



CLIMATE CHANGE AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: WHAT ARE THE LINKS?

GBV AoR HELPDESK
Gender Based Violence in Emergencies



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Background to this Learning Brief

This learning brief is part of a series of knowledge products produced by the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR) Helpdesk.¹ UNFPA colleagues have partnered in the development and finalization of the content. To supplement the desk review that informs this learning brief, the Helpdesk also undertook interviews with ten colleagues working in humanitarian settings around the world with expertise in climate change and/or addressing GBV in climate-affected settings.

The learning brief focuses on the links between GBV and climate change. Until relatively recently (and still to an extent), climate change action, including efforts to reduce and adapt to climate change, was under the purview of development programming rather than humanitarian response. However, given the growing investment in a nexus approach across the UN system,² as well as the recognition of the significant impact climate change will have in accelerating the frequency and/or severity of natural disasters, co-existing climatic disasters and humanitarian conflict situations, and increased insecurity contributing to conflict, the delineation between 'humanitarian' and 'development' settings are progressively less relevant.

As such, addressing climate change is increasingly seen as an important investment in both development settings as well as settings vulnerable to humanitarian crises. The Paris Agreement recognizes climate change³ to be the "**common concern of mankind**" (United Nations, 2015).



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- 1 The Helpdesk is a technical research, analysis, and advice service for humanitarian practitioners working on GBV prevention and response in emergencies at the global, regional and country level. GBV AoR Helpdesk services are provided by a roster of GBViE experts, with oversight from Social Development Direct.
- 2 A nexus approach ensures that humanitarian action is aligned with and contributes to longer-term relief and recovery. The commitment to taking a nexus approach is reflected in several global initiatives, particularly The Grand Bargain (https://www.icvanetwork.org/system/files/versions/Grand_Bargain_Explained_ICVAbriefingpaper.pdf), the New Way of Working (<https://www.unocha.org/top-stories/all-stories/new-way-working>), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1298793?ln=en>), the 2017-2020 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (<http://sdg.iisd.org/news/second-committeeadopts-qcp-2017-2020-to-align-unds-agenda-2030/>), and the Communiqué of the International Refugee Congress 2018 (https://www.refugeecongress2018.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/International-Refugee-Congress-Communique_-May-2018.pdf).
- 3 The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has defined climate change as "any change in climate over time, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity" (IPCC, 2007: 30).
- 4 UN, 2020. "Climate Change." <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/climate-change/>

In order for GBV actors working in humanitarian settings to recognize and access resources (including funding) linked to climate change action—and ensure that climate-related policies and programmes are supporting attention to GBV—it is important to first understand some of the basics around climate change. The information presented in this learning brief is meant to serve as a preliminary introduction to the topic, rather than an exhaustive overview—the goal is to increase literacy for GBV actors on the issue of climate change and its link to GBV as a first step to define interventions. Several of the specific questions that this learning brief seeks to address are:

- What is climate change?
- What are the hazards that climate produces or exacerbates?
- How does climate change contribute to humanitarian emergencies around the world, and how will this contribution accelerate in the coming years?
- How are GBV risks, including harmful practices, exacerbated by different types of climate hazards, and in different regions of the world?
- What are the global commitments and efforts to address climate change? To what extent do these efforts integrate attention to GBV, including harmful practices?
- What frameworks or approaches within the humanitarian system are relevant to climate change? Do these approaches support GBV prevention and response efforts?

While the learning brief does not go into depth around GBV programming issues, it presents several brief case studies—from Bangladesh, the Lake Chad Basin and Pacific Islands—that reflect different approaches to addressing the needs of women and girls affected by climate change. Supplemental learning on programming approaches can also be found in the Helpdesk guidance notes on [natural disasters](#) and on [systems strengthening](#). An extensive bibliography also provides opportunities for additional learning.

OVERVIEW OF CLIMATE CHANGE

1. Overview of Climate Change

What is climate change?

Climate change describes the increasingly extreme variation of long-term average weather conditions worldwide. Climate change specifically refers to the effects of the greenhouse gas emissions caused by more than a century and a half of burning fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas resulting from industrialization, as well as increased deforestation, fertilizer use, and livestock production to feed and house our growing societies.⁴

Greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, concentrate in the Earth's atmosphere where they absorb and emit the sun's energy, causing the temperature of the Earth to steadily rise; from 1880 to 2019, the average temperature of the Earth increased by 1.15°C.⁵ When the atmosphere warms up, it collects and retains more water, impacting weather conditions and making dry areas drier and wet areas wetter.⁶ In addition, a hotter Earth means that oceans warm and expand, snow and ice diminish, and sea levels rise, causing a feedback loop that increasingly exacerbates these negative effects.⁷

While an increase of 1.15°C may seem small, the temperature band for human habitation is relatively narrow, and 1.15-degree increase is a global average, representing very significant shifts at different times and locations. The change has already had a dramatic impact on the Earth's climate. From 1901 to 2010, the average

Climate Action Facts from the UN Secretary-General:

- Warming beyond 1.5°C will substantially increase the risk of global species extinctions.
- The ocean is already warmer, more acidic and less productive.
- Nature-based solutions could provide one third of net reductions in greenhouse gas emissions required to meet Paris Agreement goals.
- Bold climate action could deliver \$26 trillion in economic benefits by 2030.
- Renewable energy is getting cheaper all the time.
- Switching to a clean economy could produce over 65 million new low-carbon jobs.
- An investment of \$1.8 trillion from 2020 to 2030 in adaptation could generate \$7.1 trillion in total net benefits.

[https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/
un-secretary-general-speaks-state-planet](https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/un-secretary-general-speaks-state-planet)



⁵ Lindsey, Rebecca and LuAnn Dahlman, 2020. "Climate Change: Global Temperature." National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/understanding-climate/climate-change-global-temperature>

⁶ Denchak, Melissa, 2017. "Global Climate Change: What You Need to Know." <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/global-climate-change-what-you-need-know>

⁷ UN, 2020. "Climate Change." <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/climate-change/>

⁸ Ibid.

sea level rose 19cm, and by the next century, scientists predict it will rise an additional 40-63 cm.⁸ Higher temperatures resulting from climate change have also worsened natural disasters, including storms, floods, droughts, and heat waves. Climate change has the potential to affect virtually everyone on Earth.⁹

What specific hazards does climate change produce or exacerbate?

The altered state of the Earth's climate exacerbates hazards with slow-onset effects, such as droughts and sea level rise, and sudden-onset disasters, such as hurricane, flooding, and wildfires.

Slow-onset. Years in the making, the slow-onset effects of climate change can be difficult to notice until it's too late. As decades go by, a climate may become steadily more inhospitable to a population that has been living in it for centuries. For instance, projections suggest that by 2070, up to 19 % of the Earth's surface, concentrated around the equator, could have an average temperature equal to the hottest part of the Sahara Desert right now.¹⁰ Illustrating this issue are events like droughts and sea-level rise.

An increase in the global temperature can create strong high-pressure systems that prevent moisture from traveling high in the atmosphere to condense and form rain, thus reducing precipitation. Even in areas in which such high-pressure systems do not form, warmer temperatures will result in greater evaporation, lowering the moisture level of soil. Both cases increase the likelihood of cyclical and progressively worse droughts as the Earth's atmosphere gets progressively hotter.¹¹ In real terms, this outcome is poised to have devastating effects on people around the world. For example, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's "Global Warming of 1.5°C" report, predicts that an atmosphere 1.5°C warmer than pre-industrial levels will force between 3 and 16 million people into extreme poverty through its impacts on crop yields and food prices. Geographically, the report forecasts that urban areas and rural regions in sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia will be most severely affected.¹²

As is described further in Section Two, this hazard will especially affect women and girls, who often bear a disproportionate burden to provide for their families- whether going without meals to feed others or trekking increasingly longer distances to find potable water and suitable food-- as well as being more vulnerable to GBV and harmful practices such as child marriage.¹³

In contrast to the ongoing decline of water on land, global sea levels are projected to continue rising. As discussed earlier, hotter average temperatures cause snow and ice around the world

9 For an easy-to-understand overview of climate change, see Denchak, Melissa, 2017. "Global Climate Change: What You Need to Know." <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/global-climate-change-what-you-need-know>

10 Chi Xu, Timothy A. Kohler, Timothy M. Lenton, Jens-Christian Svenning and Marten Scheffer, 2020. "Future of the Human Climate Nice." PNAS. <https://www.pnas.org/content/117/21/11350>

11 National Wildlife Federation, 2019. "Climate change, natural disasters, and wildlife." <https://www.nwf.org/-/media/Documents/PDFs/Environmental-Threats/Climate-Change-Natural-Disasters-fact-sheet.ashx>

12 IPCC, 2018. "Global Warming of 1.5°C." https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/06/SR15_Full_Report_High_Res.pdf

13 UN Women, 2009. "Women, Gender Equality and Climate Change." https://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate_change/downloads/Women_and_Climate_Change_Factsheet.pdf

14 Van Aalst, Maarten K, 2006. "The impacts of climate change on the risk of natural disaster."

to melt, leading to increased runoff and more water in the ocean. Concomitantly, oceans are absorbing some of the atmosphere's heat, increasing the melting of glaciers in the Earth's polar regions and in turn accelerating the rise of sea levels.¹⁴ As a result, the IPCC says it is very likely that sea level rise will contribute to extreme coastal flooding in the future.¹⁵ Depending on future emissions and the expected increase of the world's average temperature (between 1.4°C and 5.8°C by 2100), the Earth's sea-level is projected to increase between four and 88 centimeters in the same time period.¹⁶

Sudden-onset. In addition to affecting the overall environment around the world, increased global temperatures resulting from climate change impact the frequency, intensity, duration, and timing of extreme weather events, like hurricanes, flooding, wildfires, and heatwaves. Although such sudden-onset disasters are more readily discernible than slow-onset events, they may be just as, if not more, destructive.

The primary energy source for hurricanes is warm ocean water. As climate change causes ocean temperatures to increase, hurricanes are appearing more often and wreak greater destruction¹⁷ on the regions where they form.¹⁸ This is illustrated by the 2020 hurricane season, in which a record 30 hurricanes and tropical storms developed in the Atlantic Ocean.¹⁹ Likewise, warmer ocean temperatures cause greater levels of ocean water to evaporate in the atmosphere, leading to a buildup of moisture that, when released, results in extreme rainfall and flooding.²⁰ It is forecasted that even a 2°C increase in sea temperatures will result in 10-15% more precipitation from hurricanes and cyclones.²¹

Increased evaporation caused by rising global temperatures also directly impacts the frequency and duration of wildfires. As snow melts earlier, higher temperatures accelerate evaporation, which extends the period in which forests become burnable. In addition, the exacerbation of seasonal extremes by climate change, in which wet seasons get wetter and dry seasons drier, allows large amounts of vegetation to grow and then dry up, creating more fuel for fires to burn.²²

Rising global temperatures also contribute to heatwaves, periods of abnormally hot weather that can last for several days or weeks. Warmer global temperatures and more unpredictable pressure systems mean that as with other sudden-onset events, heatwaves are increasing in frequency, duration, and magnitude. Among the most dangerous of natural hazards, heatwaves caused more than 166,000 deaths worldwide between 1998 and 2017, including more than 70,000 deaths in Europe during the 2003 heatwave period.²³

¹⁵ <https://www.climatecentre.org/downloads/files/articles/Article%20Disasters%20Maarten.pdf>

IPCC, 2012. "Managing the risks of extreme events and disasters to advance climate change adaptation." https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/03/SREX_Full_Report-1.pdf

¹⁶ Van Aalst, Maarten K. 2006. "The impacts of climate change on the risk of natural disaster." <https://www.climatecentre.org/downloads/files/articles/Article%20Disasters%20Maarten.pdf>

¹⁷ IPCC, 2012. "Managing the risks of extreme events and disasters to advance climate change adaptation." https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/03/SREX_Full_Report-1.pdf

¹⁸ National Wildlife Federation, 2019. "Climate change, natural disasters, and wildlife."

<https://www.nwf.org/-/media/Documents/PDFs/Environmental-Threats/Climate-Change-Natural-Disasters-fact-sheet.ashx>

¹⁹ <https://www.npr.org/2020/11/30/937986687/too-many-storms-not-enough-names>

²⁰ National Wildlife Federation, 2019. "Climate change, natural disasters, and wildlife."

<https://www.nwf.org/-/media/Documents/PDFs/Environmental-Threats/Climate-Change-Natural-Disasters-fact-sheet.ashx>

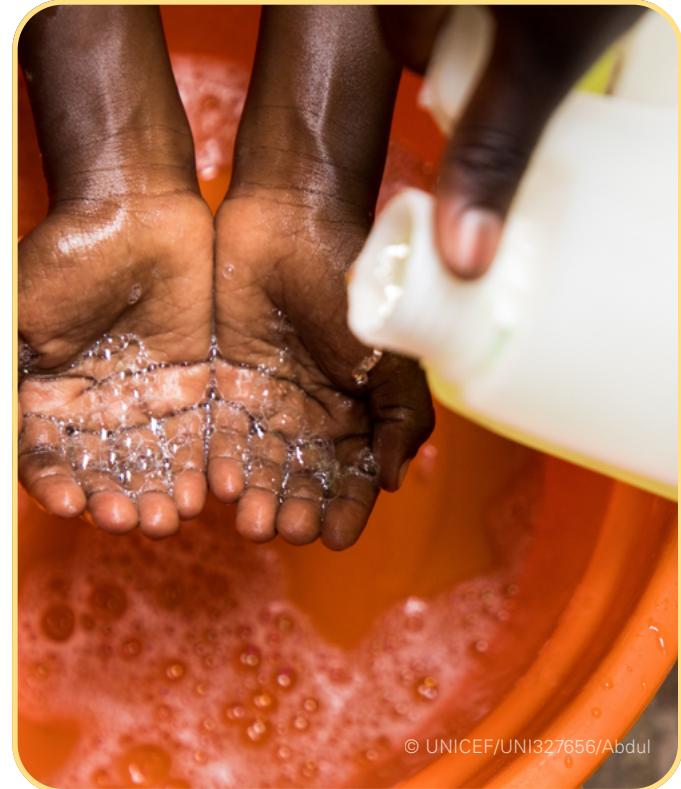
²¹ <https://www.c2es.org/content/hurricanes-and-climate-change/>

²² Ibid.

²³ WHO. "Heatwaves." https://www.who.int/health-topics/heatwaves#tab=tab_1

²⁴ USGS, 2020. "What are the long-term effects of climate change?"

Regional variations in hazard vulnerability. While climate change affects all areas of the world, because of the Earth's varied environmental zones, different regions will be impacted differently by slow-onset and sudden-onset hazards.²⁴ The IPCC forecasts, for instance, that climate change will decrease snowpack in the western mountains of North America while increasing the frequency, intensity, and duration of heat waves across the continent. Hotter temperatures in Latin America will lead the Amazon forest to be replaced by savannah, causing a devastating loss in biodiversity and massive reduction in carbon absorption, accelerating climate change while also decreasing water available for human consumption and industrial production. In Europe, it is projected that inland flash floods and coastal flooding will increase, existing glaciers will retreat, and crop productivity in Southern Europe will decrease. In contrast, Africa faces severe drought, compromising access to food and exposing 75-250 million people to water stress. In Asia, the IPCC forecasts that freshwater availability will decrease by 2050 and coasts will experience greater flooding.²⁵ The geographical location and topography of Small Island Developing States in Asia, the Pacific and Africa also make them particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change such as rising temperatures and rising sea levels. These lead to changes in precipitation patterns, increased likelihood of flash floods, intensified cyclones and storm surges, and coastal degradation and salinization.²⁶



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How does climate change contribute to humanitarian emergencies around the world?

Successful [climate change] adaptation requires a fundamental transformation in how water is managed, just as successful mitigation demands a complete transformation of the energy system. Without such a transformation, violence, civil war, and mass displacements could increase—and people in poverty now, who are more likely to rely on rainfed agriculture and to live on the most marginal lands, will suffer the most.

