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Systematic review of considerations and preparations for women and girls
in disasters

Past research has shown that gender inequalities result from existing discriminatory structures and practices, increasing women's vulnerability to disaster risk. This vulnerability increases with lower socioeconomic status, impacting one's ability to properly prepare, cope with, and recover from disasters. Newer approaches aim to highlight women's leadership and resilience during and after a disaster, emphasizing the need to provide support for unique vulnerabilities. This study highlights past research through a systematic literature review of research reports, policy reviews, case studies, and journal publications to compile and assess suggestions for emergency planners and managers in the context of consideration for disproportionate impacts of disasters on women. The recommendations provided by these new approaches focus addressing violence against women and girls, improving programs to include a focus on women's economic and social rights, and empowering women through participation in each phase of the disaster cycle. These measures are required to mitigate the impact that disaster events have on the lives of this population, as well as enabling women to build resilience before, during, and after a

disaster. The implementation of such suggestions allows for increased community resilience and enhanced recovery.

Presentation Theme: Additional considerations and preparations required in order to properly respond to the unique vulnerabilities presented by women in disaster scenarios.

Collaborators, Advisor(s) and Department(s) that assisted with this research: Emergency and Disaster Management Department at Western Carolina University, Dr. Sarah Jackson.