
How does climate change impact women and how can women help in the climate crisis?



From the UNFCCC Report

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Dimensions and examples of the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change, the role of women as agents of change and opportunities for women

Report content

Synthesized from submissions from 19 Parties including EU and UK and relevant organisations, covering:

- Gender differentiated Impacts of climate change
- Women as agents of change
- Opportunities for women in context of climate change

Gender noted as non-binary but report focuses on differences between women and men (note data a big issue in expanding this).

Gender differentiated impacts of climate change

Adverse effects of extreme weather felt ‘more keenly by women than men’ (socially and financially)

- due to systemic gender discrimination and societal expectations (increased vulnerability due to intersection of social factors – location (e.g. rural/urban), income, educational background, ethnicity, dis(ability) and gender/sexual identity.

Gender differentiated impacts of climate change

Increase in **gender based violence** following climate induced disaster (combination of adverse impacts, environmental degradation and conflict), including child marriage as a coping mechanism following disaster to secure funds/assets.

Girls more likely to be **taken out of school**, e.g., to collect water and firewood, which under climate disaster may involve longer journeys (see our [meeting with Mariana Macedo](#) last year) and increased exposure to gender based violence.

Gender differentiated impacts of climate change

Males more likely to **migrate**, reducing income potential and access to resources, especially if remaining community lacks educational background and legal rights to secure funding through climate funds.

Women have **unequal access to land**, with 102 countries denying land rights to women. Less likely to benefit from funding schemes/capacity building initiatives.

Gender differentiated impacts of climate change

Women more likely to get their **income from informal tourism** related activities, and thus more impacted by extreme weather, and less capacity to adapt.

Need for **sex/gender – disaggregated data** to better understand impacts, and more research (including intersectional impacts).

Homogenising sex/gender differentiated impact data **can be problematic** as diversity within women!

Women as agents of climate change

– how women can help

Although women find it harder to get their voices heard, and are less integrated into the formal economy and decision making, they

- Are often **custodians** of traditional/indigenous knowledge
 - Can **predict** local weather very well
 - Use more **sustainable transport** (shorter, more forms, less polluting).
 - Have more **sustainable eating** habits to guarantee food security.
 - Were behind many early **innovations** in subsistence farming.
 - Can change cooking and land management habits to ensure **sustainable forestry and water security**.
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Women as agents of climate change – how women can help

Women only 22% of energy sector – huge **potential** for further involvement of women in energy transition.

Need to **involve women in decision making** at all levels!

Opportunities for women

- Be more involved in **decision making** (evolving naturally in some cases when men migrate)
 - Increase **income** (and move into formal economy)
 - Increase in **social equity** through climate resilient policies
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But this needs...

Education equity

Increased access to climate **information** (e.g. in multiple languages)

Land access and ownership equity

And other **rights-based** approaches

Recommendations

Information could be **shared** through national gender and climate change focal points – like the **Met Office!**

Need for **intersectional** consideration.

Framework for sharing good practices and information via national gender and climate change focal points...

Which can then **facilitate** inclusive climate-resilient **policymaking** and promote creation of effective **policies and opportunities** for women.
