



# IDRiM Society Annual Report 2022-2023



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# Our Objective

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The IDReM Society strives to be an inclusive, international community for advancing integrated disaster risk management at all scales through high-quality interdisciplinary research, policy design, and implementation science.

The main objective of the IDReM Society is to promote knowledge sharing, interdisciplinary research and development on integrated disaster risk management contributing to the implementation of success models for efficient and equitable disaster risk management options. Furthermore, the IDReM Society aims at promoting knowledge transfer and dissemination of information and concepts on integrated disaster risk management.

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# Award Committee

## 2023 Awardees

- **Distinguished Research Award**

Aniello Amendora, a former researcher of JRC, Italy and IIASA, Austria

Yasuhide Okuyama, Graduate School of Social System Studies, University of Kitakyushu, Japan

- **Norio Okada Distinguished Implementation Science**

Paul Kovacs, Executive Director, Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction, Western University, Canada

- **Aniello Amendola Distinguished Service Award**

Bijay Anand Misra, Professor Emeritus, the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, India

Alexandru Ozunu, Professor, Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania

\* Note that we received very few nominations for the awards and welcome suggestions for stimulating more nominations in the future



### Suggested New Award: Lifetime Outstanding Service Award

The Committee recommends the establishment of the IDRiM Lifetime Outstanding Service Award in recognition of dedication and inspiration of our leaders. To make this Award even more prestigious we recommend that it only be given every 2 or 3 years (please offer your choice)



### Suggested New Award: Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award

The Committee recommends the establishment of a Doctoral Dissertation Award. We also recommend that the outstanding dissertation be published in the IDRiM Book Series.

This award is intended to recognize young scholars into encourage more of them to join our Society. We encourage nominations for the chair and membership of this committee.

## Increasing Award Committee Membership

The Committee currently only consists of 5 members. We would like to add up to 3 more from a diversity of disciplines and welcome nominations, especially from members of underrepresented groups.

### Members

Adam Rose (Chair)

Hirokazu Tatano, Mohsen Ashtiany, James Goltz, Dan Wei

# Finance Committee

## Fund application history for IDRiM conference

	Apply to	Amount (JPY)	Amount (US\$)	Approved
IDRiM2023 (India)	Kyoto University Fund	1,000,000	7,023	○
	DPRI, Kyoto University	410,000	2,879	○
IDRiM2022 (Romania)	Kyoto University Fund	1,000,000	7,023	×
	DPRI, Kyoto University	533,000	3,743	○
IDRiM2021 (Japan)	Kansai Energy	400,000	2,809	○
	Kyoto University Fund	1,000,000	7,023	○
	DPRI, Kyoto University	550,000	3,863	○
IDRiM2020 (Virtual Workshop)	Japan Foundation	2,000,000	14,046	×
	DPRI, Kyoto University	552,000	3,877	○
	Kansai Energy	500,000	3,511	○
IDRiM2019 (France)	DPRI, Kyoto University	690,000	4,846	○
IDRiM2018 (Australia)	DPRI, Kyoto University	609,000	4,277	○
IDRiM2017 (Iceland)	DPRI, Kyoto University	659,000	4,628	○
IDRiM2016 (Iran)	DPRI, Kyoto University	680,000	4,776	○
	Japan Foundation	558,327	3,921	○

## Members

Hirokazu Tatano (Chair)  
Michinori Hatayama, Muneta Yokomatsu,

# Event Organizing Committee

## Objective

Through our events, we aim to extend the network between young researchers and prestigious professors and cutting-edge researchers, as well as between IDRiM members and non-members, and to provide learning opportunities.

## IDRiM Café

Recordings of the [Past Café](#) are available.



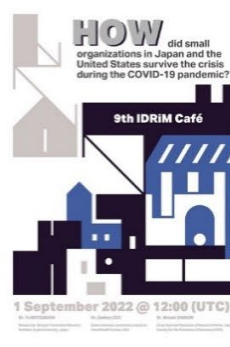
### 7th Café

Role of DRR institutions in the changing global disaster risk scenario : Views and Contribution of Young DRR Researchers



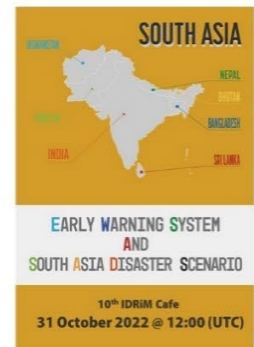
### 8th Café

Open Science



### 9th Café

How did small organizations in Japan and the United States survive the crisis during the COVID-19 pandemic? Researchers



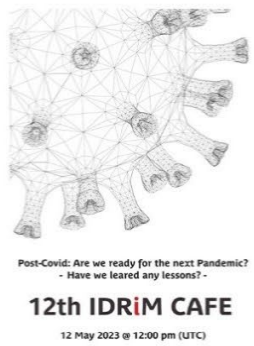
### 10th Café

Early Warning System and South Asia Disaster Scenario



### 11th Café

Scientific Communication



### 12th Café

Post-Covid: Are we ready for the next Pandemic?



### 13th Café

Knowledge Management Practices in DRR in Asia and the Pacific Countries



# IDRiM Lecture Series

Recordings of the [Past Lecture](#) are available.



## 1st Lecture

Prof. Norio Okada

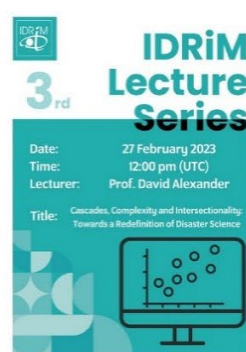
Field-based Conceptualization. Re-examining Perspectives. and Road mapping for Exploring IDRiM Research Horizons



## 2nd Lecture

Prof. Adam Rose

Macroeconomic Consequences of the COVID-19 Pandemic



## 3rd Lecture

Prof. David Alexander

Cascades, Complexity and Intersectionality: Towards a redefinition of Disaster Science



## 4th Lecture

Prof. Ortwin Renn

Inclusive Resilience A new approach to risk governance

## Achievements

The IDRiM event organizing committee convenes regularly each month to strategize, plan, and execute a series of events that foster collaboration, knowledge sharing, and innovation in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Throughout last year, the committee has successfully orchestrated 7 diverse and interdisciplinary cafés and 3 informative lectures in the field of DRR, with a total of about 400 participants.

