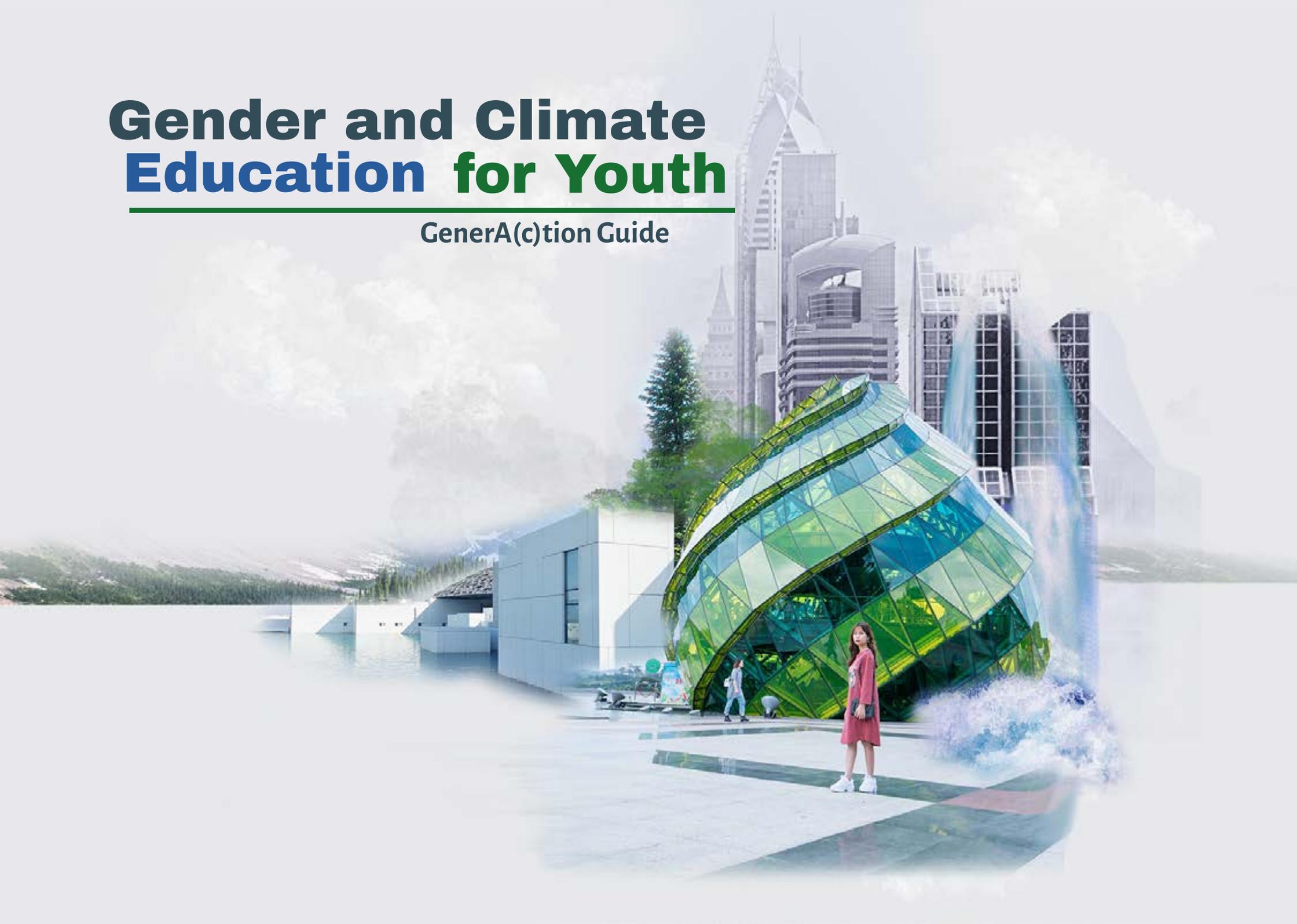


Gender and Climate Education for Youth

GenerA(c)tion Guide





GenerA(c)tion Guide

Gender and KA220-YOU-GENERA(C)TION:
GENdER And Climate EducaTION for Youth

GENERA  **TION**



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Introduction

The Earth's climate is heavily changing and failure to limit warming to below 2°C could make further impact in the climate system irreversible and characterised by cataclysmic consequences.

The adverse impacts of climate emergency continue to be too much of a burden for the poorest and most vulnerable, especially girls and women with fewer opportunities. Despite growing recognition of these differential vulnerabilities as well as the unique experiences and skills that women and men bring to environmental sustainability efforts, the former still have less economic, political and legal influence and are therefore less able to cope than those who are most exposed to the adverse effects of climate emergency.

On the other hand, girls and women are powerful agents of change and continue to make increasingly significant contributions to sustainability, despite existing structural changes and socio-cultural barriers.

This guide will serve as an approximation towards the above mentioned issues and is destined for:

- Gender and social inclusion specialists seeking a broader range of tips, tactics, tools and exercises with which to increase the awareness, understanding and capacity of other colleagues to integrate gender and social inclusion into climate action.
- Climate, degrowth and sustainability practitioners with some knowledge of and openness to gender and social inclusion issues, who can use the modules and the references contained within them to deepen their own knowledge and thus gain confidence to use the materials to train others.
- Youth workers and young leaders who are responsible for designing and teaching climate change resilience, adaptation and mitigation interventions.

The materials in this Guide have very broad applicability in these domains. Given the evidence we present on the importance of gender sensitivity and social inclusion in the implementation of effective climate projects and programmes, we assert that the approaches suggested are not just for people with a formal mandate on these issues; **the approaches are for everyone working on climate and social justice.**

Chapter 1

1. Dimensions of Climate Change and the Gender Gap



**THE GREATEST
CHALLENGES OF
OUR TIME**

“ I think the link between gender and climate change is not necessarily obvious to most people. In all societies, women and girls are like the canary in the coal mine: a lot can be said about the health and stability of a society based on the quality of life of women. Women and girls are some of the most vulnerable categories of people who not only have to cope with the adverse effects of climate change, but actually have to adapt their lives to cope with it.”

Dr. Mayesha Alam, Climate Crisis Development Expert, Senior Fellow, United Nations Centre for Policy Research.

Gender inequality coupled with the climate crisis is one of the greatest challenges of our time. It poses threats to the livelihoods, health, safety and security of women and girls around the world. However, **historically, climate change scientists, researchers and policymakers have struggled to make the vital connections between gender, social equity and climate change.**

As more and more data and research reveal their clear correlation, it is time to talk about the disparate impacts of climate change and the links between women’s empowerment and effective global climate action.

Who pollutes more?

Climate change threatens the social, economic and ecological systems of our planet. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) documents evidence of far-reaching impacts on freshwater resources, food, forest products, coastal systems, low-lying areas, industry, settlements, society and human health.

However, there is evidence that suggests that men contribute more to the pollution than women, for example, a study carried out by two researchers from the Swedish Defense Research Agency (FOI) in Stockholm (Sweden). To reach this conclusion Riitta Rätty and Annika Carlsson-Kanyama have compared the energy consumption of men and women in four European countries: Sweden, Norway, Germany and Greece.

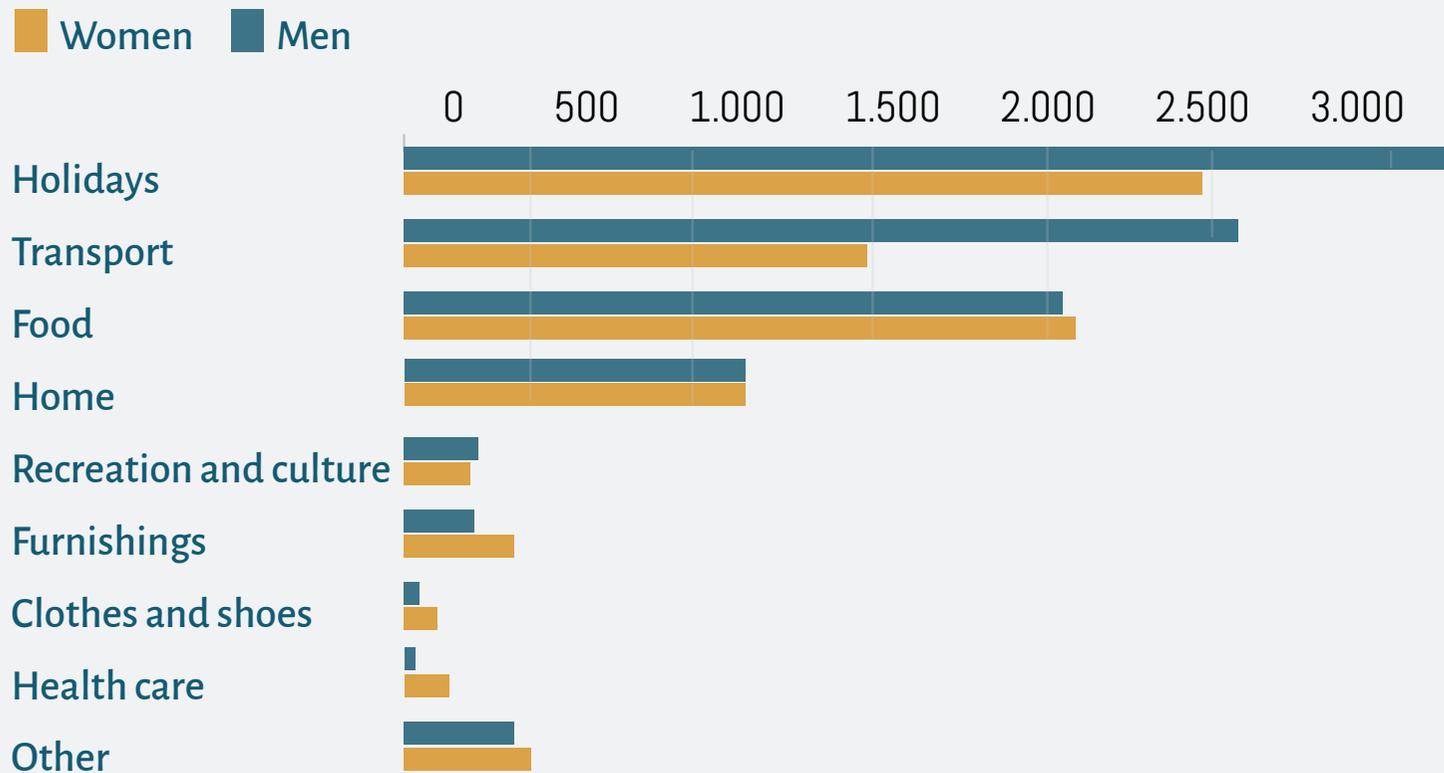
The results show that single men consume on average more than single women in the four countries: in Norway, 6% more; in Germany, 8% more; in Sweden, 22% more; and in Greece, 39% more. According to the researchers, this is explained by the higher level of spending by men in the four European countries, but also by differences in consumption habits.

Carlsson Kanyama adds: "I am surprised that more studies have not been done on gender differences in environmental impact. There are quite clear differences and they are not likely to disappear in the near future".

Although the differences in consumption habits between genders can have a very different relevance and can vary between countries, for the researchers the gap in energy expenditure in transport is too great not to be statistically significant in the four nations analysed (Norwegians and Germans consume 70-80% more energy in transport than women, Swedes 100% more and Greeks 350% more).

Who pollutes more?

Men's spending results in more emissions than women's Annual kilograms of greenhouse gas per person



Guardian graphic / Source: Carlsson Kanyama et al. Journal for Industrial Ecology, 2021

“
Environmental policies should differentiate between genders, especially transportation, campaigns could focus more on men to be more effective,”

Carlsson-Kanyama.

According to the researchers, all this information may be of great interest to promote more efficient consumption habits and energy savings.

Link: www.ecoportal.net

Who is more affected?

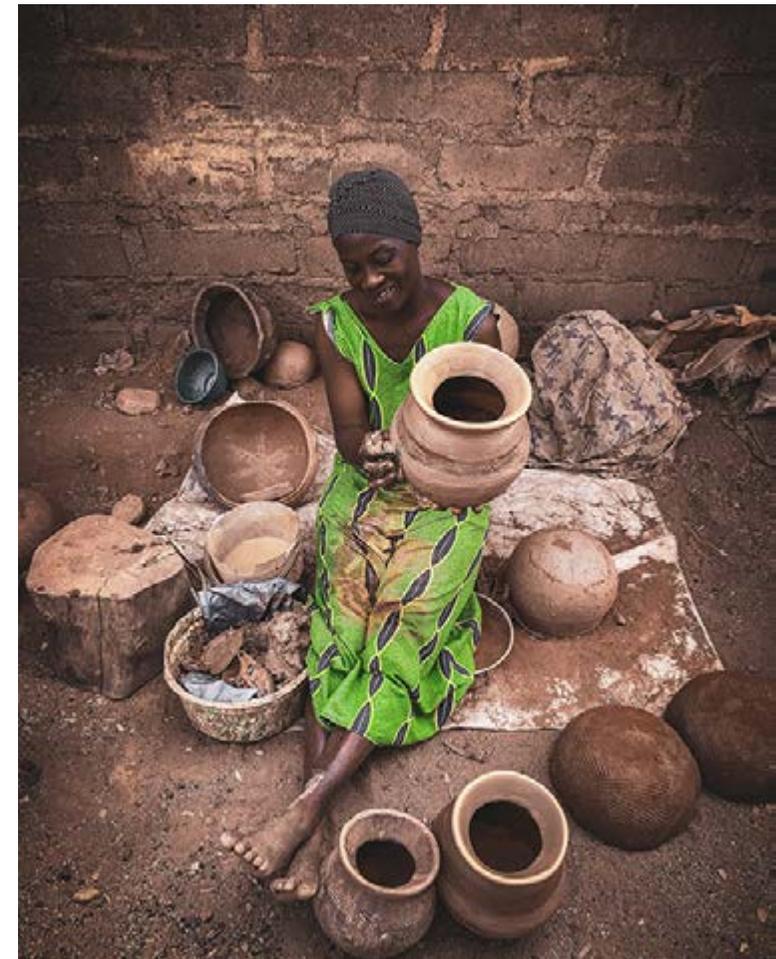
The climate crisis is not “gender neutral” either. Women and girls experience the greatest impacts of climate change, which amplifies existing gender inequalities and poses unique threats to their livelihoods, health and security.

Girls and women, especially those living in the Global South, have unequal responsibility for food, water, energy and other vital resources, as well as for the care of the young and the elderly, all of which put them at greater risk of harm and climate impacts. For example, girls and women often suffer the most during heat waves, droughts, severe storms or other extreme weather events. They bear the burden of travelling further to collect scarce food, water and firewood, and are often forced to stay in disaster-prone areas to care for the vulnerable.

Agriculture is the most important employment sector for women in low and lower middle-income countries. During periods of drought and erratic rainfall,

women, as agricultural workers and primary buyers, work harder to secure income and resources for their families. This puts additional pressure on girls, who often have to drop out of school to help their mothers manage the increased burden.

And the February 2022 report of the Intergovernmental [Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) also states that girls and women are also at greater risk of food insecurity than boys and men, are more likely to die in extreme weather events, and to experience mental health impacts caused by climate change.



Who is more affected?

Did you know...?

The [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) is an advisory body to the United Nations. Its task is to provide those in power with up-to-date knowledge about climate change.



Why do we care so much about the IPCC report?

ipcc

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change

Climate Change 2022

Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability

Summary for Policymakers



WGII

Working Group II contribution to the
Sixth Assessment Report of the
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change



The reports prepared by the **IPCC are a common starting point for representatives of all countries in international negotiations** on reducing human impact on the climate, adaptation to new conditions, compensation and assistance for countries particularly vulnerable to the effects of global warming or in need of support in expanding the economy in a way that is safe for the future of the planet.

Nominated by governments and observer organisations, the **authors are a diverse group of experts (primarily scientists, but also representatives of industry or non-profit organisations) from many cultural circles**. Draft reports are subject to an open review process. Anyone willing can take part in it and make sure that the study takes into account all research on particular topics and correctly presents the conclusions drawn from them. All this means that the content of the IPCC reports can be treated as **an expression of knowledge-based scientific consensus and the reports themselves - as the best source of information on the climate**.



In its latest summary report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) writes **more strongly than before about the relationship between global warming and human activity, narrows the possible range of climate sensitivity and warns about the approaching crossing of the thresholds for temperature increase by 1.5 and 2 °C relative to pre-industrial times.**

Reducing emissions could limit the temperature increase in the coming decades. As [Dr. Valérie Masson-Delmotte](#), co-chair of the IPCC's first working group, points out:

**“Every half degree matters.
Every year matters.
Every choice matters.”**

Who fights climate change?

According to the study „Gender, Values and Environmentalism” published in the scientific journal *Social Science Quarterly*, women value altruism more than men, which makes them more likely to care about nature and help to fight climate change.

The Triple J Radio Station survey also revealed that four out of five listeners have changed some things in their lives in the last year to benefit the environment, and among them, 89% were girls while only 65% boys took that step. This survey only confirms other more professional studies, such as that of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO). Claudia Benham, from James Cook University, said that “women tend to be more concerned with and value the environment for its intrinsic value and feel that impacts on the environment are more likely to affect them personally. Therefore, they are motivated to take action to improve the health of the environment.”

Furthermore, she believes that **“women and men interact with the environment in different ways and what we know is that women, particularly in developed countries, are more susceptible to the impacts of climate change. Therefore, they tend to be more responsible for household activities that have an impact on the environment.”**



Dr Mayesha Alam, an expert on the unfolding climate crisis who is a senior fellow at the UN Policy Research Centre, says of women:

“They are at the frontline of the fight against climate change and leaving them out of the conversation is a missed opportunity both for effective policy making and for tackling climate change”.



Case studies

Kenya

The Green Belt Movement



The GBM (Green Belt Movement) is a grassroots non-governmental entity, based in Kenya, focused on environmental protection and community training and development.

The origins of this great organization go back to June 5, 1976, World Environment Day, when Professor Wangari Maathai, who would win the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004, under the auspices of the National Council of Women of Kenya (then called Maendeleo Ya Wanawake) symbolically planted seven tree saplings in the Kamkunji area, on the outskirts of the city of Nairobi. These saplings honored two women and five men for the various and significant contributions each had made to the community over the course of their lives.

Humble as its origins, the GBM simply wanted to “**deck the country with belts of trees.**”

The GBM’s aspiration is to create a society of people who consciously work for the permanent improvement of their natural environment and for a greener and cleaner country. Its mission is to promote community awareness in pursuit of greater self-determination, equity, a more stable livelihood and environmental protection. The movement is guided by values such as voluntarism, love for the natural environment, a willingness to self-improvement, accountability and transparency.

The Green Belt Movement has planted more than 51 million trees in Kenya since its founding and has set its sights on restoring the degraded Sahel region, an 8,000 kilometre-wide stretch of land on the African continent. It also trained more than 30,000 women in forestry, food processing, beekeeping and other trades that help them earn an income while preserving their livelihoods, land and natural resources.

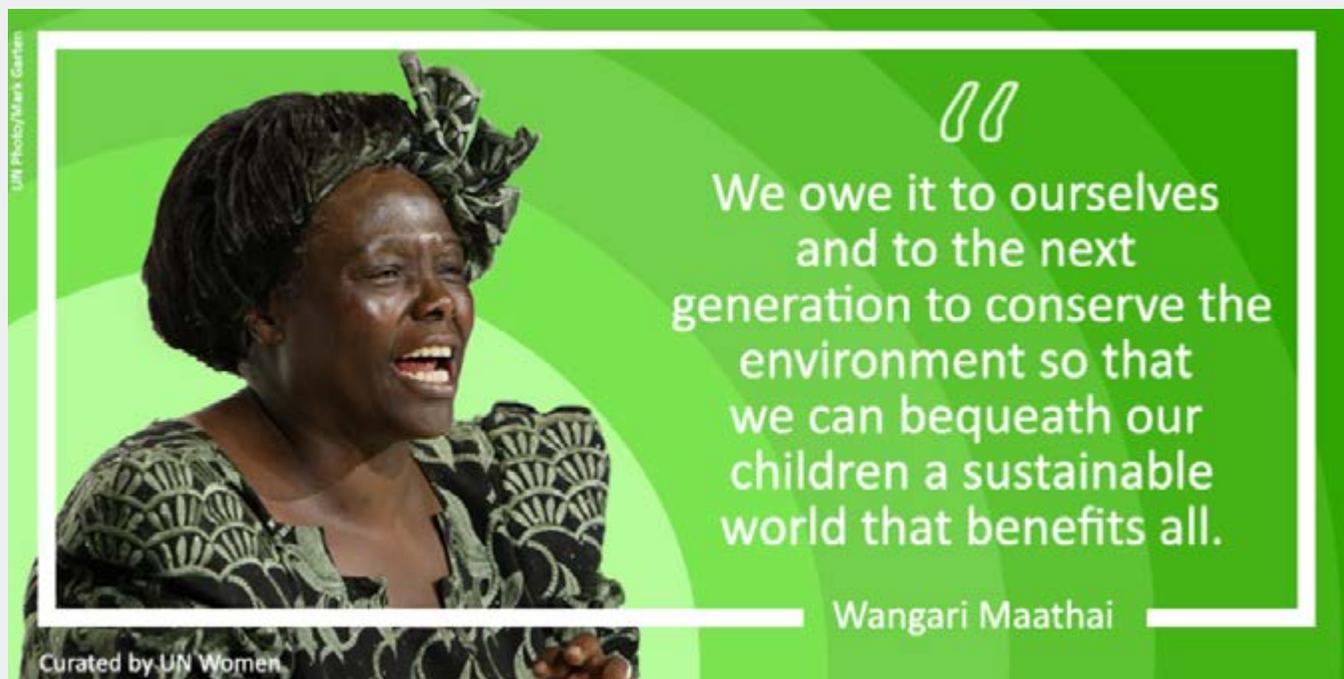
Through the GBM, Kenyan communities have been educated in preventing and reducing environmental destruction, as well as in recovering areas that had been damaged.

Exemplary woman in the field of climate action: Wangari Maathai, “Woman Tree”.

A biologist, environmentalist and tireless political activist, whose vision was to unite ecology and sustainable development with democracy, human rights and women's empowerment.

As said before, based on the idea that environmentalism could be a way to achieve sustainable development and ameliorate Kenya's problems, Wangari Muta Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement in 1977.

She encouraged women to go into the forest and collect seeds from trees native to the area and then create greenhouses, for which the women received a stipend. These seeds were then used to plant trees. It was a simple idea to encourage women to work together to plant trees to improve their own situation and fight deforestation, erosion and drought. **Just because women were the ones who were trained in ecology, had leadership roles, ran the nurseries and worked with foresters planning and implementing projects for water harvesting and food security, the movement was key to advancing the emancipation and empowerment of women farmers.**



Additional materials



- [Climate Change and Gender Justice](#)
- [Gender and climate change](#)
- [UN WOMAN: Human rights, the environment, and gender equality: Key messages](#)
- [Green Talks: Gender-Environment Nexus](#)

2. Gender inequality in environmental and natural resources management and biodiversity



“

WE ARE THE GUARDIANS OF THE TERRITORIES, OF THE RIVERS, OF THE CONTINUITY OF LIFE.”

ANA MARIA HERNANDEZ
MEXICO

GLOBAL FUND FOR
WOMEN
Champions for Equality.

Promoting gender equality and women's empowerment creates sustainable benefits for households and communities while improving human and environmental health and welfare outcomes.

However, many approaches to the environment have not been very gender-sensitive.

In fact, a **gender gap** is a gender-based inequality; it is any disparity in treatment or status between women and men, often rooted in social, cultural and legal norms and customs. Gender gaps create barriers to effective sustainable development and livelihoods by limiting or restricting women's access to resources and decision-making opportunities. In some cases, as we will see later on in this Guide, violence may be used against women as a means of control over resources and opportunities, reinforcing power imbalances and gender inequality.

Good governance in sustainable ecosystem management can only be achieved by understanding gender gaps and addressing specific barriers. Without doing so, sustainable ecosystem management approaches risk exacerbating gender inequality to the detriment of conservation goals, community well-being and human rights.

The following are examples of critical gender gaps that present barriers to sustainable ecosystem management.

