

NOTEBOOKS
OF THE FONDATION

WOMEN & CLIMATE

EMPOWERING WOMEN
TO TAKE ACTION



Women are on the frontline in the fight against climate change. They are the most exposed to the effects of global warming. When food prices rise, they are the hardest hit by hunger and malnutrition. When water is scarce, they are the ones who, once again, sacrifice their education to walk even farther to the next well. But women are also an important part of the solution: they educate, inspire, nurture, and provide for their families or even entire communities. The choices they make as consumers are a determining factor in changing economic and social models.

Yet despite their efforts and the strategic role they play, women still often go unheard. Because they are underrepresented in international conversations on climate change, as well as in leadership positions in major companies, public institutions or community decision-making bodies, their economic, social and political role is diminished.

This state of affairs must change. Excluding or minimizing the role of women would be to condemn the struggle against climate change in advance. Everywhere, from north to south, it is apparent that fighting for environmental protections against global warming is impossible without also fighting for gender equality, food security for all and equal access to education. Research into the links between gender equality and the environment have demonstrated their pertinence: the two issues deeply intersect, while the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are interdependent.

Furthermore, the plight of women in the face of climate change is symbolic of a much bigger issue: climate justice. When temperatures rise, we are not all equal. Several studies show that already impoverished populations are the most impacted. The most disadvantaged, overlooked and least trained women – and men – suffer two to three times more with each natural disaster, drought or when ecosystems are disturbed. Here again, women can make a difference: because they are more aware of the daily realities of climate change, they are pioneers in environmental justice movements.

Time is running short. We have 10 years to overcome the natural and human challenges upon which our future depends. At the Fondation L'Oréal, which has always supported women, we believe that the fight against climate change and the fight for gender equality are to be led together. When gender inequalities are eliminated and women have the voice they deserve, they have the capacity to create a more sustainable, inclusive and prosperous world.

Businesses, institutions, grassroots organizations, communities, citizens: it is our collective responsibility to dedicate ourselves to fully recognizing women and their freedom to act, including for the environment. Defending women's rights, giving them the means to take action, to change their future, to be heard and to participate in the decision-making process benefits us all. What is good for them is good for the planet, and for humanity.

Alexandra Palt

Executive Vice President of the Fondation L'Oréal

ABOUT THE NOTEBOOK

As temperatures continue to rise around the world, gender inequalities mean that women are disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change.

Despite being the backbone of many agricultural and rural economies, they are often allotted the poorest quality land, and are more likely to go without food during times of hunger. Meanwhile, they are responsible for the brunt of unpaid care and household labor in many communities, leaving them with limited time to pursue an education. They are also at greater risk of gender-based violence and even death from climate-related natural disasters.

Yet women's experiences and the lessons they may offer often go ignored because of a lack of inclusion in the decision-making process. Their unequal participation and representation mean that States are missing out on a valuable resource when developing policies on how best to respond to climate change.

Gender & Climate is a report on how climate change impacts women. The Fondation L'Oréal commissioned it as a means to raise awareness of gender-specific threats, as well as highlight humanitarian and climate solutions that empower women. In doing so, the report draws on numerous resources and references to give a clearer picture of the challenges many women face and how they can be overcome. Solutions mentioned in this Notebook include notably those implemented by C40, CARE France and the University of Beirut, with the support of the Fondation L'Oréal.

The complete report is available on the Fondation's website: www.fondationloreal.com.

THE FONDATION L'ORÉAL

The Fondation L'Oréal supports and empowers women to shape their future and make a difference in society, focusing on three major areas: scientific research, inclusive beauty and climate action.

Since 1998, the L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* program has worked to empower more women scientists to overcome barriers to progression and participate in solving the great challenges of our time, for the benefit of all. For 22 years, it has supported more than 3,600 women researchers from 117 countries, rewarding scientific excellence and inspiring younger generations of women to pursue science as a career.

Convinced that beauty contributes to the process of rebuilding lives, the Fondation L'Oréal helps vulnerable people to improve their self-esteem through free beauty and wellness treatments. It also enables underprivileged women to gain access to employment with dedicated vocational beauty training. In 2019, more than 18,000 people had access to free treatments and almost 6,000 women took part in professional beauty training.

