

CLIMATE CHANGE, WOMEN AND FEMALE LEADERSHIP: A CLOSER LOOK

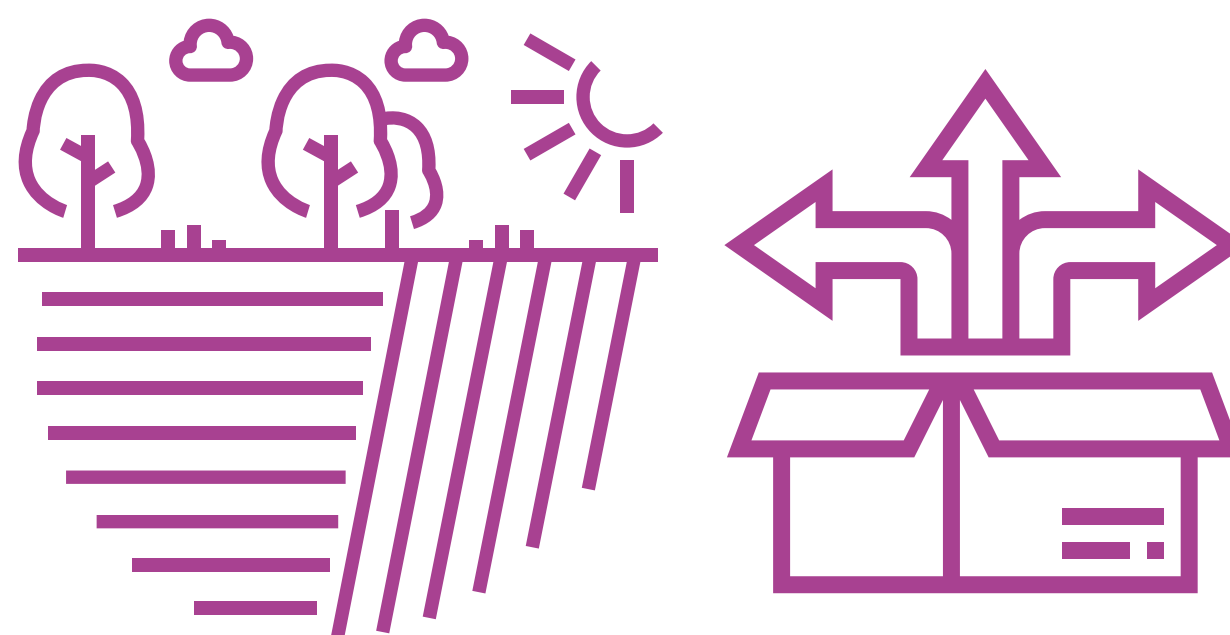


Climate change continues to unleash disastrous consequences across the globe, which include rising temperatures, natural disasters, food insecurity and a loss of biodiversity. As a result of their socio-economic status women are more susceptible to the negative impacts of climate change than men and will bear the lion's share of detrimental effects related to food insecurity.

HOW IS CLIMATE CHANGE RELATED TO INEQUALITIES BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN?

- Studies show that climate change and environmental stress exacerbate pre-existing gender and development inequalities for women; this is especially true in poorer parts of the world.
- Health impacts as a result of climate change may demand increased levels of care, a burden that falls most heavily on women's shoulders.
- Research demonstrates an increase in domestic and sexual violence during natural disasters and the subsequent recovery period.
- Women in developing countries depend on natural resources to support themselves and their families, including securing water, food, and fuel. They are also overwhelmingly responsible for these tasks.
- Despite this, women experience unequal access to resources; this includes access to assets, banking, credit, land owning opportunities, and financial aid. These inequalities are compounded by biased treatment in formal institutions and markets (including legal framework).
- Women are excluded from decision-making processes at the local, national and international levels.

WHAT ARE THE NUMBERS?



- In developing countries, women are responsible for between 60-80% of food production
- In Africa, an astonishing 70% of food is grown by women.
- Yet, less than 20% of land in the world is owned by women; this can be due to cultural barriers and legislative biases. For example, in the Middle East and North Africa an estimated 25 million women lack constitutional and statutory property rights. In some African countries, women do not have independent land ownership rights and must rely on their spouses to legally access land.
- As of 2019, only 24.5% of national parliament members were women. The specific negative impacts that climate change has on women have yet to be adequately addressed, more women are needed in leadership positions to help level inequality.



- A global gender gap in earnings exists across all economic sectors; women make between 30 and 80% of average male annual income.

CLIMATE CHANGE, WOMEN AND FEMALE LEADERSHIP: A CLOSER LOOK



- Over 200 million people were affected by natural disasters in the past decade in the Asia-Pacific Region, with 70,000 deaths; this accounts for 90% and 65% of global totals. Women and children constitute a majority of deaths for water-related catastrophes.
- In a study analysing 141 countries over a period of 20 years, natural disasters were found to kill more women than men as a result of various factors, including financial, physical and social positions.
- According to a recent study, if women were to have the same role in labour markets as men 26%, or 28 billion dollars, could be added to global annual GDP by 2025; more than enough to fund the battle against climate change.

