Lead farmers: Ethel Chikho, Estele Jayilosi, Estele Eliya, Alefa Yembekezani, Anastasia Mumba.

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GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Assuring a human rights-based approach in dealing with climate change and environmental degradation impacts

WE EFFECT

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For more information contact Priscilla Cubo at priscilla.cubo@weeffect.org or Sian Maseko on sian.k.maseko@weeffect.org

List of acronyms

AMPCM	Mozambican Association for the Promotion of Modern Cooperativism (Mozambique)
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECC	Environment and Climate Change
ECCR	Environment, Climate Change and Resilience
ESIA	Environmental Social Impact Assessment
FARMCOOP	Foundation for Agrarian Reform Cooperatives in Mindanao (Philippines)
FOFEN	Niassa Women's Organizations Forum (Mozambique)
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GFDRR	Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
HDI	Human Development Index
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
INFORM	Index for Risk Management
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPCSED	Institute of Philippine Cooperatives and Social Enterprise Development
LGBTQI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex +
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PO	Partner Organization
SALM	Sustainable Agriculte Land Management
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDA	Swedish International Developmental Cooperation Agency
SOGIE	Sexual Orientation, Gender Identify or Expression
UN	United Nations
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNAC	National Farmers Union (Mozambique)
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations International Children Emergency Fund
UNSDR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
WHO	World Health Organization

Report Summary

Women are on the frontlines of the climate crisis and disasters, and they tend to experience disproportionate negative impacts. They also have the knowledge, experience and agency to help address them and build resilience. Gender inequality and harmful social norms weaken their resilience and prevent their voices being heard. How can we understand and respond to, how disaster risk reduction, climate justice and gender equality intersect?

This report outlines the risks and exposure to disasters in our regions, with a gender perspective. Due to intersecting issues of poverty and inequality – and as a result limited resilience - these areas are particularly vulnerable to disasters. As per our 2020 Interim Strategy, We Effect acknowledges that women, girls and gender minorities are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis, as well as by poverty and inequality, and violence, and that the Covid-19 crisis has intensified their vulnerabilities. Therefore, any work in disaster risk management should put gender equality at its heart. This report maps some avenues towards a systemic approach to responding to the climate crisis, building resilience, preventing disasters, and transforming to a more sustainable world.

Section 1: Introduction

The climate crisis is a source of systematic injustices. Countries that are the least responsible for causing climate change are the ones suffering most, and they are predominantly based in the Global South. This is only getting worse, with projected global warming still set at a 3-4-degrees trajectory (opposed to the 2 degrees, or less, agreed under the Paris Agreement). Extreme weather events are expected to increase in magnitude and in intensity if this is not resolved. This means more people on the frontlines of the climate crisis, and more people pushed into poverty – especially women.

Therefore, the climate crisis has become an issue of responsibility and justice, where countries and communities on the frontlines are leveraging legal narratives and norms to try to spur on action. However, this is deeply challenging, since it is a new area of 'justice' and has yet to adequately include the voices of women.

Women and girls are not only disproportionately impacted by disasters; they are also frequently excluded from developing and leading on solutions. It is crucial that DRR and disaster management put gender equality at their heart, considering both contextual vulnerabilities and women's unique contributions and potential (UNDP 2013). This may be at policy level (e.g. National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions – which continue to exclude women, in large part), at programming level, at institutional level and even in green business, education and entrepreneurship. Ensuring inclusive practise is central to the SDGs' 'Leave No One Behind' Agenda. However, there remains a long way to go to reach the goals in both gender equality and climate action. Working in a complementary way is essential.

Section 2: Methodology

This chapter presents a description of the methodology of this report. First, there is a presentation of research strategy and design. Next a review of the literature, desk study and qualitative in-depth interviews. Qualitative and quantitative data were obtained from various sources:

(i) A review of the literature
(ii) Desk study
(iii) Qualitative in-depth interviews (both with informants and respondents, being 15 in total)

From these data, analyses were made and divided into sections 3 (that corresponds to findings from the literature review) and 4 (findings from the literature review + a compilation of insights from the authors, staff and partners). Chapter five suggests the next steps to advance DRR work at We Effect.

Section 3: Literature Review – Findings

Five indexes on development, inequality and disaster risk are used to assess which countries should be prioritized on the DRR work. These indexes are: Human development Index (HDI), Gender Inequality Index (GII), INFORM Risk Index, World Risk Index 2018 and We Effect Risk Index 2014. As a conclusion, it was found that Mozambique, Malawi and Uganda are extremely vulnerable due to their human development levels and vulnerability to hazards and crises. Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Zambia are not particularly far behind, when comparing relative scores on these indices. The Philippines ranks as the third most at risk country of disasters in the world on the World Risk Index 2018. Guatemala features consistently as one of the most vulnerable countries in the Latin America region; as does Albania in the Europe region. All of We Effect's partner countries face development inequality and disaster risks that need to be addressed and mitigated. The indicators help us to understand where the risks may be more pressing, or time-bound, and this helps us to consider where to start with deeper exploration for the purpose of this report. However, this does not mean those that scored less 'at risk' are not continued priorities.

3.2 Gender, climate change and vulnerability

The literature shows that there is not enough done to take a gender transformative approach to DRR. Women are mostly seen as victims rather than agents of change. Summarizing, the literature converges on three key points:

1. There is a critical need for more contextualized vulnerability and resilience analysis and programming approaches, since there are pervasive gaps in both theoretical and empirical evidence in DRR and disaster research.
2. The need to shift away from viewing women as a homogenous group, and to include an intersectional analysis which recognises that vulnerability increases and resilience is impacted by overlapping aspects of inequality and discrimination.
3. Further, the evidence base still lacks sufficient investigation of gender minorities and non-normative gender identities.

Therefore, we conclude based on the evidence, that it is useful for We Effect and its partners and stakeholders, to introduce an intersectional approach to critically examine and understand vulnerability and resilience within structures of disaster risk management.

3.3. Theories and Evidence for Gender Transformative DRR

According to We Effect's Environment and Climate Change (ECC) Policy and Strategy, DRR "aims to reduce the damage caused by natural hazards like earthquakes, floods, droughts and cyclones, through an ethic of prevention. It is the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyse and reduce the causal factors of disasters." In the disaster risk management cycle, there are two phases such as: the pre-disaster phase (mitigation and preparedness); and the post-disaster phase (response and recovery) (UNDP 2012: 31). DRR is a key component in long-term community

development, and link disaster preparedness with mitigation activities; it is considered a policy objective of anticipating and reducing risk. Disaster Risk Management (DRM) aims to reduce the risk of disaster(s), so it is considered an implementation of DRR (UNISDS, 2015). We Effect is an organisation that works on that through its different cross-cutting areas, work under the two pillars 'Adequate Housing and Habitat' and 'Sustainable Rural Development'. It is supported by a large range of international frameworks, including the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and The Beijing +20 Platform for Action Framework. With the joint interim strategy with Vi Agroforestry (2020-2021) to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic, We Effect aims to focus the work towards the right to food, increased resilience and sustainable livelihoods. This is done with a strong focus on advancing gender equality, climate justice and tackling corruption. Partner organisations have good examples of dealing with disaster risks. For instance, Latin America's housing and habitat programme VIVHA invested on capacitation for increased ability of women and men to advocate for legal reforms in civil protection, disaster prevention and mitigation with a preventative approach and increased citizen participation. The Institute of Philippine Cooperatives and Social Enterprise Development (IPCSED) is a partner organisation in the Philippines that is involved with providing safe housing and relocation to informal settler living in danger zones, perennially inundated with floods. LEAP programme in Eastern Africa is another example, where sustainable agriculture land management (SALM) practices especially fodder storage, crop diversification and early planting and microinsurance were promoted to farmers, that dealt with droughts, floods and extreme cold temperatures in 2019. This year was also marked by the two cyclones Idai and Kenneth, being the first time that two cyclones targeted Mozambique in the same season. Partners worked stronger to support the local communities, together with governments, civil society organisations and local initiatives. Capacitation and inclusion on early warning systems to deal with such events were introduced in the communities.

Diverse organisations around the world from humanitarian and development cooperation sectors have been working on a gender transformative approach to deal with disaster risks. They acknowledge that, since women and girls are disproportionately affected by disasters, there can be no effective DRR and no sustainable approach to resilience building, that does not centre gender equality. Also, they recognize that this is a long-term process, and the results expected tend to take a long time to be measurable. Some examples of actions taken are: intersectional approach which understands the specific needs of groups of women and girls; budget allocation to women-led and women's rights organisations; acknowledging the multiple disproportionate responsibilities that women face, including unpaid care work; supporting women's leadership in emergencies. Learning from other organisations is a way to build up our own capacity on a gender transformative DRR.

Section 4: Understanding We Effect's Capacities: insights from staff and partners

4.1 Context analysis

The three countries of focus in this report were Philippines, Mozambique and Uganda. Heightened disaster risks, as identified in section 3, the literature review. The major disaster risks identified in the literature were flooding, landslides and droughts. In the case of the Philippines, earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis are constant threats. Cyclones were identified as major sources of reallocation of people in Mozambique for the year of 2019.

Through interviewing key stakeholders across the countries, it was found that almost all respondents affirmed that changes in the climate and weather patterns are a key challenge, affecting the rights-holders directly. For instance, it was stressed that especially unreliable rainfall made it hard for farmers to predict the weather and resulted in the loss of crops and livelihood, but also informal settlements placed near water were vulnerable. It was also emphasised that the risks of landslides and floods can contribute to waterborne diseases, especially affecting women and girls, showing that climate change is a health issue as well as a gender issue. Respondents pointed two key unsustainable practices that may worsen the climate change impacts: unsustainable land use and deforestation. Traditional but unsustainable practices are still present, such as the excessive use of fuelwood, charcoal burning, genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and agrochemicals, as well as unsustainable farming systems.

4.2 Disaster risk reduction and gender analysis across We Effect

This section presents a context analysis of disaster risk reduction, and the associated challenges and opportunities in We Effect's countries of operation. It highlights some key concerns amongst We Effect's staff, partners and stakeholders in terms of DRR and gender equality. In summary, these included:

- Need to build a common understanding about DRR under a gender perspective at We Effect and partner organisations, including a common use of DRR terminologies;
- Need to develop tailored DRR with a gender perspective material and trainings, that are easy and accessible to the partners and rights-holders;
- Need to work with networking and on advocacy actions, to remove the gap between existing legislations and what is done in practice by governments when dealing with a disaster.
- Need to include a gender transformative DRR approach in all our work, always assuring the constant participation and capacitation of rights-holders.

4.3 Emerging challenges and issues

Limited access to (gender responsive) early warning systems: early warning systems are critical information streams to support communities and local governments to respond to an extreme weather event and prevent a disaster. However, many vulnerable areas remain lacking these systems due to the limited access to information, capacitation, services, governmental will, among other reasons.

Even where early warning systems exist, they are often gender-blind, and exclude women. This means that women and marginalised groups often lack access to critical information in the time of a potential disaster, or their needs and mobilities are not taken into account, compounding their vulnerabilities to negative impacts. For example, norms that perpetuate gender inequalities became apparent in the case of Cyclone Idai in Mozambique, where women had less access to information and knowledge for preparedness to the event.

Shrinking Civic Space: across the the world, the space for "civic activism" and democratic freedom has decreased. This is the most severe for women, indigenous peoples, young people and people with disabilities, who are often overlooked in disaster management and in climate change negotiations, hence they remain unheard (IIED 2019).

Also, environment and human rights defenders are under attack. They are subjected to killings, threats and intimidation, stigma and criminalization from state and non-state actors. Women defenders face very specific forms of sexual and gender-based violence. Youth face discouragement, resistance and threats from older people. Further, most attention and space are much more often given to northern

activists, whereas those living on the frontlines of the climate crisis are often excluded by governments and media.

Increase in violence against women and girls, especially in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic: the way Covid-19 pandemic disproportionally affects developing countries is a great source of injustice. GBV is projected to be increasing for women, girls and gender minorities, especially because of the economic crisis due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Since GBV directly impacts resilience, their vulnerabilities to disaster risks are heightened, even more. Therefore, prevention and response to GBV must be a central part of responding to the Covid-19 and the climate crises.