Finally, women are affected by persistent gender-based discrimination and inequalities, exacerbated by climate change. While they are on the frontline of the crisis, they remain under-represented in climate decision-making. The *Women and Climate* pillar of the Fondation L'Oréal supports, in particular, women who are developing climate action projects addressing the urgent climate crisis and raises awareness of the importance of gender-sensitive climate solutions.



ACCESS TO LAND & AGRICULTURE

50%

Agricultural production must increase by at least 50% in order to feed the world's population and provide enough raw materials for industry by 2050, according to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Meanwhile, some estimates project that agricultural output could decline by as much as 2% per decade.

“ Women are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than men - primarily as they constitute the majority of the world's poor and are more dependent for their livelihood on natural resources that are threatened by climate change.”

¹ UN Women

² See: https://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate_change/downloads/Women_and_Climate_Change_Factsheet.pdf

A VERY SPECIFIC FORM OF VULNERABILITY

Women play a critical role in agriculture and rural economies around the world. They are farmers, field hands, market sellers, entrepreneurs... Yet because women often lack the same access to resources and opportunities as men, they are disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change. This limits their productivity and ability to care for themselves and others.

Key issues

One of the greatest threats we face from climate change and biodiversity loss over the next 30 years is food security. The twin crises have already had a major impact on agriculture, eroding much of the world's arable land.

In response, farmers clear forests and other ecosystems to make room for more crops and pasture, razing 3.3 million hectares - an area roughly the size of India - of forest between 2010 and 2015 alone.

Yet far from solving the problem, deforestation has only made climate change worse by releasing tons of carbon into the atmosphere, thereby affecting the resilience of landscapes to coming shocks. It's a vicious circle: the more forest cleared, the more dire

the consequences of climate change and biodiversity loss, the less arable land there is to farm.

With the global population expected to grow to between 9 and 10 billion people by 2050, this means changes need to be made. Otherwise, we will be faced with the challenge of having to grow more food on less land, further straining agriculture systems, with women on the frontline.

How women are affected

Land grabbing

Women like men are increasingly affected by the state or corporate seizure of farm land for development, which has displaced communities worldwide. The practice is especially common in Sub-Saharan Africa,

Latin America and Southeast Asia, where women make up an estimated 43% of the agricultural labor force, according to the FAO¹. Globally, women make up less than 15% of all landowners².

¹ See: <http://www.fao.org/gender/resources/infographics/the-female-face-of-farming/en/>

