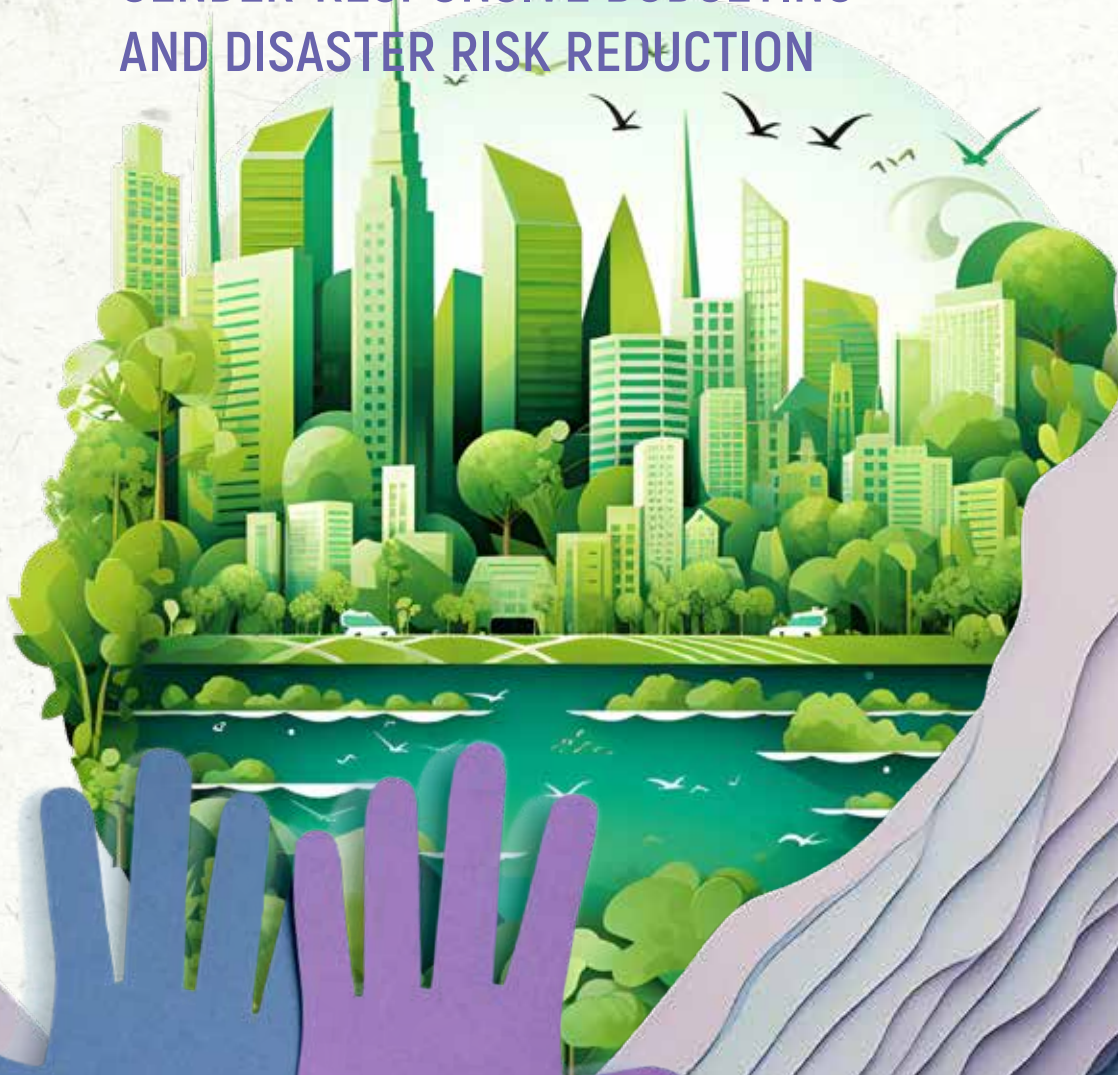


GRB and DRR Case Study - GBWN Submission to the Lima Work Program on Gender

GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING
AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



GRB and DRR Case Study - GBWN Submission to the Lima Work Program on Gender

GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING
AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



