Research shows that shocks and crises affect women more than men. Events such as natural disasters show that in addition to higher likelihood of death, women also experience a more severe decline in sexual and reproductive health, increased gender-based violence, disruption to education, and are often forced into harmful coping mechanisms such as child marriage.

Given that women form 50 percent of the workforce, loss of lives and livelihoods of women due to disasters is detrimental to progress of society. Therefore, it is no surprise that investing in women is smart economics, and so is integrating gender dimensions within the context of Disaster Risk Finance (DRF) solutions. The Global Risk Financing Facility (GRiF) commissioned the development of a Gender Action Plan (GAP) last year to outline actions the Secretariat can take to strengthen its capacity to support its grantees to deliver gender informed DRF solutions. The GAP builds upon the investments in knowledge, research, and learning made by the WBG in promoting gender equity, and the work program of the InsuResilience Partnership Centre of Excellence for Gender Smart Solutions.
RECRUITMENT OF GENDER SPECIALIST:
The Secretariat has recruited a gender specialist to support implementation of the GAP, and to seek out new opportunities to promote gender equity in GRiF’s investments.

INCORPORATING GENDER DIMENSIONS IN GRIF’S GRANT-MAKING SYSTEMS:
The Secretariat has incorporated gender questions into its application process, making it mandatory for applicants to explain how proposed grant activities will address gender differences given the specific gender context of the project. New proposals are now reviewed by a gender specialist who provides feedback to Bank Teams.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING:
The Secretariat is piloting Gender and DRF training for finance specialists from across the World Bank who work on DRF solutions. The first training will take place in October 2021.

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION:
The Secretariat is exploring opportunities for strengthening its external partnerships, notably with the InsuResilience Centre of Excellence on Gender Smart Solutions.

THE GAP SETS OUT TARGETED INTERVENTIONS FOCUSED ON KEY ACTION AREAS

MOVING FORWARD: PROGRESS WE HOPE TO SEE

The GAP offers a strong foundation to advocate for a more systematic and results-focused approach to incorporating gender in GRiF-funded investments. The Secretariat will develop guidance for project teams to encourage contribution of GRiF investments within World Bank operations to the World Bank Gender Tag\(^1\). The GRiF Secretariat will update the GAP as new knowledge on incorporating gender dimensions in DRF solutions emerges, and as new opportunities arise.

\(^1\)Gender tagging applies to World Bank operations that close gender gaps in the four pillars of the WBG gender strategy through (i) analysis - identify gender gaps in outcomes between men and women in a given project or sector; (ii) design - devise interventions to address gaps between women and men, and; (iii) indicators in the results framework that measure closure of a gender gap (simply sex-disaggregating indicators is not sufficient to get the Tag).