4.4 Windows of Opportunity

Investing proactively in women as change makers: although they are often siloed as 'the vulnerable ones', women and girls are also vital agents of change in climate action. Their contextual and unique knowledge, skills and understanding can improve the actions and interventions of DRR.

In the time of crisis, social norms are played out, which can open for the possibility to produce alternative social interactions. Meaning that it can lead to opportunities for women and men to take on new responsibilities and change dominant ways of thinking and acting. There is scope for further investigation and development of promising practices in this regard. However, it is important to strengthen the potentials of men, youth, girls, boys, elderly and gender minorities in order to balance the responsibilities that everyone has to care for the environment and for their own safety. Burden of care over women has to be taken into consideration.

Linking DRR to long-term resilience building: the scale of the impact from the natural hazard(s) are dependent on norms, institutions and everyday choices. Each action or decision can lead to more vulnerability and/or resilience in the case of a disaster. We Effect has a well-known role in building resilience through the application of sustainable practices, gender equality, financial inclusion, cooperative development and enabling civic space. To succeed in the DRR work, we have to address the harmful norms about fixing things up when a disaster happens. Instead, we must prevent that from happening.

Creating a learning and reflexive culture: We Effect has done important and necessary work on DRR, but it is necessary to integrate the perspective of DRR more thoroughly in our programmes and advocacy work. We Effect also needs to create a culture of learning on DRR and to create opportunities for learning sharing amongst regions and partners to build our knowledge and capacity. There are several examples of good and promising practices from our partner organisations of gender transformative DRR, but they are not always documented and shared with other countries/regions. By building evidence and documentation in our key result areas of the joint interim strategy (right to food, increased resilience and sustainable livelihoods) and by building an institutional knowledge and learning, we can get identify promising practices that can be used to replicate within the whole organisation. Also, We Effect should be constantly learning with the integration of We Effect's cross-cutting areas in our projects and programmes, by organising reflexion and learning spaces such as workshops, seminars, discussion in the global groups, study circles, among others.

Urgent and Systemic Action: the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC, emphasises that the next twelve years are crucial. To respond appropriately, we need to lift climate policy from individualistic approaches, within borders, to a systemic approach which pursues structural transformation for the entire world. Many respondents emphasized the importance of scaling up We Effect's activities in regard to environment, climate change and resilience. By applying a gendered approach to DRR, We Effect can support a systemic approach, to 'build back better', simultaneously improving gender equality, climate action, livelihood opportunities, and security.

Section 5: Next Steps for We Effect

Summarizing, the report's recommendations are:

At an organizational level:
Strengthen the capacity of We Effect to work effectively, strategically and consistently on disaster risk reduction: • Ensure staff understand the linkages between DRR and other key thematic areas including gender equality, climate justice and resilience, financial services, right to food and sustainable livelihoods with a focus on preparedness and prevention • Strengthen the capacity of staff to plan, implement, monitor, evaluate and learn about the importance of working on DRR in the context of long-term development • Ensure that DRR is integrated into our broader risk reduction strategies at an organizational level • Increase cross-regional (and cross-organizational) learning opportunities to support and strengthen the knowledge and understanding of preparedness and prevention in DRR • Strengthen the capacity of staff to pilot and test new methods and methodologies for working on DRR to ensure we leave no one behind and effectively integrate this work into our work on climate justice. • Ensure a tailored capacitation, focusing on the local context.
At a programme level:
Prioritise support to women's rights organisations and cooperatives to work on DRR in gender and climate just ways.
Facilitate and support new (consensual) networks and alliances between DRR, humanitarian ECCR organisations and women's rights organisations to strengthen the work of partner organizations on DRR and climate justice.
Ensure a rights-based approach: supporting partner organisations to ensure the meaningful participation and leadership of women, indigenous communities, displaced and marginalized groups in all DRR programming to ensure we leave no one behind.
Work with technical partners: identify strong technical partners to support and strengthen our work and the work of our partners, especially our partners working on gender equality and climate justice, on DRR especially in vulnerable countries.
Support the development and implementation of disaster risk reduction plans at partner organization level that addresses the growing challenges of climate change, environmental degradation, urbanization and population growth.
Support programs and projects that promote risk aware urban planning in areas for housing, including sustainable and resilient building techniques, gender sensitive housing (including care solutions) and sustainable livelihood initiatives.
Strengthen the linkages between DRR and access to financial services and insurance, particularly for women: support partner organisations, particularly women's rights organisations and their members, to mobilise for resources, build inclusive partnerships, access financial services and assets to strengthen their capacity on DRR and become resilient and sustainable organisations.
Strengthen the language and strategies of resilience within our partner organizations: build resilience to external pandemic, socio-economic and financial shocks by helping partner

organisations identify vulnerabilities and increased risk rapidly and ensure they have the capacity and access to adequate social safety nets and policies that promote job-led growth.
Use integrated and holistic tools such as the ESIA, Gender and Power Analysis that have been developed for a number of projects/sub-programmes as a starting point to support colleagues and the partners to understand and analyse the norms, attitudes and values.
Strengthen capacity of partner organizations to collaborate with governments: We Effect works in countries where governments are shrinking spaces for civil society. Multi-actor approach functions at the local level, where people have the opportunity to address their interest to local authorities. It is a very important work to strengthen capacity of partner organisations for coordinating among the government, authorities and concerned organisations at both national and local levels, establishing a shared environmental data and knowledge platform. We Effect's Advocacy Helpdesk is a good source of support to capacity strengthening in this area.
Develop GBV referral systems: mapping key services available for supporting survivors of GBV and ensure that comprehensive and holistic GBV referral systems are available as part of building resilience or ensuring preparedness and prevention of DRR, as well as any kind of crisis.
Use feminist monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning methods: use participatory, qualitative methodologies and approaches to monitor, evaluate and learn from the programmes as well as ensure accountability and local ownership of the knowledge within the programmes.
At regional/global level:
Strengthen cross-regional collaboration and learning: work with partners in other regions to strengthen the knowledge and expertise within We Effect and partner organizations.
Strengthen alliances and networks: develop links with international/regional institutions for knowledge exchange and participate in global knowledge platforms.
Strengthen capacity of partner organizations: strengthen capacity for coordinating with local and national governments and concerned organisations to establish a shared environmental data and knowledge platform and develop early warning systems for vulnerable communities.
Build evidence as part of our MEAL: build evidence of how to work effectively with the private sector that ensures a rights-based approach. Consider a vetting system for working with private companies that excludes companies with a poor track record or history of human rights abuses. Take a public and vocal stance as We Effect not to work with those companies.
Creating a learning and reflexive culture: Create opportunities for knowledge and learning sharing amongst regions and partners to build our knowledge and capacity on our key result areas of the joint interim strategy.

About We Effect

We Effect is a development organisation founded in 1958 by the dominating enterprises and organisations within the cooperative movement in Sweden. We Effect is founded on the core cooperative principle of solidarity. We Effect operates within two thematic fields: sustainable rural development and adequate housing. We Effect currently has more than 190 partner organisations in 20 countries including farmer organisations, cooperative housing organisations and organisations that focus on gender equality and women's rights in their communities (We Effect 2018). Alongside *Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development,* the main human rights instruments that guide We Effect's work with environment and climate change are the *Paris Agreement*, and *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change*. Other key frameworks include *Beijing +20 Platform for Action, Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction,* together with *UN Convention to Combat Desertification,* and *the Convention on Biological Diversity*. These together with *Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Human Rights Based Principles, International Cooperative Alliance Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade Framework* form the basis of We Effect's work alongside with a *conflict sensitiveness* and *rights-based* approach.[1]

[1] These principles also represent the organization's position on the aforementioned issues: the do-not-harm principle; the precautionary principle; the no net loss principle; sustainable waste management; and genetically modified crops. See more in the We Effect's policy and thematic strategy for environment and climate issues.

1. Introduction

The world is currently experiencing overlapping systemic crises: poverty, the climate crisis, food insecurity, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, increasing conflicts, shrinking civic space, gender inequality, and now the coronavirus pandemic. When it comes to the climate crisis, the countries that are the least responsible for causing it are the ones suffering most from its effects. These countries are predominately based in the Global South. On the other hand, countries in the Global North are historically more responsible for the global emissions and thus the largest contributors to climate change. This reflects a dysfunctional system that permeates inequalities. The fact that inequalities overlap and impact each other is important – it makes it increasingly difficult for those experiencing them to overcome them. To overcome systemic poverty and inequality, a justice approach must be at the heart of the work. Demands for a more just world are emerging across all corners of societies, from school children, to activists and leaders.

As a learning organisation that puts its stakeholders first, We Effect has paid attention to the overwhelming evidence, and stories from our partners, that climate change and environmental degradation are putting development gains at risk, rolling back people's rights and increasing people's vulnerabilities to disasters. In our partner countries, which are on the frontlines of the climate crisis, there is an increasing magnitude and intensity of disasters which are affecting women, men and gender minorities, disproportionately. This is caused by systemic inequalities which mean different groups have different levels of vulnerability, and as they experience disproportionate impacts, that vulnerability tends to increase. Therefore, we must understand and address different inequalities and vulnerabilities in every step of our work.

The number of reported weather-related disasters has more than tripled since 1960s (WHO 2017). In, 2017, almost 90% of the deaths worldwide were due to hydrological, climatological and/or meteorological disasters (EM-DAT 2018, UNISDR 2017). The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that disasters are expected to cause 250 000 deaths per year between 2030 and 2050 (WHO 2017). The consequences of human-caused changes in the climate and extreme weather events are visible in "[p]olitical and economic instability, growing inequality, declining food and water security, and in increased threats to health and livelihoods." (CEDAW 2018:3). These extreme weather events such as floods, storms and droughts, tend to affect disproportionately women and girls, making them more vulnerable to

diseases, gender-based violence (GBV), food insecurity, among many other issues – due to deeply rooted norms, attitudes and values linked to female and male roles in society. However, while women may be vulnerable, they also have agency, experience and ideas to build their resilience. Traditional gender norms that are reinforced by patriarchal values can be challenged and new power dynamics created, which could give uphold to window of opportunity and change (Enarson and Chakrabati 2009, Le Masson et al 2016). It is, therefore, important to work with and for the people and communities affected, ensuring they have a say in the analysis and solutions.

We Effect's work is guided by key human rights instruments, including the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. The framework recognizes the importance of including "a gender, age, disability and cultural perspective in all policies and practices" (UNISDR 2015) and contributes to the international consensus that gender equality is crucial for increased resilience. Actions and interventions that promote more equitable gender relations by challenging power imbalances, transform gender roles and improve women and marginalized groups' position are key to building resilience, hence withstand the impact of disasters (FAO 2016).

The objective of this report is to set the context and build a collective understanding for We Effect to develop a global disaster risk management (DRM) plan and a Training Module with a gender perspective. We Effect and its partner organisations work in areas exposed to natural hazards, where certain impacts following natural hazards can turn into disasters. Therefore, for the development activities to be sustainable, DRR measures and actions needs to be integrated alongside with a gender perspective. DRR with a gender analysis is crucial for reducing vulnerability and risks by increasing preparedness and capacity at both the local as well as higher levels. With climate change likely to worsen the impact of disasters, it is of importance that We Effect is aware of gender patterns and power relations in order to support and increase the resilience for communities to handle environmental shocks and climate unreliability. Women and men, girls and boys, and non-binary persons are key to a climate resilient future and to make changes happen. Thus, We Effect should strive for leaving no one behind.[2] More than that, We

[2] We Effect subscribes to the SDG commitment "leaving no one behind".

Effect should define a clear strategy to do a joint work with humanitarian organisations in order to face disasters in an effective way.

This report is grounded in a comprehensive literature review, complemented by 15 interviews with We Effect Staff and partners. The DRM plan and Training Module will be developed in the second quarter of 2021.