CONTENTS

Executive Summary	5
Why Gender-Responsive DRR Is Essential for Just Climate Action	6
About the GBWN DRR Case Study	7
Key Evidence	7
Challenges	8
Good Practices Identified by GBWN-Supported Projects	8
Country Evidence and Lessons	9
Albania: Civil Emergencies from a Gender Perspective - Guideline Manual, Municipality of Shkodër	9
Bosnia and Herzegovina: Gender Equality and Climate Resilience in the City of Bihać	9
North Macedonia: Monitoring Gender Equality in Times of Crisis	10
Serbia: Disaster Management with a Gender Perspective	10
North Macedonia: Gender Perspective in Crisis Management in Berovo, Kavadarci and Kochani	10
Recommendations	11
1. Integrate gender into DRR laws, strategies and plans	11
2. Institutionalize gender-responsive budgeting in DRR	11
3. Strengthen data, monitoring and reporting	11
4. Build institutional capacity and coordination	11
5. Ensure women's participation and community-based resilience	11
6. Improve shelters, services and protection mechanisms	12
7. Improve crisis communication and public awareness	12
8. Invest in resilient and inclusive infrastructure	12
Proposed COP 30 Discussion Themes	12
1. Integrating Gender-Responsive DRR into NDCs and NAPs	12
What integration would mean	12
Policy entry points in NDCs, NAPs and DRR systems	13
Relevance to the Belém Gender Action Plan	13
GRB and DRR Case Study - GBWN Submission to the Lima Work Program on Gender	13

2. Gender-Responsive Budgeting for DRR and Climate Resilience	13
What integration would mean	13
Policy entry points in NDCs, NAPs and DRR systems	13
Relevance to the Belém Gender Action Plan	13
3. Women's Leadership and Community-Based Resilience in DRR	13
What integration would mean	13
Policy entry points in NDCs, NAPs and DRR systems	14
Relevance to the Belém Gender Action Plan	14
4. Inclusive Early Warning, Crisis Communication and Protection Systems	14
What integration would mean	14
Policy entry points in NDCs, NAPs and DRR systems	14
Relevance to the Belém Gender Action Plan	14
5. Schools, Care Infrastructure and Local Services as Entry Points for DRR	14
What integration would mean	14
Policy entry points in NDCs, NAPs and DRR systems	15
Relevance to the Belém Gender Action Plan	15
Mapping the DRR Case Study to the Belém GAP	15
Conclusion	16
Annex: Projects Informing the Case Study	17

Executive Summary

This case study, submitted by the Gender Budget Watchdog Network (GBWN), demonstrates how gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) can strengthen disaster risk reduction (DRR), crisis management and climate resilience across the Western Balkans and Moldova. It draws on evidence generated through the sub-granting scheme of the project Strengthening Transparency and Accountability for Gender Equality in the Western Balkans and Moldova (Gender Budget Watchdog Network Phase II), financed by the Austrian Development Agency and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and implemented by the Centre for Research and Policy Making (CRPM).

The case study responds directly to the Belém Gender Action Plan (GAP) 2026-2034, adopted at COP 30, by showing how gender-responsive climate action can be operationalized in local DRR systems. The Belém GAP calls for stronger institutional capacity, gender- and age-disaggregated data, women's full and meaningful participation, coherence across climate and gender policy, gender-responsive finance and budgeting, and improved monitoring and reporting. DRR is one of the clearest policy areas where these priorities must be translated into practice because disasters expose and intensify pre-existing inequalities.

Evidence from GBWN-supported initiatives confirms that crisis management and DRR systems in the region remain largely gender-blind. Local crisis plans often lack gender analysis, sex-disaggregated data, dedicated financing, and mechanisms for women's participation. Risk assessments are frequently prepared without meaningful community consultation, crisis communication is often inaccessible or delayed for vulnerable groups (elderly, people with disabilities, women and children) which puts them specifically at risk when disasters happen, and shelters and emergency services are not designed to consistently provide privacy, hygiene, psychosocial support or protection from gender-based violence (GBV). These gaps undermine the effectiveness of disaster preparedness and response to serve women and men and vulnerable populations equally and contribute to further inequalities between them when disasters happen.