Access and ownership

Gender roles and norms influence access to and use of natural resources. Evidence attributes numerous environmental restoration benefits to women's access to and management of land; however, structural inequalities often limit women's land ownership and access to natural resources.



Did you know that...?

Globally, only about 13.8% of women own land, and in Sub-Saharan Africa only 14.2% of women own some land. Women's land holdings tend to be smaller and of lower quality than men's, although there are more women than men working in agriculture and natural resource management, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

It is important to create opportunities for equitable access to and ownership of land and to support women's capacity to make appropriate investments to support local food systems, ensure nutrition and food security, and diversify into other sustainable livelihood options. This requires urgent gender-sensitive programmatic and policy action and support from all development partners.

The UN [UN Millennium Project](#) suggests the following areas that could help increase women's access to land:

- Reform laws and support women's claim to joint ownership and titling in the name of both partners.
- Collective approaches to support women's access to land.
- International action in support of national movements for women's property and inheritance rights.



INTERVIEW



Rural women have a triple workday and yet they are invisible. That is why we are insisting that the legal framework should favor joint ownership of the land.

Emma Ortega

Also [a recent report by the aforementioned Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) reaffirmed that strengthening women's access to and control over land improves sustainable management efforts, for example by increasing investments and willingness to engage in conservation activities, including tree planning and sustainable land management.

Inclusive Participation and Decision-Making

While women continue to lead efforts in natural resource and biodiversity management, they **lack meaningful participation, leadership and representation in decision-making at all levels.**

For example, men still occupy 67% of climate-related decision-making roles. Women's representation in national and global climate negotiating bodies remains below 30%.

Women represent less than 25% of all national parliamentarians worldwide. This under-representation also extends to environmental decision-making at the national level, where women hold only 12% of key ministerial positions in environment-related sectors worldwide, as well as in district or community-level committees, where women are generally under-represented.

Women's needs, priorities and knowledge have not been adequately considered. This limits their roles and knowledge to effectively contribute to the management of natural resources and ecosystems.

Women's leadership and full participation in the climate movement are essential if we are to design

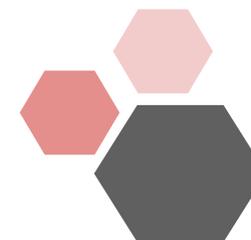
solutions and responses to the climate emergency that address women's differentiated needs and protect their rights.

In fact, [at the national and international level](#), countries with more women parliamentarians are more likely to ratify environmental treaties. At the community level, for example in India and Nepal forest management groups that included women showed better results in governance and resource conservation.

It is essential that international programme designers ensure that innovations, technologies and practices are designed to reduce women's inequality, which has been a serious constraint to women's meaningful participation and decision-making. For example, innovations that would reduce rural women's heavy burden of water, fuelwood collection, weeding and harvesting would free up their time and provide them with opportunities to diversify their livelihoods and improve their well-being.

However, it is also important to ensure that we do not fall into **tokenism**. What is it?

“Tokenism” comes from “token” and is used to refer to the symbolic inclusion that consists of making small - and superficial - concessions to minority groups in order to avoid accusations of prejudice and discrimination.



Constructing evidence of gender transformation

There is a great opportunity to capture and effectively communicate the impact of work to promote women's and men's equal access, ownership, decision-making and participation in natural resource management.

The process of capturing gender-related impact is challenging and requires specific tools and skills to understand the complex long-term processes of transformational development. It calls for going beyond sex disaggregation to incorporate both quantitative and qualitative data to assess policies, norms, relationships, attitudes, perceptions and other factors that account for gender-differentiated needs and priorities. This approach is also fully in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (including SDG number 5: Gender Equality), which requires sex-disaggregated data as well as quantitative data by gender to track progress on the goals. This is a political process that requires intentionality and resources.



Case studies

Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, [World Vision's Huambo](#) project partnered with local government and cooperatives to build consensus on women's participation early in the project formulation phase and facilitated the development of by-laws that ensured benefit sharing to all those who had contributed their labour.

The Huambo project made an explicit effort to include female heads of households and women dependent on the exploitation of degraded community forests and wooded areas during the initial year of area closure for regeneration, which has improved women's participation in the forest management groups and the cooperative platform. With increased access to forest products such as timber, trees, pasture and water from the revitalised ecosystem, women began to actively participate in harvesting, selling and generating new income for the household. Women's decision-making on the use of income also improved household food security.



Mixed resource management

Women's access to and/or title to land have resulted in environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient natural resource management practices, such as tree planting, improved soil fertility and water harvesting, which contribute to food security, livelihoods and incomes.

[A study from the Amazon region](#) shows that securing land rights for indigenous women and men contributes to reducing deforestation rates and is a cost-effective measure for climate change mitigation.

[Another landmark study](#) by Bina Agarwal explored the impact of women's participation in community forest governance and showed that mixed groups of men and women have the highest rates of forest recovery compared to groups of men or women.

Agarwal found that when women actively participate in these groups, when they have influence and are properly heard, it leads to better governance, less conflict, more compliance, better patrolling, better enforcement and better welfare outcomes.



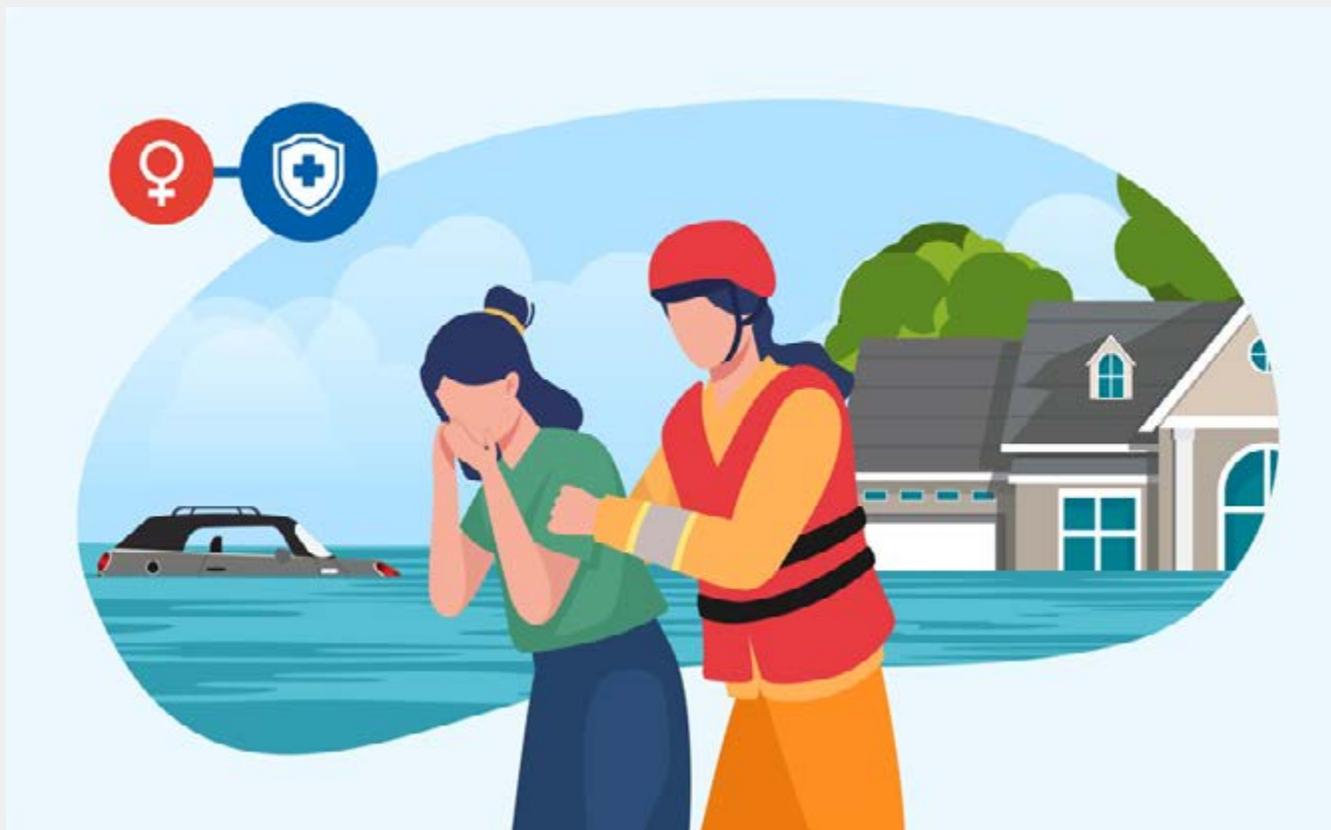
3. Gender in Disaster Risk Reduction

“ Well-designed disaster risk reduction and climate change initiatives that provide for women’s full and effective participation can promote substantive gender equality and women’s empowerment, while ensuring that the goals of sustainable development, disaster risk reduction and climate change are met”

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,
Recommendation 37

Gender is an important factor in determining vulnerability and capacity to mitigate climate impacts. A UN Women and UNICEF (2019) study focusing on women's missing voices in disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts confirmed that gender norms and barriers to their participation affect women's vulnerability to disasters.

Women's higher rates of illiteracy, lower rates of mobility and limited access to communications technology, including radios and mobile phones through which early warnings tend to be communicated, **increase their vulnerability. Men also tend to be seen as decision-makers in the household, which can put women at risk. In some cases, women stay at home because their husbands have decided not to evacuate or to wait for their husbands to return before leaving.** Due to gender-specific roles and expectations, women are more likely to be at home when disaster risks arise and take responsibility for evacuating their family to safety.



Did you know that...?

Women are much more likely than men to die in a natural disaster. **Particularly in countries where women have low social status and lack access to resources, the difference was larger, while in countries with more or less equal rights for women and men the difference was negligible** (Neumayer and Pluemper, 2007).

A study in Nepal found **that 71% of men received early warning information through a formal source, such as the government or non-governmental organisations (NGOs), while 51% of women received their information through informal social sources, such as word of mouth from the community or family.**

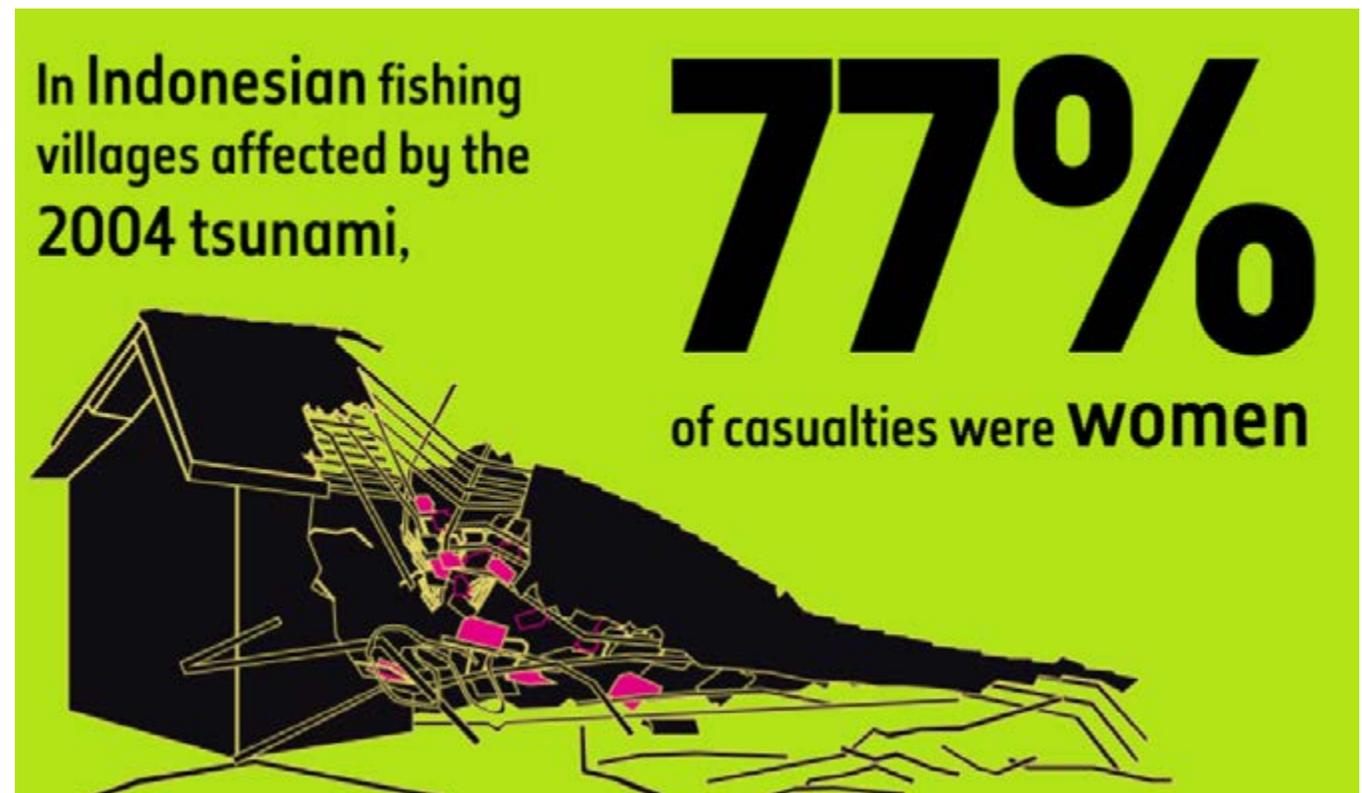
Seventy per cent of the 15,000 people in France who died in 2003 in heatwaves were women (Ogg, 2005) and four times as many men died in the tsunami-affected areas of Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India in 2004 (Oxfam, 2005).

According to the [United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#), a number of studies revealed that during the disasters in Bangladesh, female mortality in the age group 20 to 49 years was 4 to 5 times higher than male mortality. However, there were also cases where male mortality may be higher, as men are often more likely to be involved in rescue activities during disasters and thus face higher risks (UNDP, 2008).

In addition, after a disaster, **women tend to be more susceptible to stress-related disorders, depression and gender-based violence** (Sellers, 2016; World Health Organization, 2011; Buckingham, 2015).

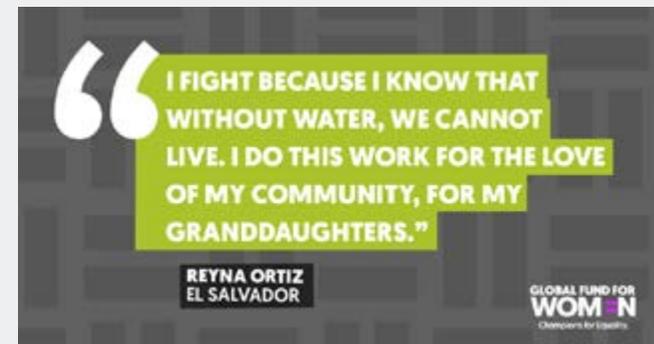
These gender-related differences are the result of structural inequalities, not biological differences.

Only through better understanding and planning for these differentiated experiences can these socio-cultural factors and structural inequalities be addressed to deliver the right climate action ([WOMAN4CLIMATE](#)).



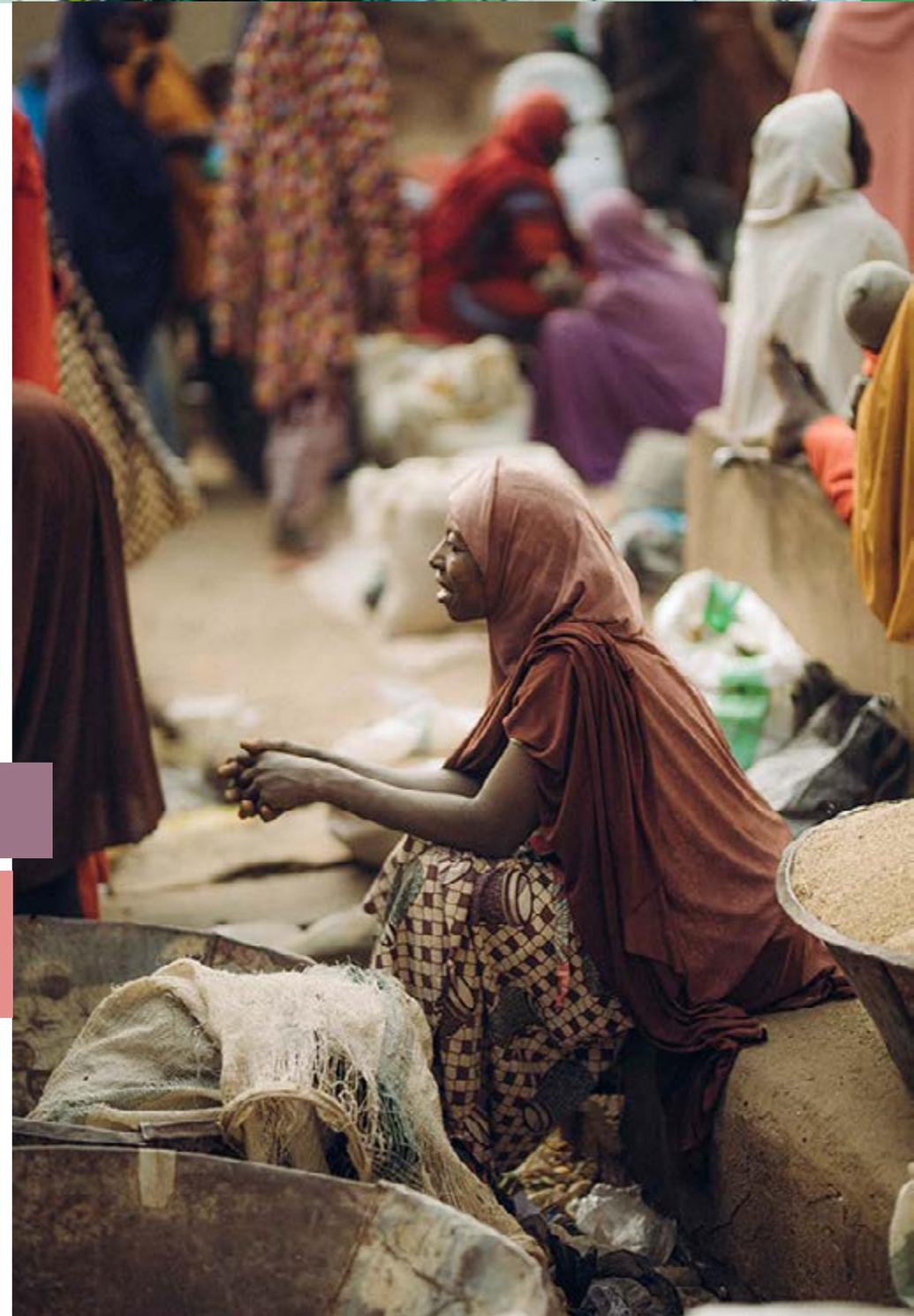
Recommendations for strengthening community-level resilience to disasters with gender inclusion

- Incorporate targeted disaster risk management activities into community-based programmes (e.g. conditional cash transfer programmes in the Philippines include family and community disaster preparedness as part of family development sessions).
- Develop community education and awareness-raising on disaster risk initiatives and resilience-building measures through radio spots, text messages, campaigns and street theatre, especially targeting women and girls in rural communities.
- Use informal games, competitions, publications and preparedness drills to engage girls in schools in disaster preparedness strategies.
- Conduct a separate community mapping with women and girls to identify vulnerabilities as well as existing resources (e.g. community assets that can be used as evacuation camps) and services.
- Regularly update mapping exercises such as vulnerabilities and capacities.
- Identify critical facilities such as evacuation sites; **emergency shelter facilities; and water, sanitation and health facilities accessible to both women and men.**
- **Establish a community information board to display information in local languages and with illustrations.**
- **Ensure that local government disaster risk management plans include gender-inclusive elements such as gender-inclusive risk and vulnerability assessment and/or capacity analysis and targets for women participation in the development of risk and hazard maps, community-based risk management procedures and preparedness and response activities, development of post-disaster recovery action plans and monitoring and/or warning activities.**
- **Support community mechanisms to enable the inclusion of women's participation in local disaster risk management committees.**
- **Train women to conduct vulnerability and risk assessment; safe construction techniques; and routine maintenance of houses, factories, schools and community assets for disaster resilience features.**
- **Support the development of skills in coping strategies that would facilitate women and girls in disaster situations (e.g. swimming lessons in flood-prone areas, and preparation of emergency bags in earthquake-prone areas).**
- **Establish a gender-sensitive early warning system using communication channels that are easily understood.**



Recommendations for the reconstruction of Community Infrastructure

- Establish women's communal spaces in safe and accessible locations. These spaces can be a place for women to participate in confidential psychosocial counselling sessions, liaise with disaster response service providers, and engage in livelihood skills development sessions. Women's common spaces can also be used by survivors of GBV to access information and referral services in a confidential setting.
- Consult with women and girls in disaster-affected areas to identify the spatial design and location of such spaces.
- Train disaster-affected women to be coordinators of women's spaces and link the spaces with activities identified by women in the community for their empowerment.
- Ensure that women are directly involved in decision-making and make local security arrangements.
- Provide capacity building support to women in groups for participation in community facilities and management committees.



Case studies

Pakistan



Gender-inclusive needs assessment

The Asian Development Bank and the World Bank led a gender-inclusive damage and needs assessment following the massive floods in Pakistan in 2010. The needs assessment examined the devastation and identified key recovery and rehabilitation needs. The assessment was based on data collected from separate focus group discussions with displaced women and men living in relief camps, along with interviews with key observers such as teachers, aid workers, village leaders and representatives of non-governmental organisations.

Post-disaster needs confirmed that pre-existing gender inequalities in Pakistan had been exacerbated after the floods and that the trend was expected to continue.

In particular, the evaluation identified that:

- **Many women and girls felt a loss of honour and dignity due to the lack of privacy in the camps;**
- **Several suffered from severe malnutrition and poor hygiene conditions;**
- **Women had limited access to income, assets or means of subsistence; and increased vulnerability to violence against women and girls.**

Based on the results of the needs assessment, the following gender issues for reconstruction emerged:

- (a) the inclusion of women in the reconstruction process,
- (b) professional jobs for women,
- (c) gender-sensitive facilities, such as vocational schools for women and health clinics; and (d) gender-sensitive facilities, such as vocational schools for women and health clinics.
- (e) land acquisition by women.

Case studies

Sri Lanka



Gender-inclusive assistance for tsunami-affected people

In tsunami-affected areas of Sri Lanka, many women had to take on the role of head of household along with their children, traditional domestic and caring roles and responsibilities.

The Asian Development Bank's Reconstruction Project incorporated gender-inclusive design features to ensure that these women actively participated in the project and had access to livelihood options, such as employment in small-scale community infrastructure, reconstruction, provision of training and support to establish livelihood enterprises.

In the next implementation project, women earned relatively higher incomes as a result of training, livelihood programmes, loans provided through

women's organisations, and establishment of product marketing centres.

The project also assisted women with the replacement of essential documents, such as national identity cards, birth certificates and land titles, lost in the tsunami.

