

Gender & Climate Change

General information and guidance about WFP's action on climate change

WFP (2017) [Climate Change Policy](#)
WFP (2016) [Quick Guide to Climate Change](#)
WFP [Work on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Programmes](#)
[Climate and Food Security Analyses](#)
[C-ADAPT](#), Climate Adaptation Management and Innovation Initiative
Food Secure Climate Resilience Facility, [FoodSEcURE](#)
WFP [Climate Services](#)
WFP [Climate Change Adaptation](#)
WFP [Rural Resilience Initiative](#)
WFP [Risk Management, Insurance and Finance](#)

WHAT

Climate change, food security and gender are intertwined. For example, natural disasters, environmental degradation and longer-term changes in the weather directly impact the lives of the women, men, girls and boys whose food security and nutrition is directly derived from agriculture.

Droughts, floods, storms and unpredictable weather patterns can mean crops cannot be planted, cannot be grown in sufficient quantities or are destroyed. Climate change can also mean more inputs – labour, money and technology – are required to grow crops. For women, men, girls and boys living in poverty, such events and needed inputs further undermine their food security and nutrition.

The situation for women (and girls) is compounded by existing gender inequalities. For instance, women farmers, relative to men farmers:

- are less likely to own land and other property
- own smaller and less productive land
- have less access to productive assets, agricultural inputs, information and new technologies (such as improved plant varieties and drip irrigation), extension and financial services (such as credit and insurance) and markets
- are more likely to produce subsistence crops, than cash crops
- are less likely to be part of farmer organisation (agricultural cooperative etc.)

Climate change is one factor in the 'feminisation of agriculture' where, in many countries, women in rural areas are engaged in precarious employment (seasonal, temporary, low-skill, low-wage) and men migrate to cities in search of waged labour.

In addition, droughts and desertification can mean that women (and girls) must travel further each day in search of water and firewood (or other fuel), increasing their workload and exposing them to risks of violence. Limited, or no, access to fuel for cooking in turn creates challenges for preparing meals and thus the ability of women, men, girls and boys to consume adequate food. Other protection risks that are associated with climate change include women (and girls) engaging in transactional sex (so that they can purchase scarce water or fuel or food) and girls being forced to marry (one less household member to feed).

Such impacts and responses reinforce oppressive and restrictive gender roles, limiting women's, men's girls' and boys' opportunities, choices and experiences. Women continue to be assigned primary responsibility for unpaid care and domestic work and have even less time to, for example, develop

livelihood skills or participate in a farmer organisation, than before the effects of climate change were felt. For girls who are forced to marry, their mobility is controlled; their education can end prematurely; their physical health can be endangered, and their ability to access information about the climate-induced changes affecting their households and communities in which they live limited.

The discriminatory norms and practices that contribute to these inequalities between women and men generally may also limit women's, relative to men's, 'adaptive capacity': the ability to identify and implement effective actions in response to changing circumstances. It is also possible that, because women and men are not equally present in public spaces and formal decision-making bodies, women's 'adaptive capacities' are not seen and scaled-up.

This is another way in which gender is linked to climate change and food security. Women's and men's knowledge about climate, natural environments and adaptation is not valued and used equally. Gender is also present in decisions about who – individuals and organisations – receives funding to generate climate change adaptation knowledge, technology and techniques; and who the knowledge, technology and techniques benefit (or do not benefit). From national parliaments to local governance bodies, because [women are still the minority](#) they have less voice and influence in shaping policies, legislation and programmes, including those on climate change and food security.

WHY

Gender is universal, food security and nutrition are critical to life for everyone, and climate change is, directly or indirectly, impacting the lives of all persons. Recognising and responding to these interlinkages is essential for WFP to realise its mandate.

Addressing gender and gender equality is essential if WFP is to achieve its three climate change objectives:

1

Support the efforts of food-insecure people, communities and governments to increase their capacity to manage and reduce climate-related risks to food security.

Where people are women, men, girls and boys, with different roles, responsibilities and resiliencies in their communities and governments.

2

Continuously improve the capacity, effectiveness and performance of global, national and local institutions and systems for anticipating, preparing for, responding to and supporting resilient recovery from climate disasters.

Where capacity improvement needs to be tailored to the needs, interests and existing knowledge and skills of women and men and their representative institutions; and where equal value and opportunities are given to women and men to acquire and contribute their climate change knowledge and skills for emergency preparedness, response and recovery.

3

Support national, regional and global policy, advocacy, analysis and learning on addressing the impacts of climate change on food security and humanitarian disasters and foster South-South cooperation towards this aim.

Where gender equality principles and provisions should be integrated across policy, advocacy, analysis and learning to enable climate change resiliency and food security.