At the same time, the case study identifies promising practices instigated with GBWN-supported actions. Good practices show that gender-responsive DRR is most effective when gender analysis is embedded into practical preparedness systems, budgets and local governance. Rapid gender analysis helped municipalities understand the different needs of women, men, girls and boys in crises, while intersectoral working groups connected gender equality, climate, civil protection, social services and finance actors to align planning and budgeting. Gender-responsive budgeting tools supported better allocation of resources for civil protection, infrastructure, energy and climate investments, and trainings strengthened the capacity of municipal staff, emergency responders and civil protection teams. At the community level, participatory forums enabled rural, low-income and minority women to influence priorities, while women's organizations supported outreach, GBV referral pathways, trust-building and recommendations for shelters, emergency kits, helplines and psychosocial support. School fire-safety assessments also provided concrete entry points for prevention, equipment upgrades, staff training and child-sensitive DRR education.

The central policy conclusion is that gender-responsive DRR is not a social add-on to climate policy. It is a precondition for effective adaptation, resilience and loss-and-damage response. Without gender analysis, climate risk management risks reinforcing exclusion, underestimating care burdens, failing to protect women and marginalized groups during emergencies, and misallocating scarce public resources. Conversely, when DRR is planned and financed through a gender-responsive lens, climate action becomes more targeted, more legitimate and more effective.

The case study advances three core contributions to the Lima Work Programme on Gender and the Belém GAP:

- Integrating gender-responsive DRR into climate policy, National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), crisis management strategies and local development plans.
- Using gender-responsive budgeting to assess, tag and track public investments in civil protection, shelters, early warning systems, resilient infrastructure, school safety and recovery measures.
- Building community-based and women-led resilience systems that strengthen preparedness, participation, protection and accountability before, during and after disasters.

The recommendations call for mandatory gender analysis in DRR planning, institutionalized sex- and age-disaggregated data, gender-responsive budget tagging for DRR expenditures, stronger local gender and climate coordination mechanisms, adapted shelters and protection services, inclusive crisis communication, and systematic participation of women, including rural, low-income, minority and disabled women, in disaster planning and monitoring.

Why Gender-Responsive DRR Is Essential for Just Climate Action

Disaster risk reduction is a core component of gender-responsive climate action. Climate change increases the frequency and severity of floods, heatwaves, forest fires, storms, landslides and other hazards. These hazards do not affect all people in the same way. Gender, age, disability, income, ethnicity, geography and care responsibilities shape exposure to risk, access to information, capacity to evacuate, access to shelters, ability to recover, and participation in decisions that affect safety.

Women and girls often face specific vulnerabilities during and after disasters because of unequal access to income, land, transport, technology, information and decision-making. They may also carry heavier unpaid care responsibilities when schools, health services, water systems or transport routes are disrupted. During displacement and recovery, risks of GBV, exploitation, trafficking and psychosocial distress can increase. These vulnerabilities are not natural or inevitable; they are produced by structural inequalities and by policy systems that fail to plan for different needs and capacities.

A gender-responsive DRR approach makes disaster governance more effective. It improves risk assessments by identifying who is exposed, why they are exposed, and what resources they need to prepare and recover. It improves early warning systems by ensuring that warnings reach women, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, rural residents and minority communities in accessible formats. It improves shelters by ensuring privacy, hygiene, safety, childcare and psychosocial support. It improves public finance by directing resources to interventions that reduce real risks rather than funding generic systems that overlook those most affected.

The Belém GAP reinforces this approach. Its priority areas call for stronger capacity, knowledge management, participation, coherence, gender-responsive implementation and monitoring.

These priorities map directly onto DRR: local governments need trained officials, gender- and age-disaggregated data, inclusive planning, coordination between gender and climate actors, gender-responsive finance, and public accountability. DRR therefore provides a practical arena for implementing the Belém GAP at national, subnational and local levels.

About the GBWN Case Study

This submission consolidates evidence from GBWN sub-granted gender budget initiatives that examined gender equality, disaster risk reduction, crisis management and climate resilience. The initiatives covered local and national policy analysis, gender-responsive budgeting, community engagement, school fire safety, emergency preparedness and post-crisis recovery. Together, they reviewed 43 local and 3 national crisis management and DRR-related policies, action plans or practices. The case study includes evidence from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Serbia. The initiatives show that legal obligations to manage crises are not enough. Even when municipalities are formally required to prepare crisis management plans, implementation often remains weak. Plans are not always public, risk assessments may not reflect community realities, budget allocations are insufficient, and gender equality mechanisms are not systematically connected to civil protection, climate, infrastructure or finance departments. This gap between formal obligations and practical implementation is the core problem addressed by the case study.

