RESILIENT FUTURES:
INTEGRATING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS, GENDER EQUALITY AND NATIONAL CLIMATE ACTION

A TRAINING MANUAL FOR GOVERNMENT AND NON-STATE ACTORS

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ACRONYMS

ACCF — Africa Climate Change Fund

ATACH — Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate Change and Health

ccGAP — Climate Change Gender Action Plan

COP — Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC [Climate Change Conference]

CSE — Comprehensive Sexuality Education

FGM — Female Genital Mutilation

GAP — Gender Action Plan

GBV — Gender-based Violence

GCF — Green Climate Fund

GHG — Greenhouse Gas

GRB — Gender-responsive Budgeting

GST — Global Stocktake

GTA — Gender-transformative Approach

HNAP — Health National Action Plan

HP — Harmful Practices

ICPD — International Conference on Population and Development

INDC — Intended Nationally Determined Contributions

IUCN — International Union for Conservation of Nature

IPCC — Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

LWPG — Lima Work Programme on Gender

MISP — Minimum Initial Service Package

NAP — National Adaptation Plan

NDCs — Nationally Determined Contributions

NGO — Non-governmental Organization

SDG — Sustainable Development Goal

SRH — Sexual and Reproductive Health

SRHR — Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

UN — United Nations

UNFCCC — United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNFPA — United Nations Population Fund

VA — Vulnerability Assessment

WEDO — Women's Environment and Development Organization

INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the United Nations sexual and reproductive health and rights agency that contributes to the expansion of possibilities for women and young people to lead healthy and productive lives. Building on the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), where 179 governments affirmed the cruciality of human rights, including reproductive rights, to development and population concerns and adopted a programme of action for all people to have access to comprehensive reproductive health care, including voluntary family planning/contraception and safe pregnancy and childbirth services (UNFPA, 2014b), UNFPA strives to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

> **UNFPA has committed to three transformative results by 2030: ending preventable maternal mortality, ending unmet need for family planning, and ending gender-based violence and harmful practices.**

Climate change is already exacerbating the existing health vulnerabilities and gender inequalities faced by women, adolescent girls, persons with disability and other marginalized sections and young people, including challenges related to preventable maternal deaths, unmet need for family planning, and gender-based violence and other harmful practices. Extreme heat, air pollution and climate-related diseases harm maternal and neonatal health outcomes, while climate-induced loss of livelihoods worsens poverty and food insecurity to further endanger maternal health and rob women and girls of the opportunity to realize their full potential. Women and girls already bear the disproportionate burden of unpaid care responsibilities and reproductive roles at household and community levels. When climate-induced disasters strike, access to essential services is restricted, leading to an increase in gender-based violence and harmful practices such as child marriage. If left unaddressed, climate change will leave lasting direct and indirect impacts on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender equality, gender-based violence, and human-centred sustainable development. These impacts limit the overall achievement of the ICPD agenda, which is a critical accelerator for delivering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To achieve gender equality, SRHR must be realized as the right to bodily autonomy, as outlined in the ICPD Programme of Action and reinforced by the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 (the twenty-fifth anniversary of the conference). UNFPA in 2019 organized an International Symposium on SRHR, Gender and Climate Change Resilience (UNFPA ESARO, 2021b) to share knowledge and identify programmes to reduce the impacts of climate change and build the resilience of communities

in vulnerable settings. The resulting Future Africa Call to Action (UNFPA, 2019) outlines both the impacts of climate change on the achievement of universal access to SRHR and the contributions that the ICPD community can make to building climate resilience. SRHR is key for gender-responsive climate action. Hence it is crucial to integrate and implement SRHR and gender equity and equality considerations into national development plans, policies and finances. As such, in December 2020, UNFPA launched its value proposition on climate change, a programmatic action to support UNFPA operational work. The proposition outlines four pillars of programmatic work connecting the promise of the ICPD with climate change adaptation and resilience in order to achieve gender-transformative responses for women, girls, young people and vulnerable communities.[1]

In line with the UNFPA value proposition and the programmatic framework, this training manual aims to guide in enhancing the capacity of key stakeholders to comprehend and engage in development initiatives that target the needs of marginalized groups, including women and girls.

OBJECTIVES

This manual serves to guide the delivery of a training workshop to build the awareness, knowledge and capacity of national actors on the links between climate-related hazards, SRHR (including reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health), and gender inequality issues pertaining to harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage and unions and gender-based violence.

The training workshop aims to enhance the capacities of government officials and stakeholders to navigate the intricate linkages between SRHR, gender and climate change and ensure their integration into national climate policies, including nationally determined contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Climate Change Gender Action Plans (ccGAPs) towards gender-transformative climate change actions.

In particular, the training workshop seeks to do the following:

✓ Provide foundational knowledge on the intersection of SRHR, gender and climate change, enhancing stakeholders' understanding of their linkages.

✓ Build resilience in health, protection and education systems by presenting key intervention pathways that strengthen women's and girls' resilience to climate impacts.

✓ Offer strategies to analyse and address the influence of climate change on gender-based violence and harmful practices through integrated climate and gender policies.

✓ Promote the development and adoption of a multi-stakeholder Climate Change Gender Action Plan that would foster cross-sectoral collaboration for effective climate adaptation measures in the country.

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[1]   Further explained in Session 1.2.

TARGET PARTICIPANTS: WHO IS THIS WORKSHOP FOR?

The training workshop is aimed at national, subnational and local government officials, including policymakers, decision makers and focal points of public institutions and civil society organizations responsible for advancing the environment, climate change, health, gender equality and youth issues. It is for people at an early-to-mid-level stage of their learning journey at the nexus of climate change, gender and SRHR.

It specifically targets the following government entities:

- Ministry of Environment and/or Department of Climate Change[2]
- Ministry of Gender/Women's Affairs/Social Affairs
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Youth
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Forestry
- Ministry of Water Resources
- Ministry of Energy
- Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Finance or Economy and Planning
- National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point(s)
- Climate Negotiators
- National Council on Population and Development
- National Disaster Management Authorities or Disaster Mitigation Units
- National Bureau of Statistics

Non-governmental stakeholders to be invited to participate include the following:

- Youth networks and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) focused on climate change, SRHR, youth and gender
- SRHR groups
- Girls' and women's rights groups
- Environmental rights groups
- Women's networks and gender- and disability-focused NGOs/networks
- Civil society organizations
- Community groups and leaders
- Associations for professionals such as midwives and obstetricians

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[2] The government entities can be ministries or similar entities in charge.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY METHODOLOGY

The workshop is designed to enhance understanding of the links between climate change and SRHR and to facilitate the integration of SRHR and gender elements into existing and new national climate action plans, highlighting priority areas for implementation and funding.

The manual is suitable for both in-person and online training. It comprises six modules that can be delivered over a five-day workshop through a mix of presentations: plenary and interactive breakout brainstorming sessions; videos; and hands-on

application of knowledge to develop action plans. The facilitators and guest speakers can include experts on various topics, including climate change adaptation, gender, SRHR, health, gender-based violence, comprehensive sexuality education and youth engagement. A set of key resources is provided at the end of each module, and supplementary materials could be added to support the context-specific understandings of the linkages and the identification of national priorities. In addition, there are facilitator guides for the breakout sessions.

MODULE OUTLINE

MODULE 0:
Introduction to training workshop

This module introduces the workshop, its purpose and the topics it will cover.

MODULE 1:
Impact of climate change on people and the planet

This module presents information about international climate processes, agreements and frameworks, as well as the key approaches to climate action through the Paris Agreement. It explains the causes, effects and resulting impacts of climate change on people and the planet, highlighting the unequal impact on women and girls. The session also presents UNFPA's action on climate change. It delves deeper into climate impacts in the country context, with participants identifying hotspots and proposing ways to address key impacts on women and girls.

MODULE 2:
Resilience building for health sector response

This module introduces the World Health Organization (WHO) operational framework for building a health system that is resilient to climate change. It outlines

the 10 key components for the 6 health system building blocks to better anticipate, prevent, prepare for and manage climate-related health risks. The module will also enlighten participants on interventions and good practices to mainstream climate resilience into health sector policies, plans and programming.

MODULE 3:
Resilience building and protection systems: Intersection of GBV, harmful practices and climate change

This module presents climate-related challenges for protection systems and how they affect risk reduction. It also demonstrates how a functional system for protection, prevention, mitigation and response with regard to gender-based violence (GBV) contributes to household, community and societal resilience for those impacted by, displaced by or at risk of climate crises.

MODULE 4:
Resilience building at the community level

This four-part module highlights climate action approaches to enhance community resilience.

Part 4A: *Gender-transformative approaches (GTA) and climate change adaptation*

- Explores how GTA can reduce the vulnerability of women, girls and young people while strengthening their adaptive capacity and resilience
- Reviews strategies for the integration of GTA into national climate action

Part 4B: *Gender-transformative climate change adaptation in practice: a case study of integrating climate adaptation and SRHR through comprehensive sexuality education (Masterclass)*

- Presents an integrated comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and climate change curriculum as a tool to build knowledge, awareness and capacity on the links between climate-related risks and impacts and sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence, child marriage and other harmful practices
- Showcases the Safeguard Young People programme, a CSE programme and entry point for building climate resilience among young people for their full empowerment and education in and out of schools

Part 4C: *Gender-responsive budgeting for climate action and finance*

- Introduces the concept of gender-responsive budgeting and why is important in climate action
- Illustrates tools and resources to conduct GRB

Part 4D: *Centring youth engagement and innovation in climate action*

- Focuses on strengthening the meaningful participation of youth in climate action and innovation practices
- Explores strategies for engaging youth

MODULE 5:
Strengthening evidence and data systems for preparedness and emergency response

This module discusses the need for strengthening data systems to raise awareness about new and changing climate-related crises.

It introduces disaster risk management and explores the intersection of disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation. It also presents climate-related vulnerability assessments that incorporate core SRHR indicators (including those related to reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health). These assessments are informed by disaggregated, spatially referenced population data, including the location, characteristics and mobility of populations in areas exposed to current and projected climate change hazards.

Additionally, the module highlights the importance of training for emergency contexts, spotlighting the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP), which incorporates climate risks and impacts and prepares health-care providers to deliver essential SRHR services effectively in the context of climate emergencies.

MODULE 6:
Gender, SRHR, GBV and harmful practices in national climate policies

This module builds on the preceding modules to identify challenges, gaps and opportunities in the integration of issues related to gender, SRHR, GBV and harmful practices into NDCs and NAPs.

It aims to foster a call to action for strengthening the integration of these issues into climate adaptation and resilience efforts by supporting government stakeholders in developing gender-responsive action plans for climate action that promotes gender equality.

Introduction to training workshop

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this module, participants will:

✓ Get to know each other

✓ Get a sense of the main issues that the training aims to cover

✓ Be aware of one another's expectations and the general ground rules

SESSION OUTLINE

The introduction module can last for 2 hours. It will include a welcome and introduction, an opening session, an icebreaker to introduce participants, the establishment of ground principles, and an overview of the training's purpose and topics.[3]

Materials required for this module include sticky notes, flip charts, and an online interaction/polling tool (e.g. Slido). The choice of materials will depend on the availability of internet connectivity to participants.

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[3] Sample time allocation for Module 0 can be found in Annex IV: Example of Kenya 5-day training workshop agenda (brief version).

Impact of climate change on people and the planet

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this module, participants will:

✓ Know international climate processes, agreements and frameworks

✓ Learn three key approaches to climate action (adaptation, mitigation and means of implementation)

✓ Understand gender-differentiated impacts of climate change and interlinks with SRHR, GBV and harmful practices (HP)

✓ Understand why and how UNFPA is working on climate change

✓ Identify hotspots of climate change across the country and impacts on women and girls

SESSION OUTLINE

TIME: 5 HOURS	
TIME	**CONTENT**
10 mins.	**Quiz:** Pre-training knowledge test[4]
50 mins.	**Session 1.1:** Understanding climate change – Impacts and approaches in international climate policy **A.** Overview of climate change and its impacts
	B. Global intergovernmental climate processes
	C. Climate change, peace and security[5]
30 mins.	**Interactive breakout I:** Identifying the impacts of climate change and mitigation and adaptation measures across the country
60 mins.	**Session 1.2:** Climate change and its disproportionate impact on women and girls **A.** SRHR, gender and climate change
	B. Gender in international climate-related processes and frameworks
	C. UNFPA's action on climate change
30 mins.	**Session 1.3:** Climate change's impact on women and girls in the country
60 mins.	**Interactive breakout II:** Identifying hotspots and gendered impacts of climate change across the country
60 mins.	**Panel discussion:** Addressing key impacts of climate change on women and girls

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4   See Annex V for sample questions.

5   Facilitator's note: To enhance the discussions, use the country context to demonstrate the 'climate change adaptation initiatives and disaster risk reduction' nexus approach.

SESSION 1.1:
Understanding climate change – Impacts and approaches in international climate policy

Overview of climate change and its impacts

What is climate change?

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which is the United Nations (UN) body for assessing the science related to climate change, defines climate change as "a change in the state of the climate that can be identified (e.g. using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties, and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer" (IPCC, 2012). This is similar to the definition by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which was established at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.[6] Article 1 of the convention defines climate change as "a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods",[7] emphasizing that it is human caused. Climate action thus includes efforts to combat climate change and its impacts.[8]

What are some causes, effects, projections and resulting impacts of climate change?

Scientific evidence and reports affirm that human activities have influenced the warming of the climate system, leading to anthropogenic or human-induced impacts. Unsustainable use of energy and land and unsustainable production and consumption patterns and lifestyles have contributed unequally to increasing greenhouse gas emissions. Specific activities, including the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation and certain agriculture practices that increase greenhouse gas emissions, have contributed to the disruption of our planet's climate patterns, causing global temperature changes and resulting in warming effects.

The adverse effects and impacts of climate change are here and are projected to get significantly worse. There has been an increase in average temperature, causing heat extremes as well as heavy precipitation in some regions, along with intense storms and major droughts, all of which are increasing in frequency and intensity. Scientists report that the global surface temperature has increased faster since 1970 than in any other 50-year period over at least the last 2,000 years (IPCC, 2023), with the World Meteorological Organization citing 2023 as the hottest year ever recorded. The effects of some of the changes, such as continued sea level rise, are irreversible over hundreds to thousands of years.

Scientists say that every 0.1°C temperature increase places people and the planet at greater risk. Hence, they have warned that crossing the 1.5°C increase threshold risks unleashing far more severe climate change impacts; as temperature increases move closer to 2°C, some changes could become irreversible. Warming above pre-industrial levels of 1.5°C will mean increasing heat waves, longer warm seasons and shorter cold seasons (IPCC, 2018). Future projections ranging from low to very high levels of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions indicate that current and future generations will be affected by climate change at a level that depends on the choices we make now and in the near future. The latest estimates suggest that if the current global economic system is not drastically transformed, we will reach 3.2 degrees of warming by the end of the century, exposing an estimated 50 per cent to 75 per cent of the global population to periods of "life-threatening climatic conditions" of extreme heat and humidity (IPCC, 2023).

No one and nowhere is safe from climate change, and all efforts for sustainable development must grapple with this reality.

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[6] It took effect in 1994, with 198 member countries referred to as parties (to the convention) bound to it to date.

[7] United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

[8] Global Goal 13: Climate action https://www.globalgoals.org/goals/13-climate-action/.

FIGURE 1: Future emissions scenarios

Source: IPCC, 2023

Global intergovernmental climate processes

From the Rio Summit to the Paris Agreement: Key international climate agreements and milestones

1988 IPCC established: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change and was established in 1988. It comprises scientists and experts from various climate-related fields and produces an assessment report every four years. The IPCC was created to provide policymakers with regular scientific assessments of climate change, its implications and its potential future risks, as well as to put forward adaptation and mitigation options. The First Assessment Report, released in 1990, served as the basis for the establishment of the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change. The IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report was released in 2022.

1992 Rio Summit: The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, also known as the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit, the Rio Summit, the Rio Conference and the Earth Summit, was a major UN conference held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

It galvanized global efforts to minimize adverse environmental impacts. The Rio Summit established three conventions: the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD) and the UNFCCC.

1994 UNFCCC entered into force: The UNFCCC is an international environmental treaty addressing climate change, negotiated and signed by 154 states at the Rio Summit. The UNFCCC was formed to stabilize the greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic human-induced interference with the earth's climate system. Each year since 1995 (COP1), the UNFCCC has been hosting a Conference of the Parties (COP). The 29th Climate Change Conference (COP29) will be hosted in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November 2024.

1997 Kyoto Protocol: The Kyoto Protocol[9] was adopted on 11 December 1997 at COP3 and came into effect in 2005. In short, the Kyoto Protocol operationalized and sought to strengthen the UNFCCC by legally committing industrialized countries and economies in transition to limit and reduce GHG emissions in the period 2008−2012 following agreed individual targets. The

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[9]   What is the Kyoto Protocol?

Kyoto Protocol codified the "common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities", i.e. that developed countries were expected to take the lead on climate change by stabilizing their emissions alongside fulfilling their financial obligations to support developing countries. The protocol was amended in 2012 to encompass a second phase from 2013 to 2020, after which it was superseded by the Paris Agreement.

2015 Paris Agreement: The Paris Agreement[10] is a legally binding international treaty on climate change that was adopted by 196 parties at COP 21, the 21st Climate Change Conference in Paris in 2015.

It entered into force in 2016. The Paris Agreement's overarching goal is to limit global temperature rise to well below 2°C, ideally at 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels i.e., temperature levels in the period before there were significant and increasing greenhouse gas emissions. The agreement also seeks to foster countries' adaptation to climate change impacts and to align financial flows to support low-emission development. Although the "common but differentiated responsibilities" notion is still present under the Paris Agreement, the agreement requires all parties to commit to reducing GHGs along nationally determined pathways, thus blurring the lines between developed and developing countries.

FIGURE 2: Key elements of the Paris Agreement

1
Limit temperature
rise to 1.5C

2
Review countries' commitments to cutting emissions
every five years

3
Providing climate
finance
to developing countries

Source: UN, 2024

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[10]   The Paris Agreement (All language versions).

Key approaches in the Paris Agreement

Mitigation: Mitigation entails the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. It is a human intervention to reduce the sources of emissions or enhance carbon sinks, which are processes, activities or mechanisms for the removal of greenhouse gases (IPCC, 2012). Examples of mitigation include a shift from coal-fired power plants to renewable energy sources such as solar power; conservation of natural carbon sinks, such as forests and oceans, capable of removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere; and carbon dioxide–removing technologies. As part of the Paris Agreement, countries that are parties to the agreement have committed to communicate their plans and ambitions to limit further global warming through their nationally determined contributions.

Adaptation: UNFCCC defines adaptation as the adjustments in ecological, social or economic systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli and their effects or impacts (IPCC, 2012). It refers to changes in processes, practices and structures to moderate potential damages or to benefit from opportunities associated with climate change. Examples of adaptation measures to support land and ocean ecosystems are coastal defence and hardening, water use efficiency and water resource management, and improved cropland management. Other examples of adaptation measures for urban and infrastructure systems are the promotion of green infrastructure, sustainable land use and urban planning. In the context of energy systems, examples of adaptation measures are resilient power systems, health and health system resilience, and livelihood diversification. Examples of cross-sectoral adaptation measures are planned relocation and resettlement, disaster risk management, social safety nets, and early warning systems. While mitigation formed a major focus of climate change efforts from the 1900s, adaptation formally became part of the climate negotiation process in 2001 during COP7 in Marrakech (Huq et al., 2018).
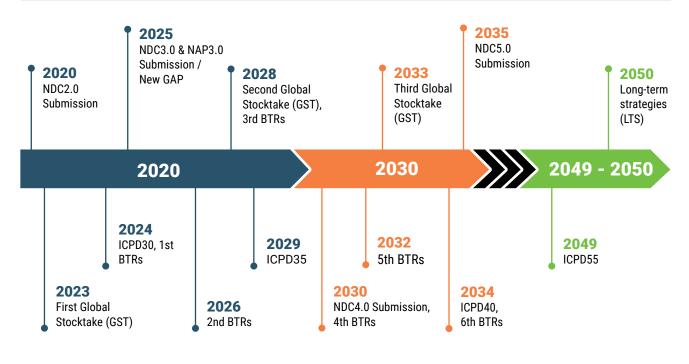
Resilience: Resilience to climate change is the "ability of a system and its component parts to anticipate, absorb, accommodate or recover from the effects of a hazardous event in a timely and efficient manner, including through ensuring the preservation, restoration or improvement of its essential basic structures and functions" (IPCC, 2012). While adaptation entails adjusting to climate effects that are real or expected, resilience means having the capacity to prepare for and recover from climate change events and impacts.

Climate resilience–geared practices include early warning systems that can forecast extreme and slow-onset climate events, as well as climate-friendly urbanization such as green spaces that can allow for effective drainage in a flood-prone area.

Means of implementation: The term 'means of implementation' under the UNFCCC approach refers to the financial, technical (technological) and capacity-building means among and between countries towards achieving the Paris Agreement. *Climate financing* encompasses the financial resources required to meet the mitigation and adaptation goals of countries, originating voluntarily from developed and developing countries. The Paris Agreement reiterates the responsibility of developed countries to finance emission-reduction and resilience-building initiatives in vulnerable countries. Likewise, *technological solutions* can aid and speed up processes of cutting GHG emissions, allowing people and communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The Paris Agreement, through the Technology Mechanism, aims to accelerate the development and transfer of environmentally sound technology that is resilient to climate change in order to support developing countries. The *capacity-building* aspect focuses on strengthening the capacities of developing countries through capacity-building actions to manage climate change challenges.

Nationally determined contributions: The Paris Agreement requires each country to put forth a set of NDCs (UNFCCC, n.d.) to achieve the objective of limiting further global warming, enhancing climate change adaptation and resilience, and aligning financial flows with low-emission pathways. The NDCs are instruments adopted under the Paris Agreement through which countries communicate their plans and voluntary actions to reduce GHGs (including a quantified target), address climate change impacts and build resilience. The first NDCs, then referred to as intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs), were submitted in the lead-up to COP21 in Paris. Under the Paris Agreement, countries are to review and renew their NDCs every five years, with the newer version denoting progress from the previous version and more ambitious commitments. The submission timelines were 2015 for the INDCs, 2020 for the NDC 2.0 version and 2025 for the NDC 3.0 version. The latter will have a 10-year implementation plan that will run until 2035. To date, 195 parties to the Paris Agreement have submitted 168 NDCs, including new or updated ones (UNFCCC, 2024a).

FIGURE 3: Key Paris Agreement Timelines

Source: Created by authors

TABLE 1: Instruments of mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation

KEY INSTRUMENT	DESCRIPTION
Nationally determined contributions	The NDCs are instruments adopted under the Paris Agreement and reflect the national climate plans of countries that have ratified the Paris Agreement, indicating their voluntary commitment to meet the agreed goals.
Long-term strategies	Countries under the Paris Agreement develop and submit long-term low–greenhouse gas emission development strategies. These strategies are not mandatory like the NDCs and provide a longer-term lens.
Global Goal on Adaptation	To ensure that adaptation responses are prioritized, Article 7 of the Paris Agreement established the Global Goal on Adaptation to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change.
National Adaptation Plans	In 2010, the Cancun Adaptation Framework at COP16 established the NAPs for countries to identify medium- and long-term adaptation needs and to develop and implement strategies and programmes to address those needs. It is a continuous, progressive and iterative process that follows a country-driven, gender-sensitive, participatory and fully transparent approach. The NAPs are voluntary documents, and so far only 49 countries have submitted NAPs to the UNFCCC Secretariat (UNFCCC, 2023).
National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs)	Before the NAPs, least developed countries were previously supported through the National Adaptation Programmes of Action.

KEY INSTRUMENT	DESCRIPTION
Santiago Network for Loss and Damage	Established by the decision of COP25 in 2019, the Santiago Network[11] hosts key stakeholders that provide technical support and expertise for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage, especially to developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. The resulting loss and damage can be economic or non-economic, including loss of human lives, monetary losses, costs from the destruction of infrastructure and buildings, loss of entire places (islands), and loss of culture and heritage or ways of life.
Climate financing	Climate finance consists of a financing architecture set up to fund climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience actions. They include key multilateral funds: the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
The Climate Technology Centre and Network	The Technology Mechanism of the UNFCCC is implemented through the Climate Technology Centre and Network.[12] Hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme, it renders technology solutions and capacity building to countries aimed at enhancing accelerated transfer of environmentally sound technologies for low-carbon and climate-resilient development.
Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE)	The goal of Action for Climate Empowerment is to ensure public awareness and education of people on climate change for their active engagement in climate action. There are six elements – climate change education and public awareness, training, public participation, public access to information, and international cooperation on these issues.[13] ACE recognizes the need for young people especially to understand and participate in the transition to a low-emission, climate-resilient world.

Source: Adapted from UNFCCC, 2024a

Climate change, peace and security[14]

Climate change worsens the drivers of conflict by speeding up resource depletion and accelerating the rise of social vulnerability. In a 2°C global warming scenario (2021–2100), Africa is expected to experience a drier, more drought-prone and arid climate, which can influence more conflicts and insecurity (Gutiérrez et al., 2021). The Sahel region is one of the hotspots for climate-induced insecurity, with an increasing risk of clashes between farmers and herders over grazing fields and water impacted by changes in weather patterns. Likewise, where climate change causes displacement or human mobility within or outside communities or countries, there have been cases of rising armed conflict between climate migrants and host communities.

In addition, the triggers of climate change and conflict can include competition over resources, water stress, food insecurity and poverty, which also increases the incidence of violence. In recent IPCC reports, evidence shows that "climate hazards are associated with increased violence against women, girls and vulnerable groups, and the experience of armed conflict is gendered (medium confidence)". Similarly, "adaptation and mitigation projects implemented without consideration of local social dynamics have exacerbated non-violent conflict" (Cissé et al., 2022).

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[11] About the Santiago Network. https://unfccc.int/santiago-network/about
[12] UN Climate Technology Centre and Network. https://www.ctc-n.org/
[13] UNFCCC. Action for Climate Empowerment. https://unfccc.int/topics/education-and-youth/big-picture/ACE
[14] Facilitator's note: To enhance the discussions, use the country context to demonstrate the 'climate change adaptation initiatives and disaster risk reduction' nexus approach. Other aspects include food and water insecurity, and migration and displacement.