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Climate Resilience

Gender equality and the empowerment of women are essential to building climate resilience. For climate change interventions to be effective, equitable and sustainable, gender inequalities and discrimination in access to productive resources, services, employment opportunities and decision-making need to be eliminated.

Different Needs

Climate change affects women and men differently. This is because restrictive and discriminatory gender norms and practices mean that women and men are assigned different roles and responsibilities (and power) in the household and in their communities. Given their different places (and status) in society, women and men (and girls and boys) can have different needs in responding to climate change. While needs may differ, opportunities to acquire, develop and use climate change knowledge, skills and technologies for ensuring food security and nutrition should be equitable, so that women and men (girls and boys) benefit equally.

WHEN & WHERE

Gender and gender equality must be understood and addressed in all activities relating to climate change: emergency preparedness, food security analysis, early warning and climate services, community resilience, risk reduction, social protection and adaptation and policy support.

This means that the gender is integrated into the spectrum of WFP's climate change work, wherever and whenever that work is done.

WHO

As a cross-cutting issue, WFP employees, partners and contractors across programming and operations are responsible for understanding the relationship between gender and climate change, and for ensuring that climate change policies and programmes integrate gender equality.

Issues of gender and climate change are directly relevant to WFP employees whose work addresses emergency preparedness, emergency response, disaster risk reduction, food security analysis, early warning, climate services, social protection, community resilience, asset creation and country capacity strengthening. Policy and programming staff, from Headquarters to Field Offices, should also integrate gender and climate change into their work.

HOW



The Climate Change Policy (2017) stipulates that WFP:

1. "design participatory, gender-transformative and location-specific adaptation activities", for:
 - understanding what gender-transformation involves [Concepts](#)
 - designing participatory interventions [Participation](#)
2. "Programmes must address the specific vulnerabilities, needs, capabilities and priorities of the diverse women, men, girls and boys in each community, and be sensitive to the needs of specific groups, including, among others, people with disabilities, youth and indigenous people."

This mandates:

- Gender analysis [Gender Analysis](#)
- Participatory programming [Participation](#)
- Diverse partnerships [Partnerships](#)

3. “Programmes should empower women and girls in realizing food security, adaptation, and management of disaster risks.”

This requires designing programmes that incorporate gender equality results and processes that are empowering. [Design](#) [Monitoring](#)

1. Emergency Preparedness & Response

Detailed information and guidance in integrating gender into emergency preparedness:

[Emergency Preparedness & Response](#)

Analysis

Conduct participatory gender analyses to understand the effects of climate change on the food security and nutrition of women, men, girls and boys, and their communities.

[Gender Analysis](#)

Design

Design emergency preparedness initiatives that directly address the information gathered from the gender analysis (and broader situation assessments). [Design](#)

Equitable Participation

Ensure the equitable (and sometimes equal) participation of women and men in developing, implementing, monitoring and revising emergency preparedness and response activities. [Participation](#) [Implementation](#) [Monitoring](#)

Equitable Capacity Development Activities

Design and deliver capacity development activities that equitably involve the different women and men (and girls and boys, as applicable) and are tailored to their particular needs, interests and priorities.

Partnerships

When working with governments and local partners, ensure that (a) women and men are involved, and (b) gender equality considerations are integrated into the climate change work – from drafting and revising policies to establishing emergency response protocols.

Inclusive & Equitable Decision-Making

When strengthening national capacities to prepare for and respond to emergencies (including those caused by climate change), advocate and provide the technical support for ensuring inclusive and equitable decision-making processes, practices and tools that recognise and address the different needs, circumstances, capacities and vulnerabilities of the diverse women, men, girls and boys.

Gender in Climate-Risk Assessments

Integrate gender (by using the information gathered from participatory gender analyses) into climate-risk assessment systems so as to equitably reduce the vulnerabilities of women and men (and girls and boys). This will require involving women and men – from communities, civil society organisations, governments and other partners – in the design, development, use and updating of the climate-risk assessment systems.

2. Food Security Analysis, Early Warning and Climate Services

Analysis, Capacities & Response

Integrate gender into the analysis of the food security impacts of climate risks.

[Gender Analysis](#)

Develop climate analysis tools to identify the impacts of climate change and climate risk on the food security, nutrition and livelihoods of women and men (and girls and boys). Ensure that women and men – from WFP and partners – are equally involved in the development of the climate analysis tools.

With the information gathered from the use of the gender-responsive climate analysis tools, strengthen the capacities of national (and sub-national) governments to develop and implement policies, programmes and services that involve and address the diverse needs and priorities of women and men (and girls and boys).

Similarly, use the information gathered from the use of the gender-responsive climate analyses to strengthen the capacities of Cooperating Partners and other civil society organisations, ensuring inclusiveness of the different women, men, girls and boys and their organisations.