Key Evidence

DRR systems remain gender-blind despite increasing climate risks: Across the region, climate risks such as floods, fires, heatwaves and extreme weather events are increasing, yet local DRR systems often treat the population as a homogeneous group. Crisis plans rarely identify the different needs of women, men, girls, boys, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, low-income households, rural residents and minority communities. This weakens prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

Climate and gender plans are disconnected at local level: Local climate strategies, sustainable energy and climate action plans, gender action plans and crisis management plans often operate in separate policy silos. Climate plans tend to emphasize technical measures without gender analysis, while gender plans rarely address climate and disaster risks. This disconnect creates a structural gap in local resilience governance.

Women are underrepresented in crisis planning and decision-making: Evidence from municipal assessments shows that women are often absent from crisis management bodies, emergency teams and planning committees. Their exclusion means that evacuation procedures, shelters, communication channels, school safety and recovery services are designed without the knowledge of those who often manage care responsibilities and community-level coping strategies.

Gender-sensitive data and budgeting are missing: Municipalities rarely collect and use sex- and age-disaggregated data in risk assessments and crisis response. DRR budgets are generally not tagged, assessed or monitored from a gender perspective. Investments in civil protection, infrastructure, energy, schools, shelters and emergency equipment are made without systematic gender impact assessment.

Crisis communication does not reach everyone: Women and marginalized groups report unclear communication, delayed assistance and limited access to information about municipal services, evacuation procedures and available support. Weak communication reduces preparedness,

increases fear and uncertainty, and undermines compliance with safety measures.

Shelters and emergency services are not sufficiently adapted: Many local systems lack shelters that guarantee privacy, hygiene, child-friendly spaces, disability access, psychosocial support and GBV-sensitive protection. Emergency kits and essential supplies are rarely designed with the needs of women, girls, caregivers, infants, elderly persons and persons with disabilities in mind.

Structural inequalities increase disaster vulnerability: Poor roads, inadequate sewage systems, weak public transport, low income, insecure employment and limited education reduce the capacity of people to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. Rural women, low-income women and minority communities face compounded risks because they are more likely to experience both infrastructure deficits and institutional exclusion.

Schools can serve as practical entry points for gender-responsive DRR: Fire-safety assessments in schools showed gaps in equipment, evacuation preparedness and staff training.

Because schools are central community institutions and often linked to women's unpaid care responsibilities, school safety can be used as an entry point for broader DRR awareness, child-sensitive preparedness and community-level resilience.

Challenges

- **Policy fragmentation:** gender equality, climate action, civil protection, social protection, infrastructure and finance departments rarely plan together, resulting in duplicated efforts and missed opportunities.
- **Limited institutional capacity:** municipal staff, emergency responders and civil protection units often lack training in gender-sensitive risk assessment, rapid gender analysis, inclusive communication and GBV-sensitive response.
- **Weak public finance systems:** DRR spending is not consistently linked to gender equality objectives, and budget lines for preparedness, shelters, school safety, outreach and recovery are often insufficient or difficult to track.
- **Inadequate participation:** women, rural communities, low-income groups, persons with disabilities and minority communities are not systematically involved in risk assessments, preparedness planning or monitoring.
- **Low transparency and trust:** crisis plans, budgets and municipal decisions are not always publicly accessible, and communities often distrust institutions because assistance is perceived as delayed, politicized or poorly communicated.
- **Operational gaps:** shelters, emergency supplies, psychosocial support, referral pathways, early warnings and evacuation plans are often not adapted to the needs of diverse groups.

Good Practices Identified by GBWN-Supported Projects

- Rapid gender analysis was introduced as a practical tool for understanding how crises affect women, men, girls and boys differently and for adapting response measures accordingly. The gender analysis allowed for identification of emergency and DRR measures that address needs of women and men differently.

