

Virtual Workshop: “Gender mainstreaming across hydrometeorological services”
Session 4 – Gender in Hydrology and Disaster Risk Reduction

25th of November, 8:00-9:45 am (UTC)

Background and Rationale

The increasing frequency and severity of climate-related hazards underscore the importance of integrating gender considerations into hydrological and disaster risk reduction (DRR) services. Hydrometeorological disasters have gender-differentiated impacts due to pre-existing inequalities in access to information, mobility, resources, and decision-making power.

Research has shown that gender-related social norms, institutional structures, and unequal power dynamics significantly shape how individuals experience the impacts of climate change and influence their ability to adapt¹. Women, for example, are up to 14 times more likely to die in disasters than men in some contexts, yet they are often central actors in resilience building and water resources management.² Despite this, many National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) lack the use of sex-, age-, and disability-disaggregated data (SADDD) and seldom apply gender-responsive approaches in the design of early warning systems³. Integrating gender into operational hydrology and DRR is not only a question of equity, but also a strategic means to improve the relevance, uptake, and effectiveness of services that protect lives and livelihoods. The cross-cutting role of hydrometeorological services in sectors like integrated water resources management and climate adaptation requires streamlined and harmonized gender approaches.

Objective

This session is part of the Virtual Workshop Series on Gender Mainstreaming across Hydrometeorological Services, organized to advance implementation of the WMO SERCOM Gender Action Plan. The overall aim of the session is to explore the integration of gender considerations into hydrological services and DRR frameworks to make them more inclusive, effective, and equitable. The specific objectives are to:

- showcase good practices and innovations in gender-responsive hydrology and DRR,
- identify institutional, technical, and social barriers to mainstreaming gender, and
- generate actionable recommendations for integrating gender into hydrological monitoring, modelling, forecasting, and early warning systems.

¹ Progress, good practices and lessons learned in prioritizing and incorporating gender-responsive adaptation action. Policy brief, UNFCCC, 2023, <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/resources/publications/progress-good-practices-and-lessons-learned-in-prioritizing-and-incorporating-gender-responsive>

² UNDRR, 2022, Policy Brief: Gender-Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction <https://www.undrr.org/media/78724>

³ Global Status of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems 2024, WMO & UNDRR (2024).

Agenda

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKERS
8:00-8:05 am 5 min	Opening remarks and moderation	Ms Milica Djordjevic (SC-HYD)
8:05-8:12 am 7 min	Welcome and Introduction: <i>The role of NHMSs in advancing gender equity</i>	Ms Milica Djordjevic (SC-HYD)
8:13-8:20 am 7 min	Keynote talk: <i>Addressing gender in early warning systems, and community engagement</i>	Ms Jane Rovins (SC-DRR) (TBC)
8:20-9:05 am 45 min	Good practices and Case Studies highlighting women's involvement across the hydromet value chain	TBC
9:05-9:35 am 30 min	Interactive panel discussion and Q&A: Experts share practical approaches for fostering inclusive governance, co-design processes, and gender-responsive services	Presenters and moderator
9:35-9:45 am 10 min	Closing	Ms Jane Rovins (SC-DRR) (TBC)