These cafés and the IDRiM Lecture Series have provided a platform for both young and seasoned researchers to exchange insights, ideas, and solutions, enriching the discourse within our field. Also, by inviting renowned experts to share their knowledge, we strived to bridge the gap between academic research and practical application, furthering our collective understanding of DRR strategies.

Through our events, we have established connections with relevant institutions, organizations, and experts in DRR. These efforts have led to collaborative initiatives and disseminating valuable research insights, facilitating knowledge exchange, encouraging cross-disciplinary collaboration, and promoting innovation in DRR. Reflecting on these achievements, we strive to further commitment to advancing DRR through continued learning and cooperation.

## Members

Hirokazu Tatano (Chair)

Bijay Anand Misra / Norio Okada / Alexandru Ozunu / Funda Atun-Girgin / Xinyu Jiang / Mark Ashley Parry / Hiroaki Daimon / Huan Liu / Roland Nussbaum

# Membership Committee

260  
members

28  
countries

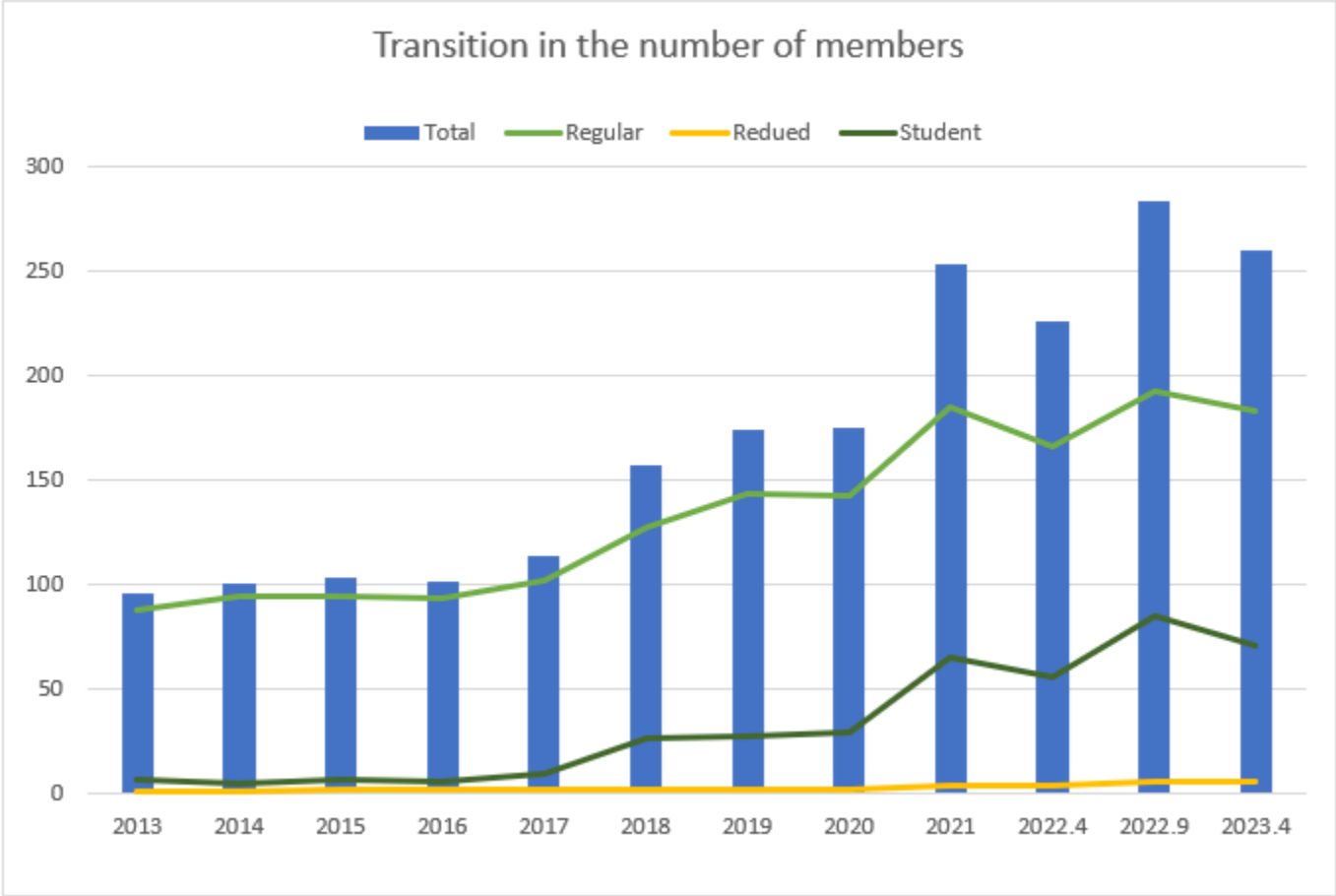
As of April 2023

COUNTRY	NUMBER	COUNTRY	NUMBER
Australia	2	Japan	104
Austria	16	Malaysia	1
Belgium	1	Netherlands	4
Canada	6	New Zealand	6
China	29	Norway	1
Colombia	1	Pakistan	1
Finland	1	Romania	11
France	6	Slovakia	1
German	3	South Africa	2
Greece	4	Spain	3
Hungary	6	Switzerland	2
India	18	UK	10
Iran	2	USA	15
Ireland	1	Venezuela	1
Italy	2		
Total		28	260



# Number of Member transition

		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023.4
Number	Regular	102	128	144	143	185	193	183
	Student	10	27	28	30	65	85	71
	Reduced	2	2	2	4	4	6	6
Total		114	157	174	177	254	284	260



## Members

Adam Rose, Mohsen Ashtiany, Norio Okada, Hirokazu Tatano, Bijay Anand Misra

# YSS Committee

## Introduction

Young scientists represent a unique group within academia, constantly generating innovative ideas and research that can either support or challenge existing ways of thinking about the world around us. Unfortunately, the majority of these young scientists leave academia within three years of completing their research programs. As a result, many of their valuable ideas and research often go unnoticed and unexplored.