- Intersectoral working groups brought together gender equality, climate, civil protection, social services and finance actors to align planning and budgeting. Municipalities in this way systematically integrate risk-informed and gender-responsive preparedness measures into urban planning, environment, education and local infrastructure, moving beyond ad hoc actions towards sustained institutional practice of preparedness-by-design.
- Gender-responsive budgeting tools were applied to assess whether civil protection, infrastructure, energy and climate investments addressed the needs of women and vulnerable groups. Recommendations on better resource allocations that respond to needs of women and men were embedded in municipal programs.
- Municipal staff, emergency responders and civil protection teams received training on gender-sensitive crisis management and preparedness. Community forums and participatory budgeting processes created opportunities for rural, low-income and minority women to influence local priorities.
- Women's organizations and civil society groups supported outreach, public education, GBV referral pathways, community monitoring and trust-building. Recommendations for gender-sensitive shelters, emergency kits, helplines and psychosocial support helped translate gender analysis into operational preparedness.
- School fire-safety assessments identified concrete entry points for prevention, equipment upgrades, staff training and child-sensitive DRR education.

Country Evidence and Lessons

Albania: Guideline Manual for Civil Protection, Municipality of Shkodër

Albania has faced overlapping emergencies, including earthquakes, floods, forest fires, extreme temperatures and the COVID-19 pandemic. These events showed that vulnerabilities and coping capacities vary across the population. The municipality of Shkodër introduced gender lenses in emergency preparedness and response. The Guideline for civil protection of the municipality emphasized the role of women as caregivers, frontline workers and community actors, while recognizing that they may face disproportionate risks during crises.

The gender budget initiative used rapid gender analysis, based on gender-disaggregated data collection, promoted strengthened cooperation with women's organizations in preparedness and response, and in advocacy highlighted the need for safe shelters, referral systems, helplines, GBV-sensitive protection and livelihood recovery.

LESSONS LEARNED: If gender is integrated before emergencies occur, risks that crisis response unintentionally overlook those most at risk can be averted.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Gender Equality and Climate Resilience in the City of Bihać

Bihać has both a Gender Action Plan and a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan, but the two documents operate independently. The gender plan addresses employment, participation, health and GBV but does not integrate climate risks, while the climate plan includes mitigation and adaptation measures without gender analysis. Budget analysis confirmed that climate-related spending in civil protection, infrastructure and energy efficiency did not assess gender implications.

The proposed solution was to connect the GAP and SECAP teams, establish an intersectoral working group, conduct gender-responsive climate risk assessment, introduce gender-sensitive climate indicators, and apply GRB to climate and infrastructure investments.

LESSONS LEARNED: municipalities do not always need new strategies; they need coherence, coordination and gender-responsive implementation of existing strategies.

North Macedonia: Different Gender Needs in Times of Crisis

Research in municipalities in the Southeast region of North Macedonia using gender analysis showed that socio-economic inequalities become more visible during crises. People with lower levels of education face higher unemployment, unstable jobs, low household income and dependence on social assistance. Rural residents and ethnic minorities reported poor roads, inadequate sewage systems and limited transport as barriers to well-being and safety. Women with primary or secondary education reported low incomes, unemployment, weak institutional responsiveness and unclear crisis communication. Even higher-educated rural women reported that local crisis response was slow or inaccessible.

LESSONS LEARNED: DRR must address structural vulnerability: resilient infrastructure, transparent communication, skills development, social support and participatory budgeting all contribute to crisis preparedness.

Serbia: Disaster Management with a Gender Perspective

Assessments in Topola, Lazarevac and Mionica showed that Serbia has a strong formal gender equality framework, but gender considerations are largely absent from local emergency management. Crisis laws and plans do not provide clear guidance on the needs of women and marginalized groups during disasters. Municipalities lack gender-sensitive data, adapted shelters, psychosocial support, gender-responsive budgets and mechanisms for women's participation.

The gender budget watchdog assessment recommends integrating gender into municipal crisis plans, establishing sex-disaggregated data systems, creating crisis-response teams with balanced gender representation, adapting shelters to women's needs, and introducing GRB for emergency preparedness and recovery.

LESSONS LEARNED: Gender-responsive crisis management improves both equity and operational effectiveness.

North Macedonia: Gender Perspective in Crisis Management in Berovo, Kavadarci and Kochani

The gender budget watchdog report for Berovo, Kavadarci and Kochani examined municipal legal obligations, the integration of gender perspectives into local crisis plans and budgets, and school fire safety as a sector-specific example. It found limited women's participation in planning, weak public access to crisis plans, inconsistent application of GRB, and insufficient attention to the vulnerabilities of women and marginalized groups.