² See: <http://www.fao.org/3/I8796EN/I8796en.pdf>

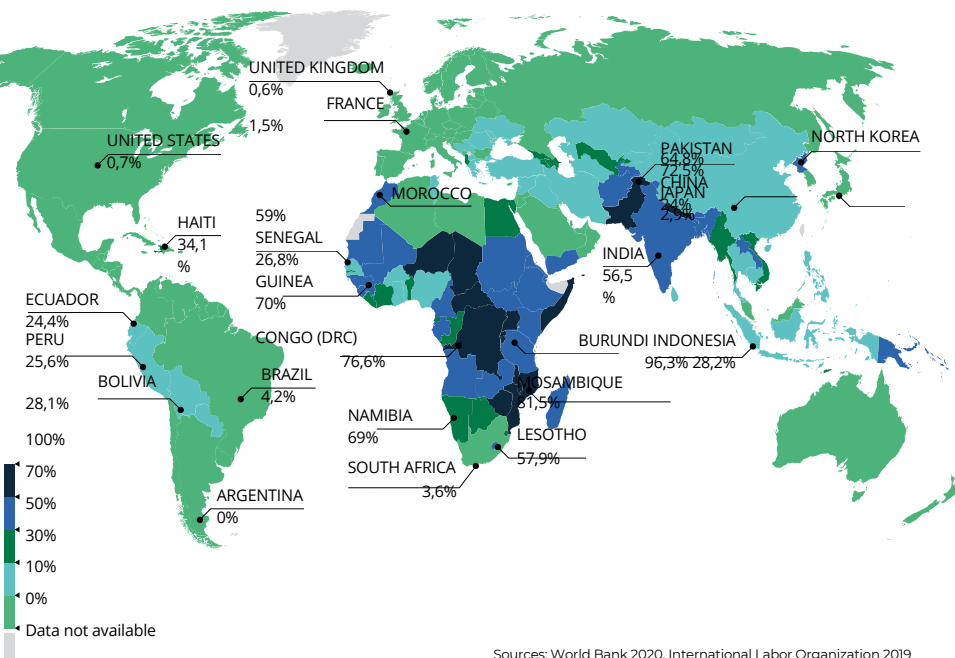
It's a man's world

The gender division of labor in many cultures means that women are often responsible for cultivating and preparing food for the household, while men are more likely to farm produce to be sold at market. As a result, women are frequently given less fertile land, leaving them and their families especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Men are also more likely to be able to relocate for work, whereas women are often restricted to the home as primary caregivers.

Self-sacrifice

Women all around the world are much more likely to live in food insecurity than men. In the event of shortages or price hikes, they spend more time gathering food, and in some countries it is not uncommon for women to find themselves at the bottom of the food chain, ensuring that their families have eaten before feeding themselves. This leaves them particularly exposed to hunger and malnutrition.

SHARE OF WOMEN EMPLOYED IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN 2019



Solutions for a climate resilient agriculture

HOW TO IMPLEMENT MEANINGFUL AND LASTING CHANGE?

Get the measure

Empowering women in agriculture begins with understanding the social, cultural and historical context of the region where they live. What is the traditional social role of women? How does it affect the gender division of labor? Does ethnicity or age have an impact? It is also essential to look at the geographic and environmental conditions specific to the area and how climate change impacts these factors.

reduce the rate of undernourishment in the world, lifting up to 150 million people out of hunger.

Climate smart agricultural practices

Tackling the gender gap in agriculture also rely on supporting women smallholders in adapting their agricultural practices to the effects of climate change (crop diversification, agroecological pest management, sustainable water use).

Equal access to resources They would have the means not only to If women who run small farms were given sustainably intensify their productivity, but equal access to resources as men, their also contribute more to the economy, as yields would grow by 20 to 30%, according well as the wellbeing of their families and to the FAO, increasing the total agricultural society as a whole. It would also greatly production of low-income countries from reduce food and economic insecurity 2.5 to 4%. Although this number may by giving women more control over their appear small at first glance, it would income and time.

IN ACTION

As part of its mission to save lives, defeat poverty and achieve social justice, the NGO CARE implements community-based agriculture projects addressing the impacts of climate change on communities in ways that are more responsive to gender dynamics.

that improve production and ensure food security. This reinforces their ability to become decision-makers, advocates and leaders in efforts to address the climate crisis within their communities.

“By failing to close the gender gap in agriculture, the world is paying dearly.”

CARE 1

CARE develops on the ground adaptation capacities of marginalized rural women in the face of rising temperatures by developing resilient agriculture methods

See: <https://care.org/our-work/food-and-nutrition/agriculture/>



WATER SECURITY

An estimated **700** million people are affected by water scarcity worldwide.

“There will be a 40% gap between the supply and demand (for drinkable water) by 2030.”

2030 Water Resources Group

WOMEN THIRSTING FOR CHANGE

As the global population has grown, so has the demand for clean water. Yet climate change makes it an increasingly rare resource, with extended periods of drought, variable rainfall patterns and flooding putting strain on the world's water supplies. While water scarcity is an issue that impacts everyone, social and cultural inequalities mean that women are often the worst affected.

Key issues

Between 1900 and 2010, the global population more than quadrupled from 1.6 to 7 billion people. Our water footprint, meanwhile, increased nearly twice as fast by a staggering seven-fold, driven in part by industrialization, the intensification of agricultural production and urbanisation.