SESSION 1.2:
Climate change and its disproportionate impacts on women and girls

SRHR, gender and climate change

According to various IPCC assessment reports (IPCC, 2014b; Cissé et al., 2022), climate change is a multiplier of existing health vulnerabilities (Watts et al., 2018) and gender inequalities that women, adolescent girls and young people already face, including insufficient access to resources, safe water and sanitation; food insecurity; and restricted access to health care and education. Women have poorer access to resources that could help with adaptation – for instance, agricultural resources such as land titles, irrigation technologies and financial assets. Likewise, discriminatory, patriarchal laws, norms, customs and institutions exclude women from participating in decision-making and community processes to drive climate action efforts and solutions. Women and girls are thus at risk of higher vulnerability and are likely to have lower adaptive capacity and weak resilience to climate change.

Impact of climate change on SRHR and gender equality

Climate change directly affects the realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality, and human-centred sustainable development, as outlined in the ICPD Programme of Action. The Guttmacher-Lancet Commission's comprehensive definition of SRHR is grounded in human rights and the principle of leaving no one behind.[15] It defines SRHR as "the state of physical, emotional, mental, and social well-being in relation to sexuality and reproduction, not merely the absence of disease, dysfunction, or infirmity" (Starrs et al., 2018).

Climate change's effects worsen the challenges related to preventable maternal deaths, unmet need for family planning, and ending gender-based violence and other harmful practices. Reproductive health, including maternal health, is negatively impacted as a result of direct increases in heat (White Ribbon Alliance, 2023),

air pollution (Bekkar et al., 2020), climate-related diseases (WHO, 2017) and increasingly saline water (Bakul et al., 2023). Each 1°C rise increases the risk of maternal exposure to heat stress and a 17 per cent increase in foetal strain (Bonell et al., 2022). Research reveals negative outcomes for pregnancy (Baharav et al., 2023) and birth, and the dangerous impact of heat on mother and neonatal health outcomes can include miscarriage and stillbirth (Rekha et al., 2024; Bonell et al., 2024). Air pollution worsens health and well-being during pregnancy (Ha, 2022) and increases the risk of infertility (Segal and Giudice, 2022; Mahalingaiah et al., 2016). Likewise, access to clean water, which is essential for safe births, caregiving, lactation and menstruation can be jeopardized by climate-related crises. The El Niño-induced drought in Mozambique resulted in scarcity of clean water, as well as the absorbent plant used locally for producing menstrual products for girls and women (Fischer, 2016), thereby depriving them of safe hygiene and increasing their risk of illness and disease (WaterAid, 2023). Climate-related loss of livelihoods drives increased poverty and food insecurity, which affects maternal health and worsens global inequity in maternal nutrition (WHO, 2023c).

Climate-related emergencies cause major disruptions in access to health services and access to life-saving commodities (Smith et al., 2014), including contraceptives. Extreme weather events disrupt health-care facilities and infrastructure and interrupt supply chains, directly limiting equitable access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services. A survey across 26 countries in 2021 found that climate-related displacement could cause over 14 million women to lose access to contraception over the next decade, causing an additional estimated 6.2 million unintended pregnancies, 2.1 million unsafe abortions and 5,800 maternal deaths (MSI Reproductive Choices, 2021). In addition, the economic consequences of climate-related shocks for households can indirectly limit the affordability of SRH services where financial risk protection mechanisms are not

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[15] One of the key principles underlining the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development focused on combatting discrimination and inequalities. https://unsdg.un.org/2030-agenda/universal-values/leave-no-one-behind.

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in place for vulnerable and at-risk population groups. Disruption of SRH services can have widespread effects on health, including increased risk of sexually transmitted infections, unwanted pregnancies, maternal complications and death during childbirth (Chukwumalu et al., 2017; Tazinya et al., 2023). Areas where access to services may already be limited, such as humanitarian and conflict-affected settings, will be heavily impacted. In addition, the impact of climate change could affect national investment in competing areas of development, including the health sector, especially for developing countries with high debt burdens (UNCTAD, 2023), and could influence the diversion of funding for health and SRHR to climate responses. When the climate crisis is combined with the related nature and pollution crises, there are further impacts on SRHR (UNEP, 2020). Climate-related events may also enable situations where people are at greater risk of contracting HIV; for example, young women aged 15 to 24 in areas affected by drought were more likely to have earlier first-time sex and transactional sex and were less likely to stay in school (Low et al., 2019; Orievulu et al., 2022). There is also reduced access to SRHR for LGBTQIA+[16] rights in emergencies (Gaillard, 2017).

Additionally, climate-related loss or change of livelihoods, displacement and migration, and stress and scarcity increase vulnerability to and risks of gender-based violence during and after disasters (Parkinson, 2019; Rezwana and Pain, 2021). Pressure on families due to floods, droughts, disasters and other climate impacts can also result in child, early and forced marriage and unions (Pope et al., 2022; Ahmed et al., 2019; McLeod et al., 2019), denying girls their childhood and education and limiting their ability to realize their full potential. Such pressure can also influence harmful practices such as female genital mutilation (Esho et al., 2021). There is also decreased access to quality health, social protection and GBV services. GBV is a violation of human rights and has long-lasting effects, including limiting women's ability to build resilience to climate change and impeding the capacity of survivors and their dependents to proactively and positively respond to and manage ongoing challenges and crises (Le Masson et al., 2019).

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[16] An acronym that indicates the spectrum of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual + other people whose identities are not heterosexual and cisgender (Oxfam, 2023. *Inclusive Language Guide*. https://policy-practice. oxfam.org/resources/inclusive-language-guide-621487/).

TABLE 2: Summary of select key intersections between SRHR and climate change

KEY ISSUES	DESCRIPTION
Maternal and neonatal health	• Heat and air pollution is linked to higher rates of miscarriage and preterm birth and to poorer neonatal outcomes. • Maternal mortality is impacted by increased poverty and food insecurity driven by climate-related loss of livelihoods, including maternal malnutrition where a lack of essential nutrients such as iodine, iron, folate, calcium and zinc can lead to anaemia, pre-eclampsia, haemorrhage and even death. • Global heating impacts the patterns of vector-borne diseases such as malaria, with negative outcomes such as maternal illness and low birth weight. • The negative impacts of salinized water intake on pregnancy outcomes and safe births have implications for maternal health care.
Access to essential services	Direct and indirect effects: • Extreme weather events disrupt health facilities' infrastructure and medical supply chains. • There is reduced access to skilled birth attendants and emergency obstetric care, as well as to contraception and safe abortion services. • Climate-related shocks affect household economic resources and can indirectly limit access to SRH services. • Increased difficulty in accessing high-quality SRH services for groups already experiencing reduced access owing to intersecting barriers further contributes to their vulnerability. • Lack of water at health facilities during periods of drought severely constrains infection prevention and control measures, leading to poor treatment outcomes for pregnant and lactating mothers.
Gender-based violence	• Increased physical and sexual violence risks are linked to climate-induced stress, scarcity and humanitarian crises – for instance, the need for women and girls to travel farther distances to gather basic necessities such as water and firewood due to slow-onset or extreme weather events and disasters. • Stress on livelihoods due to disruptions in access to natural resources can also result in violence, including intimate partner violence. • Women who are environmental defenders have been assaulted, raped and killed while defending environmental commons.
Harmful practices: child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM)	• Families under pressure from floods, droughts, disasters and other climate impacts may resort to early, forced or child marriage as a way to alleviate the pressure and secure resources for the family or the child. • Early and child marriage is sometimes linked with female genital mutilation and other harmful practices.
Menstrual health management	• Hormonal imbalances from air pollution exposure could affect timing of menarche and menstrual health. • Climate-related events can create or worsen cases of period poverty, where menstrual products, hygiene education and sanitation supplies are hard to access. • Climate-related events affect the safety and privacy of displaced girls and women, putting them at risk of GBV. • Menstrual products and management could add to waste generation, the release of harmful components and greenhouse gas emissions.

KEY ISSUES	DESCRIPTION
HIV	• Climate-related events may place people at greater risk of contracting HIV. • HIV transmission is more likely with reduced access to reproductive health supplies such as condoms. • Reduced access to health services, including impacts on supply chains, can interfere with management of HIV infection. • Reductions in food security can compromise the nutrition required for the proper functioning of medications and to maintain good health.
Sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics; people with disabilities; displaced people; migrants	• Climate impacts increase the risk of poor outcomes for LGBTQIA+ persons, people with disabilities, displaced people and migrants because of pre-existing social marginalization, legal status and the lack of recognition of their specific health and social needs in service provision such as disaster preparedness.

Source: Adapted from UNFPA ESARO, 2021a

SRHR is essential for building resilience and adaptive capacity for climate change and achieving gender equality

Failure to prioritize SRHR can hinder opportunities for education, skills development and sustainable livelihoods. When girls are forced to marry, their education opportunities can be hindered, which can affect their ability to better cope with or respond to climate change – for instance, their ability to receive, understand and act on climate information such as alerts from disaster early warning systems. Similarly, where there are pre-existing unmet needs for family planning services and little ability to enact reproductive choices, pressure on diminishing natural resources can make providing for families a challenge.

SRHR is fundamental to achieving gender equality; it is a key aspect of gender-responsive climate action. Bodily autonomy is essential to reducing the impact of a changing environment and the loss of ecosystem services.[17] People's enjoyment of SRHR can translate into empowerment, as it enables them to exercise their agency and affords them the capacity to engage in climate action, thereby reducing inequalities and increasing their resilience.

For marginalized groups affected by intersecting inequalities, the realization of SRHR can enable them to address their needs and priorities better, including by engaging in climate policymaking and decision-making, as well as household and community decision-making (Le Masson et al., 2019).

Climate action must include efforts to achieve SRHR and must address the challenges of preventable maternal deaths, unmet need for family planning, and ending gender-based violence and other harmful practices. To date, the full scope of SRHR has been under-recognized in the climate change space, and the role of SRHR in building healthier, more equal and more resilient populations has been undervalued. This could worsen gender inequality.

Gender in international climate-related processes and frameworks

Gender under the UNFCCC

The first decision on gender under the UNFCCC was made in 2001, nine years after its establishment in 1992. A summary of the timeline of gender-related decisions under the UNFCCC is provided in Table 3.

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[17] Ecosystem services are the benefits humans derive from healthy ecosystems, including food provision and clean air.

TABLE 3: Gender-related decisions under the UNFCCC

COP	DECISION
COP7 (2001) Marrakech	The first addressing of gender at COP, where it was stated that national adaptation programmes of action should be guided by gender equality (28/CP.7). The first decision on gender at COP called for improving women's participation through their representation in parties (Decision 36/CP.7).
COP18 (2012) Doha	COP18 adopted a decision to promote gender balance in the bodies of the UNFCCC and include gender and climate change as a standing agenda item at COP (Decision 23/CP.18).
COP20 (2014) Lima	In 2014, the COP established the first Lima Work Programme on Gender (Decision 18/CP.20) to advance gender balance and integrate gender considerations into the work of parties and the secretariat in implementing the convention and the Paris Agreement to achieve gender-responsive climate policy and action.
COP21 (2015) Paris	Formal recognition was made of the intersection of climate change and gender equality. This initiative mandated gender-responsive adaptation actions (Article 7.5) and gender-responsive capacity-building activities (Article 11.2) in the agreement. The Paris Agreement preamble mentioned the need for the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in climate action (Decision 1/CP.21).
COP22 (2016) Marrakech	COP 22 decided on a three-year extension of the LWPG and set a review at COP25 (Decision 21/CP.22).
COP23 (2017) Bonn	The first Gender Action Plan under the UNFCCC was established at COP23 (Decision 3/CP.23).
COP25 (2019) Madrid	A five-year Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and the Gender Action Plan was adopted (Decision 3/CP.25).
COP26 (2021) Glasgow	A dedicated Gender Day encourages countries to announce gender-responsive climate action and financing. The COP26 decision includes aspects of the review of the Gender Action Plan implementation (Decision 20/CP.26).
COP27 (2022) Sharm el Sheikh	An intermediate review of the implementation of the GAP concluded (it started at the fifty-sixth sessions of the subsidiary bodies in June 2022). Some deliverables were amended, and three new activities were added in Priority Areas C and E (Decision 24/CP.27).
COP28 (2023) Dubai	An agreement was made to initiate a final review of the implementation of the enhanced LWPG and its GAP at the sixtieth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation in June 2024 – identifying progress, challenges, gaps and priorities in implementing the GAP, and further work to be undertaken – and to conclude this activity at its sixty-first session in November 2024 (Decision 15/CP.28).
COP29 (2024) Baku	A ten-year extension of the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender was agreed with a mid-term review to be conducted in 2029. A road map for developing the GAP to commence at SB62 in June 2025 and conclude at COP30 in November 2025 (Decision 14/CP.29).
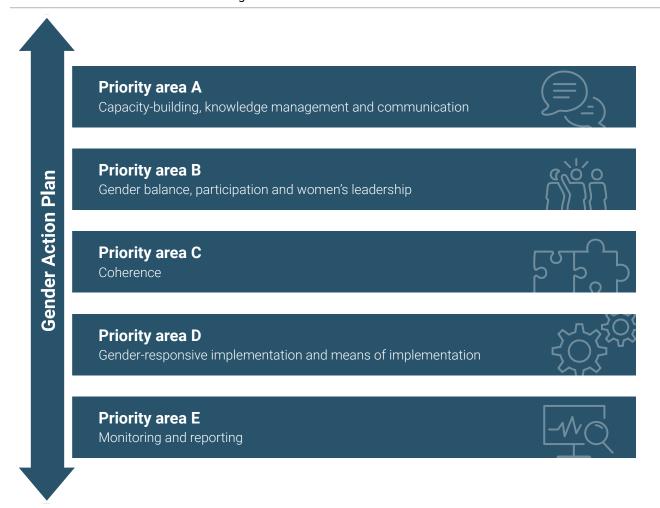
Source: Adapted from UNFCCC, 2024. Gender and Climate Change - Documents.

The Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan

Decision 3/CP.25 of COP25 urged countries to implement the enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan (UNFCCC, 2019).

FIGURE 4: The enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan

Gender Action Plan

Priority area A
Capacity-building, knowledge management and communication

Priority area B
Gender balance, participation and women's leadership

Priority area C
Coherence

Priority area D
Gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation

Priority area E
Monitoring and reporting

Source: UNFCCC, 2024. The Gender Action Plan.

The enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender, which builds on its initial version, is a commitment agreed upon by parties to the UNFCCC. It provides a fundamental legal framework and principles for incorporating gender considerations and advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in the UN climate change process. The updated Gender Action Plan serves as an international framework that outlines objectives and actions in five priority areas for the gender and climate change nexus. It includes 20 planned activities and 35 outputs to advance the "knowledge and understanding of gender-responsive climate action and its coherent mainstreaming in the implementation of the UNFCCC" (UNFCCC, 2019). The GAP also aims to promote women's full, equal and meaningful participation in the UNFCCC process by ensuring their increased involvement in climate policymaking and decision-making. Table 4 illustrates five priority areas of the GAP. In 2024, at COP29, countries agreed to initiate the development of a new gender action plan at the sixty-second session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies (SB62) in June 2025 for consideration and adoption at COP30 in November 2025.

TABLE 4: The five priority areas of the GAP

PRIORITY AREA	OBJECTIVE
A. Capacity building, knowledge management and communication	To strengthen the systematic integration of gender considerations into climate policy and action; improve knowledge and skills for implementing the LWPG and its GAP; and promote outreach, share knowledge and communicate activities to enhance gender-responsive climate action
B. Gender balance, participation and women's leadership	To achieve and sustain the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in the UNFCCC process
C. Coherence	To strengthen the integration of gender considerations under the UNFCCC process and other United Nations entities and stakeholders for consistency in implementing gender-related mandates and actions
D. Gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation	To ensure the respect, promotion and consideration of gender equality and the empowerment of women in the implementation of the convention and the Paris Agreement
E. Monitoring and reporting	To improve tracking of the implementation of and reporting on gender-related mandates under the LWPG and its GAP

Source: Adapted from UNFCCC, 2024. The Gender Action Plan.

The Women and Gender Constituency,[18] established in 2009, became recognized as one of the nine stakeholder groups of the UNFCCC in 2011. Consisting of over 44 civil society organizations and movements, the Women and Gender Constituency served as the formal body for voicing women's and gender-diverse people's demands within the convention and across negotiations.

[18] Women and Gender Constituency: www. womengenderclimate.org.

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The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and its Gender Action Plan

Another key framework that focuses on promoting gender equality in climate action is the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 2015 during the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan. The framework calls for "the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries" (UNDRR, 2015). It aims to prevent new occurrences of disaster risks and decrease existing ones through the adoption of measures at the national level that address the three dimensions of disaster risk: exposure to hazards, vulnerability and capacity, and hazard characteristics.

The Sendai Framework outlines seven global targets and four priorities to be achieved between 2015 and 2030 (UNDRR, 2015). The priority areas are as follows:

1. Understanding disaster risk
2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk
3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience
4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

It tasks national governments to spearhead reducing disaster risks in partnership and collaboration with key stakeholders, including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders.

The Sendai Framework has a Gender Action Plan, which was launched in 2024 to strengthen its implementation. The goal of the Sendai GAP is to increase the resource allocations, activities and impacts of gender-responsive disaster risk reduction, and to substantially decrease gender-related disaster risk by 2030 (UNDRR, UNFPA and UN Women, 2024). It consists of nine key objectives that are linked to the four priorities of the Sendai Framework, and it recommends 33 actions to promote gender equality and empower all women and girls in disaster risk reduction. The plan aims to support governments and other stakeholders to reduce the negative impacts of gender discrimination and inequality in disasters.

FIGURE 5: Sendai Framework Gender Action Plan objectives

Sendai GAP key objectives aligned with Sendai Framework priorities

SF priorities	1: Understanding disaster risk	2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk	3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience	4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction
Key objectives	**Key Objective 1:** Increase the availability of sex, age, income and disability disaggregated data and qualitative information on gender and disaster risk **Key Objective 2:** Use gender analysis to generate and apply disaster risk knowledge in decision-making	**Key Objective 3:** Mainstream gender equality across laws, policies, strategies, plans and institutions for disaster risk reduction, informed by relevant international treaties and agreements **Key Objective 4:** Increase meaningful participation and empowerment of women and gender stakeholders in disaster risk governance	**Key Objective 5:** Mainstream gender equality criteria into risk-informed development and disaster risk reduction investments **Key Objective 6:** Increase funding allocations and improve access to financing for disaster risk reduction initiatives that advance gender equality	**Key Objective 7:** Implement gender-responsive and inclusive end-to-end multi-hazard early warning systems and anticipatory action **Key Objective 8:** Plan for and invest in gender-responsive disaster recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction **Key Objective 9:** Ensure access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and prevention and response to gender-based violence in the context of disasters

Source: UNDRR, UNFPA and UN Women, 2024.

THE PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

PRIORITY 1:
Understanding disaster risk

Objective 1: Increasing the availability of sex-disaggregated (and other) data

Objective 2: Using gender analysis

PRIORITY 2:
Strengthening disaster risk governance

Objective 3: Gender equality in laws and policies

Objective 4: Meaningful participation and empowerment

PRIORITY 3:
Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience

Objective 5: Mainstreaming gender equality in risk-informed development and investment

Objective 6: Increasing funding allocations

PRIORITY 4:
Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and reconstruction
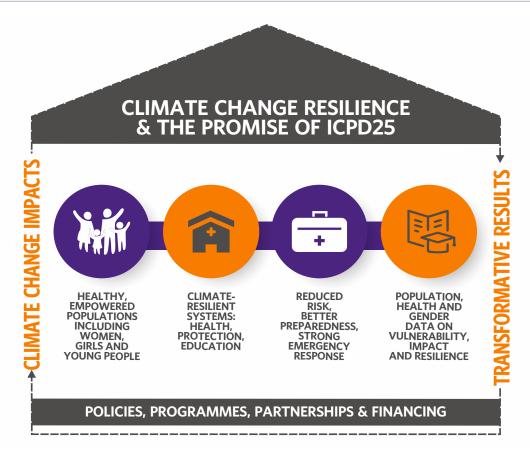
Objective 7: Gender-responsive and inclusive early warning systems

Objective 8: Gender-responsive disaster recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

Objective 9: Access to sexual and reproductive health and response to gender-based violence

FIGURE 6: Climate change resilience and ICPD25

Source: UNFPA ESARO, 2021c.

UNFPA's action on climate change
UNFPA's mandate and building climate resilience

Ahead of the twenty-fifth International Conference on Population and Development in November 2019, UNFPA organized a global symposium to unpack the links between SRHR, gender, youth and climate change resilience, with a focus on policy, programmatic, partnership and financing opportunities for shared actions. The symposium resulted in recommendations for strengthening the integration of SRHR, gender and youth in climate resilience, as an input to the Nairobi Summit (ICPD25), the COPs and other global climate change actions; a compendium of ICPD-related programmes that will form the basis for expanded implementation on climate resilience over the next five years; and strengthened partnerships and financing for collaborative efforts.

The symposium delivered the Future Africa Call to Action (UNFPA, 2019), which then became the basis for UNFPA's Value Proposition on Climate Change (UNFPA ESARO, 2021c). The proposition outlines UNFPA's programmatic areas of work and forms a multi-pronged approach that addresses gaps in programming to ensure action towards climate change at various levels.

1. **Healthy, empowered populations including women, girls and young people:** UNFPA works with rights-focused and gender-centred approaches to strengthen individual and community resilience and engages directly with young people as global and local leaders and as climate change and ICPD champions.

2. **Climate-resilient health, protection and education systems:** UNFPA works to mainstream climate resilience into health sector policies and plans, integrate health impact indicators (especially those related to SRHR) into information systems, and strengthen the capacity of early warning systems to reduce the impacts of climate hazards on health and well-being.

3. **Risk reduction, enhanced preparedness and strengthened emergency response:** UNFPA builds knowledge and capacity on the linkages between climate-related emergencies and SRHR, GBV and other harmful practices, and advocates for the inclusion of SRHR interventions in disaster risk reduction plans and other relevant training material for emergency response, including the MISP.

4. **Strong data systems for climate vulnerability assessment (VA) and adaptive capacity:** UNFPA works to ensure that early warning and response for all relevant sectors and climate-related vulnerability assessments are built on strong evidence and data systems and consider overall impacts on sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence risks and protective measures.

In May 2022, UNFPA adopted a climate strategy that encompasses three key areas of work: the Value Proposition on Climate Change outlined earlier, Social and Environmental Standards, and the Environmental Efficiency Strategy. The Social and Environmental Standards comprise a set of standards in eight key thematic areas, including climate change. They include actions and recommendations aimed at preventing and mitigating any unintended harm to people and the environment that may result from UNFPA's programmes. The goal is to systematically and comprehensively integrate sustainability and accountability beyond a 'do no harm' approach. The Environmental Efficiency Strategy outlines UNFPA's environmental management strategy and sets ambitious targets for reducing emissions by 30 per cent by 2025 and 45 per cent by 2030.

UNFPA's position on population and climate mitigation

A person is not a unit of consumption or emissions (Kanem, 2017).

Understanding the relationship between population and climate change is crucial in designing policies that protect people's rights, particularly their reproductive choices, while preserving the planet. Population growth, especially in the poorest countries where fertility rates are highest, is often attacked as a primary driver of climate change. These assumptions must be treated with considerable scepticism. The major driver of climate change is the emission of greenhouse gases by the wealthiest countries with higher per capita emissions.

Yet even though people living in the poorest countries have contributed the least to the current climate crisis, they feel its impact most intensely and have the fewest resources to adapt.

When looking at the relationship between GHG emissions and climate change, the claim that population is the most important driver of climate change is not only too simplistic, but is also not supported by facts. Emissions are not equally distributed across the world's population (Kanem, 2017). Some populations are more responsible for climate change than others. With the richest 10 per cent of the global population responsible for 52 per cent of cumulative GHGs, and the richest 1 per cent contributing a full 15 per cent, it becomes clear that countries with high and rapid population growth are not responsible for creating climate change, nor should they be held responsible for solving climate change (Oxfam, 2020).

FACILITATOR GUIDE

Session 1.3: Climate change's impact on women and girls in the country

A government or non-government stakeholder representative will share a presentation focused on the impacts of climate change on women and girls in the country. The impacts can broadly touch on UNFPA's three transformative results areas: maternal and neonatal health, family planning, and GBV and other harmful practices (including FGM and child and early marriage).

Interactive breakout I: Identifying impacts of climate change and mitigation and adaptation measures across the country

Approach: Participants should be split into groups

Task: Identify each or one of the following (20 mins.)

- Examples of climate change impacts/hotspots around them
- Examples of common personal or community mitigation measures/practices

Debrief: Present to plenary (10 mins.)

Interactive breakout II: Identifying hotspots and gendered impacts of climate change across the country

Approach: Participants should be split into respective groups of policymakers; service providers; and affected community representatives

Task: Participants can bring to the surface key gendered dimensions to climate impacts in their communities by highlighting general-to-specific gender categories – for example, from the viewpoint of a man, a woman (pregnant woman, widow, old woman, etc.), a boy, a girl, a person living with disability, etc. Using this approach, participants should identify the following (40 mins):

- Hotspots across the country where climate change effects are observed
- Examples of impacts of climate change on SRHR (see table below)

Debrief: Present to plenary (20 mins.)

Guiding questions can include the following:

- **Bodily autonomy**
    - How are climate change and disasters influencing women's/girls'/boys'/men's control over their bodies, and what SRH needs do they define as most impacted by climate change?
    - How do extreme weather events and climate change impact service utilization, access to information and impact on bodily autonomy?

- **GBV**
    - How are women and girls affected by climate change in terms of the risks of experiencing GBV?
    - How does climate change impact access to and quality of SRH and GBV prevention and response services?

CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECT	HOTSPOT(S)	SRHR IMPACTS	GENDERED AND INTERSECTIONAL CATEGORIES *Woman (pregnant woman, widow, older woman, etc.), man, boy, girl, person living with disability, etc.*
Drought	Locations A, B, C…	Food insecurity; maternal malnutrition; GBV risk	
Extreme heat		Maternal health	
Flooding		Bodily autonomy; livelihoods	
Sea level rise, etc.		Displacement; child, early, forced marriage; FGM, etc.	

Panel discussion: Addressing key impacts of climate change on women and girls

The facilitator will coordinate a multi-stakeholder panel discussion on how to address the key impacts of climate change on women and girls.

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1. UNFCCC: What is the UNFCCC?