The school fire-safety analysis revealed gaps in equipment, training and budget allocation. Transparency, community consultation and targeted training are essential for turning formal obligations into real preparedness.

LESSONS LEARNED: School safety can be used to mainstream gender into everyday crisis management.

Recommendations

1. Integrate gender into DRR laws, strategies and plans

- Explicitly include gender-sensitive provisions in crisis management and civil protection laws, by-laws, municipal plans and standard operating procedures.
- Make gender analysis mandatory in risk assessments, preparedness plans, evacuation plans, shelter protocols and recovery strategies.
- Align national and local DRR systems with NDCs, NAPs, climate strategies, gender equality strategies and social protection plans.

2. Institutionalize gender-responsive budgeting in DRR

- Introduce gender impact assessment for all DRR-related investments, including civil protection, shelters, early warning systems, infrastructure, energy, schools and recovery programmes.
- Use budget tagging to track climate- and DRR-related spending that contributes to gender equality and protection of vulnerable groups.
- Create dedicated budget lines for inclusive preparedness, adapted shelters, school safety, public awareness, psychosocial support and GBV-sensitive referral systems.

3. Strengthen data, monitoring and reporting

- Collect and use sex-, age-, disability-, income- and location-disaggregated data in risk assessments and crisis response.
- Integrate gender indicators into climate and DRR monitoring systems.
- Make crisis plans, risk assessments, budgets and implementation reports publicly accessible to support accountability and community oversight.

4. Build institutional capacity and coordination

- Train municipal staff, emergency responders, civil protection teams and school staff on gender-sensitive crisis management, rapid gender analysis, inclusive communication and GBV-sensitive response.
- Establish local coordination mechanisms linking gender equality, climate, civil protection, finance, social services, education, health and infrastructure actors.
- Empower national and local gender and climate focal points to participate in DRR and resilience planning.

5. Ensure women's participation and community-based resilience

- Include women, women's organizations, rural women, low-income women, minority women, women with disabilities and caregivers in DRR planning and monitoring.
- Use community forums, participatory budgeting and local working groups to identify risks and priorities.
- Create community-based crisis response teams with balanced gender representation and clear roles.

6. Improve shelters, services and protection mechanisms

- Ensure shelters provide privacy, hygiene, child-friendly spaces, disability access, psychosocial support and protection from GBV.
- Establish helplines, referral systems and cooperation protocols between civil protection, social services, police, health services and women's organizations.
- Prepare gender-sensitive emergency kits that include hygiene supplies, infant and care-related items, information on services and referral contacts.

7. Improve crisis communication and public awareness

- Design accessible communication strategies using local media, social media, schools, community groups and trusted civil society actors.
- Provide clear public information on evacuation procedures, first aid, available shelters, municipal services and complaint mechanisms.
- Tailor outreach to rural communities, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, minority communities and low-income households.

8. Invest in resilient and inclusive infrastructure

- Prioritize roads, sewage systems, transport access, schools, shelters and public buildings in high-risk and underserved communities.
- Use school safety as an entry point for broader DRR education and community preparedness.
- Connect DRR investments with employment, skills training and livelihood recovery, especially for women and marginalized groups.

Proposed COP 30 Discussion Themes

The following themes are proposed for discussion under the Lima Work Programme on Gender and the Belém GAP. They mirror the structure used in the GBWN case study on Gender, Care and Transport and translate the DRR evidence into concrete policy entry points.

1. Integrating Gender-Responsive DRR into NDCs and NAPs

NDCs and NAPs increasingly recognize adaptation, resilience and loss and damage, but DRR measures often remain gender-neutral. Integrating gender-responsive DRR would mean treating disasters as climate risks that are shaped by social inequalities and care responsibilities.

What integration would mean

- Include gender-responsive DRR baselines in NDCs and NAPs, including data on exposure, access to early warning, evacuation, shelter use and recovery support.
- Recognize care responsibilities as a factor shaping evacuation capacity, access to services and recovery needs.
- Use local gender-responsive risk assessments to identify high-risk groups and priority investments.