With water use expected to grow by a further 40 to 50% in the next 10 years, the world's supplies are insufficient to meet the demand. Climate change has only exacerbated the problem, leading to variable rainfall, severe drought and flooding in many regions of the world. According to the *United Nations World Water Development Report 2018*, nearly half of the global population (or 3.6 billion people)

currently live in areas under high water stress at least one month of the year.

Access to clean, safe water is critical to our survival. Without it, communities can't grow food or stay healthy, making them and women in particular vulnerable to hunger, illness, poverty and even political instability.

How women are affected

Time poverty

Many communities around the world rely on women and girls for unpaid care and domestic work, including the collection of water. It is used in everything from food production and cooking, to cleaning and waste disposal. But the scarcer the water, the more time women spend collecting it.

This in turn can make it difficult for them to attend school, widening the gender gap by limiting their ability to advance.

Resource management

As the backbone of many rural households, women are often forced to make hard choices with limited financial resources

in the face of price hikes and food shortages caused by climate change. As a result, savings are often made by slashing spending on education costs, especially for young girls.

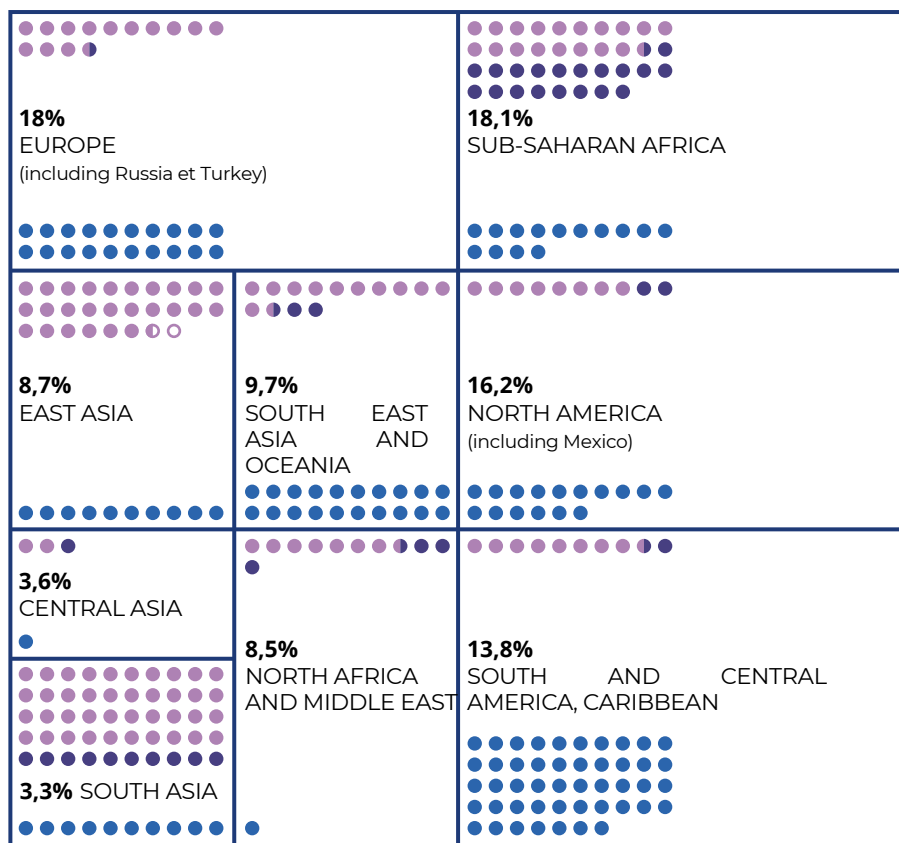
Health & hygiene

As temperatures around the world continue to rise, so does the threat of water contamination caused by increased flooding and extreme weather. Because women

and girls are largely responsible for water collection, they are more at risk for water-borne parasites and illness. Scarcity is also a major issue during and after pregnancy for women, who depend on clean water to keep them healthy. About 44 million pregnant women have sanitation-related hookworm infections worldwide, while 1 million deaths each year are associated with unclean births, according to UN Water¹.