2. Climate Ambition Support Alliance: New to UNFCCC?

3. IPCC: Glossary of terms

4. UN: 1.5°C: What it means and why it matters

5. UNFCCC: The Paris Agreement

6. UNDP: The Climate Dictionary: An everyday guide to climate change

7. UNFPA ESARO (2022): The Impact of the Climate Crisis on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

8. UNFPA ESARO (2022): Child Marriage and Environmental Crises: An evidence brief

9. UNFCCC: The Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan

10. UNDRR, UNFPA and UN Women (2024): Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030

11. UN: All About the NDCs

12. UNFPA and Queen Mary University of London (2023): Taking Stock: Sexual and Reproductive and Health and Rights in Climate Commitments – A Global Review

13. WEDO (2024): Towards gender-just Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs): A screening tool and resource guide for policy-makers

14. UNFPA ESARO: What we do: Climate change

15. UNFPA (2019): Future Africa Call to Action on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Gender and Climate Change Resilience

16. UNFPA ESARO (2021): UNFPA and the Climate Crisis

Video(s)

1. CFR Education: What Are the Effects of Climate Change? World 101

2. United Nations: What is the 'Paris Agreement', and how does it work?

3. UNFPA: Climate change: Code red for humanity

4. UNFPA ESARO: The Impact of the Climate Crisis on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

5. WaterAid: Gender, climate and water | WaterAid

6. UNFCCC: What are Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the international climate change process?

Resilience building for health sector response

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this module, participants will:

✓ Understand the WHO operational framework for climate-resilient health systems

✓ Learn how to incorporate SRHR and GBV into the WHO operational framework to address SRH and GBV needs in climate change−induced emergencies

✓ Discover interventions and good practices for building resilient health systems

✓ Identify health workers' needs for climate-related resilience building

SESSION OUTLINE

TIME: 3 HOURS	
TIME	**CONTENT**

60 mins.	**Session 2.1:** Understanding the WHO Operational Framework for Building Climate-Resilient and Low-Carbon Health Systems
	  A. Health systems strengthening: the Operational Framework for Climate-Resilient and Low-Carbon Health Systems
	  B. Climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems in policy initiatives

30 mins.	**Session 2.2:** Strengthening health systems for maternal health: A case study on Bangladesh (Masterclass)
	  A. Climate change and maternal health in Bangladesh
	  B. Showcasing UNFPA Bangladesh's interventions on climate change and maternal health using the WHO operational framework

30 mins.	**Session 2.3:** Climate change impact on maternal health in the country
60 mins.	**Interactive breakout I:** Addressing health sector needs − Key recommendations

SESSION 2.1:

Understanding the WHO Operational Framework for Building Climate-Resilient and Low-Carbon Health Systems

Health systems strengthening: The Operational Framework for Climate-Resilient and Low-Carbon Health Systems

In 2023, the World Health Organization published the Operational Framework for Building Climate-Resilient and Low-Carbon Health Systems. This framework guides health systems to address the challenges posed by climate change while reducing their carbon footprint. The framework outlines 10 components of a climate-resilient and low-carbon health system. It aims to help health organizations anticipate, manage and mitigate

climate-related health risks, thus contributing to global health security and the Sustainable Development Goals. Box 1 outlines key terms critical for the understanding of this framework.

Climate change risks to health, health systems and outcomes of populations are influenced by various intersecting factors, including climate-related hazards, vulnerability factors and exposures, as shown in Figure 7.

Key terms

Health systems include all the organizations, institutions, people, resources and actions whose primary purpose is to improve, restore or maintain health. The goal of a health system is to improve health and health equity in ways that are responsive and financially fair and make the best or most efficient use of available resources. Six health system building blocks together constitute a complete health system: health service delivery; health workforce; health information; medical technologies; health financing; leadership and governance.

Climate-resilient health systems are those health systems capable of anticipating, responding to, coping with, recovering from and adapting to climate-related shocks and stress to bring about sustained improvements in population health, despite an unstable climate.

Low-carbon health systems are those health systems capable of implementing transformative strategies towards reducing GHG emissions in their operations, thus reducing the short- and long-term negative impacts on the local and global environment.

Climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems are those health systems capable of anticipating, responding to, coping with, recovering from and adapting to climate-related shocks and stress while minimizing GHG emissions and other negative environmental impacts to deliver quality care and protect the health and well-being of present and future generations.
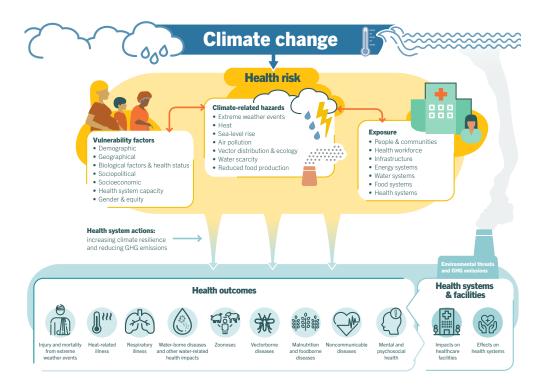
Hazard is the potential occurrence of a natural or human-induced physical event or trend that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, as well as damage and loss to property, infrastructure, livelihoods, service provision, ecosystems and environmental resources (IPCC, 2012).

Vulnerability is the condition determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes that increase the susceptibility of an individual, a community, assets or systems to the impacts of hazards (UN General Assembly, 2016).

Exposure is the presence of people; livelihoods; species or ecosystems; environmental functions, services and resources; infrastructure; or economic, social or cultural assets in places and settings that could be adversely affected (IPCC, 2012).

Source: WHO, 2023b

FIGURE 7: Climate change risks to health and health systems and outcomes

Source: WHO, 2023b

Climate-related hazards such as heat, air pollution and extreme weather events intersect with various vulnerability factors and exposure pathways, impacting health risks, systems and outcomes. These combined effects can lead to heat-related illnesses, respiratory diseases, vector-borne illnesses, malnutrition, mental health issues, and injuries or fatalities from extreme weather events. Climate change is projected to cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths annually between 2030 and 2050 due to undernutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress alone (WHO, 2023a). Vulnerabilities related to socioeconomic, political, geographical and gender factors can also lead to adverse health outcomes. According to the IPCC, about 3.6 billion people live in areas highly susceptible to climate change (IPCC, 2023). In some regions, despite their minimal contributions to global emissions, vulnerability factors result in death rates 15 times higher than in less vulnerable areas. This is particularly true for small island developing states (WHO, 2023a). Climate-related health risks also pose a greater threat to vulnerable populations, including women, children, displaced persons, those with preexisting health conditions and older individuals. WHO reports that children under 5 years of age account for 30 per cent of food-borne illness fatalities (WHO, 2023a) annually.
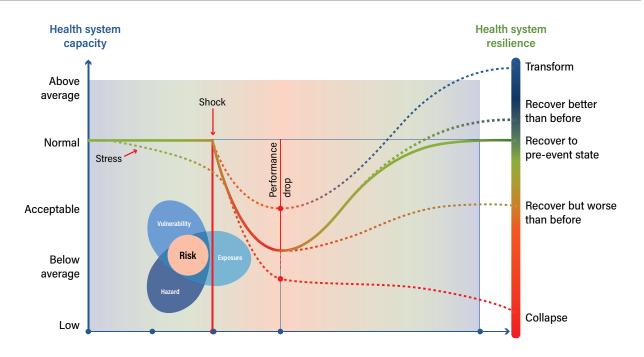
Various exposure pathways can affect health risks and outcomes. These pathways include the impact of climate change on infrastructure, the health workforce, and health and water systems. They can limit the capacities for promoting, restoring or maintaining health. Climate change can disrupt health systems and facilities by damaging infrastructure, medical products, commodities and supply chains. Additionally, greenhouse gas emissions from health facilities can also contribute to climate change and have negative environmental impacts. In 2019, the health-care sector accounted for approximately 5.2 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions (Romanello et al., 2022). However, health systems can take action to help mitigate health risks by enhancing resilience and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Health systems strengthening is defined by WHO as "the process of identifying and implementing the changes in policy and practice in a country's health system, so that the country can respond better to its health and health system challenges [and] any array of initiatives and strategies that improves one or more of the functions of the health system and that leads to better health through improvements in access, coverage, quality, or efficiency" (WHO, 2023b).

FIGURE 8: Health system capacity and resilience to climate change−related shocks and stresses, and possible pathways from collapse to transformation
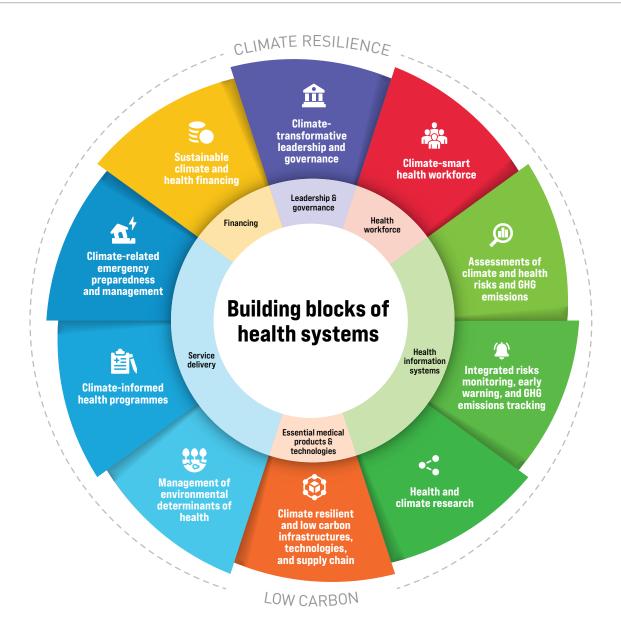
Source: WHO, 2023b

To achieve climate resilience in health systems, WHO has identified six building blocks that are common and relevant to all health systems, aiming to guide countries in their public health programming and to increase their capacity to protect and promote health (WHO, 2023b):

1. Leadership and governance
2. Health workforce
3. Health information systems
4. Essential medical products and technologies
5. Service delivery
6. Financing

FIGURE 9: Operational framework for climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Climate-transformative leadership and governance

Climate-smart health workforce

Sustainable climate and health financing

Assessments of climate and health risks and GHG emissions

Climate-related emergency preparedness and management

Integrated risks monitoring, early warning, and GHG emissions tracking

Climate-informed health programmes

Health and climate research

Management of environmental determinants of health

Climate resilient and low carbon infrastructures, technologies, and supply chain

Leadership & governance

Health workforce

Financing

Health information systems

Building blocks of health systems

Service delivery

Essential medical products & technologies

LOW CARBON

Source: WHO, 2023b

The operational framework consists of 10 interconnected components linked with the six building blocks that, when integrated into health systems, would contribute to greater climate resilience and reduced GHG emissions. Health organizations, authorities and programmes can use the 10 key components to anticipate, prevent and manage climate-related health risks more effectively.

TABLE 5: WHO six building blocks and components

BUILDING BLOCKS	COMPONENTS
Leadership and governance	C1: **Climate-transformative leadership and governance** are crucial for developing and implementing policies and strategies that address climate change health impacts, integrating climate resilience into health planning and ensuring intersectoral coordination.
Health workforce	C2: **Climate-smart health workforce** trained and adequately staffed, not only in health-care delivery, but also in understanding and responding to the health impacts of climate change
Health information systems	C3: **Assessments of climate and health risks and GHG emissions** through systems that can collect and analyse data on climate-related health risks
	C4: **Integrated risk monitoring, early warning and GHG emission tracking** of the health system's response to climate-related risks for continuous improvement and adaptation
	C5: **Health and climate research** for understanding and developing effective responses to evolving climate-related health risks
Essential medical products and technologies	C6: **Climate-resilient and low-carbon infrastructure, technologies and supply chains** for a reliable supply of essential medicines and technologies
Service delivery	C7: **Management of environmental determinants of health** through monitoring, developing and implementing regulatory instruments and mechanisms, along with intersectoral coordination
	C8: **Climate-informed health programmes** to update or inform delivery of existing or new climate-sensitive health programmes
	C9: **Climate-related emergency preparedness and management** for responding to health emergencies caused by climate events
Financing	C10: **Sustainable climate and health financing** to build and maintain the capacity to respond to climate-related health challenges in emergencies or long-term adaptation

Source: Adapted from WHO, 2023b

Each component plays an important role in promoting an integrated approach to climate resilience and low-carbon sustainability. The framework should be adapted to the national and local context. It can be used to mainstream climate change into health programmes, policies and systems (e.g. Health National Action Plans, health in nationally determined contributions, and health in long-term low-emission development strategies). The framework is primarily intended for public health professionals, health managers, international development agencies and other key stakeholders in the health sector to focus investments and country support for public health, health system strengthening and climate change adaptation. In addition, this framework is also particularly relevant for least developed countries and countries in the process of developing the health components of National Adaptation Plans under the UNFCCC. Implementing the 10 key components will enhance the ability of health organizations to manage climate-related health risks.
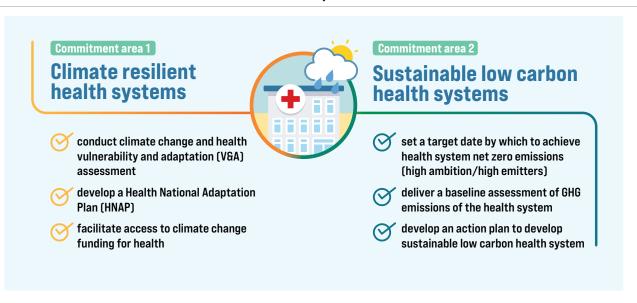
Climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems in policy initiatives

In recent years, there has been a significant increase in global awareness of the connections between climate change and health. As the President of COP26 to the UNFCCC, the United Kingdom collaborated with WHO and other relevant partners in November 2021 to promote a health programme under the climate change negotiations process for the first time. The COP26 health programme focused on two initiatives to be implemented by health systems: climate resilience and low-carbon sustainability. As of now, over 70 countries at the Ministry of Health level have committed to these initiatives (WHO, 2023b).

FIGURE 10: Climate resilience and low-carbon sustainability initiatives

Commitment area 1
Climate resilient health systems

- conduct climate change and health vulnerability and adaptation (V&A) assessment
- develop a Health National Adaptation Plan (HNAP)
- facilitate access to climate change funding for health

Commitment area 2
Sustainable low carbon health systems

- set a target date by which to achieve health system net zero emissions (high ambition/high emitters)
- deliver a baseline assessment of GHG emissions of the health system
- develop an action plan to develop sustainable low carbon health system

Source: WHO, 2023b

Adaptation action coalition initiatives: building climate-resilient health systems

To support countries' efforts in implementing the COP26 health initiatives, WHO and the United Kingdom launched the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH)[19] in June 2022. Countries commit to the following actions:

- Conduct climate change and health vulnerability and adaptation assessments at the population and/or health facility level.
- Develop a Health National Adaptation Plan (HNAP) informed by the vulnerability and adaptation assessments, for inclusion in the National Adaptation Plan.
- Use the vulnerability and adaptation assessments and HNAP to facilitate health access to climate change funding (e.g. submissions to the Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund or Adaptation Fund).
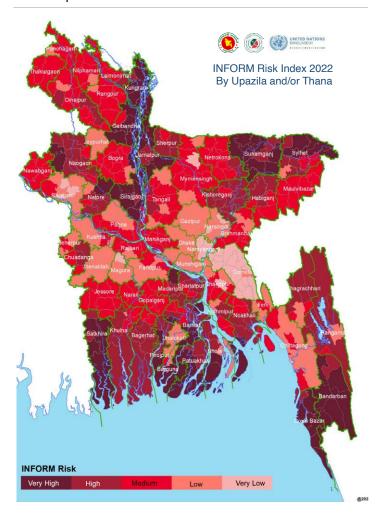
ATACH aims to turn the commitments made by 50 Ministries of Health at COP26 into action (WHO, 2021a). By joining ATACH, health authorities can join the community of practice, which has embarked on efforts towards building climate-resilient health systems; share information and experiences; request technical support or additional guidance from relevant partners; and learn how the operational framework is being implemented in other countries.

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[19] ATACH Community of Practice. https://www.atachcommunity.com/.

SESSION 2.2:
Strengthening health systems for maternal health: A case study on Bangladesh (Masterclass)

FIGURE 11: INFORM Risk Index 2022 - *upazila* and/or *thana* map

INFORM Risk Index 2022
By Upazila and/or Thana

INFORM Risk

| Very High | High | Medium | Low | Very Low |

Source: INFORM Risk, 2022

Climate change and maternal health in Bangladesh

Bangladesh, a country in South Asia with a population of around 170 million, ranks seventh in the Global Climate Risk Index (and first in South Asia).

In Bangladesh, climate-induced extreme events affect maternal health directly and indirectly. Climate-related extreme weather events cause injury and mortality as well as disruptions in access to care. They also cause an increase in infectious diseases such as water-borne illnesses (e.g. hepatitis E), loss of livelihoods, an increased risk of child marriage and the subsequent risks of adverse pregnancy outcomes (Carrico et al., 2020). Climate change also impacts maternal health indirectly through slow-onset risks. Extreme heat, air pollution and an increase in vector-borne diseases increase the risk of stillbirth, low birth weight, preterm birth, haemorrhage, and maternal and foetal deaths (Chersich et al., 2020). In addition, groundwater salinity is associated with an increased risk of pre-eclampsia, eclampsia and hypertension during pregnancy (Khan et al., 2011). Figure 11 highlights the subnational Index for Monitoring Risk Management (INFORM)[20] for Bangladesh's 553 upazilas and/or thanas (INFORM Risk, 2022).

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[20] INFORM is a multi-stakeholder forum for developing shared, quantitative analysis relevant to humanitarian crises and disasters. The INFORM Risk Index creates a risk profile for every country.

Showcasing UNFPA Bangladesh's interventions on climate change and maternal health using the WHO operational framework

To strengthen the resilience of women and girls to climate change, a UNFPA Bangladesh collaboration with the Ministry of Health in Bangladesh is enhancing the national health system's resilience to climate change, with funding support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

Below is an overall outline of the activities that this collaboration implemented around WHO's operational framework on climate-resilient health systems.

Leadership and governance – Component 1

UNFPA Bangladesh has supported the Government of Bangladesh with the establishment of a consortium of partners involving relevant ministries (both the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change) to support the development of the HNAP.

As part of the broader effort to strengthen the national health system's resilience to climate change, UNFPA Bangladesh has organized workshops to assess the integration of health into the NAP, co-lead the development of the HNAP along with WHO and UNICEF, and support the integration of SRHR into the HNAP. It supported the reviewed government budgets and operational plans (within the Ministry of Health) for incorporation of climate change impacts on maternal health, advocating for integration where possible. It provides ongoing technical support to the Ministry of Health on climate change and maternal health/SRHR issues.

In addition, UNFPA Bangladesh provided technical and financial support to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for developing a three-month short course on climate change and health for development professionals, aiming to improve understandings of the intersection between climate and health, with a particular focus on SRHR. The course is currently administered by the largest public university in the country, Dhaka University.

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Climate-smart health workforce – Component 2

UNFPA Bangladesh has led the work on the development of customized training modules on climate change and health (with a spotlight on SRHR). The training is being delivered to a differentiated group of health-care providers (doctors and health managers, nurses and midwives, and community health-care workers). Through this initiative, 300 providers were trained in three subdistricts of Bangladesh. The module that was developed for nurses and midwives is already being integrated into the government Directorate General of Nursing and Midwifery's formal pre-service and in-service training. In addition, to raise awareness about climate change in vulnerable communities in the two subdistricts, volunteers have been recruited with the plan to reach over 20,000 individuals through this initiative (in 2023 and 2024).

An online training module was created from the original training to enable broader reach.

Health information systems and research – Component 5

UNFPA Bangladesh is currently undertaking a literature review of global evidence on the impacts of increasing groundwater salinity on SRHR and is conducting a qualitative study to support the tailored training of midwives in community health facilities in the immediate aftermath of natural disasters.

Climate-resilient and low-carbon infrastructure, technologies and supply chains (essential medical products and technologies) – Component 6
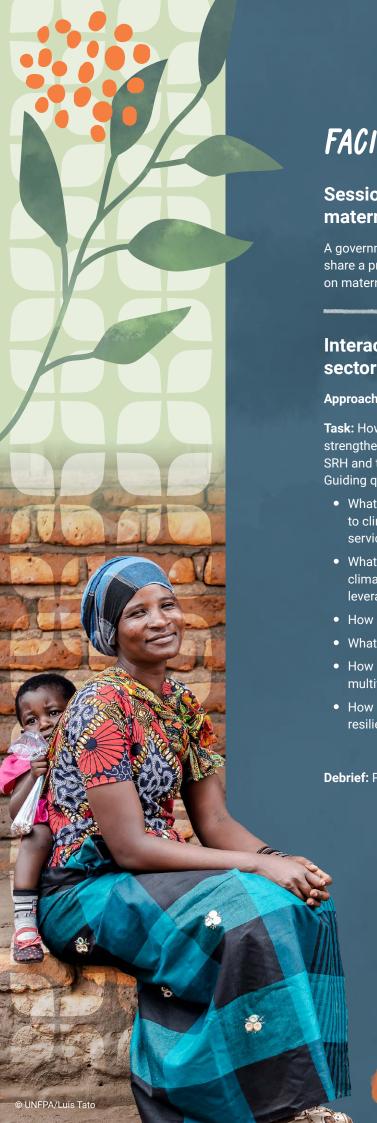
UNFPA Bangladesh is supporting one rural health facility in the implementation of "green health facility" components based on WHO green facility guidelines and is supporting the establishment of waste management in several health facilities.

Climate-informed health programmes– (service delivery) – Component 8

UNFPA Bangladesh is supporting several community awareness interventions in two coastal districts (one with high groundwater salinity) and another flood-prone district; a series of school awareness sessions on climate change and health and SRHR; day-long orientation sessions for women of reproductive age on climate change's impacts on SRHR; and orientation/advocacy with local leaders/influential individuals on climate change and health (particularly SRHR).

Climate-related emergency preparedness and management – Component 9

UNFPA Bangladesh, in collaboration with the government, is supporting risk mapping of districts with specific extreme events (floods, cyclones, landslides, multiple extreme events, etc.). In addition, it has supported the integration of the MISP into government operational plans, providing capacity building for health-care providers in vulnerable districts and advocating to deploy midwives in community health facilities for remote and climate-vulnerable locations to ensure constant (24/7) basic emergency obstetric and newborn care services. Further activities on anticipatory action (acting ahead of predicted hazards to prevent or reduce humanitarian impacts) will be implemented based on funding.

FACILITATOR GUIDE

Session 2.3: Climate change impact on maternal health in the country

A government or non-government stakeholder representative will share a presentation focused on the impact of climate change on maternal health.

Interactive breakout I: Addressing health sector needs – Key recommendations

Approach: Participants should be split into groups

Task: How can health system resilience to climate change be strengthened to ensure the continuity of high-quality services for SRH and to address the underlying causes of vulnerability? (20 mins.) Guiding questions include the following:

- What are the specific vulnerabilities of the current health systems to climate change, especially with regard to SRH and GBV services?
- What are the existing capacities or examples (if any) of effective climate-resilient practices in the health system that can be leveraged or scaled up?
- How can the country strengthen its health system?
- What do health workers need in order to be climate resilient?
- How can intersectoral collaboration be fostered to address the multifaceted impact of climate change on the health system?
- How can UNFPA support the government to make health systems resilient to climate impacts?

Debrief: Present to plenary (40 mins.)

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2. WHO (2023): Protecting maternal, newborn and child health from the impacts of climate change: a call for action
3. ATACH: ATACH Community of Practice

Context of Bangladesh

4. USAID (2023): Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
5. Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (2019): Climate Change Toolkit for Health Professionals

Research publications

Extreme heat and maternal health

6. (2021): Climate change, women's health, and the role of obstetricians and gynecologists in leadership
7. (2020): Associations between high temperatures in pregnancy and risk of preterm birth, low birth weight, and stillbirths: systematic review and meta-analysis
8. (2018): Ambient air pollution and the risk of pregnancy loss: a prospective cohort study

Indoor air pollution and maternal health

9. (2020): Association of air pollution and heat exposure with preterm birth, low birth weight, and stillbirth in the US: a systematic review
10. (2006): Who suffers from indoor air pollution? Evidence from Bangladesh

Groundwater salinity and maternal health

11. (2011): Drinking Water Salinity and Maternal Health in Coastal Bangladesh: Implications of Climate Change

Vector-borne diseases and maternal health

12. (2019): Dengue and Chikungunya co-infection: An emerging threat to Bangladesh
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Extreme weather events and SRHR impacts

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Video(s)

1. MediaHRP: Protecting maternal, newborn and child health from the impacts of climate change: Call to action

Resilience building and protection systems: Intersection of GBV, harmful practices and climate change

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this module, participants will:

✓ Understand the correlation between climate change, GBV and HP

✓ Understand how climate change affects protection systems and mechanisms in the country

✓ Be familiar with GBV and HP considerations or gaps in the country's national climate policies

✓ Identify solutions to address GBV and HP in the context of climate change

✓ Identify solutions to make the country's protection systems more resilient to climate change

SESSION OUTLINE

TIME: 2 HOURS 10 MINS	
TIME	**CONTENT**
40 mins.	**Session 3.1:** Climate-resilient protection systems and mechanisms **A.** The correlation between climate change, GBV and HPs (15 mins.) **B.** Defining protection systems (15 mins.) **C.** Interlinkages between GBV protection systems and mechanisms and climate resilience (10 mins.)
30 mins.	**Session 3.2:** Climate-resilient protection systems and mechanisms – Good practices and lessons learned
60 mins.	**Interactive breakout I:** Identifying solutions to enhance the climate resilience of protection systems and mechanisms (60 mins.)

SESSION 3.1:
Climate-resilient protection systems and mechanisms

The correlation between climate change, GBV and HPs

Climate change is one of the humanitarian emergencies affecting progress in addressing and tackling gender inequalities and human rights abuses, particularly in the form of gender-based violence – the most pervasive and one of the most severe human rights violations (UN Women, 2024). Global data shows that one in three women faces violence during her lifetime, with 89,000 reported to have been intentionally killed in 2022 (UNODC and UN Women, 2023). About 650 million girls and women around the world have been married as children, and over 200 million have undergone female genital mutilation, with 68 million girls at risk of FGM by 2030 should the current trend continue (UNFPA, 2023b).

Global evidence highlights how the climate crisis worsens GBV and other harmful practices for women, girls and gender non-binary people (UNFPA, 2023a), increasing the occurrence of one or more forms of GBV. These forms of GBV include sexual, physical and emotional violence, perpetuated by intimate partners or others, as well as sexual exploitation and the harmful practices of child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation (van Daalen et al., 2022). The IPCC Sixth Assessment Report highlights that "extreme weather and climate impacts are associated with increased violence against women, girls and vulnerable groups (high agreement, medium evidence)" (Cissé et al., 2022). Floods, droughts, heatwaves, storms and other extreme weather events can worsen economic and psychological stress factors, reinforce pre-existing social and gender norms, and reduce access

to protection services (Thurston et al., 2021), thereby compounding the GBV experiences of women and girls.