The Young Scientists Session (YSS) is a special and unique feature of the IDRiM conference. It provides young scientists with a valuable opportunity to present their innovative research to a wider audience. This year's conference, hosted locally, has made a slight modification to the presentation format, extending it from 7 to 10-minute presentations, including Q&A.

# 97.1%

For this year's IDRiM conference, The presentation increase 97.12% from 2021, showcasing the continued growth of young scientist who wish participate and present a the IDRiM Conference.

## IDRiM 2023 - Future Growth

For this year's IDRiM conference, we have provisionally recognized 69 presentations as part of the Young Scientists Session (YSS). This represents a 38 percent increase from 2022 and a remarkable 97.1 percent increase from 2021, showcasing the continued growth of young scientists who wish to participate and present at the IDRiM conference. However, it's worth noting the absence of young scientists based in the Americas and Africa. Due to the sheer number of YSS researchers competing this year, not all YSS presentations are being held in a specific Young Scientist Session; some are also located in Technical Sessions. However, all YSS researchers will have the same amount of time to present. This is the first IDRiM conference to be held in a hybrid format, which initially posed a challenge. However, it was decided to have two awards for YSS: one for online participants and one for those attending in person. This accounts for the differences in presentation formats and ensures a fair balance. Finally, this year, the YSS will have a judging committee in response to the uneven number of voters between the participants and attempts by YSS participants to conduct their own voting last year.

## Expansion of the YSS Format

Expanding on the YSS format, winners of the YSS session are now given the opportunity to present a full session as part of their prize. Consequently, the second YSS awardees event occurred on Monday, December 12, 2022, where the top three awardees from the 2022 IDRiM conference delivered presentations. Additionally, recordings of two out of the three presentations are available for viewing on the IDRiM YouTube channel.

1. Jeffrey de Vries (University of Twente, Netherlands) – “Assessing Potential Disruptions from Earthquakes in the Historical Peninsula in Istanbul Using 3D Modelling”
2. Nombulelo Kitsepile Ngulube (Kyoto University, Japan) – “Citizen Engagement in Post-Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction. Lessons from Kamaishi: Unosumai, 11 years after the Great East Japan Earthquake. A community perspective”

The event was a great success with approximately 15 viewers, which aligns with our expectations. We extend our thanks to the speakers for their participation and for granting permission to IDRiM to upload these presentations on the society’s YouTube channel and website.

We plan to host the third YSS awardees event in December 2023 to celebrate this year’s awardees. Further details about this event will be provided closer to the date.

## Concluding Remarks

I’d like to thank the ITT Roorkee team for their efforts in organizing this year’s conference, particularly given the unique challenges of hosting it in a hybrid format for the first time.

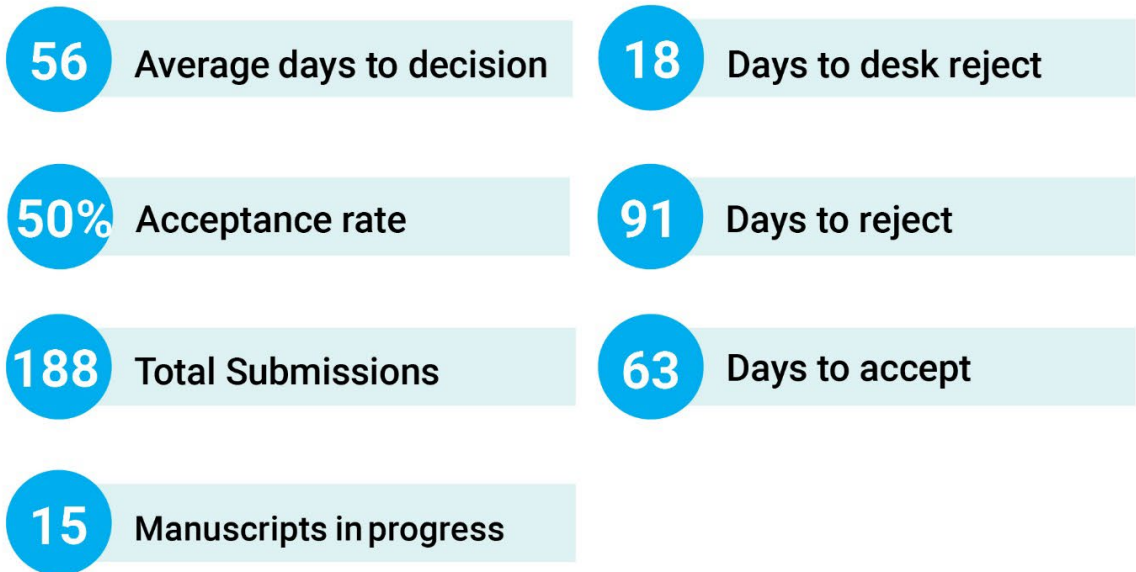
Mark Ashley Parry  
Chair of the IDRiM YSS

# IDRiM Journal and Publications Committee

## IDRiM Journal

Volume 10 Issue 1 - 5 articles Issue 2 - 4 articles	Volume 11 Issue 1 - 7 articles Issue 2 - 7 articles	Volume 12 Issue 1 - 6 articles Issue 2 - 5 articles	Volume 13 Issue 1 - ongoing
2020	2021	2022	2023

## Journal analytics



## Members

**Ana Maria Cruz (Chair, Chief Editor)**  
 Stefan Hochrainer-Stigler (Chief Editor) / Subhajyoti Samaddar (Editor) / Xinyu Jiang (Editor) / Shingo Nagamatsu (Editor) / Hamilton BEan (Editor) / Hitomu Kotani (Section Editor) / Bhattacharya Yasmin (Section Editor) / Thalia Balkaran (Section Editor)





## Call for papers - Special Conference Issue (IDRiM2023)

**Submission deadline: December 31 2023**

We invite the submission of manuscripts based on work presented at the IDRiM 2023 Conference. Please visit the IDRiM Journal website for more information at: <https://www.idrimjournal.com/>

### **E**ligibility and Conditions for Early-Career Scientist Paper Submissions

- “Early-Career Scientists” are basically graduate students (Master’s and Ph.D.; papers of high quality of undergraduate students may also be considered) or those that have obtained their Ph.D. degree within 3 years from September, 2023.
- The “Early-Career Scientist” should be the lead author of the paper
- The paper must be presented during the during the IDRiM2023 Conference.