Policy entry points in NDCs, NAPs and DRR systems

- Include gender-responsive DRR indicators in adaptation and resilience sections of NDCs and NAPs.
- Require gender analysis in climate risk assessments and local adaptation planning.
- Report on gender-responsive DRR measures through regular UNFCCC communications and voluntary GAP reporting.

Relevance to the Belém Gender Action Plan

This theme responds to Belém GAP priority areas A, C, D and E by strengthening evidence, policy coherence, implementation and monitoring. It is particularly relevant to activities on capacity-building, gender-disaggregated data, gender-responsive climate policies and voluntary reporting.

2. Gender-Responsive Budgeting for DRR and Climate Resilience

DRR budgets often finance equipment, infrastructure, civil protection and recovery without assessing who benefits and who remains exposed. GRB can make DRR financing more effective by linking expenditures to differentiated risk, protection needs and resilience outcomes.

What integration would mean

- Conduct gender impact assessments before approving DRR and climate resilience investments.
- Apply gender budget tagging to civil protection, shelters, early warning systems, resilient infrastructure, school safety and recovery programmes.
- Allocate resources for adapted shelters, GBV-sensitive services, inclusive communication and community preparedness.

Policy entry points in NDCs, NAPs and DRR systems

- Integrate GRB into NDC implementation plans, NAP investment plans and national climate finance frameworks.
- Track DRR expenditures that contribute to gender equality and protection of vulnerable groups.
- Use local budget monitoring by civil society and women's organizations to strengthen accountability.

Relevance to the Belém Gender Action Plan

This theme directly responds to Belém GAP priority area D, which advances gender-responsive implementation, public finance instruments, climate finance and methodologies such as gender-responsive budgeting.

3. Women's Leadership and Community-Based Resilience in DRR

Women are often first responders within households and communities, yet they remain underrepresented in formal crisis decision-making. Community-based DRR can improve preparedness and trust when women's organizations and local women participate meaningfully in risk assessment, planning, communication and monitoring.

What integration would mean

- Establish local crisis-response teams with balanced gender representation.
- Institutionalize participation of women, rural communities, persons with disabilities and minority groups in DRR planning.

- Partner with women's CSOs for outreach, training, GBV referral pathways and community monitoring.

Policy entry points in NDCs, NAPs and DRR systems

- Include women's participation indicators in adaptation and resilience monitoring frameworks.
- Support leadership training for women in civil protection, local planning and climate governance.
- Create funding windows for women's organizations working on preparedness, protection and recovery.

Relevance to the Belém Gender Action Plan

This theme responds to Belém GAP priority area B on women's full, meaningful and equal participation and leadership, including safety and protection mechanisms for women engaging in climate action.

4. Inclusive Early Warning, Crisis Communication and Protection Systems

Early warning and crisis communication systems often fail to reach the people most at risk. Gender-responsive communication must consider literacy, language, disability, rural isolation, digital access, care responsibilities and trust in institutions.

What integration would mean

- Design communication channels that reach women, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, rural residents and minority communities.
- Use schools, health centres, women's organizations and local media as trusted channels for preparedness information.
- Ensure shelters and services include GBV-sensitive referral systems, privacy, hygiene, childcare and psychosocial support.

Policy entry points in NDCs, NAPs and DRR systems

- Include inclusive early warning and protection measures in adaptation and DRR sections of NDCs and NAPs.
- Develop indicators on access to warnings, shelter safety and satisfaction with crisis communication.
- Report on protection measures for women and marginalized groups in climate and DRR reporting.

Relevance to the Belém Gender Action Plan

This theme is relevant to Belém GAP priority areas A, B and E, including gender-responsive communication, protection mechanisms, data collection and reporting on progress and persistent gaps.

5. Schools, Care Infrastructure and Local Services as Entry Points for DRR

Schools, childcare facilities, health centres, social services and transport routes are essential to everyday resilience. When they fail during disasters, unpaid care burdens increase and women's access to work, safety and recovery is reduced.

What integration would mean

- Assess fire safety, evacuation capacity and emergency preparedness in schools and care facilities.

- Connect DRR education with school curricula, parent outreach and community preparedness.
- Prioritize resilient roads, sewage, schools, shelters and health access in underserved communities.