Climate change effects can disrupt livelihood sources and cause displacement and loss of shelter for individuals and communities, often those with high vulnerability and low capacity to adapt to climate consequences. This causes economic and psychological stress that can trigger violent acts. Increased spousal violence in Chad was reported following food distribution resulting from drought and extreme temperatures; the 2011 cyclones in Tafe Province in Vanuatu increased new domestic violence cases by 300 per cent (GBV AoR Helpdesk, 2021); reported intimate partner violence in Spain was linked to heatwaves between 2008 and 2016; there was evidence of increasing cases of domestic violence in Australia following the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires (Parkinson, 2019); and the 2009 Cyclone Aila in India caused women left behind (after men migrated to find better livelihoods) to seek work in Kolkata's red-light district, increasing the number of sex workers by up to 25 per cent (GBV AoR Helpdesk, 2021).

Likewise, situations of unrest can further SOLIDIFY PRE-EXISTING SOCIAL AND GENDERED NORMS, including expectations of men as protectors and providers. With their ability to 'protect and provide' threatened by the negative socioeconomic impacts of climate change, men may resort to consuming more alcohol and engaging in violence against women to reassert harmful gendered and masculinity norms (IUCN and UN Women, 2022).

Water scarcity in some Jordan refugee camps has been linked to INCREASED INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT, as women are responsible for collecting household water (UNFPA, 2023a); drought-induced famine caused an increase in transactional sex in communities in Namibia, as women needed to provide food for their families (GBV AoR Helpdesk, 2021).

In such situations, COPING MECHANISMS INCLUDE CHILD MARRIAGE AND TRANSACTIONAL CASUAL SEX, undertaken to reduce climate-induced financial hardship and food insecurity for families, as evident in findings across 180 countries (Pastén et al., 2024).

Prolonged droughts in Ethiopia between 2010 and 2011 saw an INCREASE IN GIRLS BEING MARRIED OFF EARLY in exchange for livestock (UNOCHA, 2017).

Practices such as these often INCREASE THE RISKS OF OTHER HARMFUL PRACTICES such as FGM for adolescent girls and women who are to be married off, making their education and employment/career goals harder to realize (Pope et al., 2022; Esho et al., 2021).

Perceived threats to traditional notions of family and gender roles because of the work of women environmental human rights defenders to protect Indigenous areas, communities and ecosystems put them at high risk of GBV (OHCHR, 2020). ABOUT 1,698 ACTS OF VIOLENCE WERE RECORDED AGAINST WOMEN ENVIRONMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS, in Mexico and Central America between 2016 and 2019 alone (IUCN and UN Women, 2022) challenging their participation, agency and leadership in climate action.

Defining protection systems

A protection system is a comprehensive, overarching framework designed to ensure the safety, rights and well-being of individuals, especially those who are vulnerable. It encompasses all the elements, institutions, policies and practices involved in providing protection.

Engaging participants: What elements amount to a strong protection system?

Response: Components of a protection system (see below)

1. **Legal and policy frameworks:** Laws, regulations and policies that establish rights and protections

2. **Institutions and organizations:** Entities such as government agencies, NGOs and international bodies that implement and oversee protection efforts

3. **Strategies and programmes:** Broad strategies and specific programmes aimed at preventing and responding to protection issues

4. **Capacity building:** Efforts to enhance the abilities of stakeholders to carry out protection work effectively

5. **Monitoring and evaluation:** Systems to track progress, identify gaps and measure the impact of protection efforts

Engaging participants: We often hear mention of protection mechanisms. Can anyone explain the difference between a protection system and a protection mechanism?

Response: A protection system provides the structural and strategic foundation for ensuring protection; protection mechanisms are the specific methods and processes used to achieve the protective goals within that system.

Key differences include:

Scope: A protection system is broader and more comprehensive, encompassing various elements such as policies, institutions and mechanisms. A protection mechanism is a specific component or process within the protection system.

Function: The protection system sets the overall framework and environment for protection, while protection mechanisms are the practical tools and actions used to implement protection.

Examples: The protection system might include mechanisms such as national child marriage laws and a special committee working on child marriage – for example, in Malawi a presidential task force was created to address child marriage at the highest level. Other protection mechanisms could be a child helpline or a community-based child protection committee composed of community leaders, activists, etc.

Engaging participants: Can anyone give an example of a protection mechanism from this country?

Hint: Protection mechanisms are the operational components that make the protection system work.

Protection mechanisms typically include the following:

1. **Early warning systems:** Tools and processes to identify and alert about emerging threats

2. **Response protocols:** Specific actions and procedures to be taken in response to protection threats or incidents (e.g. evacuation plans, emergency shelters)

3. **Reporting and redress mechanisms:** Systems for individuals to report abuses and seek justice or support, including concerning sexual exploitation and abuse

4. **Community-based mechanisms:** Local structures and practices, such as community watch groups or safe spaces, that provide protection at the grass-roots level

5. **Support services:** Services such as legal aid, counselling and health care provided to survivors of abuse or those in need of protection

Interlinkages between GBV protection systems and mechanisms and climate resilience

Climate change events adversely affect the capacity of protection systems and mechanisms to effectively prevent and respond to GBV and harmful practices. When extreme climate events occur, the need for GBV services, including safe shelters and legal and medical services, increases owing to increasing climate-induced vulnerability risks. Research shows that the GBV prevention and response systems and mechanisms

may struggle to address violence due to disruption by hazardous climate-induced events, in addition to already being under-resourced, unavailable or inadequate (Le Masson, 2022). Where there are weak or no effective protective policies and laws, climate events increase the risks and vulnerability of women and girls to sexual and other forms of violence.

In the USA, with Hurricane Katrina came an increase in rape incidence among women (53.6 times in Mississippi), forcing them to move to trailer parks. However, in university environments where social support services were available and accessible, there were no known risks of non-partner violence (GBV AoR Helpdesk, 2021; UNFPA, 2023a). In Bangladesh,

women in camps after a flooding event were afraid to seek health services on account of fear of sexual harassment from male doctors (UNFPA, 2023c), and in Somalia, intimate partner violence, sexual violence and FGM reportedly increased in camp facilities following drought- and flood-induced displacement in 2019 (GBV AoR Helpdesk, 2021). Such instances limit access to essential services, weakening the adaptive capacity and climate resilience of women and girls. Resilience at household, community and societal levels thus depends on having an effective safeguarding and protective system against GBV, targeting both risk reduction and continuity during a crisis.

SESSION 3.2:
Climate-resilient protection systems and mechanisms – Good practices and lessons learned

Several studies reveal that climate change increases the incidence of GBV and harmful practices. To strengthen and create a protective environment, it is necessary to integrate gender protective action into national climate policies and to create early warning systems and response initiatives. It is also crucial to create a system (e.g. a watchdog system) to facilitate reporting and follow-up actions, in addition to community-based mechanisms or other initiatives that facilitate protection. Below are selected examples of good practices and lessons learned.

Gender protective action in national climate policies: Several countries have integrated GBV protection systems and mechanisms into their national climate policies and plans. Suriname's climate change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP) proposes "gender awareness training for volunteers working in disaster areas, including crisis management and sexual and gender-based violence" (p. 26); Seychelles' NDC prioritizes "ensuring that climate-related vulnerability assessments and actions take into account sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence risks and protective measures and are informed by disaggregated population data" (p. 36); Pakistan's NDC action is to "sensitize men and mobilize them to serve

as champions for preventing violence and assault" (p. 57) and the proposed "design and development of research to fill the gaps in information and scientific evidence on the effects of climate change on the health of the entire population"; and Peru's ccGAP on page 111 includes "analysis of gender-based violence in climate change scenarios" (IUCN and UN Women, 2022). UNFPA's initiative in the Pacific Islands supported GBV inclusion in the Republic of the Marshall Islands' NDC and further recommends integration of GBV prevention and response strategies into national climate policies and disaster preparedness (GBV AoR Helpdesk, 2021).

Integrated early warning system and response initiative: A good example of an integrated early warning system and response initiative is the femLINKpacific (FemLINK) project supported by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Women, 2022). FemLINK, through its Women's Weather Watch campaign, uses community media and radio to provide real-time weather monitoring and disaster management communications, warnings and updates to often marginalized groups such as women living in hard-to-reach areas, women living with disabilities, and lesbian, bisexual and transgender women and intersex persons. FemLINK's women-led feminist community

radio network, FemTALK89FM, anchors dialogues that are multiracial and intersectional in nature to address underlying causes of violence, including gender norms and harmful traditions, while amplifying prevention strategies to listeners across the country. Through the online Barter for Better Fiji project, FemLINK network members, including women who have survived or are at risk of violence, exchange essential items and emergency services, an inspiration from the traditional practice of Indigenous Fijian communities. Furthermore, in partnership with the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre and the Fiji Women's Rights Movement, FemLINK informed the Ministry of Health's policies on humanitarian crises' impact on violence against women and girls through its media awareness activities.

Practices in GBV protection and redress mechanisms, including judicial reforms: Other good GBV protection practices that target reporting and redress mechanisms include the Supreme Court's ruling in Nepal in 2010 to establish a fast-track GBV reporting and redress mechanism for cases of GBV and environmental injustice to expedite justice and create an effective remedy for women and girls. Similarly, the Government of Guatemala in 2013 established the judiciary's Indigenous Interpretation and Translation Centre to remove barriers to environmental justice for Indigenous women, including eliminating GBV. The Office for the Defence of Indigenous Women was created, and a guide to sensitize judiciary staff to promote the rights of Indigenous women was developed (UN Human Rights Special Procedures, 2023). In addition, the 'Fondo de Mujeres del Sur' initiative strengthens grass-roots women-led groups to build networks and alliances to monitor and report violence against environmental women defenders in Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay (IUCN and UN Women, 2022).

Community-based mechanisms: Community-based mechanisms have included integrating GBV prevention into climate initiatives. Under the European Union–United Nations Spotlight Initiative, the National

Traditional Council of Chiefs and Elders in Liberia was engaged to identify key economic interventions, such as climate-smart agriculture, as an alternate source of income for practitioners of FGM. During Cyclone Chalane in Mozambique, psychosocial assistance, mobile data and remote working equipment was provided to at-risk women and girls to enhance adaptation and resilience in emergency responses (IUCN and UN Women, 2022). Plan International's Lake Chad Programme Strategy (2018–2030), implemented in Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria and the West and Central Africa Regional Office, strengthens GBV response systems by ensuring community engagement, coordination with local actors, the effective participation of girls and boys in all programme interventions, and the promotion of sustainable natural resource management as well as sectoral integration. It provides direct assistance to affected populations (e.g. cash and vouchers); transforms social norms, attitudes and behaviours; and partners with local organizations for evidence-based advocacy towards resilience among girls, boys and their communities (GBV AoR Helpdesk, 2021).

Improved efficiency in response protocols: Good practices of response protocols include the Women's Health on Wheels mobile facility in Saint Bernard in the Philippines after Typhoon Rai (Super Typhoon Odette) in 2021. The mobile unit renders rapid response services, including addressing GBV and medical needs in the Eastern Visayas region (UNFPA, 2022a). ActionAid in Bangladesh, through an anticipatory action methodology, developed the capacity of local women in vulnerable communities and involved them in rescue and evacuation operations while providing lifesaving SRHR, GBV and psychosocial support services for women and girls (adolescents and young women) in women-friendly spaces created in districts most affected by floods and cyclones, and through referral pathways developed for respective districts (Irish Consortium on GBV, 2022).

FACILITATOR GUIDE

A. The correlation between climate change, GBV and HPs (15 minutes)

Interactive group activity: Story circle (10 minutes)

Approach:

- Divide participants into small groups of four or five; if relevant, divide participants by region.
- Each group sits in a circle.

Task:

- One member of each group starts by sharing a story or example of how climate change has impacted their community/location of interest and links it to GBV or harmful practices.
- Ideally, the story should centre around a specific character(s) to better illustrate the story. Give the character(s) a fictitious name(s), as we will build on their stories in the next exercise.
- The next person in the circle builds on the story, adding their own reality-based observations or experiences of how protection systems and mechanisms have aided or not aided the main character(s).
- Continue until each group member has contributed.

Debrief: Ask each group to summarize their story (orally) and share one key insight with the larger group.

Plenary discussion: The impact of climate change on protection systems and mechanisms (10 minutes)

- Maintain the same groups for a plenary discussion.
- Ask the workshop participants to reflect on how the characters in their respective stories benefitted or could have benefitted or could not benefit from the available protection systems and mechanisms.
- Ensure that there is a reflection on each group story.

Facilitator tips for the plenary discussion:

(Re)Clarify definitions: Ensure participants have a clear understanding of what protection systems and mechanisms are. Briefly remind them of these terms/concepts, referring to the first session (A).

60

Encourage realism: Guide participants to think realistically about the protection systems and mechanisms. Encourage them to consider factors such as accessibility, efficiency, cultural appropriateness and the existing gaps in the systems.

Highlight contextual factors: Prompt participants to consider how different contexts (e.g. rural versus urban settings, conflict versus post-conflict areas) might affect the availability and effectiveness of protection systems.

Explore barriers: Ask participants to identify specific barriers that characters in their stories faced in accessing protections as a result of climate shocks.

Explore enablers: Ask participants what specific factors enabled access to protection where it was successful.

Session 3.2: Climate-resilient protection systems and mechanisms – Good practices and lessons learned (30 minutes)

Approach:

- Present good practices and lessons learned related to climate-resilient protection systems and mechanisms, with emphasis on GBV and harmful practices such as child marriage and FGM.

- The PowerPoint presentation should include concrete examples from countries.

- The presentation should not last more than 20 minutes and should be followed by a 10-minute question-and-answer session.

- The presentation will set the scene for group activity.

Interactive breakout I: Identifying solutions to enhance the climate resilience of protection systems and mechanisms (60 minutes)

Approach: Participants should be split into the same groups as the storytelling circle exercise for the sake of maintaining a logical flow and progression of work (30 minutes).

Task: Respond to the question: How can the country's protection systems and mechanisms be made more climate resilient?

- Provide three to five concrete recommendations that directly address barriers/gaps identified based on the group's discussion and using the template provided.

- Each recommendation should have a priority rating.

- At the end of the session, you should have identified a list of recommendations in order of priority that will subsequently inform the country's action plan.

Facilitator tip: To better orient the participants with the task, briefly present the following key points and guiding questions that participants should take into consideration.

Analyse stakeholder roles: Encourage participants to identify and discuss the roles of various stakeholders (e.g. government, NGOs, community leaders, international organizations) in providing protection. Ask them to consider how these roles can be optimized or coordinated better.

Consider gender and intersectionality: Emphasize the importance of gender and other intersecting factors (e.g. age, disability, ethnicity) in accessing protection. Ask participants to reflect on how these factors influenced the characters' experiences and what could be done to address these nuances.

Examine the impact of harmful practices: Discuss how harmful practices (e.g. child marriage, FGM) are perpetuated and how effective protection systems can help mitigate these practices. Explore specific strategies that could have been used in the stories to prevent or respond to such practices.

Reflect on prevention and response: Differentiate between prevention and response mechanisms. Ask participants to think about what preventative measures could have been in place to avoid the harmful situations described in their stories, and what response mechanisms were or could have been effective once harm occurred.

Promote sustainable solutions: Encourage participants to think about long-term and sustainable solutions within protection systems. Discuss how capacity building, community engagement and systemic reforms can lead to more resilient protection mechanisms.

Connect to broader frameworks: Link the discussion to broader frameworks and initiatives, such as international human rights conventions, national policies and global goals (e.g. the Sustainable Development Goals). Highlight how local actions fit into these larger contexts.

Debrief: Present to plenary (30 mins.)

Use the following table/template:

PROBLEM	SOLUTION	SPECIFIC ACTIONS REQUIRED (how to arrive at solutions)	LEAD ENTITY	URGENCY RATING (1–5: 1 most urgent, 5 least urgent)

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3. UNFPA (2023): The need for integrated climate change action in sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence programming – evidence and recommendations for the Arab region

4. UNFPA (2023): Gender-based violence in the context of climate change in the Arab region – 2023 review of evidence and pathways

5. (2022): Extreme events and gender-based violence: a mixed-methods systematic review

6. (2021): Natural hazards, disasters and violence against women and girls: a global mixed-methods systematic review

7. GBV AoR (2021): Climate Change and Gender-Based Violence: What are the links?

8. IASC (2015): Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action: Reducing risk, promoting resilience and aiding recovery

Resilience building at the community level

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A | SESSION 4A.1:
Gender-transformative approaches and climate change adaptation

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this module, participants will:

✔ Understand basic gender concepts

✔ Understand the application of gender-transformative approaches (GTA) and their frameworks and tools

✔ Learn to analyse gendered power dimensions in climate change interventions

✔ Understand how to incorporate GTA into climate adaptation programming

✔ Explore best practices of GTA intervention to strengthen women's and girls' climate resilience

SESSION OUTLINE

TIME: 2 HOURS 30 MINUTES	
TIME	**CONTENT**
60 mins.	**Session 4A.1:** Gender-transformative approaches and climate change adaptation 　**A.** What are gender-transformative approaches?
	B. Gender-transformative approaches in programming
	C. Gender-transformative climate change adaptation
	D. Tools for gender-transformative programming
30 mins.	**Session 4A.2:** Gendering climate adaptation in the country 　**A.** Climate-induced water scarcity and impacts on women and girls in the country *or* 　**B.** Women and girls in climate-related migration and displacement in the country
60 mins.	**Interactive breakout I:** Incorporating GTA into a gender and climate change strategy/action plan

What are gender-transformative approaches?

Gender-transformative approaches (GTA) promote gender equality by explicitly addressing the underlying causes, and not just the symptoms, of gender inequality. These include discriminatory legislation, policies, institutions, norms and stereotypes about what it means to be a man, a woman or gender non-binary; harmful masculinities; and insufficient support for women's agency and rights. GTA is pertinent for SRHR interventions given the close links between the two issues; for instance, improved gender equality contributes to SRHR and overall sustainable development. UNFPA's gender equality strategy affirms that GTA can facilitate the empowerment of women and girls to claim their position as 'rights holders', ensuring they can exercise agency and choice and have access to bodily autonomy regarding their SRHR (UNFPA, 2023b).

In the context of strengthening resilience to climate change for women and girls, GTA can transform discriminatory norms and structures and unlock women's empowerment and opportunities, leading to higher, more sustainable adaptive capacity and resilience. Climate action that incorporates a gender-transformative approach recognizes the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that create and worsen vulnerability to climate risks and impacts, including consequences for the realization of SRHR. GTA in climate action ultimately contributes to shifting the unequal distribution of power, resources and opportunities between genders to increase the agency of women and girls to not only adapt and build resilience to climate risks and impacts, but also to contribute to climate solutions and actions towards more inclusive, equitable, sustainable and climate-resilient development.

In Annex 1,[21] we review basic gender concepts, which is a prerequisite to facilitating a deeper understanding of the underlying dynamics of GTA programming. This section introduces the concept of GTA programming, reviews tools to conduct a gender power analysis, and guides practitioners in the identification of appropriate interventions to unlock gender-transformative solutions.

Gender-transformative approaches in programming

As discussed, inequalities attributable to gender disproportionately disadvantage women and girls, hindering social and economic development and permeating various parts of life and society: political participation, education, the economy, health, unpaid care work and reproductive labour (UNICEF, 2020; World Bank, 2018; World Economic Forum, 2021). Gender inequality typically involves men having more access to power and resources as heads of households and leaders in the political, religious or traditional realms.

Gender transformation thus actively examines, questions and changes rigid gender norms and imbalances of power that advantage boys and men over girls and women. Gender-transformative programming moves beyond individual self-improvement among girls and women to redressing the power dynamics and structures that serve to reinforce gender inequalities.

- Globally, only 55% of women can make decisions about their own bodily autonomy; in some countries, the proportion can be as low as 7% (Niger, Senegal), 8% (Mali), 20% (Burkina Faso), 21% (Comoros) or 31% (Democratic Republic of Congo) (UNFPA, 2020).
- About one-third of women worldwide have been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime; in some countries, the proportion can be as high as 47% (Democratic Republic of Congo), 45% (Uganda), 43% (Liberia) or 41% (Gabon, South Sudan) (WHO, 2021b).
- For men and boys, gender inequalities also impose costs. Discriminatory gender norms and harmful masculinities have been linked with their poorer physical and mental health (Institute for Reproductive Health, 2020).

Source: UNFPA, 2023d

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[21] See Annex 1.

Example of gender-transformative programming: promoting positive male engagement

Gender equality historically has been perceived mostly as a woman's issue, with a focus on inequalities and discrimination suffered by women and girls. However, more recently there has been growing recognition of gender as a relational and dynamic concept that is relevant for all and that involves the unequal distribution of power, agency and resources between women, men and gender non-binary persons.

Ending patriarchy and challenging restrictive gender norms is not the sole responsibility of girls and women. Tackling gender inequality requires taking it a step further, not only by considering men and boys, but also by engaging them. Engaging boys and men in holistic, comprehensive and coordinated responses requires recognizing harmful masculinities and identifying and implementing solutions to redress them.
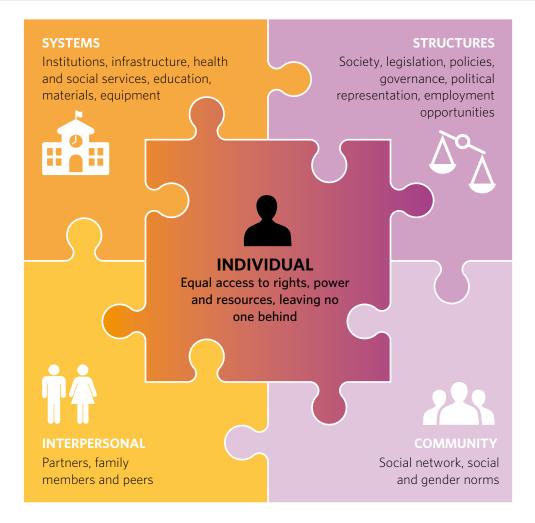
However, male engagement does not automatically mean that men and boys are engaged as agents of change to improve gender equality. A common conceptual framework and positive approach for male engagement includes three components: men as agents of change for gender equality, men as partners of women, and men as recipients of services to address their own needs (Greene et al., 2006). Each component is important; all three should ideally be implemented jointly. Programming that creatively engages boys and men with methodologies that support them to question and recognize issues of masculinity that are harmful to themselves and their relationships as well as their privilege and the power they wield in society helps to create male change agents for gender equality. Accordingly, when engaging men as partners or recipients of services, consideration should be given to involving men as agents of change by incorporating gender-transformative approaches as part of the work. This promotes positive masculinities by engaging men and boys as partners for and beneficiaries of a more gender equitable world.

The socioecological model as a conceptual framework for gender-transformative programming

Gender influences people and societies formally and informally, from individual and interpersonal levels to systemic and structural levels. Hence, efforts to improve gender equality are needed at all levels.

UNFPA's GTA strategy (UNFPA, 2023d) employs the socioecological model as a framework, illustrating the different levels at which gender can be shaped: individual, interpersonal, community, systems and structural. These can thus serve as entry points of action to influence gender equality and SRHR outcomes, including climate action (WHO, 2007).

FIGURE 12: Conceptual framework for gender-transformative programming

SYSTEMS
Institutions, infrastructure, health and social services, education, materials, equipment

STRUCTURES
Society, legislation, policies, governance, political representation, employment opportunities

INDIVIDUAL
Equal access to rights, power and resources, leaving no one behind

INTERPERSONAL
Partners, family members and peers

COMMUNITY
Social network, social and gender norms

Source: UNFPA, 2023d

Holistic gender-transformative programming seeks to influence change at individual, community, health system, socioeconomic and political/legal/policy levels. For example, as indicated in Figure 13, successful gender-transformative programming can work from the individual level of girls who are not empowered to advocate for their rights through to the level of community, where girls' choices are limited, as well as through systems (e.g. education) where gender-unequal pedagogies flourish. Large-scale transformation of patriarchal and discriminatory structures and systems is crucial to improving gender equality on a broad scale and in a sustainable manner (UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women, 2020). The socioecological model exerts a strong influence over gender-transformative outcomes, as it guides in creating mutually reinforcing changes in attitudes, norms and values at individual, family and community levels, and among decision makers who develop laws and policies (UNFPA, 2023b).

FIGURE 13: Socioecological model for gender-transformative programming

Source: UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women, 2020

Evidence of what works for GTA

Determinants of effective gender-transformative interventions have been proposed in reviews of peer-reviewed and grey literature (Heymann et al., 2019; Ruane-McAteer et al., 2020; Marcus, 2018; Levy et al., 2020). These are features and principles that should be considered for effective gender-transformative programming, and they include the following:

Multisectoral action: A multisectoral approach is often warranted, as gender equality and SRHR are influenced by factors in different sectors, including health, climate change, education, youth and economic empowerment. This can appear to be going beyond the gender and health sectors to include multiple relevant sectors to develop coordinated and multisectoral responses. The different public services must have coordinated and integrated agendas to simultaneously tackle different dimensions of gender inequality.

Multilevel and multi-stakeholder involvement: This considers the different levels of the socioecological model and widely mobilizes government, the private sector, civil society and community stakeholders (local, regional and international levels), and should consider all levels, whether informal or formal. Likewise, actions occurring at different levels, at every stage and involving multiple stakeholders have the potential to be mutually reinforcing. For example, ideally, both men and women should be engaged, interventions should start at an early age, and multilevel and multi-stakeholder involvement should be pursued.

Diversified programming: This means including different types of activities that address different social and behavioural change mechanisms.

Social participation and empowerment: This principle encourages and aims for target audiences to become agents of change.

Inclusion of both women and men: Men and women should be involved, either in mixed-sex groups or separately, while prioritizing centring women and girls and adopting and promoting positive male engagement.

High-quality facilitation: This is supported, for example, by investment in training facilitators to support the delivery of capacity-strengthening activities.

Longer duration of an intervention: Interventions should be at least three to six months, with a programme design that facilitates regular attendance and addresses barriers to participation.

Effective GTA programming should adopt evidence-based and human rights–based approaches adapted to the local context, with involvement of programme participants throughout.

Gender-transformative climate change adaptation

The UNFCCC has recognized that involving women, girls, boys and gender non-binary persons, who have been and are often marginalized, excluded and discriminated against in climate change policy and planning, is critical to the success of mitigation and adaptation efforts. Recent gender-related COP decisions, including the Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan, have made strong calls for addressing gender considerations in climate policy and action. Likewise, the IPCC has highlighted the potential for worsening gender inequality with both climate change and gender-blind climate interventions (IPCC, 2018).