- Global Commission on Adaptation

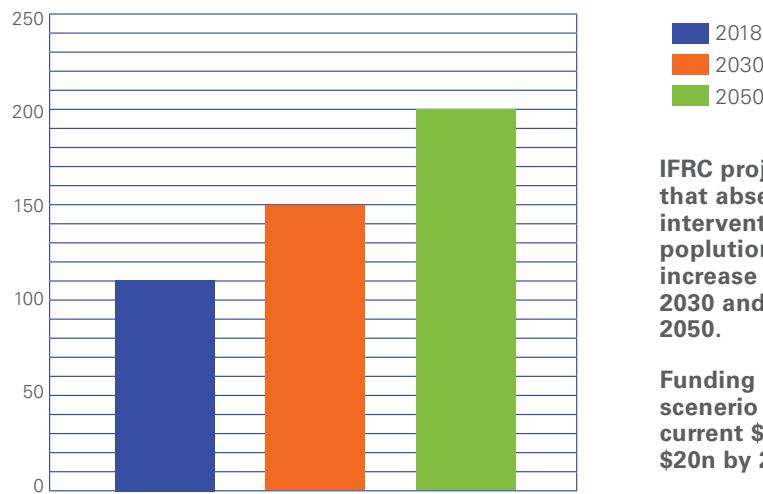
25 https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/what-are-long-term-effects-climate-change-1?qt-news_science_products=0#qt-news_science_products
USGS, 2020. "What are the long-term effects of climate change?"

26 Thomas, Adelle, Rose Martyr-Koller and Patrick Pringle, 2020. "Climate change and small islands: more scientific evidence of high risks."
<https://climateanalytics.org/blog/2020/climate-change-and-small-islands-more-scientific-evidence-of-high-risks/>

27 IFRC, 2020. "World Disasters Report 2020." https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/20201116_WorldDisasters_Full.pdf

Since 2010, slow-onset events and sudden-onset disasters have killed more than 410,000 people and affected more than 1.7 billion.²⁷ In 2019 alone, 97.6 million people were impacted by 308 disasters triggered by natural hazards, 77% of which were the results of events exacerbated by climate change: 127 floods, 59 storms, 25 hydrological-related landslides, 10 extreme temperature events, 8 wildfires, and 8 droughts.²⁸ Based on the increasing frequency of such events and the acceleration of disasters' intensity, the IFRC projects that around 150 million people annually will need humanitarian assistance related to climate events by 2030, compared to about 100 million now.²⁹

Increase of population in need of humanitarian assistance as a result of climate-related disasters by 2030 and 2050 (under pessimistic scenario)



IFRC projections suggest that absent major interventions, climate-related population in need could increase by almost 50% by 2030 and almost 100% by 2050.

Funding needs under this scenario would rise from the current \$3-12b per year to \$20n by 2030.

Even though climate change will touch every region of the world, its impact will not be the same. First, countries in the global South are generally more exposed to climate-change related hazards. Second, those countries that are better able to adapt to climate change will suffer less. Higher income countries experienced more disasters overall from 2004-2013, and yet they experienced less mortality related to the disasters. In fact, researchers estimate that more than three times as many people died per disaster in low-income countries compared to high-income countries.³⁰ In many disasters, as discussed further below, these deaths were significantly higher among females.

Low-income countries are also likely to suffer greater problems of displacement due to low capacity to anticipate, adapt, and rapidly respond to emergencies. In comparison to 1980, the likelihood of being displaced by a disaster is now 60% higher, with the largest displacement disasters driven by climate events.³¹ In 2019, 33.4 million people became newly displaced, 70% of whom were displaced due to climate disasters.³² Women and girls in developing countries are especially affected. In 2018, more than half of internally displaced people were women.³³

28 Ibid.

29 Ibid.

30 Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, 2015. The Human Cost of Natural Disasters, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, p 28.

31 Denchak, Melissa, 2017. "Global Climate Change: What You Need to Know." <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/global-climate-change-what-you-need-know>

32 CARE International. "Evicted by climate change: confronting the gendered impacts of climate-induced displacement"

<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/CARE-Climate-Migration-Report-v0.4.pdf>

33 Ibid.

Climate change will create increasingly larger, complex, and more frequent population movements that the humanitarian community will be called upon to help manage. This requires that humanitarian response recognizes and addresses the disproportionate vulnerabilities of women and girls, including those related to GBV.

Climate Change without adaptation:

- Climate change may depress growth in global agriculture yields up to 30% by 2050. The 500 million small farms around the world will be most affected.
- The number of people who may lack sufficient water, at least one month per year, will soar from 3.6 billion today to more than 5 billion by 2050.
- Rising seas and greater storm surges could force hundreds of millions of people in coastal cities from their homes, with a total cost to coastal urban areas of more than \$1 trillion each year by 2050.
- Climate change could push more than 100 million people within developing countries below the poverty line by 2030.

[https://gca.org/global-commission-on-adaptation/
report](https://gca.org/global-commission-on-adaptation/report)

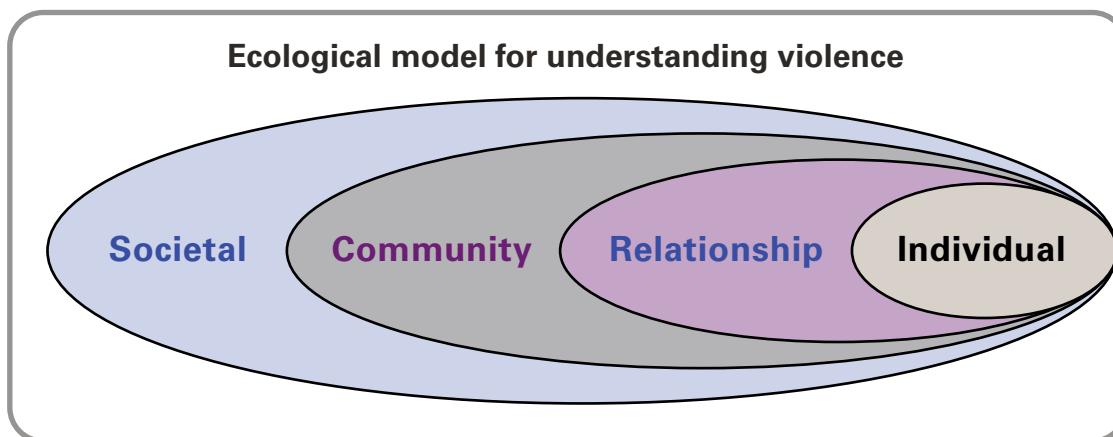


IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

2. Impact of Climate Change on Safety and Well-being of Women and Girls

What is the relationship between climate change and discriminatory gender norms?

Climate change can amplify and accelerate pre-existing gender inequalities, exacerbating dispossession, marginalization, and discrimination of women and girls in affected communities.³⁴ This impact in turn affects women and girls' ability to adapt or recover from a climate-induced emergency and risks their livelihoods disproportionately. A useful way to understand some of the norms and practices that increase vulnerability of women and girls to climate change is through the ecological model.³⁵ The ecological model for understanding violence against women and girls is organized in terms of four layers of risk: individual, relationship, community and societal.



Source: Heise et al., 1999; Krug et al., 2002; CDC, 2004

The ecological model underscores the fact that in order to develop strategies for reducing or eliminating risk of violence, it is critical to develop an understanding of the interplay of biological, psychological, social, cultural, economic and political factors that exacerbate women and girls' risk of exposure to violence as well as men's likelihood for perpetrating violence.

³⁴ Castañeda, Carney I, Sabater, L, Owren, C, Boyer Emmett A, 2020. "Gender-based violence and environment linkages: the violence of inequality," IUCN. <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/48969>; See also UNDP, 2010. "Gender, Climate Change and Community-Based Adaptation." <http://www.unfccc.org.mk/content/Publikacii/GENDER,%20CLIMATE%20CHANGE%20AND%20COMMUNITY-BASED%20ADAPTATION.pdf>

³⁵ For more information about the ecological model for VAWG, see <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/12296014/>; also see <https://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/1509-the-ecological-framework.html>

Some risk factors, such as gender inequality, will be shared across all settings. Other factors will be context specific. As is discussed briefly in Section Four, when undertaking preparedness and contingency planning for disasters, it is important to assess the variety of risk factors within the setting. A few examples of what these factors include:³⁶

Individual (e.g. personal factors)

- Age and education (including low levels of literacy that may prevent women from accessing early warning)
- Lack of livelihoods and income, or engagement in informal livelihoods in poorly constructed buildings or in jobs that require traveling long distances
- High dependence on natural resources and agricultural sustainability (making women farmers particularly vulnerable)
- Less experience with skills that could mitigate risk (climbing a tree or swimming)
- Lack of access for women to credit or insurance to assist recovery from disasters
- Disabilities
- Displacement

Relationship (family, intimate partners and friends)

- Domestic responsibilities, including caring for children and older relatives, making flight during a disaster particularly challenging
- Domestic responsibilities, including food preparation contributing to women being involved in subsistence agriculture and fetching water (each of which are impacted by climate change)
- Exclusion from decision-making processes that could contribute to better household preparedness and resilience in relation to disasters
- Low socio-economic status at the household level

Community (neighborhood, schools and workplace)

- High unemployment, and gender discriminatory employment practices, relegating women to the informal sectors
- Social norms for women and girls related to mobility, e.g. prohibitions against being in public that discourage evacuation and gendered clothing that makes movement cumbersome
- Weak communication or early warning systems targeting women and girls
- Gender discriminatory credit and banking systems
- Gender discriminatory education systems
- Poor safety in public places
- Child marriage practices

Societal (broad factors)

- Poverty
- Economic, social and gender inequalities
- Poor integration of attention to women and girls in laws and policies related to DRR
- Gender discriminatory land ownership and inheritance laws and practices

³⁶ Adapted from GBV AoR Helpdesk. "Prevention of, and Response to Gender-Based Violence in Settings Affected by Natural Disasters." <https://www.sddirect.org.uk/media/1877/preventing-and-responding-to-gbv-in-natural-disasters.pdf>

While there are many similarities in terms of risks for women and girls for GBV related to a variety of climate change events, there are important distinctions to understand and address when comparing slow-onset events to acute disasters, as described further below.³⁷

Slow-Onset Events. Women and girls' relatively high dependence on climate-sensitive work, such as farming, and their limited access to economic resources makes them more vulnerable to slow-onset climate events, like drought. When a changing climate negatively impacts the natural resources necessary to make a living from this work, it prevents women and girls from earning a living and supporting themselves or their families, making them more vulnerable to certain GBV risks in addition to creating conditions of food scarcity that are more likely to impact women heavily.³⁸

Likewise, because of their lesser economic power, women also tend to not have financial resources to adapt to climate impacts, like the ability to afford drought-resistant crops. As a result, impoverished women and girls (and also impoverished men and boys), may be forced to engage in unsustainable environmental practices in order to maintain a livelihood, such as deforestation. This creates a negative feedback loop –in which livelihoods practices (e.g. burning wood to make charcoal, which

is a common responsibility of women in some parts of the world, significantly degrade household and local ecosystems and air quality and cause health risks born heavily by women and girls, and leave communities more vulnerable to flooding, loss of topsoil, etc. Over the long term, this can also reduce carbon sinks and increase carbon emissions, though the scale is generally dwarfed by the climate impacts of heavy industry.³⁹



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Additional challenges for women and girls related to slow-onset climate events are linked to their roles as caretakers. In the context of drought, for example, women and girls are typically responsible for securing food and water; this may require traveling increasingly long distances, which not only creates additional security risks, but it can mean girls must withdraw from school to manage the increased workload.⁴⁰ Low educational attainment can increase the long-term vulnerability of girls who have not been able to learn skills that might better help them adapt to

37 Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre, 2014. "Gender and Climate Change." <https://www.climatecentre.org/downloads/files/2014-Gender-and-Climate-Change.pdf>

38 UN Women, 2009. "Women, Gender Equality and Climate Change." https://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate_change/downloads/Women_and_Climate_Change_Factsheet.pdf

39 GGCA & UNDP, 2013. "Overview of linkages between gender and climate change."

40 Röhr, Ulrike, 2007. "Gender, Climate change and adaptation: Introduction to gender dimensions." http://americalatinagenera.org/es/documentos/taller_cc/roehr_gender_climate.pdf

a changing climate. In situations of scarcity, women and girls may also be forced to resort to transactional sex and other forms of sexual exploitation in order to provide for their families.⁴¹

Slow-onset climate events also affect women and girls' mobility--or rather, their immobility. Because of inequitable power relations between males and females, when climate change makes an environment inhospitable or unproductive, women and girls typically remain at home to meet their domestic responsibilities, while men migrate to earn a living elsewhere and send remittances home.⁴² In one telling example, 97 % of out-migrants in a flood-prone region of Bangladesh are male; women and children remain home to continue attempting to cultivate land, and some take on day labor to feed their families and pay off rising debts.⁴³

Acute Disasters. Women and girls are also particularly vulnerable to the impact of acute climate disasters, such as cyclones or floods, because of discriminatory gender norms that worsen susceptibility to risk, impede their mobility, and reduce their adaptive capacity, including their access to life-saving services during the disasters. Many essential services for women and girls--such as sexual and reproductive health care, education, social protection, GBV response--are disrupted by acute climatic disasters, compounding the negative impacts for women and girls.

An often-cited statistic is that women are 14 times more likely to die or be injured during a disaster than men.⁴⁴ Ninety percent of casualties resulting from the 2014 Solomon Islands flash floods were women and children.⁴⁵ These striking numbers are a clear reflection of restrictive gender norms: women tended to be in their homes when the floods began in the Solomon Islands, while men were in open spaces, such as working on farms.⁴⁶ When flood waters rose, women were essentially trapped. In addition, women in these domestic spaces were in charge of children and the elderly, slowing their opportunities to escape.⁴⁷ Even those who might escape were likely to face challenges due to the social norms that discouraged females from learning survival skills like how to swim.

Acute climate disasters often spur the migration and displacement of women and girls. Because women and girls are typically left behind during slow-onset events by men who seek livelihoods elsewhere, movement resulting from acute disasters is usually an option of last resort for them, signifying an inability to adapt to climate change⁴⁸ and the immensity of the physical threat posed by the disaster.⁴⁹ Displacement is one among many risk factors for exposure to multiple forms of GBV, as described further below. In addition, women and girls who return to their former homes without male family members may face a number of challenges related to gender discriminatory practices, such as loss of housing, property, land, and access to credit.⁵⁰

41 Gevers, Anik, Tina Musaya, and Paul Bukuluki, Jan. 28, 2020. "Why climate change fuels violence against women," UNDP. <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/blog/2020/why-climate-change-fuels-violence-against-women.html>

42 CARE International. "Evicted by climate change: confronting the gendered impacts of climate-induced displacement" <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/CARE-Climate-Migration-Report-v0.4.pdf>

43 Ibid

44 UN Women Fiji, 2014. "Why is climate change a gender issue?" <https://www.uncclearn.org/wp-content/uploads/library/unwomen704.pdf>

45 UN Women, 2016. "Time to Act on Gender, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Reduction: an overview of progress in the Pacific region with evidence from the Republic of Marshall Islands, Vanuatu, and Samoa." <https://www.gdonline.org/resources/unw-time-to-act-r2-h.pdf>

46 Ibid

47 Ibid

48 Walker, Peter, Josh Glasser, and Shubhada Kamblu, 2012. "Climate change as a driver of humanitarian crises and response." https://fic.tufts.edu/assets/18089.TU_Climate.pdf

49 Ibid

50 Norwegian Refugee Council, 2015. "Displaced women's right to housing, land and property in post-conflict western Côte d'Ivoire." <http://womenshlp.nrc.no/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/CIWHLPENG.pdf>

How are GBV risks exacerbated by climate-induced hazards?

Climate hazards have a pronounced impact on the risk for women and girls to GBV. Climate change creates chronic and acute stressors which exacerbate or amplify preexisting GBV risk factors for women and girls, such as poverty, rigid gender roles, and personal and community conflict.⁵¹ Many of the risks to GBV are the same for slow-onset climate events and acute events. Nevertheless, it is useful to understand some of the specific pathways to GBV that these different types of climate events generate.