Based on the gender-informed climate assessments, provide services and resources to women and men (and girls and boys) that enable them to make timely decisions and implement climate change adaptation measures.

Early Warning

Through inclusive partnerships, develop and operate food security early warning and monitoring systems that involve and respond to the particular needs and circumstances of the diverse women, men, girls and boys. [Participation](#) [Design](#) [Monitoring](#)

Analyse, translate and use gender-analysis informed climate information to support early warning and early action in food crises; to the equal benefit of the diverse women, men, girls and boys. [Gender Analysis](#)

In an inclusive manner, develop and deliver climate services tailored to, and accessible by, the different women and men (and girls and boys). [Participation](#) [Design](#)

Services

When conducting climate change awareness-raising and education campaigns (tailored to the different audiences), include information and messages about:

- the different impacts of climate change in the lives of women, men, girls and boys
- the importance of recognising, valuing and utilising the knowledge, skills and networks of women and men (and girls and boys)
- gender equality being central to climate resilience, for individuals, communities and countries. [Communications](#)

Increase women's and girls' access to climate information. Identify and use the most effective communication channels and methods for reaching the particular women and girls. [Participation](#) [Communications](#)

Promote women's and girls' vocational and tertiary education in climate-change related studies. This is critical to ensuring equal decision-making, participation and benefits by women and men (and girls and boys) in the climate change and food security sectors.

3. Community Resilience, Risk Reduction, Social Protection and Adaptation

Community Resilience & Risk Reduction

Climate Risk & Resilience Initiatives: When working with communities to reduce climate risks and build climate change resilience, ensuring that interventions are:

- based on gender analyses
- inclusive and participatory
- include processes that are empowering for women (and men)
- contribute to gender equality outcomes

 Gender Analysis  Design  Participation  Monitoring  FFA

Routinely check that women (and girls) are:

- equitably involved in community-based activities
- have equal say with men (and boys) in decisions about climate change adaptation, and other food security and nutrition initiatives, in their communities

When introducing and scaling-up **innovative risk financing tools**, such as weather index insurance, forecast-based finance and contingency finance that help food-insecure countries and communities manage increasing risks, ensure that:

- women and men are equitably involved in community participatory processes
- activities are included which explicitly target women and men to improve their respective economic opportunities
- tools contribute to equal access to productive assets for women and men
- risk management tools enable both women and men to make and protect investments that increase, improve and diversify their productivity, livelihoods and well-being

Deliver Empowering Resilience Programmes: Based on the participatory gender analysis, deliver resilience-building programmes that empower women smallholder farmers and agricultural producers. This could involve strengthening the roles and contributions of women in:

- the production and consumption of sustainable diverse diets
- cooking-energy access systems
- natural resource management
- resilient livelihoods
- local food systems
- climate-smart agriculture

 Participation

Implement SAFE Programmes: As relevant to the context, consider energy needs where appropriate and implement energy- and livelihood-related activities through WFP's Safe Access to Fuel and Energy ([SAFE](#)) initiative. The SAFE programme is designed to:

- improve access to safe and clean energy for cooking
- improve livelihood opportunities
- reduce negative health impacts
- reduce negative coping mechanisms, including selling or undercooking food to buy cooking fuel
- reduce protection risks
- reduce environmental risks
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Integrate Gender in all WFP Resilience and Risk Reduction Programmes: Integrate gender into all WFP community resilience and risk reduction programmes and services: policies, institutional processes, capacity-building, technologies, community activities etc.

Social Protection

Gender Analysis Based Social Protection Initiatives: Base social protection initiatives – transfers, school feeding, childcare support, FFA, finance and insurance, resilience-building activities – on participatory gender analyses. [Gender Analysis](#)

Design, Implement and Monitor Social Protection Initiatives, ensuring that they are:

- inclusive
- participatory
- empowering for women and girls
- contribute to gender equality outcomes

[Gender Analysis](#) [Design](#) [Participation](#) [Implementation](#) [Monitoring](#) [Social Protection](#)

Ensure Equitable Access: Ensure that women and men can equitably access, and equally benefit from, the social protection measures.

As women typically have less access to financial information, education and training, as well as having less wealth and capital, than men, increase women's access to risk financing tools; weather index insurance, forecast-based finance, contingency financing etc. [Participation](#) [Monitoring](#)

Support Women's Organisations and awareness-raising to increase women's participation in social protection initiatives.

Review and Support Legislation: Review and support social protection legislation that promotes participation, equality and social justice.

4. Policy Support

In an inclusive and participatory manner, support national and sub-national governments in drafting, revising, implementing and monitoring of policies, legislation, programmes and services that support climate change resilience, food security and nutrition for all women, men, girls and boys.