2. Methodology

This chapter presents a description of the method employed in this report. First, there is a presentation of research strategy and design. This is followed by a review of the literature, desk study and qualitative in-depth interviews. Ethical considerations and self-reflexivity are also presented. Qualitative and quantitative data were obtained from various sources:

(iv) A review of the literature and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data on disaster risk, gender, and vulnerabilities

(v) Qualitative in-depth interviews (both with informants and respondents) – 15 interviews, covering We Effect staff and representatives from partner organizations in Mozambique, Uganda, and Philippines.

2.1. Literature review

A literature search was conducted at Stockholm Head Office using the following keywords:

R1 [Resilien*] AND [Vulnerab*] AND [women OR woman OR gender OR intersect*] AND [Disaster*] AND [Natural hazard*] AND [Climate*] AND [Guatemala OR Mozambique OR Philippines OR Uganda] AND [DRR OR Disaster Risk Reduction] AND [Adapt*]

[lang*] AND [English OR Swedish OR Spanish OR Portuguese]

The literature reviewed included quantitative studies including various risk and development indexes; qualitative research studies; and policy reports. The analysis of the literature is presented in section 3.

2.2. Qualitative interviews

Empirical research was conducted via key informant interviews. These included detailed, semi-structured interviews with We Effect staff and representatives from partner organizations in Mozambique, Uganda, and Philippines. These were chosen due to their vulnerability to, and experience of climate related disasters, as highlighted in the literature review. The sample of respondents was 15 people, and these were chosen based on role within

We Effect and partner organisation. Each interview was conducted with the participants' informed consent and each took between 60 and 90 minutes to complete. Given the abundance of quantitative literature on disasters in the countries, this research decided to focus on 'zooming in' more through detailed discussion about the lived experiences of disaster risk and delivering programming and DRR for the most vulnerable people and communities. This was complemented by documents, brochures, and organizational reports.

Semi-structured interviews were applied due to their flexibility, which opens opportunities for interviewees to raise additional or complementary issues and guide the discussion to areas of need and opportunity (ct. Bryman 2012). This created a more equitable setting and approach, where participants' priorities could be heard. There was an option for the staff and POs to choose either English, Portuguese or Spanish to conduct the interviews. Resultantly,12 interviews were conducted in English and 4 in Portuguese.

2.3. Ethical Considerations

Informed consent

Informed consent is of importance, and the participants should be briefed about design, obtaining of voluntary participation, and purpose. In line with The Swedish Research Council's Ethical Guidelines *(Vetenskapsrådet undated),* before starting all the interviews, the respondents were informed about the purpose of the study, and also asked if it was acceptable to record the interview, the respondents were also contacted afterwards if a citation was chosen and if they wanted to be anonymous in the report. This is what Kvale and Brinkman refer to as informed consent (Kvale and Brinkman 2009). In terms of anonymity they were asked if their position in the organization could be published, otherwise they would only be referred to as 'representative from xxx'. The respondents were contacted afterwards and were given the opportunity to approve quotes before inserting them in the report.

Self-reflexivity

Self-reflexivity is a process through which the researcher considers their power within the researcher-participant relationship; and how that power may impact the participant and their answers. The researcher should constantly 'self-reflect' on these power dynamics and take steps to strive for reciprocal relationships in the research process. Importantly, they should ensure they try to develop mutual respect, trust and confidence between the interviewer and

the interviewed. This requires the researcher to ensure the respondent feels safe to share their worldview, and honest feelings (Bryman 2012). The research process therefore, centers the worldview of the participant. It is fundamentally a process through which the researcher and participant construct knowledge together (Lempert, 2007).

3. Literature Review – Findings

3.1. Insights on potential locations of Disaster Risk in We Effect's countries of operation through integration of indices

Table 1 lists how We Effect's countries of operation perform against five global indexes on risk and resilience. The table with different indexes helps to give We Effect a picture of where the vulnerabilities to disaster – and need for DRR work – could be the highest.

Where the table is marked in red, is where the country is ranked in the top three 'worst' in the world for the specific index. Yellow shading is where the country is ranked the 'worst' ranked in the region for the specific index. Following the table, description of the different indexes is presented. It is important to note that there are key data gaps, which impact how accurate the data can be. For some countries there was no available data, and therefore they are represented by (-). They may face greater risks, but in terms of indexes such as the below, they may fall through the cracks.

Table 1: Different risk indexes We Effect's countries.

	HDI	GII	INFORM Risk Index	World Risk Index 2018	We Effect Risk Index 2014
Latin America					
Bolivia	0.693	0.450	4.3	4.58	11,2
Colombia	0.747	0.383	5.4	6.42	11,0
El Salvador	0.674	0.392	4.0	15.95	11,10
Guatemala	0.650	0.493	5.7	20.60	12,9
Honduras	0.617	0.461	5.3	10.19	11,8

Nicaragua	0.658	0.456	5.2	13.99	12,0
Africa					
Kenya	0.590	0.549	6.0	7.00	13,2
Malawi	0.477	0.619	4.9	8.02	13,0
Mozambique	0.437	0.552	6.2	9.52	14,5
Tanzania	0.538	0.537	5.6	-	12,5
Uganda	0.516	0.523	6.4	6.90	14,0
Zambia	0.588	0.517	4.3	6.88	12,8
Zimbabwe	0.535	0.534	5.1	10.23	12,8
Europe					
Albania	0.785	0.238	2.9	9.22	10,9
Bosnia Herzegovina	0.768	0.166	3.6	4.67	9,0
Republic of Kosovo	0,741	-	-	-	-
Moldova	0.700	-	3.0	3.84	8,5
North Macedonia	0.757	0.149	2.5	5.59	9,2
Asia					
Palestine	0.686	-	5.1	-	-
Sri Lanka	0.770	0.354	3.7	7.65	9,9
The Philippines	0.699	0.427	5.3	25.14	10,4

Human Development Index (HDI)

The HDI is a statistic index which includes life expectancy, education, and per capita income indicators, and it measures countries' levels of social and economic development. For example, a country scores a higher HDI when education level is higher, gross national income is higher etc. This index gives an overview, however the Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHID), which will be more explained below, accounts for inequality as

well which gives a more complex understanding of human development than HDI. **With the HDI the country that scores the lowest number is Mozambique with a score of 0,437.** Furthermore, the countries that scores the lowest in the different regions are Honduras (0,617), Moldova (0,700), Palestine (0,686) (UNDP 2019a).

Gender Inequality Index (GII)

The GII is an index for the measurement of gender disparity and inequality. It measures human development and inequalities in three different ways: reproductive health (measured by maternal mortality ratio and adolescent birth rates); empowerment (measured by proportion of parliamentary seats occupied by females and proportion of adult females and males aged 25 years and older with at least secondary education); economic status (measured by labor force participation) (see Figure 1 below). Furthermore, the higher the GII value means that there are more disparities between females and males and more loss to human development. Malawi is one of the countries that scores the highest (0,619) with the GII. Furthermore, the countries that scores the highest in the regions are Guatemala (0,493), Albania (0,238) and the Philippines (0,427) (UNDP 2019b).

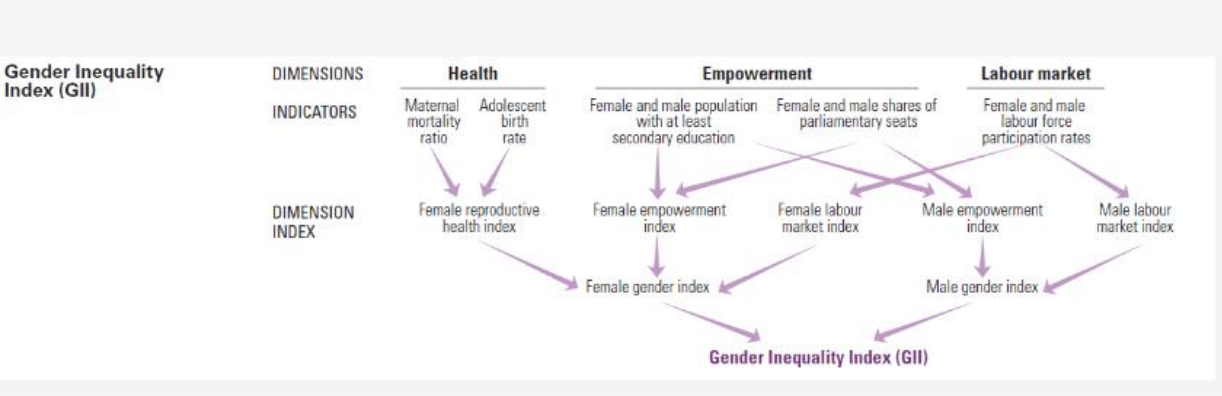

Figure 1: Gender Inequality Index (UNDP 2019b)

INFORM Risk Index

The INFORM risk index identifies where crises or disasters may occur and analyses the risk, it combines 50 different indicators that measure hazards (events that could occur), vulnerability (the susceptibility of communities to those hazards) and capacity (resources available that can alleviate the impact). The index considers: 1) Natural Factors: Tsunami, Earthquake, Drought, Flood, Epidemic and Tropical Cyclones; 2) Human Factors: Human Conflicts and conflict risks; 3) Socio-Economic factors: Inequality, vulnerable people,

deprivation and aid dependency; 4) Institutional factors: DRR, Governance; and, 5)Infrastructural factors: Communication, Physical infrastructure, Access to health system. See Figure 2 for a summary of indicators

The latest available iteration of the index, from 2019, covers 191 countries. The country, where We Effect works that scores the highest in terms of risk of disasters or crises is Uganda (6,3), coming in as the 17th most at risk country in the world. Furthermore, the countries that scores the highest in We Effect's working regions are Guatemala (5,5), the Philippines (5,5) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (3,7) (INFORM, 2019).

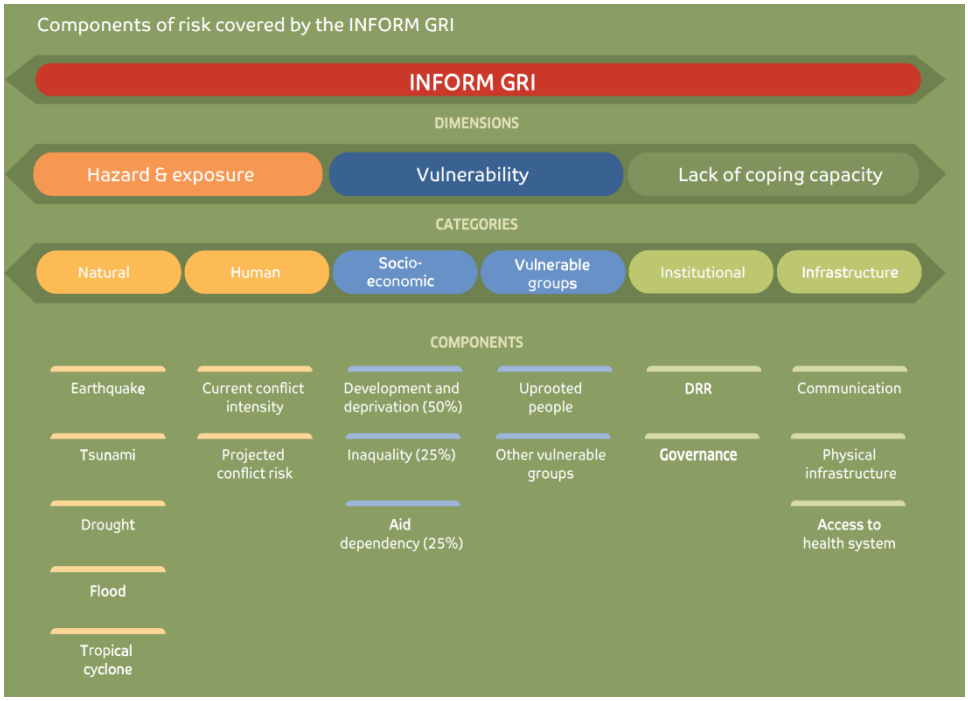

Figure 2: INFORM Risk Index (European Commission 2019)

World Risk Index 2018

The World Risk Index 2018 measures the disaster risk for 172 countries, based on their exposure to extreme natural events (e.g. cyclones, earthquakes etc.) and the country's capacity to respond to them (vulnerability). The individual index values are based on Geo-Information System (GIS) and represented in the form of maps. The index is divided into two dimensions which are exposure and vulnerability, which results in 27 indicators. Island states top the index since they are particularly affected by sea-level rise, a direct consequence of climate change. In terms of We Effect's countries of operation, the country with the highest score is the Philippines (25,14). Furthermore, the countries that scores the highest in the regions are Guatemala (20,60), Zimbabwe (10,23) and Albania (9,22) (Relief web 2018).