### **W**hy Submit?

Opting to submit your paper to the IDRiM Journal offers the following advantages:

- Enjoy a speedy review and publication process
- Get a chance of converting your presentations at the IDRiM2023 into a journal paper for greater academic achievements
- Enjoy the benefit of the IDRiM Journal’s free Open Access policy to promote your research
- The IDRiM Conference is one of the most important and well-known conferences in DRR science.

### **G**eneral Information

#### **Language of Submission**

- All papers must be submitted in English only.

#### **Online Submission Platform**

- All paper submissions are to be done via the IDRiM Journal website @ <https://www.idrimjournal.com/> by the respective deadline.
- All papers should follow the IDRiM Journal’s guidelines For Authors @ <https://www.idrimjournal.com/>



# Social Media Committee

## 1 MEETINGS

No meetings of the Social Media Committee were held in 2023, as there was only one member.

## 2 ACTIVITIES - OCT 2022 - AUG 2023

Below is a concise list of the activities of the Social Media Committee (SMC) from October 2022 until August 2023. For further information please contact TZIOUTZIOS Dimitrios ([dimitziou@gmail.com](mailto:dimitziou@gmail.com)).

October 2022

- Editing the Sep-Oct 2022 issue of the IDRiM News Bullet-in
- Keeping up-to-date IDRiM Society's Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter profile pages

December 2022

- Editing the Nov-Dec 2022 issue of the IDRiM News Bullet-in
- Keeping up-to-date IDRiM Society's Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter profile pages

March 2023

- Editing the Jan-Mar 2023 issue of the IDRiM News Bullet-in
- Keeping up-to-date IDRiM Society's Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter profile pages

April 2023

- Editing the Mar-Apr 2023 issue of the IDRiM News Bullet-in
- Keeping up-to-date IDRiM Society's Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter profile pages

Aug 2023

- Editing the Jul-Aug 2023 issue of the IDRiM News Bullet-in
- Keeping up-to-date IDRiM Society's Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter profile pages

## 3 PLANNED FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Short-term Future Tasks (next months)

- Edit and publish the Sep-Oct 2023 issue of the IDRiM News Bullet-in

Long-term Future Tasks (within 2023)

- Continue editing and issuing IDRiM News Bullet-ins on a bimonthly (every two months) schedule for the rest of 2022 and in 2023

## 4 ITEMS FOR BoD CONSULTATION

- Update the list of active members in the SMC and plan to recruit new members in the upcoming term (after IDRiM2023)
- Exploration for possible collaboration with the other IDRiM Society Committees about news-sharing and valorisation of the Newsletter (e.g., perhaps closer collaboration with the women's committee, the event organising committee and the website committee would be beneficial)

## Facebook



IDRiM page (public) on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/IDRiMSociety/community>  
 73 → 94 followers (+28%)

Posts (e.g. IDRiM Café, IDRiM2023)

- Other conferences/workshops
- Other news of interest

IDRiM Journal articles



## LinkedIn



IDRiM page on LinkedIn  
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/id-rimsociety>  
 114 → 223 followers (+104,4%)

Similar posts as in Facebook



## News Bulletins

4 Bulletins Oct 2022-Sep 2023  
 1 under preparation  
 2 more scheduled for the end of 2023



## MEMBERS

**Dimitrios Tzioutzios (Committee Chair)**

Amir Lolo, Iman Ahmadi, Matthias Doefstaetter, Ashley Allen

# Women in Disaster Risk Science and Practice Committee

Reflection paper for IDRiM Yearly Report

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 IDRiM Women in Disaster Risk Science and Practice Committee

IDRiM Women in Disaster Risk Science and Practice committee was established in 2021 during COVID-19. The committee's vision includes encouraging and sustaining female scientists and practitioners, especially those in their early careers, and developing a worldwide gender-aware network of scientists and practitioners. To this end, the group's mission is to better understand women's challenges, strengths, roles and responsibilities of women in the disaster risk domain and develop a trans-disciplinary network of gender-aware scientists, practitioners, and gender equality advocates in the disaster risk domain.

We face increasing challenges in compound disasters worldwide, fuelled by struggling national economies, political unrest, and natural hazards. It seems evident that the notion of "integrated disaster" has entered a stage where the distinction between different forms of risk- i.e. natural hazards, socio-economic risk, military risk- is more of an impairment than a tool for clarity and understanding. Not all suffered the same in recent crises. Certain groups, vulnerable because of lower economic, social and cultural means, have been impacted more than others, and women have been disproportionately affected in both work and life.

As IDRiM Women, we recognize current challenges to equity, diversity and inclusiveness and the consequent necessity to review our understanding of risk and disaster in light of the mutating nature of compounding and diverse risks affecting contemporary societies. You will find IDRiM members' reflections on various issues in this yearly report.