To better understand how climate change impacts gender equality and to support climate adaptation and resilience building, climate action and interventions must go beyond responding to specific gender needs to transforming systems – i.e. the structures and norms that create or reinforce pre-existing vulnerabilities, thereby worsening climate risks and impacts. Without transforming social inequities and gender inequality, the vulnerabilities and resilience of society as a whole are compounded. Climate adaptation measures that fail to recognize the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination are likely to exacerbate social injustice and inequalities, resulting in further

maladaptation.[22] For instance, adaptation measures that ignore existing gender and power imbalance may perpetuate privilege and reinforce harmful gender norms, thereby creating or reinforcing vulnerabilities and weakening adaptive capacities and resilience to climate change (UNEP, 2019). Transformative adaptation thus advocates that climate change adaptation activities should change aspects beyond elements of physical exposure to climate change effects (Few et al., 2017; Singh et al., 2021).

GTA in development is universal, with organizations and initiatives exploring the rights-based approach in policy and programming, including CARE (CARE, 2019); the Global Center on Adaptation (Resurrección et al., 2019); the African Development Bank's Africa Climate Change Fund (African Development Bank Group, 2021); Plan International (Plan International Canada, 2019); UNICEF (UNICEF, 2021) among others. A gender-transformative climate change adaptation approach focuses on the economic, political, ecological and cultural causes of vulnerability of different gender groups, aiming to address the roots of vulnerability through actions that challenge the fundamental attributes of a system, in response to climate and its effects. It analyses and addresses gendered differences in opportunities, resources and information to adapt to and recover from the effects of climate change while redressing constraining gender and social inequalities. Climate change adaptation programmes and strategies that are gender transformative strive to engage women and men as agents of change to address harmful gender norms and power imbalances towards a healthy and empowered population, resilient systems and communities, and sustainable change in climate change response.

Examples of gender-transformative climate change adaptation programming in relation to SRHR, GBV and harmful practices include the following:

- At individual and interpersonal levels: Engage women and men in menstrual hygiene management education activities and utilizing improved menstrual hygiene management practices; interactive workshops and dialogues can raise consciousness and encourage personal reflection and deep discussion about how social norms create adverse outcomes for women and men.

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[22] Maladaptation is the "increased risk of adverse climate-related outcomes, increased vulnerability to climate change, or diminished welfare, now or in the future". Refer to Noble, 2014.

- At community and interpersonal levels: Community dialogues help to identify/change harmful social norms and to engage community women and men in decisions regarding sanitation, clean energy and water management, including ways of reducing the burden of roles (e.g. only women collecting water/firewood).

- At the institutional level: Mitigation/adaptation projects and initiatives open opportunities for women to engage in less "traditional", more highly paid sectors (e.g. clean energy).

- At the policy level: Reform laws/policies that limit women's access to land, and ensure they can access farming supplies; remove third-party authorization for access to SRHR services; include comprehensive sexuality education in national curricula; and ensure the agency of women and their collectives to demand equal rights in the climate action discourse.

Tools for gender transformative programming

Gender power analysis

Gender power analysis is a critical and systematic gender-transformative approach that uses social science methodologies for identifying, examining and addressing how differences in gender roles, activities, needs, opportunities and rights/entitlements affect men, women, girls and boys in certain situations or contexts, towards transformative systemic change. Usually a first step to gender-transformative programming, a gender power analysis applies a gender lens to the organized collection and analysis of quantitative data and qualitative information to inform programme design. It explores the roles, norms, needs, constraints and opportunities in the relationships of women and girls, and men and boys. It explores the following areas to critically map and assess how gender roles, norms and relations between women and men result in inequality in terms of power, resources and services:

- The differences in the lives of vulnerable women and men, and boys and girls

- The barriers that unequal gender relations present to women's development

- The status of women and their ability to exercise their human rights, and the different skills, capacities and aspirations of women and men

A comprehensive tool, the Women and Girls Empowerment Index, measures five domains directly associated with the root causes of gender equality: roles and responsibilities; resource access and control; participation and decision-making; social norms; and institutional change (Plan International Canada, 2019). The domains of analysis help us understand how inequality and discrimination affect different stakeholders in various aspects of life. The domain analysis depends on which domain is relevant to a project and its thematic areas/sectors, objectives and location(s).

Various frameworks can be applied to undertake gender analysis and to explore the interconnected aspects of gender equality and power balance. Some of the best-known gender analysis frameworks include the Harvard Analytical Framework, which emphasizes gender roles, resources and activities (ILO, 1998); Moser's Gender Planning Framework, which identifies categories of gender roles and needs (Moser, 1993); and the Gender Analysis Matrix Framework, which identifies gender differences in labour, time, resources and sociocultural factors (UNDP, 2001). Additionally, there are recognized frameworks by various organizations: the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Gender Analysis Guidance (2011), the 2012 CARE Good Practices Framework for Gender Analysis (Hillenbrand et al., 2015), the 2015 Sida Gender Analysis Tool (Sida, 2015) and the 2013 IUCN Gender-Responsive Analysis Framework (IUCN, 2013).

TABLE 6: Example of five key domains of gender power analysis

Gender roles & responsibilities	Division of both productive and reproductive; the identification of how time is spent during the day, week, month, or year, and in different seasons; and determines how men and women each contribute to the welfare of the family, community and society.
Access to and control of resources	A person's ability to use the necessary resources to be a fully active and productive participant (socially, economically and politically) in society. It includes access to resources, income, services, employment, information and benefits.
Participation, leadership and decision-making	The ability of people to decide, influence, control and enforce personal and governmental power. It refers to one's capacity to make decisions freely, and to exercise power over one's body, within an individual's household, community, municipality and state.
Social norms (knowledge, beliefs, perception)	The types of knowledge that men and women possess; the beliefs that shape gender identities and behavior; and the different perceptions that guide people's understanding of their lives, depending on their gender identity
Duty-bearers and institutions (legal rights)	Involves assessing how people are regarded and treated by customary legal codes, formal legal codes and judicial systems.

Source: Plan International Canada, 2019

Gender power analysis is usually conducted in the programme design and implementation phase. Existing strategic country and programme documents (including gender and climate-related documents) are often consulted. In addition, a desk review is undertaken of published and grey literature to detect data that exists, followed by a primary collection of qualitative data in the country or case study context. To determine and analyse the causes or root causes of power imbalances or disparities discovered during the desk review and primary research, the '5 Whys' technique can be used. Developed by Sakichi Toyoda for the Toyota Industries Corporation, the 5 Whys technique is a systematic problem-solving tool to detect root causes (Serrat, 2017). It peels away the layers of symptoms and gets to the root cause of a problem.

To apply the technique:

1. Identify a gap or problem statement per domain.
2. Determine root cause(s) by asking 'why' at each stage/gap analysis.
3. Identify the most relevant root causes.
4. Suggest countermeasures/actions/activities.

An example of applying the 5 Whys technique
(Africa Climate Change Fund, 2024; Quisumbing and Doss, 2021)

Problem statement: Women and girls have less access to credit and technology in agriculture.

First why: Why do women and girls have less access to credit and technology in agriculture?

- Answer: Financial institutions and tech providers often require collateral or land ownership.

Second why: Why do many women lack collateral or land ownership documentation?

- Answer: Properties and land inheritance laws and customs in the region favour men.

Third why: Why do properties and land inheritance laws and customs in the region favour men?

- Answer: There is a longstanding cultural/legal framework that views men as the primary breadwinners and land owners.

Fourth why: Why does the cultural/legal framework view men as the primary breadwinners and land owners?

- Answer: Historical and societal norms have established roles that position men in economic and decision-making roles, with media, policy and education reinforcing the norms.

Fifth why: Why have historical and societal norms that position men in economic and decision-making roles been reinforced through education, media and policy?

- Answer: Lack of gender representation in policymaking, education curriculum development and media content creation leads to a continuation of these gender-biased norms and practices.

Approach for Gender Action Plan development

After identifying the barriers preventing gender equality, developing a Gender Action Plan is the next step of action. A GAP for gender-transformative programming is a key tool that serves to operationalize the identified constraints and opportunities for women and men towards fully integrating them into the project design. The GAP outlines the following (Africa Climate Change Fund, 2024):

1. Gender-transformative interventions, which include actions towards the following:

   A. Gender-responsive policies, institutions and service delivery

   B. Empowerment of women/girls in the areas of knowledge/information, decision-making power, and social, political and financial capital

   C. Engagement of boys and men (including positive masculinities)

2. Gender performance indicators and sex-disaggregated targets can be incorporated into project design and monitoring and evaluation tools, including the Results Measurement Framework, which consists of the theory of change and the logical framework.

3. Presentation of the gender-transformative development impacts.

Gender continuum

Programmes and interventions are not automatically set for promoting gender equality. As illustrated in Figure 15, there is a range of interventions that may be more or less transformative, depending on whether they recognize gender inequalities and – more importantly – how they go about addressing them. The gender continuum can serve as a diagnostic tool or a planning framework for programmes. The tool is based on two fundamental principles:

- Programmes/policies must not perpetuate gender inequalities since a fundamental principle of development is to 'do no harm'.

- The overall goal is to move towards gender-transformative approaches, thus gradually challenging gender inequalities and related root causes.

Figure 14 describes key concepts of the gender equality continuum, interventions categorized as exploitative, accommodating or transformative. Gender-exploitative interventions privilege one gender, leading to one sex enjoying more rights or opportunities than the other. Gender-neutral interventions, while aiming for fairness, often ignore differences in opportunities and resources potentially causing harm. Gender-sensitive interventions acknowledge gender awareness but lack remedial action to address inequalities generated by unequal norms, roles or relations. Gender-responsive interventions intentionally target a specific group to achieve certain policy or programme goals or meet certain needs, often focusing on making it easier for women and men to fulfil duties ascribed to them based on their gender roles. Gender-transformative interventions address the root causes of gender-based inequalities and include strategies to foster changes in power relations between women and men.

FIGURE 14: Gender equality continuum

Gender Exploitative	Gender-blind	Gender-sensitive	Gender / responsive	Gender-transformative
• Perpetuates gender inequality by reinforcing unbalanced norms, roles and relations • For example, an intervention that implies that women and girls are weak and need to be protected and controlled by men, or that excludes women from decision making regarding the household or community due to assumptions that only men can exercise such decision making	• Ignores gender norms, roles and relations and thereby often reinforces gender-based discrimination • For example, an intervention that may claim to be fair by treating everyone the same, e.g. by gathering all community members in one space to speak about issues that may put women and girls at risk if they share their views and experiences	• Considers gender norms, roles and relations, but does not address resulting inequalities • For example, an intervention that includes separate focus group discussion by gender, but does not examine differences in experiences by gender	• Considers gender norms, roles and relations, and intentionally address needs to reduce inequalities • For example, an intervention that makes information and services available to women at their place of residence when their movement is restricted due to discriminatory social norms	• Considers gender norms, roles and relations (as does gender-specific and gender-sensitive), and challenge the underlying causes of gender inequalities • For example, an intervention that creates safe spaces for women and men to critically reflect and discuss about unequal distribution of power and resources between women and men

EXPLOIT → ACCOMMODATE → TRANSFORM →

Source: UNFPA, 2023d

FACILITATOR GUIDE

Session 4A.2: Gendering climate adaptation in the country

A government or non-government stakeholder representative will share a presentation focused on either of the following thematic areas, depending on the country's climate change context.

A. Climate-induced water scarcity and impacts on women and girls in the country

B. Women and girls in climate-related migration and displacement in the country

Interactive breakout I: Incorporating GTA into a gender and climate change strategy/action plan

Approach: Participants should be split into groups.

Task: Using the '5 Whys' technique (30 mins.):

- Conduct a root cause gender analysis using the five domains of gender inequality in relation to how climate change affects gender roles, responsibilities and opportunities in your country (see template below).
- Develop a Gender Action Plan, recommending activities and actions to address the identified barriers to gender-transformative climate change adaptation.

Debrief: Present to plenary (30 mins.).

GENDER DIMENSIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND SRHR	PROBLEM STATEMENT	ROOT CAUSES (from '5 Whys')	PROGRAMMING RECOMMENDATIONS (activities/actions/proposals)
Gender roles and responsibilities	Women and girls are largely responsible for fetching water		
Access to and control of resources			
Participation, leadership and decision-making			
Social norms (knowledge, beliefs, perceptions)			
Duty-bearers and institutions (legal rights)			

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Readings/resources

1. UNFPA (2024): Calculator for advancing human rights-based universal sexual and reproductive health

2. American Society for Quality (ASQ) (2024): Five Whys and Five Hows

3. Lean Enterprise Institute (2024): 5 Whys

4. UNFPA (2023): Gender-transformative approaches to achieve gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights: technical note

5. (2022): Climate Change and Gender in Africa: A Review of Impact and Gender-Responsive Solutions

6. UNFPA (2021): Technical Brief: How Changing Social Norms is Crucial in Achieving Gender Equality

7. Rutgers (2020): Gender-transformative approach toolkit – Module 5: Organizations and institutions

8. UNFPA (2020): Guidance Note for Applying a Human Rights-Based Approach to Programming in UNFPA

9. UNFPA and UNICEF (2020): Technical Note on Gender-Transformative Approaches: A Summary for Practitioners

10. UNICEF (2020): Gender Transformative Approaches for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation

11. Plan International Canada (2019): Plan International Canada's Architecture for Gender Transformative Programming and Measurement: A Primer

12. CARE (2019): Gender-Transformative Adaptation: From Good Practice to Better Policy

13. Child, Early and Forced Marriage and Sexuality Programmes Working Group (2019): Tackling the Taboo – Sexuality and Gender-Transformative Programmes to End Child, Early and Forced Marriage and Unions

Video(s)

1. SKR Jämställdhet (2014): Sustainable Gender Equality - a film about gender mainstreaming in practice

2. Lean Enterprise Institute (2018): Clarifying the '5 Whys' Problem-Solving Method

B | SESSION 4B.1:
Climate change adaptation and SRHR through CSE

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this module, participants will:

✓ Better understand why and how to integrate climate change into comprehensive sexuality education programmes

✓ Understand the intersection of gender-transformative education and climate change adaptation

SESSION OUTLINE

TIME: 1 HOUR	
TIME	**CONTENT**
60 mins.	**Session 4B.1:** Climate change adaptation and SRHR through CSE

Climate impacts are projected to worsen significantly and exacerbate existing inequalities. Climate-related intergenerational inequalities are causing young people to grow up in an unstable and unpredictable natural environment and inherit numerous climate-induced challenges. For young people to realize their potential and become future leaders and innovators, their enjoyment of SRHR is essential to adapt to and become resilient to climate change.

Empowering young people with information about climate change and how it relates to SRHR better equips them to understand, engage and respond to the world around them. Gender equality and SRHR remain important issues throughout people's lives, but certain times are particularly conducive to programmatic interventions (Starrs, 2018). Gender socialization begins at a young age, which implies that gender-transformative work should commence early (Blum et al., 2019). The start of adolescence is a critical time. Comprehensive sexuality education is a key pathway for reaching young people, both in and out of school (UNESCO et al., 2018; UNFPA et al., 2020; UNFPA, 2014a).

True climate justice is only possible when gender equality and SRHR are fully realized. SRHR programmes that include gender-transformative and human rights-based approaches to family planning and other services are examples of strong adaptation to climate change. Comprehensive sexuality education aims to do the following: impart factual information; foster health-promoting values, attitudes and behaviours; build essential life skills; and make links to SRHR, GBV and other services towards the health and well-being of young people in all their diversity. It does so through gender-transformative and rights-based approaches and participatory methodologies on a range of topics related to SRHR, in line with international standards. As most countries are delivering CSE through the formal education sector and/or in community-based settings through various implementation modalities and platforms, it is strategic to leverage these existing structures to incorporate messaging and skills building around how climate change impacts the SRHR of young people.

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Key activities to incorporate climate change and SRHR interlinkages within CSE programmes: the Resilient Futures CSE module

Addressing the links between SRHR and climate adaptation requires multipronged, multisectoral approaches that consider intersectionalities regarding population health; integrate SRHR into climate-resilient health, protection and education systems; and strengthen risk reduction, emergency preparedness and response, and data systems.

Resilient Futures: Young People, the Climate Crisis, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (Facilitator's Guide) is the first of its kind – a global stand-alone module on climate change (UNFPA ESARO, 2022b). The climate change and SRHR teaching and learning materials explain climate change and how it links to gender and SRHR. It encourages young people to think about the natural world and how their health and well-being are connected to the environment around them. Young people learn about some of the impacts of climate change on their rights and their health, affecting women and girls in particular. The aim is to empower young people by making them more aware of the world around them and what is happening to the environment, and by generating ideas and the motivation to take action locally and beyond.

The following key activities incorporate climate change and SRHR interlinkages within CSE programmes under the Resilient Futures CSE programming:

1. Training of facilitators from the Safeguard Young People (UNFPA ESARO, 2017) programme countries on how to use the stand-alone Resilient Futures module

2. Face-to-face piloting of the Resilient Futures module with young people in Namibia and South Africa

3. Developing the animated video entitled *Climate Change's Impact on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights* (UNFPA ESARO, 2022a) for young adolescents

4. Developing the promotional video entitled *Resilient Futures: Young People, Climate Change and Sexual and Reproductive Health* UNFPA ESARO, 2022c)

5. Rolling out and assessing the climate change package as a face-to-face resource, and developing a similar online resource

Climate change adaptation through CSE: linkages between climate change and menstrual health and management

FIGURE 15: Climate change and menstrual health and hygiene

Source: Global Menstrual Collective, 2024.

Menstruation and menstrual health are topics of CSE under issues of puberty and reproduction. Climate change events could alter the timing of girls' and adolescents' menarche (the first occurrence of menstruation), causing it to arrive early or late (Canelón and Boland, 2020) as a result of hormonal imbalances from air pollution. Climate-related events can also create or worsen cases of period poverty, where menstrual products, health and hygiene education, clean water, and sanitation supplies are hard to access. Girls and women in Bolgatanga, a town in the northern region of Ghana, resort to using rags,

tissues and plantain leaves. The lack of economic resources resulting from climate-induced livelihood stress means they are unable to afford menstrual products (Alugnoa et al., 2022). Disruption to supply chain services,health and water, sanitation and hygiene facilities can also affect easy access to menstrual products and disposal, affecting personal and menstrual health and hygiene. In addition, climate-related events including climate-induced displacement affect the privacy and safety of displaced girls, women and people who menstruate, putting them at risk of GBV amplifying gender inequality.

Menstrual health products and management could also add to waste generation, releasing harmful components, including greenhouse gases, into the atmosphere. Single-use pads, which are 90 per cent plastic, take more than 500 years to decompose (Fourcassier et al., 2022). Where menstrual products are not properly disposed of, they contribute to soil, water and air pollution, as they contain absorbent polymers and additives that are harmful substances.

The combination of the climate crisis with the related nature and pollution crisis further impacts SRHR. Pollutants and toxins complicate the ability of people who menstruate to maintain safe and sanitary conditions, impacting the food and water systems necessary for human health. Toxins can impact endocrine systems, disrupting fertility, including menstrual cycles (UNEP, 2020).

A gender-transformative climate change adaptation programme that integrates CSE can better help communities adapt to climate impacts while mitigating their negative effects, as well as harmful gender norms and practices.

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Blum, R. W., J. Boyden, A. Erulkar et al., 2019. "Achieving Gender Equality Requires Placing Adolescents at the Center". *Journal of Adolescent Health,* 64(6): 691-693. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2019.02.002

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United Nations Population Fund East and Southern Africa Regional Office, 2017. *The Safeguard Young People Programme: Three Years On – Addressing the urgent needs of youth across Southern Africa.* https://esaro.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Phase%201%20-%20SYP%20Report_0.pdf

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United Nations Population Fund East and Southern Africa Regional Office, 2022c. *Resilient Futures: Young people, climate change, and sexual and reproductive health.* https://youtu.be/tIsz6ZDYV60?si=7JJ2I3uiVqVbLJlk

United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization et al., 2020. *International Technical and Programmatic Guidance on Out-of-School Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE).* https://www.unfpa.org/publications/international-technical-and-programmatic-guidance-out-school-comprehensive-sexuality

Readings/resources

1. UNFPA ESARO (2022): Resilient Futures: Young People, the Climate Crisis and SRHR (Facilitator's Guide)

2. UNFPA: Comprehensive sexuality education

3. UNFPA (2018): International technical guidance on sexuality education: An evidence-informed approach

4. Global Menstrual Collective (2024): Climate Change and Menstrual Health and Hygiene

Video(s)

1. UNFPA ESARO (2022): Climate Change's Impact on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

2. UNFPA ESARO (2022): Resilient Futures: Young People, Climate Change and Sexual and Reproductive Health

C | SESSION 4C.1:
GRB and its relevance to climate finance and action

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this module, participants will:

✓ Understand how to incorporate gender-responsive budgeting into climate action

✓ Engage in how to analyse budget for gender responsiveness

✓ Learn climate financing architecture for climate adaptation

SESSION OUTLINE

TIME: 2 HOUR 30 MINUTES	
TIME	**CONTENT**

30 mins.	**Session 4C.1**: GRB and its relevance to climate action and finance
	   A. What are gender-responsive budgets?
	   B. GRB examples and steps in national budget tagging

30 mins.	**Session 4C.2:** Accessing climate finance for national action
30 mins.	**Session 4C.3:** Preparing winning climate action proposals with a key multilateral climate finance fund (Masterclass)
60 mins.	**Interactive breakout I:** Analysing for gender responsiveness in budgeting and costed interventions

What are gender-responsive budgets?

The impact of climate change is not gender neutral. Therefore, we cannot have a budget that does not consider this differential impact based on gender inequalities, for it is the budget that also decides which programmes and politics are implemented. GRB is a means of integrating a gender dimension into all steps of the budget process. It is about taking into account the different needs, realities and priorities of both women and men to ensure that government services and public resources are allocated to foster equity. A gender-responsive budget is a budget that works for everyone (women and men, girls and boys) by ensuring the gender-equitable distribution of resources and by contributing to equal opportunities for all. GRB includes an analysis of the impact of budgets on men and women and incorporates these perspectives into budget planning and execution. The ultimate goal of GRB is to apply a gender-sensitive approach to all aspects of the budget process.

The budget is the single most important policy tool of a government, as it determines the successful implementation of all other policies. Every budgetary decision will have different impacts on women and men, girls and boys. Policies and economic plans often assume that individuals have no gender, class, age, ethnicity or other differentiated needs. Because these differences are not accounted for, economic plans and policies can often fail to undertake equity-based distribution of resources. Women and men do not benefit equally from public investments. Both genders have diverse needs and use infrastructure differently depending on their social roles, economic status or preferences (OECD, 2024).

In climate financing, GRB may mean investments that do the following:

- Reduce women's dependency on solid fuels.
- Ease women's access to basic resources (e.g. water).
- Foster girls' education and skills in clean energy.
- Ensure equal voice and resources for women and girls in decision-making, aimed at increasing the resilience of human and ecological systems to negative climate change impacts.

GRB is essential to ensure the gender-equitable distribution of resources and contribute to equal opportunities for all. **It is essential for both gender justice and fiscal justice.**

GRB examples and steps in national budget tagging

Since 1995 at the Beijing Platform for Action, GRB has become an internationally acknowledged tool for facilitating the implementation of commitments to gender equality. Some of the examples to learn from are presented below.

South Africa: In 1995, the South African Women's Budget Initiative was led by two policy research NGOs and a committee of parliament who published a GRB report, which was then included in the budget speech. Specific recommendations included the development of a statistical database to provide gender-disaggregated information on the impact of expenditures, the implementation of gender-sensitive targets and indicators of gender equality in budgeting, and the development of a performance review mechanism to assess progress and report to parliament. This has since then been a practice by South Africa's National Commission for Gender Equality.

Ecuador: Ecuador has an internationally celebrated GRB system that received the 2013 United Nations Public Service Award. The GRB action reform started in 2010 when the Ministry of Economy and Finance passed a planning and budgeting law mandating all ministries to present a gender budget statement along with the budget proposal explaining how the budget would bridge gender inequality. This ultimately led to the creation of the National Directorate of Fiscal Equity to assist the ministries in reporting progress using a gender equality budget classifier. This budget classifier assisted the ministries to analyse critically whether their budgets further gender equality or not.

Morocco: Morocco implemented GRB reforms in two phases. In the first phase (2000–2010), the responsible actors within the government were sensitized and tools were developed through the government producing a GRB handbook, which was used as a capacity-building tool. After the designing of the tools, the second phase focused on institutionalizing the gender report that must accompany the yearly budgets. This yearly report analyses public policies and budgets through a gender lens and reinforces the accountability to gender equality.

Rwanda: Since 2003, the Government of Rwanda has initiated a GRB programme to accelerate gender-related commitments through making the budgets gender responsive. This was reinforced by law No. 12/2013/OL/ of 2013 on state finances and property, which mandates every budget agency to prepare a gender budget statement and submit reports every September of the following fiscal year. Every year, the budget agency is required to track equitable expenditures that promote gender equality in line with the provisions of the Constitution of Rwanda, the National Gender Policy and other national and international commitments.

Uganda: A notable example of an opportunity to introduce GRB is emerging in Uganda. The Government of Uganda has introduced grants entitled Climate Change Challenge Grants for small and medium-sized enterprises that wish to innovate for climate change adaptation. The enterprises can win prizes ranging from US$5,000 to US$10,000. This can be a good space to integrate gender-responsiveness tracking, which can be expanded to the entire state budget.

Examples of steps in applying GRB

While there is no single approach to institutionalize gender-responsive budgeting, the broad process can be understood through the steps mentioned below. It is important to note here that these steps are not linear and will depend on the country's budgeting approaches, governance structure and overall budget financing processes. The most important approaches used in different gender-budgeting initiatives as collated by the European Institute of Gender Equality are the following:

- Mainstreaming gender perspectives into the whole process of public finance management
- Integrating gender perspectives into performance-based and programme-based budgeting
- Categorizing budget programmes and gender analysis requirements

- Linking gender budgeting and participatory budgeting
- Tracking financial allocations to promote women's rights and gender equality
- Applying standard gender-budgeting tools such as gender-aware policy and budget appraisal, gender-disaggregated public expenditure and revenue incidence analysis, and gender-responsive beneficiary needs assessments
- Combining gender budgeting with impact assessments

These different approaches are sometimes combined, and the list is not exhaustive, as countries adapt the gender-budgeting practice based on their structures and needs. As per the guidance by the European Institute of Gender Equality (European Institute for Gender Equality, 2019), the following general steps can be applied for gender budgeting using the following broad guiding questions.

Step 1: Analyse the situation of women, men, girls and boys and conduct a gender analysis of the budget.

Gender budgeting starts with a gendered analysis. Gender analyses of budgets or parts of budgets help to gain an understanding and raise awareness of the gender-differentiated impacts of budget allocations or revenue policies. A gender analysis of the situation of women, men, girls and boys and different vulnerable groups, as well as the available budget, highlights the degree to which the budget has addressed the needs of women and men among the target groups, taking into account their gendered roles; the challenges and barriers faced by the different target groups; the degree to which the budget has reduced, exacerbated or left unchanged gender inequalities; and the gaps, if any, between stated policies and budgetary decisions.