We Effect Vulnerability Index 2014

The We Effect's Vulnerability Index (WEVI) combines a country's risk of being affected by natural hazards with their indicators of their social and economic development and the inequalities. The data used for the risk of natural hazards is the Global Risk Data Platform (GRID), and where the highest risk for the population is level 10 and the lowest is 0 (zero). The social and economic development dimension draws on data from the Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI), where high scores indicate high levels of inequality and low scores indicate low levels of inequality. However, it is important to note that there are currently data gaps for several countries, so this measure may be strengthened over time, as those gaps are plugged. WEVI indicates that the most vulnerable country, in which We Effect works, is T Mozambique (14,5). Furthermore, the countries that scores the highest in the regions where We Effect Works are Guatemala (12,9), the Philippines (10,4) and Albania (10,9). See figure 3 for a breakdown of the indicators.

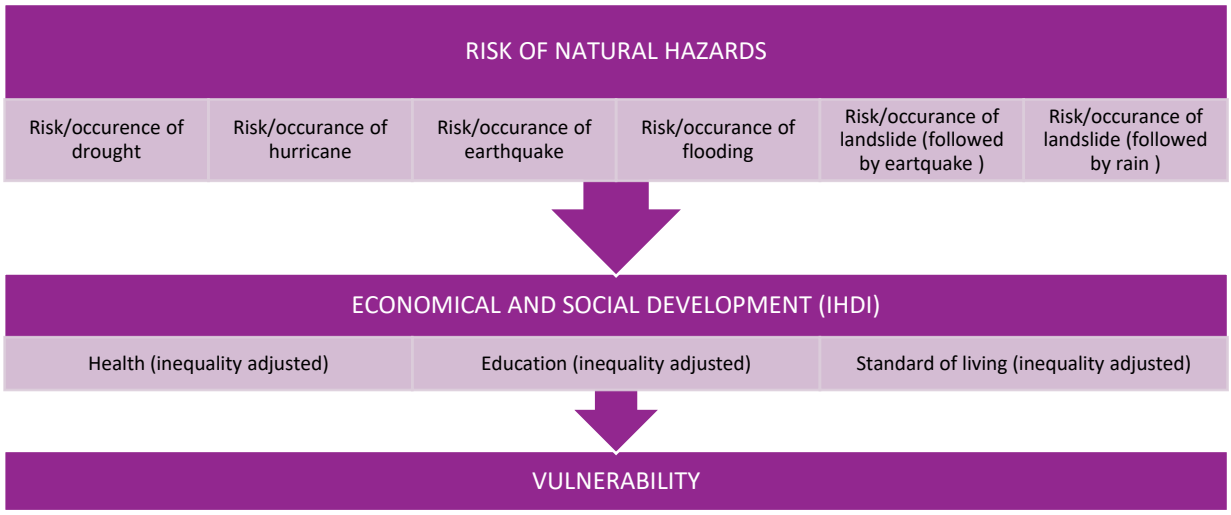

Figure 3: WEVI (We Effect 2014)

A review of 5 indexes on development, inequality and disaster risk

A review of 5 indexes on development, inequality and disaster risk have highlighted some key regions and areas of concern. Firstly, it emerges that several of our countries of operation in the African Continent are extremely vulnerable due to their human development levels and vulnerability to hazards and crises. Mozambique, Malawi and Uganda have emerged as some of the world's lowest scoring on human development, and some of the most vulnerable to

disasters. Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Zambia are not particularly far behind, when comparing relative scores on these indices.

The Philippines also emerges as extremely at risk, not just within the Asian continent, but when compared globally. It ranks as the third most at risk country of disasters on the World Risk Index 2018. Guatemala features consistently as one of the most vulnerable countries in the Latin America region; as does Albania in the European region.

As Table 1 indicates, all of We Effect's partner countries face development, inequality and disaster risks that need to be addressed and mitigated. The indictors help us to understand where the risks may be more pressing, or time-bound, and this helps us to consider where to start with deeper exploration for the purpose of this report. However, this does not mean those that scored less 'at risk' are not continued priorities.

3.2. Gender, climate change and vulnerability

Research within the field of disaster management and DRR has shown that a gender perspective, especially in terms of women's perceptions and experiences, has been systematically excluded in policy, in projects, and in research (Enarson and Morrow 1998:143). Traditionally, disaster management has been influenced by male ideas and experiences, because the spaces have been dominated by men, especially at leadership level. This has impacted who has been engaged within communities and affected populations, leading to a knowledge base that has strongly focused on men's ideas, experiences and needs. Hence, "[t]his legacy of unexamined male bias in research, theory, and practice helps explain why we have learned as little about men´s emotional work during disaster recovery and as about women's physical work. Gender relations and gendered power are still often unexamined, particularly in disaster research and practice [...]" (Enarson and Morrow 1998:4). There are many examples from practise that demonstrate this bias. For example, De Silva and Jayathilaka (2014) show that gender was not adequately addressed in a flood risk reduction project in the Gampaha District in Sri Lanka. They found that even though the communities experienced a significant reduction of flood damages after the project implementation, the impact on the community could have been much greater if the project had considered the gender aspects related to floods. The study stresses the importance of gender sensitivity within disaster management, since "[i]f gender planning was undertaken the impact would have been greater as gender gaps and gender imbalances could have been identified and necessary strategies could have been adopted to bridge the gender gap and reduce gender imbalances." (De Silva and Jayathilaka 2014:880)

While there have been increasing attempts to bring a gender perspective into disaster management over the last decade, it has been at an inadequate pace. There remains a lack of dedicated empirical research to women's and girls' experiences, and a broader gender analysis of disaster response and DRR. Most interrogations have been secondary reviews of existing studies (both quantitative and qualitative), rather than new research studies. Also, many of these have focused on survey or quantitative methods, that only includes gender as a standard demographic variable rather than applying a gender analysis. Yet, we know from on the ground experience, as well as emergent evidence from feminist researchers, that women, girls, boys, men and gender minorities, belonging to different age and socio-economic strata have distinct vulnerabilities, and this shapes the way they experience disaster, and also their ability to recover from it (Sultana, 2010; UNEP, 2014). A gender analysis which considers the lived experiences of different gender and social groups, as well as how gendered power operates in a society and a disaster space should be included. Quantitative methods may not be sufficient to examine the complex processes of social structures and another research bias is the one of past research, where the documentation and measures has been biased by a male perspective (Enarson and Morrow 1998:11-25). More in-depth qualitative methods should be applied to capture how gender, power and disasters operate. This not only serves to document differences in resilience practices and highlight gendered inequalities, but also challenges existing male dominated institutions and field of practice.

Sultana (2010) emphasises that despite considerable on weather-related disasters, limited attention has been given to the varied social implications of hazards, especially from a gender perspective. Gender in disaster and climate research may be growing, but it is often done so in a male/female binary, which fails to recognise how vulnerabilities can be 'intersectional'. Djoudi et al. (2016) reviews the literature regarding how gender is framed in climate change and disaster research. They stress that gender is often referred to in dichotomies of men/women. The dichotomies fail to capture the wide range of vulnerabilities when reinforcing women as a uniform and fixed group, thus ignoring other factors such as age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status and sexuality (Djoudi et al:250). It was also stressed that few intersectional considerations (e.g. multilevel analysis, social categories, power and emancipation) were considered. Social categories such as age and ethnicity were used as explanatory variables in statistical models rather than as determination of power and injustice (ibid:255). Overall, the studies took an additive approach rather than in-depth analysis of vulnerability and resilience. According to Sultana (2010), it is important to understand the *social relations that produce and reinforce gender differences and inequalities in any given context*, especially when relating to natural resources or natural hazards.

There has also been a 'feminization of vulnerability' reinforced by the research studies (Arora-Johnsson, 2011). This means that, while the disproportionate impacts of climate and disasters on women and girls are recognised, there has been little attempt to understand or highlight their agency in engaging with the climate, environment and disaster response. Arora-Jonsson (2011) underscores that a feminist response to climate and disasters is important, in order to "challenge masculine technical and expert knowledge about climate change, [and] question the tendency to reinforce gendered polarities, which work to maintain the status quo" (Djoudi et al. 2016:259). (Djoudi et al. 2016:254) and Galliard et al. (2017) emphasize through case studies from the Philippines, Indonesia and Samoa that patterns of vulnerability are gendered and contextual. This means that one-size-fits all approaches to 'gender' and DRR may be inappropriate, and that women should be involved in their design in each context. Ultimately, the dominant understanding of gender across DRR is derived from western, heteronormative, thinking. This makes gender minorities and those who do not perform their gender identity in the 'normative way, especially vulnerable in the case of disaster(s) where they face stigmatization, discrimination and harassment (Galliard et al. 2017). Gender inequalities weaken resilience, and therefore it is important to center gender transformation in resilience building work (UN, 2020). For example, Le Masson et al (2019) found that Gender Based Violence has direct impacts on women's an girls' capacities to build resilience. GBV also tends to spike in times of disaster. However, integrated DRR, resilience and GBV reduction work remain incredibly rare.

Climate change and Disasters create windows of space where gender norms can be challenged and shifted (Pelling, 2011; UNEP, 2014; Siddiqi, 2019). According to the UN (2020), in some regions, the impacts of climate change are also leading to important socio-economic shifts that are transforming traditional gender norms around economic activity, decision-making and leadership. Such changes have the potential to open-up new spaces for more inclusive peace and development processes: "*In Sudan, for example, resource scarcity – the result of conflict, drought, and exclusionary decision-making processes – has forced some pastoralist communities to change their migratory patterns, often leaving women behind in settled villages to manage households while men search for grazing land. In the absence of men, women take on new responsibilities, including those traditionally carried out by men. This trend is also found in other regions of the Sahel, such as the Lake Chad basin*". In another example, Moreno and Shaw (2018) examine changes in gender relations following an earthquake and tsunami in Chile 2010. They show that disasters can impact gender relations

and that even if women's vulnerability increases in the aftermath of a disaster, new opportunities for resilience emerge to counteract women's vulnerabilities. However, to ensure these changes are gender transformative towards women's rights, actors involved must conduct adept gender and power analysis, and risk mitigation in order to prevent negative outcomes, for example backlash against women. Thus, the context of a disaster opens up transformative space – but there can be positive and negative consequences (Le Masson et al, 2016). It can open for new opportunities where traditional gender roles can be challenged or where inequalities increase leaving marginalized groups even more vulnerable. Understanding the context and how power and opportunity circulate within it, is critical to harnessing the opportunity without harming women, girls and gender minorities. To do so, women must be understood as not solely passive recipients of aid, but rather change agents (Moreno and Shaw 2018:205ff).

To summarize, the literature converges on three key points:

4. There is a critical need for more contextualized vulnerability and resilience analysis and programming approaches, since there are pervasive gaps in both theoretical and empirical evidence in DRR and disaster research.
5. The need to shift away from viewing women as a homogenous group, and to include an intersectional analysis which recognises that more vulnerability and resilience is impacted by overlapping aspects of inequality.
6. Further, the evidence base still lacks sufficient investigation of gender minorities and non-normative gender identities.

Therefore, we conclude, based on the evidence, that it is useful for We Effect and its partners and stakeholders, for us to introduce an intersectional approach to critically examine and understand vulnerability and resilience within structures of disaster management.

3.3. Theories and Evidence for Gender Transformative DRR

What is DRR? General components

According to We Effect's Environment and Climate Change (ECC) Policy and Strategy, Disaster risk reduction "aims to reduce the damage caused by natural hazards like earthquakes, floods, droughts and cyclones, through an ethic of prevention. It is the concept

and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyse and reduce the causal factors of disasters."