### 1.2 Gender Equality and Inclusion in the recent reports.

UN Sustainable Development "Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls" puts gender equality as "not only a fundamental human right but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world". The snapshot report on Gender published in 2022 proves that there is still a long way to go in this regard. Especially when we look at Sustainable Development Goals numbers 12, 13, 14 and 15; although there are 45 indicators in total, only 1 of them is gender specific. The report indicates facts about the impact of climate change and human made-disasters on women and states that women are disproportionately effected by the impact of climate change and disasters.<sup>1</sup>

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1. UN, Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2022, available here: [Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2022 | Publications | UN Women – Headquarters](#)

# Climate and human-made disasters are destroying the planet and affecting the lives of women and girls

On average, one disaster resulting in

**115**

**DEATHS AND LOSSES OF \$202 MILLION**

was recorded daily during 1970–2019.

**WOMEN**, especially those from poor and marginalized communities, **are disproportionately affected.**



## BANGLADESH

Recurrent disasters, such as floods, constrain the provision of reproductive health services in rural and remote areas.



## BOTSWANA

A study found that

**56%**

**OF GIRLS**

reported travelling longer distances than usual to fetch water.



## SOMALIA



When families migrated from rural to urban areas in 2018–2019 as a result of flooding, drought and conflict, **girls'** enrolment rates dropped from **45% to just 29%.**

In contrast, **boys'** enrolment following displacement rose from **29% to 41%.**

Figure 1: Snapshot on gender and disasters<sup>2</sup> (UN, 2022, p.18)

The passage of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in October 2000 “urges the UN Member States to ensure increased representation of women at decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and for prevention, management, and resolution of conflict.” Another example is that UN Peacekeeping about the value of including women in peacekeeping missions, e.g., 7.8% of all uniformed military, police & corrections personnel in UN field missions are women. The WHO collects data on the number of female doctors in every country because female doctors can relate better with patients regarding maternal care and cultural practice. Evidence has shown that higher levels of gender equality are directly related to increased security and stability. Involving women in preventing and resolving conflicts can improve outcomes before, during, and after a conflict. .



## 2. IDRiM WOMEN Disaster Risk Science and Practice Committee Survey Results

Last year, we conducted an exploratory survey, “Integrated Disaster Risk Management (IDRiM) Women Scientists and Practitioners in Disaster Risk Science Community”, to understand how all people within IDRiM and our network perceive the challenges, strengths roles and responsibilities of women in the disaster risk domain. Twenty-two people attended the survey, and three of them were men. We thank everyone who attended the survey for their support.

We asked each participant to select three gender equality indicators that are pronounced in disaster risk-related research. Power is first in the ranking with 81.8%, and health is the last one with 18.2% (Figure 2).

2. UN, Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2022, available here: Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2022 | Publications | UN Women – Headquarters



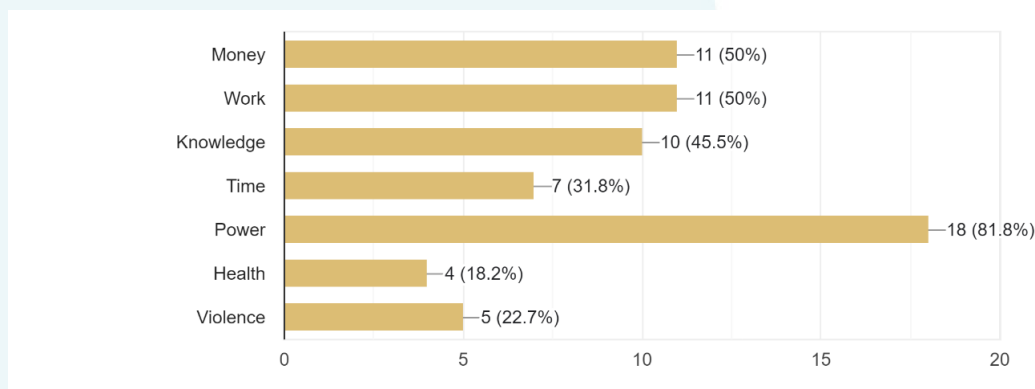


Figure 2: Gender Equality indicators in disaster-risk-related research

Furthermore, more than 95% of participants agreed (63.6%) or strongly agreed (31.8%) that “women are under-represented or misrepresented in disaster risk science. We asked participants to select the main reason for the underrepresentation or misinterpretation of women in DR science. 42.9% say that because of not having enough women in leadership positions, and 33.3% said that stereotypical perception of women, i.e. vulnerable, caretakers, weak in leadership. The answers were almost the same when we asked the same question for women in practice. Furthermore, the survey results showed that more than 50% of women were the victim of gender discrimination either in their academic or professional lives. The survey results show that IDRiM members support women’s role in the disaster risk domain and think that they should gain more significance (more than 87%) (Figure 3). Furthermore, the same members also state that we are still far from gender equality in disaster risk studies and practice (more than 86%) (Figure 4).

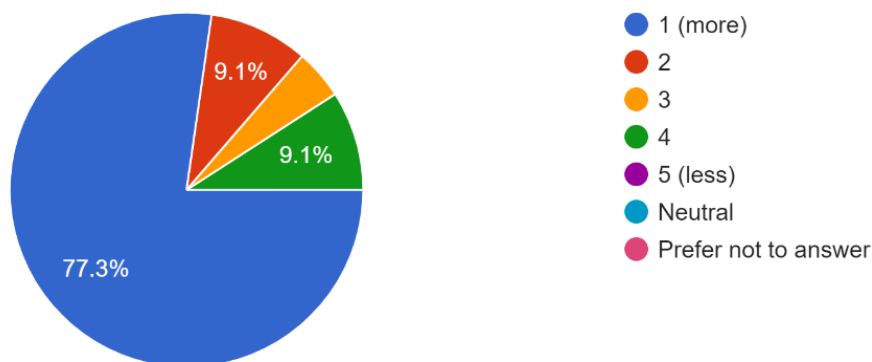


Figure 3: Whether women should gain a more significant role in the disaster risk domain