Policy entry points in NDCs, NAPs and DRR systems

- Include social infrastructure and care-related services in adaptation and resilience investment plans.
- Use gender-responsive local risk assessments to prioritize infrastructure upgrades.
- Track how DRR investments reduce care burdens and improve access to services during crises.

Relevance to the Belém Gender Action Plan

This theme responds to the Belém GAP’s recognition of care work, multidimensional vulnerability, gender-responsive planning and coherence across sectoral policies.

Mapping the DRR Case Study to the Belém GAP Belém GAP priority area Relevance for gender-responsive DRR GBWN evidence and proposed action

Belém GAP priority area	Relevance for gender-responsive DRR	GBWN evidence and proposed action
A. CAPACITY-BUILDING, KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION	DRR requires trained officials, gender-responsive communication and evidence on differentiated risks.	Train municipal staff and responders; use rapid gender analysis; develop accessible crisis communication and public awareness campaigns.
B. GENDER BALANCE, PARTICIPATION AND WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP	Women must participate in crisis planning, civil protection and community resilience systems.	Establish gender-balanced crisis teams; include women's organizations and rural, low-income, minority and disabled women in DRR planning.
C. COHERENCE	Climate finance, technology, capacity-building and public finance instruments must be gender-responsive.	Create intersectoral working groups; align GAPs, SECAPs, NDC/NAP implementation and municipal DRR plans.
D. GENDER-RESPONSIVE IMPLEMENTATION AND MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION	There is a need for: improved political commitment with public statements from the Minister of Finance or senior leadership and institutionalization of GIA and gender audit of the national budge	Apply GRB, budget tagging and gender impact assessment to civil protection, shelters, early warnings, schools and resilient infrastructure.
E. MONITORING AND REPORTING	Progress must be tracked through disaggregated data, indicators and public reporting.	Collect sex- and age-disaggregated data; publish crisis plans and budgets; include gender-responsive DRR indicators in climate and municipal reporting.

Conclusion

The GBWN DRR case study shows that gender-responsive climate action must be practical, local and financed. Disasters reveal whether institutions are prepared to protect all people equitably. When crisis plans are gender-blind, when budgets do not respond to differentiated needs, when women are excluded from planning, and when shelters and communication systems are not adapted, resilience remains incomplete.

The evidence also shows that change is possible. Rapid gender analysis, gender-responsive budgeting, intersectoral coordination, community participation, women's CSO engagement, school safety assessments and transparent monitoring provide a concrete pathway for implementation. These measures are fully aligned with the Belém GAP and can support Parties and observers in turning global gender and climate commitments into local preparedness, protection and resilience.

The main message for COP 30 and the Lima Work Programme on Gender is clear: gender-responsive DRR is not only about protecting women during disasters. It is about improving the quality, fairness and effectiveness of climate governance. By financing and institutionalizing gender-responsive DRR, governments can reduce vulnerability, strengthen trust, improve adaptation outcomes and ensure that no one is left behind in the face of climate-related risks.

Annex: Projects Informing the Case Study

Albania - Civil Emergencies from a Gender Perspective, Municipality of Shkodër: Guideline manual on gender-sensitive emergency preparedness and response, rapid gender analysis, shelters, referral systems, GBV protection, data and recovery.

Bosnia and Herzegovina - Gender Equality and Climate Resilience, City of Bihać: Analysis of the disconnect between the Gender Action Plan and SECAP, with recommendations for coherence, gender-responsive climate risk assessment, GRB and intersectoral coordination.

North Macedonia - Monitoring the Dynamics of Gender Equality in Times of Crisis: Community evidence on socio-economic vulnerability, infrastructure gaps, institutional trust, crisis communication and targeted support needs in municipalities in the Southeast region.

Serbia - Disaster Management with a Gender Perspective: Assessment of Topola, Lazarevac and Mionica, focusing on gaps in gender-sensitive data, shelters, budgeting, participation, psychosocial support and municipal crisis planning.

North Macedonia - Gender Perspective in Crisis Management in Berovo, Kavadarci and Kochani: Assessment of legal obligations, local crisis plans, budgets and school fire safety as an entry point for gender-responsive DRR.

GRB and DRR Case Study -GBWN Submission to the Lima Work Program on Gender

**GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING
AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

