- The need for more comprehensive data that captures the different vulnerabilities, needs, and capacities of women, men, girls and boys in disaster situations
- Gender analysis of past disasters in Somalia to understand / confirm the differential impact on various genders
- Ensuring that gender considerations are integrated into all stages of disaster planning, preparedness, response and recovery plans – engaging with diverse stakeholders including women's organisations and CSOs and marginalised communities to ensure their perspectives are included in the decision-making process
- Capacity building initiatives to ensure that SoDMA staff have necessary skills and knowledge to integrate gender considerations into all stages of disaster management
- Gender responsive programming by designing and implementing disaster management programs and interventions that are responsive to the specific needs, priorities and capacities of women and girls as well as men and boys. This includes ensuring equitable access to resources and services, addressing gender based violence, promoting women's leadership and participation, and integrating gender considerations into risk reduction initiatives
- Allocate sufficient resources – funding, staff and technical support – to support gender mainstreaming efforts in disaster management and reduction. This should include specific budgets for gender-responsive programming, capacity building, and data collection and analysis
- Monitoring and Evaluating the gender responsiveness of policies, procedures, and guidelines related to disaster management and reduction.

7. Strategy Action Plan

Mainstreaming gender considerations into policies, procedures, and guidelines relating to disaster management and reduction involves integrating gender perspectives at all levels of decision-making and across all aspects of disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and risk reduction. This strategy has identified the following factors to ensure effective mainstreaming:

1. Gender-Responsive Policy Development: Develop and implement gender-responsive policies and frameworks that explicitly recognise and address the differential impacts of disasters on women, men, girls, and boys. These policies should prioritise gender equality, women's empowerment, and protection of Human Rights.

2. Inclusive Planning Processes: Ensure that gender considerations are integrated into all stages of disaster planning, including risk assessment, contingency planning, and development of disaster response and recovery plans. Engage with diverse stakeholders, including women organisations, civil society groups, and marginalised communities, to ensure their perspective are included in decision-making processes.

3. Capacity Building and Training: Provide training and capacity-building opportunities for disaster management practitioners, policymakers, and frontline responders on gender-sensitive approaches. This includes raising awareness about gender issues, providing guidance on integrating gender considerations into policies and programs, and building skills to address gender-based violence and discrimination.

4. Gender Analysis and Data Collection: Conduct gender analysis to understand the differential impacts of disaster on women, men, girls, and boys, and to inform evidence-based decision-making. Collect sex-disaggregated data to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of gender mainstreaming efforts and to identify gaps and areas for improvement.

5. Gender-Responsive Programming: Design and implement disaster management programs and interventions that are responsive to the specific needs, priorities, and capacities of women, men, girls, and boys. This includes ensuring equitable access to resources and services, addressing gender-based violence, promoting women's leadership and participation, and integrating gender considerations into risk reduction initiatives.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation: Establish mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the gender responsiveness of policies, procedures, and guidelines related to disaster management and reduction. This includes collecting gender-disaggregated data, conducting gender-sensitive assessments and evaluations, and soliciting feedbacks from affected communities to assess the impact of gender mainstreaming efforts.

7. Partnerships and Collaboration: Foster partnerships and collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including women's organisations, gender equality advocates, humanitarian agencies, and local authorities, to leverage expertise and resources for gender mainstreaming in disaster management. Engage with diverse stakeholders to ensure that gender considerations are integrated into joint initiatives and coordinated response efforts.

8. Resource Allocation: Allocate sufficient resources, including funding, staff and technical support, to support gender mainstreaming efforts in disaster management and reduction. This includes dedicating specific budgets for gender-responsive programming, capacity building, and data collection and analysis.

By mainstreaming gender considerations into DRM policies and practices, Somalia can build a more inclusive, resilient, and equitable society that is better prepared to mitigate, respond to, and recover from disasters. This gender strategy provides a roadmap for integrating gender equality and women's empowerment into all aspects of DRM, ultimately contributing to sustainable development and the achievement of the Sendai Framework targets.