See: <https://www.unwater.org/water-facts/gender/>

POPULATION, TERRITORIES AND WATER RESOURCES BY REGION IN 2020 AND 2050



Sources: World Bank 2018, FAO Aquastat, 2018, United Nations, World Population Prospects, 2018

18% Share of the region within emerged land
 ● Available water resources 400 billion m³
 ● Population in 2019 60 million inhabitants
 ● Population increase in 2050
 ○ Population decrease in 2050

Water Security Solutions

HOW TO IMPLEMENT MEANINGFUL AND LASTING CHANGE?

Protect forests

Trees play an essential role in keeping soil from drying during times of reduced rainfall. They also mitigate the effects of erosion and flooding, preventing runoff from polluting clean water sources. Stopping deforestation would greatly reduce many of the risks associated with climate change and water, alleviating much of the burden on women and girls.

Better water management

Involving women in improving water management policies is essential to responding to local climate conditions and gender inequities by increasing productivity and sustainability. The greater the access to clean water, the lower the risk to women.

IN ACTION

Test-the-Water, a project by the Nature Conservation Center at the American University of Beirut, is turning the tide on how we respond to water contamination amidst climate change and gender inequality.

Adapting to climate change is fundamentally tied to including women in decision making on accessible and safe community water. Test-the-Water gives women an empowering stake in evidence-based remediation of contamination that was previously considered out of hand.

Facilitated by a first-of-its-kind digital platform, water quality test kits, and solution co-creation workshops, the project applies a participatory approach to including marginalized citizens in assessing, analyzing, and advancing solutions to the underlying social, technical, and management issues driving poor water quality. In doing so, Test-the-Water is creating the kind of collective processes needed to improve water quality, embrace gender equality, and adapt to climate change.



HEALTH & DISEASES

300 million people contract malaria each year.

“Women must be satisfied with what the members of her household leave her to eat, especially in times of hunger or famine.”

World Health Organization

WOMEN ARE EXPOSED TO GENDER-SPECIFIC HEALTH THREATS

Inequality means that women especially pregnant women are at far greater risk than men of suffering from malnutrition, long-term illness and disease caused by climate change. Yet as global temperatures continue to rise, so does the burden on women's health.

Key issues

As we have already seen, climate change has a serious impact on everything from food security to clean water access, threatening the wellbeing of communities around the world.

Drought, variable rainfall, flooding and extreme heat have had an overwhelmingly negative impact on health by destroying crops and contaminating water supplies.

additional deaths per year from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress, according to the World Health Organization (WHO)¹.

Between 2030 and 2050, rising temperatures are expected to claim an estimated 250,000

While both men and women are at greater risk because of climate change, women are more vulnerable to gender-specific health threats.

How women are affected

A balanced diet

As climate change threatens global agriculture systems and food security, cultural and social norms in many regions mean that women are among the most at risk of hunger and malnutrition. This can have a lasting impact on women's health, increasing their risk of amenorrhea or the absence of menstruation infertility and pre-eclampsia.

Maternal malaria

Variable rainfall caused by climate change has led to a spike in mosquito-borne diseases, such as malaria. Women are up to three times more likely to become infected during pregnancy, making them especially vulnerable to the disease. This is because pregnancy strips women of their immunity to malaria, making them more susceptible to serious illness. Malaria can also affect the

See: <https://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health>

development of the fetus, increasing the risk of premature birth and infant mortality.

Mercury rising

The last five years have been the hottest on record, with global temperatures rising 1.15 degrees C above the pre-industrial average in 2019, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)¹. Women are most vulnerable to health risks