Additional materials

FIRE: A Framework for Integrating Rights and Equality into Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Resilience



adpc Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

MSB Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency

SEI Stockholm Environment Institute

RAOUL WALLENBERG INSTITUTE

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- [Gender, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction](#)
- [The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery \(GFDRR\)](#)
- [UNICEF: Gender Responsive Disaster Risk Management](#)
- [FIRE: E-Learning Course on Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Resilience.](#)
- [Online Course on Gender in Disaster Risk Reduction](#)



E-Learning Course on Gender in Disaster Risk Reduction



adpc Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

MSB Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency

SEI Stockholm Environment Institute

RAOUL WALLENBERG INSTITUTE

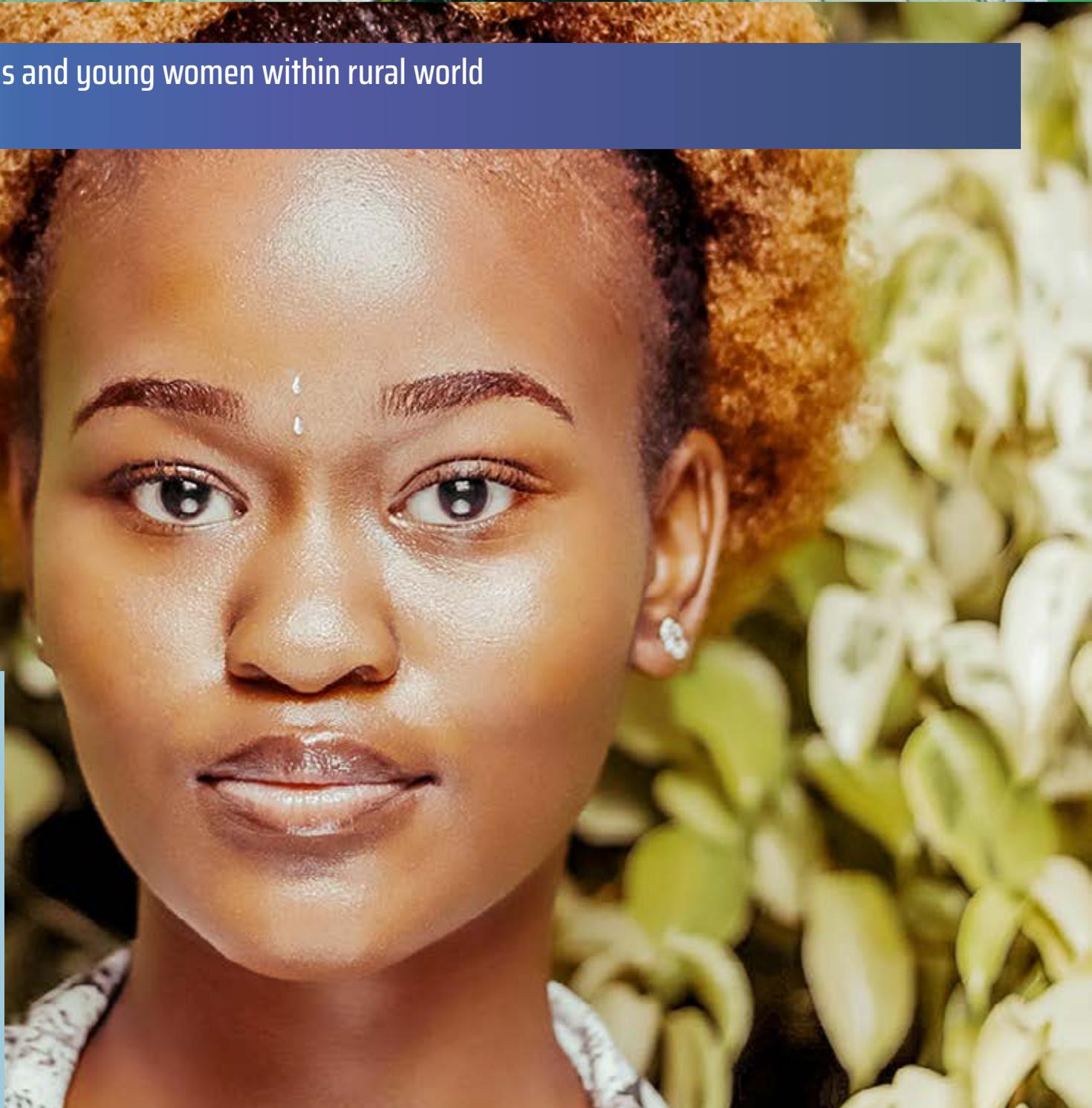
Supported by:

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4 Gender and agro-ecology: girls and young women within rural world

“
*Reruralising and re-agrarianising
the world is no longer an option, but
an inevitability*”.

Xoán Ramón Doldán



At the beginning of the 20th century, only 2% of the world's population lived in cities. Whereas in 2000, the corresponding percentage was 50 %, some estimates suggest that, if the picture remains unchanged, by 2050 this figure could be as high as 75 % (Chew, 2008).

This disproportionate process of urban sprawl has even been referred to as, from the Greek “polis” to the “metropolis”, “megapolis”, “parasitopolis” of unbridled capitalism, an even “pathopolis” of large agglomerations and, finally, in the full imaginary of collapse, the “necropolis” (Taibo, 2017, citing Paquot).

The causes of depopulation include the disappearance or deterioration of public services and infrastructure, stagnation or lack of employment, the ageing and masculinisation of the rural population together with the exodus of young people, lack of incentives and aid to maintain family agri-food businesses, etc.

The last decade has seen an increase in the number of social economy organisations extending their scope of action to rural areas. There has been an increase in projects and programmes promoted by organisations with the aim of improving the quality of life in the rural world in order to better respond to their needs and access to services, very often neglected by public entities.

Moreover, **in the face of the civilisational crisis that we are already beginning to experience, a greater trend of exodus towards the rural world is foreseen, quite contrary to the trend mentioned above and**

observed until now, hence the role of these social economy organisations will be even greater so that coexistence is based on cooperation and not under the rules of macroeconomics or “every man for himself” (Gómez Granell, 2020).

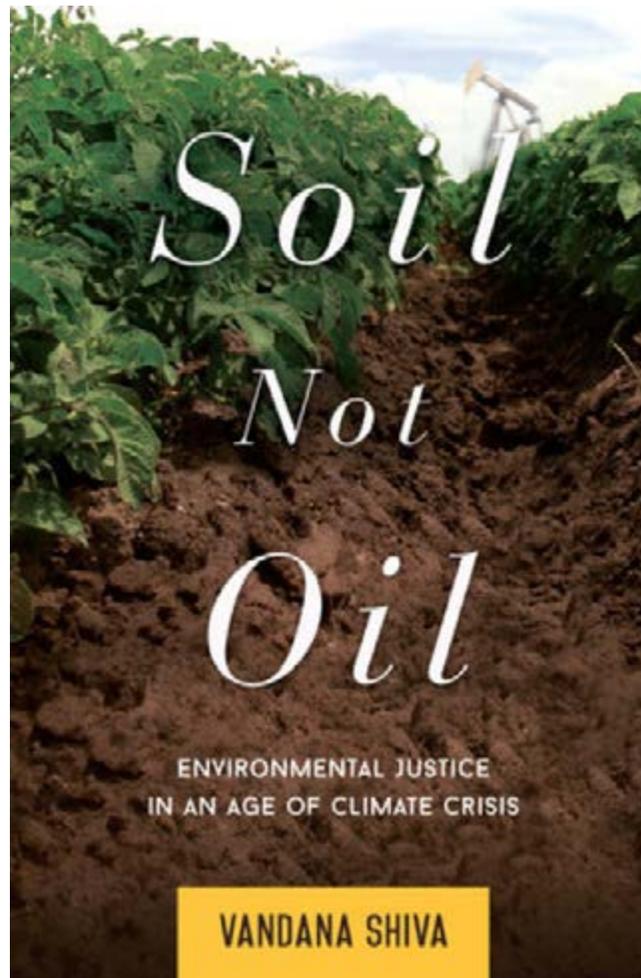
Moreover, **in the era of politically considering the rural and natural world as a mere source of resources or space for unwanted infrastructures in the cities, in recent years several initiatives driven by the social economy have also helped with rural depopulation. These actions should be supported, not criticised, by the public sector to avoid returning to the mistakes that have led to the agonising state of the rural environment today.**

Along the same lines, a shortcoming that has often been linked to social economy organisations has been their territorial dispersion. However, if they are well managed, **this supposed disadvantage can easily become a great attribute by allowing greater capillarity of the scope of action, greater proximity and a better response to the more specific needs of their populations and their natural environment (Crespo, 2013).**



Also, how are women in rural areas affected?

It seems demonstrable that agroecology, permaculture and biointensive micro-agriculture allow yields comparable to, if not higher than, those of industrial agriculture - albeit on small areas - while reducing climate impacts and enabling the settlement of farming communities (Servigne and Stevens, 2020).



Escobar (2017) recalls that the highly respected in the eco-feminist movement, Indian physicist and philosopher **Vandana Shiva** called the key to the transition in this sector **from oil to soil**, referring to the shift from a mechanistic-industrial paradigm centred on globalised markets to one that is people- and planet-centred, relocalised, decentralised and based on biodiversity, democracy, local economies, soil preservation and ecological integrity.



Moreover:

- Women farmers play a key role in local seed systems, yet they are often overlooked by researchers and development staff, policies and programmes.
- Climate change is putting pressure on farmers' seed and food production systems, often resulting in different impacts on women and men.
- Conservation and diversification of crops and varieties can be effective adaptation strategies to respond to changing agricultural conditions and increased uncertainty.
- Women are at the forefront of implementing these new strategies, but more attention and support is needed from research and development agencies and practitioners.
- In many developing countries, the collection of water and fuel is a large part of the work done mainly by women. [UN WOMEN](#) estimated that women and children in Africa spend 40 billion hours a year collecting water (2005).

In much of sub-Saharan Africa, most urban households rely on traditional fuels such as charcoal, wood and straw for cooking (UN-Habitat, 2009). For example, in South Africa, a substantial proportion of households in informal settlements have to obtain their water off-site. In more than 50 per cent of

households, mostly young women and girls are responsible for time-consuming water collection.

- Lack of sanitation in schools, including lack of toilets, insufficient water for personal use and washing, safe and private spaces and drainage to avoid flooding from sewage, is one of the most important reasons why girls often drop out of school and do not complete primary education.

Women grow at
least
50%
of the world's food

but own less than
10%
of the land

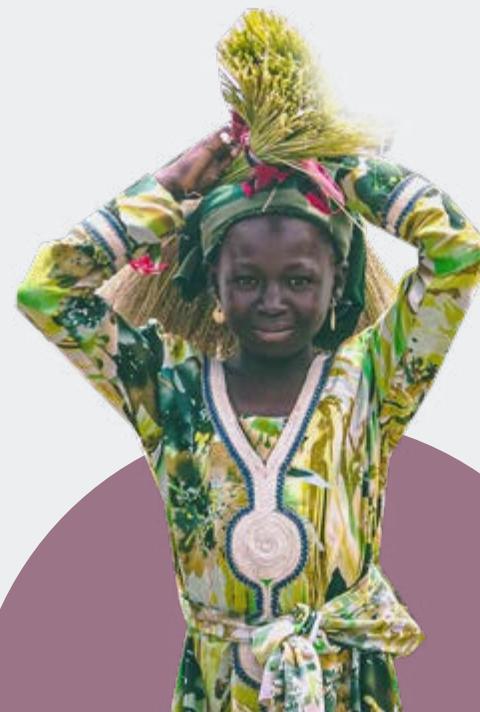
LEARN THE FACTS:

RURAL WOMEN AND GIRLS

Rural women ensure food security for their communities, build climate resilience and strengthen economies. Yet, gender inequalities, such as discriminatory laws and social norms, combined with a fast-changing economic, technological and environmental landscape restrict their full potential, leaving them far behind men and their urban counterparts.

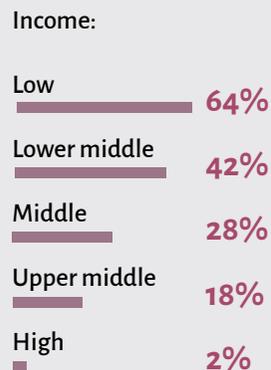
Below are just some of these challenges and their consequences.

Link: <https://www.unwomen.org>



LABOUR

The share of women working in agriculture by country income level:



LAND RIGHTS

Less than:

15%
of agricultural landholders are women.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Less than:

30% of rural women give birth without a skilled health worker present compared to only **10%** of urban women.

WATER

Rural areas:

60%

Urban areas:

86%

Women and girls are often responsible for fetching water in rural areas.

CHILD MARRIAGE

50% of girls from poor rural households will be married as children.

LITERACY

2% of the poorest rural women in low-income countries complete upper secondary school.

ICT

3.7 billion people not connected to the internet tend to be poorer, less educated, and rural women and girls.

Exemplary woman in the field of climate action: Vandana Shiva

The aforementioned physicist, philosopher and writer. In 1982 she created the Foundation for Scientific, Technological and Ecological Research to protect biodiversity and, specifically, seeds, in the face of the expansive and privatizing practices of Monsanto —the corporation that imposes its genetically modified seeds.

She is also one of the founders of the gender unit at [the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development \(ICIMOD\)](#) and of the [Women's Environment & Development Organization \(WEDO\)](#).

She chairs the International Commission on the Future of Food and Agriculture (Tuscany, Italy) and is a member of the [World Future Council](#) and the board of the [International Forum on Globalization](#).

Time magazine has defined her as an “**environmental heroine**” and she is the author of numerous reference books on ecofeminism, including *Who really feeds the world?*, *Making Peace with the Earth*, *Earth Democracy*, *Soil Not Oil*, *Staying Alive*, *Stolen Harvest*, *Water Wars* and *Globalization's New Wars*.

She has received more than twenty international awards, including the **Right Livelihood Award**,

considered the alternative Nobel Prize (1993); the John Lennon-Yoko Ono Fellowship for Peace (2008); the Sydney Peace Prize (2010); and the Calgary Peace Prize (2011).



Dr. Vandana Shiva,
Featured Keynote

“ We are either going to have a future where women lead the way to make peace with the Earth or we are not going to have a human future at all. ”



Robin Wall Kimmerer

Botanist, writer, and Distinguished Professor at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in New York, she is the director and founder of the [Center for Native Peoples](#) and the Environment, whose mission is to create programs that **blend indigenous and scientific knowledge to shared sustainability goals.**

In collaboration with tribal partners, she has an active research program in the ecology and restoration of plants of cultural importance to the native people.

She collaborates with initiatives to expand access to environmental science education for indigenous students and to create new models for the integration of indigenous philosophy and scientific tools.

She participates in programs that present the benefits of traditional ecological knowledge to the scientific community. Kimmerer is co-founder and past chair of the Ecological Society of America's section on Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

Of European and Anishinaabe descent, she is a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. As a writer and scientist, her interests encompass not only the restoration of ecological communities, but also the restoration of our relationships with the land.



“It’s a sign of respect and connection to learn the name of someone else, a sign of disrespect to ignore it. And yet, the average American can name over a hundred corporate logos and ten plants. Is it a surprise that we have accepted a political system that grants personhood to corporations, and no status at all for wild rice and redwoods? Learning the names of plants and animals is a powerful act of support for them. When we learn their names and their gifts, it opens the door to reciprocity.”

~ROBIN WALL KIMMERER

Case studies

Spain

In Spain, the NGO Ecologistas en Acción recognised that it was necessary to “adapt the “petro-dependent” agro-food model to a model of ecological, local and small-scale production, giving priority to the food sovereignty of the territories” (2011). In order to do this they invite to:

- Promote population movement to rural areas and increase self-sufficiency in cities by removing legal barriers to agroecological production by small-scale farmers.
- Facilitate the rural population’s access to land and other infrastructures necessary for production (processing centres, shared machinery, etc.) and reproduction (housing, schools, health centres, etc.).
- Promote agricultural uses without pesticides and synthetic fertilisers.
- Rapidly reduce the irrigated area by replacing irrigated crops with rain-fed crops.
- Increase investment in R&D in agro-ecological production systems and recovery of traditional knowledge.
- Reversing the process of productive specialisation by integrating agriculture and livestock farming to close cycles and recovering productive and landscape diversity.
- Urgently halt the process of soil loss and promote the recovery of soil organic matter and biological balance.
- Encourage a decrease in the consumption of animal-based foodstuffs, especially meat.
- Encourage the creation of seed banks in order to recover and conserve traditional and local seed varieties, allowing farmers to freely use, conserve and commercialise them.
- Prohibit the unconfined use of genetically modified organisms, under the principle of caution.
- **Promote community health and care systems, avoiding that the female population is mostly responsible for these tasks.**
- Reorient health systems towards a comprehensive

approach focusing on health promotion and primary prevention of diseases taking into account not only individual habits but also socio-economic contexts.

- Ban the manufacture and use of toxic substances, materials and articles.
- Promote green chemistry: clean and safe consumer products and industrial processes.

A lifelike fiberglass sculpture by artist Ruben Orozco in the Nervión River in Bilbao, Spain, draws attention to the human cost of the climate crisis. Not accidentally, the sculpture represents a female.



As a practical example, the Spanish cooperatives associated with Federació Cooperatives Agroalimentàries de la Comunitat Valenciana have a total of 192,385 members **with a growing (40% increase since 2015) participation of women (28%) whose presence in decision-making bodies is being encouraged (8% today)**. In addition, cooperatives contribute to employment in rural areas: in 2017, agri-food cooperatives in the Spanish Valencian Community provided 20,000 direct jobs and, moreover, jobs of quality and stability. Above all thanks to the vast majority of permanent contracts (76%). Moreover, the Valencian agri-food cooperative sector is characterised by small, family-run entities and a presence even in rural areas considered to be depopulated. However, globalisation and climate change have not left the sector unaffected, both in terms of new trade implications and plant health and diversity.

“
We are facing a reckoning, which will be none other than the moment when history will decide whether, as a species, we are able to work together and find a way to coexist on this planet, or whether, on the contrary, we must disappear and make way for evolution, which will do without us. We rural dwellers have a lot to say in this decision. Likewise, the social economy is an indispensable tool”.

Gómez Granell, 2020

Case studies

United Kingdom

Another example of a just social and ecological rural action could be **The Transition Movement** founded in Great Britain in 2006, which has thousands of projects on all continents, be it renewable energy production cooperatives, local and sustainable food systems, permaculture farms, etc.

In short, it is a proposal for a “new system that makes the old one obsolete” and seeks to build local resilience, i.e. to increase local and rural capacity on the basis of energy descent and degrowth, voluntary simplicity, fair sharing and rationing (Servigne and Stevens, 2020).

The transition movement is thus seen as a grand social experiment of adapting to the limits of the planet and facing a collective process of transition towards a more local and self-sufficient future. Why? The key question being asked is: **What will our environment be in the future without fossils but with a vibrant regional economy and meaningful social life?** And, more importantly, what can be done now to initiate this transition? Since the first initiative, the transition town Totnes in the South West of England, a colourful portfolio of very diverse

approaches has emerged, but with a common goal and ethos (Burkhart et al., 2020). Today there are several thousands of transition initiatives in 50 countries and research shows that initiatives thrive better in small towns than in big cities. In Totnes, the way has been paved for active relocation policies, the deployment of urban gardens, local currencies,

cooperatives, the implementation of permaculture projects and, in short, resilience (Taibo, 2017). One of its founders says that **if they had waited for governments, they would not have arrived in time, and if they had acted as individuals, it would not have been enough, but by acting as a community, they hope to reach the eco-social transition in time.**



Link: <https://transitionnetwork.org/>

50 countries and **research shows that initiatives thrive better in small towns than in big cities**. In Totnes, the way has been paved for active relocation policies, the deployment of urban gardens, local currencies, cooperatives, the implementation of permaculture projects and, in short, resilience (Taibo, 2017). One of its founders says that **if they had waited for governments, they would not have arrived in time, and if they had acted as individuals, it would not have been enough, but by acting as a community, they hope to reach the eco-social transition in time.**

“

It also requires a good dose of will, a dash of boldness and a drop of naivety. In fact, the success of the transition movement is due to the fact that the participants adopt a “positive vision” of the future. In order not to fall into depression, they imagine (together) a future with the horizon of 2030, without oil and with an uncontrolled climate, but where life will not be bad”

Servigne and Stevens, 2020

To sum up, rural areas are often far from population centres, poorly communicated, affected by changes in the economic and climatic situation, there is certainly room for improvement in terms of coordination between social economy organisations and the public sector, **with the contributions and participation of the inhabitants of the villages themselves. This is confirmed by the Third Sector Radiography report (2018), which highlights that for better sustainability and stability, this collaboration with public bodies will be a key factor. It will therefore be necessary to better integrate the strategies of social economy organisations with those of other sectors.**

Link: <https://www.globalfundforwomen.org>



This also requires improving the work of social awareness: continuous information in the media, improving educational curricula, greater eco-responsible ethics, inclusion of cultural and scientific aspects, and fostering citizen empowerment and participation in terms of policy proposals and monitoring (Prats et al., 2017).

“

Solutions to the deficit of basic infrastructures, the other handicap of the rural environment, and, along the same lines, the high difficulties of access to quality public services, together with the attraction of young talent (the “neo-rural”), especially female talent, and their professionalisation, are also part of the proposals for improvement

Medina, 2020

Additional materials

[Vandana Shiva: We Must Fight Back Against the 1 Percent to Stop the Sixth Mass Extinction](#)



[International Day of Rural Women](#)



[FAO: Tackling Climate Change Through the Empowerment of Rural Women Booklet](#)

PDF

Practical
exercise

for young people **1**

Group discussion (plenary)

Objective:

To understand the different ways in which socially ascribed roles in society determine the ways in which women experience the impacts of climate-induced resource scarcity.

Time: 10 minutes ([video presentation Sisters of the Planet - Martina, Uganda](#))

20 minutes (group discussion and reflection)

Facilitator's notes

Encourage a discussion on the central theme and presentation of the video.

Encourage a discussion on the question, “**Does climate change have a gender-differentiated impact?**”

Encourage participants to discuss gender-based experiences in their own contexts.

Practical exercise

for young people **2**

Holiday Snapsy

Objectives:

1. To explore where images of the Global South come from from through a visualisation exercise;
2. To introduce the idea that our images of the Global South are one dimensional through a discussion of the types of images produced.

NOTE: This activity focuses specifically on Africa but any region or country could be used.

Time: 20 minutes

Materials: Blank paper

Art materials (crayons, markers, coloured pencils)

Flip chart/white board & markers.

Facilitator's notes:

1. The facilitator asks participants to get comfortable and close their eyes for a mental journey.
2. The facilitator asks participants to imagine the following:
 - Imagine that you are in Africa, picture your surroundings, what time of day is it?
 - What is the weather like? What kinds of plants and animals can you see?
 - As you walk through the scene, you see some people, what do they look like? What are they doing?
 - You come to some houses, what do they look like? How big are they? What are they made from?
 - You enter a house, what is it like inside? What are the people doing?Now you are back and can open your eyes.

3. Distribute the art supplies and paper. Ask participants to draw the scene that they had just imagined. Explain that there is no right or wrong, and encourage them not to compare their drawings until they are all finished.
4. Display the pictures around the room. If anyone is uncomfortable, they do not have to display their picture.
5. Facilitator should ask participants what the commonalities are among the pictures and list them on the flip chart/whiteboard.
6. Possible discussion questions include:
 - Is this an accurate portrayal of Africa?
 - Would the people of Africa be happy with the way their continent is being portrayed? What about the girls and women in particular?
 - What role does the media play in creating these images of Africa and other parts of the Global South?

Follow-up: Participants can look for images of the Global South in general media sources. The facilitator can provide alternative images of Africa.

Chapter 2

1. What is gender?



What is gender?

The term 'gender' is generally used to conceptualise the socially and culturally constructed roles of women and men, and relationships, personality traits, attitudes, behaviours, values, relative power, and influence that society attributes to men and women.

While "sex" indicates the physical differences between men and women, "gender" implies different identities and economic, social and cultural attributes and opportunities associated with being male or female.

These vary across cultures and societies and change over time.

Gender differences are interwoven with other differences such as race and ethnicity, class, disability, age and health status. Social categories are not independent of each other; they overlap and are mutually reinforcing. For each social group, gender constitutes an additional division, which results in more inequalities.

