

Statement for the 2025 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction



Source: María Esther Argueta, a leader in her community's Civil Protection Commission, takes part in an earthquake emergency drill in Carolina, El Salvador. Credit: Tania Moreno/Oxfam

Anticipatory Action and Locally Led DRR: Delivering on shared commitments under the Sendai Framework.

Oxfam welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2025 renewing our commitment to support local actors and communities to reduce risk of disasters. Rooted in **feminist principles, human rights, and justice**¹, Oxfam's disaster risk reduction (DRR) work places **local leadership, gender equity, and anticipatory action** at its core. We share the Sendai Framework's emphasis on understanding disaster risk, strengthening governance, and investing in resilience at every level.

Global Humanitarian Context

The frequency and intensity of disasters have escalated in recent years, exacerbating humanitarian needs worldwide. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), nearly 300 million people globally required humanitarian assistance and protection in 2024, driven by conflicts, climate emergencies, and other factors. As climate-related disasters intensify and geopolitical instability disrupts supply chains, migration patterns, and global health systems, these compounded crises have disproportionate impacts on women, girls, LGBTQI+ individuals, and marginalized communities—**deepening existing inequalities and exposing gaps in protection and access to assistance**. Projections indicate that these numbers may continue to rise, underscoring the urgency for effective disaster risk reduction strategies. Moreover, in 2023 alone, weather-related disasters caused an estimated \$380 billion in economic losses globally (Aon, 2024), with a disproportionate burden falling on low-income countries.

This complexity is even more pronounced in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. Disaster risk is not confined to natural hazards alone. In many regions, particularly fragile and conflict-affected settings, communities face intersecting risks from climate shocks, armed violence, food insecurity, and displacement. These risks are often compounded by weak governance, limited early warning infrastructure, and structural inequalities—exposing women, girls, LGBTQI+ individuals, and marginalized groups to disproportionate harm. Effective disaster risk reduction in today's context must account for this complexity, recognizing that anticipatory and preventative systems must operate in politically and socially volatile environments. In this context, investments in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and anticipatory action (AA) are not only moral imperatives, but they are also smart, strategic, and cost-effective. UNDRR estimates that every \$1 invested in disaster risk reduction and prevention can yield savings of up to \$15 in post-disaster recovery, and between \$4 and \$7 in avoided losses per dollar invested (UNDRR, 2023).

¹ See Oxfam Strategic Framework 2020–2030

Despite this, funding for DRR remains both under-allocated and poorly tracked compared to more reactive response in humanitarian financing, and anticipatory action receives only a fraction of what is needed. This underinvestment is exacerbated by shrinking aid budgets and a growing shift toward reactive crisis response. However, underfunding DRR increases future loss and damage –putting more pressure on the L&D mechanism. Without scaled-up DRR, the demands on the Loss and Damage Fund will only grow, and recovery will remain reactive and unjust. The GP25 is an opportunity to reverse this trajectory and reaffirm a commitment to prevention, equity, and locally led resilience. As global challenges intensify due to climate change and socio-economic disparities, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 remains our guiding document together with its Gender Action Plan. However, substantial gaps in policy and funding hinder its full potential, leaving the most vulnerable populations at significant risk.

Oxfam’s Contributions: Local Leadership and Inclusive Action

Our objective is to outline how Oxfam’s disaster risk reduction (DRR) initiatives align with and advance the priorities of the Sendai Framework, with a specific focus on inclusive governance, local humanitarian leadership, and anticipatory action. We aim to promote social justice, gender equity, and resilience for the world’s most vulnerable communities. Across 77 countries, Oxfam partners with communities, civil society, and governments to reduce disaster risk and build systemic resilience. Our approach puts people at the center—especially women, LGBTQI+ individuals, and displaced populations who are disproportionately affected by climate-induced hazards. This approach recognizes varying national capacities and ensures tailored support according to local contexts.

- In **Nepal**, since 2018 we have partnered with local governments to develop inclusive risk reduction strategies, ensuring community participation in decision-making processes and strengthening disaster risk governance. This work prioritizes the voices of women, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups, thereby contributing to gender equality, accessibility and inclusion.
- In **Indonesia**, since 2020 we have supported risk assessments that applied gender-based weighting and resilience planning in early warning systems with locally led women leaders to ensure that preparedness and disaster response plans reflect the local realities of those most vulnerable.
- In the **Philippines**, since 2017 our capacity-strengthening programs for local disaster response teams have led to faster and more effective responses to typhoons, highlighting the importance of anticipatory action, local humanitarian leadership, and community preparedness.
- In **Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, and the Union of Comoros**, Oxfam partnered with UN-Habitat and local governments on the “Building Urban Climate Resilience in South-Eastern Africa” project (2020–2025). This initiative implemented 23 pilot interventions—including flood-proof infrastructure, early warning systems, and mangrove restoration—to enhance urban resilience to climate-induced hazards. By empowering communities and fostering sustainable urban development, the project exemplified anticipatory action and locally led disaster risk reduction.

