

# The Gender Dimensions of Evaluating Climate Change Responses

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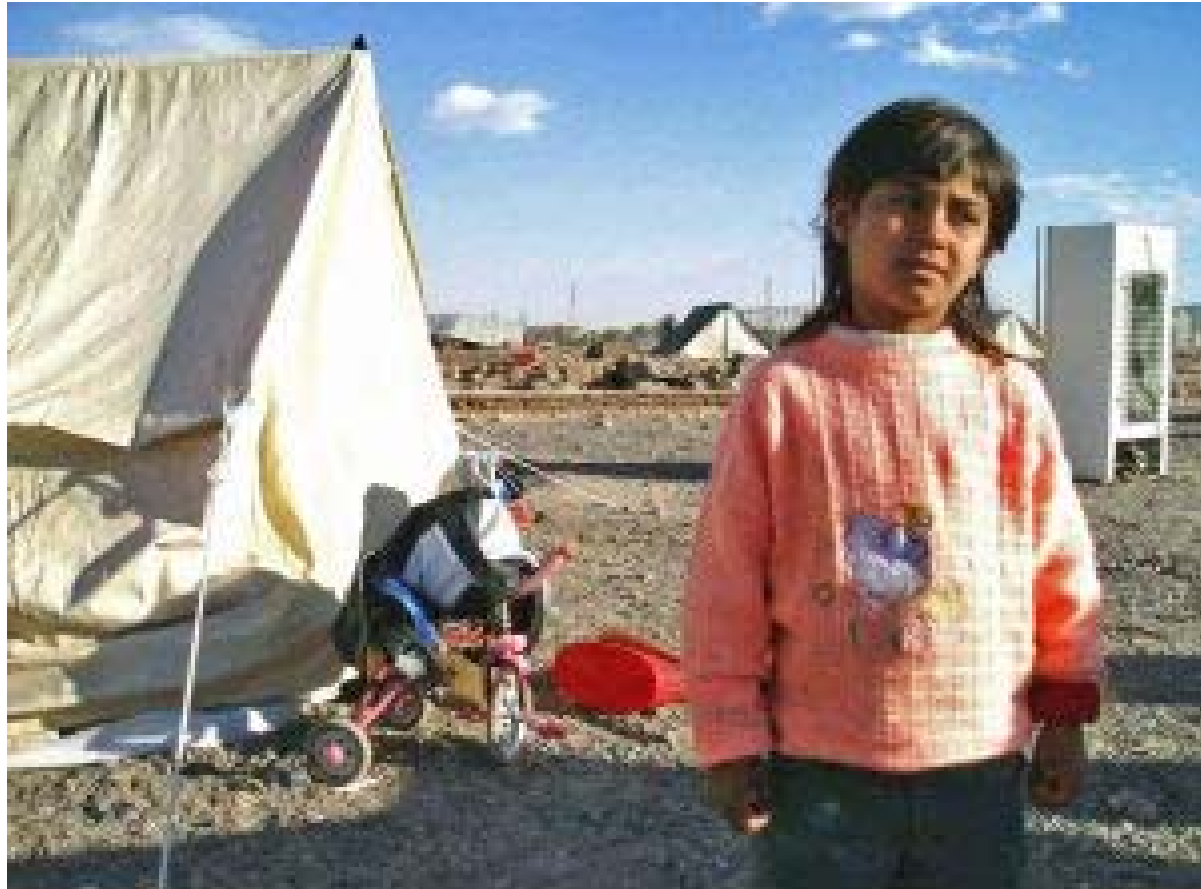
Photo: Gro Brundtland and Mary Robinson lead WEDO Roundtable on Gender and Climate Change

This presentation:

- Gender and climate change
- Policy framework
- Evaluation methodology
- Strategies and recommendations

# Brief video on gender, disasters, and climate change

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# Core Ideas

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- Promoting gender equity and equality is an avenue to improved adaptation to climate change
- Climate scientists can learn from women's existing innovations and adaptations on the ground
- Gender indicators and analysis criteria are often missing from climate change responses
- Climate change evaluation methodology should incorporate a gender dimension



# Gender and Climate Change

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Gender differences exist in:

- Vulnerability to disasters and environmental changes
- Roles contributing to climate change responses

\*Existing inequalities determine who is most impacted by disasters\*



## Impacts on Mortality Rates - Cases

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Discrepancy in mortality rates between women and men in disasters:

- In the 2004 Asian Tsunami, 70-80% of overall deaths were women
- In the 1991 cyclone disasters that killed 140,000 in Bangladesh, 90% of victims were women
- Men in Central American disasters had higher mortality rate due to “macho factor”
- In 2003 European heat wave, 70% of deaths were among women



## Impacts on Mortality Rates - Research

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Findings of 2006 study by London School of Economics, which analyzed disasters in 141 countries:

- Gender differences in deaths from natural disasters are directly linked to women's economic and social rights
- When women's rights are not protected, more women than men will die from natural disasters
- When women's rights are protected, the same number of women and men die from natural disasters



# Impacts on Gender Equality

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Extreme weather events tend to reinforce existing gender roles and relationships between women and men.

