

Webinar on Strengthening the Engagement of Women in CIS Generation, Packaging, Dissemination, Uptake and Use

Suggested Talking points for TCND Director

As noted in the concept note for this webinar, **“Women have significant knowledge and understanding of the changing environmental conditions, which could play a crucial role in identifying viable and practical community adaptation.”**

According to a new report by the UN Environment, UN Women, the UNDP, and the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (UNDPPA), **there are close links between gender, climate, and security, which show that women on the frontlines of climate action are playing a vital role in conflict prevention and sustainable, inclusive peace.**

The report further says **“Communities affected by conflict and climate change face a double crisis. COVID-19 further compounds the impacts of climate change on food security, livelihoods, social cohesion and security. This can undermine development gains, escalate violence and also disrupt fragile peace processes”**

According to UNDP, **“Investing in women as part of the climate change response leads to environmental gains and greater returns across the SDGs and broader development objectives”**

It is notable that involving women in the switch to cleaner, modern energy, ensures that their concerns, and those of the community, are addressed.

A 2019 survey by charity Practical Action in rural Togo found **women prioritized energy for pumping drinking water and processing crops, while men favoured mobile-phone charging and heating water for washing.**

“Building back better with a gender lens means ensuring our post-COVID economies tackle the fundamental inequalities in society and end violence against women,” said UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka.

During the IPCC's three decades of operation, there have only been three female co-chairs, two of them on the author list for the 6th Assessment Report.

According to the UN **"37% of Africa's population is 30 minutes or more away from a safe drinking water source"**. Natural resources are becoming ever more scarce due to climate change, which presents additional challenges for women. As a consequence, women walk longer distances to fetch water for drinking, cooking and washing.

Where farming and herding have disappeared due to climate change, some women turn to sex work because they lack other options.

With minimal access to climate information, and limited mobility outside their homes, women are 14 times more likely than men to die during natural disasters, reports the African Development Bank (AfDB).

Extreme weather conditions, particularly droughts, drying river basins in southern and eastern Africa, and flooding and rising sea levels in West Africa, have forced many women to be displaced, according to the Centre for International Disaster Information.

According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHRC), **women and girls are the most vulnerable refugees, as they face a greater risk of being trafficked for sex and experiencing gender-based violence as they migrate.**

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) further notes that, **women represent nearly half of farmers in Africa and produce up to 80% of basic food crops, yet they have limited rights, mobility and access to resources, information and decision-making power, making them more vulnerable and less able to adapt to climate change impacts than men.**

Across Africa, there are **numerous platforms that are designed to empower women and build their skills and knowhow in climate science.** Just to name a few:

- The ACPC has undertaken some work in this regard, including a **consultative workshop on climate and gender, the climate research for development (CR4D) research grants mentioned earlier, which have prioritized women and a gender action plan.**
- The African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) is leading the **One Planet Fellowship, a new initiative that will train 630**

African and European scientists to use a gender lens to help African smallholders adapt to climate shifts.

- African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) Next Einstein Initiative (NEI) has a **Fellowship Program for Women in Climate Change Science**. We will hear more on this AIMS programme from the AIMS Research Chair on Climate Change Science, who's participating in this webinar.