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Slow-onset Events: Slow-onset events exacerbated by climate change, such as drought, can increase levels of GBV in a variety of ways. Evidence suggests that communities under stress may adapt more conservative or customary patriarchal practices. In addition, extreme stress, property and communal loss, and scarcity of food and water may contribute to community conflict over resources and increased incidents of violent behavior by men, including GBV.⁵² (See the Sahel case study in Section SIx.) In some cases, additional workloads for women and girls may mean they are not able to be as responsive to the domestic demands of male family members, increasing household tensions that result in violence.⁵³ Women and girls may be required to walk increasingly longer distances to find potable water and food for their families, making them vulnerable to sexual assault.⁵⁴ In the context of resource scarcity, women and girls are more likely to be coerced into sexual exploitation.⁵⁵ Similarly, when families are unable to meet their basic needs, evidence suggests that the risk of child marriage increases significantly for girls.⁵⁶

Acute Disasters: Acute disasters, such as flooding, cyclones, and wildfires, can also contribute to GBV for many of the reasons listed above. In addition, displacement caused by such events can increase the risk of exposure to GBV in transit centers or refugee camps.⁵⁷ Displaced women and girls may also lack access to food or an ability to feed their families, leading to increased risk for sexual exploitation through transactional sex and child marriage.⁵⁸ Poorly-designed relief efforts compound such risk. A study of the humanitarian response effort in Samoa following a cyclone in 2012 found that the unequal distribution of supplies created community tension, indirectly leading to a rise in IPV.⁵⁹

⁵¹ For one model of these links, see Jewkes, Rachel. 2020. "Protecting women and girls in the face of climate disasters." PowerPoint for Pretoria Climate Change Meeting.

⁵² Castañeda, Carney I, Sabater, L, Owren, C, Boyer Emmett A, 2020. "Gender-based violence and environment linkages: the violence of inequality," IUCN. <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/48969>

⁵³ Gevers, Anik, Tina Musaya, and Paul Bukuluki, Jan. 28, 2020. "Why climate change fuels violence against women," UNDP. <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/blog/2020/why-climate-change-fuels-violence-against-women.html>

⁵⁴ Ibid

⁵⁵ Ibid

⁵⁶ Ibid

⁵⁷ Castañeda, Carney I, Sabater, L, Owren, C, Boyer Emmett A, 2020. "Gender-based violence and environment linkages: the violence of inequality," IUCN. <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/48969>

⁵⁸ Ibid

⁵⁹ Le Masson, Virginie, Sheri Lim, Mirianna Budimir, and Jasna Selih Podboj, 2016. "Disasters and violence against women and girls: can disasters shake social norms and power relations?"

What are specific regional climate contributors to GBV?

As noted previously, climate change has differential impacts on regions across the world. This means, in turn, that women and girls will be exposed to different GBV risks across different settings. These risks link not only to the type of disasters and the stressors they create, but also to pre-existing norms and practices around women's rights and GBV.

Pacific. The Asia-Pacific region as a whole is extremely susceptible to the impacts of climate change and currently stands as the world's most disaster-prone region.⁶⁰ In the Pacific, sudden-onset disasters such as **flooding, cyclones, and tropical storms** are increasingly common events, with three times as many disasters occurring in the region between 2000-2009 as there were between 1980-1989, affecting 18 million people in the past three decades.⁶¹ The majority of those affected are women and girls, due to inequitable gender norms--in the Pacific, women are more likely to be in the domestic sphere, in poorly constructed homes, in charge of caring for children.⁶² As noted previously, women and girls comprised 90 % of those who perished in the 2014 Solomon Island floods.

As is true globally, GBV against women and girls increases during and after such disasters. IPV is already extremely prevalent in the Pacific region. In a multi-country study on men's violence in the region, 68% of female respondents reported ever experiencing at least one act of physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner; 52% reported ever experiencing physical violence; and 58% reported ever experiencing partner rape.⁶³

Available evidence suggests that sexual violence is also high in some parts of the Pacific, with prevalence rates ranging between 6% in Tonga to 47% in Nauru.⁶⁴ In the Asia-Pacific region, **IPV and sexual violence** are further exacerbated by climate events:

- Following two cyclones in the Tafe Province in Vanuatu in 2011, reports of new domestic violence cases increased by 300%.⁶⁵
- After two cyclones hit Fiji in 2012, women seeking shelter in relief centers reported being forced to have sex by their partners despite the lack of privacy.⁶⁶ Many girls were taken out of school to care for younger children or to generate cash through sex work.⁶⁷
- In Micronesia, during periods of drought, women and children who were forced to walk farther to water wells reported instances of rape and abuse.⁶⁸

60 GBV AoR Helpdesk. "Prevention of, and Response to Gender-Based Violence in Settings Affected by Natural Disasters." <https://www.sddirect.org.uk/media/1877/preventing-and-responding-to-gbv-in-natural-disasters.pdf>

61 UN Women Fiji, 2014. "Climate Change, Disasters, and Gender-Based Violence in the Pacific." https://www.preventionweb.net/files/52741_52741sidsbrief2climatechangedisaste.pdf

62 UN Women, 2016. "Time to Act on Gender, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Reduction: an overview of progress in the Pacific region with evidence from the Republic of Marshall Islands, Vanuatu, and Samoa." <https://www.gdnonline.org/resources/unw-time-to-act-r2-h.pdf>

63 Fulu E, et al. Why Do Some Men Use Violence Against Women and How Can We Prevent It? Quantitative Findings from the United Nations Multi-Country Study on Men and Violence in Asia and the Pacific. Bangkok, Thailand: UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women and UNV. 2013.

64 Asian-Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence, 2018. "Fact Sheet: Pacific Islanders and Domestic & Sexual Violence." <https://s3.amazonaws.com/gbv-wp-uploads/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/12205452/DVFactsheet-Pacific-Islander-Apr-2018-formatted-2019.pdf>

65 Global Gender and Climate Alliance & UNDP, 2013. "Overview of linkages between gender and climate change," Gender and Climate Change Capacity Development Series: Asia and the Pacific, Training Module 1

66 Castañeda, Carney I, Sabater, L, Owren, C, Boyer Emmett A, 2020. "Gender-based violence and environment linkages: the violence of inequality," IUCN. <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/48969>

67 UN Women Fiji, 2014. "Why is climate change a gender issue?" <https://www.uncclearn.org/wp-content/uploads/library/unwomen704.pdf>

68 Thomas, Erin and Megan Lee Candolfi, 2019. "Is climate change worsening gender-based violence in the Pacific Islands?" <https://www.openglobalrights.org/climate-change-worsening-gender-based-violence-in-pacific-islands/>

South Asia. Rates of many types of GBV in South Asia are already high. More than 150,000 people in South Asia are trafficking and exploited annually.⁶⁹ Similarly, the region has the highest rates of child marriage in the world, with nearly half of women (45%) married before age 18.⁷⁰ In addition, IPV rates across the region are high, ranging from 33% in Nepal to around 50% in Bangladesh.⁷¹ Sudden-onset climate disasters, including **flooding, accelerate these sexual exploitation, child marriage and IPV risks in South Asia.** In fact, IPV has been described as a “second wave of brutality” facing women, after the initial impact of a disaster itself.⁷²

- Sexual exploitation in the form of human trafficking has notably increased in the region following natural disasters. After Cyclone Sidr struck Bangladesh in 2007, criminal networks forced some women and girls into prostitution along the Indian border.⁷³
- Child marriages also increased after Cyclone Sidr, as a means of reducing families' financial burdens.⁷⁴ Other reasons for these child marriages include maintaining the honor of male relatives who may have lost their livelihoods to climate events and to “protect” girls from sexual harassment in the cities to which families have migrated.⁷⁵
- Following Typhoon Haiyan in 2013, trafficking was amplified in parts of the Philippines already suffering from high levels of poverty.⁷⁶
- In the wake of Cyclone Aila in 2009, destroyed livelihoods forced more than 50 % of impacted men in the Indian Sundarbans to migrate for work elsewhere. Many women left behind sought work in the red-light district of Kolkata, resulting in an 20-25 % increase in the number of sex workers.⁷⁷
- In a post-disaster assessment of Myanmar following Cyclone Nargis, respondents noted increased alcohol consumption by men, which reportedly contributed to an increase in IPV; reports of incidents to service providers rose by 30 %.⁷⁸



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69 Florino, Joseph, 2018. "Human Trafficking in South Asia." Hudson Institute. <http://www.southasiaathudson.org/blog/2018/4/3/slavery-in-south-asia>

70 UNICEF South Asia. 2017. "Child Marriage." <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/what-we-do/child-protection/child-marriage>

71 Samuels, Fiona, Nicola Jones and Taveeshi Gupta, 2017. "Tackling intimate partner violence in South Asia: why working with men and boys matters for women." <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/11342.pdf>

72 Global Gender and Climate Alliance & UNDP, 2013. "Overview of linkages between gender and climate change," Gender and Climate Change Capacity Development Series: Asia and the Pacific, Training Module 1, pg. 32.

73 IOM, 2016. "The Climate Change-Human Trafficking Nexus." https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/mecc_infosheet_climate_change_nexus.pdf

74 GBV AoR Helpdesk. "Prevention of, and Response to Gender-Based Violence in Settings Affected by Natural Disasters."

<https://www.sddirect.org.uk/media/1877/preventing-and-responding-to-gbv-in-natural-disasters.pdf>

75 Jha, Shipra, 2017. "Climate Change in Exacerbating Child Marriage in Bangladesh."

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/climate-change-is-exacerb_b_12913788?guccounter=1

76 IOM, 2016. "The Climate Change-Human Trafficking Nexus." https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/mecc_infosheet_climate_change_nexus.pdf

77 Tower, Amali, 2020. "The Gendered Impacts of Climate Displacement."

<https://www.climate-refugees.org/perspectives/genderedimpactsofclimatechange>

78 Le Masson, Virginie, Sheri Lim, Mirianna Budimir, and Jasna Selih Podboj, 2016. "Disasters and violence against women and girls: can disasters shake social norms and power relations?"

Sahel. The Sahel is one of the regions hit hardest by slow-onset climate events. A combination of slow-onset events such as **drought and rising temperatures** (increasing 1.5 times faster than the global average), and sudden-onset disasters such as **floods**, have degraded 80 % of the region's farmland and drastically reduced food sources, with more than 33 million people classified as "food insecure."⁷⁹ Women and girls in the Sahel region also experience high rates of GBV. In Chad, for example, a third of women experience IPV and sexual violence while two thirds experience child marriage.⁸⁰ In combination with terrorism and communal conflicts, climate events have acted as a "threat multiplier,"⁸¹ exacerbating and causing widespread insecurity, migration,⁸² and increasing levels of **IPV, sexual violence, and child marriage.**⁸³

- According to 2019 GBVIMS reports from the Sahel countries, intimate partner violence represents 55 % of reported GBV cases among IDPs, refugees, and host community members, while rape and sexual assaults represent 21% of cases.⁸⁴
- In Chad, WFP and UNHCR have reported that spousal violence increases in the days following food distribution.⁸⁵
- In the Lake Chad Basin, as drought makes water ever-scarcer, women and girls are forced to walk longer distances to obtain potable water, increasing their exposure to sexual harassment and assault far from home.⁸⁶ Due to male out-migration, women and girls left behind increasingly lack the capacity to provide for their families, exposing women and girls to sexual violence and exploitation.⁸⁷ Child marriage is reportedly widespread in response to these added burdens.⁸⁸

East Africa. In East Africa, slow-onset climate events such as **widespread drought and ongoing famine** directly linked to climate change have increased the risk of GBV for women and girls. In particular, IPV, sexual violence, and early marriages. Levels in the region are already relatively high. For example, Kenya's 2014 Demographic and Health survey found that more than 40% of women and girls experience IPV in their lifetimes, 23% are married prior to age 18,⁸⁹ and around 15% of women and girls experience sexual violence at the hands of either a partner



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79 Muggah, Robert and José Luengo Cabrera, Jan. 2019. "The Sahel is engulfed by violence. Climate change, food insecurity and extremist are largely to blame." <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/01/all-the-warning-signs-are-showing-in-the-sahel-we-must-act-now/>

80 UN Women, 2020. "Global Database on Violence Against Women." <https://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/africa/chad?formofviolence=8515cf150ea5492dae288009fb662484>

81 See: <https://giwps.georgetown.edu/vwp-content/uploads/2021/01/The-Climate-Gender-Conflict-Nexus.pdf>

82 OCHA, 2020. "Greater Sahel: Lowcock remarks on how to avert a looming tragedy." <https://www.unocha.org/story/greater-sahel-usg-lowcock-remarks-how-avert-looming-tragedy>

83 UNFPA, March 2020. "West and Central Africa, a forgotten region – Women and girls pay the heavy burden." https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/wcar_humanitarian_gbv.context_march_2020.pdf

84 UNFPA, March 2020. "West and Central Africa, a forgotten region – Women and girls pay the heavy burden." https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/wcar_humanitarian_gbv.context_march_2020.pdf

85 Le Masson, Virginie, Colette Benoudj, Sandra Sotelo Reyes, and Giselle Bernard, 2018. "Violence against women and girls and resilience: links, impacts and perspectives from the Chadian context."

86 Le Masson, Virginie, Sheri Lim, Mirianna Budimir, and Jasna Selih Podboj, 2016. "Disasters and violence against women and girls: can disasters shake social norms and power relations?" <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/11113.pdf>

87 UNFPA, March 2020. "West and Central Africa, a forgotten region – Women and girls pay the heavy burden."

88 https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/wcar_humanitarian_gbv.context_march_2020.pdf

Ibid

89 UN Women, 2020. "Global Database on Violence Against Women: Kenya." <https://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/africa/kenya>

or non-partner.⁹⁰ WHO and other research indicates the rates of IPV and child marriage are also high in Ethiopia, South Sudan and Somalia; these types of GBV are particularly likely be exacerbated by climate crises.

- Research undertaken by CARE indicates that during drought in Ethiopia, men's resentment of not having enough money to buy intoxicants such as khat, can lead to IPV.⁹¹
- During the ongoing drought in Uganda, men turned to selling crops grown by their wives for household consumption, increasing household tensions, including IPV.⁹² Dry spells are also noted to increase rape and harmful practices like child marriage and FGM.⁹³
- Girls facing economic hardship caused by drought in Kenya were reported to engage in transactional sex or be forced by their families to enter early marriages.⁹⁴
- Similarly, in Ethiopia and South Sudan, drought-induced famine caused an increase in girls sold into early marriage in exchange for livestock to help their families survive.⁹⁵
- Following drought in Ethiopia, men's labor migration increases significantly, while women's is reduced as they take on a heavier domestic burden.⁹⁶ In 2019, over 200,000 individuals became displaced in Ethiopia, many of whom moved to overcrowded shelters, which pose additional GBV risks to women and girls.⁹⁷

Southern Africa. Similar risks exist in Southern Africa, where slow-onset irregular **droughts** and sudden-onset **floods** have increased **IPV and sexual exploitation**. Significant risks are already present. Middle-income countries in Southern Africa, such as South Africa, Namibia and Botswana, are among the most unequal countries in the world, and also face very high levels of GBV. In South Africa, for example, a third of women are estimated to have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime.⁹⁸ In Namibia, more than half of adolescent girls report their first sexual encounter as being forced.⁹⁹ In Mozambique, one in four of women and girls report experiencing IPV in their lifetimes.¹⁰⁰ Climate change is increasing women and girls' exposure.