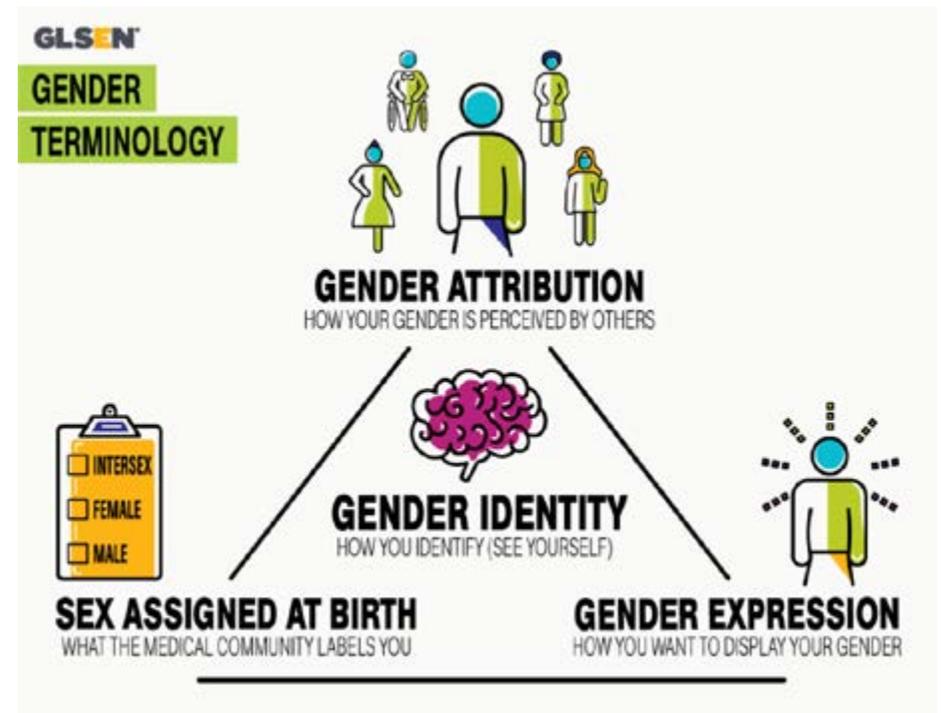
The root causes of gender inequalities are unequal power relations between men and women, and social patterns that define and reinforce gender roles. **This results in androcentric systems, meaning that the male perspective is predominant while women's identities, attitudes and behaviours are not,** are neglected or seen as deviations from the "norm".

At the societal level, this can lead to a series of substantial inequalities, for example in terms of access to and control over resources such as land, credit and capital, mobility and information, as we have seen in the previous chapter.

Gender mainstreaming is thus an approach used worldwide to promote gender equality in programmes and projects. It is central to all activities: policy development, research, advocacy and training, dialogue, legislation, resource allocation, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes, etc.

Gender mainstreaming is not an objective per se, but rather a tool for assessing the different implications of planned legislation, policies and programmes for women and men.

It ensures that all men and women benefit equally from the results and that inequalities are not perpetuated.



Most relevant basic glossary terms

In this Guide we will be using mostly the binary vision of gender, however, it is vital to introduce basic terms when it comes to gender diversity such as:

Cisgender (Cis)

A term to describe people whose gender identity or expression matches the sex they were assigned at birth (as defined by Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice and Mama Cash, see above).

Gender

Refers to roles, behaviours, attributes and opportunities that society considers appropriate for women and men. Genders are socially constructed, learned through socialization processes and vary across culture/societies and change over time.

Gender expression

Gender expression is how you present your gender outwardly, including through your behavior, mannerisms, clothing, name, pronouns and other characteristics.

Genderfluid

Genderfluid refers to someone whose gender identity is not fixed, but may appear to others as flowing through different gender categories.

Gender equality

Refers to equal access to social goods, services and resources and equal opportunities in all spheres of life for all genders.

Gender equity

Refers to the fair allocation of resources, responsibilities and power without discrimination on the basis of gender.

Gender justice

Generally understood to be more than gender equality and equity. Gender justice requires fair distribution and recognition, along with an end to hierarchical gender relations and the transformation of societal and economic systems and structures.

Gender norms

Ideas about how different genders should be and act that are passed from generation to generation through the process of socialisation. Gender norms vary across cultures and societies and change over time. Someone whose gender expression does not match their society's prescribed gender norms is referred to as gender nonconforming.

Gender-responsive climate policy

Climate policies that take into account gender specific differences, needs and interests and aim to transform existing gender norms, roles and relations with the ultimate goal of achieving gender equality. Gender-sensitive climate policy Climate policies that take gender specific differences, needs and interests into account, but do not necessarily seek to transform the underlying gender norms, roles and relations.

Non-binary

A gender identity that cannot be defined within the gender binary (the categories of woman and man). Non-binary people understand their gender as either in-between or beyond the binary, or they reject the concept of having a gender entirely (as defined by Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice and Mama Cash).

Resilience

The ability of a social or ecological system to absorb disturbances while retaining the same basic structure and ways of functioning, the capacity for self-organisation and the capacity to adapt naturally to stress and change (as defined by the IPCC).

Transgender (Trans)

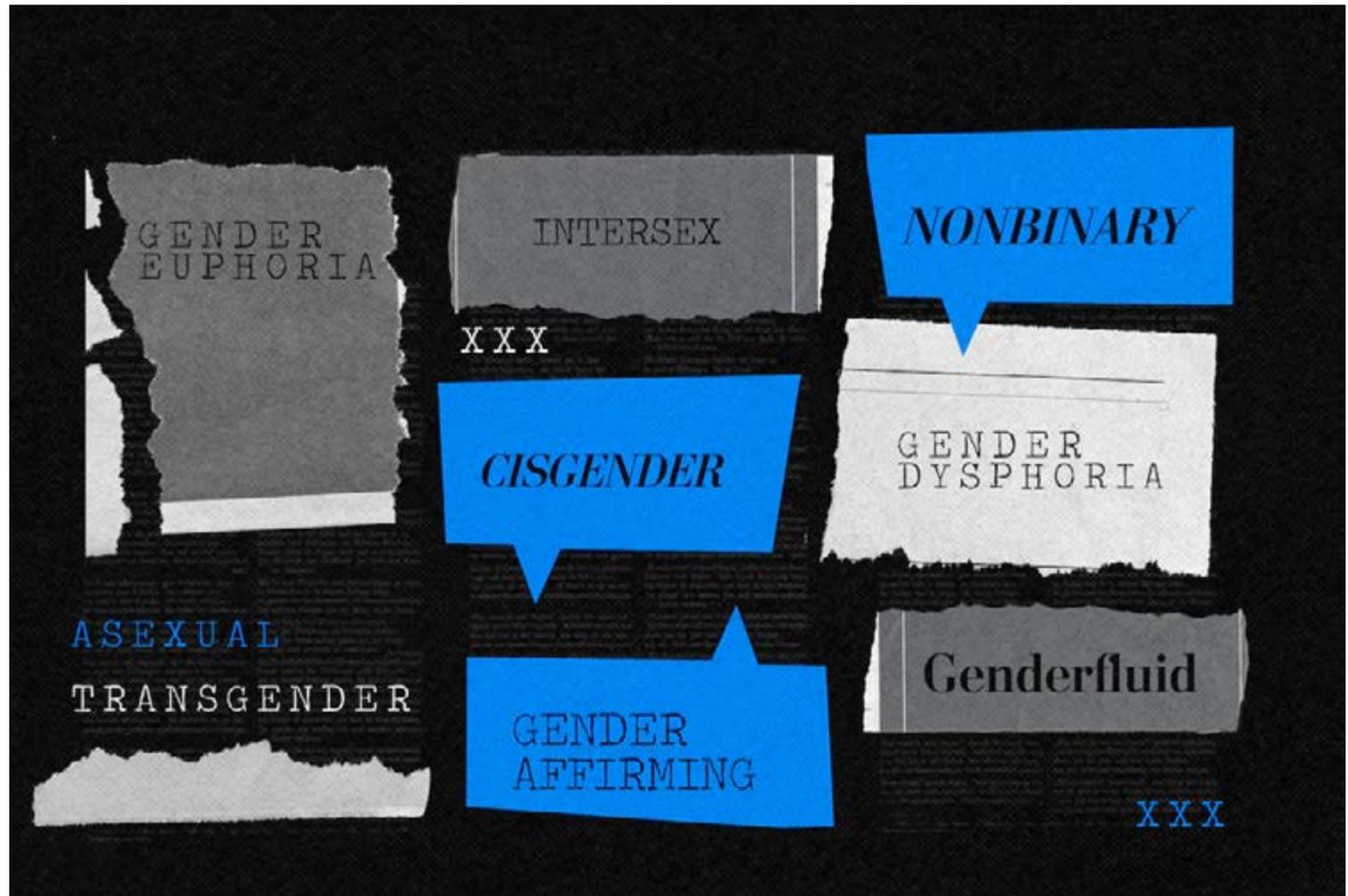
People whose gender identity or expression differs from the sex assigned to them at birth. Some transgender people identify and present themselves as either a man or a woman; others identify with a gender nonconforming or non-binary gender category. Transgender people identify themselves by many different terms, some of which are specific to local cultures (as defined by Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice and Mama Cash, see above).

Queer

Queer is an overarching term describing anyone whose sexual orientation isn't exclusively heterosexual.

Vulnerability

The propensity or predisposition to be adversely affected. Vulnerability encompasses a variety of concepts and elements including sensitivity or susceptibility to harm and lack of capacity to cope and adapt (as defined by the IPCC).



2. Gender as a key variable of power inequality in experiencing climate change



Unlike men, women had not gradually developed their individuality in the Western world.

Only those belonging to the elites had developed some traits, but the majority of women reproduced the normative model of socialisation, passing on an identity (and thus desires) to their daughters, specialised in sustaining the bonds within the group.

Men, for their part, gradually ceased to be trained in this capacity, specialising instead in the development of formal rational logic.

Differentiation was transmitted through their socialisation in increasingly divergent forms of identity, which reproduced and reinforced each other.

In this way, when upon reaching modernity, women modified the course that had characterised them throughout history and began to individualise themselves (developing specialised functions associated with rational rational thought and control that had hitherto only been developed by men), **they were confronted with a very different social scenario from the one that had welcomed the process of individualisation of men:** because, unlike men, women had no one who was in charge of guaranteeing them a link with the group, which meant that their individuality could not be based on the fantasy that reason was the only key to security.

In this way, women found themselves confronted with a very different situation from that of men because they had to be aware that **only by striving**

to maintain ties could they develop a specialised function, only by giving importance to emotion could they develop reason, only by maintaining relational identity could they develop individualised identity.

In the context of gender and climate change, women are often emphasised as a particularly vulnerable group that is strongly affected by the impacts of climate change. **While this is a very important fact, it should not be overlooked that other aspects of climate change and climate policy also have gender dimensions and this is why we should be focusing on:**

1. Ensuring participation

Recognising women's roles as educators, caregivers, knowledge holders and powerful agents of social change positions women to effectively design and implement culturally acceptable interventions where they are most needed. Women should be empowered as key stakeholders from the outset of any project with the understanding that the combination of scientific data and community knowledge will produce better results.

2. Improving multi-sectoral co-ordination

Comprehensive strategies are needed to integrate gender vulnerability into climate adaptation and mitigation. Women's health concerns can be integrated into multiple levels of planning, including: disaster risk reduction, transportation, water management, infrastructure investment and agriculture. Public-private partnerships can be leveraged to co-design impactful products and services, such as solar cookstoves and sustainable agricultural practices. Developing mechanisms for regular reporting and analysis of gender dimensions using common indicators across sectors will increase transparency and cooperation to achieve this cross-cutting goal.

3. Prioritising education

Investing in skills and capacity building among women will foster leadership and strengthen resilience. Education on the gender-specific health threats of climate change is needed among policymakers and can be integrated into public health messages.

4. Improving the usefulness of health outcomes data and statistics

There is a great need to improve public health surveillance and data collection in India (and in all low- to middle-income countries). The collection of high-quality gender-disaggregated data will allow for a better understanding of the associations

between gender, climate and health. In addition, health data can be integrated with agricultural, weather and water supply data to identify vulnerable regions and populations and enable predictive modelling that can inform community interventions.

5. Improving the usefulness of health outcomes data and statistics

A comprehensive assessment of women's and men's assets and vulnerabilities is fundamental to any risk reduction plan. Such assessments not only provide a deeper understanding of the effects of climate change, but also reveal the political, physical and socio-economic reasons why people suffer disproportionately. This creates a greater opportunity for effective intervention.

6. Improving advance planning for disaster risk reduction

Women's health outcomes and economic prosperity can serve as proxy markers for development, disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation and should be used as indicators for project and policy success. Similarly, regions with poor health outcomes should be identified as hotspots of current and future vulnerability to climate change.

3 Linkages between gender, climate change, marginalisation, poverty and social inclusion



Matcha Phorn-In, a lesbian feminist human rights defender working to empower stateless and landless indigenous women, girls and LGBTIQ+ youth in the Thai provinces of Chiang Mai, Mae Hong Son and Tak

As seen before, women and girls from poor and marginalised segments of society are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate

change as they tend to have limited resources and therefore limited capacity to adapt, and their livelihoods tend to be highly dependent on natural resources that are sensitive to climate vulnerability (FAO 2011, Women Watch 2009).

In this context, it becomes clear that poverty is an important factor of vulnerability. The capacity of poor citizens is severely constrained because they lack the resources to protect themselves against shocks of any kind. In addition, their settlements are often fragile and are more exposed to climatic hazards, such as landslides or floods. Densely populated human settlements, such as informal

or substandard settlements, such as slums, are particularly vulnerable. In addition, urban populations rely heavily on basic infrastructure and services for their livelihoods and therefore, have few options to cope with disruptions.

“
“If you are invisible in everyday life, your needs will not be thought of, let alone addressed, in a crisis situation (...) Humanitarian programmes tend to be heteronormative and can reinforce the patriarchal structure of society if they do not take gender and sexual diversity into account (...) By addressing structural change, we are advocating and working for equality of all kinds.”

Matcha Phorn

Pre-existing vulnerabilities are therefore magnified by climate change.

The proportion of women living in poverty is higher than the proportion of men.

In addition, among the poor populations, **women tend to be “the poorest of the poor”**, both in terms of income and assets. Women work more often in the informal sector than men and are therefore subject to income insecurity, particularly during interruptions due to disasters. For example, women who derive income from activities done at home can lose their entire source of money if their home or equipment is destroyed during a flood. This is why female-headed households often make up a disproportionately high proportion of the total number of flood victims.

Women’s role in the family may also entail an additional workload when related to climate. For example, their care for children, the elderly and the sick may become more demanding when climate change impacts on health and psychosocial well-being. **It is important to bear in mind that women’s role as family or professional caregivers during a disaster is often invisible, while the actions of men in rescue operations and emergency services tend to be glorified.**



Did you know that...?

According to World Bank, FAO and OECD:

- 70 per cent of those living on less than a dollar a day are women.
- Women work two-thirds of the world's working hours, but receive only 10 per cent of the world's income.
- Women own only 1 per cent of the world's property.
- 876 million illiterate people are women.
- Two-fifths of girls are never born because of a preference for boys.
- Women account for 58 per cent of unpaid employment and only 10 to 20 out of every 100 owners are women.

Key barriers to gender-sensitive climate action

The following barriers can fuel persistent gender inequalities in climate change adaptation and resilience actions:

- Normative barriers are associated with socio-cultural gender norms, which shape the roles and responsibilities of men and women in public and private spaces. Gender norms and perceptions and the attitudes that nurture them frame the context within which men and women participate and contribute to various livelihood-related activities.
- Structural barriers refer to an unequal distribution of wealth and opportunities. Asset distribution is highly gendered, and in many parts of developing countries, women's ownership of land rights is negligible. While women produce 60-80 percent of the food in these countries, their sole or joint ownership of agricultural land is merely 10-20 percent (FAO, 2019).
- Capacity barriers mean, among other realities, the limited access of women to knowledge and information, extension, training, innovation and technology.
- Barriers to decision-making highlight the gap in representation in decision-making at local, provincial and national levels. This imbalance results in women having less say in decisions related to climate change programmes and policies.



The Equality Generation Action Coalition on Feminist Action for Climate Justice found that only 3% of environmental philanthropic funding supports girls' and women's environmental activism.

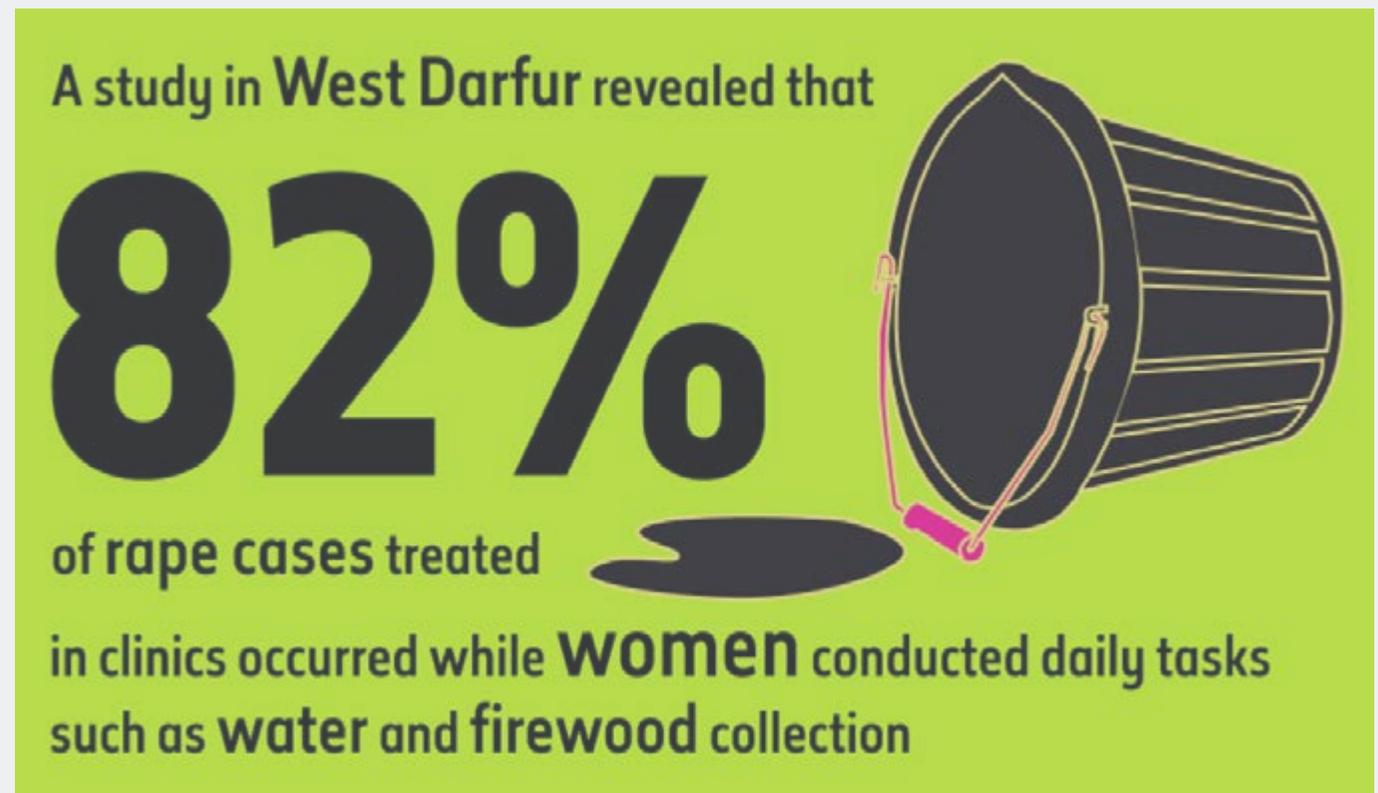
In addition, women-led organisations, which are often small, have difficulty accessing funding from climate finance providers, which mostly invest in large-scale projects, starting at \$10 million.

However, because of their societally imposed caring roles, girls and women have a deep understanding and broad knowledge of their environment and natural resources. Funding their vision and supporting their ideas for sustainability is key to successful climate change adaptation and mitigation, regardless of the dollar value of their projects.

Gender-based violence

Gender-based violence is widespread throughout the world. Globally, **1 in 3 women will experience some form of gender-based violence in her lifetime**, but national and context-specific evidence shows that the incidence can be much, much higher.

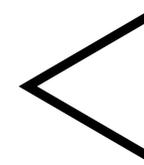
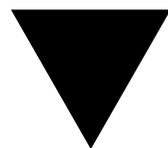
Rooted in discriminatory gender norms, gender-based violence is used as a form of control, subjugation and exploitation to maintain and reinforce gender inequality. **Gender-based violence is a violation of basic rights and has long-term impacts on all aspects of a survivor's life, from health and well-being to public participation and economic and political empowerment.**



Tactics to silence dissent

Gender-based violence has long been a tactic to silence women's dissent in the to [silence dissent by women defending human and environmental rights and to dissuade others from speaking out, and indigenous women face increased violence due to intersecting forms of discrimination](#). and deter others from speaking out, and indigenous women face increased violence due to intersecting forms of discrimination. As shown by women community leaders and activists who participated in the latest [ReSisters Dialogue](#), these trends of violence, threats and intimidation occur in all countries and contexts. However, this gathering of women defenders also shows a growing system of support and resistance to these trends and a strengthened network of strong and inspiring women.

If sustainability programmes do not take into account local gender dynamics and drivers of gender-based violence, interventions may inadvertently exacerbate conditions that contribute to increased violence. Addressing gender-based violence in environment-related contexts and sectors is important for conservation and resilience-focused interventions and advocacy, as well as for the realisation of human rights and peace and security. Fostering safe civic spaces, raising awareness of rights and enhancing structural protections are essential for women to participate in and defend their rights to environmental resources and land.



Exemplary woman in the field of climate action: Berta Cáceres

Berta Cáceres was a prominent indigenous leader in Honduras. She co-founded and coordinated the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organisations of Honduras (COPINH) and **was assassinated in 2016 for her opposition to the construction of the Agua Zarca hydroelectric project, a dam on the Gualcarque River, which is a sacred and vital site for the native communities in that area of northwestern Honduras.**

She fought for the rights of the Lenca indigenous people to recover their lands in Río Blanco, Intibucá, against the construction of the Agua Zarca hydroelectric dam by the Desarrollos Energéticos SA (DESA) company, in Tierras Lenca. The Lenca people have waged a constant struggle for the defense of their territories and for the protection of the Río Blanco. Because of this fight, the Lenca indigenous people have been persecuted, to the point of forcing them to abandon their territories, they have been injured and in that area during 2014 four Lenca indigenous people were murdered and remain in total impunity.

Exemplary woman in the field of climate action: Donella Meadows

[Donella](#) received her Ph.D. in Biophysics from Harvard University in 1968. Later, she joined MIT, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, as a Research Fellow, specializing in **System Dynamics**.

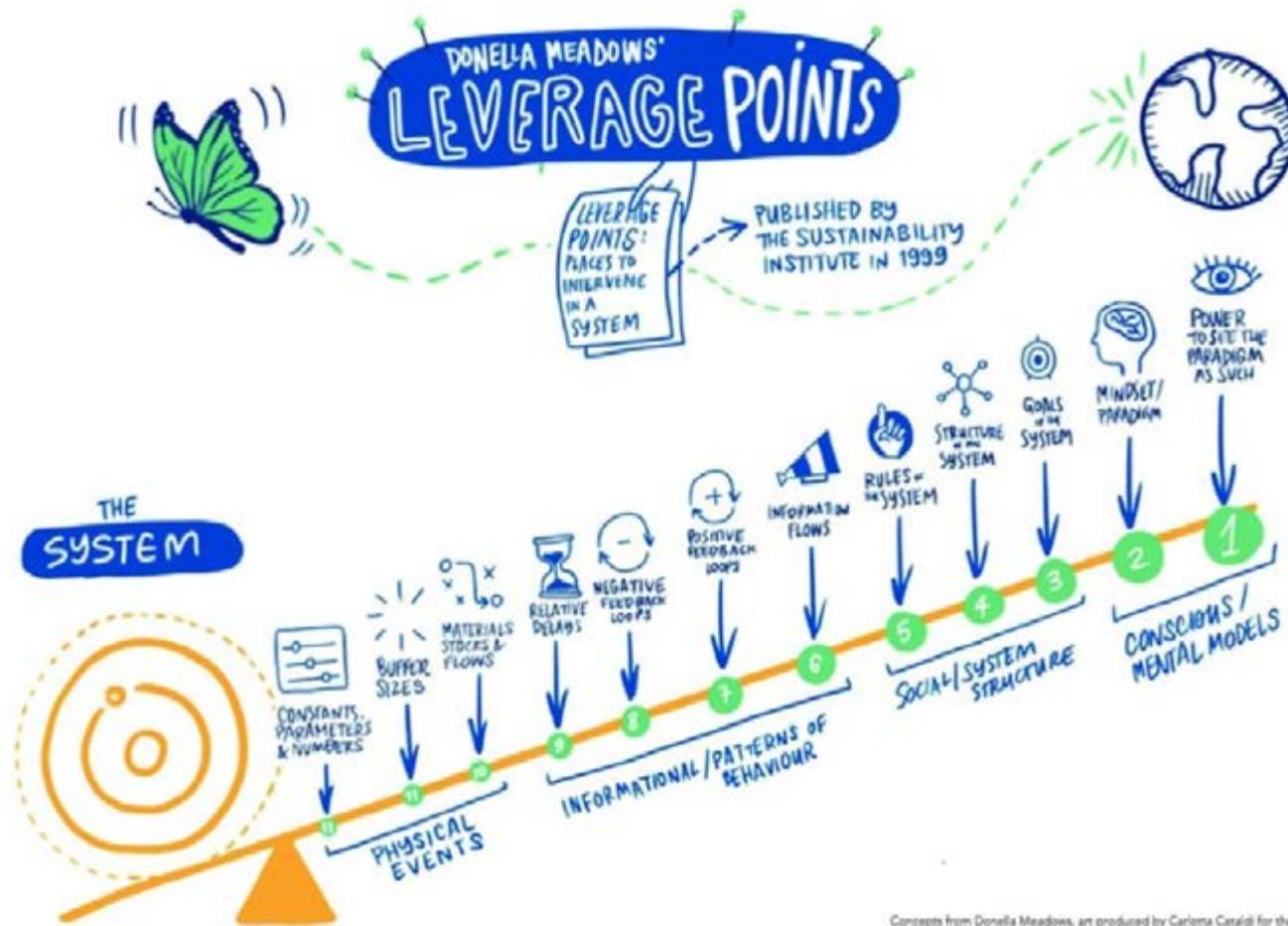
She also co-authored the 1972 [Club of Rome Report: The Limits to Growth](#) which warned of the infeasibility of continuing to grow in the way we did in the 20th century.