In the disaster risk management cycle, there are two phases such as: the pre-disaster phase (mitigation[3] and preparedness[4]); the post-disaster phase (response[5] and recovery[6]) (UNDP 2012: 31). DRR is a key component in long-term community development, and link disaster preparedness with mitigation activities; it is considered a policy objective of anticipating and reducing risk. Disaster Risk Management (DRM) aims to reduce the risk of disaster(s), so it is considered an implementation of DRR (UNISDS, 2015).

Some DRR methods in sustainable rural development are: selection of sustainable agricultural practices; crop and weather insurance; livestock insurance; farm-land insurance schemes; weather prevention schemes, early warning systems; land use planning and risk prevention plans. For adequate housing it is possible to name: insurance schemes, weather prevention schemes; early warning systems; use of resilient construction material; land use planning and risk prevention plans. We Effect acknowledges that extreme weather events decrease the safety, resilience, and sustainability of people, housing, assets and settlements, especially the poorest and those who live in inadequate houses. However, in addition, risk blind urban planning, such as infrastructure and housing construction built on floodplains or resulted in deforestation or pollution of water sources can have serious impacts on the environment and increase climate and disaster risk.

DRR in We Effect and in partner organisations

According to the ECC Policy and Strategy, the gender equality perspective must be present in all actions, by assuring the access of women to all methods above mentioned and through advocacy work for inclusion and policy changes, for instance.

We Effect is guided by diverse human rights instruments and they are present in We Effect's ECC Policy. Currently, the instrument that gives We Effect the foundation to tackle and

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[3] Example of mitigation activities; review and implement legal frameworks, training and education, agricultural mitigation measures (e.g. crop diversification, food storage programs), planting forests to buffer against storms.

[4] Examples of preparedness activities; public awareness raising, research, hazard mapping, early warning systems.

[5] Examples of emergency response activities; provision of food and medicine, building temporary shelters, setting up search and rescue teams, addressing reproductive and health needs of women, addressing security and safety concerns to prevent gender-based violence

[6] Mainstream DRR, strengthen national systems for DRR, review existing policy, build local and national capacities for increased resilience, address housing and land tenure issues.

manage disasters as a result of natural hazards is the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which sets four clear priorities for action:

(1) Understanding disaster risk;

(2) Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk;

(3) Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience;

(4) Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction).

The Beijing +20 Platform for Action Framework is also part of We Effect's guiding instruments, and has as base the advancement of women's rights. It is, however, never enough to highlight that gender equality must be the starting point of our work on DRR.

Partner organisations have good examples of dealing with disaster risks. For instance, Latin America's housing and habitat programme VIVHA invested on capacitation for increased ability of women and men to advocate for legal reforms in civil protection, disaster prevention and mitigation with a preventative approach and increased citizen participation. The Institute of Philippine Cooperatives and Social Enterprise Development (IPCSED) is a partner organisation in the Philippines that is involved with providing safe housing and relocation to informal settler living in danger zones, perennially inundated with floods. LEAP programme in Eastern Africa is another example, where sustainable agriculture land management (SALM) practices especially fodder storage, crop diversification and early planting and microinsurance were promoted to farmers, that dealt with droughts, floods and extreme cold temperatures in 2019. Women farmers are also supported to have equal access to financial services and are offered trainings and safe spaces to exercise their rights to prevent and cope with disaster risks. The year of 2019 was also marked by the two cyclones Idai and Kenneth, being the first time that two cyclones targeted Mozambique in the same season. Partner organisations worked stronger to support the local communities, together with governments, civil society organisations and local initiatives. Capacitation and inclusion on early warning systems to deal with such events were also introduced in the communities by technical partners.

What is the relationship of DRR and gender equality?

Since women and girls are disproportionately affected by disasters, there can be no effective DRR and no sustainable approach to resilience building, that does not advance gender equality and challenge the root causes of gender inequality. We Effect acknowledges that women are often prevented from accessing financial services, trainings, information, and even to exercise their rights – due to harmful gender norms.

Practitioners, such as Care International (2016), emphasise that "*Women's workload, their limited decision-making power, and unequal access to and control over resources, prevent them for adopting effective strategies to prepare, adapt and respond to disasters and climate change. By better understanding the differential experiences of women, and through better understanding of how to incorporate gender sensitive and transformative practices in development and humanitarian work, actors can better support women and their communities build their resilience to climate change and disasters, as well as other shocks and stresses, and in the process address the underlying causes of poverty and social injustice*". Care International's theory of change focusses on 3 pillars: a) building the agency of people of all genders and life stages, b) changing relations between them and c) transforming structures so that all live life in full gender equality.

While women and girls face distinct vulnerabilities to climate-related risks – due fundamentally to gender inequality – they also play a critical role in supporting their communities through them, and in building resilience in the long term. Women are often a critical resource and agents of change during a disaster: they have local knowledge and important expertise, they are often able to gain access to hard-to-reach communities and those most marginalised within them, including the realities of women, girls and the community as a whole and they offer crucial insight into how to engage with key stakeholders. Disaster response is a critical opportunity through which exclusionary gender norms and power dynamics can be challenged, or they can be reaffirmed. There are several key approaches that have been advocated by women, and practitioners on the frontlines of disaster contexts:

1. According to practitioners, such as ActionAid and Care International, **supporting women's leadership** in emergencies is critical to ensuring all the communities' needs are met, and women's and girls' rights are supported. Further, by increasing women's leadership in disaster contexts, organisations prioritising the rights of women at a time when their rights are most violated and when they can be at their most vulnerable.
2. DRR is a gender transformative process which puts women and girls at its centre and values the significant role of women's leadership at a local level as part of DRR. This includes ensuring **direct funding to women-led and women's rights organisations** who are working on the frontlines of disaster contexts (ActionAid, 2016).
3. Another way to ensure gender equality is embedded in DRR is to **acknowledge the multiple disproportionate responsibilities that women face, including unpaid care work**, and embed supportive and practical solutions to address these barriers. For example, implement programme interventions that promote the value of

unpaid work, as well as the need for men to take more responsibility for this work, recognising that all genders are capable of doing unpaid work.

4. Further, an **intersectional approach which understands the specific needs of groups** of women and girls is essential. This may include participatory activities such as community hazard, vulnerability and capacity mapping; loss and damage assessment (CAN, 2020); girl-led activities (Plan International, 2019; Forbes-Genard and Van Niekerk, 2018); 'missing voices' approaches, for example (UNICEF 2019; UN-Women, 2020).
5. At a macro, or meso scale, this includes **gender responsive budgeting** which accounts for resilience building in a holistic, whole of society approach. To do so, budgeting must be adequate to address the exclusions and vulnerabilities that women and girls face and that affect their resilience e.g. GBV prevention and response; women's health; leadership opportunities; targeted distribution of services; income generation and skills training; nutrition and household food insecurity and disaggregated data (UN Women, 2019).

This section briefly presented that, not only by learning from our partner organisations but also by learning from outside in a cross-organisational learning process, We Effect can take successful practices as examples to strengthen the capacities in working on a gender transformative DRR.

4. Understanding We Effect's Capacities: insights from staff and partners

As a result of the literature review (see section 2), we decided to focus in on the three most vulnerable countries that it identified, as case studies through which to explore our needs and capacities in DRR. These countries are: the Philippines, Mozambique and Uganda. We conducted 15 interviews with We Effect staff and partners in the countries and reviewed key policy and project documentation. This section summarises their risk contexts and then explores, through the interviews, We Effect's and partners' needs and capacities with regards to DRR from a gender perspective.

4.1 Context analysis

Disaster Risks and Hazards Identified in the Literature

The Philippines is ranked third worldwide amongst all the countries with the highest risks (25,14) according to the World Risk Index 2018. It is estimated that 60% of the country's total land area is exposed to multiple hazards, and where 74% of the population are exposed to their impact (UNDRR 2019b). Due to the geographical location and context, Philippines face natural hazards such as typhoons, storm surges and rising sea levels. Since Philippines is located within the *Ring of Fire*, which is between the Eurasian and Pacific tectonic plates, the country also faces earthquakes and volcanoes (i.e. the Taal Volcano in Batangas). Flooding, landslides, droughts and tsunamis further contribute to the exposure of natural hazards. However, hydro-meteorological events accounted for over 80% of the natural hazards during the past 50 years (ibid.). Since 1990, the country has been affected by 565 disaster events and much of the damage has been resulting from recurrent typhoons, including Ondoy and Pepeng in 2009, Washi in 2011, Bopha in 2012, Haiyan in 2013, Koppu in 2015, Haima in 2016, and Mangkhut in 2018. In terms of climate change, Philippines is among the top countries at risk, due to sensitive ecological systems (e.g. reef and marine fauna), and large number of coastal populations. Another coastal country that is ranked high on risk indexes is Mozambique.

Mozambique faces a range of natural hazards including cyclones, droughts and floods but also earthquakes and landslides. Cyclones are the most significant and recurring risk, affecting ca 2 million people per year in the coastal areas. Droughts are also affecting many people however the number of exposed people can be substantially higher in dry years (GFDRR 2019). The tropical cyclone Idai made a landfall at the port of Beira on 14 March 2019. The cyclone is described to be the worst natural hazard to hit southern Africa in at least two decades. Millions of people in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe were affected. Only six weeks after, the cyclone Kenneth made a landfall in northern Mozambique, this is the first time (in recorded) history two strong cyclones have hit the country the same season (UNICEF 2019). However, Mozambique also faces floods due to being located downstream of nine international river basins of which Zambezi, Limpopo and Rovuma are the largest ones. Mozambique scores the lowest from the risk matrix that was presented earlier with HDI 0,437 and the country is ranked 180/189 in 2017. Mozambique is among the countries that are not projected to experience high volumes of climate driven migration, however it is surrounded by countries that most likely will. By 2050, Sub-Saharan Africa is projected to have 86 million climate migrants. As for the northern region and rural areas, the exploitation of gas and natural resources have and will affect marine ecosystems and generate resettlements (EoS Maputo 2019).

Uganda is regularly affected by droughts, earthquakes, floods, landslides and volcanoes. Environmental degradation and underdeveloped irrigation systems, at the community level, are contributing factors to increasing drought risk. It is estimated that climate change is likely to increase average temperatures to 1,5 degrees Celsius by 2030, this in combination with rainfall variability and rising temperatures are expected to lead to sever cases of droughts and water scarcity. Flooding, and particularly in low-land areas presents one of the largest risks since Uganda is affected almost every year by floods (GFDRR 2019). The country that scores the highest on the INFORM risk index is Uganda (6,4).

Disaster Risks and Hazards Identified by the respondents

Almost all respondents from these three countries mentioned that **changes in the climate** and **weather patterns** are a key challenge. They underscored that that the likelihood of a drought or flood has increased now compared to the past. It was stressed that especially unreliable rainfall made it hard for farmers to predict the weather and resulted in the loss of crops and livelihood, but also informal settlements placed near water were vulnerable. It was also emphasised that the risk of landslides and floods can contribute to waterborne diseases, affecting especially women who might collect water, showing that climate change is a health issue as well as a gender issue.

On top of climate related risks in these three countries, there is an additional factor, **environmental degradation,** which heightens disaster risks for the most vulnerable communities. There were two key concerns raised:

Respondents raised concerns about a **range of unsustainable land use practices** and methods in all three countries, which are heightening disaster risks. For example, using wood for fuel, charcoal burning, the use of GMO and agrochemicals, and unsustainable farming systems. In Mozambique, the government recently approved the use of genetically modified seeds, which contribute to environmental degradation. This has created an additional challenge to disincentive poor farmers from using them and choosing more sustainable farming techniques instead.

> "O uso de sementes geneticamente modificadas, afirmando que elas são mais sustentáveis. Ações de lóbi e advocacia e formações estão a ser exercidas de forma que haja mudança de atitude e das políticas nocivas contra esse fenómeno." (Interview 14, representative from AMPCM-Mozambique)

The use of genetically modified seeds, saying that they are more sustainable. Lobbying and advocacy and training are being carried out so that there is a change in attitude and in the harmful policies against this phenomenon.