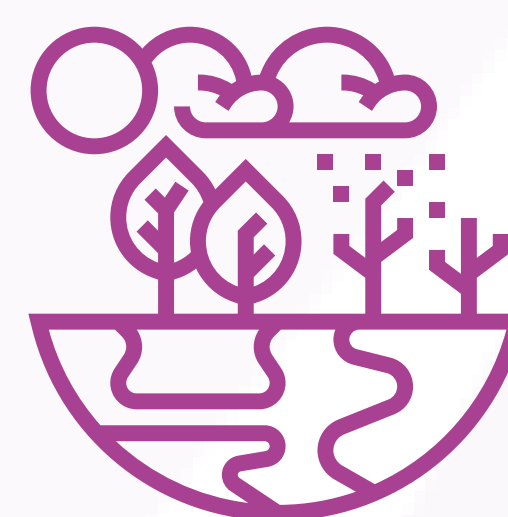
HOW CAN INCREASED LEVELS OF FEMALE LEADERSHIP IMPROVE THESE OUTCOMES?

- These women include: Wangari Muta Maathai, Gemma Bulos, Vandana Shiva, Thais Corral, Greta Thunberg, Yola Mgogwana, Amy and Ella Meek, Danika Billie Littlechild, Elizabeth Yeampierre and Majandra Rodriguez Acha.



The cumulative effects of climate change are born by women, yet women are glaringly absent from official local, national and international responses.

- Consequently, policies that are sensitive towards the role of women are much less likely to be implemented and rectify existing inequalities.
- Women are amplifying their voices as leaders of the climate movement, yet governments, organisations and institutional responses are failing to include adequate female representation.



SOURCES

RAO, N., LAWSON, E., RADITLOANENG, W., SOLOMON, D., & ANGULA, M. (2019). GENDERED VULNERABILITIES TO CLIMATE CHANGE: INSIGHTS FROM THE SEMI-ARID REGIONS OF AFRICA AND ASIA. CLIMATE AND DEVELOPMENT. DOI: [10.1080/17565529.2017.1372266](https://doi.org/10.1080/17565529.2017.1372266)

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO). (2014). GENDER, CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH. RETRIEVED: [HTTPS://APPS.WHO.INT/IRIS/BITSTREAM/HANDLE/10665/144781/9789241508186_ENG.PDF;JSSESSIONID=7053B5993E83677A95E30430B43DDF1D?SEQUENCE=1](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/144781/9789241508186_eng.pdf;jsessionid=7053B5993E83677A95E30430B43DDF1D?sequence=1)

HABTEZION, S. (2013). OVERVIEW OF LINKAGES BETWEEN GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE. UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP). RETRIEVED: [HTTPS://WWW.UNDP.ORG/CONTENT/DAM/UNDP/LIBRARY/GENDER/GENDER%20AND%20ENVIRONMENT/PB1-AP-OVERVIEW-GENDER-AND-CLIMATE-CHANGE.PDF](https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/gender/gender%20and%20environment/PB1-AP-OVERVIEW-GENDER-AND-CLIMATE-CHANGE.PDF)

ABASS, J. (2018). WOMEN GROW 70% OF AFRICA'S FOOD. BUT HAVE FEW RIGHTS OVER THE LAND THEY TEND. WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM (WEF). RETRIEVED: [HTTPS://WWW.WEFORUM.ORG/AGENDA/2018/03/WOMEN-FARMERS-FOOD-PRODUCTION-LAND-RIGHTS/](https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/03/women-farmers-food-production-land-rights/)

VILLA, M. (2017). WOMEN OWN LESS THAN 20% OF THE WORLD'S LAND. IT'S TIME TO GIVE THEM EQUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS. WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM (WEF). RETRIEVED: [HTTPS://WWW.WEFORUM.ORG/AGENDA/2017/01/WOMEN-OWN-LESS-THAN-20-OF-THE-WORLDS-LAND-ITS-TIME-TO-GIVE-THEM-EQUAL-PROPERTY-RIGHTS/](https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/01/women-own-less-than-20-of-the-worlds-land-its-time-to-give-them-equal-property-rights/)

INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU). (2019). WOMEN IN NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS. RETRIEVED: [HTTP://ARCHIVE.IPU.ORG/WMN-E/ARC/WORLD011019.HTM](http://archive.ipu.org/wmn-e/arc/world011019.htm)

NEUMAYER, E., & PLÜMPER, T. (2007). THE GENDERED NATURE OF NATURAL DISASTERS: THE IMPACT OF CATASTROPHIC EVENTS ON THE GENDER GAP IN LIFE EXPECTANCY, 1981-2002. ANNALS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS, 97(3), 551-566.

WOETZEL, J., MADGAVKAR, A., ELLINGRUD, K., LABAYE, E., DEVILLARD, S., KUTCHER, E., MANYIKE, J., DOBBS, R., & KRISHNAN, M. (2015). HOW ADVANCING WOMEN'S EQUALITY CAN ADD \$12 TRILLION TO GLOBAL GROWTH. MCKINSEY GLOBAL INSTITUTE. RETRIEVED: [HTTPS://WWW.MCKINSEY.COM/FEATURED-INSIGHTS/EMPLOYMENT-AND-GROWTH/HOW-ADVANCING-WOMENS-EQUALITY-CAN-ADD-12-TRILLION-TO-GLOBAL-GROWTH](https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/employment-and-growth/how-advancing-womens-equality-can-add-12-trillion-to-global-growth)