“Growth is one of the stupidest purposes ever invented by any culture. We’ve got to have an enough.”

Always ask: growth of what, and why, and for whom, and who pays the cost, and how long can it last, and what’s the cost to the planet, and how much is enough?”

- Donella Meadows





The consequences of this prolonged historical desire for growth and massive consumption in a world of complex connections, where everything is related to everything, materialise today in the climate crisis, the sixth extinction of species and successive emergencies.

Exemplary woman in the field of climate action: Joanna Macy

A PhD in philosophy and specialist in [systems theory](#) and [deep ecology](#), [Joanna Macy](#) is a **leading activist in the peace, social and environmental justice movements**.

Considered as a founder of ecophilosophy and ecopsychology, for fifty years she has been interweaving her knowledge with social struggles to produce a new paradigm of change.

Her work helps transform despair and apathy in the face of ecological and social crises into constructive and collaborative action that frees us from attitudes that threaten life on Earth. Created by her [“The work that Reconnects”](#) promotes conversation rounds, meditation, singing, exercises for the body and therapeutic experiences that stimulate reconnection with oneself, with other people and with the planet. The methodology also inspired the creation of courses such as [Gaia Education](#), **developed by the Findhorn ecovillage in Scotland**, which trains professionals to develop creative and efficient solutions to the sustainability crisis.

Joanna Macy has already written more than ten books and her work can be seen by entering this link.

- In this video, Joanna quickly explains what The Work That Reconnects is.
- In this video, Joanna explains how to become a facilitator of this methodology.
- Joanna Macy on receiving pain related to the climate crisis.

Work That Reconnects process' parts explaining the emotional work around the climate crisis methodology

4 Gender and climate migrations



In 2019, extreme weather events displaced nearly 25 million people in **as many as 140 countries around the world.**

Climate migrations caused by sea level rise and flooding of inhabited coasts and islands can significantly influence resettlement decisions. As these are often the most densely populated regions, it is estimated that this element of climate change may affect the lives of around 40% of the Earth's population. Small island states are in the most difficult situation. We are talking about the Maldives, Tuvalu, Kiribati or the Marshall Islands, which, due to their small size and geological structure, suffer huge losses with every typhoon, even a smaller one.



We can't deter people fleeing for their lives. They will come. The choice we have is how well we manage their arrival, and how humanely.

— Antonio Guterres —

AZ QUOTES

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has also published a report on climate migration. It took into account data **from only six months - from September 2020 to February 2021** and it shows that in this period only as many as **10 million people had to change their place of residence due to the severe effects of climate change.**

Five times fewer people - just over 2 million - had to leave their homes because of the war. As the organisation emphasizes, climate change is today the most common reason for necessary migrations.

“The situation is getting worse as climate change exacerbates existing factors such as poverty, conflict and political instability,” said Helen Brunt of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

The World Bank’s Groundswell report estimated that climate change could force up to 216 million people to move within their countries by 2050.

Migration decision-making in the face of climate risks is based on gender roles and responsibilities. Women often face greater barriers to leaving disaster-prone areas due to their care obligations, [lack of financial assets and limited rights to land and property](#), which we have already discussed in the which we discussed in the first chapter. When they do leave, girls and women face increased risks of unemployment, child marriage, trafficking and gender-based violence.

Case studies

Niger

The Niger Delta is one of the world's largest natural resource reserves. The region has been suffering from environmental and human rights abuses evident in oil spills, gas spills, flaring and the **resulting destruction of natural resources, as well as human rights abuses.**

Nigerian women mobilised at the community level in social movements and protested against oil transnationals such as Shell and Chevron as part of a global movement to stop the actions of companies involved in ecological destruction and corporate irresponsibility. Most of the region's natural gas was being depleted to reduce maintenance costs and more gas was being burned here than anywhere else in the world, emitting more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere than the entire sub-Saharan region. In 2006, **protests led Nigerian courts to rule that gas flaring violated citizens' constitutional rights to life and dignity and the courts ordered an end to the practice.**

Case studies

How does being an indigenous woman make environmental activism twice as difficult?

As we have seen, for generations women around the world have demonstrated resilience and leadership in protecting their communities, lands, livelihoods and natural resources. **And yet, women environmental defenders consistently experience disproportionately high rates of gender-based violence as a result of their activism.** These assaults range from verbal abuse and gender-based harassment to intimidation, exclusion, sexual abuse and rape. **All are designed to undermine their voice and leadership in these movements.**

Additional materials



- [Gender Dimensions of Forced Displacement](#)
- [Gender Just Climate Solutions](#)
- [Kimberle Crenshaw “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color”.](#)
- Diffen: [Equality vs. Equity](#)
- Everyday Feminism: [Equality is not enough](#)
- Paloma Medina (TED Talk): [Let’s stop talking about diversity and start working towards equity](#)
- Teaching Tolerance: [Guideposts for Equity](#)
- [Movie “Wadida” \(2013\), Haifaa Al-Mansour](#)
- [Movie “Mustang” \(2015\), Deniz Gamze Ergüven](#)



Practical exercise

for young people 3

Women and Men

Objective:

1. To uncover any stereotypes that young people might have;
2. To discuss the social and personal meaning of stereotypes.

Time: 20 minutes**Materials:** None needed**Facilitator's notes**

- 1-The facilitator asks participants to sit in a circle.
2. The facilitator asks participants to close their eyes and imagine a person of the opposite gender that is well known in society. Participants should imagine the way this person walks, talks and otherwise expresses themselves. Participants should raise their hands when they have someone in mind.
3. Participants are asked to stand up and move around the room as if they were the person that they were imagining, greeting all of the other people as they go.

4. The facilitator asks people to stop moving and goes around the room placing a hand on each person's shoulder to allow that person to reveal their identity.

5. The facilitator asks participants to return to their identity and their seats. Participants are asked to share their thoughts on the activity with questions such as:

~ Did anything surprise you about acting as the other gender?

~ Are there 'typical' ways people act depending on their gender?

Practical exercise

for young people 4

Peter and Agnes

Objective:

1. To explore images and stereotypes that we have of people from different cultures;
2. To explore the difference in our expectations for men and women and for women.

Time: 30 minutes**Materials:** A ball or other small item that can be easily tossed, flipchart paper and marker.**Facilitator's notes:**

- 1-The facilitator asks participants to sit in a circle.
2. Participants are to create a story together. The person with the ball gives one or two sentences about the story and then throws it to someone else who adds two more sentences and so on.
- 3.The first part of the story is about Peter, a young Irishman. After 10 or 12 turns, the facilitator asks for the ball and says: Peter meets Agnes, a young Nigerian woman, who also has a story. And then throws the ball back to somebody. After a few minutes, she or he stops the activity.

4. Afterwards, ask participants what images of Ireland and Nigeria were present in their story; and what images of men and women.
Record these answers on flipchart paper.

5. Discuss what is a stereotype and whether any of the images recorded on the flipchart paper are stereotypes.

Practical 1

exercise

for young people 5

Walking in their Shoes

Objective:

1. To understand the difficulties faced by immigrants.

Time: 1 hour

Materials: Paper and pens

Facilitator's notes:

1-Ask participants to answer the following questions on a piece of paper:

- If you had to leave your country (or if you did leave it), what is the first thing that you missed/ would miss?
- What difficulties did you have / do you think you would find in a new country where you were not familiar with the language, lifestyle, culture?
- What did / would you need from the people of that country?

2. Ask participants to move into groups of 4 or 5 and discuss how they answered these questions.

3. Ask each group to prepare a mime that illustrates how they would approach and greet people from different countries.

4. After each group has performed their mime, ask participants to move back into the large circle and share their thoughts on the activity and what this tells us about our interactions with other cultures.

Chapter 3

Online mainstreaming gender in Climate Change adaptation and mitigation

A 2016 technical paper from the United Nations Framework Secretariat of the Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) defines gender mainstreaming within the framework of the Convention, according to the 1997 UN definition of the term Report of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), as: "...the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy to make women's and men's concerns more relevant to the concerns of women and men and experiences an integral dimension of design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres for women and men to benefit equally, and inequality to be eliminated, not perpetrated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality".

Why is gender mainstreaming important?

In order to build effective responses to climate change, we need to understand how gender inequality affects multiple issues: access to and control of resources; institutional structures; social,

cultural and formal networks; and decision-making processes. Therefore gender mainstreaming is essential as it helps to achieve the following:

- Climate policy and action is appropriate to the local context, addressing different perspectives, roles, rights, needs, priorities and interests of men and women as well as the stakeholders.
- Climate approaches will be more efficient, effective, sensitive and provide greater benefits.
- Equal access to opportunities, resources and decision-making and benefits of climate action and responses.
- Empowering women where there are distribution gaps of power, resources, services, participation, empowerment, empowerment institutional and socio-cultural barriers for women commitment.
- The knowledge, concerns and experience is taken into account.
- Complying with the UN's moral and legal obligations and its conventions, including the UN Declaration on Human Rights Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Gender mainstreaming is also important for designing and implementing policies, programmes and projects that lead to greater equity and equality. That can contribute to the development of greater adaptive capacity and mitigate climate change, to the extent that it provides a clearer vision and a fuller picture of the relationships that people have built relationships with the ecosystems. In development discussions, the gender approach to development strives to analyse and understand the different roles and responsibilities of men and women, the scope and quality of their participation in decision making, and their needs and viewpoints.

1 Digitalisation and gender gap

Digitalisation and gender gap

As a space for learning, leisure and access to information, the Internet plays a fundamental role in shaping our conception of the world, our opinions and our values. The gender stereotypes that exist in the offline environment, which are at the root of inequality between men and women and the source of gender-based violence, are also present in the online world.

Young people are in the process of forming their opinions and attitudes about norms and acceptable behaviour, and also about sexuality. Their attitudes towards women and men, their present and future behaviour and roles are being strongly influenced by content on the Internet. Certain online services and easily accessible violent and sexist material can also put them at risk.

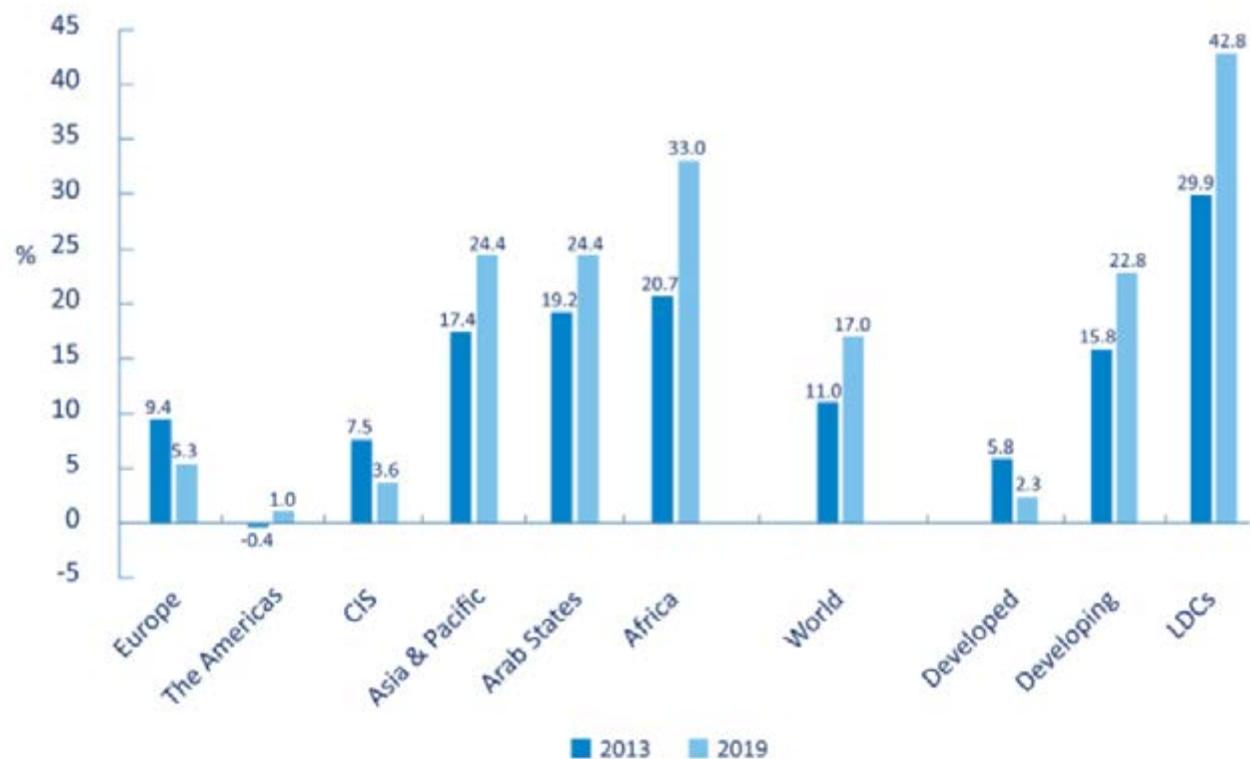
The challenge is how to protect their full enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression and access to information in online environments while preventing the harmful effects of harmful gender-related content. This is indispensable for achieving de facto equality between men and women.

On the internet, individuals, especially young women, can be exposed to risks such as surveillance, harassment, stalking, impersonation and manipulation, which are also linked to offline consequences such as private and professional persecution, defamation or bodily harm. Mobile phone tracking is considered a useful innovation; however, it is often used for stalking.

Being aware of how people think about gender,

including stereotypes and how discrimination and gender roles harm people, can help in understanding how internet content of a sexual and violent nature can lead to violence and discrimination against women.

The Internet user gender gap (%), 2013 and 2019*



Note: * ITU estimate. The gender gap represents the difference between the Internet user penetration rates for males and females relative to the Internet user penetration rate for males, expressed as a percentage.

Source: ITU.

Additional materials:

[WOMEN'S RIGHTS ONLINE. Closing the digital gender gap for a more equal world, 2020](#)

[What we know about the gender digital divide for girls: A literature review](#)

2 Climate Change in online dissemination and youth work

The internet consumes a lot of electricity. 416.2TWh per year to be precise. To give you some perspective, **that's more than the entire United Kingdom.**

It may come as a surprise that the internet is the largest coal-fired machine on Earth, and it is estimated that internet-connected technologies will consume around 20% of the total electricity produced by 2025.

This is why we include here:

10 practical and easy ways to make your online youth work more sustainable.



The best and most evolved technologies are those that do not destroy the very base on which we live

— Vandana Shiva —

AZ QUOTES

10 practical and easy ways to make your online youth work more sustainable

1. Consider turning off your camera during video-conferences

Having your camera on during video calls can be valuable at times; however, in large groups or while someone else is presenting, consider turning off your camera to save energy. Turning your camera off during video calls could reduce the environmental impact of the call by up to 96%

2. Change your video resolution settings

Reducing video resolution is a good option if you want to leave your video on but still reduce your energy consumption. Streaming videos in standard definition rather than high definition may result in an 86 percent reduction.

3. Change your video resolution settings

Reducing the brightness on your laptop or monitor while you work can also save energy. Research by Eric Potkin from Harvard Law School found that reducing your computer monitor brightness from 100% to 70% can save up to 20% of the energy the monitor uses.

4. Prioritize asynchronous communication

Asynchronous communication can often be more energy-efficient than synchronous communication.

5. Turn off your work devices at the end of the day

It is important to turn off your devices when you are finished using them. Leaving your devices on overnight uses unnecessary energy and impacts the environment. Unplugging your devices is also a good practice. Leaving devices plugged in can increase your energy consumption and electricity bill: The United States Department of Energy reports that homeowners can save anywhere between \$100 and \$200 each year by unplugging devices not in use..

6. Listen to music with standard audio quality

Many people like to listen to music while working remotely. It can be nice to have background music while focusing on individual work. However, streaming music in high-quality for long periods



of time can consume a lot of energy. Choosing a lower audio quality level in your streaming service's settings can reduce energy consumption. Here are some statistics from an article by Jerry Hildenbrand: Low-quality is typically 96kbps: Low-quality audio streaming uses 0.72MB per minute or 43.2MB per hour. Normal-quality is typically 160kbps: Normal-quality music streaming uses 1.20MB per minute or 72MB per hour on average. High-quality music is typically 320kbps: High-quality streaming music uses 2.40MB per minute or 115.2MB per hour on average. For example, to change your audio quality default in Spotify, visit your settings and select "normal" from the streaming quality and download drop-downs.

7. Take advantage of daylight

If your workspace contains a window, consider placing your desk where it will receive lots of natural light. By taking advantage of daylight, you can reduce the amount of artificial light you need. Additionally, sunlight can naturally warm your house, reducing the amount of heat you need to use during the winter.

8. Switch to LED lights

If you have a large workspace, using a desk lamp can be more sustainable than relying on overhead fixtures to light the entire room. You should also opt for LED light bulbs when possible. LED light bulbs are more energy-efficient and last longer than incandescent or fluorescent bulbs.

9. Use energy-efficient kitchen appliances

If you cook your lunches from home, think about investing in energy-efficient kitchen appliances. Using a slow cooker, toaster oven, or microwave instead of an oven to heat your lunch is another way to save energy.

10. Shop sustainably

If you need to shop online, consider purchasing second hand products or those that are produced and distributed in a sustainable way when possible.

3 Fighting online gender gap and online Climate Change negationism with youth

[Women's Rights Online](#) (WRO) is a research and advocacy network that aims to drive women's empowerment through the web. The network is an initiative of the Web Foundation, and currently comprises women's rights and digital rights groups across 14 developing countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America, working to bridge the gender gap in technology, data, and policymaking.

They are calling on countries to **REACT** — that is, to focus on

Rights,
Education,
Access,
Content,
and **T**argets — to close the gender digital divide.

The WRO explains the **REACT** strategy in the following way:

Rights

Protect and enhance everyone's rights online. The web can't serve as an empowering space unless we know everyone's rights will be protected online. We must ensure the web is a safe space for women and protect fundamental rights such as freedom of speech and privacy, and that policy, legislative, and regulatory processes uphold digital rights.

Education

Use education to equip everyone — especially women — with the skills they need to access and use the web effectively. The research shows that education is the most powerful tool we have to close this gap. We must include digital skills in primary and secondary school curricula in every country around the world, especially targeted at girls; we must also take steps

to eradicate the gender gap in access to higher and tertiary education by ensuring that women have equal access to tertiary education opportunities.

Access

Deliver affordable — or free — access to an open web. Affordability remains a major obstacle to universal internet access across the globe; women, on average, earn less than men, resulting in a higher real cost to

connect. Countries must adopt and work towards a more ambitious '1 for 2' affordability target of – 1GB of data monthly for less than 2% of monthly income. Public access programmes that offer free or subsidised ways to connect in public spaces will enable those that still might not be able to afford a connection, even once prices have reduced, to come online.

Content

Ensure relevant and empowering content for women is available and used. Unless content on the web is valuable and empowering, people simply won't use it. Governments can play an important role here both by delivering vital services online and ensuring important content is available in local languages. As content and service delivery providers, governments must ensure that critical government content relevant to women, including information on sexual and reproductive health, legal rights, and digital financial services, is readily available online in local languages.

Targets

Set and measure concrete gender-equity targets. Every country in the world shall update their connectivity targets as mandated by the SDGs, including clearly laying out how they will close the gender gap and for data on progress towards these targets to be regularly published in open formats so that everyone can keep tabs on progress and look for creative solutions.

On the other hand, the Association for Progressive Communication proposed the below 10 tips for the gender and internet-based harassment of women and girls:

10 ideas for counteracting internet-based gender-discrimination and online harassment against women and girls.



10 ideas for counteracting internet-based gender-discrimination and online harassment against women and girls

1. If you intend to be anonymous, stay anonymous.

In the online world the mere desire of remaining anonymous is not enough to keep your identity safe and hidden. Think twice about the way you share information and whom you share it with. Log out of your accounts. Protect and keep a score of your online accounts passwords.

2. If you don't want comments, there is probably an option to disable them.

Hate speech is annoying but sometimes you can simply turn it off. Turning off comments is not cowardice; it can give you peace of mind and the time needed to come to terms with whatever you have to share with the world.

3. Don't be afraid to face those who try to discourage you.

Even when it gets tough, it is important to remember there is always an audience: the other internet users.

4. Don't bother to reply and get into an argument if you do not feel like it.

Insulting the person who insulted you will only wear off the difference between the aggressor and you. Let the haters talk by themselves and the public will get the message.

5. Expose the abuse.

You can however publish the hateful remarks and even reveal the identity of the persons who made them. You can always contact the media or ask other bloggers to write about it. You can even start a new online campaign, collecting misogynist remarks from several women activists and putting them together in a "Book of Shame".

6. Don't rely on words only, especially if you are the target of verbal attacks.

If they spam you with ugly words, look for creative ways to respond. Draw, sing, dance or take it back to the offline world with a symbolic flash-mob or happening. It takes different skills to combat hate, so dare to be imaginative and stand out.

7. Keep your sense of humor, when (emotionally) possible.

The unequal power relationship tends to block the victim into an emotional situation where she is no longer allowed to express humor, because she is the one being mocked. Nevertheless, you can be the first to use humor and confident self-irony. New artsy apps and software can help you put together collages, caricatures, manga or digital photos in order to express a whole range of situations from absurd to paradoxical.

8. Remember the 99% who are not online.

If you are spammed, remember all those persons who think alike you and would support your cause if they had access to the internet. The online world is but a small fragment of reality. Only real-world action can lead to lasting changes.

9. Don't hesitate to meet your supporters in person.

If they spam you with ugly words, look for creative ways to respond. Draw, sing, dance or take it back to the offline world with a symbolic flash-mob

10. Real-life stories move the (virtual) world.

Do not be afraid of showing who you are if this is what you desire. Look for support if you need it and if the burden gets too heavy (especially the professional one if you feel stuck and unable to deal with the situation). Share how you feel, talk it out.

4 Remote youth work and online environmental change education: successful tools and strategies

Ecosia

[Ecosia](#) is a search engine based in Berlin, Germany. Ecosia considers itself a social business, claiming to be **CO₂-negative, supporting full financial transparency, and protecting the privacy of its users.**

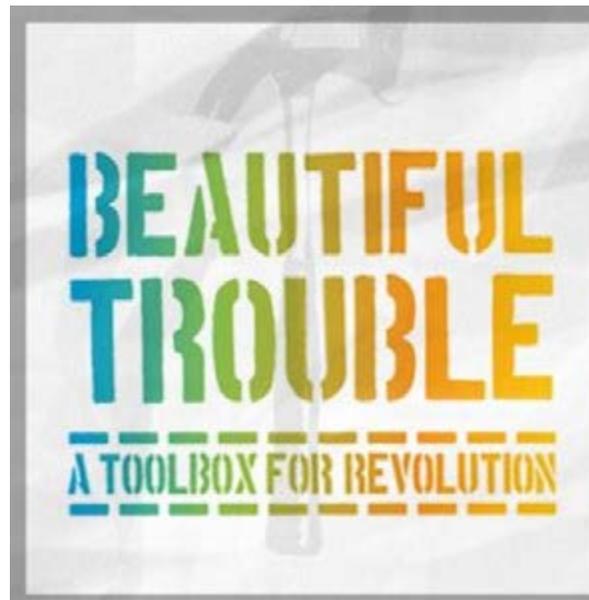
Ecosia is B Lab certified, meeting its standards of accountability, sustainability, and performance.