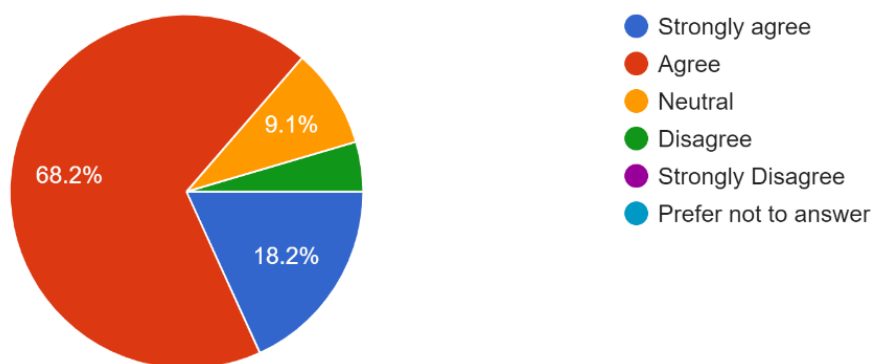


Figure 4: To what extent members agree with the following statement: ‘We are still far from gender equality in disaster risk domain’





## 3. THE SITUATION IN THE WORLD

In this section, our members reflect on what has happened in the world during the last year and how these selected events affect the gender and inclusion positively and negatively. We focused only on the impacts of the post-COVID-19 era, earthquakes in Turkey and Syria in February, gender apartheid in Afghanistan, and climate change, focusing on heatwaves in Italy and forest fires in Greece.

### 3.1 Women in Post-pandemic Era

The report of the World Health Organization & Pan American Health Organization on Post-Covid in 2022 states that the COVID-19 pandemic had a disproportionate impact on women in the USA and contributed to an increase in the ongoing social, political, economic and political gender inequality in health and threatened women's development and well-being.

Furthermore, women healthcare workers were on the front line caring for patients, and accounted for 72% of all COVID-19 cases among healthcare professionals in the region. Research shows that women working in healthcare are more likely to suffer from anxiety and depression, insomnia, or burnout than their male counterparts.<sup>4</sup> Calls to domestic violence hotlines shot up by 40% in some countries during these periods. In others, they dropped dramatically, indicating that women could have faced new barriers to seeking help.<sup>3</sup>

The re-direction of healthcare services to cope with the COVID-19 emergency left too many women and girls without the support they needed to stay healthy. In Latin America and the Caribbean, 1 in 4 adolescents did not have access to family planning services, exposing them to unwanted pregnancies, health risks, and school dropouts.

The pandemic also aggravated maternal mortality. Expectant mothers had to balance the fear of COVID-19 with the uncertainty of whether they could safely deliver their babies in a health facility, and too many did not receive the care they needed in time. In the past two years, more than 365,000 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in pregnant women in the region, and more than 3,000 of them have died. The report also warns that incorporating a gender approach in the response to the pandemic has been insufficient.

### 3.2 The recent disasters in Turkey and Syria and Women

Challenges are higher for women after the 7.8 magnitude earthquake on Feb. 6, 2023, which killed over 50,000 people and displaced 3 million people. Earthquake survivors in Turkey included 356,000 pregnant women who urgently needed medical care at the end of February 2023, according to the United Nations. Some women have had to give birth to their children in collapsed buildings. Following the February 2023 earthquake, advocacy groups and relief response agencies voiced concern that women and girls in Turkey were left in hastily constructed refugee camps that did not have access to safe bathrooms, clean water, or even period products. Women and girls often suffer the most during humanitarian emergencies worldwide. Violence against them increases, and they risk being exploited more. There's very limited access to services like hospitals, so pregnant women are at risk of complications if they can't receive the medical care they need. According to a study about risk communication and gender in risk management of Natech hazards in Turkey which conducted in 2021, the Government Agency for Disaster Risk Management (AFAD) often conduct raising awareness session in some

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3. World Health Organization, COVID-19 Pandemic Disproportionately Affected Women in the Americas, March 2022, available here: [COVID-19 Pandemic Disproportionately Affected Women in the Americas](#).

communities, but still, the information is not sufficient. The study found that a small number of women participated in awareness sessions; so as a result the majority of victims in disasters are women. Thus, there is a strong need to mainstream gender into all cycles of disasters by including women in disaster planning and policy.

### 3.3 Gender apartheid in Afghanistan

The U.N. defines gender apartheid as “economic and social sexual discrimination against individuals because of their gender or sex.” The Taliban seized power in August 2021, drastically curtailing women’s freedoms and rights, including their ability to attend high school and university. They have barred women from most areas of public life and work and cracked down on media freedoms. They have banned girls from attending school beyond the sixth grade and prohibited Afghan women from working at local and non-governmental organizations. The ban was extended to employees of the United Nations.

There have been issued over 100 decrees which deprived Afghan women and girls of their most basic human rights and opportunities, effectively putting them under house arrest. US Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) reported that Taliban interference in humanitarian aid is the ‘main barrier’ to beneficiaries, especially for women heads of households who can not appear in public without being accompanied. According to the Taliban rule, thousands of women who were bread winner for their households cannot continue work anymore; they do not have access to humanitarian support and livelihood opportunities and are facing unknown risks every day.

### 3.4 Climate change (heatwaves and forest fires)

#### 3.4.1 Heat waves

The year 2023 was recorded as one of the hottest years in Italy, with extensive forest wildfires all over Italy. A weekly update from the Italian government tells us that current forest wildfires involve a total area of 69,000 hectares. 71% of burning lands are in the South of Italy, respectively 75% in Sicily and 17% in Calabria.<sup>4</sup> In addition to the wildfires, the fire caused by overheating and malfunctioning equipment affected international and domestic travel, as Terminal A of the Catania Airport, one of the main airports of the region, was not functional from July 16th to 31st.

