



Gender, Climate Change and Development Nexus in Africa

**Keiso Matashane-Marite
African Centre for Gender**

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Outline

- Introduction
- Climate Change Threats to Attainment of Regional and Global Commitments
- Impact of Climate Change on Women and girls
- Current Policy Environment
- Gender Responsive Measures
- Conclusion





Introduction.....

- **Climate and Weather Information- Not accessed and used by all; not optimally and efficiently used;**
 - **How is it generated?**
 - **How is it disseminated?**
 - **In its dissemination are gender concerns taken into account?**
- **4th Industrial revolution is Upon Us- Information is literally on our fingertips... Africa has a potential late comer advantage. Are we fully utilizing this? Are we dealing with technical divide? STEM**



Introduction...

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Climate Change Threats

- Impacts of climate change threaten attainment of Regional and Global Frameworks:-
 - A drop in agricultural yields in some countries, with the consequent adverse effects on agricultural output, food security and nutrition;
 - An increase in the number of people at risk from water stress;
 - Rising sea levels that could severely affect mangrove forests as well as coastal fisheries, and lead to severe flooding;
 - Increase in waterborne diseases and diseases spread by mosquitoes, which will significantly impact human health.





Gender Climate Change Threats

- Climate change - significant impact of climate change on women and girls
- Lima Work program on Gender, COP20 (gender balance in negotiations) and COP21 outlining gender considerations as a standard
- SDG 5 and Inspiration 6 of AU A63- promote gender equality and women's empowerment
- Gender equality:-
 - precondition for sustainable, holistic and equitable development
 - fundamental for the full enjoyment of human rights by women and men.
- Failing to address gender issues in climate change:
 - impedes the effectiveness of mitigation and adaptation policies and programmes
 - significantly hampers Africa's sustainable development prospects





Impact of Climate Change on Women

- Gendered division of labour
 - Unequal access to resources of production, including land, technology and credit
 - Limited involvement in decision-making processes
 - Direct dependence on natural resources
 - Cultural and social discrimination
- ➔ makes women disproportionately vulnerable to the impacts of climate change





Impact of Climate Change on Women contd.

- Women responsible for providing food to household
- Comprise estimated 48% of the economically active population in agriculture in Africa
- However, women tend to own less than 15 percent of agricultural land in Africa
- Limited access to and control over the resources required
- Climate-induced crop failure → affects food security of household and population





Impact of Climate Change on Women contd.

- Women responsible for household water supply as well as energy for cooking and heating.
- With the onset of water shortages and the depletion of forests:-
 - increased workload
 - decreased time available to women for food production and preparation as well as participation in income-generating activities
 - adverse effect on overall household food security, nutritional well-being and economic status





Impact of Climate Change on Women contd.

- During and after a climate-induced disaster, women face various challenges:- Disproportionate vulnerability;
- heavier workload involving clean-up work, subsistence activities and care-giving
- run the risk of being exploited – e.g. may be refused their rights to land and property or exposed to violence and abuse
- adverse weather conditions – higher incidence of disease
 - deterioration in health status of women exponentially increases since they are frequently discriminated against in the distribution of resources, food or medicine





Current Policy Environment

- Current trend to frame climate change as a problem that needs technical solutions (Climate Change language needs to be demystified) Emphasis on technical and scientific solutions and insufficient attention human Rights and Multi sectoral solutions;
- Paradigm Shift needed:-
 - Multi-sectoral perspective needed
 - Human rights approach is also key.
 - makes it difficult to find an entry point to introduce gender-equality issues into the discourse
- Existing gender-sensitive policies related to climate change:-
 - Minimal
 - Not implemented
 - Created in isolation from other key development sectors





Gender-Responsive Measures

- **Gender mainstreaming in national climate change policies**
 - carry out systematic gender analysis
 - collect and utilize sex-disaggregated data
 - establish gender-sensitive indicators and benchmarks
 - develop practical tools to support increased attention to gender issues
 - consultation with and participation of women in climate change initiatives, including a strengthened role for women's groups and networks



Gender-Responsive Measures contd.

- **Harnessing women's local knowledge and expertise in mitigation and adaptation**
 - **African women - valuable knowledge as well as experience regarding several adaptation mechanisms to environmental stressors**
 - **Unique position to curb the consequences of climate change**
 - **Makes them repositories of indigenous knowledge on sustainable practices and coping strategies**





Gender-Responsive Measures contd.

- **Financing for gender-sensitive climate change responses**
 - Financing mechanisms - flexible enough to reflect women's priorities and needs
 - active participation of women in the development of funding criteria and allocation of resources for climate change initiatives - particularly at local levels
 - gender analysis of all budget lines and financial instruments for climate change needed to ensure gender-sensitive investments in programmes for adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer and capacity building.





Gender-Responsive Measures contd.

- **Technological developments related to climate change**
 - should take into account women's specific priorities and needs and make full use of their knowledge and expertise, including traditional practices
 - women's involvement in development of new technologies can ensure that they are user-friendly, effective and sustainable.
 - women should have equal access to training, credit and skills-development programmes to ensure their full participation in addressing climate change.



Climate Information Dissemination...Key Steps

- **Skills and Knowledge transfer and sharing (capacity) to respond to CC is critical and package information in a way that it is accessible to the beneficiaries (avoid talking to ourselves)... Climate change impacts should be managed in such a way that there is minimal or no erosion of cultural heritage and loss of livelihoods;**
- **Weather information (information in general seems to be skipping a cross section of our population),**
- **Collaboration, partnerships and networks are critical, regional and continental collaborations are key.**
- **Gender responsive Climate- smart agriculture information sharing,**
- **Aggressive movements for policy interventions are needed to avoid catastrophes of food, water, energy shortages and public health threats.**





ECA's Programme on Gender and Climate Change

- **ACG and ACPC – joint programme on Gender and Climate Change**
- Objectives:-
 - 1. Build a concrete body of knowledge on gender and climate change in order to promote a greater understanding of the gendered dimensions of climate change;
 - 2. Inform national policies and regional initiatives on how to address the gendered dimensions of climate change in Africa;
 - 3. Contribute to capacity-building initiatives on addressing gender and climate change; and
 - 4. Enhance the participation of African women in regional and global discussions on climate change.





Thank You