As of March 2023, the company claims **to have planted more than 173 million trees since its inception and planting a tree every 1.3 seconds.**

Beautiful Trouble

[Beautiful Trouble](#) is Beautiful Trouble is an online toolbox and creative campaign incubator. An international network of artist-activist-trainers **helping grassroots movements become more creative and effective.**

“A crucial resource for change-makers.”
— Desmond Tutu



Website Carbon

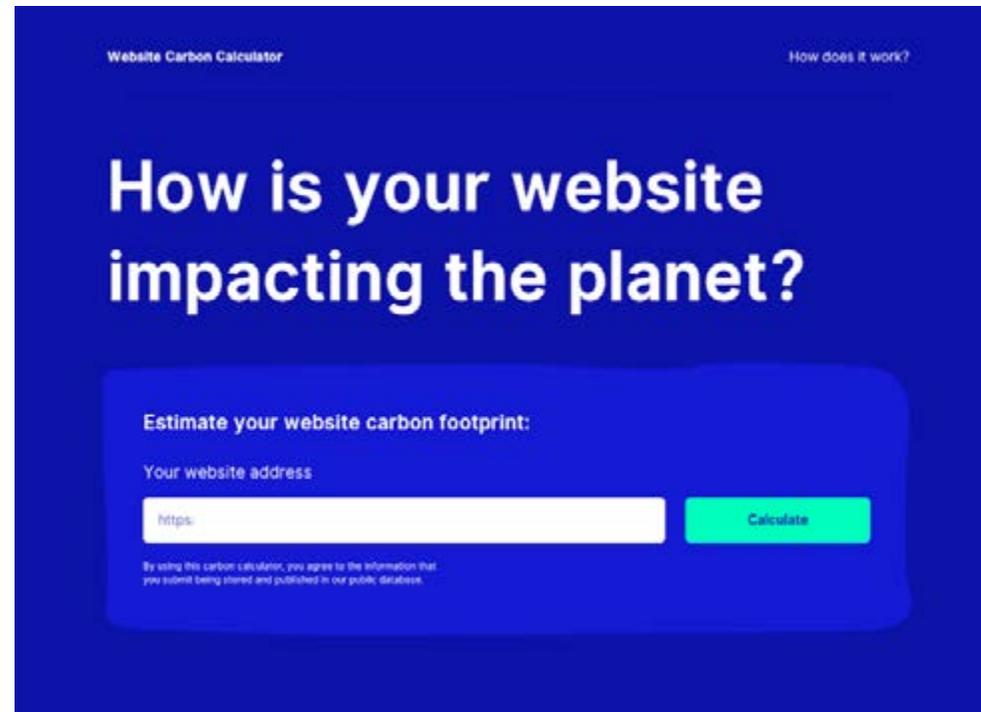
[Website Carbon](#) is a simple tool that shows the website's CO₂ emissions compared to others and whether the site is hosted green. This website carbon calculator has been created by [Wholegrain Digital](#) to help inspire and educate people to create a zero carbon internet. It is hosted using renewable energy.

Ecograder

[Ecograder](#) is another tool that allows you to analyze websites. It also gives you detailed advice on how to make the site greener.

“Ecograder helped us understand the environmental impact of our website and provided a clear roadmap to build a better site that’s both people- and planet-friendly.”

— Sharon Miller, Director, Digital Experience and Analysis, DePaul University



The screenshot shows the 'Website Carbon Calculator' interface. At the top, it says 'Website Carbon Calculator' on the left and 'How does it work?' on the right. The main heading is 'How is your website impacting the planet?'. Below this is a section titled 'Estimate your website carbon footprint:'. It contains a text input field labeled 'Your website address' with the placeholder 'https:'. To the right of the input field is a green 'Calculate' button. At the bottom of the input field, there is a small disclaimer: 'By using this carbon calculator, you agree to the information that you submit being stored and published in our public database.'



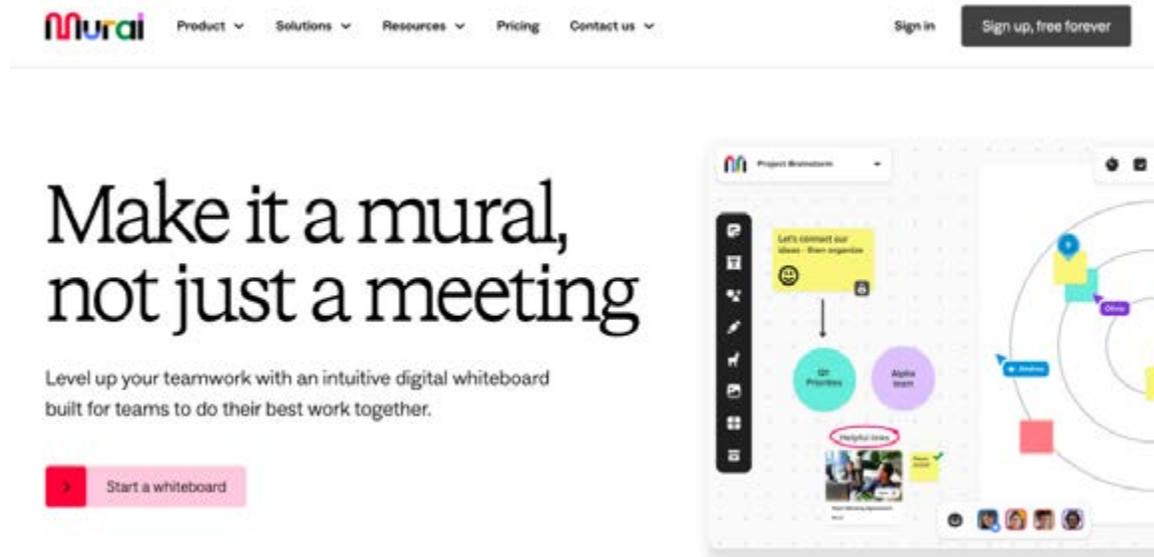
Miro

[Miro](#) helps to switch from paper post-its to digital ones. It is the online collaborative whiteboard platform that enables distributed teams to work together effectively; from brainstorming with digital sticky notes to planning and managing Agile workflows.

Mural

[Mural](#) is another workspace for visual collaboration and reduction of real life post-its and paper trash. It levels the playing field during meetings by **accommodating different types of collaborators and thinkers and allowing everyone's voice to be heard.**

“Mural enhances our ability to create a safe space for people to collaborate and contribute, whether they're introverted or extroverted, in person or remote. **Meetings are more engaging and inclusive, and ultimately, diverse perspectives lead to more innovative, impactful solutions.**”



Mural Product Solutions Resources Pricing Contact us Sign in Sign up, free forever

Make it a mural, not just a meeting

Level up your teamwork with an intuitive digital whiteboard built for teams to do their best work together.

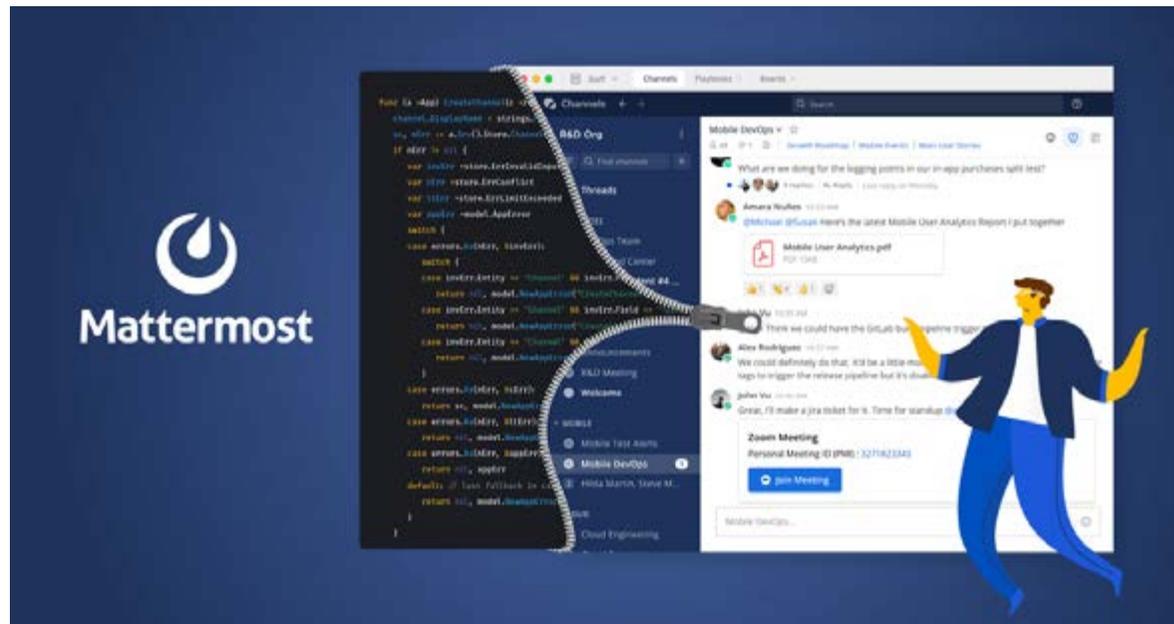
Start a whiteboard

Mattermost

[Mattermost](#) is an open source messaging tool that serves as a **great alternative to Slack, Microsoft teams and others**. Plus, it comes with **great data security**. The platform is open source, which means that userThis software is multi-device and suitable for organizing team chats through custom channels. **Another advantage it presents is that it can be integrated with other apps and plugins from external systems such as Jira, Trello, GitLab,** etc. And also with social networks.

CryptDrive

CryptDrive is used to store and manage documents. **It is a collaboration suite that is end-to-end-encrypted and open-source**. Because all data is encrypted, the service and its administrators have no way of seeing the content being edited and stored. Deploy on any cloud or on-premise. Scalable and very secure.



Video conferencing with Fairmeeting

Video chat with Jitsi on the basis of the [Fairmeeting](#) servers. **This way it is green and your data is secure. Uses encrypted video conferencing solutions made from 100% open source software. Their servers are operated in the EU with green energy.**



Video conferencing with BigBlueButton

For bigger video conferences, it is better to go with [BigBlueButton](#) in combination of Fairteaching as hoster.

The goal of this **virtual classroom** is not to meet, it is to learn. BigBlueButton gives you built-in tools for applied learning, live analytics to see who is struggling, and an interface designed to save you time during your class so you have more time to help youth through their learning journey. BigBlueButton is **also backed by a world-wide community of open source developers.**



Caching

Caching is a strategy that **temporarily saves your website as a static page and thus reduces a lot of data and CO2.** Use for example [W3 Total Cache](#) or [Hummingbird as WordPress](#) caching plugin and achieve better results in performance and data load.

Optimising Fonts

Optimising used fonts with [FontSquirrel](#) or [Everything Fonts](#) is another useful strategy. Unused characters are removed from the font sets, thus reducing the size many times over. You can find more information on this topic in the [Mightybites article about fonts.](#)



Case studies

Brasil



[Bike Anjo](#) is an **online platform** promoting safe and secure riders who can teach and bike alongside beginners. Bike Anjo is one of its projects, focusing on women learning to bike in São Paulo. The city road planning (intense row of cars and reckless drivers) impose several barriers to beginner cyclists, especially women who also experience street harassment. Volunteers, through monthly workshops, teach beginners to pedal, traffic rules, signaling and precautions. **Ninety percent of the participants are women.** There are also 2 comfort workshops encouraging women to use bicycles as their main mode of transportation; training them on basic mechanics, intimate hygiene and dressing tips, etc.

Climate impact:

According to the **Institute of Energy and Environment, automobiles account for 72.6% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in São Paulo. The average car in São Paulo** produces 261,36 kg of CO₂ monthly. Bike Anja hopes that the biking women will become multiplying agents by encouraging other women to start cycling, reducing the amount of cars on the streets, thus reducing GHGs in the city. They also hope that the project will push the local authorities to prioritize bicycle infrastructure.

Gender impact:

The project supports the autonomy of women by contributing to their daily economy (reducing their transportation costs), health and agility, as well as security in the city' streets. This action also promotes women cyclists' active contribution to climate mitigation. The events are promoted on social



networks and at different city locations to make it more available to other women. Meeting venues are close to subway or train stations, to guarantee accessibility.

Case studies

Doing the Doughnut.tech:

[Doing the Doughnut.tech](#) use the excellent [Doughnut Economics framework](#) as a vehicle to generate these discussions and understanding with the digital tech sector.

As the creators of this workshop tell themselves, when sustainability is discussed within the digital tech industry, the conversation often revolves around electricity use. Typically “how can we reduce electrical consumption in data centers or on end-user devices, and how can we decarbonise it?”

This is great progress, but the industry is in danger of overlooking the big, more difficult questions.

Questions like: **what exactly are those paradigms, systems and root causes that have got us into a rapidly warming climate? And how has this industry been culpable? And how does it continue to be culpable? What do we need to change?**

“It’s easy to get tunnel vision and focus on a particular one of the possible subjects – in my case lowering the carbon of websites and reducing data usage. But there is so much more to digital sustainability in tech.”

— Nick Lewis, Founder of [the-sustainable.dev](#), on Donought

In 2022, they facilitated pilot workshops to explore the Doughnut Economics model in relation to the digital tech sector.

They invited people working in various roles in and around the tech sector, and already interested in digital sustainability in some regard, to come together and discuss these questions:

- What would it mean for the digital tech workforce to thrive?
- What would it mean for the digital tech industry to respect the wellbeing of people worldwide?
- What would it mean for the digital tech industry to respect the health of the whole planet?

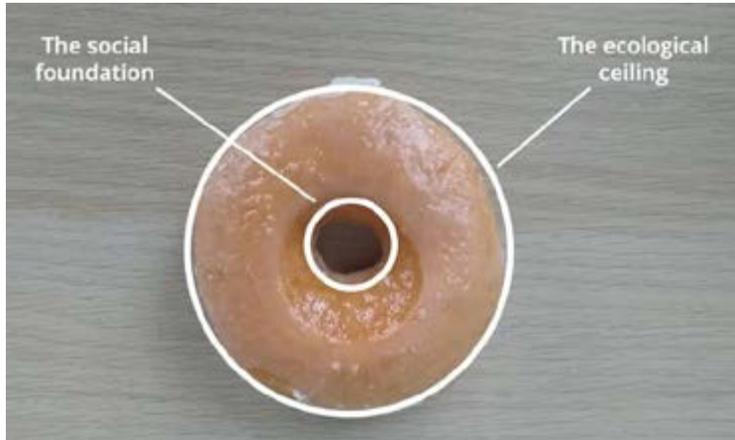
They see two clear audiences who will benefit from the existing workshop, and from development of further workshop formats:

- Tech Companies
- Not-for-profit “CivicTech” organisations

In summary, according to the Doughnuttech, there were four common tech strategies that stood out as things that should shift if the digital tech industry is serious about becoming more sustainable:

- **Stop the relentless consumption/depletion of resources** – attention based revenue is driving the wrong behaviours.
- **Pointless – and endless – growth is getting us nowhere** – the exponential growth bubble needs to burst.
- **Build things that last and can be reused** – the strategy of planned obsolescence only serves shareholders and not society.
- **Detoxify tech culture** – replace it with fairness, inclusion and better ways of working.

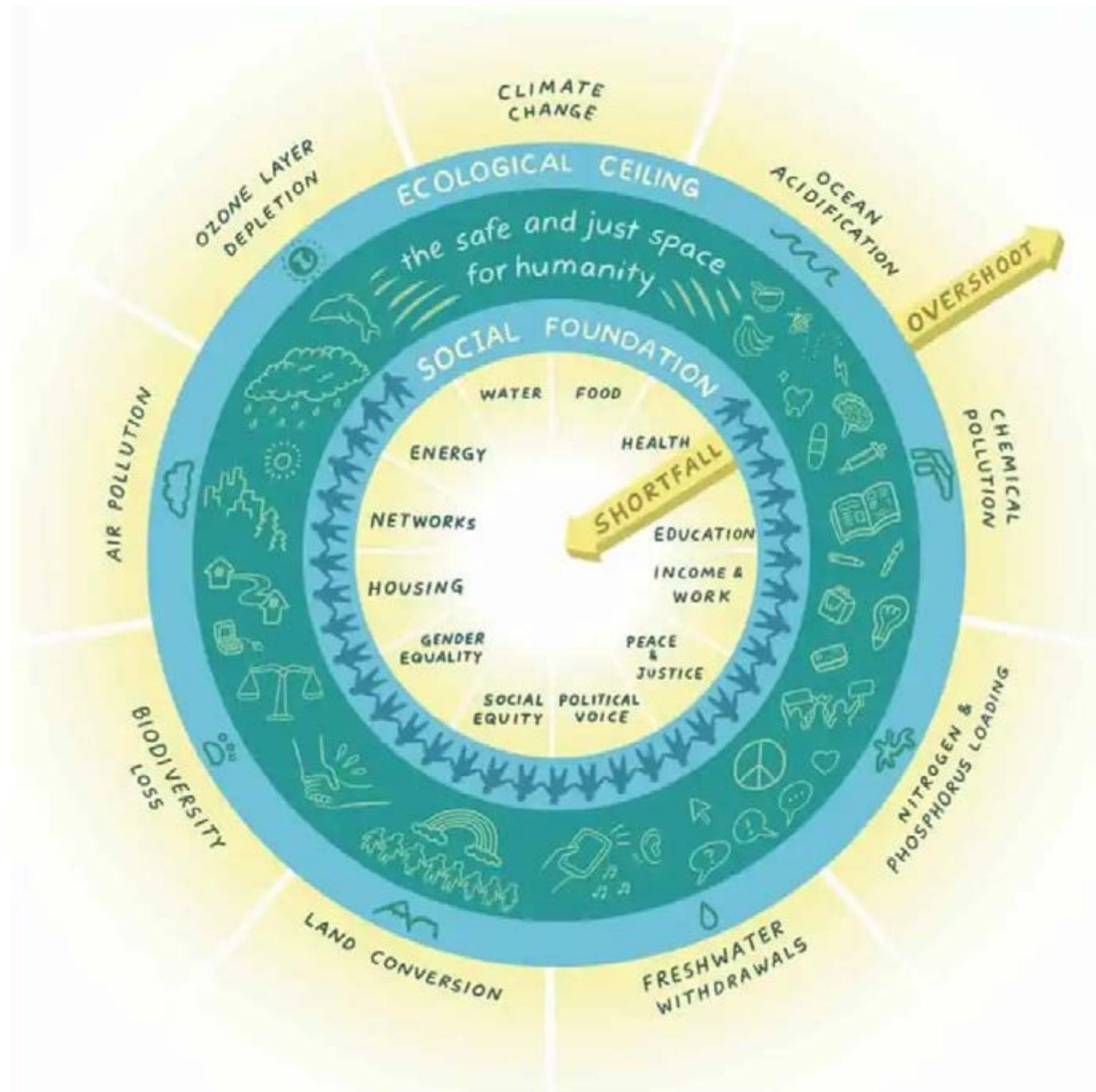
This philosophy is based, as said before on the Doughnut Economy model usually pictured as a two-ring doughnut.



Doughnut Economics thus describes the economy as:

- An outer ring of 9 “[planetary boundaries](#)”, the earth’s natural limits for sustainable life;
- An inner ring of 12 “[social foundations](#)”, representing human life’s essentials.

The sweet spot is the space in which we must all live to stay within the planet’s natural limits and to ensure all humans not just survive, but thrive. The zone of not taking too much and not sharing too little. The zone in which we all must live if we are all not just to survive, but to be joyful in doing so.



Exemplary woman in the field of climate action: Kate Raworth

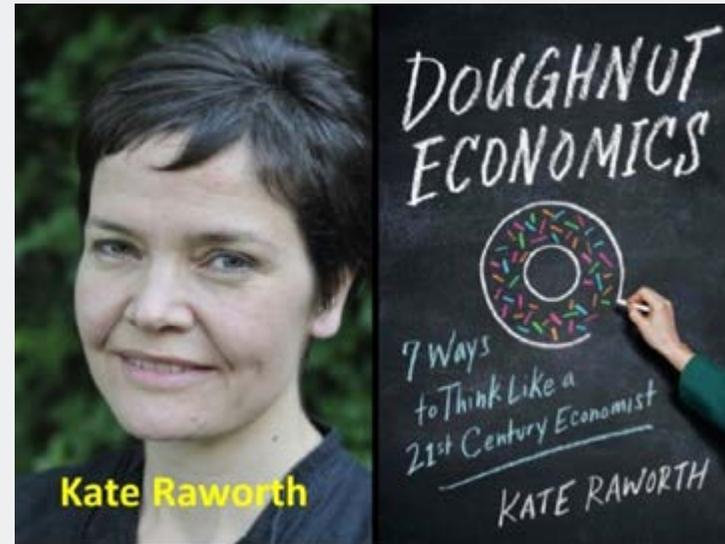
Kate Raworth, English economist who teaches as a Senior Visiting Research Associate at the Institute for Environmental Change at the University of Oxford, and is a Senior Associate at the Cambridge Sustainability Leadership Institute.

She is also the author of one of the most famous economic concepts in recent years: **“Doughnut Economics”**, in which she shows how to meet human needs, taking into account the possibilities of our planet and which we have just described earlier.

Kate Raworth is also one of the scientists supporting most recent and avant-garde climate movements such as [Extinction Rebellion](#) and the [Scientists Rebellion](#).

[Here](#) you can access a video where the co-founder of Extinction Rebellion Dr Gail Bradbrook (another great woman in the climate emergency movement) is in conversation with Kate Raworth.

[And here](#) she speaks at the 2021 Impossible Rebellion event in the United Kingdom on the importance of solidarity in the face of the climate collapse.



Did you know?

The [Scientist Rebellion](#) climate action movement uses in its logo the blue and red stripes. **What are they?**

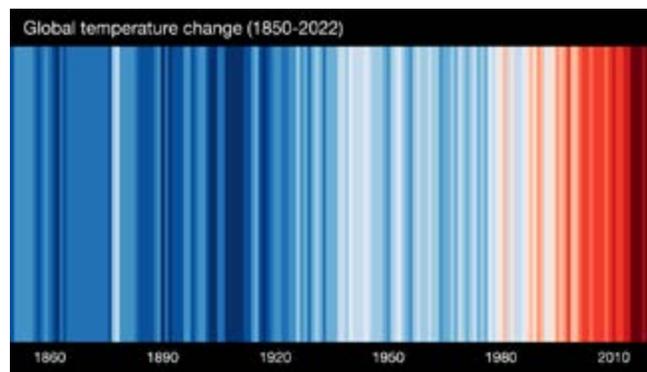


#ShowYourStripes

These 'warming stripe' graphics are visual representations of the change in temperature as measured in each country, region or city over the past 100+ years.

Each stripe or bar represents the temperature in that country, region or city averaged over a year. The stripes typically start around the year 1900 and finish in 2022, but for many countries, regions and cities the stripes start in the 19th century or sometimes even the 18th century.

The graphics have a CC-BY4.0 license, so can be used for any purpose as long as **credit is given to Professor Ed Hawkins (University of Reading)** and a link is provided to [this website](#).



While the climate [warming stripes](#) were created by Professor Ed Hawkins at the University of Reading in 2018, **as the Climate change has been found to get up to [eight times](#) more coverage than biodiversity loss, Professor Miles Richardson (@findingnature)** from the University of Derby created the biodiversity stripes in [August 2022](#) and set up [biodiversitystripes.info](#).

Only by addressing both the warming climate and loss of wildlife do we stand a chance of passing on a stable planet for future generations.