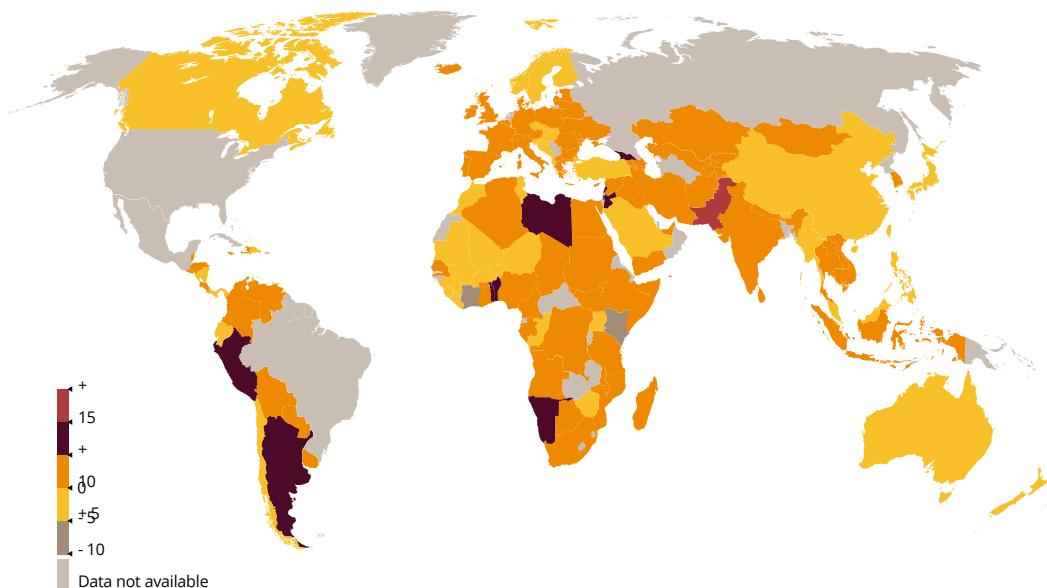
associated with climate change, including heat related mortality². For example, during the 2003 heat wave in France which claimed the lives of nearly 15,000 people the majority of victims were women. There are a number of possible physiological explanations: women not only tend to have a faster metabolism than men, but they also sweat less, making it more difficult for their bodies to cool.

¹See: <https://www.noaa.gov/news/2019-was-2nd-hottest-year-on-record-for-earth-say-noaa-nasa>

²See: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6038986/>

GAP IN WOMEN'S FOOD INSECURITY PREVALENCE RATE VERSUS MEN

IN 2016 (in percentage points)



Sources: UN Women 2020, FAO 2017

Health & Diseases Solutions

HOW TO IMPLEMENT MEANINGFUL AND LASTING CHANGE?

While significant progress has been made towards closing the gender gap in education, climate change has shown just how fragile many of the gains are. Which is why it is so important to invest in equal education. Educating women and girls will not only make them more resilient, but will also give them the tools they need to make informed decisions about their health and the wellbeing of their families.

Family planning

Pregnant women are especially vulnerable to climate related health risks. Yet in developing countries, an estimated 214 million women who want to avoid

pregnancy lack access to or do not use contraception, according to WHO¹. Effective family planning can help reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies by 70%, while lowering the rate of maternal mortality by 66%.

Access to healthcare

Women in many regions of the world lack access to adequate healthcare services, in part because of economic, social and cultural inequalities. This means that they are not getting the care that they need. By ensuring equal access to healthcare, mortality rates linked to gender-specific health threats from climate change will decrease.

¹See: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/family-planning-contraception>

IN ACTION

60%

Women and girls make up 60% of the under-nourished population in Asia-Pacific, according to ARROW.

ARROW is a regional non-profit organization based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, committed to supporting women's reproductive and sexual health.

Since its founding in 1993, it has recognized the intersectionality between women's health and climate change, conducting studies in select island and coastal countries in Asia to gain a better understanding of the two issues. It has also launched a regional partnership to explore how climate change directly impacts women's reproductive and sexual health in Asia-Pacific. To learn more about ARROW, visit www.arrow.org.my.



SAFETY & RESILIENCE

x4

The number of natural disaster victims has more than quadrupled since 1975.

“Characterising women consistently as vulnerable marginalises their participation in climate change mitigation and adaptation, and omits or diminishes the many strengths and solutions they bring.”

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka,
UN Under-Secretary-General
and Executive Director, UN Women

NATURAL DISASTERS IMPACT WOMEN MOST

The last few decades have seen a spike in climate-related natural disasters. Catastrophic storms have destroyed entire communities, while flooding, drought and famine have displaced millions. While everyone is affected, the majority of victims are women and girls who often lack the same life-saving skills, resources and access to information as men, putting them at greater safety risk.