A related concern is the continued use of some traditional, but unsustainable, farming methods. This was raised as an issue across all three countries. One participant emphasises that, "[f]armers are still cultivating using the traditional rudimentary methods, this farming methods is being done on the hill and slopes, being a mountainous high area, and this affects the soil because there is a lot of rundown of the soil due to heavy rainfall." (Interview 7, representative from Okoro Growers Coffee Cooperative Union-Uganda)

Finally, the major issue brought up by all countries was **deforestation**. Deforestation is a pervasive and growing phenomenon across the countries. Respondents recognized that there are many poor people who have basic needs, and they perceive sustainable land management and agricultural systems to be slow in producing immediate results. Due to their immediate food security needs, they therefore feel they have no other choice but to deforest. A sustainable practice may take years to be implemented and require significant unpaid labour investment, so sustainable practices are to some extent pitted against harmful practices. Respondents suggested that We Effect, and other stakeholders should place more emphasis on reforestation and preservation to withstand the impacts of climate change, to counter this damaging trend:

Outro aspecto é o reflorestamento e haver zonas de preservação para as pessoas valorizarem os recursos que tem. As pessoas deveriam criar florestas comunitárias para promoção de sustentabilidade, como desenvolver atividades de apicultura e outras que geram lucros da floresta. Deveria haver outras atividades fora o uso da madeira para carvão. (Interview 15, representative from FOFeN-Mozambique)

Another aspect is reforestation and preservation zones for people to value their resources. People should create community forests to promote sustainability, such as developing beekeeping and other forest-generating activities. There should be other activities besides the use of wood for coal.

4.2 Disaster risk reduction and gender analysis across We Effect

This section summarises how respondents reflected on the need for, and potential to integrate DRR with a gender perspective across We Effect.

Building a common understanding on DRR

Most respondents acknowledged that there is a concern and desire to start working and/or work more with DRR although under which premises and how varied among the answers.

Participants felt there lacked a clear definition of 'Disaster Risk Reduction' across We Effect.

Several definitions were used stating that it was either a tool to manage the risk, or a systematic process to reduce risk, or a mechanism to identify hazards, as well as concept used for reporting. In some answers DRR seems to be new and for others the opposite. One respondent stressed that DRR is a new concept, whereas another respondent said that DRR is something that was taught during one's education in university.

Regardless of the varied terminologies, almost all stressed the importance of including more DRR in their everyday work due to changes in the climate. They also emphasised the need to implementing and conduct more trainings with staff and partner organisations on what DRR activities there are, and which ones to implement in a specific context. Trainings, material and education of DRR was requested both by the We Effect staff and partner organizations. Hence, one respondent emphasise that not only is it important to understand the meaning of the DRR but also to use language and terminologies that the communities and members understand, since they might already be working with DRR but not call it explicit DRR:

> We don't really have a problem on that, but it is really, you need to make it understood to the local community, using terminologies that they can understand. […] At the same time we have to popularize same terminologies to relate it to a bigger context in which they can also understand. Then also providing spaces for the women to talk about it, in a more confident way. (Interview 4, representative from We Effect-Philippines)

This quote also stresses the importance of not only using terminologies that the community understands but also having safe places for women to talk about disasters, vulnerabilities, resilience and DRR.

It is important for We Effect to build a clear framework around DRR and gender equality, with capacity building for staff and partners. This should include terminologies that are accessible

across stakeholders and contexts. This will prevent fragmented understandings and responses.

Appetite for doing gender transformative DRR

Almost all respondents **recognized that gender equality is crucial in regard to DRR**. When talking about which groups and/or individuals that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, 'women' as a category came up most frequently in the answers along with children, farmers and the elderly. Some also emphasized that the LGBTQI+ community, indigenous people and persons with (dis)abilities were vulnerable in the case of a disaster and/or affected by the impacts of climate change. For example, "Women, children, indigenous people, minorities and farming families are all vulnerable to disasters." (Interview 10, representative from Farmcoop-Philippines). However, there was limited and explicit connections between men and boys in relation to vulnerability.

Participants demonstrated an interest in doing DRR in a gender transformative way. They demonstrated awareness of the potential impacts of over simplistic 'tag on' gender approaches. Several spoke of the risks of homogenising groups of women and men through of gender stereotyping in the context of DRR. For example, they described how it runs the risk of creating fragmented and simplistic solutions and interventions that in turn reinforce harmful gender norms rather than challenge them, thus reinforcing gender inequality. When asked why it is important to have a gender perspective when working with DRR and/or facing changes in climate and weather-related events, several references were made to the inclusion of women working within the agricultural sector in the understandings such as:

> I think gender perspective is very important in the sense that in most cases women are more affected by climate change. In agriculture, most of the work is done by women while men find jobs in companies such as construction or mining companies. Women are the ones that stay home and continue the farming. (Interview 8, representative from We Effect-Mozambique)

> It is very important because women girls are the most vulnerable, they are the people that are more exposed to the impact of climate change, they are the people that are in more contact with the ecosystems e.g. if you see our gender norms you will see, who takes water? Women. Who takes firewood? Women. So, because of the social division of the work, the women are more exposed to and work more with natural resources and as long as the climate change

> impacts this strong it will make life hard for women. (Interview 12, representative from We Effect-Mozambique)

These quotes refer to the unequal division of labour between women and men. They emphasise that in some contexts women are the ones mainly working in the agricultural sector and thus are dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods. As a result, they feel disproportionate impacts from climate change. Women are often responsible for collecting water, gathering and producing food, and take care of the children and elderly. However, with climate change and natural hazards these tasks are becoming more difficult, resulting in disproportionate share of the extra domestic and caregiving work for the women. Respondents underscored that climate change is not only increasing the burdens on women and girls but also limiting their opportunities for education and income generation, and increasing their exposure to violence, including sexual assaults. Therefore, it is important for programming and policies to include social injustices and their root causes, otherwise inequalities are likely to worsen the impacts of climate change.

Respondents noted that although women have a crucial role to play in climate change adoption and mitigation, they are often excluded. Women have the knowledge and understandings of what is needed to withstand the impacts and come up with solutions, but they are overlooked within the field of DRR. Restricted land rights, lack of access to financial resources, trainings and technology, as well as limited access to political decision-making prevent women having an active role in tackling climate change. Respondents also highlighted the need to make women's work visible, since they are oftentimes not recognised in their care work, needing to do more on the paid work to be recognised. It is essential to recognize that both women and men are providers and caregivers and take into consideration both the unpaid and paid work when planning an intervention or programme so that the women will not be overburden. Furthermore, when linking women with stereotypical beliefs of being the natural 'caregiver', The process of naturalization for some social categories contributes to homogenize e.g. 'women' and in turn treat all of them that belongs to 'women' sharing natural attributes such as victim, caregiver etc. When mentioned, elderly women (and the few cases with elderly men) are identified exclusively in terms of vulnerability, and not ever in relation to resilience. The possibilities for the elderly to be actors of change seems to be minor when not including resilience and agency. When women are repeatedly constructed to be vulnerable, powerless and with no agency to act, it reproduces the construction of women as one homogenous group (c.f. Mohanty 2003). Hence, cultural norms or gender roles can sometimes limit women's ability to make decisions or restrict movement in disaster situations. One respondent stress this:

> I think it is very important, take into consideration the gender lens, I want to share one thing from the cyclone Idai. Sometimes in rural areas the men work out of the house where they can be working in mines, forests, in markets selling products but the women have many domestic responsibilities, they are the one staying at home take care of the children and house and field, but also have less power of decision and less liberty. But when we have a flood or cyclone that woman don't leave the house until she have the authorization from the man because we had cases where the woman refused to leave the house. In some cases, the women don't feel herself with enough authority to take decision in situation of emergency. (Interview 12, representative from We Effect-Mozambique)

When talking about affected households only in terms of 'men and women' it reinforces heteronormative tendencies of only including (hetero-) men and women as the normal and solely constellation, leaving everything else as the othering, and "[t]hose who do not fit into this gender binary are stigmatized on the basis of sexuality and gender identity."(Gaillard et al. 2017:432). 'Women' and 'men' (and 'girls' and 'boys') are mostly described by the respondents as binary and the only categories of gender. In relation to 'women' and 'men', no other gender identities are included, it is only restricted with some few references to LGBTQI+ community. It tends to fix some gender identities as abnormal, risking reproducing norms of heterosexual and binary gender identities as superior, which restricts the possibilities of change in power relations and thus make some individual and groups invisible in DRR.

Processes of hegemonic masculinities runs the risk of reproducing toxic masculinities, which derives from stereotypical and normative assumptions in the society e.g. men have to be strong and provide for the family when a disaster occurs. However, the men face pressure when not being able to fulfill stereotypical roles and may therefore seek harmful coping strategies e.g. drinking or the stigmatization of seeking psychosocial support. One respondent highlighted that when stress is put on the family due to a disaster, it can result in GBV if the man takes out the aggression on the wife. Although a disaster may be triggered by a natural hazard, its effect on the society is grounded in the social system in which it takes place. One respondent problematizes that a disaster can disrupt social structures and emphasizes they very structures of marginalization:

> Marginalização é a privação de meios de vida devido a políticas sociais e econômicas que excluem um certo grupo de pessoas; políticas que não permitem o acesso para todos, que não olham as pessoas semelhantes,

> privilegiando um grupo e deixando um grupo para trás. (Interview 5, representative from AGRICOA-Mozambique)

> *Marginalization is the deprivation of livelihoods due to social and economic policies that exclude a certain group of people; policies that do not allow access for everyone, who do not treat people as similar, privileging one group and leaving one group behind.*

As it has been discussed previously, the vulnerability reduction and resilience building discourse has been influenced and dominated by the natural scientific and top-down approaches however by recognizing social heterogeneity, inequalities and power, it opens up to examine explicit and implicit assumptions that can "[r]eveal agency and emancipatory pathways in adaptation processes by providing a better understanding of how the differential impacts of climate change shape, and are shaped by, the complex power dynamics of existing social and political relations" (Chaplin et al. 2019:10). With inclusive practices, marginalized and vulnerable people should have agency and greater voice over decisions that will affect their everyday lives and thus resilience to natural hazards and disasters. Hence, vulnerability reduction and resilience building should also build on local knowledge, account for power relations and contexts, facilitate ownership and agency. Therefore, it is of importance to include qualitative and participatory studies, consulting the communities. A simplistic understanding of DRR reduces the possible long term and sustainable impact of any interventions.

Tailored capacity strengthening

Respondents requested tailored capacity building work, for and with We Effect staff, partner organisations as well as their members. Respondents emphasised that the trainings should differ, depending on the need, and some wanted to have an expert coming in and teach them for several days, whereas some wanted to have material to use and learn from. contextual and tailored training needs were frequently highlighted in the answers.

> We would wish to have developed material, and if we are running a training it would be good to have a generic training and develop that depending on the context. But also depending on some of the vulnerabilities. You may have a generic lens on looking at disaster, but it is actually different depending on the context. (Interview 4, representative from We Effect-Philippines)

To continue the track of having contextual trainings and capacity building, one respondent presents the involvement of the community in the process of developing trainings and/or plans for DRR to be of importance:

> They [the communities] must be involved and their knowledge should be considered. Additionally, some practices can be good in one place but not in other. The involvement of communities in all the processes is very important and we have to work to have local institutions that can support the community in the resilience process. (Interview 12, representative from We Effect-Mozambique)

One challenge raised in the interviews was the gap between naming DRR as important and actually implementing DRR in practice. This gap was explained by some respondents as a need for more budget and more staff allocated to work with DRR and the ECCR platform. Another critical challenge is the effective involvement of communities. Another challenge that was brought up was the limited knowledge of DRR that some communities have, and this goes into the limited governmental support. Especially the lack of early warning systems was identified to be one of the major challenges. One respondent problematizes that even if the government have a ministry for disaster preparedness there is still a challenge to prepare the communities and train people:

> We don't see much of government coming to prepare people in the communities, to be disaster prepared. We only see the minister of disaster come out after a disaster has occurred, that is when you realize that there is a minister for disasters. (Interview 7, representative from Okoro Growers Coffee Cooperative Union-Uganda)

Another respondent also emphasises this problem, that even if the government has been able to legislate and develop policies for example regarding climate change adaptation and disaster management plans there is still a challenge "[s]o walking the talk is the biggest challenge in this region. Plans are there on DRR, on policies and on so many climate related issues but the response is something else." (Interview 9, representative from We Effect-Kenya). This section will be developed further in 4.3 Emerging challenges and issues. However, one respondent highlights that "Estamos constantemente aprendendo, a aprendizagem é uma coisa dinâmica." (Interview 14, representative from AMPCM-Mozambique). *We are constantly*

learning, learning is a dynamic thing. This part leads us into the next section regarding DRR and gender.