The 'biodiversity stripes' provide a visual representation of the change in biodiversity over time, often since 1970. The highest level of biodiversity is coloured bright green. Lower levels move through yellow to grey, depending upon the level of decline. Darker greys appear with greater declines.

Eco-centric versus Ego-centric (or, Anthropocentric)

The original stripes used data from [the Living Planet Index](#). This **data tells us that the population of mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles has seen an average drop of 69% globally since 1970**. The global data includes over 30,000 populations of over 5000 species.

We are in a [spiralling breakdown as when biodiversity decreases so does our relationship with nature](#), a failing relationship that the [UN](#) recognises as the root cause of the environmental crises.

Find out more about the human relationship with the rest of nature and how to improve it in [The Nature Connection Handbook](#), finding nature blog and the book [Reconnection: Fixing our broken relationship with nature](#).

Exemplary woman in the field of climate action: Donna Haraway

Donna Haraway is a biologist graduated from the University of Yale and one of the most disruptive thinkers of today who achieved great worldwide recognition in the mid-eighties of the last century with her innovative approaches to feminism.

At a time when women achieved the long-awaited gender equality with respect to men, this author and university professor specializing in topics as diverse as history, feminism, technology, science, and animals, proposed a new perspective on the sexist struggle.

[She also contributes to the debates on modern digitalisation](#) and maps of how information technology linked people around the world into new chains of affiliation, exploitation and solidarity.

Haraway doesn't like the term for the times we live in either. Coined in the early 1980s by University of Michigan ecologist Eugene Storer, **the notion of the [Anthropocene](#)** designates evidence of the transformative effects of human activities on Earth. It gained relevance in the year 2000 when Nobel Prize winner Paul Crutzen postulated that the time had come to name the new geological era with it.

Haraway makes his objections explicit and prefers

to call it the Capitalocene, since it is the entire current economic paradigm that configures the threat to ecological stability. **But she goes further and proposes a name “for another place and another time that was, still is and could come to be”. She calls it Chthulucene. In this world, human beings are not the only important actors since what Haraway proposes is a tentacular network, a sympoietic system , generated with others, not built alone.**

“
We need each other in collaborations and unexpected combinations, in hot compost heaps. We become reciprocally or we don't become at all”

Donna Haraway

Practical exercise

for young people 6

Facts and Opinions

Objective:

1. To understand the difficulties faced by immigrants.

Time: 20—30 minutes

Materials: Different coloured paper with fact written on one, and opinion on the other (enough for each participant to have their own set)

Facilitator's notes:

- 1- The facilitator leads a discussion about what is fact and what is opinion and hands out the papers with fact and opinion written on them.
2. The facilitator reads out statements and participants have to raise the sign of fact or opinion depending on which one they think it is. Participants should discuss why they have chosen fact or opinion and are allowed to change their minds if someone convinces them.

Sample statements: Bananas have curves. Bananas taste good. Female teachers are nicer than male teachers. Red is a colour. Boys like blue. Women give birth. Women are better cooks than men. Boys like rough play

Practical exercise

for young people **7**

Stereotypes in Action

Objective:

1. To uncover gender and cultural stereotypes in media;
2. To discuss the ways that these stereotypes impact our perceptions of gender and culture.

Time: 30 minutes

Materials: Scrap paper

Facilitator's notes:

- 1- The facilitator reads a short scene from a play or a movie or constructs one themselves.
Sample: In a welding classroom, the teacher asks students to work in teams of 3 or 4 and then instructs the boys to help the girls with the project.
- 2-The students are asked in small groups to point out the stereotypes in the situation described.

3- Discussion questions could include:

- ~ Have you ever been in a similar situation?
- ~ Is it possible to not have stereotypes? How could the story be told differently to not include any stereotypes?

Additional materials



- **European Institute for Gender Equality:** [Toolkit on gender-sensitive communication](#)
- **European Commission:** [A guide for fostering women's entrepreneurship. Five key actions towards a digital, green and resilient Europe](#)
- **Virtual not Distant:** [Psychological Safety in online Meetings](#)
- **Yoram Mosenzon:** [Introduction to Nonviolent Communication](#)
- **Hyper Island Toolbox:** [Check-in and Check-out Questions](#)



if we wait for the government
it will be too late...

...if we act as individuals
it will be too little...



...if we act as communities it might just
be enough...



QUOTE BY ROB HOPKINS IN 'FROM WHAT IS TO WHAT IF' @brenna_quinlan

1 4 types of Social Action according to Weber

The Theory of Social Action was developed by the German sociologist Max Weber, who with this theory sought to highlight the importance of human behaviour in its (instrumentally rational) cause-and-effect relationship in the social sphere.

According to Max Weber, human beings adapt their actions according to social contexts and how these actions affect the behaviour of others.

Four types of social action according to Max Weber

1. Traditional social action (custom)

They are actions that are the result of traditions and customs and are performed in certain situations.

Example of traditional social action

Having lunch with the family every Sunday. Traditional actions can become a cultural reference.

Tradition is divided into two subgroups: customs and habits. A custom is a family practice, usually performed and popularised within the culture. Habits, on the other hand, can endure from generation to generation. A habit is something that is learned little by little and sometimes it is something that becomes normalised in everyday life and even becomes attached to a person's personality.

2. Affective social action

Also known as emotional action where humans act impulsively and do not necessarily think about the consequences.

Example of affective social action

Crying at a victory or weeping at a funeral are affective social actions. This social action is divided into two

subgroups: uncontrolled reaction and emotional tension.

In the uncontrolled reaction the person takes less account of the feelings of others and puts the person's own feelings as the main focus. Emotional tension is the frustration a person may have at not fulfilling his or her aspirations, and it is then that inner tension generates dissatisfaction.

3. Rational social action with values

This social action, rational action, is characterised by moral or ethical principles that are applied collectively for the good of society. Rational action is therefore guided by collective ideology or ethics.

Example of rational social action with values

Religion.

4. Rational-instrumental social action

These are actions that are carried out in order to achieve a specific result.

Example of rational-instrumental social action

Natalia is 19 years old and wants to study medicine,

however, she is aware that she has to take a rigorous exam to be able to go to university and study what she wants to study. This exam makes Natalia study every day to pass the exam and finally study medicine.

If we consider this example from everyday life, we can understand Natalia's desire to achieve her goal and what she has to do to achieve it.

Natalia then applies social instrumental social action because each step she takes to achieve her goal will bring a positive or negative consequence depending on how she carries out the process, in this case her process is one of discipline and study.

In other words, and with another practical example from the Third Sector:

To illustrate these different types of action, consider someone who wants to “volunteer” in terms of these four ideal types:

Traditionally, one can do it because one’s grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles have also done it. They want to carry on the family tradition and continue the volunteer activity as well.

When related **affectively**, one can volunteer just because one enjoys helping. You just love to do it.

With rational-social reasons, one may attend such activities because it is part of one’s ethical (or even religious) duty and belief that everyone should contribute to society. Therefore, this person attends for that reason alone.

Finally, one may volunteer because one may want an amazing job in the future and to get that job, one needs experience in the field or practical skills that one cannot otherwise acquire prior to employment, etc (**rational-instrumental**).

Influence of social action

For Max Weber, social action is influenced by the past, the present and the future. Therefore, social action as a result undergoes changes of some kind over time. Social action may be constantly evolving as times

change and human behaviour may develop, improve, modify or change.

Social action cannot be isolated as it needs the behaviour of human beings and how they can influence the behaviour of other people within their social structure in a particular way.

Criteria for the social character of the action

People must take into account the behaviour and existence of others as their own.

Intention that is directed at other people.

Meaning: the subject’s action must have a symbolic meaning.

People’s behaviour in a social action is influenced by their perception of the meaning of the action of others and of their own action.

Max Weber and Émile Durkheim

For Max Weber, social action has a subjective definition whereas for Émile Durkheim social action is objective.

Differences between social action and social facts

To understand the difference between these two theories, both of which are of great importance in sociology, one must first understand what the Social Fact Theory, developed by Émile Durkheim, a French sociologist and philosopher, is.

Social Facts involve the behaviour, the way of seeing, thinking, acting and feeling that is external to consciousness. This in a social group may or may not be respected and may or may not be shared.

This means that the social fact is the way of feeling and living on the outside, thus orienting their behaviour. For Émile Durkheim, the social fact is constituted by cultural values that mould subjects to act in a certain way.

Thus, it assimilates its exterior and can adapt it to its behaviour, consciously or unconsciously transforming it to act and think in a certain way.

Social facts are imposed whether people like it or not.

On the other hand, Max Weber, with his Theory of Social Action, explains that people’s behaviour is constructed through the interaction of one or more subjects, who modify their behaviour influenced by the other.

Weber argued that before the cause of an action could be determined, the meaning that the individual assigned to it had to be understood. He distinguished between two types of understanding.

He first referred to **Aktuelles Verstehen**, or understanding by direct observation, where you simply observe what people do. For example, you can observe someone chopping wood or you can even determine (with reasonable certainty) someone’s

emotional state from their body language or facial expression. However, observational understanding alone is not sufficient to explain social action.

The second type of understanding is **Eklarendes Verstehen** - or Empathic Understanding - in which sociologists must try to understand the meaning of an act in terms of the motives behind it. This kind of understanding would require you to find out why someone is chopping wood: are they doing it because they need the wood? Are they simply clearing a forest as part of their job?, etc. To achieve this, Weber argued that you had to put yourself in the shoes of the people doing the activity.

2 International Commitments to Gender Equality and the Environment

Despite women's leadership in the grassroots climate movement and their particular vulnerability to climate change, gender has not yet been adequately integrated into climate plans, policies and strategies.

The [SDG Gender Index 2022](#) published by Equal Measures 2030, a leading global partnership on accountability for gender equality and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), provides a snapshot of where the world stands on the vision of gender equality included in the 2030 Agenda. **The results of the index are staggering: insufficient progress has been made on gender equality globally between 2015 and 2020.**

Of the 17 SDGs, Goal 13 (climate action) was one of the three goals with the lowest score. Moreover, even high performing countries in the index were found to have weaknesses in gender equality under SDG 13.

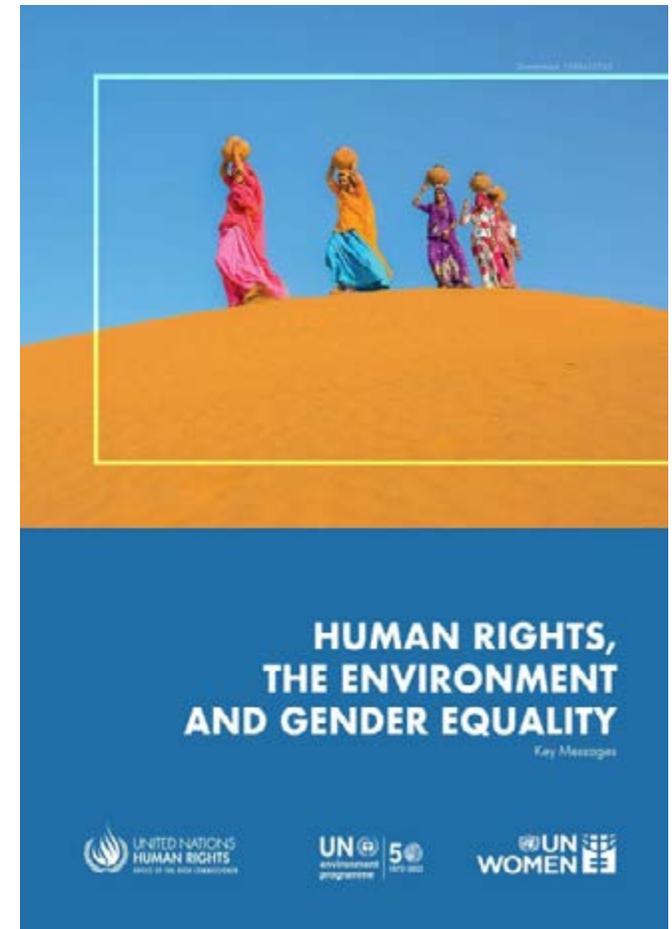
There is an urgent need to increase women's leadership and decision-making power in the climate space. Research shows that when women are adequately represented, there is a [positive impact on the positive impact on sustainable natural resource management and climate change adaptation efforts](#) including the reservation of protected areas and the ratification of multilateral environmental agreements.

The nexus between climate and gender equality is receiving renewed attention and focus at the international level.

Both the [Equality Generation Forum](#) and the [66^o session of the Commission on the Status of Women](#), which this year considered the theme of gender equality in the context of climate change, are both

[raising the intersections and urgency of addressing the gender dimensions of climate](#), which this year considered the theme of gender equality in the context of climate change, are **elevating the intersections and urgency of addressing the gender dimensions of climate.**

We must maintain this momentum and continue to push for greater recognition, participation and funding in the global climate action movement for girls and women around the world. Indeed, we will be able to secure the lasting and transformative change our planet so desperately needs only when we fully take into account and include all people who call it home.



[United Nations WOMAN: Human rights, the environment, and gender equality: Key messages, 2021](#)



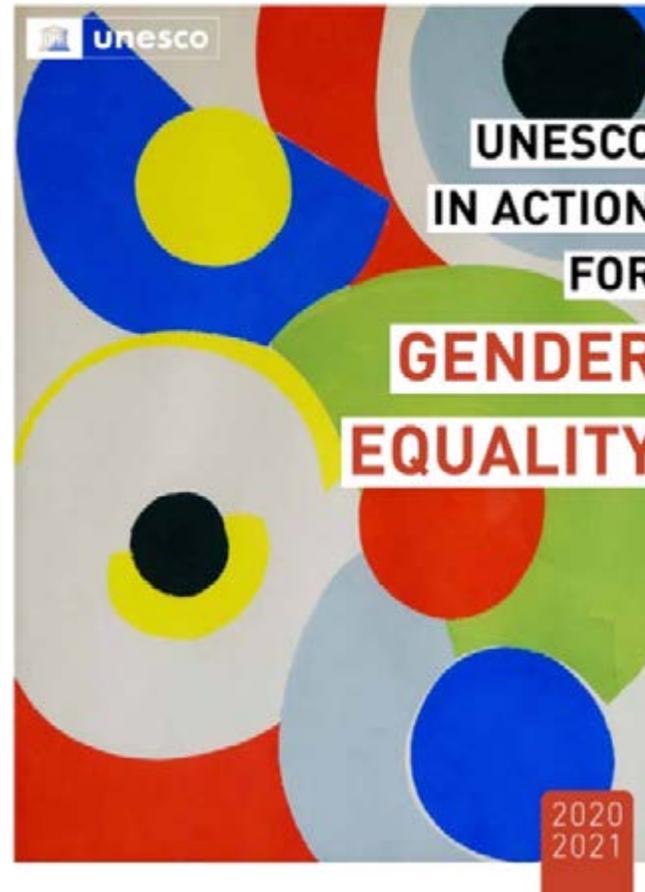
[OECD: Gender and the Environment: Building Evidence and Policies to Achieve the SDGs, 2021](#)



[EIGE: Gender Equity and Climate Change Report, 2012](#)



[OECD: The gender-environment nexus: Breaking silos in sustainable finance, 2022](#)



[UN WOMAN: ACCELERATING EFFORTS TO TACKLE ONLINE AND TECHNOLOGY FACILITATED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS \(VAWG\), 2022](#)

[UNESCO: UNESCO in action for gender equality, 2020-2021](#)

[International Labour Organisation: Women in Business and Management: The business case for change, 2019](#)

Exemplary woman in the field of climate action: Christiana Figueres

After running a climate change non-profit organisation for eight years, [Christiana Figueres](#) assumed leadership of the UNFCCC, the body responsible for international climate change negotiations, at the agency's lowest point. Just five months earlier, the world had failed to reach an agreement at the 2009 Copenhagen summit. **She injected a unique sense of optimism, trying to get the talks out of what she calls "the political dustbin". It worked: Figueres successfully led world leaders to reach the Paris Agreement in 2015.**

Together with other women involved in the negotiations, Figueres managed to shed important light on the gender dimension of climate change.

Additional resources



[OECD PODCAST: Women, climate change and data: Why we need to better understand the environment-gender nexus \(March 2022\)](#)

3 Practical ways to address gender inequality in decision making and action planning

Third sector entities, activist and social movements are not spaces free of inequality and sexist violence. On the contrary, these phenomena are present there as in any other sphere of society and are not related to romantic relationships only.

Indeed, when looking at the following diagram, let's try to think of any relationships, whether within an NGO, professional ones, activist ones, within our group dynamics, etc.

Even very subtle “micro-machismos” or mansplaining gradually undermine and reinforce the order established by the patriarchal system and are often difficult to combat due to the difficulty of identifying them, both by those who exercise them and by those who suffer from them.

Without the pretense of victimising, if we want a new world, with new logics, we cannot replicate and repeat the old systems we carry inside. Without personal work and a previous questioning of the position we occupy in the world, of all the privileges that we have, also within an NGO, it will be difficult for us to create those new worlds.

We have to identify violence in order to eradicate it, and doing it collectively can be very enriching.

Gender inequality or even gender based violence within social movements: examples

Spanish Foundation of the Commons proposes such typology of gender violence:

Care-economy related ones

- Feminisation of the tasks necessary for the correct life and daily functioning of the NGO or the group (cooking, shopping, cleaning, etc.) and of emotional support.
- Planificación of activist actions without addressing the fact who cares for minors and/or people in a situation of dependency.

Violent ones

- Insinuations or verbal harassment.
- Use of the festive space of the NGOs and groups to sexually assault.
- Negation of the aggressions and questioning of the victims.
- Revictimización for the mismanagement of sexual violence within the group.

Organisational ones

-Abuse of power by cis men.

-Mostly male turns to speak, interruptions of women and non-binary people's turns, mansplaining, repeating the same idea that a female or non-binary colleague has previously said.

-Androcentric press releases written in a non-inclusive language.

-Social networks as spheres where macho logics and attitudes rule.

-Paternalism, condescension, invisibilisation and lack of recognition of the work and opinions of female or non-binary colleagues.

-Negation and criticism of non-mixed spaces for women, lesbians and transgender people.

-Over-representation of cis men among NGOs presidents or spokespersons and spaces for visibility, actions, demonstrations or facilitation of assemblies.

-Schedules of assemblies and actions that are incompatible with caring.

-Triple working day: work, home and activism.

Consequences of pointing towards inequality and violence:

-Slowness, aggressiveness and opacity in the processes of denunciation in the collective.

-Questioning, defaming and discrediting victims or those who publicly denounce violence.

-Making aggression a problem of different opinions.

-Isolation and loneliness of the victims.

-Gaslighting.

What is gaslighting?



Signs You May be Gaslighted at Work:



You have to do extra just to prove yourself



You don't have a clear idea of what is expected of you.



You often feel incompetent and powerless



You never get credit for your work unless there's an issue, and then it's all your fault

What is mansplaining?

Am I mansplaining?

Patricialcalitest

Another interesting tool offered by a Spanish NGO Ecologistas en Acción, Ecologists in Action, is called Patricialcalitest and helps to identify machist dynamics within an organisation in a n informal, funny way.

How should Patriarcalitest be used?

What you have in front of your eyes is a tool for collective use. This tool is intended to facilitate a feminist analysis of groups, based on self-diagnosis, and improve aspects in groups which want to implement changes.

This tool includes several question categories. Each category is related to an area of interest within the self-diagnosis:

1. The functioning of meetings
2. Organised acts and events
3. Topics addressed and forms of protest
4. Distribution of tasks
5. Relationships between group members

Answer the following questions and write down how many points you score according to the indicated criteria. In the end, the points can be graphically represented with the help of the spider-web diagram included in this tool. Do not worry if the questions raise arguments or doubts, that's the most interesting part!

The test

1. The functioning of meetings

1.1 How is the agenda prepared?

- a) Usually, only one person prepares it (if that person is a man: bonus points!!!).
- b) 50% of the time it is collectively prepared and the other 50% is prepared by one person (a man by any chance?).
- c) It is usually collectively prepared.

1.2. The schedule for meetings:

- a) It is always the same, late in the evening, we have not considered whether it is appropriate for people or not.
- b) It is decided based on the working schedules of the participants.
- c) It is decided based both on the working schedules and on care responsibilities.

1.3. Taking the floor during meetings

- a) Is mostly done by men (timewise and/or regarding the number of interventions).
- b) Some women get a chance to talk but, generally, it is always the same few men and women who talk.
- c) Is equally distributed between people of different ages, genders...

1.4. The tone of the interventions:

- a) Most of them sound like a lecture.
- b) Most of them sound like a lecture but there are mechanisms to modulate them.
- c) The most common type of intervention usually includes questions and suggestions, and leaves space for debate and dissent. Yes to questioning!

1.5. When it comes to contributing with UICs (Units of Interesting Content):

- a) The ones coming from men are usually more acknowledged and used.
- b) Those coming from men are usually recognised, as well as some coming from a few women.
- c) Both men and women contribute with UICs that are acknowledged and used

1.6. During the meetings:

- a) Often, men interrupt or explain to women ideas that they already know about, such as feminism, care work, or any other topic in which they might have a Ph.D on..
- b) Men and women interrupt or explain ideas equally.
- c) Interrupting while someone is talking is very rare and, if any questions arise, the person who is talking answers them.

For each A: 5 points

For each B: 2 points

For each C: 1 point

Average by adding all the scored points and dividing the result by the number of questions in this section (in this case: $(x+x+x+x+x+x)/6$). Repeat the same process in the rest of the sections.

2. Organised acts and events

2.1 The spokespersonship in public acts is done:

- a) Usually by a man.
- b) Collectively but only by men.
- c) Collectively and has all genders equally represented.

2.2 The spokespersonship in strategic meetings with other entities or institutions is done:

- a) Usually by a man.
- b) Collectively but only by men.
- c) Collectively and has all genders equally represented.

2.3 During a debate/discussion panel... if someone makes an aggressive and derogatory intervention:

- a) The moderator lets them talk nonstop.
- b) They are asked to calm down and there is an attempt to move onto something else.
- c) We stop and someone points out that these kinds of derogatory attitudes are not allowed..

2.4 During a party someone shows a sexist/homophobic/transphobic attitude:

- a) We do not know who to go to or how to stop it. People laugh. It is played down.
- b) We try to reduce the tension and play it down, but there are no consequences for this person. Someone comforts and supports the victim, but there is no protocol set in place.
- c) As an organization, we have a plan to face these kinds of situations (safe space or similar).

2.5 When it comes to choosing the panel members:

- a) Oh, what a coincidence, aaaaaaaalways men.
- b) Women are considered for topics such as feminism, care, etc.
- c) Eureka! Women can also talk about a huge range of topics

3. Topics addressed and forms of protest

3.1. The topics addressed during meetings are usually:

- a) Almost always very technical and only dominated by a few.
- b) Technical topics with an educational approach, allowing debate and participation.
- c) Technical but allowing room for debate and for group evaluations to assess how the organization and the group are functioning.

3.2 Feminist-related topics are addressed:

- a) No. The environment-related topics are set in stone. No time to waste with soft topics, don't you know what COLLAPSE is?!
- b) Not explicitly, but we take a feminist approach to the topics discussed.
- c) Yes.

3.3 Which statement best defines our protest repertoire?

- a) Great! Our alfa males have climbed a mountain again at -40°C to hang a 20 kg sign that no one can even see from down here.
- b) If we cannot be arrested or beaten, taking action means nothing.
- c) We look for participative suggestions that do not put us at risk if not strictly necessary. And if they are fun, even better.

4. Distribution of tasks

4.1 Taking minutes is...

- a) Done (almost) always by women.
- b) Done almost always by the same people.
- c) Equally done, by different people of different genders.

4.2 Tasks related to care-taking of physical spaces:

- a) Either they are not done, or maintenance is usually done by men and cleaning by women.
- b) Some more conscious men participate in cleaning.
- c) They are done collectively.

4.3 Greeting new people is...

- a) Either not done or is (almost) always done by women.
- b) Done almost always by the same people.
- c) Equally done by different people of different genders.

5. Relationships between group members

5.1 Are there moments when group members share their emotional status, personal situation, worries...?

- a) No, we do not know each other, we do not come here to make friends.
- b) Yes, we are used to informally spending some time doing it (going out together after meetings).
- c) Meetings are also a safe space in which we support each other in personal matters if needed.