- What impact do the proposed budgetary measures and related policies have on gender equality? Have gender-differentiated needs been taken into consideration?
- Do budgets and related policies reduce gender inequalities, exacerbate them or leave them unchanged?
- If there are unequal distributions, why? What are the root causes of any identified disparities?

Step 2: Link gender budgeting to overall gender equality objectives. Analyse the types of expenditure in the budget.

To ensure consistency between national constitutional, legal and policy frameworks and budgets, it is important to make clear the links between budget allocations and programmes and the gender equality objectives defined in overall gender equality strategies and commitments. To analyse these, the following broad questions should be asked:

- Expenditures that directly target women and girls or explicitly support gender equality – e.g. GBV prevention and services, maternal health services, childcare services, and men's reproductive health. Do budget allocations reflect women's and girls' specific needs and roles in climate change adaptation measures?
- Expenditures that target a broader population, but have a positive impact on women's lives or indirectly support gender equality; these include health care, education, social protection, sanitation, public safety and infrastructure.
- Expenditures that target the broader population and may not necessarily have a positive impact on women's lives or support gender equality; these include infrastructure (e.g. roads, bridges, dams, power plants) and military spending.

Step 3: Restructure budgets and amend policies.

Based on the evidence produced through the gender analysis, the necessary changes in budget allocations and related policies should be implemented. Restructuring budgets and amending policies allow for more efficient use of the resources that contribute to national progress. The following broad questions can provide these insights:

- Should resources be distributed differently to address gender inequality issues? What redistribution should that be?
- Are there any other objectives/policies to be pursued to reduce the unequal distribution of resources?
- Who needs to be included to address any gender disparity?

Step 4: Integrate budget redistribution throughout the budget cycle.

The budget redistribution should be integrated throughout the budget cycle, taking into account policy and budget planning, decision-making and implementation, and auditing, monitoring and evaluation. The following questions can provide guidance:

- Is budget redistribution reflected in the policy and budget planning? Have responsible institutions identified their responsibilities?

- Is the budgeting process reinforced through appropriate policy/legal/gender budget statements mandating institutions to undertake gender-responsive budgeting to ensure accountability?

- Which systems have been instituted to monitor the allocation and implementation of these budgetary allocations throughout the budget cycle?

Step 5: Ensure monitoring/accountability during and after the budgetary year.

Regular monitoring of activities to assess progress and achievements is a crucial part of gender budgeting. This monitoring can be integrated into the regular process of performance monitoring and evaluation in the budget cycle, or there can be a separate process for tracking the gender responsiveness of the budgets. These are some guidance questions:

- Were the resources spent as planned? Did these resources lead to a shift in gender and power dynamics and to building the agency of the vulnerable groups?

- Has the implementation addressed the needs of the groups as intended?

- Has it helped promote gender equality?

SESSION 4C.2:
Accessing climate finance for national action

Accessing climate finance for adaptation is crucial for vulnerable communities and regions facing the impacts of climate change. This process involves navigating complex financial landscapes to secure resources aimed at building resilience and mitigating the risks associated with changing climatic conditions. A financial focus in this context emphasizes the strategic allocation and efficient utilization of funds to support adaptation initiatives, ensuring they are both accessible and impactful. By leveraging financial mechanisms and frameworks, stakeholders can enhance their capacity to address immediate and long-term adaptation needs, ultimately fostering sustainable development in the face of a changing climate.

Climate finance relates to financial resources and instruments that fund climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience actions. They can be in the form of different financial instruments, including grants, loans, equities and donations, and they can originate from multilateral, bilateral, international, national, public or private sources. Key multilateral funds that offer grants to developing countries include the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Adaptation Fund, and the Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF).

The Global Environment Facility,[23] established in 1992, is a financial mechanism for multilateral environmental agreements to help developing countries protect the global environment while promoting sustainable development. It unites 183 countries in partnership with international institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector. Since 1992, the Global Environment Facility has provided up to US$17 billion in grants for more than 4,000 projects.

The Green Climate Fund was founded in 2010 as the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC. It is mandated to promote low-emission and climate-resilient development in developing countries. As the world's largest climate fund, it supports developing countries to raise and realize their nationally determined contribution ambitions towards low-emission, climate-resilient pathways.[24]

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[23]   Global Environment Facility. https://www.thegef.org/who-we-are.
[24]   Green Climate Fund. About GCF.

The Adaptation Fund,[25] set up under the Kyoto Protocol of the UNFCCC, finances projects and programmes to help developing countries adapt to the harmful effects of climate change. The fund is financed by a 2 per cent share of the Clean Development Mechanism project activities and voluntary contributions from donors. Eligible countries can directly access the Adaptation Fund by submitting project proposals aligned with national priorities. This is usually done through institutions accredited by the Adaptation Fund, which could fall under any of three categories: national, regional or multilateral implementing entities.

The Africa Climate Change Fund[26] is a multi-donor trust fund established by the African Development Bank in April 2014. Initially a bilateral thematic trust fund with an initial contribution of €4.725 million from the Government of Germany, the fund supports African countries to build their resilience to the negative impacts of climate change and transition to sustainable low-carbon growth. In 2017, ACCF was converted to a multi-donor trust fund with contributions from the Flemish government and the Government of Italy; Global Affairs Canada and the Government of Quebec (2020); and the Global Center on Adaptation (2022).

Suggested tips for forging national and regional partnerships

In mobilizing climate finance, partnership is quite crucial, especially national and regional partnerships. Most successful proposals that receive substantial funds from the various funding entities are a consortium of various partners, in addition to the lead applicant, which is an accredited organization.

This approach gives the opportunity for non-accredited entities to be part of a project proposal, leveraging the status of at least one accredited entity. All partners will be responsible for delivering specific components of the proposal. Partnering in such a proposal is highly recommended.
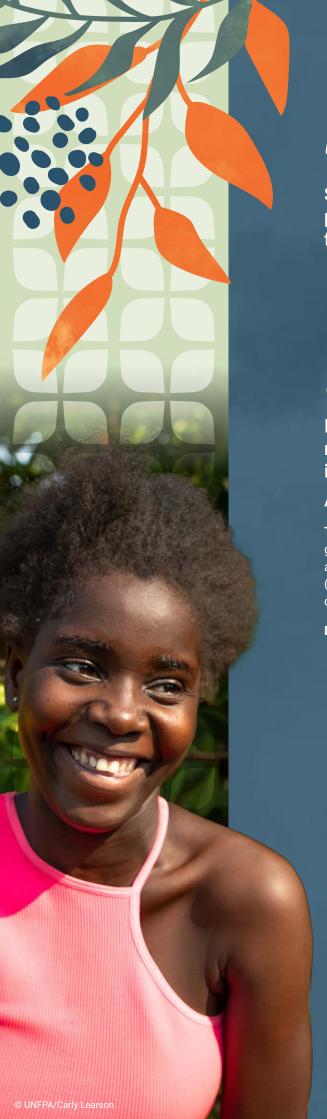
At the national level, it will be good to first identify the national designated authority or the national (government) focal points of these funding entities. In some countries, it may be the ministry of environment, the national development bank, the national agricultural bank or the central bank. It could also be different from these.

Once this body is identified, any project proposal should be coordinated with interested partners and should receive the endorsement of the relevant government counterpart. An ideal proposal for climate finance that addresses these intersections should include national implementing partners such as: relevant government ministry/interministerial coordinating bodies, UN entities, youth-serving or youth-led organizations, gender/women NGOs, community-based organizations, and health and humanitarian NGOs. Avoid an entire stand-alone SRHR and climate proposal. Embedding the SRHR and climate component in a larger proposal that addresses adaptation, resilience or mitigation will likely be more successful.

At the regional level, regional development banks, international NGOs and other intergovernmental organizations could be great partners. The websites of these funds provide relevant information; some have filters that show accredited bodies and potential regional partners.

25   Adaptation Fund. https://www.adaptation-fund.org/about/.

26   Africa Climate Change Fund. https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/africa-climate-change-fund.

FACILITATOR GUIDE

Session 4C.3: Preparing winning climate action proposals with a key multilateral climate finance fund (Masterclass)

A. Available funding cycles and eligibility

B. Thematic areas of focus and gender/SRHR integration

C. Guidance on national-level processes, accredited entities and suggested partnerships

D. Key examples, case studies and resources

Interactive breakout I: Analysing for gender responsiveness in budgeting and costed interventions

Approach: Participants should be split into groups.

Task: How can the country's climate policies and actions improve gender budgeting/investments to advance gender and SRHR in climate action? What are the key enablers? (E.g. interministerial coordination) (20 mins.) or What is the analysis of GRB or the lack of national climate finance?

Debrief: Present to plenary (40 mins.).

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Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2024. Gender and infrastructure. https://infrastructure-toolkit.oecd.org/infragov-theme/gender/

Readings/resources

1. UN Women (2020): Action Kit – Engaging Parliaments in Gender Responsive Budgeting

2. FP2030 SRH Preparedness Toolkit, 2023: Ready to Save Lives: Sexual and Reproductive Health Care in Emergencies (Toolkit)

3. Commission for Gender Equality (2021): Government's Gender Responsive Budgeting Framework

4. UNESCWA (2024): Morocco's gender-responsive budgeting tools support gender equality advancements (2002–ongoing)

5. UNFPA and UNIFEM (2006): Gender Responsive Budgeting and Women's Reproductive Rights: A Resource Pack

6. NAP Global Network and UNFCCC (2019): Toolkit for a gender-responsive process to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)

7. UNDP (2015): Gender Responsive Budgeting Handbook (Afghanistan)

8. UNDP and Global Gender and Climate Alliance (2015): Mainstreaming gender in mitigation and technology development and transfer interventions – capacity building package

9. Global Gender and Climate Alliance (2016): Gender and Climate Finance

10. Public Administration (2023): Can Gender-Responsive Budgeting Change how Governments Budget? Lessons from the Case of Ecuador

Video(s)

1. SKR Jämställdhet (2014): Sustainable Gender Equality - a film about gender mainstreaming in practice

2. Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (2019): Gender Responsive Climate Finance

D | SESSION 4D.1:
Centring youth engagement and innovation for climate action

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this module, participants will:

✓ Understand what is meant by meaningful participation of youth in climate action

✓ Learn about incorporating innovation into climate programming

✓ Explore strategies for engaging youth in climate action innovation practices and approaches

SESSION OUTLINE

TIME: 1 HOUR 30 MINUTES	
TIME	**CONTENT**

45 mins.	**Session 4D.1:** Centring youth engagement and innovation for climate action
	  A. Climate change and youth
	  B. Meaningful youth participation and innovation in climate action
	  C. UNFPA's youth engagement in climate action, innovation and community resilience (case study)

45 mins.	**Panel session:** Strengthening youth engagement in national, subnational and global climate action in the country

Climate change and youth

Climate change impacts will be most severely felt by marginalized children and adolescents, including Indigenous adolescents, refugees and disabled adolescents (UNICEF, 2022b). Direct and indirect impacts on mental health are unequally distributed (WHO, 2022) and are expected to worsen in children and adolescents, particularly girls, with increasing temperatures (IPCC, 2022a). Many young people report fears about forming families and having children due to the existential threats presented by the climate crisis (Hickman et al., 2021). Climate change is a multiplier of existing vulnerabilities, while worsening the impact on peace and security and gender inequality, especially for the people most left behind (IPCC, 2014a).

Climate-related displacement and livelihood impacts are challenging both the protection and the realization of human rights. At least 12.5 million girls in low-income and lower-middle-income countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, will each year be prevented from completing their education by 2025 due to education infrastructure affected by ongoing climate-related events (Malala Fund, 2021). Young people, including children and adolescents from sub-Saharan Africa, particularly girls, are most at risk of mental health impairment owing to increasing high temperatures, extreme weather events, climate-related economic and social losses, and anxiety over climate change. Outbreaks of waterborne diseases arising from increasing floods are also disproportionately impacting young people (IPCC, 2022b).

Young people are stepping up to the challenge of climate change. Their involvement and joint advocacy efforts are crucial in supporting the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals, the ICPD agenda, and the UN Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda,

as well as regional and continental initiatives, including the African Union's Agenda 2063 (The Africa We Want).

Climate change and youth, peace and security

Climate impacts, including drought, water and food insecurity, are risk multipliers in conflicts, exacerbating underlying vulnerabilities and inequality across countries and regions. Findings of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report acknowledged climate impacts on global peace and security (IPCC, 2014a).

UNFPA recognizes that the role of young people in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery in climate-impacted areas is crucial for building the resilience of communities. Youth organizations and networks around the world work on peacebuilding efforts to better integrate climate-related risks into their peacebuilding strategies, ensuring that adaptation measures and peacebuilding are conflict sensitive and climate resilient, respectively. Considering that 90 per cent of the world's 1.8 billion youth live in developing or conflict-affected countries where climate change is a serious risk multiplier for peace and sustainable development, it is critical that they are engaged, as they deserve a voice and a role in discussions on peace and security (International Institute for Strategic Studies and UNICEF UK, 2015).

Climate anxiety, adolescents and mental health

Young people are facing the brunt of climate change in their daily lives. A 2021 global survey shows that 75 per cent of young people around the world are frightened about their future because of climate change (Hickman et al., 2021). With the increasing negative impact of climate change across the globe, especially in frontline communities in low- and middle-income countries, it is estimated that children and young people will suffer more than 80 per cent of climate-related illnesses, injuries and deaths (Chan et al., 2021).

Increasing climate impacts are affecting the mental health of young people. A UNICEF South Africa U-Report poll shows that 64 per cent of youth surveyed have directly been affected by climate change and environmental events in the country, while 49 per cent are reconsidering starting a family due to climate change concerns (UNICEF, 2022a). Extreme climate events can also affect birth outcomes, including disrupting normal foetal development. This can place a child at increased risk of anxiety and depressive disorders as they grow older, which can sometimes be irreversible (Clayton et al., 2023).

As this is a generation that will continue to face the harsh realities of climate change in the decades ahead, it is crucial to address increasing climate anxiety, which affects the reproductive choices of youth. Young people are in need of critical climate education and green skills as part of the coping mechanisms that can help them navigate these impacts and still fulfil their potential to the best of their abilities.

Meaningful youth participation and innovation in climate action[27]

Youth participation is based on the exercise of human rights. As rights-holders, young people have the right to participate in decision-making on issues that affect them. This not only contributes to achieving the SDGs, but also aids in positive youth development. However, climate change impacts the realization of both the sustainable development and youth development agendas.

Meaningful youth participation is about sharing power in youth–adult partnerships in decision-making. It entails the "empowerment and involvement, individually or collectively, to express views, narratives and

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[27]   Adapted from UNDP, 2022.
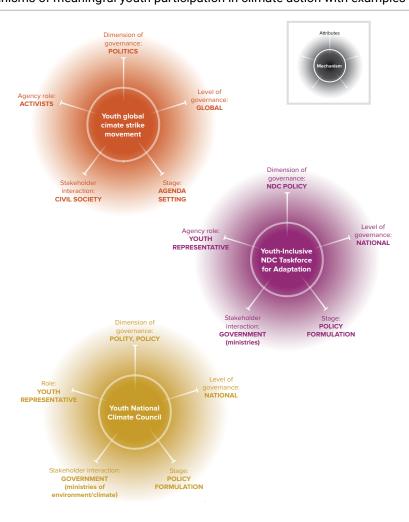
solutions in ways that are compatible with large-scale system transformations needed to achieve climate-neutral and resilient futures, overall contributing towards a sustainable society" (UNDP, 2022). In climate action, meaningful youth participation expands the space where young people can contribute, acknowledging that it should be embedded in all dimensions, cycles and levels of governance and in multi-stakeholder settings. It involves power-sharing to influence institutional responses to climate change and securing positive outcomes for youth development and climate ambition and justice. This can be enabled by systemic empowerment, which involves addressing adult-centric structures, structural inequality and systemic discrimination.

UNDP defines mechanisms of meaningful youth participation in climate change governance to include the following five attributes, as shown in Figure 18: 1) the agency roles that youth perform; 2) the dimensions of governance they want to influence; 3) the level of governance to participate in; 4) the stage of decision-making they want to participate in; and 5) stakeholder interaction.

The potential of youth agency in climate action can be maximized where youth play diverse roles, including in the government as negotiators and diplomats or as elected officials; in the private sector as entrepreneurs; and in the third sector as community builders, researchers, advocates or journalists, and formal or informal activists. In Figure 16, the respective attributes of meaningful youth participation are further highlighted with examples of three interventions: youth global climate strike movements, the Youth-Inclusive NDC Taskforce for Adaptation and the Youth National Climate Council. See the UNDP report (UNDP, 2022) for more examples and descriptions of mechanisms of meaningful youth participation.

FIGURE 16: Mechanisms of meaningful youth participation in climate action with examples

Source: UNDP, 2022

To assess meaningful youth participation, three entry points can be focused on: the process, the narratives and the outcomes of the participation. The features of meaningful youth participation are that youth can share power with adults in shaping the process of their participation, challenge the status quo that creates or reinforces the climate crises, and successfully influence institutional and political processes for positive youth development and climate justice. A holistic approach would showcase a shift from process to narrative to outcome-based assessments. There are 16 proposed indicators to assess the degree of meaningfulness of youth participation under the above-mentioned entry points, as shown in Figure 17:

FIGURE 17: Indicators for assessing the meaningful participation of youth
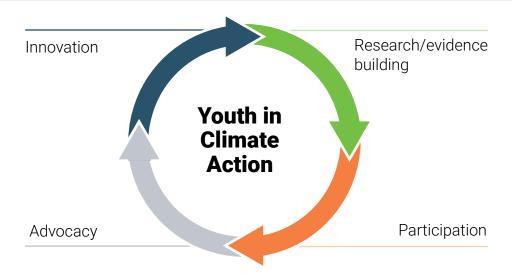
ENTRY POINT	INDICATORS FOR ASSESSING *MEANINGFUL* PARTICIPATION
PROCESS	1. Involvement of youth in decision-making and securing shared power in adult-youth partnerships 2. Institutionalization of youth participation mechanisms 3. Inclusive procedures that ensure representativeness 4. Fairness in participation to tackle barriers of structural inequality 5. Intersectionality to tackle systemic discrimination 6. Availability of and access to knowledge and financial resources for participation 7. Increased youth self-perception of agency 8. Gender sensitive and culturally sensitive youth participation mechanisms
NARRATIVE	9. Compatibility with the latest climate and earth science available with a strong climate justice lens for fair allocations of responsibilities 10. Interconnectedness of climate with other development issues 11. Disruption of current socio-technical and socio-political structures underlying climate change 12. Introduction of alternatives for large-scale system transformations
OUTCOMES	13. Binding participation with secured inclusion of youth inputs 14. Transparency of outcomes of the process 15. Positive impacts on youth wellbeing and on climate 16. Operationalization of intergenerational equity

Source: UNDP, 2022

UNFPA's youth engagement in climate action, innovation and community resilience (case study)

UNFPA explores meaningful youth engagement in climate action through approaches that include research and evidence building, participation, advocacy, and innovation.

FIGURE 18: Youth in climate action

Source: Created by authors

In research and evidence building, UNFPA engages youth as researchers and prioritizes the generation of evidence on youth-related issues, including participation and engagement. In the recent NDC review reports, young researchers contributed to reviewing their region's national climate policies for integration of SRHR and gender considerations (UNFPA, 2023e). The UNFPA research challenge entitled Climate Change XX: Women's Health in Focus supports young female researchers who are addressing the impact of climate change on women's and girls' health, with special attention given to SRHR, gender equity and inclusion in the design of climate solutions (UNFPA, 2024a).

UNFPA supports youth participation and advocacy in international climate processes through the UNFPA Joint Youth Working Group on SRHR and Climate Change (JYWG). Established in 2021, the JYWG brings together a strong network of young climate and SRHR advocates from different youth networks working on climate change, health and SRHR. The JYWG drives UNFPA's global, regional and national climate advocacy and action based on the goals of ICPD. UNFPA also maintains a strong relationship with YOUNGO, the youth constituency of UNFCCC, with which it has partnered on several fronts, including around research and critical global, regional and local Conference of Youth events. Six members of the JYWG and YOUNGO from across five regions produced a youth report after they reviewed NDCs in their regions through a youth lens. Additionally,

members of the JYWG and YOUNGO have worked with UNFPA to deliver SRHR and climate factsheets for some UNFPA country offices and have served as UNFPA-sponsored youth delegates to international climate negotiations, including COP27 and COP28.

Climate innovation and community resilience

UNFPA's vision for innovation is defined as a series of scalable solutions (both technological and non-technological) co-created with the community to accelerate achieving UNFPA's three transformative results within a resilient ecosystem. These are: i) ending preventable maternal deaths; ii) ending the unmet need for family planning; and iii) ending GBV and harmful practices by 2030. The approach to innovation outlines structured steps towards mainstreaming innovation in programmes, including building a dynamic SRHR and innovation ecosystem that ensures resilience to climate change and other megatrends while ensuring that no populations are left behind.

Innovation creates an opportunity for communities to identify new opportunities for accelerating the transformative results. Young people have been and continue to be at the centre of UNFPA's innovation work due to their creative capacities, energy, level of adoption and appreciation of digital technologies, and their sheer numbers.

UNFPA's vision for innovation is informed by the United Nations innovation principles, explained by Figure 19:

FIGURE 19: Innovation principles

Innovation Principles

The event kicked off with "Fail Faire: Learning from Risk-taking," where funds and programmes shared their experiences of innovations that did not work as intended, and the insights gained through failure. These lessons and the openness to share both failures and successes are critical for the United Nations system as it seeks to scale-up innovative approaches and partnerships in response to myriad global challenges.

Following the Fail Faire, agencies shared a set of Innovation Principles which guide the work, funders and assessment of innovation.

These principles of innovation have been endorsed by:

- Global Pulse
- SIDA
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- UN Women
- UNDP
- UNFPA
- UNHCR
- UNICEF
- UNOPS
- USAID
- WFP

"We must not forget that the people we serve must always remain at the center of everything we do. Innovation is one of the means through which we can achieve a greater impact in that mission."

- United Nations Secretary-General, **Ban Ki-Moon**

1. *Design with the User*

2. *Understand the Existing Ecosysten*

3. *Design for Scale*

4. *Build for Sustainability*

5. *Be Data Driven*

6. *Use Open Standards, Open Data, Open Source, and Open Innovation*

7. *Reuse and Improve*

8. *Do no Harm*

9. *Be Collaborative*

Source: United Nations, 2015.

Innovation plays a pivotal role in developing and implementing effective strategies for community resilience to climate change, as elaborated below.

Early warning and response systems: Innovative early warning systems leverage technology such as remote sensing, weather forecasting models and mobile communication to provide timely information about impending climate-related health risks (e.g. heatwaves, disease outbreaks). This allows communities to take proactive measures to protect health and save lives.

Climate-resilient health-care infrastructure: Innovation in health-care infrastructure, such as resilient building designs, renewable energy sources and sustainable water management, can ensure continuity of care during and after climate-related disasters.

Disease surveillance and prevention: Innovative tools for disease surveillance, such as mobile health apps, geospatial mapping and genomic sequencing, can help track and predict the spread of climate-sensitive diseases, enabling early intervention and prevention.

Climate-informed health education: Innovative health education programmes that raise awareness about climate-related health risks and promote preventive and healthy behaviours can empower individuals and communities to protect their reproductive health.

Telemedicine and digital health: Telemedicine and digital health technologies can improve access to health care in remote and underserved areas, particularly during climate-related disruptions.

Climate-resilient food systems: Innovations in agriculture and food production, such as climate-smart agriculture and sustainable fisheries, can ensure food security and nutrition, which are essential for health resilience.

UNFPA, recognizing the importance of innovation in building community resilience, supports research and development of innovative solutions, promotes knowledge sharing and capacity building, and advocates for policies that encourage innovation in climate action.

The case study below highlights an intervention being undertaken to actively engage young people to use innovation as a catalyst for change.

UNFPA's climate hacklab

In 2024, UNFPA launched the **Let's Hack Climate Change** Hacklab, which builds on UNFPA's Climate Value Proposition (UNFPA ESARO, 2021c). The hacklab is aimed at building community climate resilience improvement through direct innovation-enabled, youth-led action (UNFPA, n.d.). The hacklab is a sequel to UNFPA ESARO's climate innovation programme, which was launched in East and Southern Africa in 2021 under the flagship Safeguard Young People programme. The 2021 hacklab saw two winning solutions emerge: Agripa Maposa (Zambia) and Agens Kimweri (Tanzania). They received a combined prize package of US$5,000 seed capital and US$5,000 in business support services, including exposure to investment opportunities, business coaching, customer acquisition, and brand positioning and awareness (UNFPA, 2022b).

The 2024 hacklab initiated a climate innovation 'Hackathon' targeting young people, especially girls and young women, to identify and develop innovative ideas into (commercially) viable action/solutions. The ideas would promote SRHR and the adaptive capacity and resilience of those most vulnerable and impacted by the climate crisis. The project will ultimately build a network of innovators and a pipeline of implementation-ready innovation solutions that country offices and other partners can adopt as part of a mixed method to accelerate impact in line with the UNFPA climate change value proposition. Four participating UNFPA country offices (Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique and South Sudan) identified tailored country priority areas for the hacklab, linked to community climate resilience improvement through direct innovation-enabled youth- and women-led action. Two winners emerged from each in-country hacklab, receiving US$5,000 each in seed funds to support startup growth. All the winners from the four in-country hacklabs further participated in a final regional hacklab held during the 2024 YouthConnekt Africa Summit, where additional two final winners were identified. The winning solutions "Baaike – [Re]Designing Sustainable Mobility" (Mozambique) and "Eco-friendly 3D SRHR Education" (Kenya) received a further US$10,000 in seed funds to support startup growth.

FACILITATOR GUIDE

Panel session: Strengthening youth engagement in national, subnational and global climate action in the country

Aim: To brainstorm about national youth-led consultations in relation to the integration of SRHR, youth, peace and security, and climate security into national climate policies and related national sector policies, particularly those on social protection, gender, education, planning and health (60 mins.).