Another key concern is how to effectively integrate DRR with the other perspectives and approaches that We Effect is working with. There seemed to be a widely held concern of how to make DRR to be of added value, and integrated, rather than something that is just an add on, which might result in additional work. Overall there seems to be a will and desire to work more with DRR, however the tools and/or capacity building seems to be lacking to some extent according to the answers.

Section 4.1 highlighted some key concerns amongst We Effect's staff, partners and stakeholders in terms of DRR and gender equality. In summary, these included:

- Need to build a common understanding about DRR under a gender perspective at We Effect and partner organisations, including a common use of DRR terminologies;
- Need to develop tailored DRR with a gender perspective material and trainings, that are easy and accessible to the partners and rights-holders;
- Need to work with networking and on advocacy actions, to remove the gap between existing legislations and what is done in practice by governments when dealing with a disaster.
- Need to include a gender transformative DRR approach in all our work, always assuring the constant participation and capacitation of rights-holders.

4.3 Emerging challenges and issues

This section presents two key challenges and issues for We Effect, that were raised by participants in the interviews. These include: access to gender responsive early warning systems; shrinking civic space and increase in violence against women and girls in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. These have consequences for our DRR work, but also inform what kind of steps we can take to build a gender transformative approach in our future work.

Limited access to (gender responsive) early warning systems

Early warning systems are crucial to disaster preparedness, which in turn is central to building resilience for households and communities. Early warning systems are defined as "the set of capacities needed to generate and disseminate timely and meaningful warning information to enable individuals, communities and organizations threatened by a hazard to prepare and to act appropriately and in sufficient time to reduce the possibility of harm or loss" (UNISDR

2009). Many vulnerable areas remain lacking these systems due to the limited access to information, capacitation, services, governmental will, among other reasons. Also, a gender unaware approach to early warning systems will likely be unequal, which can also increase the marginalization and vulnerability of groups. One of the challenges that occurred for all the regions was the lack of early warning systems, especially the case of Idai in Mozambique:

> Access to information. Some people say that knowledge is power. If the people don't have knowledge what is climate change and early warning systems, what can we do to be more resilient? They will never change. (2019-12-13 Lina E.S)

Marginalized groups tend to participate less in early warning system activates and initiatives due to their domestic roles, mobility challenges, literacy levels, access to formal and informal dissemination channels or gendered assumptions (e.g. that men represent a household). The first step for gender a transformative approach is to acknowledge for gender and include considerations regarding norms, gender stereotypes, and cisnormative assumptions. Gender analysis is another critical component to understand the given context in which norms, gendered power and gender roles structure the shape of the families and communities. What has been shown earlier is the challenge to include communities in a context of climate change, and that there seems to be a lack from the government side to facilitate and 'be on the ground' when a disaster strikes. By including a rights-based approach to disasters, it recognizes that disaster-affected communities are rights holders and governments are duty bearers whom have the obligation to address the needs of their citizens.

Shrinking civic space

Another challenge that occurred in the answers were in regard to shrinking civic space in different types of forms. Around the the world, it has been shown that the space for "civic activism" and democratic freedom has decreased. Women, indigenous peoples, young people and people with disabilities are often overlooked in disaster management and in climate change negotiations, hence they remain unheard (IIED 2019). Environmental degradation and the effects of climate change not only affect the planet and biodiversity itself, but it is also a source of a great climate (in)justice. One respondent highlights the issue of shrinking civic space in relation to the cyclone Idai:

> This is a clear indication [people not being able to travel to Beira in the aftermath of the cyclone Idai] of shrinking space as much as the government might be suspicions that individuals who could go and influence local people to vote a different party or something like that, so when there are extreme conditions you can see signs of intolerance and shrinking space happen. (Interview 8, representative from We Effect-Mozambique)

This quote stresses the challenge of shrinking civic space for civil society in a context of natural hazards. Another aspect that was brought up by some respondents was the threats against human rights defenders, especially in Latin America. Human rights defenders play an important role in the promotion and protection of human rights. Environmental human rights defenders are people who speak up to protect rights associated to the environment, land and territory. They are often community leaders or advocates, and many of them are indigenous people. However, being an environmental human rights defender has deadly consequences. According to Front Line Defenders, environmental human rights defenders are three times as likely to suffer attacks, and 77% of human rights defenders in 2018 advocated or worked on land, indigenous people or environmental rights. Environmental human rights defenders face heightened risks and suffer grave violations of their rights. They are subjected to killings, threats and intimidation, stigma and criminalization from state and non-state actors. The UN released a report where attention is drawn to an increased competition for natural resources that in turn generates social conflicts between local communities and corporations.[7] Women human rights defenders are also subject to the same risks as any human right defender, but as women, they are also targeted for or exposed to gender-specific threats and gender specific violence. They are more likely to face psychological and physical threats, as well as threats and attacks against their families and loved ones (CONCORD, 2020). In this context, women's rights organisations are more affected by the shrinking civic space. Not only its members may suffer gender-specific threats but also these organisations receive lower amounts of funds. This way, crises such as the Covid-19 and extreme weather events make it much more challenging to tackle and to give equal opportunities to women and men to overcome that.

There have also been instances of shrinking civic space happening globally for youth led organizations and their initiatives for social change as they are exposed to risks such as normative resistance, threats and violence. Some of the most common challenge to children's safe and meaningful engagement relates to adults, and their resistance to children speaking out, and even threatening (CONCORD, 2020). One recent example sheds light to the need of diversity in environmental activism, where the Ugandan activist Vanessa Nakate (the founder

[7] https://www.escr-net.org/news/2019/un-resolution-recognizes-environmental-defenders

of Youth for Future Africa and the Rise Up Movement) was cropped out from a photo with white activists at the 2020 Davos climate summit. One respondent stress:

> I like the young girl from Sweden [Greta Thunberg] unfortunately she is more vocal in English speaking countries and probably in Europe, it would be interesting to have and should have a lot of people fighting with her if we could ensure that her message come through to the young populations in Africa and Mozambique. (Interview 8, representative from We Effect-Mozambique)

Globally children and young people are leading the way in climate action and climate movements. But despite the incredible work that they are doing, and while trying to raise awareness and save the world, they are also facing other battles in the form of systematic sexism and racism from adults and media. Greta Thunberg is known almost worldwide for raising awareness of the climate emergency and Skolstrejk för Klimatet. However, there are many other activists and young people whose names and stories have been whitewashed. Eight-year-old climate activist Licypriya Kangujam tweets "If you call me 'Greta of India', you are not covering my story. You are deleting my story." (Twitter 2020). This goes back to how stories are framed, and climate movements as well as Greta Thunberg has spoken out about this issue of erasing climate activists of color and thus rejects the actions of adults and media. Responding to the climate crisis requires collective action, and intersectionality can facilitate us to see how different struggles for justice are interconnected and require solidarity between movements. By understanding the climate crisis in relation to social struggles against racism, sexism, classism, and heteroism it recognizes the injustices of power, privilege and oppression.

Increase in Violence Against Women and Girls, especially in the context of the Covid-19 Pandemic

The Covid-19 Pandemic has unearthed a more systemic crisis of gender inequality. According to the UN Secretary General, Covid-19 has unleashed a 'shadow pandemic' of violence against women and girls. Violence against women was already one of the world's most pervasive human rights violations, with nearly one in five women (18 per cent) experiencing violence in the past 12 months (UN, 2020). With Covid-19, an increased reporting of domestic violence has surfaced, with as high as a 40 per cent rise in some countries. One of the biggest drivers of this increased violence is the economic impacts of the pandemic on households with already very precarious livelihoods. This precarity has already been exacerbated under climate change and will continue to as climate impacts progress. As described in section 2, GBV weakens' women's and girls' resilience and entrenches them in a cycle of vulnerability to disasters.

Therefore, there is a greater need than ever to address GBV and resilience in an integrated way. The UN has called on actors to make the prevention and response to GBV a central part of responding to the covid-19 and the climate crises.

4.4 Windows of opportunity

As well as challenges, there are spaces of opportunity that our work can foster and capitalise on. These include investing in women as changemakers and leaders; linking DRR to long term resilience building, and mobilising our stakeholders towards urgent action.

Investing proactively in women as change makers

It is important to include women in the understandings and responses of resilience as well as to open for agency and change. By emphasizing agency and resilience of women, to some extent challenges understandings of binary structures that only include "[p]ossessing power versus being powerless" (Mohanty 2003:39) and where women are constructed as a powerless and coherent group. These answers show that not only are women vulnerable, but they are also resilient and actors of change:

> Many research show that when the women have power, if you teach one woman a sustainable practice the woman have a very important role in transformation. We have many groups of women that are using study circle, they teach each other and take it home. When we involve a woman in some activities it more quickly to have that activity screened in the community, because the woman is more concerned with the development of the community, the family, the society, they are very important role of transformation in the society. (Interview 12, representative from We Effect-Mozambique)

Disasters can change social norms, gender roles and power structures for the better or worse. It can open for new opportunities where traditional gender roles can be challenged or where inequalities increase leaving marginalized groups even more vulnerable. Women's resilience is less documented than women's vulnerability in disaster research. By including resilience as well it stresses that women are not solely passive recipients of aid but rather active agents. Women are vital agents of change in climate action, where their contextual and unique

knowledge, skills and understandings can improve the actions and interventions of DRR. Research shows that women are more active in floods EWS than men and prioritize hazard risks but their needs are not equally addressed (Brown et al. 2019). Through a gender transformative approach in EWS, equal participation and power in decision-making is given to the communities, making their responses to hazards more effective.

> Mulheres e crianças devem ser o alvo para que a resposta a um desastre seja eficiente, eles são instrumento de mudança. (Interview 5, representative from AGRICOA-Mozambique)

> *Women and children should be the target for disaster response to be effective, they are an instrument of change.*

As outlined in section 3, the inclusion of women's understandings, perspectives and leadership is a necessary recognition both for the greater risk women face and their unique roles in resilience building and disaster recovery. In the time of crisis, social norms are played out within a new place, which can open up for the possibility to produce alternative social interactions. Meaning that it can lead to opportunities for women and men to take on new responsibilities and change dominant ways of thinking and acting. However, there is a lack regarding research on windows of opportunities and how social processes after a crisis reinforce or challenge power structures. By conducting qualitative and participatory research it can generate new information that informs about the nature of risks and the causes of vulnerability. Also, to what extent changes in gender roles tackle discriminatory gendered norms, or do not lead to backlash is under-documented.

Transformative resilience implies the changing of the situation to the better rather than maintain the status quo, this can in turn reduce, reproduce or increase future disaster risk. And as one respondent stated:

> As estatísticas mostram que as mulheres são mais vulneráveis em situações de desastres, mas apesar disso, elas são as que mais possuem potencial para produção de mudanças nesse cenário, capaz de influenciar as políticas. Para isso, elas necessitam ser empoderadas para que as mudanças de fato aconteçam. (Interview 14, representative from AMPCM-Mozambique)

Statistics show that women are most vulnerable in disaster situations, but nonetheless, they have the greatest potential for change in this scenario, which can influence policy. To do so, they need to be empowered for change to actually happen.