5.2 When a conflict arises:

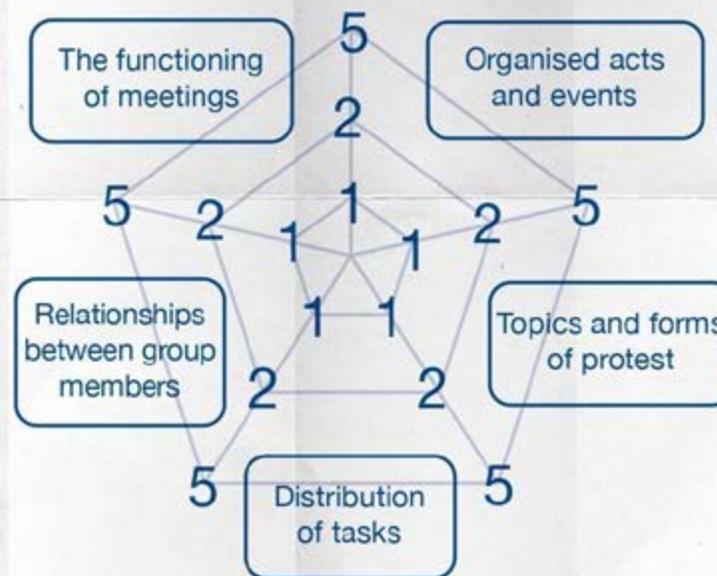
- a) It is ignored (there is no space left under the carpet).
- b) Someone tries to mediate, but ends up so badly that they know better for the next time...).
- c) Conflict management mechanisms exist (in which people of different genders participate).

5.3 From the new people arriving at the organisation:

- a) Not a single person stays.
- b) Fewer women stay than men.
- c) It is equally common for a woman and a man to stay.

Results

All done! Now, this spider web diagram can be used to graphically represent the results:



Therapeutic management

How was it answering the test? Did you laugh? Did you blush? Were there any debates, acknowledgment of collective responsibilities related to gender dynamics? Any tense moments?

If a question required an extra-long pause, debate, or thinking, do not ignore it! It for sure holds something interesting for the group.

Apart from what you might have been able to detect during this process, in this section, some strategies are proposed to help reduce, prevent or exxxterminate those undesirable and undesired symptoms.

SCORE	DIAGNOSIS	TREATMENT
>20 points	Extreme Machistosis	Macholenacol: time to kick Donald Trump out of the group, NOW!
13-19 points	Moderate Patriarchalitis	Antipatriarchadol: you can dedicate some more sessions to talk about these topics and think about making some internal reflection work about gender roles, collective habits, etc.
6-12 points	Generic Hierarchitis	Hierarchistenine in combination with Bossyphenol: come up with a "mantra", some rules that are reminded at the beginning of meetings to achieve a higher level of horizontality and equity.
<5 points	Latent Inequidalgia	Feministine: you are doing great, but don't let your guard down! You can use what you have learnt to vaccinate other groups.

Generic recommendations

- Include feminist topics through readings, events, talks, speakers... when it comes to feminism, theory and practice always go hand in hand, and expanding our academic horizons helps us make on-the-ground changes.
- Try to create a space where collective responsibilities come before criticism. This way, sexist attitudes can be pointed out in a polite and friendly way, understanding that they are part of a culture that soaks us all and not as a personal fault.
- Try to have as many people as possible bring up this topic. Do not make it always the responsibility of that same feminist "warlady".
- Take some time to talk about how your group is evolving towards more feminist and horizontal dynamics. This will allow you to recognise what things are slowing you down and how to fix them.
- If, at any moment, you get stuck, ask for help from other groups that are going or have gone through a similar process. Experience provides a lot of knowledge that can be shared.
- Celebrate together your successes and seeing yourselves a bit more feminist and fairer every day, it is a great reason to be happy!

Contraindications

No serious unwanted side effects in relation to the recommended treatment have been described. However, it is advised to pair its dispensation with good doses of humour and joy to avoid possible indigestions. An allergic reaction known as RRPR (Recalcitrant Resistance to Privileges Revision) has been described.

Gender Assessment and Monitoring of Mitigation and Adaptation (GAMMA)

Another tool, the 'Gender Assessment and Monitoring of Mitigation and Adaptation' (GAMMA), is a methodology that **examines adaptation and mitigation policies for their gender responsiveness.**

It seeks to identify possible gender entry points and develop recommendations for interventions needed to address gender gaps in climate governance, planning, priorities, policies and measures. The assessment involves several steps, and covers institutional setting and procedures, the complete range of climate policies, and an in-depth analysis of the gender impacts of relevant measures on climate change.

Initially it was created to adapt to a city's planning and management but we present here a simplified version of the process so that it can be of inspiration in the Third Sector, too. We use the Guidelines from [Gender CC: Women for Climate Justice](#) and their full guide can be accessed [here](#).



1. Preparation: Gain an overview of your region/town/part of the city/entity/institution climate action and institutional setting.
2. GAMMA I: identify institutional capacities and policy frameworks (key stakeholder interviews, some examples of indicators to be used can be found here).
3. GAMMA II: make a qualitative assessment of climate action portfolio for gaps from a gender perspective.
4. GAMMA III: make a gender analysis of key policies and measures, using an in depth questionnaire about relevant policies-
5. Summarise gaps and findings and prepare an assessment report-
6. Translate the findings into policy recommendations, e.g. in the form of a policy brief, consult the draft with community stakeholders-
7. Develop and implement an outreach strategy to get the message through to civil society and policy-makers-
8. Monitoring change: Have policy recommendations contributed to or promoted transformations?

Case studies

Poland

According to the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, a report from Poland's Institute of Policy Affairs suggests that the belief that women dominate the not-for-profit third sector is not altogether true.

The findings show that non-profit organisations do have a high percentage of women employees and volunteers, but men are more likely to be in key management positions.

The data also show that negative phenomena such as the **'glass escalator'** and the **'sticky floor'** may be a factor in non-governmental organisations.

Background

The findings of a policy paper on equal opportunities for women and men published by Poland's Institute of Policy Affairs (ISP) highlight the role of women in non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The paper is based on data gathered from surveys conducted in 2010 and 2011 by the Klon/Jawor Association and is part of a broader project, Partnership – Equal Chances for Men and Women, implemented by the ISP to address problems of gender inequality in the media, politics, family, labour market and third sector organisations.



A 'feminised' sector?

The non-governmental sector is commonly considered as strongly feminised, but this perception is not entirely supported by the available data.

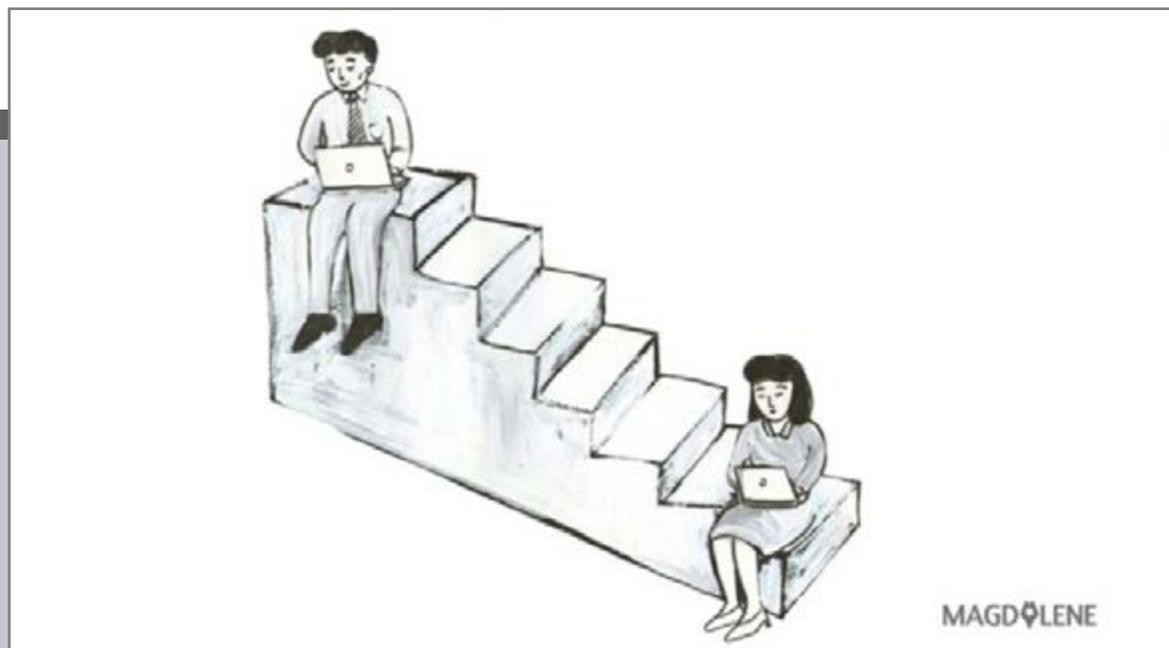
It is certainly true that a higher percentage of women work in the sector overall.

In 2010, women made up 60% of all those working in the sector.

When sport associations were excluded from the figures, the proportion of women employed in the third sector was 70%.

When only workers on temporary contracts as well as permanent contracts were taken into consideration, the proportion of women workers was 62%. According to other source there may be at least four reasons for these figures (Przewłocka, 2012):

- NGOs often guarantee flexible forms of employment allowing employees to combine work with family life;
- salaries are lower than in the private sector and women in Poland generally have lower pay expectations than men;



- the jobs offered are often considered to be 'feminised' – jobs such as accounting and office work;
- work in some types of organisation may be perceived as more socially acceptable for women, such as childcare and caring for elderly.

The findings of the policy paper show that among external volunteers, often referred to as non-members, there were more women than men. This could be connected to the fact that sports associations are very widespread in Poland and tend to be dominated by men, and there is a tradition of taking up membership of a sports association rather than just being an external volunteer.

There certainly seems to be more willingness among women to become an employee of a third sector

organisation.

However, the share of women among members was only 40%, and women made up only 42% of the management boards of third sector organisations.

It should be emphasised that the median share of women's representation on management boards has improved in comparison to previous years. In 2006 a third of management board positions were filled by women, and the 2010 figures show that this has risen to just over 40%.

'Glass escalator' and 'sticky floor' effects in Third Sector

According to the paper, the imbalance between the number of women in management and among employees suggests that the so-called '**glass escalator**' effect may be operating. In other words, there may be a tendency to promote men over women. This, however, needs further research to confirm the findings.

A further factor is that women tend to be employed in jobs not demanding any qualifications and with few prospects for promotion, working as cleaning staff, assistants, or office workers. This may indicate that another discriminatory mechanism may be involved – the so-called 'sticky floor'.

There is no evidence to suggest that there is a glass ceiling effect – the invisible barrier to the promotion of women to the highest positions.

According to the authors of the project, given the framework within which their paper was prepared, third sector organisations are not aware of the problems of discrimination against women. Neither do the organisations appear to be open to discussing the issues.

There may be two reasons for that. It may be that they are convinced that the situation is better than in the private sector and has been constantly improving,



and they may also feel that they have more important matters to deal with.

Yet the third sector should pay particular attention to gender equality since it is the area where civic rights are realised.

The weak presence of discourse on that subject seems worrying.

Did you know...?

Apart from the "glass ceiling" and "glass escalator" effects described above, there is also a "glass cliff" one.

What is it?



The Glass Cliff:

noun.

used with reference to a situation in which a woman or member of a minority group ascends to a leadership position in challenging circumstances where the risk of failure is high.

Additional materials



- [The Gender-Responsive Assemblies Toolkit](#)
- [Training Manual on Gender and Climate Change Resilience](#)
- [International Labour Organisation: Beyond the Glass Ceiling Infostories](#)
- [Rebecca Solnit: Men explain things to me](#)
- [BBC Worklife: Mansplaining, explained in one simple chart](#)
- [Learning Hub: An Employer's Guide to Using Gender-Inclusive Language in the Workplace](#)
- [Gender Avender: Gender Avenger Tally App](#)
- [Harvard University - Project Implicit: Implicit Bias Test](#)
- [WEF: 3 ways to improve diversity and inclusion in your organisation](#)

4 Why a gender-sensitive approach in youth work and environmental education matters?

The social discourse dissociated from the patriarchal order drags us all along with it, because it marks the policies that organise our life in society and, more importantly, it determines the subjectivity of those who are socialised in its dynamics.

Hence, we consider that feminist critique (or whatever one wants to call a social critique that questions the complexity of the foundations of culture and does not deny the value of emotions) is more necessary today than ever before, because it shows that the social discourse considered to be true does not correspond to the truth.

The feminist movement arose when women began to claim that we needed to put into practice the supposed universality of the principles of justice and equality, and that it would include women in the democratic game.

The recognition of the inconsistency between the theory of discourse and its practical application has caused efforts to legislate and implement institutional measures to promote equal rights for all members of society.

The reason for this is, first of all, that the majority of society (men and women) still embody (to varying degrees and sometimes without being aware that they do so) the traditional gender identities.

Ecofeminism

The link between ecology and feminism and their potential dialogue has to do with the question of “what sustains life”.

And if we ask ourselves what sustains life, we have to recognize that we are radically dependent beings on a planet earth that has physical limits and we are also dependent on those deep-seated goods on earth that are not manufactured or controlled at will by the humans.

This means that there is no economy, no technology, no politics, no society without nature.

But, on the other hand, human beings also live incarnated in bodies, in bodies that are vulnerable, in bodies that are finite, in bodies that have to be cared for throughout their lives and especially in some moments of the life cycle, such as childhood, old age, moments of illness or a lifetime in some cases of functional diversity. What happens is that throughout all of history those who have taken care of the most vulnerable bodies have been and are women, and not because they are better genetically endowed to do so, but because we live in societies that distribute unfreely, in the moment of birth, in which you are assigned a certain sex, the task of care.

When we consider what it is that sustains life, we directly come across the demands and struggles that have historically been maintained, for much longer, by the feminist movement in its eagerness

to distribute, **to defeminise care, to make the whole group co-responsible of the daily and generational**

reproduction of the life of human beings and the claims of environmentalism.

To sum up, we recall the United Nations (2023) reminder of five compelling reasons why women and girls are essential for climate action.

Reason 1: Climate action requires 100 percent of the population

Half of the world's population is made up of women and girls, but they are often left out of the conversation when it comes to climate change. Indigenous women, in particular, have been at the forefront of environmental conservation and possess invaluable knowledge and experience that can help increase resilience and reduce greenhouse gases. Including more women in climate action will help create a more sustainable and equitable future for all.

Reason 2: Empowering women means better climate solutions

As we saw before, women make up almost half of the agricultural workforce in developing countries. When given the same access to resources as men, women can increase their agricultural yields by 20 to 30 percent, according to the UN.

Education among women and girls has far-reaching benefits for communities and countries. In fact, as we saw at the beginning of this Guide, recent research confirmed that countries with a high representation of women in parliament are more likely to ratify international environmental treaties.

Reason 3: Women are key to building climate resilience in communities

When it comes to building climate resilience in communities, it is crucial to involve women. In fact, the UN reports that communities are more successful in resilience and capacity building strategies when women are part of the planning process. In addition, women are often the first to respond to natural disasters, take the lead in disaster risk reduction and contribute to post-recovery by addressing the early recovery needs of their families and strengthening community building.

Reason 4: Climate change affects us all, but not the same

Climate change affects everyone, but not everyone equally. It is well established that climate change has a greater impact on the most vulnerable people in the world, whether in developed or developing countries, and exacerbates existing inequalities.

Reason 5: Countries recognise the importance of including a gender perspective in climate planning.

The good news is that women and girls are increasingly empowered to contribute to and benefit from climate action. Within the UN climate change process, many countries have shared how they are integrating a gender perspective in different priority

sectors within their national climate action plans.

However, we must remember that there is still much to be done and that Third Sector entities and youth workers in general play a huge role in this ongoing process of education and awareness rising.

Exemplary woman in the field of climate action: Ruth Nyambura

Ruth Nyambura, of the [African Eco Feminist Collective](#), draws on radical and African feminist traditions to **critique power, question multinational capitalism, and re-envision a more equitable world.**

With the Global Forest Coalition (GFC), she launched the **#OurNatureIsNotYourSolution** with which **she criticises the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) for allowing environmentally damaging monoculture tree plantations to be classified as “planted forests.”**

She wants to draw attention to **how the environment and biodiversity are being privatized. She also highlights the perspectives and regenerative solutions of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and women who are on the frontlines of the current biodiversity and climate crises.** She collaborates with such organizations as the [African Women Unite Against Destructive Resource Extraction](#) (WoMin) that campaigns against the devastation of the extractive industries.

Exemplary woman in the field of climate action: Yayo Herrero

Yayo is anthropologist, agricultural engineer, social educator and one of the main voices of European ecofeminism. She is currently a professor of environmental education and sustainable development at the UNESCO Chair at UNED.

She was the state coordinator of the [Ecologistas en Acción](#) platform and director of the NGO [FUHEM](#).

Her research career has focused on **criticizing the capitalist development and production model as a threat to the planet and life, research that she combines with activism.**

“*On a planet whose limits have already been exceeded, the decrease in the material sphere of the global economy is not so much an option as an inescapable fact.*”

Yayo Herrero, *Ecofeminism as a tool for transformation*, CTXT Magazine, 2018

“*There is no economy, no technology, no politics, no society without nature and care*”, ”

Yayo Herrero

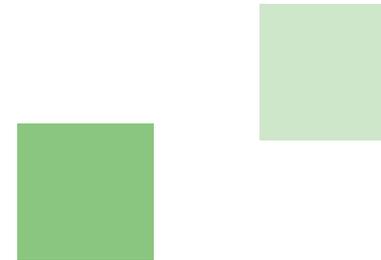
Exemplary woman in the field of climate action: Greta Thunberg

In 2018, Greta Thunberg, then 15, started a school strike in Sweden to draw attention to the climate crisis, and her message has since spread, even though she avoids air travel because of its high carbon emissions. Young people around the world have followed suit, striking and marching to make it clear to adults and decision-makers that this is a real emergency.

In late August, he landed in the US after a 15-day boat trip across the Atlantic, and has plans for a months-long tour of the Americas, with a zero carbon footprint. “This is an existential crisis that is going to affect our entire civilisation, the biggest crisis humanity has ever faced,” he says. “I don’t plan to stop this movement, and I don’t think anyone else will.”

“*We are children saying, ‘Why should we care about our future when no one else is doing it, and why should we bother to learn facts when facts don’t matter in this society? When kids say something like that, I think adults feel really bad,’*”

Thunberg told TIME in April.



Case studies

Madre Tierra



Madre Tierra supports the creation of Solidarity Microcredit Funds between women to improve their housing and access to drinking water. The first phase of the project presents housing improvement processes (like access to tap water and internal electricity), representing an improvement in the living conditions and tasks performed by women such as care and domestic work. The habitat improvement is expected to empower women to identify gender inequities and, through gender-specific workshops, incorporate discussions on stereotypes, violence and feminism. The project benefits 300 people, including women and their families.

Climate impact:

The project represents a tangential adaptation measure to climate impact, with water saving actions. House improvements include: installation of home water connections and rain water tanks. Promoting a more efficient use of the water network and collecting rain water to enable substantial water savings. The improvements in the housing conditions allowed for a more adequate thermal protection and a better access to sanitary conditions to the families.

Gender impact:

The project ensures safer homes: access to drinking water inside the home means that women do not have

to go outside to get the resource, and indoor electricity generates more safety; it also improves women's and families' living conditions, especially as it reduces the time spent on cooking and cleaning. Women's participation in the decisions was sought during each stage of the project, making their opinions more visible to their partners and communities.

Population, Health and Environment (PHE) approach in climate change policies: the Philippines' experience

[PATH Foundation Philippines Inc. \(PFPI\)](#) and Arrow implemented the Population, Health and Environment and Climate Change Project in the Philippines' Verde Island Passage. Verde Island is a key marine biodiversity area threatened by overfishing, pollution and climate change. The goal of the project is to mainstream sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) into climate change policy and practice. The project applied a developmental approach (PHE) that forges multisectoral collaboration and partnership, employs multiple interventions to address SRHR needs (family planning), biodiversity loss, poor health and food insecurity to foster climate resilient communities.

Climate impact:

Women play a critical role in achieving climate change resilience. PFPI's scoping study results show that women are central to conceiving and implementing solutions. Planning their families, managing the resources and being pro-health and pro-environment advocates in their own communities will help to build resilience to climate change. All of which will contribute to a better future for their children. The women also highlighted that collaboration and agreements between communities will create synergy in community actions and results.

Gender impact:

At the core of the population, health, environment and climate change nexus is the "burden on the woman". Fishing communities in the Verde Islands experience declining fish catch, depleting potable water and poor health. Lack of livelihood options, loss of family income and food insecurity drive women to engage in multiple jobs and to work longer hours to supplement the family's income. The project addresses women's needs and rights as well as family planning in a participatory approach, helping them in identifying coping strategies

Practical exercise

for young people 8

People From Another Planet

Objective:

1. To challenge assumptions that people make about one another and the nature of power.

Time: 45-60 minutes

Materials: Chairs, Simple Food (biscuits, bread, crackers), Glasses of Water

Facilitator's notes

1. Divide the group in two, one half stay in the room and the other half leave the room while directions are given.
2. The facilitator explains to the group remaining that they are people from another planet welcoming a delegation from earth. The alien group has their own set of customs which the facilitator should explain:
 - ~ They do not use words to communicate so when the humans come in they will be welcomed without words.
 - ~ Two members of the group should be seated in chairs, the rest will be on the floor. The people in the chairs are not holy and therefore are not allowed

to touch Mother Earth, which is recognized as sacred. Likewise, only the holy people are allowed to touch the food and drink and must give it to the people in the chairs. When the people in the chairs wish to honour Mother Earth, they put their hands on the heads of those on the ground.

3. The facilitator invites the remaining participants to rejoin the group and explains that they are a human delegation visiting a new planet. They are being welcomed by an alien delegation who have organised this ceremony.
4. The facilitator should not become involved in the role play. After 5 to 10 minutes, the facilitator declares the end of the activity.

Note: It is important to debrief participants after this type of activity, allow them the opportunity to come out of character and reflect on the exercise.

5. The facilitator explains the rules of the role play and asks for feedback on the following types of questions:
 - ~ What are your thoughts on this activity? What did you like, what didn't you like?
 - ~ What lessons, if any, have we learned from this activity?
 - ~ Should we judge other cultures by our own standards? What problems does that pose? Are there any times when we should judge other cultures?
 - ~ What changes would you make to this activity?

Note: Allow plenty of time for participants to provide feedback.

Practical exercise

for young people 9

Reflecting Back

Objective:

1. To allow participants to reflect on their learning;
2. To involve all participants in sharing their personal reactions.

Time: 20 minutes**Materials:** Paper and pens, Small box**Facilitator's notes**

1. Ask participants to sit in a circle.
2. Ask each person to write on a piece of paper their thoughts and feelings about the learning that has taken place. Ask them to focus specifically on the content of what they have learned rather than the process. These thoughts should be anonymous.
3. Each person puts their piece of paper into the box, the facilitator then randomly picks out a piece of paper and shares what is on it. Discussion should take place around what is on the paper.

Note: There are a number of different ways to achieve these objectives. Alternative forms of this activity include:

- ~ Big Circle, Small Circle: In this form, participants discuss in small groups what has taken place and then choose one person to report back to the larger group.
- ~ Just the Big Circle: In this form, participants share their reactions openly as part of the larger circle. It is important that all participants are allowed to speak and that respect is given to each person during their turn.

Additional materials



- [BBC Podcast: Renowned activist Vandana Shiva on feminism and climate change](#)
- [TEDTalk: Eco-Grief and Ecofeminism by Heidi Hutner](#)
- [TEDTalk: An Ecofeminist Perspective by Julia Mason](#)
- [TEDTalk: We should all be feminists by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie](#)
- [TEDTalk: How economics forgot about women by Katrine Marçal, author of the bestseller book "Who Cooked Adam Smith's Dinner?"](#)
- [The Yikes Podcast: What can I do?](#)
- [Emma Clit, "The Mental load, a feminist comic"](#)
- [Movie Woman at War \(2019\)](#)

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