- A study analyzing the data of nearly 84,000 women taken from 19 Demographic and Health Surveys in Sub-Saharan Africa found that women living in severe drought had higher risk of experiencing physical and sexual violence by intimate partners compared with women not living in drought conditions.¹⁰¹
- Five out of eight participants in a study in Namibia noted that transactional sex had occurred in their communities because drought made food insufficient and women needed to provide for their families.¹⁰²

90 National Crime Research Centre, 2014. "Gender Based Violence in Kenya." http://crimeresearch.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/wwwroot_publications_Gender-Based-Violence-in-Kenya.pdf

91 Le Masson, Virginie, Sheri Lim, Mirianna Budimir, and Jasna Selih Podboj, 2016. "Disasters and violence against women and girls: can disasters shake social norms and power relations?" <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/11113.pdf>

92 Castañeda, Carney I, Sabater, L, Owren, C, Boyer Emmett A, 2020. "Gender-based violence and environment linkages: the violence of inequality," IUCN. <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/48969>

93 Le Masson, Virginie, Sheri Lim, Mirianna Budimir, and Jasna Selih Podboj, 2016. "Disasters and violence against women and girls: can disasters shake social norms and power relations?" <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/11113.pdf>

94 IFRC, 2015. "Unseen, unheard: gender-based violence in disasters." https://www.ifrc.org/Global/Documents/Secretariat/201511/1297700_GBV_in_Disasters_EN_LR2.pdf

95 Castañeda, Carney I, Sabater, L, Owren, C, Boyer Emmett A, 2020. "Gender-based violence and environment linkages: the violence of inequality," IUCN. <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/48969>

96 Le Masson, Virginie, Sheri Lim, Mirianna Budimir, and Jasna Selih Podboj, 2016. "Disasters and violence against women and girls: can disasters shake social norms and power relations?" <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/11113.pdf>

97 CARE International. "Evicted by climate change: confronting the gendered impacts of climate-induced displacement" <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/CARE-Climate-Migration-Report-v0.4.pdf>

98 See https://esaro.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/MIC_Country_Policy_Brief_SOUTH%20AFRICA.pdf

99 See https://esaro.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA_MIC_Country_Policy_Brief_NAMIBIA.pdf

100 UN Women, 2020. "Global Database on Violence Against Women: Mozambique." <https://ewav-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/africa/mozambique>

101 Epstein, et al. 2020. "Drought and intimate partner violence towards women in 19 countries in sub-Saharan Africa during 2011-2018: A population-based study." <https://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article/file?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1003064&type=printable>

- Research examining the impacts of floods and drought in Namibia found that, in both cases, women and girls who were displaced reported higher levels of GBV.¹⁰³
- During periods of drought in Mozambique, girls have reported receipt of gifts by older men in exchange for sex as they engaged in water collection activities far away from home.¹⁰⁴

North America/Latin America/Caribbean. Exacerbated by climate change, sudden-onset disasters such as **hurricanes** that primarily affect the United States and countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have also been known to cause increases in **IPV and sexual violence**. Such violence is widespread in the region; in the United States, 1 in 4 women experience IPV and 1 in 3 women experience sexual violence in their lifetimes.¹⁰⁵ In the Andean region of Latin America, IPV ranges between 22% and 30%, and in Bolivia and Ecuador, respectively IPV rates are some of the highest globally, at 58% and 40% respectively.¹⁰⁶

- Following Hurricane Katrina in 2004, the rate of rape among women displaced to trailer parks rose 53.6 times the baseline rate in Mississippi for that year, with intimate partner rape standing at 16 times the national average,¹⁰⁷ and the rate of GBV overall tripling.¹⁰⁸
- Similarly, an evaluation in Guatemala in 2010 found that psychological violence against women by intimate partners increased from a prevalence of 7% before tropical storms to 22.5% during storms and 19% after storms.¹⁰⁹



102 IFRC, 2015. "Unseen, unheard: gender-based violence in disasters."

https://www.ifrc.org/Global/Documents/Secretariat/201511/1297700_GBV_in_Disasters_EN_LR2.pdf

103 IFRC, 2015. "Unseen, unheard: gender-based violence in disasters."

https://www.ifrc.org/Global/Documents/Secretariat/201511/1297700_GBV_in_Disasters_EN_LR2.pdf

104 CARE International 2017. "Hope dries up? Women and Girls coping with Drought and Climate Change in Mozambique."

http://careclimatechange.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/El_Nino_Mozambique_Report_final.pdf

105 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2017. "Facts Everyone Should Know About Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, & Stalking." <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS-infographic-2016.pdf>

106 See <https://blogs.worldbank.org/latinamerica/intimate-partner-violence-latin-america-and-caribbean-needs-urgent-attention>

107 Le Masson, Virginie, Sheri Lim, Mirianna Budimir, and Jasna Selih Podboj, 2016. "Disasters and violence against women and girls: can disasters shake social norms and power relations?" <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/11113.pdf>

108 Castañeda, Carney I, Sabater, L, Owren, C, Boyer Emmett A, 2020. "Gender-based violence and environment linkages: the violence of inequality," IUCN. <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/48969>

109 IFRC, 2015. "Unseen, unheard: gender-based violence in disasters."

https://www.ifrc.org/Global/Documents/Secretariat/201511/1297700_GBV_in_Disasters_EN_LR2.pdf

MENA and Arab States Region. Existing gender inequalities and GBV risks in the Middle East are also increasingly impacted by the effects of climate change, in particular slow-onset events, such as **drought**, and irregular sudden-onset events, like **flooding**. Numerous GBV risks such as IPV, FGM, sexual violence, and child marriage are prevalent in the region, although there is considerable variation across countries and sub-regions. An estimated 35.4% of women have experienced IPV.¹¹⁰ Nearly all women and girls undergo FGM in Somalia but virtually none in Morocco, Tunisia, or Algeria. Likewise, a third of all women in Sudan are married before age 18, while none are in Algeria, Tunisia, or Qatar.¹¹¹ GBV risks are exacerbated by climate change events.



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- Beginning in 2009, a multi-year drought in Syria caused the migration of over a million people from rural areas to semi-urban and urban areas. As men were primarily those leaving to find alternative sources of income, many women were forced to become heads of household, leaving many malnourished, without land in their names, exposed to GBV, and resulting in girls being taken out of school.¹¹²
- In Somalia, drought and flood conditions in 2019 caused the internal displacement of 2.6 million people, heightening women and girls' vulnerability to GBV as they were forced to reside in camp facilities with weak protection mechanisms.¹¹³ Intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and FGM reportedly increased in this setting.

110 ESCWA, 2017. Status of Arab Women Report 2017–Violence Against Women: What Is at Stake? <https://www.unescwa.org/publications/arab-women-report-violence-against-women>

111 WHO Global Health Observatory, 2020.

112 The World Bank. (2012). Adaptation to a Changing Climate in the Arab Countries: A Case for Adaptation Governance and Leadership in Building Climate Resilience.

113 UNFPA Somalia, 2020. "Gender-Based Violence in Somalia."

<https://somalia.unfpa.org/en/publications/gender-based-violence-somalia-advocacy-brief-april-2020>

KEY POLICIES AND ACTORS ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE ACROSS THE WORLD



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3. Key Policies and Actors Addressing Climate Change Across the World

"Acknowledging that climate change is a common concern of humankind, Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations...gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity..."

- Preamble of Paris Agreement¹¹⁴

In recent years the international community has significantly accelerated efforts to address the drivers of climate change in order to slow down, or stop altogether, the emission of greenhouse gases and lessen, or prevent, future disastrous consequences. A major step in this work is building out the policy environment, described briefly below. More detailed information is included in Annex A.

¹¹⁴ United Nations, 2015. "Paris Agreement." https://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/convention/application/pdf/english_paris_agreement.pdf

Global Actors and Policy Environment Related to Climate Change Action



UNFCCC. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)¹¹⁵ is the main international body tasked with leading the global response to climate change.¹¹⁶ The UNFCCC's main goal is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the Earth's atmosphere to prevent human interference with the climate and to allow ecosystems to naturally adapt.¹¹⁷ The

UNFCCC monitors States' climate action plans, such as the nationally determined contribution (NDC, a core mandate of the Paris Agreement, described below)¹¹⁸ and the national adaptation plan (NAP)¹¹⁹ process to formulate medium- and long-term adaptation strategies regarding emissions targets. A crucial constituency of the UNFCCC is the Women's Major Group, led by WEDO, which seeks to mainstream gender equality into the Convention's frameworks and policies.¹²⁰ Some of the UNFCCC guiding policy frameworks include:

- **The Kyoto Protocol.** Adopted in 1997 and entering into force in 2005, the Kyoto Protocol was the world's first legally binding climate treaty.¹²¹ Laying out specific commitments, the Kyoto Protocol required **developed countries** to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 5.2% below levels during the year 1990 for the period of 2008-2012.¹²² Of note, the Kyoto Protocol did not include any reference to the needs of girls and women, nor any mention of the relationship between climate change and GBV.
- **Paris Agreement.** Building off of the progress of the Kyoto Protocol is the Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015 and entering into force in 2016.¹²³ Requiring **all countries** to set emissions-reduction pledges to prevent the global average temperature from rising 2°C above pre-industrial levels, the Agreement also seeks to limit the increase to 1.5°C by calling for net-zero emissions (carbon neutral) by the second half of the 21st century.¹²⁴ The NDCs are a core mandate for signatories to the Paris Agreement. While the Paris Agreement calls for gender-responsive actions, it does include any specific recognition of climate change's impact on GBV.
- **Lima Work Programme.** The Lima Work Programme, created at the 20th annual Conference of Parties (COP) in 2014, was a two-year policy initiative to promote gender mainstreaming across all areas of future climate negotiations.¹²⁵ Recognizing that women and girls are disproportionately affected by climate change and are more dependent on climate-sensitive resources, the Work Programme sought to promote gender balance and gender-responsive policy by supporting awareness-raising and capacity-building on issues related to gender and climate change.

¹¹⁵ United Nations, 1992. "United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change."

https://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/background_publications_htmlpdf/application/pdf/conveng.pdf

¹¹⁶ UNFCCC, 2020. "About the Secretariat." <https://unfccc.int/about-us/about-the-secretariat>

¹¹⁷ UNFCCC, 2020. "About the Secretariat." <https://unfccc.int/about-us/about-the-secretariat>

¹¹⁸ See: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/nationally-determined-contributions-ndcs/nationally-determined-contributions-ndcs>

¹¹⁹ See: <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/national-adaptation-plans>

¹²⁰ See: <https://wedo.org/what-we-do/our-programs/participation-is-power-womens-major-group/>

¹²¹ Maizland, Lindsay, 2020. "Global Climate Agreements: Successes and Failures."

<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/paris-global-climate-change-agreements>

¹²² Maizland, Lindsay, 2020. "Global Climate Agreements: Successes and Failures."

<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/paris-global-climate-change-agreements>

¹²³ UNFCCC, 2020. "The Paris Agreement." <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

¹²⁴ Ibid

¹²⁵ Gama, Stella, Priyanka Teeluck, and Janna Tenzing, 2016. "Strengthening the Lima Work Programme on Gender: Perspectives from Malawi and the CBD." <https://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/10165IIED.pdf>

- **UNFCCC Gender Action Plan.** Following the end of the Lima Work Programme, a Gender Action Plan was created at the 25th annual COP in 2019. More focused on implementation of gender-responsive climate action, the Action Plan includes 20 activities to further the mainstreaming of gender into international climate responses.¹²⁶ However, the Action Plan does not delve significantly into sectoral or thematic issues, including GBV.
- **Adaptation Fund.** In 2010, the UNFCCC established the Adaptation Fund under the Kyoto Protocol to help developing countries adapt to the impacts of climate change.¹²⁷ Since that time, the Fund has committed \$720 million to over 100 adaptation projects. Examples include Lebanon and Jordan addressing water shortages in urban settlements hosting large populations of displaced persons. In 2016, the Fund adopted a Gender Policy¹²⁸ to ensure all projects are gender-responsive and to increase funding to projects that promote gender equality. As of yet, the Fund does not account for GBV.
- **Green Climate Fund.** In 2010, the UNFCCC also established the Green Climate Fund to help developing countries reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and respond to climate change.¹²⁹ Utilizing public investment to garner private finance, the Fund has collected \$10.3 billion in pledges that it will channel to developing countries that are highly vulnerable to climate change's impact. In 2015 the GCF enacted its Gender Policy, requiring all proposals to mainstream gender considerations at every stage of the project, including identifying interventions to counter GBV.¹³⁰



126 UNFCCC, 2020. "Introduction to Gender and Climate Change." <https://unfccc.int/gender>

127 See: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/about/>

128 See: https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/OPG-ANNEX4_Gender-Policies-and-Action-Plan_approved-in-March-2016-1.pdf

129 See: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/about>

130 See: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/statement/international-day-elimination-violence-against-women>

Other UN Bodies and the World Bank. Like the UNFCCC, other United Nations entities actively address climate change, most notably under Sustainable Development Goal 13, which focuses on “urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.” Of note, one target of Goal 13 focuses on building the capacity of marginalized groups, including women, to plan for climate change in Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.¹³¹ Some examples of how UN agencies are advancing attention to climate change, gender and GBV include:



- **WHO.** In 2015, the WHO released a report entitled Gender, Climate Change and Health, detailing climate change’s impact on women and girls’ health.¹³² It looks specifically at the socio-cultural, behavioral, and physiological differentiated impact of natural disasters on women and girls as well as their different attitudes regarding climate mitigation. It also recognizes the GBV risks facing women and girls as a result of ongoing climate change and offers examples of gender-sensitive adaptive strategies.
- **UNHCR.** A core member of the Task Force on Displacement set up by the UNFCCC,¹³³ UNHCR leads recommendations to avert, minimize, and address climate-induced displacement. UNHCR has authored papers¹³⁴ and reports¹³⁵ on climate-induced displacement that recognize its gendered implications and its impact on GBV. On the ground, the High Commission has implemented 37 GBV risk mitigation mainstreaming projects in areas vulnerable to climate change, such as the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, and Asia. In addition, in September 2020, UNHCR held a Climate Action consultation with NGOs aimed at gender-transformative responses to strengthen protection.¹³⁶
- **UNFPA.** UNFPA has published a number of reports examining the relationship between climate change and gender,¹³⁷ and works to address women and girls’ heightened risk of GBV due to natural disasters by offering health services, education, and violence prevention services.¹³⁸ UNFPA has also created an Action Framework to integrate climate change and resilience into its work¹³⁹ and prepare for and mitigate the risks of growing climate displacement, especially among women and girls.¹⁴⁰
- **UN Women.** UN Women has been crucial in mainstreaming gender equality and women’s empowerment in the UNFCCC’s global agreements, regularly hosting events at the annual Conference of Parties (see Annex A).¹⁴¹ UN Women has also published reports on the relationship between gender and climate change, offering evidence of how GBV is exacerbated by the changing climate around the world.¹⁴²

131 United Nations. “Sustainable Development Goals. Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its actions.” <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change/>

132 See: https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/144781/9789241508186_eng.pdf;jsessionid=6604D56C785DA231C10576FC38D0E26A?sequence=1

133 UNHCR, 2019. “Key Messages and commitments on Climate Change and disaster displacement.” <https://www.unhcr.org/5e01e3857.pdf>

134 See: <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/protection/environment/5f21565b4/gender-displacement-and-climate-change.html>

135 See: <https://www.unhcr.org/540854f49.pdf>

136 See: <https://www.unhcr.org/2020-unhcr-annual-consultations-with-ngos/climate-action.html>

137 See: <https://www.unfpa.org/pmc/publications-listing-page/Climate%20change>

138 See: <https://www.unfpa.org/climate-change>

139 “UNFPA and the Climate Crisis: Strengthening Resilience and Protecting Progress within the Decade of Action.” Webinar. December 8, 2020.

140 “UNFPA and the Climate Crisis: Strengthening Resilience and Protecting Progress within the Decade of Action.” Webinar. December 8, 2020.