In the Asian Tsunami:

- High fatalities among mothers increased the incidences of infant mortality, sexual assault, trafficking in women, prostitution, and neglect of girls' education





# Impacts on Gender Equality

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(continued)

- Restrictions on women's mobility and access to community governance or information put women at greater risk, which is more pronounced during emergencies
- Women did not have access to aid because they did not own land and could not provide land titles

Generally, gender inequalities in access to resources, information, and mobility are exacerbated in disasters.

# Gender Equality vs. Climate Change Risk\*

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## Low Gender Development Index (GDI)

- Country 1
- Country 2
- Country 3
- Country 4
- Country 5
- Country 6
- Country 7
- Country 8
- Country 9
- Country 10
- Country 11
- Country 12
- Country 13
- Country 14
- Country 15

## High climate change risks

- Country 1
- Country 2
- Country 3
- Country 4
- Country 5
- Country 6
- Country 7
- Country 8
- Country 9
- Country 10
- Country 11
- Country 12
- Country 13
- Country 14
- Country 15

\*Research and correlations to be completed April 2008

# Gender roles in disaster risk management

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Evaluation methodology should draw from the growing number of cases demonstrating that leveraging the skills and roles of both women and men in climate change responses advances community survival.



## Case studies - Honduras

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The community of La Masica, Honduras reported no deaths in the wake of Hurricane Mitch due to women's participation in monitoring an early warning system.

(photo and more details coming)



## Case studies - Micronesia

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In Micronesia, although there were gender imbalances in the local water governance system, women's knowledge of island hydrology led to the identification of new wells during a drought.

(photo and more details coming)



# Hot Topics – Gender and Climate Change

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Gender-related vulnerabilities

Gender-related capabilities

Carbon markets

Biofuels

Adaptation Financing

Population and Reproductive Health Linkages

Gender-based consumption patterns

# Gender Elements of DRM/CC Adaptation in the Caribbean

Ex Ante Adaptation	Risk identification	Should be such that gender disparities can be diagnosed in a timely, proactive manner
	Risk mitigation	Public awareness programs should be structured to cater to the literacy levels and socioeconomic circumstances of both men and women
	Disaster preparedness	Women are most effective at mobilizing the community to respond to disasters
Ex Post Adaptation	Disaster recovery efforts	Emergency relief workers need to be gender sensitized in terms of how they treat disaster survivors
	Rehabilitation and reconstruction	Women could get involved in “non-traditional” female tasks e.g. building houses, digging wells and ditches, because these were their priorities and they were being overlooked in the relief efforts

Source: Marlene Attzs, University of West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago, 2007

# Policy Analysis

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Most governments have not addressed the gender aspects of climate change.



- In a UNEP-IUCN-WEDO survey of 30 national environment ministries, only 2 had considered a gender perspective in climate change initiatives
- Only a few NAPAs address gender equality in a substantive manner
- In a 6-month global consultation process conducted by WEDO, civil society organizations identified a significant gap in integrating a gender perspective in government responses to climate change





# Existing Policy Framework

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- Global Policies related to gender equality and sustainable development
  - Sustainable Development and Environment agreements
  - Human Rights agreements
  - Gender Equality agreements
- Related to gender and disasters specifically:
  - Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 on gender and disasters
  - DAW/ISDR workshop on gender and natural disasters, Ankara 2001

# Lessons Learned on Gender from Existing Evaluation Methodology

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- GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy
- World Bank Independent Evaluation Group
- UNDP/Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) Monitoring and Evaluation Team
- IDRC Evaluation Unit
- IUCN Evaluation Policy
- USAID Best Practices



## Findings of UNEP/DEWA gender assessment

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### Successes:

- An institutional culture open to gender perspectives
- Gender as a cross-cutting responsibility
- Gender mainstreaming understood as a continuous, fluid, and evolving responsibility
- Data, indicators, and analysis



## Findings of UNEP/DEWA gender assessment

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### Challenges:

- A hostile or indifferent institutional culture
- “Ghettoization” of gender
- Gender mainstreaming framed as a single and finite target
- Inadequacies in indicators, data, and analysis that reveal gendered dimensions of issues or that support gender disaggregated work



# Strategies for Ensuring that Climate Change Responses Target Both Women and Men

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Develop indicators to reflect unequal vulnerability to climate change (and disasters)

Invest in research and data collection on gender-specific impacts and protection measures related to floods, droughts, heat waves, diseases, and other environmental changes and disasters.

Participatory approach to climate change measures – roles especially for women and men within governments, civil society (including private sector), and communities

Women's access to climate-friendly technologies and financing of women's green entrepreneurial initiatives.



# Strategies for Ensuring that Climate Change Responses Target Both Women and Men

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(continued)

Secure government commitments to mainstream gender into CC adaptation

Capacity building and technology transfer measures that draw on priorities put forward by women and poor communities.

Ensure availability of data such as:

- demographic data on households and distribution of households by gender, income, etc
- employment data
- health information
- situational reports pre and post disasters

# Recommendations for workshop partners and participants

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- Develop guidelines for measuring gender criteria in climate change evaluation methodology, by adapting existing gender guidelines
- Train staff and evaluators on gender and climate change
- Institutionalize and monitor gender criteria
- Partner with the Global Gender and Climate Alliance



# Thank you!

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## **For more information:**

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Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA)  
Core partners:  
UNDP, UNEP, IUCN, WEDO





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Workshop selection committee: please  
see attached Annotated Reference List  
with weblinks (word document)