

INVITATION TO A MARKET DIALOGUE



DIGITAL SOLUTIONS FOR RURAL WOMEN'S RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS (D4RWRD)

Supported by:



Background of the Organizations

Established to accelerate progress on meeting women's needs worldwide, UN Women is the global champion for gender equality and the empowerment of women, through a focus on four strategic priorities: (1) Women's leadership and political participation; (2) Women's economic empowerment; (3) Ending violence against women and girls; and (4) Women's engagement in peace and security, resilience and humanitarian action. UN Women's work in humanitarian action is guided by its triple mandate, at normative, coordination and operational level, and encompasses crisis prevention, preparedness and response, to reduce the risks and vulnerabilities faced by women and girls, promote their resilience and leverage women's leadership.

The UN Capital Development Fund makes public and private finance work for the poor in the world's 47 least developed countries. UNCDF offers "last mile" finance models that unlock public and private resources, especially at the domestic level, to reduce poverty and support local economic development. UNCDF's financing models work through three channels: (1) Inclusive digital economies, which provide tools to climb out of poverty and manage financial lives; (2) Local development finance, which drives local economic expansion and sustainable development; and (3) Investment finance, which drives SDG impact and domestic resource mobilization.



The Challenge

Women, men, boys and girls are not affected in the same way by disasters and other shocks. Gender inequalities heightens women's and girls' exposure to risks, increases vulnerability and undermine their capacity to effectively anticipate, adapt, and recover from disasters and to effectively contribute to resilience building. Natural disasters and other shocks disproportionately affect women and girls and often lead to higher loss of lives and livelihoods and often result in a gendered negative spiral of vulnerability and poverty, leaving women and girls disproportionately vulnerable to future shocks and crises. In spite of that, women and girls remain often ignored and their potential and capacities remain unleveraged in conventional resilience building processes. Rural women and girls face a double discrimination, due to both their gender and geography.

Digital technologies, in particular mobile technologies, represent a potential lever to reduce existing gender gaps around access to disaster risk reduction and risk transfer mechanisms and to strengthen the access of rural women to resilience building mechanisms, including disaster risk reduction mechanisms, risk transfer services and other financial services. Clearly, the imperative of leveraging the digital revolution has been made even more obvious and urgent in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the multidimensional crisis that this has generated.



Project Background

As part of the efforts of the COVID-19 crisis response and recovery and in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disasters Risk Reduction principles of “Leaving no one behind” and “Building Back Better”, it is more critical than ever to ensure that the most vulnerable populations, including rural women, are included in the ongoing digital revolution, to avoid a deepening of the gender digital divide and a fallback on hard-earned advances in women empowerment and gender equality.

In partnership with UNCDF and with financial support from Innovation Norway, UN Women is implementing a Humanitarian Innovation Programme, which aims at tackling the challenge of leveraging the potential of mobile technologies and other digital technologies to enhance the resilience to disasters of rural women in Haiti, Liberia, Malawi, Mali and Senegal by improving their access to both disaster risk reduction and risk transfer and financing mechanisms.

Innovative procurement processes and partnerships between humanitarian actors and the private sector represent key aspect of humanitarian innovation. Therefore, UN Women and UNCDF intend to carry out a market dialogue process and join hands with the private sector in order to identify, co-develop and test innovative solutions that respond to the challenge of enhancing rural women's access to disaster risk reduction and risk transfer mechanisms, services and products and ultimately increase rural women's resilience to disasters and other shocks.



The Market Dialogue Process

UN Women and UNCDF wish to invite interested parties to interact through a set of webinars and bilateral meetings. These webinars will initiate a public stakeholders interaction process on the needs of women smallholder farmers related to disaster risk reduction, disaster risk financing and risk transfer. This market dialogue process also intends to identify the gaps in current technologies, products and services offered for DRR and risk financing & transfer that are available to women smallholders. Through this dialogue, we also wish to initiate discussions with stakeholders like insurance providers, data providers, agtech companies, agri-input companies, agroprocessors, financial institutions, mobile network operators, government and donors agencies on current and potential solutions to address the needs of women smallholder farmers leveraging digital tools for disaster risk resilience. The webinars are designed to enable a deep dive into the critical aspects of needs, barriers, products and technologies and allow participants to identify and discuss possible solutions and potential partnerships that are possible in offering digital disaster risk reduction and risk transfer services to women smallholders. The market dialogue webinars will take place on:

- **Senegal & Mali:** Tuesday 22nd June 2021 from 2:00 PM GMT to 4:15 PM GMT
- **Liberia & Malawi:** Wednesday 23rd June 2021 from 11:00 AM GMT to 1:15 PM GMT
- **Haiti:** Thursday 24th June 2021 from 2:00 PM GMT to 4:15 PM GMT

Webinar Session Highlights

Session 1: Introduction to the project and market dialogue process (15 mins) – UN Women & UNCDF

Session 2: Needs, barriers and gaps in access to DRR, disaster risk financing and risk transfer for women smallholder farmers (35 mins) – WRMS & UN Women

Session 3: Brainstorming on innovative DRR tools and disaster risk financing and risk transfer solutions that can address the needs of women smallholder farmers (45 mins) – Moderators from UN Women, UNCDF or WRMS

Breakout 1: Digital solutions for rural women-centred DRR mechanisms

Breakout 2: Digital solutions for rural women-centred risk financing and transfer

Breakout 3: Digital solutions to improve demand, supply and delivery of services

Session 4: Presentation of the ideas generated in the breakout sessions (30 mins)

Session 5: Conclusion and way forward (10 mins)

Interested parties can register for the webinars by clicking "[Register Now](#)" and filling the registration form. Deadline for registration is 21st June 2021.