Guiding questions: Experience sharing:

- How is the country engaging youth groups?
- How should the country engage youth groups going forward?
- What is the best approach to a permanent national youth engagement mechanism?
- What is the role of innovation in climate resilience building?
- What are the opportunities for climate innovation in your

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World Health Organization, 2022. *Mental Health and Climate Change: Policy brief.* https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240045125

Readings/resources

1. UNDP (2022): Aiming Higher: Elevating Meaningful Youth Engagement for Climate Action

2. UNFPA ESARO (2022): UNFPA partners with young game-changers to build climate resilience in Africa

3. UNFPA (2021): UNFPA Climate HackLab: Identification of Youth, Climate Change and SRHR Innovators and Intermediaries in East and Southern Africa

4. The African Development Bank's Africa Climate Change Fund: https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/africa-climate-change-fund

5. The Green Climate Fund: https://www.greenclimate.fund/

6. Climate Innovation Centres: https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/e745077a58ec6a4094560d-5b40ac16d7-0350072010/original/Climate-Inno-vation-Centres.pdf

7. The African Centre for Technology Studies: https://acts-net.org/

8. Future Climate for Africa: https://futureclimateafrica.org/

9. The World Bank's Climate Change Knowledge Portal: https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/

Strengthening evidence and data systems for preparedness and emergency response

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this module, participants will:

✓ Become knowledgeable of linkages between climate change and disaster risk reduction (DRR)

✓ Understand the protection risks and SRHR vulnerabilities of women and girls during emergencies

✓ Understand the concepts and approaches for conducting gender and SRHR vulnerability assessments, including gender-disaggregated data for differentiated climate impacts

✓ Learn how to define scope and objectives, as well as use SRHR and gender vulnerability assessments to strengthen national-level evidence and inform climate initiatives

✓ Become knowledgeable about the MISP for SRH in emergencies and how to use the MISP Readiness Assessment and MISP Process Assessment data to enhance preparedness and emergency response

✓ Understand key intervention options to strengthen women's and girls' resilience to climate change through continuity of services during emergencies

SESSION OUTLINE

TIME: 5 HOURS 30 MINUTES	
TIME	**CONTENT**
30 mins	**Session 5.1:** Disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate action A. Understanding disaster risk management B. Integrating Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation
60 mins.	**Session 5.2:** Gender/SRHR vulnerability assessment of climate risks and impact C. What is vulnerability assessment? D. Vulnerability assessment approaches
60 mins.	**Session 5.3:** Continuity of services during emergencies: Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for SRH in climate crises A. MISP for SRH in climate crises B. Objectives of the MISP
60 mins.	**Panel session I:** Assessing readiness to provide MISP for SRH in emergencies in the country (MISP Readiness Assessment) **Panel session II:** Using flexible and inclusive vulnerability assessment tools to enhance the integration of SRH/HIV and GBV into humanitarian preparedness and response
60 mins.	**Session 5.4:** Enhancement of vulnerability assessment systems and tools to address climate change's impact on the SRH and GBV needs of women and girls A. Overview of the objectives of the study on harmonizing vulnerability assessments for SRHR, HIV and GBV B. Key findings and recommendations from the regional pilot vulnerability assessment study
45 mins.	**Group work:** Harmonizing country priorities and entry points for integrating SRHR, HIV and GBV into vulnerability assessment
45 mins.	**Plenary discussion:** Way forward and next steps to ensure the inclusion of SRHR and GBV in vulnerability assessment

SESSION 5.1:
Disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate action

Understanding disaster risk management

Disasters result from hazards impacting populations, either suddenly or over time (slow onset). While "natural hazards", such as earthquakes, storms, and volcanoes may trigger disasters, human actions and conditions influence their impact. The direct impacts of hazards can manifest as death, injury, and loss of safety, housing, livelihoods, as well as family disruptions, destitution, and outbreaks of epidemic diseases. Indirect impacts may include economic collapse, state failure, loss of professionals, diminished social cohesion, loss and damage to cultural assets, agricultural failure, infrastructure collapse, and reduced access to healthcare.

In a disaster event, the risks—or probability of loss— is determined by the interaction between three dimensions: exposure to hazards, vulnerability and capacity of the affected population or community to cope with or recover from climate-induced changes, and the hazard characteristics (UNDRR, 2015). This relationship, also known as the 'risk formula', is foundational for comprehensive, risk-informed policies, strategies, and plans. Determinants of exposure include factors such as geographic area affected, frequency of event, population size, and duration of the hazard. Vulnerability refers to a propensity to be harmed by the impacts of a hazardous event i.e., impacts of climate change in this context (Daze and Hunter, 2024). It is influenced by factors including individual and community characteristics, locations, livelihoods and a range of population attributes such as income, race, occupation, marital status, and education. A person's vulnerability is shaped by socio-economic factors, including elements of their identity, which may intersect and intensify the discrimination they encounter. In the context of climate change, vulnerability varies across time, space and communities, resulting in unequal impacts of climate change on individuals of different genders and social groups (Daze and Hunter, 2024).

However, factors such as preparedness, knowledge, wealth, organizational resources, and available technology influence a population's capacity to cope, respond or adapt during disasters. For instance, disaster-related deaths are four times higher among poorer populations.
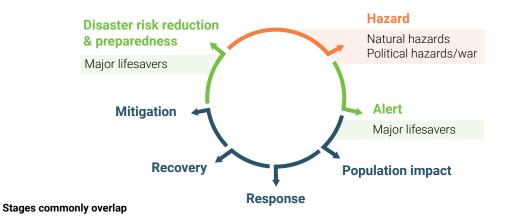
For a population to cope with the consequences of the disaster, a clear understanding of when and from whom to seek assistance is required. Historically, disasters were viewed as the domain of meteorologists, seismologists, engineers, and policymakers. However, recent trends emphasise the importance of population needs, prioritising public health, social, economic, political, and other vulnerabilities that explains the varied impacts of disaster on human populations.

Gender-based vulnerabilities such as gender inequality worsens disaster risks and impacts for women and girls. These risks are heightened by intersectional factors such as poverty, disability, displacement, living in conflict zones or remote rural areas, and belonging to a socially marginalized community. Masculinity norms may also increase risks for men and contribute to gender-based violence. Unaddressed vulnerabilities are at the core of future disasters, and therefore managing vulnerabilities is a critical aspect of the disaster risk reduction approach.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

DRR is the concept and practice of systematically managing disaster-related factors to minimise disaster risks (UNDRR, n.d). DRR involves assessing needs, targeting responses and assuring adequacy of these responses before a hazard occurs, as illustrated in Figure 20. It includes mitigating risks during recovery and preparation for future hazards towards strengthening resilience.

FIGURE 20: The disaster cycle: sequence of events

Disaster risk reduction & preparedness
Major lifesavers

Hazard
Natural hazards
Political hazards/war

Alert
Major lifesavers

Mitigation

Population impact

Recovery

Response

Stages commonly overlap

Source: John Hopkins University, Centre for Humanitarian Health

Disaster risk management, as defined by the UNDRR is "the application of disaster risk reduction policies and strategies to prevent new disaster risk, reduce existing disaster risk and manage residual risk, contributing to the strengthening of resilience and reduction of disaster losses" (Albris et al., 2020). As shown in Figure 21, the disaster risk management cycle encompasses anticipatory actions of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery to minimize the creation of new risks, reduce existing risks, and prepare for and respond to disasters (IPCC, 2012).

FIGURE 21: Disaster risk management cycle

Prevention and Mitigation

Preparedness

Rehabilitation and Recovery

Disaster Risk Management Cycle

Disaster

Response

Source: John Hopkins University, Centre for Humanitarian Health

Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and climate change adaptation

Climate change is projected to cause more frequent and intense climate and weather fluctuations. In association with rising exposure, these changes are expected to lead to greater destruction of human and environmental systems. Currently, more than 85 million people in East and Southern Africa are in need of humanitarian assistance following a mix of multi-hazards including climate change, conflicts and natural disasters (OCHA, 2024).

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) institutions and policies were initially designed for immediate responses rather than long-term strategic planning. In contrast, climate change adaptation emerged from scientific projections of potential effects resulting from climate change (Handmer and Dovers, 2013). While climate change adaptation focuses specifically on emerging issues related to climate-induced environmental hazards, disaster risk reduction encompasses a broader range of environmental hazards including those related to climate change. As climate change manifests through extreme weather events and impacts on human systems, emergency management plays a critical role in planning and preparing for new and additional extremes, as well as responding to and addressing their consequences. Risk-blinding climate adaptation considerations may result in maladaptation. Therefore, emergency management and disaster risk reduction efforts, including risk-reducing actions, are critical to effective climate change adaptation.

Integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation enhances resilience through a multi-hazard approach, reducing vulnerability at all levels. Practical advantages include broader expertise, increased access to global funding for adaptation, and the integration of a forward-looking, long-term approach into policies and practices. Entry points for integration include national and sub-national disaster risk reduction coordination platforms, comprehensive vulnerability assessments, anticipatory actions and climate financing.

Multisectoral partnership and strong political commitment are critical drivers of successful integration. A globally agreed policy on DRR is outlined in the United Nations-endorsed Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, also referred to as theSendai Framework, adopted in March 2015. The Sendai Framework aims to prevent new disaster risks and reduce existing ones through measures at the national-level that address exposure to hazards, vulnerability and capacity, and hazard characteristics (UNDRR, 2015). The four priority areas are: Understanding disaster risk; Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk; Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience; Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and 'Build Back Better' in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. Regions and countries have committed to DRR and the Sendai Framework including through the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre (SHOC), East African Community (EAC) Parliamentarian Forum on disaster risk reduction, and National Disasters Management Authorities. The SHOC coordinates regional disaster risk preparedness, response and early recovery for disaster-affected Member States and also facilitates supply chain management of equipment and supplies for SADC responders during humanitarian support (SADC, 2022). Knowledge management, south-south learning and triangular cooperation are also crucial components of integration efforts.

A gender-responsive, intersectional approach to DRR and management is necessary to understand differing risks and needs. The Sendai GAP[28], developed to promote gender equality and empower all women and girls in disaster risk reduction, prioritizes ensuring access to sexual reproductive health and rights and GBV prevention and response in disasters. However, disaster management policies and strategies often fail to integrate national climate agendas. Reactive approach to disasters, framed through short- to medium-term DRR policies and strategies, overlook long-term climate impacts. Vulnerability assessments, contingency planning and anticipatory actions do not fully integrate climate change-related data and actions or address impacts on women and girls' sexual reproductive health and rights.

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[28]   Refer to Session 1.2 (Module 1)

SESSION 5.2:
Gender/SRHR vulnerability assessment of climate risks and impact

What is vulnerability assessment?

In the humanitarian and development context, vulnerability assessments (VAs) aim to identify vulnerable populations, assess their specific needs and risks, and inform interventions to ensure protection and improve health outcomes. VAs help actors involved in preparedness and response to identify the most vulnerable among the affected and prioritize them for support. Standard VA assessments often do not incorporate an assessment of SRHR. To address the needs of women and girls affected by climate or humanitarian emergencies, we must conduct VAs with the specific intent to identify and address risks and needs related to sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence.

There are a range of VA methodologies, and these can be designed to answer specific knowledge gaps such as identifying vulnerable populations, assessing needs and risks, and informing interventions, including designing protection measures. VAs utilize various methodologies, including quantitative and qualitative methods, often combined in a mixed-methods participatory approach that involves engaging affected communities to ensure their voices are heard and their needs are accurately identified. Common VA tools include data collection tools: surveys, analytical frameworks, and mapping and profiling of people at risk.

Vulnerability assessment approaches

There are a variety of VA methods, including impact assessment, vulnerability assessment and adaptation assessment. Impact assessment is the simplest assessment, and it estimates the effect of climate change, assuming no adaptation. Vulnerability assessment analyses climate change impacts, but also accounts for 'autonomous adaptation' (i.e. what adaptations we can reasonably expect entities affected by climate change to make without formal planning). Adaptation assessment examines what can be done to anticipate the impacts of climate change and reduce vulnerability.

Steps in VA

Generally, best practice in applying a VA methodology is to follow the following five steps:

1. **Planning and preparation**: Define the scope of the assessment, including the objectives, the guiding questions and the methodology. In this stage, it is critical to identify the vulnerable groups or climate hotspots of interest; understand the factors underlying the vulnerabilities; establish the critical partnerships and key stakeholders that should be involved; and establish the appropriate team with the skill set and composition to deliver the VA, plan the assessment, and generate a consensus on the scope and terms of reference of the VA.

2. **Data collection**: Gather data using various tools and techniques, depending on the methodology agreed upon.

3. **Data analysis:** Analyse the collected data to identify key vulnerabilities and needs.

4. **Reporting and dissemination:** Document findings and share them with relevant stakeholders.

5. **Action and monitoring:** Implement recommended actions and monitor their effectiveness over time.

It is crucial for a successful assessment to ensure community involvement, collaboration and coordination with local, national and international organizations for a coordinated response. Respect for cultural and political sensitivities is important, including respect for cultural norms and practices while addressing SRH and GBV. In addition, it is critical to ensure that we explore vulnerabilities across individual, societal, subnational and national levels, and that we invest in continuous monitoring and evaluation to regularly assess the effectiveness of interventions and adapt as needed.

SESSION 5.3:
Continuity of services during emergencies: Minimum Initial Service Package for SRH in climate crises
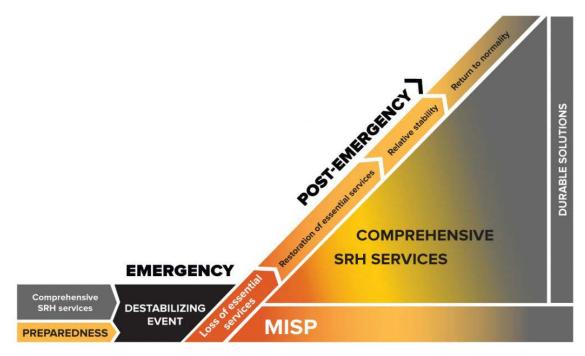
MISP for SRH in climate crises

The Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for SRH in crises is a minimum package of lifesaving activities required to respond to the SRH needs of affected populations at the onset of a humanitarian crisis.

MISP is a set of priority SRHR activities to be implemented at the onset of a crisis. The package, which includes coordination, services and supplies, defines which SRHR services are most important in saving lives, as a minimum initial response. It forms the starting point for SRHR programming in humanitarian emergencies and should be sustained and built upon with comprehensive SRHR services throughout protracted crises and recovery. MISP adheres to Sphere (*The Sphere Handbook*) standards.

FIGURE 22: MISP and the continuum of an emergency

Source: Interagency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crises, 2018.

Objectives of the MISP

According to the *Global Humanitarian Overview 2023*, climate change is a primary driver of increased humanitarian crises, exacerbating food and water insecurity, displacement, and health risks (UNOCHA, 2022).

Meeting expanded humanitarian needs will also require ensuring that SRHR interventions are included in national disaster risk reduction plans and national contingency plans, and that midwifery curricula and other relevant training materials, especially those focused on emergencies (including the MISP), incorporate climate risks and impacts, including new severity and extremes. Emergency responses should be implemented in a way that contributes to the long-term strengthening of the health system and building back better.

FIGURE 23: MISP for SRH

Minimum initial service package for sexual and reproductive health (MISP for SRH)

Prevent mortality, morbidity & disability in crisis-affected populations

1 Ensure the health sector/cluster identifies an organisation to lead the MISP

2 Prevent sexual violence and respond to the needs of survivors

3 Prevent the transmission of and reduce morbidity and mortality due to HIV and other STIs

4 Prevent excess maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality

5 Prevent unintended pregnancies

6 Plan for comprehensive SRH services integrated into primary health care as soon as possible

Other priority Ensure that safe abortion care is available, to the full extent of the law, in health centres and hospitals.

Source: Interagency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crises, 2018.

SESSION 5.4:
Enhancement of vulnerability assessment systems and tools to address climate change's impact on the SRH and GBV needs of women and girls

Climate-related hazards in the form of droughts, floods and cyclones push people into food insecurity, without access to basic health care and education, and at risk of violence and abuse. The recurrent humanitarian crises increase the risk of death, disease and loss of livelihoods among affected populations, and highlight the need to strengthen the resilience of individuals, communities and health systems to prepare for and respond to protracted and recurrent threats. The ongoing humanitarian crises left the population even more exposed to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has severely disrupted access to life-saving health interventions, in particular SRHR services.

Women and girls, including young women and adolescent girls, people living with HIV, key populations, and persons with disabilities are affected disproportionately in sudden and slow-onset emergencies and conflict and post-conflict situations, and they face multiple SRHR challenges, including GBV. While these groups face various complex and vulnerabilities, existing standard vulnerability assessment tools do not include a systematic assessment of the potential impact of humanitarian crises on the SRHR needs of women, including their heightened risk of GBV and other harmful practices. In addition, while coordination mechanisms for vulnerability response exist in some regions (for instance, the Southern African Development Community region), only a few intersectoral coordination mechanisms cover all SRHR, HIV and GBV issues. Most coordination mechanisms are for first response rather than slow-onset and ongoing humanitarian emergencies

In 2021, four regional United Nations agencies – UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO – under the joint 2gether 4SRHR Programme commissioned a study on vulnerability assessment tools for SRHR, HIV and GBV in humanitarian settings.

The study aimed at measuring forms of vulnerability and their impact on the delivery of and access to SRHR services, which can be integrated into standard approaches to vulnerability assessment to support preparedness and emergency responses. The study included a desk review assessing the different vulnerability assessment tools, a rapid assessment in five countries in the East and Southern Africa region (Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe), and the development of prototypes of harmonized vulnerability assessment tools to be piloted in the same locations.

Overview of the objectives of the study on harmonizing vulnerability assessments for SRHR, HIV and GBV

The objective of the study was to develop and test a suite of harmonized tools to strengthen the evidence-based advocacy case for strengthening SRHR, HIV and GBV in vulnerability assessment practices and coordination mechanisms. The study was conducted in five countries: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The method was highly participative, with input from a wide range of stakeholders through interviews and workshops. Activities included a document review, key informant interviews, a rapid review of current vulnerability assessment processes in the study countries, and design and testing of the tools.

The study reviewed a range of existing tools and processes for identifying SRHR, GBV and HIV vulnerabilities, but most are designed as stand-alone tools rather than seeking integration with other vulnerability assessment processes. The study also identified challenges to harmonization and integration with assessments in other sectors. It highlighted important gaps in the data collected and used, particularly information on the perspectives and priorities of the people most affected by slow-onset and sudden-onset emergencies at the local level. There are a limited number of tools and processes designed to collect information at the local level and/or for promoting participation by the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach groups, whose voices are seldom heard.

Based on these findings, a suite of harmonized tools was developed to identify vulnerabilities in SRHR, GBV and HIV in local contexts to inform standard vulnerability assessments that do not routinely integrate SRHR issues. The tools are people centred and can be used to identify the priorities of different groups who are affected by humanitarian emergencies on both the supply side and the demand side of SRHR, GBV and HIV services, with a focus on community perspectives and the most vulnerable groups.

The tools were adapted from existing Women's Refugee Commission (WRC) and WHO vulnerability assessment questionnaires, with input from the participating United Nations agencies and other regional and national stakeholders. They were designed to be flexible and adaptable to specific organizational needs and specific contexts, and can be used to complement other assessments or as a stand-alone exercise focusing on SRHR, GBV and HIV.

The tools were pilot-tested in the five study countries. Information from the pilot was used to finalize the tools. They were compiled into a handbook explaining why they are needed, what they can do, and how they can be used for identifying vulnerabilities and informing work on strengthening community resilience.

The study used a multi-stakeholder participatory process, first reviewing existing vulnerability assessment processes and tools for SRHR, GBV and HIV through a series of stakeholder consultations. It also reviewed existing data sources and performed a rapid assessment of the humanitarian coordination mechanisms in the five countries. A prototype assessment tool was then developed, and a series of pilots were conducted, followed by a validation workshop.

Key findings and recommendations from the regional pilot vulnerability assessment study

A challenge for the integration of SRHR, HIV and GBV into vulnerability assessments is that existing tools are based on supply-side analysis, with limited incorporation of user or community perspectives. Qualitative data and information on community perceptions and priorities, which are essential for

vulnerability assessment and humanitarian response in SRHR, GBV and HIV, are less available. Although some general data (e.g. on preferences and obstacles to the use of services) apply to different situations, most information on community and user perspectives and priorities is location specific, crisis specific and group specific.

In summary, the study highlights key recommendations for the development and application of tools to assess the impact of humanitarian and climate change impacts on women and girls. These are outlined below.

Align efforts with common priorities among national stakeholders.

- Leverage common priorities such as GBV, HIV, maternal mortality, adolescent girls and young women, and cross-border issues to promote collaborative initiatives.
- Establish joint task forces or working groups to address these common themes.

Catalyse existing structures for enhanced coordination.

- Utilise existing vulnerability assessment structures and coordination mechanisms between agencies and governments to streamline efforts and avoid duplication.
- Strengthen interagency collaboration to improve data sharing, resource allocation and joint response strategies.

Link the MISP Readiness Assessment with vulnerability assessments.

- Integrate the Minimum Initial Service Package readiness assessment into vulnerability assessments for slow-onset humanitarian crises.
- Ensure that MISP readiness is considered in preparedness planning and response efforts.

Prioritise preparedness actions and appropriate funding allocations.

Promote the importance of reducing vulnerabilities to mitigate the impact of frequent humanitarian crises.

Foster community involvement and local solutions.

- Encourage greater community involvement in defining needs and priorities for humanitarian responses.
- Support the development and implementation of local solutions for adaptation and resilience building.

Apply lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Adapt lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, such as the need for resilient service provision, robust supply chains and community-based solutions, to vulnerability assessments.
- Promote flexible and adaptable service delivery models to ensure continuity of care during crises.

Promote holistic and sustainable solutions.

- Advocate for holistic approaches that integrate SRHR, GBV and HIV with other sectors in humanitarian response.

- Encourage sustainable solutions that address the root causes of vulnerabilities and build long-term resilience.

Support regional initiatives for country-level action.

- Facilitate South-South cooperation to share best practices, resources and expertise across countries.
- Provide capacity-building and technical support to enhance country-level action on SRHR, GBV and HIV integration.
- Focus on addressing cross-border issues through coordinated regional efforts.

By implementing these recommendations, stakeholders can effectively integrate SRHR, GBV and HIV into vulnerability assessments, address sensitive issues, and enhance the overall humanitarian response to emerging crises.

FACILITATOR GUIDE

Panel session I: Assessing readiness to provide MISP for SRH in emergencies in the country (MISP Readiness Assessment)

Panellists:

Ministry of Health (Disaster Unit), Ministry of Gender, National Disaster Operations Centre, National Council for Population and Development, Subnational governments, First responder organization (e.g. Red Cross), Research institute.

Aim: Deep dive into the progress of implementation of the country's MISP Readiness Assessment action plan (if applicable) (30 mins.)

Guiding questions:

- What are the policy gaps in addressing SRH and GBV during emergencies in the country? How can they be alleviated?
- What are the main coordination challenges that limit the focus on GBV and SRH during emergencies in the country? How can they be addressed?
- What gaps exist in the provision of SRH and GBV services during emergencies in the country?
- What are the data and information gaps that require addressing to strengthen the provision of SRH and GBV services in emergencies in the country?
- How can the country strengthen sustained access to SRH and GBV services for 'leave no one behind'/vulnerable groups during emergencies?
- How can the country strengthen community-level resilience to sustain access to SRH and GBV services during emergencies?

Panel session II: Using flexible and inclusive vulnerability assessment tools to enhance the integration of SRH/HIV and GBV into humanitarian preparedness and response

Aim: To discuss the use of flexible and inclusive VA tools to enhance the integration of SRH, HIV and GBV into humanitarian preparedness and response (30 mins.)

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Guiding questions:

- Explain the coordination mechanism in operation in preparation for a crisis. What is the key focus?
- Are the current VA tools addressing the climate impact on the SRH/GBV-related needs of women and girls?
- What is the scope of VA analysis? What are the challenges in progress, gaps and challenges?
- What are the tools usually used for integrating SRHR into VA, and what are the challenges in the harmonisation of the VA tools?

Group work: Harmonising country priorities and entry points for integrating SRHR, HIV and GBV into vulnerability assessment

Approach: Participants should be split into groups.

Task: Identify the feasibility and opportunities for conducting the VA, and develop a road map using these guiding sub-themes (30 mins.).

Part A:

- Type of climate risks
  - What are the different climate risks?
- Population of interest
  - How do climate risks affect different population groups?
- Outcomes of interest
  - How are issues of gender equality, SRHR and GBV reflected in the current climate action policy framework and institutional arrangements?
  - Where are the main gaps in implementing gender-responsive climate action? Who is left behind? Which voices need to be amplified?
  - What is the institutional capacity of the health sector and other sectors to manage the risks of climate-sensitive SRH and GBV outcomes?
- Purpose
  - What is the country's commitment to global climate action processes, and how have gender equality, SRHR and GBV been articulated in NDCs?

- Where are the gaps?
  - What are the gaps in data/information? What are the secondary data sources? What information is missing, and is it key to understanding action?

Part B: Getting organized – Identify the team and key stakeholders, and identify roles and responsibilities.

- Considerations for team composition
- Skills needed in the team
- Identification of stakeholders: Who can contribute to the assessment and in which way? Can you acquire strategic resources (time, money, expertise, etc.) by cooperation?
- Stakeholder engagement: Establish a process for gathering and incorporating stakeholder input into the design and implementation.

Plan the assessment – Identify data sources, decide the type of VA, develop the VA implementation plan and resources, and identify the vulnerability/ geographical area.

- Create an implementation plan: human and technical resources, timeline, budget.
- Identify guiding questions: Outline the questions to be addressed, informed by research and policy needs and defined together with ministries or local authorities.
- Decide the type of VA: qualitative and/or quantitative.
- Decide the research/analysis plan: workplan and methods.
- Understand the considerations for a human rights–based approach in the VA: meaningful, inclusive and equitable community engagement at all stages of the vulnerability and adaptation assessments, including partners from across sectors and disciplines in framing the VA.

Debrief: Present to plenary (15 mins.).

Plenary discussion: Way forward and next steps to ensure the inclusion of SRHR and GBV in vulnerability assessment

Aim: To discuss the way forward to ensure SRHR and GBV integration in VA (60 mins.)

Guiding questions:

- What are the challenges?
- What are the opportunities?
- Who are the key stakeholders?
- Share practical recommendations.

or

- Before and during the most recent crises (flooding, drought), were any VAs implemented to help identify populations/systems most likely to be left behind?

- What are some of the entry points/opportunities for the government and partners to conduct SRH/GBV vulnerability assessments or integrate SRH/GBV into existing VAs?

- VAs require a multisectoral/partnership approach; which partners/stakeholders are best positioned to lead/coordinate VAs that consider SRH and GBV vulnerabilities?

- What are some of the enablers and challenges for integrating SRH and GBV into VAs at county and national levels?