141 See: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/intergovernmental-support/climate-change-and-the-environment>

142 See: <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/gender-climate-and-security-summary-en.pdf?la=en&vs=216>

- **The World Bank** has a dedicated Climate Change Knowledge Portal¹⁴³ providing global data on climate vulnerabilities and impacts including information at the country and regional level. The Bank funds a number of projects aimed at adaptation, resilience, and climate finance, including active projects to fund early warning systems in South Asia,¹⁴⁴ to improve the resilience of Vanuatu's road network,¹⁴⁵ and to reduce emissions from deforestation and foster conservation in Costa Rica.¹⁴⁶ The Bank also recently announced a target of having 35% of its project financing produce climate co-benefits.¹⁴⁷



Global Technical Groups: Several international groups also produce research and provide advisory support on the topic of climate change. These include:

- **IPCC.** The technical advice provided by the UNFCCC is supplemented by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).¹⁴⁸ An expert body, the IPCC prepares reports assessing the state of knowledge on climate change, including scientific, technical, and socio-economic findings, the impacts and future risks of continued warming, and the options for reducing the rate at which climate change is taking place.¹⁴⁹ The IPCC tends to focus on macro-issues; none of the IPCC reports have addressed GBV.
- **Global Commission on Adaptation.** Established in 2018, the Commission seeks to manage climate change's impact through technology, planning, and investment.¹⁵⁰ Supported by 17 countries, the Commission focuses on a number of action areas that need to be adapted to a changing climate, including food security, infrastructure, water, and disaster risk management.¹⁵¹ Although it has not focused efforts on addressing gender or GBV, the Commission did fund a paper examining how climate adaptation efforts can promote gender and social equity.¹⁵²

143 See: <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org>

144 See: <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P171054>

145 See: <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P167382>

146 See: <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P160368>

147 See: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/12/09/world-bank-group-announces-ambitious-35-finance-target-to-support-countries-climate-action>

148 World Nuclear Association, 2017. "Policy Responses to Climate Change."

<https://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/energy-and-the-environment/policy-responses-to-climate-change.aspx>

149 IPCC, 2020. "About IPCC." <https://www.ipcc.ch>

150 Global Commission on Adaptation, 2020. "About Us." <https://gca.org/global-commission-on-adaptation/about-us>

151 Ibid

152 See: <https://gca.org/about-us/>

- **CEDAW Committee.** The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women's (CEDAW) 37th Recommendation on "gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change"¹⁵³ recognizes the differentiated impact of climate change on women and girls, including a heightened risk of GBV during and following disasters. It recommends further inclusion of gender-sensitive measures in climate change agreements, increased participation of women in disaster risk reduction and adaptation plan creation, and improved policy coherence and capacity development regarding the impacts of climate change on women and girls.¹⁵⁴ The CEDAW Committee tracks country-level reporting on implementation of the CEDAW recommendations.
- **Women Gender Constituency.** The Women and Gender Constituency provides a number of ways for civil society and non-governmental organizations which work for women's rights and gender justice, environmental protection, or both, to influence the annual conferences and help develop the UNFCCC. It provides a platform to exchange information between members and with the UNFCCC Secretariat. The constituency also ensures that meetings, workshops and conferences include the participation and representation of women's civil society and non-governmental organizations which otherwise would not be able to attend.¹⁵⁵

Regional Actors and Policy Environment Related to Climate Change Action

Regional Bodies. Reflecting the reality that different geographical areas face different climate threats, regional bodies have been created to strengthen regional responses.

- The UNFCCC itself supports six Regional Collaboration Centers (RCCs) to build capacity, provide technical assistance, and allow states to share know-how on climate action: Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok), Middle East, North Africa and South Asia (Dubai), Eastern and Southern Africa (Kampala), Western and Francophone Africa (Lomé), Caribbean (St. George's), and Latin America (Panama).¹⁵⁶ Following the Paris Agreement, RCCs help countries implement their national determined contributions (NDC) to reduce carbon emissions.¹⁵⁷ In Autumn 2020, every RCC held a virtual workshop on integrating gender in national climate actions as part of the Lima Work Programme.¹⁵⁸



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¹⁵³ CEDAW, 2018. "General Recommendation No. 37 on Gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change." https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/1_Global/CEDAW_C_GC_37_8642_E.pdf

¹⁵⁴ CEDAW, 2018. "General Recommendation No. 37 on Gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change." https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/1_Global/CEDAW_C_GC_37_8642_E.pdf

¹⁵⁵ See: <https://womengenderclimate.org>

¹⁵⁶ See: <https://unfccc.int/about-us/regional-collaboration-centres>

¹⁵⁷ Ibid.

¹⁵⁸ See: <https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/events-meetings/workshops-dialogues/virtual-workshops-gender-integration-into-national-climate-actions>

National Actors and Policy Environment Related to Climate Change Action

National Governments. The reality of climate change action is that the global and regional bodies noted above are formed by and exist to support national governments to facilitate action to address and mitigate the impacts of climate change. At the national level, countries across the world are increasingly adopting and integrating global frameworks and guidance into their national development and preparedness plans.

National Adaptation Plans (NAP). Alongside submissions to the UNFCCC related to the Paris Agreement, countries are also encouraged to produce NAPs identifying medium- and long-term adaptation needs and developing and implementing strategies and programs to address those needs. NAPs are a continuous, progressive and iterative process meant to promote a country-driven, gender-sensitive, participatory and fully transparent approach.¹⁵⁹ Developing countries are supported to develop their NAPS by a global NAP Technical Working Group; this includes scaled-up assistance to least-developed countries.¹⁶⁰ To this end, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group has released guidance documents on how to strengthen gender considerations in adaptation planning, which recognizes the need to address GBV.¹⁶¹ However, as the NAP examples below illustrate, even good integration of attention to gender does not often translate into a recognition of the importance of addressing GBV.

- **The Government of Malawi.** Since 2006, Malawi's NAP has been strongly focused on mainstreaming gender as a cross-cutting issue, recognizing that women and girls are disproportionately vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.¹⁶² Malawi's Gender Policy also commits the country to promoting gender parity, women's empowerment, and the upholding of women's rights in order to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development. In addition, the country's National Climate Change Management Policy seeks to integrate climate change across planning, development, and coordination in a gender-responsive manner.¹⁶³ In spite of such progress, GBV is not mentioned.
- **The Government of Fiji.** Fiji's government has put forth a comprehensive National Climate Change Policy promoting ambitious targets for resilient development that is notably gender-responsive, acknowledging that climate change can exacerbate gender inequalities and seeking to ensure that gender considerations are integrated in all mitigation and adaptation approaches.¹⁶⁴ The National Policy does not mention GBV.

¹⁵⁹ Excerpted from UNFCCC portal, <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/national-adaptation-plans>

¹⁶⁰ <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/national-adaptation-plans-naps/nap-technical-working-group>

¹⁶¹ See: https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Documents%20NAP/UNFCCC_gender_in_NAPs.pdf

¹⁶² Gama, Stella, Priyanka Teeluck, and Janna Tenzing, 2016. "Strengthening the Lima Work Programme on Gender: Perspectives from Malawi and the CBD." <https://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/10165IIED.pdf>

¹⁶³ See: <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/NCCM-Policy-Final-06-11-2016.pdf>

¹⁶⁴ Republic of Fiji. 2018. "National Climate Change Policy." https://www.pacificclimatechange.net/sites/default/files/documents/National-Climate-Change-Policy-2018--2030_0.pdf

HUMANITARIAN FRAMEWORKS AND APPROACHES TO SUPPORT RESPONSE TO THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND GBV

4. Humanitarian Frameworks and Approaches to Support Response to the Impacts of Climate Change and GBV

We can predict many crises and take action as soon as we know the problem is coming. If disasters take us by surprise, it's because we weren't looking.

- Mark Lowcock, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Humanitarian efforts to manage natural disasters—from funding, to frameworks and approaches, to on-the-ground response—are relatively evolved based on decades of practice managing emergencies. Increasingly, and in recognition of the growing contribution of climate change to humanitarian emergencies, disaster response efforts are not only supporting approaches that improve response to acute climate emergencies, but also address issues associated with slow-impact events.

In recent years, the humanitarian community has also turned its attention to the relationship between climate change and GBV.¹⁶⁵ The Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock has outlined four priorities in building out humanitarian response, the first of which is “support for women and girls, including tackling gender-based violence, reproductive health and empowerment.”¹⁶⁶

In spite of this attention, much work remains to be done. A 2015 report by IFRC characterizes the current situation, stating “during past disasters, GBV has been largely unseen and unheard,”¹⁶⁷ as a result of a lack of knowledge on the topic due to stigma around reporting, a lack of services and embedded gender discrimination. The latter factor has itself been acknowledged by organizations like the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), which has recognized that, “patriarchy is [...] reflected in the lack of gender-disaggregated data on disasters that serve to keep female mortality, injuries and violence invisible.”¹⁶⁸

In laying out the various humanitarian approaches to addressing and responding to the impacts of climate change, it is important to note that while several frameworks overlap and can therefore be difficult to untangle, they are important to understand, particularly as climate disasters are

¹⁶⁵ See for example a statement by ERC and UNFPA on gender and climate change, <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/opinion/2020/1/14/gender-Southern-Africa-climate-crisis>

¹⁶⁶ CERF-UNFPA Localization PowerPoint

¹⁶⁷ IFRC, 2015. “Unseen, Unheard: gender-based violence in disasters,” pg. 8.

forecasted to increase, exacerbating rates of GBV. A brief overview of each framework will be provided below, with more detailed information in Annex B. Taken together, these frameworks promote a variety of strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change in disaster response, more effectively anticipate and prepare for risks of increasingly erratic weather variability, and help people adapt to the new reality posed by climate change.



Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) typically seeks to manage the threat that acute disasters pose. Strategies of disaster risk reduction attempt to identify, assess, and reduce society's exposure to such hazards, reducing the overall vulnerability humans face.¹⁶⁹ Put forward by the UN Office of Disaster Risk Reduction, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction¹⁷⁰ sets out four priorities for action to prevent and reduce disaster risks. These include 1) understanding disaster risk, 2) strengthening disaster risk governance, 3) investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience, and 4) enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and "Building Back Better."¹⁷¹

Global GBV tools and guidelines provide recommendations directly relevant to the Sendai Framework. For example, the GBV Coordination Handbook¹⁷² suggests that humanitarian actors should assist government-led disaster responses in a technical capacity, laying out minimum GBV standards and promoting gender-inclusive approaches to ensure women's engagement in DRR. The GBV Minimum Standards¹⁷³ emphasize that engagement of the affected population – women and girls – is crucial to support risk reduction strategies. The IASC GBV Guidelines also contain guidance on how non-sector specialists can undertake risk mitigation measures as part of preparedness planning.

Despite the recognition of the importance of addressing GBV in disasters, and the reference to disasters and preparedness in key global tools and guidelines, there is no standard approach to integrating GBV considerations into DRR plans and there is little targeted guidance to further this

168 See: <https://asean.org/aichr-thematic-study-women-natural-disasters-indicative-findings-unraveling-gender-institutional-responses/>, pg. 27

169 Marin, Andrei and Lars Otto Naess, 2017. "Climate change adaptation through humanitarian aid? Promises, perils and potentials of the 'new humanitarianism'" <https://bulletin.ids.ac.uk/index.php/idsbo/article/view/2884/ONLINE%20ARTICLE>

170 United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030." <https://www.undrro.org/publication/sendai-framework-disaster-risk-reduction-2015-2030>

171 Ibid

172 See: https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/report/handbook-for-coordinating-gender-based-violence-interventions-in-emergencies/Handbook_for_Coordinating_GBV_in_Emergencies_fin.01.pdf

173 See: https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/19-200_Minimum_Standards_Report_ENGLISH-Nov.FINAL_.pdf

approach. For example, while the UNDRR's Gender Policy offers wide-ranging advice on mainstreaming gender into DRR, it does not mention GBV as a concern.¹⁷⁴ Nevertheless, growing evidence from programming suggests some of the important priorities for integrating attention to GBV in DRR:^{175,176}

- Undertake advocacy with national governments and local and international humanitarian partners to support ongoing GBV capacity-building efforts. This work must be undertaken in the long-term in order to ensure prevention measures are in place to reduce the risks of GBV before the disaster, as well as to ensure rapid response when a disaster strikes. This includes ensuring GBV is integrated into DRR laws and policies, and that GBV specialists are part of any DRR coordination and response bodies.
- Support the engagement and leadership of women and girls in disaster preparedness as well as response. This includes bringing women to the table in policy discussions, in risk assessments, in the development of early warning strategies, and in building out a response.
- Promote women's livelihoods and strategies for self-sufficiency and empowerment. This approach is not only relevant to reducing risk to acute emergencies, but also to ensuring resilience in recovery. The commitment to 'building back better' in DRR creates important opportunities to support gender equality programming that is the foundation of preventing GBV.
- Build multi-sectoral GBV coordination and response systems even before the emergency strikes, in order to enhance immediate response.
- Supporting existing community-organized women's groups, providing them with funding for long-term sustainability and allowing them to lead local risk reduction.



¹⁷⁴ See: https://www.unisdr.org/files/9922_MakingDisasterRiskReductionGenderSe.pdf

¹⁷⁵ See: <https://www.sddirect.org.uk/media/1877/preventing-and-responding-to-gbv-in-natural-disasters.pdf>

¹⁷⁶ See: <https://gbvguidelines.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/GBV-Risk-Reduction-in-Shelter-Programmes-Case-Studies.pdf>

Preparedness and Contingency Planning. Preparedness is the fourth priority of DRR, and refers to the readiness of an organization, or community, to anticipate and respond to incoming disasters. This involves recognizing the potential impacts of a disaster before it strikes, and then improving the speed and effectiveness of a response once the event occurs.¹⁷⁷ Four principles crucial to implementing preparedness activities are: 1) identifying local vulnerabilities; 2) tracking environmental conditions; 3) considering climate change's impacts when designing new and existing communities; and 4) informing communities on the likely timing and size of impacts, as well as how to respond.¹⁷⁸

As with more general DRR measures, global guidance on GBV prevention and response speak to the importance of preparedness and contingency planning. The GBV Coordination Handbook emphasizes that a core function of GBV coordination partners should be to build national and local capacity in preparedness and contingency planning to combat GBV when a disaster or climate event strikes.¹⁷⁹ The IASC GBV Guidelines echo this call, calling for humanitarian actors to engage with governments in order to integrate relevant GBV risk mitigation recommendations into national preparedness policies and strategies and to consult women and girls at all stages of response planning.¹⁸⁰ The GBV Minimum Standards explicitly and comprehensively lay out steps that should be taken to address possible GBV concerns in preparedness plans,¹⁸¹ including working with local actors to assess the capacity of institutions to handle GBV procedures and prepositioning relevant supplies, such as dignity kits, in areas that may see disasters. A sample of additional suggestions for integrating GBV considerations into preparedness planning include:¹⁸²

- Link to and build capacity of ministries responsible for women's rights and for GBV to promote attention to women and girls in preparedness and contingency planning, as well as disaster response.
- Develop strategies for pre-positioning supplies to meet the needs of women and girls after a disaster has struck.
- Create and promote early warning systems that are designed by women and girls and that they can access and control.
- Develop GBV-related data systems as part of preparedness in order to support contingency planning and improve service targeting.
- Promote participatory mechanisms to ensure women and girls are involved in GBV assessments for preparedness and contingency planning.
- Ensure SOPs include contingency plans for access to services in a disaster.
- Train providers as part of preparedness to scale up mobile service capacity so that mobile services can be deployed if the disaster limits access to usual service delivery points.

177 UNFPA, 2020. "UNFPA Guide to Engaging in CERF Anticipatory Action"

178 NRDC, 2008. "Preparing for Global Warming: a framework for protecting community health and then environment in a warmer world." <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/preparedness.pdf>

179 See: https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/report/handbook-for-coordinating-gender-based-violence-interventions-in-emergencies/Handbook_for_Coordinating_GBV_in_Emergencies_fin.01.pdf

180 See: <https://gbvguidelines.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/GBV-Implementation-Strategy-Guide-2015.pdf>

181 See: https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/19-200_Minimum_Standards_Report_ENGLISH-Nov.FINAL_.pdf

182 See: <https://www.sddirect.org.uk/media/1877/preventing-and-responding-to-gbv-in-natural-disasters.pdf>

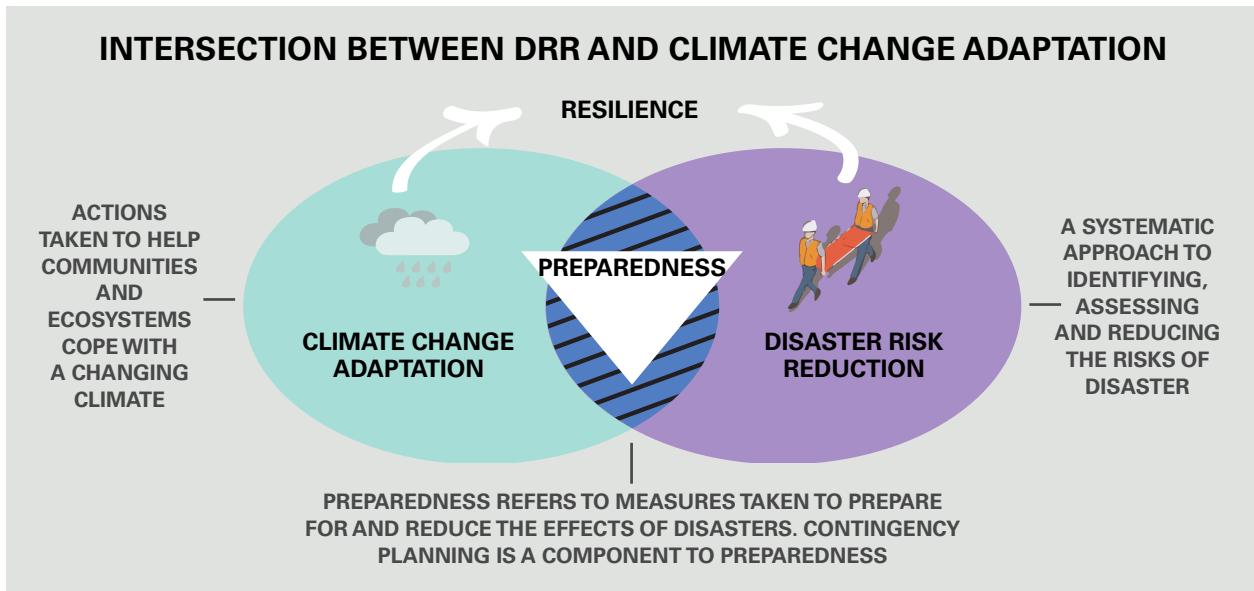


Figure 2. Intersection Between DRR and Climate Change Adaptation¹⁸³

Climate change adaptation. For slow-onset climate events, such as drought, the humanitarian community is increasingly promoting the strategy of climate change adaptation to help communities anticipate their future risk to the negative effects of climate change. Although climate change affects all regions of the Earth, it has a differentiated impact on areas and individuals that are more vulnerable, i.e. less able to anticipate, absorb, and adjust to its effects.¹⁸⁴ Adaptation approaches address this vulnerability by helping communities set the current and future risk levels they are willing to accept, and to create strategies that will allow them to adjust to such risks.¹⁸⁵ Adaptation necessarily includes attention to GBV, given the extent to which GBV contributes to poor adaptation. In one intervention, UNDP partnered with a civil society organization to

address GBV through its Building Resilient Wetland Ecosystems and Assorted Catchments project in Uganda.¹⁸⁶ The project seeks to strengthen capacity among Ugandan national partners, mentor district- and community-level actors, such as employees of the Ministry of Water and Environment, and engage local men and women in participatory activities to understand GBV and how to address it.¹⁸⁷

"We are in a race against time to adapt to a rapidly changing climate. Adaptation must not be the forgotten component of climate action."