Linking DRR to long-term resilience building

Building community long-term resilience is essential to reduce the impacts of natural hazards, so they not necessarily turn into disasters. Therefore, preventive measures should always be more emphasized, rather than only response and recovery after a disaster. In a changing climate, the preparedness to disasters through early warning systems is necessary to assure the safety of the communities when they evacuate from the affected areas, for instance (as seen in 4.3). Land use planning and risk prevention plans are also powerful ways to apply DRR, which are oftentimes neglected by governments until the moment a disaster takes place. Therefore, the process of lobbying for preventive measures is a necessary action to assure long-term resilience because it is about changing norms, attitudes and values on how to deal with environmental and climatic disasters.

Sustainable practices already carried out by We Effect are very powerful and should be better addressed as methods of DRR and building resilience, because they reduce environmental degradation, adapt communities to extreme weather events, as well as bring more food security and financial security to them. Some practices that can be mentioned are agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture and Land Management (SALM) practices, crop and income diversification, as well as sustainable and resilient housing material.

Another area We Effect works that has an important role in building term resilience is financial inclusion. The improved access to financial services, especially by women, is crucial for building a long-term resilience. For instance, when facing a natural hazard, families are covered by crop insurance and by weather insurance. Also, families can afford to have different sources of energy and to resilient housing material because they have access to loans. Well-organised cooperatives apply the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) model to allow their members to invest on their preparedness to disasters. One practical example is the Okoro Growers Coffee Cooperative Union from Uganda that, in partnership with We Effect, have been at the forefront in trying to mitigate the effects of disasters through capacitation of farmers on financial inclusion in order to accessing micro-insurance.

Long-term resilience to climate change is only achieved through gender equality, leaving no one behind. There is a risk to exacerbate inequalities when they are not addressed in our projects and programmes, resulting in the opposite effect we expected: less resilient communities. Therefore, identifying power dynamics and taking systematic actions through a

gender transformative approach is crucial, as Dorothy B (2020) well described in We Effect's Climate Justice seminar: "[i]f we don't understand these dynamics, we are not identifying the injustices. (…) For instance, when a flood happens, there is more incidence of diseases, of violence, and the ones who suffer most are the women and girls. Also, because they are the ones who spend more time of their lives in their homes; they have their small businesses, selling their own vegetables, for example. If we cannot help them to raise their voices, to support these people who are vulnerable, we are failing in our work."

Creating a learning and reflexive culture

We Effect has done a great work on DRR, but there is the need to create a learning culture with that, creating opportunities for learning sharing amongst regions and partners to build our knowledge and capacity. There are several examples of good and promising practices from our partner organisations for DRR but they are not always shared to other countries/regions. By exploring our key result areas of the joint interim strategy (right to food, increased resilience and sustainable livelihoods) and by building a learning process from that, we can get good examples that will be used as a role model for the whole organisation. Also, We Effect should be constantly learning with the integration of We Effect's cross-cutting areas in our projects and programmes, by organising reflexion and learning spaces such as workshops, seminars, discussion in the global groups, documenting through reports, papers, among others.

Mobilising our stakeholders towards urgent action

When talking about DRR, climate change adaptation and climate politics, is not only about the emission levels but also about the distribution of power, social change and global solidarity. For sustainable development, the ecological component should be linked to social and economic development, otherwise climate and DRR policy risks being undermined. In the latest report, the UN Climate Panel IPCC shows that the next twelve years are crucial to our future, of which it is high time to announce climate emergency, or as one respondent states:

> We have this information now, IPCC gave us the facts how it is, the planetary boundaries have given us the facts on the climatic conditions, and if we don't do something as people then the situation will get worse and worse. If we do business as usual activities, things will get out of hand, so it calls for us to put more efforts towards addressing some of the issues that has been brought because of climate change but also how to adopt green pathways in our activities. (Interview 9, representative from We Effect-Kenya)

In light of the above, it is of relevance to lift climate policy from an individualistic policy to an overall structural transformation for the entire society, since climate change has no national borders. Overall, several respondents emphasized the importance of scaling up We Effect's activities in regard to environment, climate change, resilience (and DRR). Some respondents saw it as a challenge but also an opportunity to work more within this sphere:

> We have to be very strong as ECCR activists if we want to make changes in the society, it is a reality that climate change exist […] We Effect should be seen in the future as an organization that is contributing to social ecological resilience in every country where we have activities, whatever we do we are contributing to the wellbeing of people and the social-ecological resilience to reduce degradation when facing climate change […] We need changes in mind and attitude for the people, it is a big challenge for the future. (Interview 12, representative from We Effect-Mozambique)

> Looking at the future, this is going to be the norm now. And if it is going to be the norm now then we seriously need to look at how we are scaling up and finding resources for this kind of work, and how to prepare people to be more prepared and more resilient. We need additional resources for this, we need to invest. There are many indigenous ways to be resilient, there are many ways that are not really expensive. I think it can be done […] (Interview 4, representative from We Effect-Philippines)

We know that the greenhouse gas levels continue to climb, climate change is already occurring at much higher rates than anticipated, and its effects are evident worldwide. Severe weather events and changes in weather patterns are affecting people and property, especially the poor and vulnerable, as well as marginalized groups such as women, children, and the elderly. Thus, We Effect should commit to the SDG 13 Climate Action and climate change action, in order to contribute to sustainable development while recognize that climate change is an issue and emerging challenge. However, even if the situation is what it is today, there is still hope:

> Penso num futuro melhor, onde as mulheres estejam mais capacitadas, empoderadas, onde haja um equilíbrio, equidade e igualdade. Num mundo de oportunidades a homens e mulheres, sem discriminação e preconceito para um mundo mais justo. É um grande desafio que temos pela frente. (Interview 14, representative from AMPCM-Mozambique)

I think of a better future, where women have more capacities, are empowered, where there is balance, equality. In a world of opportunity for men and women, without discrimination and prejudice, towards a fairer world. It's a great challenge that lies ahead.

The gendered impacts of climate change are particularly strong in cases of natural hazards which can be followed by a disaster, and are exacerbated in contexts of violent conflicts, fragility and extreme poverty and food insecurity. As it has been outlined previously, women are important agents for DRR and peacebuilding. At the same time, it is important to strengthen the potentials of men, youth, girls, boys, elderly and gender minorities in order to balance the responsibilities that everyone has to care for the environment and for their own safety. Burden of care over women also has to be addressed. By applying a holistic, gender-sensitive approach to DRR, it can contribute to build back better and may increase security and livelihood opportunities. And what also needs to be mentioned, is that We Effect is also part of the solution, "Vi är en del av lösningen, och framtiden är hoppfull." (Interview 1 Anna T) *We are part of the solution, and the future is hopeful.*

5 Next Steps for We Effect

Environmental degradation and the effects of climate change not only affect the planet and biodiversity itself, but it is also a source of a great climate injustice. While climate change affects everyone, the countries who have contributed least to climate change are most vulnerable to its impact along with people living in poverty, women, elderly, young people and future generations. We Effect subscribes to the Leaving No One Behind Agenda and inclusion is a central commitment of the SDGs. Without addressing inequality, it will not be possible to attain the SDGs. It is crucial that We Effect strategically works with DRR in the context of long-term development through building long-term resilience with partner organisations and the members. Thus, the recommendations from the report are detailed below at the organisational level and the programme level.

Table 2: A summary of the recommendations for We Effect.

At an organizational level:
Strengthen the capacity of We Effect to work effectively, strategically and consistently on disaster risk reduction: • Ensure staff understand the linkages between DRR and other key thematic areas including gender equality, climate justice and resilience, financial services, right to food and sustainable livelihoods with a focus on preparedness and prevention • Strengthen the capacity of staff to plan, implement, monitor, evaluate and learn about the importance of working on DRR in the context of long-term development • Ensure that DRR is integrated into our broader risk reduction strategies at an organizational level • Increase cross-regional (and cross-organizational) learning opportunities to support and strengthen the knowledge and understanding of preparedness and prevention in DRR • Strengthen the capacity of staff to pilot and test new methods and methodologies for working on DRR to ensure we leave no one behind and effectively integrate this work into our work on climate justice. • Ensure a tailored capacitation, focusing on the local context.
At a programme level:
Prioritise support to women's rights organisations and cooperatives to work on DRR in gender and climate just ways.
Facilitate and support new (consensual) networks and alliances between DRR, humanitarian ECCR organisations and women's rights organisations to strengthen the work of partner organizations on DRR and climate justice.
Ensure a rights-based approach: supporting partner organisations to ensure the meaningful participation and leadership of women, indigenous communities, displaced and marginalized groups in all DRR programming to ensure we leave no one behind.
Work with technical partners: identify strong technical partners to support and strengthen our work and the work of our partners, especially our partners working on gender equality and climate justice, on DRR especially in vulnerable countries.
Support the development and implementation of disaster risk reduction plans at partner organization level that addresses the growing challenges of climate change, environmental degradation, urbanization and population growth.
Support programs and projects that promote risk aware urban planning in areas for housing, including sustainable and resilient building techniques, gender sensitive housing (including care solutions) and sustainable livelihood initiatives.
Strengthen the linkages between DRR and access to financial services and insurance, particularly for women: support partner organisations, particularly women's rights organisations and their members, to mobilise for resources, build inclusive partnerships, access financial services and assets to strengthen their capacity on DRR and become resilient and sustainable organisations.
Strengthen the language and strategies of resilience within our partner organizations: build resilience to external pandemic, socio-economic and financial shocks by helping partner organisations identify vulnerabilities and increased risk rapidly and ensure they have the capacity and access to adequate social safety nets and policies that promote job-led growth.
Use integrated and holistic tools such as the ESIA, Gender and Power Analysis that have been developed for a number of projects/sub-programmes as a starting point to support colleagues and the partners to understand and analyse the norms, attitudes and values.
Strengthen capacity of partner organizations to collaborate with governments: We Effect works in countries where governments are shrinking spaces for civil society. Multi-actor

approach functions at the local level, where people have the opportunity to address their interest to local authorities. It is a very important work to strengthen capacity of partner organisations for coordinating among the government, authorities and concerned organisations at both national and local levels, establishing a shared environmental data and knowledge platform. We Effect's Advocacy Helpdesk is a good source of support to capacity strengthening in this area.
Develop GBV referral systems: mapping key services available for supporting survivors of GBV and ensure that comprehensive and holistic GBV referral systems are available as part of building resilience or ensuring preparedness and prevention of DRR, as well as any kind of crisis.
Use feminist monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning methods: use participatory, qualitative methodologies and approaches to monitor, evaluate and learn from the programmes as well as ensure accountability and local ownership of the knowledge within the programmes.
At regional/global level:
Strengthen cross-regional collaboration and learning: work with partners in other regions to strengthen the knowledge and expertise within We Effect and partner organizations.
Strengthen alliances and networks: develop links with international/regional institutions for knowledge exchange and participate in global knowledge platforms.
Strengthen capacity of partner organizations: strengthen capacity for coordinating with local and national governments and concerned organisations to establish a shared environmental data and knowledge platform and develop early warning systems for vulnerable communities.
Build evidence as part of our MEAL: build evidence of how to work effectively with the private sector that ensures a rights-based approach. Consider a vetting system for working with private companies that excludes companies with a poor track record or history of human rights abuses. Take a public and vocal stance as We Effect not to work with those companies.
Creating a learning and reflexive culture: Create opportunities for knowledge and learning sharing amongst regions and partners to build our knowledge and capacity on our key result areas of the joint interim strategy.

We Effect shall ensure a rights-based approach and thus include and promote the youth. It is the children and young people of today who will face the worst effects of climate change. The 12-year-old 'eco-warrior' Yola Mgogwana from Khayelitsha, South Africa, highlights the climate-induced threats that form part of her daily reality, especially the severe drought that plagued the Western Cape in South Africa in 2017. With dams at only 11 per cent full at one stage, panic ensued among residents that 'Day Zero', when taps ran dry, would become a reality. During a summit, Yola Mgogwana stated: "As youth, we care. We have barely spent a decade on this planet, but we care. What about the rest of you?" [8]

[8] https://reliefweb.int/report/world/climate-change-disproportionately-affects-women-and-young-girls-and-here-s-why

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