- In the **Central American Dry Corridor**, the ATECA III Project (Early Community Action in Central America 2023-2025) involves Oxfam, partners, and local institutions working in the dry corridor of Guatemala and El Salvador to strengthen community capacities for preparedness and response. One of the main focuses is supporting the use of early warning systems through Meteorological Drought Monitoring Protocols to inform communities and decision-makers with sufficient advance notice to implement proactive strategies that help mitigate the adverse effects of drought.

These are not one-off efforts. They are part of a comprehensive, long-term commitment to risk reduction and resilience building that aligns directly with the Sendai Framework's priorities.

A Way Forward: a call to action

But we must go further.

The window for timely and effective action is shrinking. Traditional, reactive humanitarian responses are increasingly outpaced by the frequency and scale of climate- and conflict-related disasters. Anticipatory action—interventions triggered by forecasts and early warning systems before disasters occur—is essential to shifting from crisis response to risk-informed development and mitigate the impacts of predictable disasters.

We urge all stakeholders present at this Platform—governments, multilateral institutions, donors, civil society and private sector—to commit to making anticipatory action a core component of disaster risk governance and financing. This means:

Integrate Anticipatory Action into National DRR Strategies

- National governments, supported by technical partners and donors, should ensure that anticipatory action (AA) is embedded in national disaster management and climate adaptation plans, backed by appropriate legal and policy frameworks.
- Donors, financial institutions, and national disaster risk management authorities should establish trigger-based financing mechanisms linked to early warning systems to enable timely and predictable action before crises occur.

Increase and Track Financing for Locally Led Risk Reduction

- We call on donors and multilateral funding institutions to allocate at least 10% of climate adaptation and humanitarian finance to locally led DRR and anticipatory action by 2027. This target aligns with the Grand Bargain's localization commitment and the Principles for Locally Led Adaptation and reflects the growing consensus that equitable risk governance requires direct investment in the capacities of local actors.
- Require donors to track disbursements by recipient type—disaggregated by national, international, and local actors—to ensure transparency and equitable access for frontline actors.

Promote Equitable Risk Governance

- Governments and multilateral agencies should mandate the participation of women's rights organizations, local governments, Indigenous groups, LGBTQI+ individuals, and other historically marginalized groups in national and subnational DRR platforms.
- Donors and implementing agencies must support gender-responsive risk assessments and inclusive planning tools.
- National governments, with support from UN agencies and donors, should accelerate implementation of the Sendai Framework Gender Action Plan (GAP) by adopting sex-, age-, and disability-disaggregated data standards, funding women-led initiatives, and ensuring that DRR policies address gendered dimensions of risk.

Strengthen Accountability to Affected Communities

- National governments and implementing partners, in collaboration with civil society, should institutionalize mechanisms for community feedback, third-party monitoring, and independent evaluation of DRR and AA investments.
- Governments, UN agencies, and regional bodies should require and publish transparent reporting on Sendai Framework implementation at national and regional levels, disaggregated by gender, geography, and marginalized status.

It is no longer a question of whether anticipatory action is feasible—it is a question of how it can be institutionalized as standard practice: scalable, inclusive, and adequately resourced. The Sendai Framework articulates a clear vision—to prevent disaster, protect lives, and promote equity. Realizing this vision requires a decisive shift toward early, community-led action, rooted in justice and grounded in risk-informed development. The cost of delay is measured not only in economic terms but in lives and livelihoods lost. Oxfam envisions a future in which communities—especially women, LGBTQI+ individuals, and other historically marginalized groups—are not merely recipients of aid, but **active agents of resilience**—equipped to anticipate, withstand, and recover from crises. A future where disaster governance is equitable, locally led, and inclusive by design to and accountable to those most affected.

The time to act is not after disaster strikes—but now, and together.

About Oxfam

Oxfam is a global movement of people who are fighting inequality to end poverty and injustice. We are working across regions in more than 70 countries, with thousands of partners, and allies, supporting communities to build better lives for themselves, grow resilience and protect lives and livelihoods also in times of crisis. Please write to any of the agencies for further information or visit www.oxfam.org.

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