Facing the extreme heat and rising number of fires, in July 2023, the President of Sicily, Renato Schifani, declared a state of crisis and regional emergency and asked the Italian government to recognize the state of emergency due to the fires and the exceptional heat wave in Sicily. On 26 July 2023, The Minister for Civil Protection and Maritime Policies Nello Musumeci held an urgent briefing in the Chamber of Deputies on 27 July on the fires in Sicily and at Catania airport. Furthermore, as a concrete effort to contrast the spread of wildfires, the Italian Government tightened the penalties for the crime of arson through a Law Decree on 8 August 2023.<sup>5</sup>

Despite these actions, there is an ongoing debate on the “exceptionality” vs. “normality” of extreme weather events. While experts agree that climate change needs to be taken seriously for the safety and well-being of all, there are still powerful voices in the Italian political and private sectors who refute this idea, arguing that everything is “business as usual”. For example, the Italian Tourist Agency (ENIC) published a press release on July 21st 2023, just days before the state of emergency was put in place for the Sicily Wildfires on July 26th,

4. ISPRA <https://www.isprambiente.gov.it/it/news/ecosistemi-forestali-ed-incendi-aggiornamento-1-settembre-2023> Accessed Sept. 4th, 2023

5. Comunicato stampa del Consiglio dei Ministri n. 47”. [governo.it](https://www.governo.it). Governo.it, ACCESSED 30 August 2023



titled: “TOURISM, ITALY: NO CLIMATE EMERGENCY, TEMPERATURES IN SEASONAL NORM”<sup>6</sup>. The topic of differences in risk awareness is an important issue in gender and disaster studies. The impact of extreme events caused by the melting of the Marmolada glacier in 2022, the 2023 floodings in the Emilia Romagna region and now heatwaves all over Italy leads to the question: can the destruction magnitude and media coverage finally raise awareness of the broader public on the importance of mitigation strategies?

In particular, the current situation challenges the common knowledge that wildfires involve the most degraded and abandoned areas. While this remains true, and poses the question of including and addressing lack of maintenance in certain vulnerable areas as an incremental factor of wildfire risk, the fact that not only the poor and abandoned areas pay the costs of these events, but also Hotels and airports, might push for a change of the narrative of hazard risks and state responsibility. From “it would not happen to me” to “it could happen anywhere”. In other words, images such as evacuated tourists or daily commuters surrounded by flames have the potential to show the immediacy of the problem and take away the comforting idea that only certain areas and people are affected by climate change.

### 3.4.2 Recent forest fires in Greece

Disasters relating to climate change hazards are becoming a major concern all over the globe and urge us to discuss issues of inclusion and gender with a new urgency. A series of record-shattering heatwaves, wildfires and floods have devastated areas in the US, Europe, India and China in 2023. Taking the case of the recent mega forest fire in Northeast Greece, they are the largest single in the European Union since the European Forest Fire Information System started keeping records in 2000. The fire caused 20 deaths of which 18 of illegal migrants whose bodies were found together in the forest. Massive evacuations were undertaken while severe aerial pollution threatened mostly the most vulnerable, among them the elderly, children and pregnant women. Firefighting forces stretched to the limit, many women firefighters probably among them although no data on this were presented, and dozens of professional firefighters and volunteers were injured in their struggle to



## 4. RESEARCH UPDATE ON GENDER AND INCLUSION

### 4.1 Update on gender research in UNESCO

UNESCO emphasises including women in all of their disaster risk reduction (DRR) projects. This approach aims to reduce exposure to disaster risk and increase women’s coping capacity, agency, and leadership in DRR. These efforts lead to more equal and resilient communities. For instance, UNESCO frequently holds workshops and discussions on the role of women in preventing, reducing, managing, and responding to disasters. The last discussion was held in Nepal. In 2023, UNESCO also organized a workshop in Nairobi, Kenya, to provide a platform for south-south cooperation. This workshop aimed to discuss the status of DRR initiatives from a gender and social inclusion perspective, share experiences and best practices to further improve gender inclusion. In Haiti, UNESCO has trained female civil engineering students using 3D printers. This initiative aims to further the resilient reconstruction of their country and promote the involvement of women in current and future construction projects.

Currently, UNESCO is developing a paper to summarize all the efforts done by the organization towards reducing exposure to disaster risk and increasing women’s coping capacity, agency, and leadership in DRR.

6. <https://www.enit.it/en/tourism-italy-no-climate-emergency-temperatures-in-seasonal-norm>, accessed 30 August, 2023

#### 4.2 Children Led Disaster Risk Reduction - Rising Water Safer Shores Board Game <sup>7</sup>

Children are considered vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and associated disasters.<sup>8</sup> The main reason is their dependence on adults for their survival, in addition to several biological factors.<sup>9</sup> Their lack of knowledge of disasters and not being included in decision-making processes increase their vulnerability.<sup>10</sup> The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030) states the importance of involving children and young people as agents of change in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). The support is called through legislation, and curriculum development.<sup>11</sup> As a result, the children-led disaster risk reduction (CLDRR) research theme has been developed in disaster studies. The literature on CLDRR can be grouped into three main approaches: (1) investigating children's vulnerabilities and the special need to implement child-sensitive strategies; (2) disaster risk education in schools; and (3) supporting children's active participation in DRR activities.

The "Rising Water, Safer Shores" board game is an outcome of the research activity that supports children's active participation in Disaster Risk Reduction. Children have capacities to develop the skills needed to adapt, find innovative solutions, and protect themselves and their families. The game is co-designed by more than 60 children in India and the Netherlands on flooding and climate change adaptation for children aged 9-11. The activities demonstrate that educational materials prepared by children enable learning and that drawing is a universal language for children. It started in a school in Panju Island India in December 2019, where some of the children's drawings were incorporated into the board game. It continued in Enschede, the Netherlands, at an International School where the board game was tested and further co-developed using the children's ideas and contributions. With the help of a board game, we engage children in climate-change-related disasters, particularly flooding. Situated on an estuarine island in India, the board game connects children of different backgrounds with current and future global challenges.



## 5. ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR MEMBERS

IDRiM Women in Science is not only a means of representation in an academic world where gender issues are still undervalued or invisible, but also a forum of opportunity for its members to advance and support each other. In line with our vision, we support and encourage female scientists and practitioners in the IDRiM society. In this section, we share IDRiM women members' achievements in areas where female scientists' and practitioners' representation is limited.