Promote the equal participation of women and men in decision-making bodies and processes, from national governments to local communities.

At the global and regional levels, collaborate with other UN Agencies, non-governmental organisations and other actors to ensure coherent, inclusive and equitable policies and actions on climate change, food security and nutrition; all of which advance gender equality.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

-  [FAO \(2013\). Gender and Climate Change Research in Agriculture and Food Security for Rural Development Training Guide, 2nd ed., Rome: FAO.](#)
-  [Gender Climate Tracker app](#)
-  [Global Gender and Climate Alliance](#)
-  [Men Engage Alliance \(2016\). Men, Masculinities and Climate Change: A Discussion Paper.](#)
-  [Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\), Human Rights and Climate Change](#)
-  [Paris Agreement: Conference of the Parties, \(2015\). *Adoption of the Paris Agreement*, FCCC/CP/2015/L.9/Rev.1](#)
-  [Razavi, S. \(2009.\) The Gendered Impacts of Liberalization: Towards "Embedded Liberalism"?. United Nations Institute for Social Development.](#)
-  [Skinner, E. \(2011\), Gender and Climate Change Overview Report, London: Institute of Development Studies.](#)
-  [The Women's Global Call for Climate Justice,](#)
-  [United Nations Development Programme \(2009\). Resource Guide on Gender and Climate Change.](#)

Gender & Climate Change Checklist

Use this checklist to make sure that the roles, responsibilities and resiliencies of women and men have been considered in relation to (a) household decision-making; (b) rural livelihoods; (c) resources, and (d) ability to respond to the impacts of climate change.

For general gender analysis questions (that can be applied to climate change interventions) use the "Gender Analysis Key Questions" document.

1. Household Decision-Making

- What do women see as the climate-related risks to their own and their families':
 - food security?
 - nutrition?
 - livelihoods?
- What do men see as the climate-related risks to their own and their families':
 - food security?
 - nutrition?
 - livelihoods?
- Who in the household decides on what climate change adaptation is made – such as in relation to crops that are grown, water storage, energy use, food storage and food preparation – to ensure food security and nutrition for all household members?
- How are decisions about household climate change adaptation made?
- What information do women need and want to make decisions on nutrition and food security adaptations to climate change? Men?
- Do the women have access to the information they need and want? Men?
- If yes, from where do women get the information they need and want? Men?
- Who do women share the information with (if anyone)? Men?
- What impacts have decisions about climate change adaptation had on:
 - women's household work – what they do and how much time they spend doing it? Girls?
 - men's household work – what they do and how much time they spend doing it? Boys?
 - women's food security and nutrition? Girls?
 - men's food security and nutrition? Boys?
- Who makes decisions about the household's energy security? Women? Men? Women and men? Equally?
- How might a change in the household energy sources and use affect women, men, girls and boys?

2. Rural Livelihoods

- In agriculture-based livelihoods: Who, in the household, makes the decisions about agricultural practices (including changing practices to adapt to climate change)? Women? Men? Mostly men? Women and men equally?

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- Does land tenure of women and men differ – in law and/or in practice? If yes, how? How does land tenure affect the decision-making on adapting agricultural practices to climate change?
- In agricultural cooperatives, what are the roles and responsibilities of women? And men?
- In agricultural cooperatives, whose climate change knowledge is valued? Women? Men? Both women and men? Equally?
- When changes – like climate change adaptation – are introduced to agricultural practices, are the potential impacts on women's roles, responsibilities and time-use considered? Men's roles, responsibilities and time-use? Who considers the impacts? How do such considerations impact decision-making?

3. Resources

- In adapting to climate change, what resources do women have access to? Men?
Consider: information, education / training, networks, finance, insurance, agricultural inputs, technologies, early warning systems, water, land.
- Are the resources useful for women in adapting to climate change? How? To what extent? What else do women need? And for men?
- What resources do women not have access to that they need to adapt to climate change? Why? And men?
- What climate smart information do women receive? Men?
- How useful is the information for women? For men?
- How do the women use the information? Men?

4. Coping Capacities

- What positive coping strategies are women using to adapt to the impacts of climate change on food security and nutrition? Men?
- What harmful or negative coping strategies are women using to adapt to the impacts of climate change on food security and nutrition? Men?
- What knowledge, skills and networks do women have to adapt to climate change? Men?
- What knowledge, skills and strategies to women need and want to strengthen resiliency to climate change – for themselves, their families and their communities? And men?
- How can women be supported in acquiring the needed knowledge, skills and strategies to adapt to climate change? And for men?
- How does the proposed climate change adaptation contribute to the food security and nutrition of:
 - women?
 - men?
 - girls?
 - boys?
- How does the proposed climate change adaptation contribute to achieving gender equality?