-UN Secretary

In the humanitarian field (and at the nexus of humanitarian response and development), there are growing efforts to link climate change adaptation and DRR, in policy and in practice. As the diagram above illustrates, climate change adaptation and DRR overlap, particularly in the area

183 GBV AoR Help Desk. "Localised GBV Responses in the Pacific"

184 Peters, Katie, Leigh Mayhew, Hugo Slim, Maarten van Aalst, and Julie Arrighi, 2019. "Double vulnerability: the humanitarian implications of intersection climate and conflict risk." <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/12647.pdf>

185 Someshwar, Shiv. "Adaptation to Climate Change: Moving Beyond "Reactive" Approaches." <https://www.wri.org/our-work/project/world-resources-report/adaptation-climate-change-moving-beyond-reactive-approaches>

186 Gevers, Anik, Tina Musaya, and Paul Bukuluki, Jan. 28, 2020. "Why climate change fuels violence against women," UNDP. <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/blog/2020/why-climate-change-fuels-violence-against-women.html>

187 Ibid

of preparedness, with all efforts aimed at supporting resilience. Several recommendations for addressing GBV in climate change adaptation include:

- Integrate GBV considerations into National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and National Adaptation Programmes of Action. Utilize a gender equality and social equity lens when developing sustainable development and adaptation plans.
- Promote women's participation and leadership in climate adaptation planning and policies.
- Build up opportunities and activities where women are engaged in resource management linked to climate change adaptation.¹⁸⁸ Ensure that new technologies related to climate change adaptation are available to women and girls.



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Resilience. This approach combines DRR and climate change adaptation with an additional focus on sustainable growth.¹⁸⁹ Strategies of resilience allow a community to absorb, adapt to, transform, and recover from, a hazard or disaster without compromising its basic function or future prospects.¹⁹⁰ Such an approach requires that a community vulnerable to the impacts of climate change has the capacity to maintain its basic function during disasters, has access to a range of resources allowing adaptation, and is capable of anticipating, preventing, and preparing for future shocks.¹⁹¹

"We have both a moral imperative and a clear economic case for supporting developing countries to adapt and build resilience to current and future climate impacts. The race to resilience is as important as the race to net zero."

-UN Secretary General António Guterres

As with climate change adaptation, resilience approaches are at the heart of the humanitarian/development nexus. The core guidelines on GBV make clear the critical links between addressing GBV and promoting resilience. In fact, addressing GBV in emergencies requires strengthening national and community-based systems that prevent and mitigate GBV and providing survivors of GBV with support services.¹⁹² The GBV Minimum Standards emphasize the importance of supporting women and girls' livelihoods and access to economic resources, supporting women-led protection mechanisms, and promoting the participation of women and girls in GBV prevention and response efforts to build local capacity, foster ownership, and ensure sustainability.¹⁹³

188 See: <http://www.mangrovesforthefuture.org/assets/Repository/Documents/Gender-Analysis-Toolkit-for-Coastal-Management-Practitioners.pdf>

189 Marin, Andrei and Lars Otto Naess, 2017. "Climate change adaptation through humanitarian aid? Promises, perils and potentials of the 'new humanitarianism'". <https://bulletin.ids.ac.uk/index.php/idsbo/article/view/2884/ONLINE%20ARTICLE>

190 IFRC, 2020. "World Disasters Report 2020." https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/20201116_WorldDisasters_Full.pdf

191 Marin, Andrei and Lars Otto Naess, 2017. "Climate change adaptation through humanitarian aid? Promises, perils and potentials of the 'new humanitarianism'" <https://bulletin.ids.ac.uk/index.php/idsbo/article/view/2884/ONLINE%20ARTICLE>

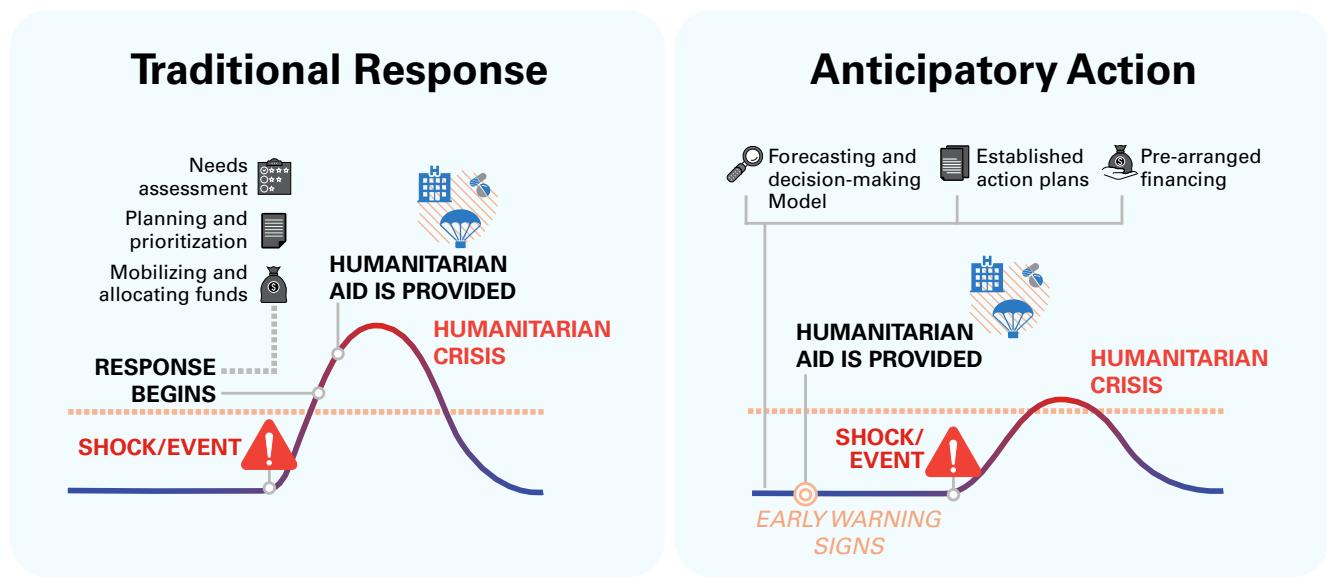
192 See: <https://gbvguidelines.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/GBV-Implementation-Strategy-Guide-2015.pdf>

193 See: https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/19-200_Minimum_Standards_Report_ENGLISH-Nov.FINAL_.pdf

Efforts to integrate GBV considerations into climate resilience plans must reflect many of the same priorities as in DRR, preparedness, and adaptation. Several other reflections related to resilience include:^{194,195}

- Invest in local women's organizations and networks to build climate resilience at the grassroots level. Promote women's leadership in community-level resilience projects.
- Make sure women are represented in peace and security agendas and strategies. Integrate resilience approaches in peace and security policies and programming.
- Develop programming to ensure women and girls have equal access to information and social, political, financial and natural resources over the long term. This covers a broad range of interventions that support gender equality and equity, from education, to livelihoods, to employment, political participation, etc.
- Support women's equal ownership of property rights, land, and housing.

Anticipatory Action. Aimed at “reducing or mitigating the impact of disasters and enhancing post-disaster response, using forecasts or early warnings of imminent shock of stress,”^{196,197}, anticipatory action is driven by early warning systems. Intended to be distinct from risk reduction and preparedness (the former which occurs continuously before a disaster and the latter which occurs following a disaster), anticipatory action preemptively responds to an imminent, specific shock in space and time. In practice, however, there is commonality and overlap between these activities. In some settings, especially with only a few days of early warning, Anticipatory Action may look more like preparedness coupled with an accelerated timeline for starting emergency response.



*Figure 3. Traditional Response v. Anticipatory Action*¹⁹⁸

¹⁹⁴ See: <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/womens-empowerment/leading-resilient-development—grassroots-women-priorities-practices-and-innovations.html>

¹⁹⁵ See: https://www.preventionweb.net/files/2726_APWLDguidelinesgendersensitive1.pdf

¹⁹⁶ UNFPA, 2020. “UNFPA Guide to Engaging in CERF Anticipatory Action”

¹⁹⁷ Levine, Simon, Emily Wilkinson, Lena Weingärtner, and Pooja Mall, 2020. “Anticipatory action for livelihood protection.” ODI. https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/202006_odi_anticipatory_action_for_livelihood_protection_wp_final.pdf

¹⁹⁸ UNFPA, 2020. “UNFPA Guide to Engaging in CERF Anticipatory Action”

Most significantly taken up by the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the main mechanism to rapidly release funding for humanitarian emergencies, Anticipatory Action is being piloted in several humanitarian settings globally. CERF has also recently revised its 'life-saving criteria' to include more components of GBV response. This means that more than ever (though still not in all cases), CERF funding can be used as a part of anticipatory action and subsequently to ensure accessible, confidential, survivor-centered GBV services for women and girls and the establishment of protection and GBV prevention mechanisms.¹⁹⁹



UNFPA has outlined steps to integrate attention to GBV in Anticipatory Action plans going forward. This includes conducting gender analyses, social norms mapping and needs assessment across response sectors; integrating economic empowerment into GBV standard operating procedures; promoting the direct distribution of cash transfers; strengthening GBV coordination structures to facilitate more efficient and effective action; monitoring continuity of women and girl-specific services; updating SOPs and emergency referral systems; and mainstreaming gender-responsive policy into NAPs and national legal frameworks. Additional measures suggested by UNFPA to promote GBV risk mitigation across Anticipatory Action Plans include ensuring food distribution centers, times, and procedures are designed and implemented to reduce GBV risk.²⁰⁰

In addition to the CERF Anticipatory Action, the IFRC has created a Forecast-based Financing (FbF) and Forecast-based Action approaches (FbA) utilizing its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund to promote anticipatory actions by National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.²⁰¹ Similarly, the World Bank and the British and German governments have created the Global Risk Financing Facility,²⁰² to support governments in establishing early warning systems to strengthen resilience and early action. The World Bank also created a Crisis Response Window²⁰³ providing early response financing to mainstream and build anticipatory action into slow-onset events, like drought.

¹⁹⁹ CERF-UNFPA Localization PowerPoint

²⁰⁰ UNFPA, 2020. "UNFPA Guide to Engaging in CERF Anticipatory Action"

²⁰¹ See: <https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/fba/>

²⁰² See: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/disaster-risk-management/brief/global-risk-financing-facility>

²⁰³ See: <https://ida.worldbank.org/financing/crisis-response-window>

KEY CONSIDERATIONS MOVING FORWARD

5. Key Considerations Moving Forward

Action to address climate change is proliferating in recognition of the profound impact climate change will have on the world in the near future. This accelerated attention to climate change represents an opportunity for GBV actors working in humanitarian crises as well as at the nexus of humanitarian and development programming to ensure better attention to GBV and gender equality in both acute and slow-onset climate-related disasters. As noted previously, global GBV guidelines and tools for humanitarian settings already highlight the importance of disaster risk reduction, preparedness, contingency planning and response. However, there is limited targeted guidance linked to GBV and climate change, or even GBV and disasters more generally. It is critical for the GBV community working in humanitarian response to scale up its knowledge and capacity in these areas.

Several reflections for key areas of focus are included below. These are not exhaustive; they are meant to provide some food for thought and stimulate further discussion. Some of these issues are also captured in the case studies in Section Six.

- 1.** The GBV community must build their understanding of the global, regional and national systems, policies and funding streams related to climate change. Because these systems are often included within and guided by development progress, this means that GBV actors working in humanitarian crises will need to link to development action. It is important that GBV actors also build out the capacity of relevant government partners, such as the ministries related to women's affairs, to understand and get involved in climate change action at national level. This includes influencing climate change policies and national action plans and understanding how to access climate change funds to support GBV prevention and response.
- 2.** Newer approaches to disasters, including climate change adaptation approaches and anticipatory actions also offer exciting opportunities to improve efforts to prevent GBV, and to ensure comprehensive and safe services are available to survivors affected by either slow-onset or acute climate-related emergencies. However, the reality is that there is still a gap in standardized integration of attention to GBV in DRR, including preparedness and contingency planning. Better integration of GBV across all frameworks and response actions is necessary.
- 3.** Too often, climate change action is focused primarily on food security. However, the growing body of evidence makes it clear there are critical protection concerns that must be addressed in planning for and responding to climate-induced events. This is a core area of advocacy for the GBV community to undertake with climate specialists moving forward. In addition, the GBV community must support food security actors working in settings affected by climate change to integrate GBV risk mitigation measures as outlined in the IASC GBV Guidelines.

- 4.** By promoting evidence-gathering on the links between different climate hazards and GBV, GBV partners can not only conduct advocacy related to the importance of addressing GBV in climate change action, but can also utilize the data to create appropriate interventions before a disaster or slow-onset event has fully struck.²⁰⁴ Evidence-gathering also includes, for example, conducting assessments of norms and practices that inform women and girls' risks related to climate-induced disasters (both acute and slow-onset); mapping services; mapping particularly at-risk or 'invisible' groups of women in order to develop strategies to support their specific needs related to climate change; etc.
- 5.** GBV specialists are familiar with the multi-sectoral response and the importance of systems strengthening to ensure sustainability of services. This systems-strengthening approach is fundamental to disaster preparedness and resilience-building. However, it is often overlooked in climate change action plans. Ensuring greater investment in systems strengthening related to GBV must be integrated into global, regional and national climate change plans. This systems strengthening must include efforts to build adaptability of service delivery as is often necessary in acute emergencies, including supply chains.
- 6.** Supporting GBV coordination—which is chronically underfunded in humanitarian settings—is an essential component of effective systems building. Coordination is critical in order to avoid replication of services and to ensure efficient use of available funds. Coordination also allows GBV specialists to collectively determine priorities for action and undertake advocacy and other action to ensure those priorities are met.
- 7.** Ensuring girls' education and building adaptive livelihoods is a core strategy for promoting resilience to climate shocks. GBV specialists have an opportunity linked to climate change action to promote education and livelihoods activities that significantly and meaningfully empower women and support gender equality, such as ensuring school curricula support gender transformative norms, and that any new technologies introduced to support climate change adaptation are available to women and girls. It is important that education and livelihoods interventions are evaluated to understand the extent to which they lift women and girls out of poverty in a measurable and sustained way.
- 8.** Localization, including support to women's organizations and networks, is an exciting entry point for supporting climate change adaptation and resilience, as well as preparedness. However, research suggests that while much emphasis has been placed on localization as part of humanitarian reform, there are significant gaps in direct support to local women and women-led organizations.²⁰⁵ Promoting adaptation and resilience requires a significantly greater investment in building out women's organizations and groups.