***Irene Petraroli: MSCA Fellowship on Hazard Mapping and Social Vulnerabilities (2024-2027). Cross-European project purposed to bridge knowledge and practices from Japan to the EU.***

7. For more information please visit [Rising Water Safer Shores on Vimeo](#)

8. Martin, M.L., (2010). Child Participation in Disaster Risk Reduction: the case of flood-affected children in Bangladesh. *Third World Quarterly*, 31(8): 1357-1375.

9. UNICEF, (2015). Unless we act now. The impact of climate change on children. Report published November 2015. New York: UNICEF.

10. Mitchell P. and C. Borchard, (2014). Mainstreaming children's vulnerabilities and capacities into community-based adaptation to enhance impact. *Climate and Development*, 6(4): 372-381.

11. UNDRR, The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015). Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Sendai: Japan.



A young IDRiM member, Dr Irene Petraroli, a graduate of the Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies at Kyoto University (Class 2022), currently a Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Post-Doctoral Fellow, has been awarded the prestigious Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the University of Twente, under the co-supervision of another senior member, Dr. Funda Atun. The project, which will start in 2024 in order to allow her to complete her current project, is born out of their interest in disaster preparedness of vulnerable groups. The project, which has a theoretical and practical component, will focus on understanding and mapping risks and resources for foreign residents in a cross-country European study. Dr Petraroli has been working on public risk perception and the identification of the motors of disaster engagement in Japan since 2019, and will adapt and use the experience and models developed in her previous studies in her new environment.

#### **Ana Maria Cruz: President of IDRiM society**

Ana Maria Cruz was selected for the second time as the president of the IDRiM society. It proves that IDRiM members also support their ideas with action, as they indicated in the IDRiM survey. Besides, it is a proof that IDRiM contributes to the representation of women at the decision-making levels in international organizations.

#### **Funda Atun: Coordinator PARATUS project (SEP-210784020-Horizon Europe CL3-2021-DRS-01-03)**

In 'Promoting disaster preparedness and resilience by co-developing stakeholder support tools for managing the systemic risk of compounding disasters' (PARATUS) project, Dr. Funda Atun shares the coordination responsibility with her colleague Prof. Dr. Cees van Westen. The team has been developing an open-source platform for the dynamic risk assessment that can analyze and evaluate multi-hazard impact chains, risk reduction measures, and disaster response scenarios. The project will last until October 2026 and consists of nineteen partners from 12 countries and four case studies on various scales (Istanbul, Bucharest, Alps, and the Caribbean Islands). ([paratus-project.eu](https://paratus-project.eu))

#### **Mahban Arghavani: PhD Graduate**

Mahban recently received her Ph.D. in Earthquake Engineering from the International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES) in Tehran, Iran. She conducted her research by attending various activities in Austria and Italy. Her main fields of scientific interest include seismic vulnerability, risk and resilience infrastructure assessment, mathematical modelling of resilience and the recovery process, network analysis, and decision-making problems.



## 6. CONCLUSION

We welcome the participation of colleagues who support and improve diversity, inclusion and gender equality in disaster risk science and practice. We welcome research but also achievements, stories, experiences and career-path narratives of women and men scientists and practitioners who had to deal with gender, diversity and inclusion issues in their work in the field of hazards and disasters. Please share them with us.

**Contributors: Funda Atun, Angeli Medina, Marina Hamidzada, Irene Petraroli, Miranda Dandoulaki, America Bendito**



# Past IDRiM Conferences



IDRiM2014 in Canada



IDRiM2016 in Iran



IDRiM2017 in Iceland

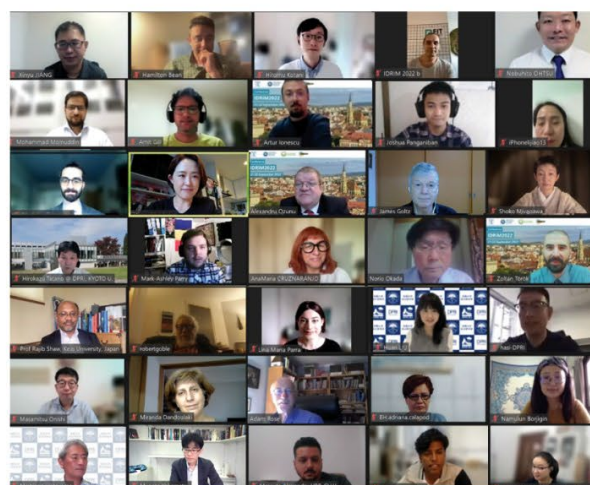
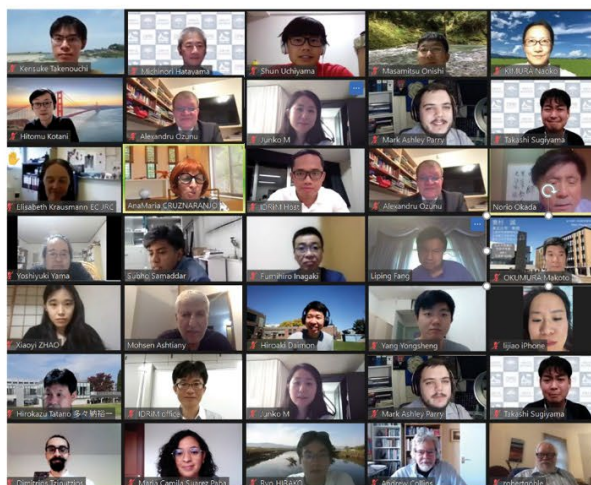




**IDRIM2018 in Australia**



**IDRiM2019 in France**



**IDRiM2021 in Japan**

**IDRiM2022 in Romania**

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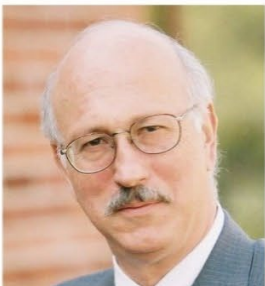
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# IDRiM Society Annual Report 2022-2023



## IDRiM Society

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