Key issues

Since 1980, the number of natural disasters worldwide has more than tripled. This has been largely attributed to climate change, which has led to extreme weather events of greater frequency and strength.

As a result, our planet is becoming a more dangerous place to live, as the strain on environmental, economic, social and political systems grows. With governments and other institutions struggling to manage the fallout, communities around the world have suffered. The impact of climate-related

natural disasters has led to increased poverty, conflict, mass migration and mortality rates. In many regions, it has amplified existing inequalities, running along the faultlines of society. This means women are often among the worst affected, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation, violence and even death.

How women are affected

Death toll

Women are 14 times more likely to die in a climate-related natural disaster than men, according to UN Women. This is largely due to gender inequalities, which mean that many women lack the same emergency preparation, life-saving skills (such as swimming) and autonomy, putting them

at significantly greater risk of danger in the event of extreme weather, flooding, drought or famine.

I do (not)

More and more women and girls are being forced into early marriage as their families seek a lifeline out of poverty caused

by climate-related natural disasters. This in turn limits their access to education and other opportunities, disempowering them.

Violence against women

Climate-related natural disasters have displaced millions of people around the world, forcing many into camps or to

migrate. As a result, women and girls are more exposed to the threat of targeted violence, including intimidation, sexual harassment, assault and rape, according to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). There are also increasing reports of migrant women and girls falling victim to kidnap, forced labor and sexual exploitation.



In 8 out of 10 households

women and girls are responsible for fetching water, exposing them to the risk of harassment, sexual assault and rape en route.

In Dafur refugee camps, **82% of rape victims** treated by Médecins Sans Frontières were attacked while conducting daily household activities, such as water collection.



Safety & Resilience Solutions

HOW TO IMPLEMENT MEANINGFUL AND LASTING CHANGE?

Mainstreaming gender data

One of the greatest challenges of addressing the impact of climate-related natural disasters on women is a dearth of gender-specific indicators and data. Without a more accurate picture of how climate affects women's security, it is difficult to assess how much progress is being made and where improvement is needed.

Get women involved.

Women's participation in leadership and the decision-making process is crucial to finding solutions that are adapted to their unique experiences and circumstances. By involving women more, they will be better equipped to respond to and reduce the safety risks of climate-related natural disasters.

IN ACTION

Launched in 2017, The C40 Women4Climate initiative is a global mentoring Programme that aims to support and guide future female leaders across multiple sectors (companies, government, academia, civil society) in developing innovative and inclusive local projects to reduce the impact of climate change in cities. Founded in 2017, the initiative mobilized women climate leaders from their own teams, supporting their projects and strengthening their leadership capabilities.

Since the launch of the partnership, 22 mentorship programs have been launched in 16 cities (Addis Ababa, Auckland, Barcelona, Freetown, Lisbon, Lima, London, Paris, Mexico City, Tel Aviv- Yafo, New Orleans, Montreal...), with a total of 300 women beneficiaries.

“Women aren't merely victims: because they are on the frontline, they are best placed to observe the effects of climate change, develop useful knowledge... and find practical solutions. We must change the perspective we may sometimes have of them as victims in order to see them as a resource, and to give their voices significant space ”

Gender & Climate: Empowering Women to Take Action

INTERVIEW WITH HINDOU OUMAROU IBRAHIM

Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim is an environmental activist and member of the Mbororo community in Chad. She began fighting for the environment and indigenous rights at the age of 16, when she founded the Women and Indigenous People's Association of Chad (l'Association pour les femmes et les peuples autochtones du Tchad or AFPAT). The non-profit currently focuses on developing income-generating projects for women, as well as collaborative tools such as 3D mapping, which can reduce conflicts over natural resources by allowing for a more sustainable management of ecosystems. She is an advocate of combining traditional, indigenous knowledge and science to combat against climate change and protect biodiversity.