204 UNFPA, 2020. "UNFPA Guide to Engaging in CERF Anticipatory Action"

205 See <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WPbgtCtGx0bkAG1LHTJHTNbEbSaGruUS/view>

CASE EXAMPLES OF INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING FOR REDUCING GBV IN CLIMATE-RELATED EMERGENCIES

Supporting Girls' Resilience in the Lake Chad Basin

The Lake Chad Basin is located in the Sahel, situated between Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria, which is highly vulnerable to climatic changes. Although it is clear that climate change is impacting the region to a significant degree, climate experts say it is difficult to predict the extent of future drought, flooding or other climate events, and the impact of these events on the rapidly growing population.²⁰⁶ Nevertheless, experts anticipate that the climatic impact on water, food and other resources will continue to affect the safety and well-being of those living in the Lake Chad basin.²⁰⁷

Another major contributor to the lack of safety in the Lack Chad Basin and surrounding countries, and one that is linked to climate change and competition for resources, is the escalation of armed conflict in the region. As of 2017, an estimated 7,000 women and girls have been abducted, raped or forced into marriage in Nigeria by armed groups.²⁰⁸ Girls have also been used in 80% of cases where armed groups have forced children to carry out "suicide" attacks.²⁰⁹ Those who escape and return to their communities face further victimization, stigmatization, marginalization, discrimination and rejection due to social norms.²¹⁰ Other factors that further contribute to the risk for women and girls of sexual violence and exploitation include the collapse of livelihoods, food insecurity, the increase in female-headed households as a result of migration of males, lack of security infrastructure, and other factors.

The combination of extreme weather events and ongoing armed conflict are expected to exacerbate these risks into the future. This requires that interventions not only strive to meet the immediate needs of women and girls who have experienced violence, but that they also support programming that takes a longer-view to climate adaptation and building resilience of women and girls to climate shocks, as well as promoting gender equality as a durable solution to reducing armed conflict. One program that supports adaptation, resilience and gender equality and equity is the Lake Chad Strategy and Programme developed by Plan International.²¹¹

206 Nagarajan et al.

207 Nagarajan et al.

208 International Rescue Committee, "Lake Chad Basin Crisis: An Analysis of Violence against Women, Children and Displaced Populations in the Region" (International Rescue Committee, 2017), <https://www.rescue-uk.org/sites/default/files/document/1328/reportoslo-analysisofviolenceagainstwomenchadrenanddisplacedpopulations-17march2017.pdf>.

209 Plan International, "Lake Chad Programme Strategy 2018-2023" (Plan International, 2018), <https://plan-international.org/publications/lake-chad-programme-strategy#download-options>.

210 Clugston and Stevens, "Understanding Patterns of Stigmatisation for Male and Female Survivors and Associates of Non-State Armed Groups in North East Nigeria: Lessons Learned and Implications for 4DR Processes"; Plan International, "Lake Chad Programme Strategy 2018-2023."

211 International Rescue Committee, "Lake Chad Basin Crisis: An Analysis of Violence against Women, Children and Displaced Populations in the Region"; Plan International, "Lake Chad Programme Stategy 2018-2023."

The Plan International Lake Chad Programme Strategy 2018-2030²¹² is the joint initiative of Plan International's country offices in Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria and the West and Central Africa Regional Office. It takes an integrated regional approach to programming, which is committed to scaling up the current GBV response as well as investing in systems strengthening in anticipation of the long-term threats of GBV against women and girls. As such, the program works at the nexus of humanitarian and development efforts. It conducts "full spectrum" programming in order to meet humanitarian needs and strengthen resilience, while investing in social cohesion and addressing the underlying causes of GBV in order to achieve a sustainable and lasting impact. The program is underpinned by the principles of community engagement, coordination with local actors, effective participation of girls and boys in all program interventions, the promotion of sustainable natural resource management and sectoral integration within the program. Core strategic approaches include:

1. Providing direct assistance including cash and vouchers to affected populations using a conflict-sensitive approach.
2. Building resilience among girls, boys and their communities.
3. Transforming social norms, attitudes and behaviours.
4. Influencing on the basis of evidence by partnering with local organizations committed to advancing gender equality.
5. Actively pursuing a strategy of strengthening partnerships.

Regarding its specific objective of improving responses to GBV, the program has identified both humanitarian and development targets. The humanitarian targets related to GBV are organized primarily around ensuring quality services through integration of PSS and Safe Spaces as well as community engagement in building safety; the development targets focus on longer-term social norms change, systems strengthening, and policy change. Some of the early lessons from Plan's regional work include:

- **Advocacy and influencing:** There is a need to scale up the advocacy and influencing component of projects to showcase the impact of programming to prevent and respond to GBV.
- **Systematic learning, experience-sharing and knowledge management:** There is a need to scale up the cross-border sharing of lessons learnt between each of the country office projects to improve consistency of quality across projects.
- **Gender considerations:** Gender analysis must be consistent across projects to ensure that programs are well positioned to challenge social norms and attitudes. The Like Chad Programme Unit has since established a dedicated gender advisor position to ensure projects are gender transformative.
- **Full spectrum programming:** Humanitarian and development teams should collaborate more systematically to ensure the program is able to draw on the experience and knowledge of both in all projects. This would help the program tackle the root causes of violence in a context of protracted crisis.
- **Integrated regional approach:** The program should move from a coordinated regional approach to an integrated regional approach, to ensure that regional analysis within the region can feed into programming. This will improve the coherence of the program, while leaving enough flexibility for the country offices to implement projects relevant to their specific contexts.

²¹² Plan International, "Lake Chad Programme Strategy 2018-2023."

Anticipatory Action for the Monsoon Floods in Bangladesh

Climate change has resulted in an increase in the frequency and severity of a range of climate-related emergencies in Bangladesh, including sea level rise, flooding, cyclones, drought, river erosion, landslides and salinization (the build-up of salt in soil). By 2050 an estimated one in seven people will be displaced in Bangladesh by climatic changes.²¹³ For women and girls, factors associated with climate emergencies, including displacement, increased poverty, dependency on relief distribution, increase in child marriages²¹⁴, and lack of protective services increase the risk of GBV.²¹⁵

Historically, communities across Bangladesh have developed strategies for managing seasonal flooding that occurs during the monsoon season. However, climate change is causing these floods to come earlier in the year and occur with greater intensity, leaving communities overwhelmed.²¹⁶ In Bangladesh, global and national flood forecasts enable humanitarian actors to predict when flooding will surpass the capacity of communities to cope and which areas will be most affected. In 2020, the UN launched an Anticipatory Action Pilot, funded by the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) in response to these predictions. It provided humanitarian relief in anticipation of flooding disasters, in order to minimize the impact on those affected.²¹⁷

The Anticipatory Action Pilot consisted of three components:

- **Predetermined triggers:** The pilot agreed on pre-determined triggers to prompt anticipatory action.
- **Pre-determined anticipatory actions:** The pilot established which actions would be taken to reduce the impact of flooding on vulnerable communities prior to the flooding taking place.
- **Pre-determined finance distribution:** The pilot established how much funding would go to each agency to fund the pre-determined anticipatory actions.

This pilot established that anticipatory action would be triggered when 40% of the population were forecasted to be affected or 20% of household assets were predicted to be damaged. In order to increase the time to prepare for activation, the pilot utilized a two-step trigger system:

Stage 1: The Pre-Activation (Readiness) Trigger was reached when the water flow at the Bahadurabad gauging station was forecasted to be more than 50% likely to cross the “severe shock” threshold of 100 000 m³/s with a lead time 10 days.

Stage 2: The Activation Trigger was reached when the water level at Bahadurabad gauging station was forecasted to cross the government-defined “Danger Level” of + 0.85 meters with a lead time of 5 days.

²¹³ Environmental Justice Foundation, “Climate Displacement in Bangladesh,” Environmental Justice Foundation, 2020, <https://ejfoundation.org/reports/climate-displacement-in-bangladesh>.

²¹⁴ UNFPA and UNICEF, “Child Marriage and Climate Change” UNFPA and UNICEF, 2020, https://mcusercontent.com/2269de83e8e8e0f24047ab209/files/2290e9cf-022e-42a1-809f-cf7e94de782a/Evidence_Series_18_Child_Marriage_and_Climate_Change.pdf

²¹⁵ Nahid Rezwana and Rachel Pain, “Gender based Violence before, during and after Cyclones: Slow Violence and Layered Disasters,” Disasters, May 14, 2020, disa.12441, <https://doi.org/10.1111/disa.12441>.

²¹⁶ The Third Pole, “Early Monsoon Floods Show Climate Change Impact in South Asia,” The Third Pole (blog), 2020, <https://www.thethirdpole.net/2020/06/29/early-monsoon-south-asia/>.

²¹⁷ OCHA, 2020. Anticipatory Humanitarian Action Pilot: 2020 Monsoon Floods in Bangladesh. OCHA. Information for the case study was taken primarily from this report.

GBV Risk Mitigation Anticipatory Actions. As part of anticipatory action, the UNFPA received \$589,084 from the CERF to distribute Dignity Kits, Menstrual Hygiene Management Kits, and Reproductive Kits to 15,000 women and girls in two stages, according to the two-stage trigger system. During Stage 1 (between the Pre-Activation Trigger and the Activation Trigger) UNFPA prepared the Dignity Kits. Each kit included key “flashcards” with GBV-related referral and service information, including shelter contact details as well as the phone number of a psychosocial support hotline. During this stage, UNFPA also transported Dignity Kits to partner distribution locations in the vulnerable districts and identified convenient distribution points and times. These decisions were made in line with GBV guiding principles and with reference to the safety and security of beneficiaries in the COVID-19 context. During Stage 2 (after the Activation Trigger) the UNFPA notified beneficiaries of the distribution point, date and time, provided all eligible beneficiaries with an authorised chit card for collection and distributed Dignity Kits to women and girls.

Lessons learned. The official impact report for the Anticipatory Action Pilot in Bangladesh is forthcoming; however, reflections by UNFPA staff on the outcomes for women and girls of this approach suggest that the approach

- **Enables UN Agencies and implementing partners to prepare more effectively** for the impact of predictable climate change disasters on GBV.
- **Is respectful of the rights and dignity of women at risk of GBV in the aftermath of disasters** because it engages prior to the event, rather than waiting for the disaster and associated violence to occur before intervening.
- **Ensures women have access to life saving information ahead of time.** By distributing Dignity Kits prior to displacement, women who are unable to get to shelters where distribution would otherwise take place, have access to life saving information.
- **The Anticipatory Action approach only partially addresses the root causes of GBV and does not lead to structural change.** The root causes of GBV are multiple, complex and require long-term programming. Long-term programming is essential to long-term prevention of GBV.

GBV Inclusion in the Nationally Determined Contribution for the Pacific Islands

The Pacific Islands consist of 14 sovereign states and 11 collectives, classified by three ethno-geographic groupings: Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. The Islands are home to significant linguistic, ethnic and cultural diversity.²¹⁸ The Pacific Islands are also on the frontline of climate change disasters, with different regions of the Islands experiencing a variety of significant impacts, including increased frequency of droughts and/or flooding, changes in rainfall, issues of erosion, growing scarcity of clean water and reduced food production.²¹⁹

As noted in Section Two, for women and girls, the negative impacts of climate change include increased risk of GBV.^{220,221} To date, however, most climate change adaptation strategies developed for the Pacific region have not recognized or included policies or programming supporting GBV response or prevention. The UNFPA Fiji office therefore undertook several activities to improve the linkages between climate change adaptation strategies and GBV prevention and response.

One important initiative involved supporting the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) implement a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) which highlights eliminating GBV as a priority. The RMI now recognizes that adapting to climate change necessitates addressing the needs of women and girls. The RMI's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the *Paris Agreement (2015)*, includes development of a gender action plan, which supports increased GBV prevention and response programming; better access to sexual and reproductive health and rights; and women's economic empowerment. The RMI commitments are recognized as global best practice in addressing the gendered impacts of climate change, including GBV.

The experience of UNFPA in the Pacific Islands highlights the following key lessons for GBV practitioners working in settings affected by climate change:

1. Ensure presence and visibility of GBV specialists across development progress and humanitarian response related to climate change, including the NAPs and NDCs, as well as disaster risk preparedness and management.
2. Support advocacy efforts on the importance of integrating GBV prevention and response strategies in regional, national and local policies focused on climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness.
3. Adapt fundraising strategies to improve access by GBV programmers to funding from climate change allocations by learning about financing streams for climate change and linking GBV specialists to those streams.

218 Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence (2018). "Fact Sheet: Pacific Islanders and Domestic and Sexual Violence."

219 IPCC (2018). "Summary for Policymakers," in Global warming of 1.5C. An IPCC Special Report on the Impacts of Global Warming of 1.5°C Above Pre-Industrial Levels and Related Global Greenhouse Gas Emission Pathways, in the Context of Strengthening the Global Response to the Threat of Climate Change, Sustainable Development, And Efforts To Eradicate Poverty, eds V. Masson-Delmotte, P. Zhai, H. O. Pörtner, D. Roberts, et al. (Geneva: World Meteorological Organization); and IPCC (2014). "Climate Change 2014," in Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, eds C. B. Field, et al. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

220 UN Women, "Climate Change, Disasters and Gender-Based Violence in the Pacific"

221 Thomas and Candolfi (2019). "Is Climate Change Worsening Gender-Based Violence in the Pacific Islands?" Open Global Rights

ANNEX A: Policy Environment & Actors

POLICY	DESCRIPTION
KYOTO PROTOCOL	Adopted in 1997 and entering into force in 2005, the Kyoto Protocol was the world's first legally binding climate treaty. Laying out specific commitments, the Kyoto Protocol required developed countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 5.2% below levels during the year 1990 for the period of 2008-2012. In addition, the Protocol established a system to monitor countries' progress and created different 'Flexibility Mechanisms' to facilitate overall reduction, including emissions trading (cap and trade), joint implementation (whereby one developed country invests in emissions reduction in another developed country), and the Clean Development Mechanism (allowing a developed country to buy greenhouse gas reduction units from a developing country). ²²² Notably, the Kyoto Protocol was not binding on developing countries and did not require them to reduce emission levels
PARIS AGREEMENT	Building off of the progress of the Kyoto Protocol is the Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015 and entering into force in 2016. Requiring all countries to set emissions-reduction pledges to prevent the global average temperature from rising 2°C above pre-industrial levels, the Agreement also seeks to limit the increase to 1.5°C by calling for net-zero emissions (carbon neutral) by the second half of the 21st century. More ambitious and all-encompassing than its predecessor, the Paris Agreement calls for developed countries to offer \$100 billion annually to help less developed countries reach their reduction targets. ²²³ In addition, the Paris Agreement is the first intergovernmental convention to include gender considerations; its preamble acknowledges that parties should address gender equality and women's empowerment through climate action, Article 7 states that adaptation action should be gender-responsive, and Article 11 suggests that any capacity building activities be gender-responsive. ²²⁴ However, there is no specific recognition of the issue of GBV.