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United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015. *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.* https://www.undrr.org/media/16176/download

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2022. *Global Humanitarian Overview 2023.* ICVA. https://www.icvanetwork.org/resource/global-humanitarian-overview-2023/

Readings/resources

1. UNFPA (2024): Disaster displacements disproportionately impact women, girls in fragile contexts
2. UNDRR (2023): Budget tagging for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation: Guide for design and taxonomy
3. International Planned Parenthood Federation (2020): MISP Readiness Assessment
4. Interagency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crises (2018): Interagency field manual on reproductive health in humanitarian settings

Gender, SRHR, GBV and harmful practices in national climate policies

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this module, participants will:

✔ Understand how SRHR, GBV and HP are currently reflected in NDCs and NAPs

✔ Identify gaps in the integration of SRHR, GBV and HP measures into NDCs and NAPs

✔ Brainstorm about approaches to influence and support the integration of SRHR, GBV and HP measures into NDCs and NAPs

✔ Discuss challenges and recommendations to successfully engage in national climate policy processes to integrate SRHR, GBV and HP measures into NDCs and NAPs

✔ Develop a climate change, gender and SRHR action plan

SESSION OUTLINE

TIME: 3 HOURS 30 MINUTES	
TIME	**CONTENT**
30 mins.	**Session 6.1:** Gender, SRHR, GBV and harmful practices in national climate policies **A.** What are NDCs and NAPs? (Recap) **B.** Gender, SRHR, GBV and HP in NDCs/NAPs
30 mins.	**Session 6.2:** The country's national environment/climate policies
45 mins.	**Interactive breakout I:** Advocating for gender, SRHR, GBV and HP integration in the country's national climate policies
45 mins.	**Panel session:** Engaging with national climate policies: NDC, NAP and ccGAP
90 mins	**Final Action Plan**: Priority setting for integrating SRHR and gender into national climate plans, strategies, policies, partnerships and actions

SESSION 6.1:
Gender, SRHR, GBV and harmful practices in national climate policies

What are NDCs and NAPs? (Recap)[29]

Nationally determined contributions (NDCs): The NDCs are instruments adopted under the Paris Agreement through which countries communicate short- to medium-term plans of reducing greenhouse gas emissions (including a quantified target), addressing climate change impacts and building resilience. NDCs are expected to have sufficient climate adaptation and mitigation components in the mandatory reporting to ensure a comprehensive approach towards climate action. A country's Ministry of Environment usually leads the processes and development of the NDCs. The first-generation NDCs, then referred to as intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs), were submitted in the lead-up to COP21 in Paris in 2015. To date, 195 parties to the Paris Agreement have submitted 168 NDCs, including new or updated versions (UNFCCC, 2024a) that are ideally more ambitious than the first or previously submitted NDCs, with plans for monitoring and evaluation. The next generation of NDCs, the third cycle, is due for submission in 2025.

National Adaptation Plans (NAPs): NAPs were established at COP16 in 2010 as part of the Cancun Adaptation Framework to identify and address the medium- and long-term adaptation needs and strategies of countries. The NAPs are voluntary documents with no defined timeline or mandated submissions. So far, only 49 countries have submitted a NAP to the UNFCCC (UNFCCC, 2023). Least developed countries were previously supported through the National Adaptation Plan of Action. NAPs are often aligned with and mainstreamed in the NDC, with more detailed and longer periods of research and assessment. In countries where adaptation is integrated into the NDC, it must be harmonised with the NAP process to prevent redundancy and ensure unified execution. While the NDC serves as a country's commitment and may highlight adaptation objectives (the 'what'), the NAP process is a domestic planning mechanism that can detail 'how' NDC adaptation objectives can be implemented (Adaptationcommunity.net, 2024).

Gender, SRHR, GBV and HP in NDCs/NAPs

Gender, SRHR, GBV and HP in NDCs

NDCs play a crucial role in guiding how countries tackle climate change, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing the resilience of people and communities to adapt to climate impacts. However, crucial elements of sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence and other harmful practices have not been comprehensively addressed in the NDCs. A 2016 analysis by the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) of the first versions of NDCs – known as INDCs – submitted by countries found that only 64 out of the 190 analysed INDCs included a reference to women or gender (WEDO, 2016). The analysis concluded that the INDCs submitted up until 2016 did not fully commit to integrating gender-related matters. WHO assessed the health components of NDCs, revealing that, as of 2019, 70 per cent of INDCs included health considerations in their plans (WHO, 2020); more recently, in new and updated NDC versions and as of 2022, 91 per cent of countries included health considerations (WHO, 2023d). In 2020, WEDO examined gender integration and implementation in the NDCs and its processes for 196 countries, finding that 51 were actively engaged in integrating gender into the NDCs (WEDO, 2020).
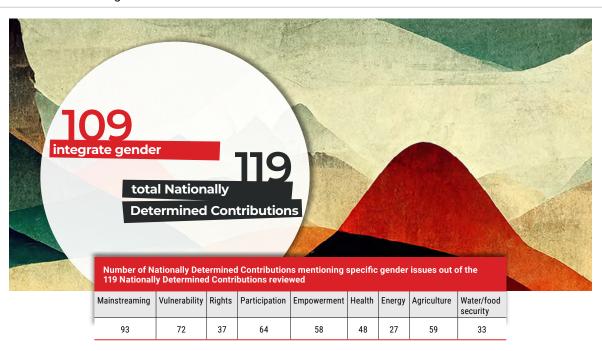
A more recent study by UNFPA and Queen Mary University of London, *Taking Stock: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Climate Commitment: A Global Review* (UNFPA, 2023e), reviewed 119 NDCs submitted between 2020 and August 2022 for gender considerations. The review included countries from five regions – 19 from East and Southern Africa, 22 from West and Central Africa, 15 from the Arab States, 25 from Asia and the Pacific, 26 from Latin America and the Caribbean, and 12 from Eastern Europe and Central Asia – to represent a range of geographic, socioeconomic and cultural factors. The study analysed areas of relevance for SRHR, exploring references to themes directly related to SRHR: gender equality, health,

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[29]   Refer to Module 1.

population dynamics, human rights, participation and considerations for vulnerable groups. The majority of NDCs reviewed (109 NDCs or 92 per cent) include references to gender (see Figure 24). Every NDC from Latin America, the Caribbean, and East and Southern Africa contain at least one reference to gender. In comparison, only 10 out of 15 NDCs reviewed in the Arab States include such references. The NDCs were evaluated against key gender-related references such as mainstreaming, vulnerability, participation, empowerment, agriculture, health, rights, water and food security, and energy.

Even when national climate documents include gender dimensions, they often lack specific adaptation actions and the necessary resources and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure effective implementation. The review highlighted significant gaps in the integration of SRHR and GBV issues into national climate policies, as well as in the identification of climate action approaches that are transformative, to address the root causes of gender inequalities in different contexts.

FIGURE 24: Inclusion of gender-related thematic areas in NDCs

109 integrate gender

119 total Nationally Determined Contributions

Number of Nationally Determined Contributions mentioning specific gender issues out of the 119 Nationally Determined Contributions reviewed

Mainstreaming	Vulnerability	Rights	Participation	Empowerment	Health	Energy	Agriculture	Water/food security
93	72	37	64	58	48	27	59	33

Source: UNFPA, 2023e.

Across NDCs, the most frequent references to aspects of SRHR are to maternal and newborn health and GBV. Thirty-eight of 119 countries have integrated sexual and reproductive health and rights into national climate plans. Of those, 23 referenced maternal and newborn health and 15 referenced gender-based violence. Many countries recognize the direct and indirect impact of climate change on maternal and newborn health. For example, heat exposure and malnutrition can increase infant and maternal mortality (South Sudan) and pose risks to pregnant women and those in the process of

menopause (Côte d'Ivoire). Other countries outlined the need to build climate-resilient health systems that can respond to extreme weather events (Paraguay) and improve maternal and newborn health outcomes (Seychelles, Benin). Some countries outlined climate adaptation measures to improve food security and health information. The Lao People's Democratic Republic included reproductive health awareness in its water, sanitation and hygiene community campaigns, while Tunisia targeted its food security strategy towards women of reproductive age.

Nine countries described policies or interventions to address the increase in the incidence of **gender-based violence** in the context of climate change (the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Sierra Leone, Comoros, Seychelles, Costa Rica, Jordan, Tunisia and Guinea).

There were also significant omissions: Only one country (Dominica) highlighted **contraception**, despite widespread evidence of disruptions to family planning services during climate-related disasters. There is only one reference to harmful practices, and this is specifically on early marriage. Only one country (Vietnam) highlighted the heightened prevalence of **child marriage** as a means to reduce economic burden during humanitarian and climate crises. There is no mention of safe abortion.

FIGURE 25: SRHR considerations in NDCs

38 countries integrate sexual and reproductive health and rights

119 total Nationally Determined Contributions

Number of Nationally Determined Contributions mentioning specific sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence and harmful practices issues out of the 119 Nationally Determined Contributions reviewed

Maternal and newborn health	Family planning and contraception	Abortion and post-abortion care	Menstruation and menstrual hygiene	Gender-based violence	Adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health and rights	Early, forced child marriage	HIV and AIDS and sexually transmitted infections	Sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics	Sexual and reproductive health and rights information and awareness
23	4	0	1	15	2	1	3	3	4

Source: UNFPA, 2023e.

Gender, SRHR, GBV and HP in NAPs

Another review recently published by the NAP Global Network and Women Deliver assessed how SRHR has been integrated into NAPs. The review found that almost half of the NAPs reviewed contained no references to SRHR, with only 10 NAPs containing any specific references to the components of SRHR. Among those that referenced SRHR, vulnerabilities related to pregnancy and infant care were the most common issues mentioned (NAP Global Network and Women Deliver, 2020). Gender-based violence was mentioned in four of the NAPs. Similarly, most of the NAPs that referenced gender were in relation to health. Four NAP documents identified women as a target group for adaptation actions in the health sector. For example, the health-related adaptation actions in Fiji's NAP included efforts to build climate-resilient health facilities and target women, people living in rural areas, and low-income and disadvantaged groups. However, in sector-specific NAPs focusing on health, gender was not mentioned. In Zambia, the gender imbalance in adaptation planning processes was highlighted as a challenge.

UNFPA ESARO has prepared a guidance note, *Taking Action: Integrating SRHR, GBV, Harmful Practices and Related Themes into National Climate Policies* (UNFPA, 2025b), to support national stakeholders and influence the integration of SRHR, GBV and HP consideration into existing and new national climate policies. It outlines strategies, including the following:

1. Appoint national gender and climate change focal points.

2. Develop a national Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP).

3. Develop a national health sector and climate change strategy/plan.

4. Hold relevant national consultations with key government ministries.

5. Ensure gender, SRHR, GBV and HP components of the national climate policies include clear budget and indicators.

National gender and climate change focal points

Following the agreed commitments in the enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan (UNFCCC, 2019), approximately 110 countries have designated national gender and climate change focal points. The role of the focal points (UNFCCC, 2024b) is to monitor and implement climate negotiations on matters concerning the intersection of climate change and gender. The number of focal points has increased from 38 in 2017 to over 140 in 2024 (UNFCCC, 2024c).

National Climate Change Gender Action Plan

At the national level, countries are creating national ccGAPs to promote the integration, reporting and monitoring of gender-responsive approaches to climate action within their national climate policies and actions. Developing a ccGAP can link national climate and gender policies with global policies towards gender-responsive climate actions. These plans are voluntary, and currently at least 23 countries, including a few African countries, have created a national ccGAP (WEDO, 2024).

FIGURE 26: Steps towards the development of a ccGAP

Take stock	Level the playing field	Capture diverse voices	Prioritize and put into action
• Analysis of country's legislative and policy framework and institutional initiatives on gender and climate change • Mapping of stakeholders • Interviews with key stakeholders and potential champions • Assessment of technical capacities	• Training for women and women's organizations • Establishment of women's priorities in relation to gender and climate change	• Multi-stakeholder workshop(s) with government, civil society, international institutions, academia, etc. • Assessment of gender and climate change in-country, and development of action steps across priority sectors	• Creation of action plan by national team designated by multi-stakeholder workshop • Validation process with government staff • Monitoring of implementation through progress reports and course corrections

Source: IUCN, 2012.

FACILITATOR GUIDE

Session 6.2: The country's national environment/climate policies

A government stakeholder representative will share a presentation on the country's NDC update plans focused on the following:

A. Highlighting key focus areas of the country's national environment/climate policies (NDC, NAP and GAP, where present)

B. Understanding the processes, procedures and plans for the next NDC update

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Interactive breakout I: Advocating for gender, SRHR, GBV and HP integration in the country's national climate policies

Approach: Participants should be split into groups.

Task (Option I): How are issues of gender equality, SRH and GBV reflected in the NDC? (30 mins.)

- Are there gaps?
- What are the gaps in gender, SRHR, GBV and HP considerations in the national climate policies?
- What are strategies to advocate for gender, SRHR, GBV and HP considerations in the next cycle of national climate commitments?
- What engagement opportunities can the government provide as entry points to incorporate/advance SRHR, GBV and HP?

Option II: Brainstorm about enhancing NDCs with gender, SRHR, GBV and HP considerations.

- Does the NDC capture the realities of climate change in your country?
- Does the NDC address the needs of women and youths?
- Do you have examples of impact and case studies? Highlight examples in the country or communities that show the impacts that should be reflected in the NDC.
- How were young people referenced and engaged in the NDC update process or not?
- Are issues of SRHR, GBV and HP well reflected and budgeted?
- Is the budget conditional or unconditional?

Debrief: Present to plenary (15 mins.).

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Sample reporting template for analysis of SRHR/gender integrations in the NDC/NAP:

SRHR/ GENDER AREA OF INTEREST	ANALYSIS/ DIAGNOSIS	POLICY ACTION IN RESPONSE TO IDENTIFIED SRHR/GENDER ISSUES	PERFORMANCE/IMPACT INDICATORS OR OUTCOMES
GBV	No mention of GBV response in NAP	Support integration of climate-induced or exacerbated GBV impact and response measures in next cycle of NDC	Availability of GBV considerations in national climate policies

Panel session: Engaging with national climate policies: NDC, NAP and ccGAP

Aim: To discuss entry points and how to engage in the process of developing/updating the NDCs to ensure that they robustly integrate SRHR and related thematic areas, including gender, health, human rights, migration, youth, peace and climate security (45 mins.)

Guiding questions:

- How can these intersections be better reflected in the next NDC, NAP or GAP?
- How can stakeholders in the country be mobilized around this agenda?
- What are potential entry points for successful engagement? How can the government be held accountable for commitments?
- What could pose barriers to successful engagement?

Final action plan: Priority setting for integrating SRHR and gender into national climate plans, strategies, policies and actions

The modules and research discussed throughout this manual have shed light on the current global situation of integrating SRHR and gender into climate commitments. They highlighted the need to strengthen the inclusion of SRHR and gender dimensions in national climate change policies and to provide insights to inform future research in this area. Realization of SRHR helps build resilience and adaptive capacity for climate change while reducing inequality and enabling justice. As climate change and its disproportionate impact on women and girls continue, there is not enough targeted action to address this vulnerability – especially for those who are the most marginalized.

It is crucial to strengthen national research and assessment capacity to monitor the impact of climate change on women and girls and to identify a road map for action to enhance the capacity of stakeholders to ensure the integration of SRHR/gender issues into national climate policies. With the third cycle of NDCs due for submission in 2025, the update window provides an opportunity for stakeholders to engage with climate policy regarding how the global adaptation agenda can integrate SRHR and gender into the delivery of climate adaptation and resilience-building solutions, especially for vulnerable people.

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1. UNFCCC (2024): NDC Registry
2. UNFCCC (2024): National Adaptation Plans
3. UNFPA (2024): Taking Stock: Sexual and Reproductive and Health and Rights in Climate Commitments: An East and Southern Africa Review
4. UNFPA (2024): Taking Stock: Sexual and Reproductive and Health and Rights in Climate Commitments: An Arab States Review
5. UNFPA (2024): Taking Stock: Sexual and Reproductive and Health and Rights in Climate Commitments: An Asia and the Pacific Review

6. UNFPA (2024): Taking Stock: Sexual and Reproductive and Health and Rights in Climate Commitments: A Latin America and the Caribbean Review

7. UNFPA (2024): Taking Stock: Sexual and Reproductive and Health and Rights in Climate Commitments: A West and Central Africa Review

8. UNFPA (2024): Taking Stock: Sexual and Reproductive and Health and Rights in Climate Commitments: An Eastern Europe and Central Asia Review Summary

9. UNFPA (2023): Taking Stock: Sexual and Reproductive and Health and Rights in Climate Commitments – A Global Review

10. UNDP (2023): What is climate finance and why do we need more of it?

11. NAP Global Network and Women Deliver (2020). Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Processes: Exploring a pathway for realizing rights and resilience to climate change.

12. GCF (2020): GCF Programming Manual: An introduction to the Green Climate Fund project cycle and project development tools for full-size projects

13. World Resources Institute and UNDP (2019): Enhancing NDCs: A Guide to Strengthening National Climate Plans by 2020

14. GCF: GCF Project Activity Cycle

Video(s)

1. Green Climate Fund (2023): Delivering climate action results for people and planet

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1:
Basic gender-related concepts[30, 31, 32, 33]

Sex refers to biologically defined characteristics that generally define humans as female or male. These are mainly based on genetics, anatomy, physiology and reproductive capabilities.

Gender refers to a socially constructed set of roles and responsibilities associated with being a girl/woman and boy/man, and in some cultures, a third or other gender. Gender refers not to male and female, but to masculine and feminine – that is, the qualities or characteristics that society ascribes to each sex (social or cultural distinctions of behaviours that are considered male or female). People are born female or male or intersex but learn to be women or men or non-binary (i.e. people who do not identify within the woman–man gender binary). Gender can include the economic, social, political and cultural attributes and opportunities associated with certain groups of people with reference to their sex and sexuality.

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[30]   Adapted from Chauhan, 2021.
[31]   Adapted from UNICEF, 2021.
[32]   Adapted from UNFPA, 2023d.
[33]   Adapted from UNFPA, 2023b.

Gender stereotyping means ascribing certain attributes, characteristics and roles to people based on their gender. Gender stereotypes can be negative (e.g. women are bad drivers, men cannot change diapers) and benign (e.g. women are better caregivers, men are stronger). Gender stereotyping becomes harmful when it constrains individuals' life choices, whether in terms of their career paths or their future plans.

Gender bias is the tendency to make decisions or take actions based on preconceived notions of capability according to gender. Often, 'male norms' are accepted as the standard for analysis and decision-making.

Gender discrimination is any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex, with the purpose or effect of impairing or nullifying a person's recognition, enjoyment or exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field, as it concerns the equality of men and women.

Gender equality is the concept that women and men, girls and boys, and gender non-binary people have equal conditions, treatment and opportunities for realising their full potential, human rights and dignity, and for contributing to (and benefitting from) economic, social, cultural and political development. It involves equal distribution of power, resources and opportunities among genders and entails all human beings having the freedom to develop their abilities, express their voice, and make choices without limitations set by stereotypes, rigid gender roles or prejudices. Gender equality is, therefore, the equal valuing by society of the similarities and the differences of men and women, and the roles they play.

Gender equity is the process of being fair to men and women, boys and girls, and it importantly focuses on the equality of outcomes and results. It may involve temporary special measures to compensate for historical or systemic bias or discrimination.

Gender parity focuses on numerical equality between men and women, girls and boys. It focuses on the proportion of females to males (or males to females, in some cases).

Gender norms are the accepted attributes and characteristics of male and female gender identity within a specific society or community at a particular time. They represent the standards and expectations to which gender identity generally conforms, within the defined range of a particular society, culture and community at that point in time. Gender norms are ideas and beliefs about how men and women should behave and act. Internalised early in life, gender norms can set the stage for a lifetime of gender socialisation and stereotyping.

Intersectionality, a term first coined by Professor Kimberlé Crenshaw in 1989, describes the ways that systems and structures of power and oppression interact with social categories and axes of identity to produce particular social realities for people. This concept acknowledges that individuals have multiple identities and encounter distinct challenges at the intersections of those identities. For instance, a young black Muslim migrant girl with a disability living in a rural community experiences the intersection of multiple identities of age, race, religion, immigration status, gender, disability and residence. As such, an intersectional approach considers how categories such as gender, class, sexuality, ability, race and so on come together, overlap and can result in privilege or oppression.

Masculinities refer to a set of behaviours and practices shaped by social encounters, varying based on cultural context and historical period, often associated with men. Positive masculinities, in contrast to harmful masculinities, support healthy and non-discriminatory behaviours and societies that advance gender equality, as well as the agency and rights of women and girls.

ANNEX II:
Sample five-day module agenda (brief version)

	DAY 1
Morning	**Module 0:** Introduction to Training Workshop **Module 1:** Impact of Climate Change on People and the Planet
Afternoon	**Module 1:** Impact of Climate Change on People and the Planet (continued)
	DAY 2
Morning	**Module 2:** Resilience-Building for Health Sector Response
Afternoon	**Module 3:** Resilience-Building for Protection Systems – Intersection of GBV, Harmful Practices, and Climate Change
	DAY 3
Morning and afternoon	**Module 4:** Resilience-Building at the Community Level **Part 4A:** *Gender-Transformative Approach (GTA) and Climate Change Adaptation* **Part 4B:** *Gender-Transformative Climate Change Adaptation in Practice – A Case Study of Integrating Climate Adaptation and SRHR through Comprehensive Sexuality Education (Masterclass)* **Part 4C:** *Gender-Responsive Budgeting for Climate Action and Finance* **Part 4D:** *Centring Youth Engagement and Innovation for Climate Action*
	DAY 4
Morning and afternoon	**Module 5:** Strengthening Evidence and Data Systems for Preparedness and Emergency Response
	DAY 5
Morning	**Module 6:** Gender, SRHR, GBV and Harmful Practices in National Climate Policies
Afternoon	**Final Action Plan:** Priority Setting for Integrating SRHR and Gender Integration in National Climate Plans, Strategies, Policies and Actions

ANNEX III:
Sample five-day module agenda (expanded version)

	DAY 1
Morning	**Module 0:** Introduction to Training Workshop **Module 1:** Impact of Climate Change on People and the Planet • **Session 1.1:** Understanding Climate Change: Impacts and Approaches in International Climate Policy
Afternoon	• **Session 1.2:** Climate Change and Its Disproportionate Impact on Women and Girls • **Session 1.3:** Climate Change's Impact on Women and Girls in the Country

	DAY 2
Morning	**Module 2:** Resilience Building for Health Sector Response • **Session 2.1:** Understanding the WHO Operational Framework for Building Climate-Resilient and Low-Carbon Health Systems • **Session 2.2:** Strengthening Health Systems for Maternal Health: A Case Study on Bangladesh (Masterclass) • **Session 2.3:** Climate Change's Impact on Maternal Health in the Country
Afternoon	**Module 3:** Resilience Building for Protection Systems – Intersection of GBV, Harmful Practices and Climate Change • **Session 3.1:** Climate-Resilient Protection Systems • **Session 3.2:** Climate-Resilient Protection Systems and Mechanisms – Good Practices and Lessons Learned
	DAY 3
Morning and afternoon	**Module 4:** Resilience Building at the Community Level *Part 4A: Gender-Transformative Approach (GTA) and Climate Change Adaptation* • **Session 4A.1:** Gender-Transformative Approaches (GTA) and Climate Change Adaptation • **Session 4A.2:** Gendering Climate Adaptation in the Country *Part 4B: Gender-Transformative Climate Change Adaptation in Practice – A Case Study of Integrating Climate Adaptation and SRHR through Comprehensive Sexuality Education (Masterclass)* • **Session 4B.1:** Climate Change Adaptation and SRHR through CSE *Part 4C: Gender-Responsive Budgeting for Climate Action and Finance* • **Session 4C.1**: GRB and Its Relevance to Climate Finance and Action • **Session 4C.2**: Accessing Climate Finance for National Action • **Session 4C.3**: Preparing Winning Climate Action Proposals with a Leading Global Climate Finance Provider (Masterclass) *Part 4D: Centring Youth Engagement and Innovation for Climate Action* • **Session 4D.1:** Centring Youth Engagement and Innovation for Climate Action
	DAY 4
Morning	**Module 5:** Strengthening Evidence and Data Systems for Preparedness and Emergency Response • **Session 5.1:** Gender/SRHR Vulnerability Assessment of Climate Risks and Impact • **Session 5.2:** Continuity of Services during Emergencies – Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for SRH in Crises • **Session 5.3**: Enhancement of VA Systems and Tools to Address Climate Change's Impact on the SRH and GBV Needs of Women and Girls
	DAY 5
Morning	Module 6: Gender, SRHR, GBV and Harmful Practices in National Climate Policies • **Session 6.1:** Gender, SRHR, GBV and Harmful Practices in National Climate Policies • **Session 6.2:** The Country's National Environment/Climate Policies
Afternoon	• **Final Action Plan**: Priority Setting for Integrating SRHR and Gender into National Climate Plans, Strategies, Policies and Actions

ANNEX IV:
Sample ground principles/team agreement

1. 'Be here': Encourage participants to dedicate their undivided attention to the workshop.

2. Place mobile phones and other electronic devices on silent.

3. Encourage the participation of all attendees.

4. 'Share the air': Encourage participants to take responsibility for ensuring that everyone contributes their thoughts and ideas.

5. Focus less on being right: Encourage participants to give their ideas a chance.

6. No judging: Participants should refrain from judging others or their ideas. Instead, use phrases such as 'build on stated ideas', 'alternatives to the stated ideas', or 'what if…'

7. Capture it: Encourage participants to capture and share their thoughts and ideas using sticky notes, flip charts, PowerPoint or their daily notes.

8. Be respectful!

ANNEX V:
Sample quiz: Pre-training knowledge test

1. What is the primary focus of realizing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in the context of climate change?
   Check all that apply.

   A. Reducing birth rates
   B. Reducing inequalities and increasing resilience to climate change
   C. Increasing population growth
   D. Promoting migration to safer areas

2. Which approach is advocated for integrating SRHR and climate change?
   Check all that apply.

   A. A population control approach
   B. A human rights-based approach
   C. A demographic-centric approach
   D. An economic development approach

3. What is the relationship between climate-related disasters and education disruption for girls?
   Mark only one oval.

   A. Education is enhanced during disasters
   B. There is no impact on education
   C. Disruption of education leads to increases in child marriage
   D. Disasters improve school attendance rate

4. What does the ICPD Programme of Action emphasize for securing a better future?
   Check all that apply.

   A. Controlling birth rates
   B. Increasing population growth
   C. Increasing access to health and education, and greater human rights for women
   D. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through industrial growth

5. What is the main driver of climate change?
   Check all that apply.

   A. Population growth in developing countries
   B. Emission of greenhouse gases
   C. High fertility rates
   D. Overpopulation in rural areas