Nominated as an ambassador of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, Ibrahim was recognized by the BBC in 2018 as one of the world's 100 most inspiring women. TIME Magazine also listed her as one of the 15 most influential women in the fight against climate change.

Social media

Instagram: hindououmar

Twitter: @hindououmar

Where does your commitment to women and climate change come from?

My commitment to women and climate change comes from my childhood in Chad. I was fortunate to have an incredible mother, who was very strong. She chose to send her kids to school against the wishes of her community, which was not in the habit of educating children, least of all young girls.

At school, I was marginalized, bullied by the other children. I often heard my classmates say things like: "you come from the bush" or "you smell like milk." To be honest, I didn't realize just how hurtful their comments were. I had only one thing on my mind: to fight to go to school, do my homework well and succeed.

Other girls my age suffered a different fate. They were doubly punished, first for being a woman, and then for not knowing how to read or write. This is where my commitment comes from: to defend the right of these young girls to receive an education.

I went to school, but I never lost touch with my identity as a member of the Fula people, nor the realities of rural life... I knew a rural life that was dependent on nature and the seasons. I know in my heart how important environmental protection is.

How can Fula women inspire the world in the fight against climate change?

The struggle of Fula women is one of fascinating community resilience in the face of new and ongoing crises with terrible consequences. Fula women have an extraordinary capacity to innovate and adapt. They are the paradigm

of ingenuity, despite never having been to school, nor having had access to even the most basic technology, such as electricity or potable drinking water.

All they have is nature. Nature feeds their children, treats the sick, heats their homes. Yet their way of life is being threatened by climate change, which has put the entire community in danger. The rainy season is much shorter, while the dry season is longer and hotter. These shifts are threatening the survival of entire populations. We are now seeing more conflicts – sometimes violent, even deadly – between communities, over access to fertile land or water.

The whole world can learn from these women, who are the first to wake up and the last to go to sleep to ensure the survival of their communities. I sometimes wonder: what miracles could these women achieve with one ounce of technology or access to funding? They are the best architects to build a more equitable world for all. They are victims of climate change even though they have not benefitted from industrialization. They are a model for all communities around the world who have funding and technology to make great things happen.

In your opinion, what needs to be done most urgently in Chad? On the international level?

Investing in adapting to climate change in rural areas, in order to facilitate the kind of community resilience [shown by Fula women]. Supporting women means transforming communities: everyone benefits.

We also have to listen to women and amplify their voice. It's impossible to combat climate change without integrating human rights, otherwise we run the risk of adopting false solutions. Only 29 countries around the world have integrated human rights into their Climate Plan and I am extremely proud that Chad is one of them.

What are some of the obstacles you have encountered as a woman scientist and activist?

I come from a patriarchal community, where there is little respect for what women have to say, and where it is looked down upon to see a woman address community leaders. I had to fight for acceptance by proving that my words would be followed by action. After much effort, community leaders now listen to me and even deliberately follow my advice.

Then there was the time that I had to sit for international talks, surrounded by white men in black suits, who appeared amused by my traditional dress... Their attitude [towards me] gave me strength to raise my voice, because the message I carried I had learned from adversity, not in a classroom.

How would you define women's leadership on climate change? What do they bring to the fight?

Women know how to think collectively. They have a long-term vision. Mothers put their children first, before thinking of themselves. They think of what they're handing down to their children, they invest in building a better

future for their families and their communities. Women's leadership is built on educating young girls. We have to tell them that they can be whatever they want, whether a doctor, scientist, community leader or minister.

What is your personal motto?

I'm not guided by a personal motto, but by faces. The faces of the women in my community are the inspiration for my energy, my courage, my fight.

In many indigenous communities, decisions are based on a rule of seven. You have to think about the past seven generations – which means knowing their names, their functions – and the seven future generations. This rule allows us to think sustainably and with wisdom, as well as question what we will leave behind. I would never forgive myself for destroying the environment that I have thrived from and for not preserving it for the seven generations to come.

“Women’s leadership is built on educating young girls. We have to tell them that they can be whatever they want, whether a doctor, scientist, community leader or minister.”

Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim

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