222 <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/kpeng.pdf>

223 Ibid

224 Gama, Stella, Priyanka Teeluck, and Janna Tenzing, 2016. "Strengthening the Lima Work Programme on Gender: Perspectives from Malawi and the CBD." <https://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/10165IIED.pdf>

POLICY	DESCRIPTION
PARIS AGREEMENT cont.	Of the UNFCCC's 197 parties, 196 signed the Paris Agreement and 189 ratified it, meaning they have legally bound themselves to implementing the Agreement's goals. ²²⁵ The Holy See, an Observer State, is the only UNFCCC member not to have signed the Agreement. ²²⁶ Seven other signatories of the agreement (Eritrea, Iran, Iraq, Libya, South Sudan, Turkey, and Yemen) have yet to ratify the agreement. ²²⁷ The United States signed and ratified the agreement, but withdrew in November 2020. ²²⁸ Signatories to the Paris Agreement are expected to set out a target known as a national determined contribution (NDC) for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. The accord stipulates that countries must stiffen their targets every five years, with the latest NDC submissions required by Dec 31, 2020. Concerns have been raised that sexual and reproductive health rights and gender are narrowly represented in the NDCs under the Paris Agreement. ²²⁹
UNFCCC GENDER ACTION PLAN	Following the end of the Lima Work Programme, a Gender Action Plan was created at the 25th annual COP in 2019. More focused on implementation of gender-responsive climate action, the Action Plan includes 20 activities to further the mainstreaming of gender into international climate responses, including: a) capacity-building, knowledge management and communication; b) gender balance, participation and women's leadership; c) coherence; d) gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation; e) monitoring and reporting. ²³⁰ However, the Action Plan does not delve significantly into sectoral or thematic issues, including GBV. Of 22 new NDCs submitted to UNFCCC by early December 2020, 12 reference gender; it is not clear if any specifically reference GBV. ²³¹

225 UNFCCC. "Paris Agreement – Status of Ratification." <https://unfccc.int/process/the-paris-agreement/status-of-ratification>

226 UNFCCC. "Paris Agreement – Status of Ratification." <https://unfccc.int/process/the-paris-agreement/status-of-ratification>

227 See: <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2020/08/13/countries-yet-ratify-paris-agreement/>

228 See: <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-54797743>

229 "UNFPA and the Climate Crisis: Strengthening Resilience and Protecting Progress within the Decade of Action." Webinar. December 8, 2020

230 UNFCCC, 2020. "Introduction to Gender and Climate Change." <https://unfccc.int/gender>

231 UNFPA Webinar, December 8, 2020.

POLICY	DESCRIPTION
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 13	<p>Although not a binding agreement, the 13th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), focuses “urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.” It includes five targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13.1) strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters, 13.2) integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning, 13.3) improving education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning, 13.A) implementing the UNFCCC’s goal of mobilizing \$100 billion annually to address the needs of developing countries in mitigation actions, and 13.B) promoting mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States.²³² Notably, this last target also includes a focus on capacity building for women.²³³
UNFCCC	<p>The major policy frameworks are held together by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC),²³⁴ the main international body tasked with leading the global response to climate change.²³⁵ Adopted in 1992 and ratified in 1994 by 197 countries, the UNFCCC’s main goal is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the Earth’s atmosphere to prevent human interference with the climate and to allow ecosystems to naturally adapt.²³⁶ The UNFCCC holds an annual forum called the Conference of Parties (COP) for States to plan and discuss measures aimed at stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations. Previous COPs have produced all of the major international agreements aimed at fighting climate change, including the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Accords.²³⁷</p>

232 United Nations. “Sustainable Development Goals. Goal 13:Take urgent action to combat climate change and its actions.” <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change/>

233 United Nations. “Sustainable Development Goals. Goal 13:Take urgent action to combat climate change and its actions.” <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change/>

234 United Nations, 1992. “United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.” https://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/background_publications_html/pdf/application/pdf/conveng.pdf

235 UNFCCC, 2020. “About the Secretariat.” <https://unfccc.int/about-us/about-the-secretariat>

236 UNFCCC, 2020. “About the Secretariat.” <https://unfccc.int/about-us/about-the-secretariat>

237 UNFCCC, 2020. “About the Secretariat.” <https://unfccc.int/about-us/about-the-secretariat>

ACTOR	DESCRIPTION
IPCC	<p>The technical advice provided by the UNFCCC is supplemented by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environmental Program.²³⁸ An expert body, the IPCC prepares reports assessing the state of knowledge on climate change, including scientific, technical, and socio-economic findings, the impacts and future risks of continued warming, and the options for reducing the rate at which climate change is taking place.²³⁹ The IPCC is currently in its Sixth Assessment cycle, at the end of which it will produce a Synthesis Report in 2022 accounting for 1) climate change's scientific basis, 2) its impact on human populations, their ability to adapt, and their vulnerability, and 3) ways to mitigate climate change.²⁴⁰ The IPCC tends to focus on macro-issues; none of the IPCC reports have addressed GBV.</p>
GLOBAL COMMISSION ON ADAPTATION	<p>Established in 2018, the Commission seeks to manage climate change's impact through technology, planning, and investment.²⁴¹ The creation of the Commission was initiated by the Netherlands, which sought to share its expert knowledge on water management solutions in the face of rising sea levels.²⁴² Now supported by 17 countries, including high income States, such as Canada and the UK, and less developed States, such as Bangladesh and the Marshall Islands, the Commission focuses on a number of action areas that need to be adapted to a changing climate, including food security, infrastructure, water, and disaster risk management.²⁴³</p>

238 World Nuclear Association, 2017. "Policy Responses to Climate Change." <https://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/energy-and-the-environment/policy-responses-to-climate-change.aspx>

239 IPCC, 2020. "About IPCC." <https://www.ipcc.ch>

240 IPCC, 2020. "Reports." <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-cycle/>

241 Global Commission on Adaptation, 2020. "About Us." <https://gca.org/global-commission-on-adaptation/about-us>

242 Global Commission on Adaptation, 2020. "About Us." <https://gca.org/global-commission-on-adaptation/about-us>

243 Ibid

ACTOR	DESCRIPTION
UNFPA	<p>UNFPA has published a number of reports examining the relationship between climate change and gender,²⁴⁴ and works to address women and girls' heightened risk of GBV due to natural disasters by offering health services, education, and violence prevention services.²⁴⁵ UNFPA has also created an Action Framework to integrate climate change and resilience into its work.²⁴⁶ The four pillars of this plan include 1) health, empowered populations, including women, girls, and young people, 2) climate resilient health, protection, education systems, 3) reduced risk, better preparedness, and strong emergency response, and 4) population, health, and gender data on vulnerability, impact, and resilience.²⁴⁷ The Action Framework also seeks to prepare for growing climate displacement, especially among women and girls, and aims to mitigate protection risks.²⁴⁸</p>

244 See: <https://www.unfpa.org/pcm/publications-listing-page/Climate%20change>

245 See: <https://www.unfpa.org/climate-change>

246 "UNFPA and the Climate Crisis: Strengthening Resilience and Protecting Progress within the Decade of Action." Webinar. December 8, 2020.

247 "UNFPA and the Climate Crisis: Strengthening Resilience and Protecting Progress within the Decade of Action." Webinar. December 8, 2020.

248 "UNFPA and the Climate Crisis: Strengthening Resilience and Protecting Progress within the Decade of Action." Webinar. December 8, 2020.

ANNEX B: Humanitarian Frameworks

FRAMEWORK	DESCRIPTION
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION	<p>Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) typically seeks to manage the threat that acute disasters pose. Strategies of disaster risk reduction attempt to identify, assess, and reduce society's exposure to such hazards, reducing the overall vulnerability humans face.²⁴⁹ Put forward by the UN Office of Disaster Risk Reduction, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction²⁵⁰ sets out four priorities for action to prevent and reduce disaster risks. These include 1) understanding disaster risk, 2) strengthening disaster risk governance, 3) investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience, and 4) enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and "Building Back Better."²⁵¹ Disaster risk reduction has the potential to save both lives and desperately needed humanitarian funds. According to the UN Office for DRR, one dollar invested in DRR provides savings of \$15 in post-disaster recovery and \$4 in reconstruction.²⁵²</p> <p>In spite of this positive projection, many developing countries already facing the effects of climate change lack the capacity to implement the costly modifications often required of disaster risk reduction.²⁵³ In addition to not having the financial ability to implement these changes, developing countries hit hardest by climate change and climate disasters also tend to have weaker infrastructure.²⁵⁴ Consequently, DRR measures can in some sense represent an uphill battle: increasingly frequent climate disasters may weaken the existing infrastructure of developing countries faster than they can implement appropriate and comprehensive disaster risk reduction measures.</p>

249 Marin, Andrei and Lars Otto Naess, 2017. "Climate change adaptation through humanitarian aid? Promises, perils and potentials of the 'new humanitarianism'." <https://bulletin.ids.ac.uk/index.php/idsbo/article/view/2884/ONLINE%20ARTICLE>

250 United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030." <https://www.undrro.org/publication/sendai-framework-disaster-risk-reduction-2015-2030>

251 Ibid

252 United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. "Our Work." <https://www.undrro.org/about-undrr/our-work>

253 Walker, Peter, Josh Glasser, and Shubhada Kamble, 2012. "Climate change as a driver of humanitarian crises and response." https://fic.tufts.edu/assets/18089.TU_Climate.pdf

254 IFRC, 2020. "World Disasters Report 2020." https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/20201116_WorldDisasters_Full.pdf

FRAMEWORK	DESCRIPTION
PREPAREDNESS AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING	<p>Preparedness is the fourth priority of DRR, and refers to the readiness of an organization, or community, to anticipate and respond to incoming disasters. This involves recognizing the potential impacts of a disaster before it strikes, and then improving the speed and effectiveness of a response once the event occurs.²⁵⁵ Four principles crucial to implementing preparedness activities are: 1) identifying local vulnerabilities to prioritize and target local preparedness efforts (e.g. communities located in a flood plain); 2) tracking environmental conditions to identify new and emerging hazards (e.g. heat wave); 3) considering climate change's impacts when designing new and existing communities (e.g. the impact of wildfires can be reduced by clearing brush or moving buildings further away from wildlands); and 4) informing communities on the likely timing and size of impacts, as well as how to respond.²⁵⁶</p> <p>The IASC has produced a “Common Framework for Preparedness.”²⁵⁷ This framework is meant to support better coordination in emergency response, particularly through national and local leadership. Complementing this framework, the IASC also established a Reference Group on Risk, Early Warning, and Preparedness from 2016-2019 to mainstream preparedness throughout the IASC’s system and to increase investment in risk analysis and early action.²⁵⁸</p>

255 UNFPA, 2020, “UNFPA Guide to Engaging in CERF Anticipatory Action”

256 NRDC, 2008. “Preparing for Global Warming: a framework for protecting community health and then environment in a warmer world.” <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/preparedness.pdf>

257 UNHCR. “Common framework for preparedness.” <https://emergency.unhcr.org/entry/34781/common-framework-for-preparedness-iasc>

258 IASC, 2019. “IASC Reference Group on Risk, Early Warning, and Preparedness.”

<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-reference-group-on-risk-early-warning-and-preparedness>

FRAMEWORK	DESCRIPTION
ADAPTATION	<p>For slow-onset climate events, such as drought, the humanitarian community is increasingly promoting the strategy of climate change adaptation, to help communities anticipate their future risk to the negative effects of climate change. Although climate change affects all regions of the Earth, it has a differentiated impact on areas and individuals that are more vulnerable, i.e. less able to anticipate, absorb, and adjust to its effects.²⁵⁹ Adaptation approaches address this vulnerability by helping communities set the current and future risk levels they are willing to accept, and to create strategies that will allow them to adjust to such risks.²⁶⁰ Examples of this include creating a system to improve the equitable sharing of scarce water resources or planting drought-tolerant crops.²⁶¹ Adaptation is a predictive or dynamic approach, in which a community changes its behavior based on its understanding that the environment around it will change, usually in response to growing, predictable threats. There are growing efforts to link climate change adaptation and DRR, in policy and in practice. As the diagram above illustrates, climate change adaptation and DRR overlap, particularly in the area of preparedness, with all efforts aimed at supporting resilience.</p>
RESILIENCE	<p>This approach combines DRR and climate change adaptation with an additional focus on sustainable growth.²⁶² Strategies of resilience allow a community to absorb, adapt to, transform, and recover from, a hazard or disaster without compromising its basic function or future prospects.²⁶³ Such an approach requires that a community vulnerable to the impacts of climate change has the capacity to maintain its basic function during disasters, has access to a range of resources allowing adaptation, and is capable of anticipating, preventing, and preparing for future shocks.²⁶⁴ Examples of resilience can include States pooling financial, scientific, and administrative resources together to create plans addressing shared climate shocks, or cities including resilience design standards in public works and urban planning.²⁶⁵</p>

259 Peters, Katie, Leigh Mayhew, Hugo Slim, Maarten van Aalst, and Julie Arrighi, 2019. "Double vulnerability: the humanitarian implications of intersection climate and conflict risk." <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/12647.pdf>

260 Someshwar, Shiv. "Adaptation to Climate Change: Moving Beyond "Reactive" Approaches." <https://www.wri.org/our-work/project/world-resources-report/adaptation-climate-change-moving-beyond-reactive-approaches>

261 European Commission. "Adaptation to Climate Change." https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/adaptation_en

262 Marin, Andrei and Lars Otto Naess, 2017. "Climate change adaptation through humanitarian aid? Promises, perils and potentials of the 'new humanitarianism'." <https://bulletin.ids.ac.uk/index.php/idsbo/article/view/2884/ONLINE%20ARTICLE>

263 IFRC, 2020. "World Disasters Report 2020" https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/20201116_WorldDisasters_Full.pdf

264 Marin, Andrei and Lars Otto Naess, 2017. "Climate change adaptation through humanitarian aid? Promises, perils and potentials of the 'new humanitarianism'." <https://bulletin.ids.ac.uk/index.php/idsbo/article/view/2884/ONLINE%20ARTICLE>

265 Center for Climate and Energy Solutions. "Climate Resilience Portal." <https://www.c2es.org/content/climate-resilience-overview/>

FRAMEWORK	DESCRIPTION
ANTICIPATORY ACTION	<p>Following the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, humanitarian actors seeking to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of emergency response frameworks turned to the idea of Anticipatory Action, which is “aimed at reducing or mitigating the impact of disasters and enhancing post-disaster response, using forecasts or early warnings of imminent shock of stress.”^{266,267} Because Anticipatory Action is driven by early warning, it is most commonly applied to potential disasters, especially climatic hazards. Such hazards are associated with regular and generally reliable forecasting systems, sometimes with associated automatic triggers for action. As such, most Anticipatory Action work and related financing is for disasters.</p> <p>Anticipatory Action is intended to be distinct from risk reduction and preparedness. Risk reduction is often integrated into development work and does not wait for early warning, while preparedness is focused on improving the speed and effectiveness of emergency response once disaster strikes. Anticipatory action responds to an imminent, specific shock in space and time. In practice, however, there is commonality and overlap between these activities. In some settings, especially with only a few days of early warning, Anticipatory Action may look more like preparedness coupled with an accelerated timeline for starting emergency response.</p>

266 UNFPA, 2020. “UNFPA Guide to Engaging in CERF Anticipatory Action”

267 Levine, Simon, Emily Wilkinson, Lena Weingärtner, and Pooja Mall, 2020. “Anticipatory action for livelihood protection.” ODI. https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/202006_odi_anticipatory_action_for_livelihood_protection_wp_final.pdf

FRAMEWORK	DESCRIPTION
ANTICIPATORY ACTION cont.	<p>The predictive framework for Anticipatory Action generally reflects the following timeline:²⁶⁸</p> <p>Risk-informed development (2-4 months before event): early actions include analyzing historical data to understand the potential threat, checking response capacity, updating contingency plans, identifying vulnerable communities, and agreeing on forecast information to trigger later actions and financing.</p> <p>Early Action 1 (15 days before event): inform cluster and response actors of impending forecasts, assess stocks of aid materials, plan evacuation routes</p> <p>Early Action 1 (7-10 days before event): alert community, local authorities, stockpile emergency materials (shelter, NFI, water, medicine), build temporary camps in safe locations, identify safe places for livestock and livelihood storage</p> <p>Early Action 2 (3 days before event): distribute enough dry food for 1-3 days for most vulnerable households, distribute cash, distribute first-aid kits and water purification solutions</p> <p>Early Action 2 (1 day before event): evacuate people living close to sites that will be most impacted, ensure aid materials are in place.</p>

268 Key Points for GBV AoR HelpDesk Guidance Note on GBV and Anticipatory Action Approaches

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The GBV AoR Help Desk

The GBV AoR Helpdesk is a unique research and technical advice service which aims to inspire and support humanitarian actors to help prevent, mitigate and respond to violence against women and girls in emergencies. Managed by Social Development Direct, the GBV AoR Helpdesk is staffed by a global roster of senior Gender and GBV Experts who are on standby to help guide frontline humanitarian actors on GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response measures in line with international standards, guidelines and best practice. Views or opinions expressed in GBV AoR Helpdesk Products do not necessarily reflect those of all members of the GBV AoR, nor of all the experts of SDDirect's Helpdesk roster.



The GBV AoR Helpdesk

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