



Climate Justice and Gender

CARE's Capacity Statement

Climate change is accelerating, and the impacts of climate change, such as floods, droughts, and sea level rise, are increasing in frequency and severity. Due to gender-based inequities and harmful social norms these impacts disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, like women and girls. The resources and options available to act on these shocks and changes are also strongly dependent on gender norms and expectations that govern the lives they live ([CARE, 2014](#)).

Women and girls are thus uniquely positioned as essential agents of change in global climate mitigation and adaptation. Ensuring women's leadership and inclusion in driving climate change adaptation solutions requires addressing the structural barriers that limit women's role and voice ([CARE, 2015](#)). CARE takes a gender transformative approach to building the resilience and leadership of individuals, communities, and systems to deal with the impacts of climate change.

How and Why Climate Change Disproportionately Impacts Women and Girls

Exposure to climate change related disasters exacerbates existing social, political, and economic tensions ([UN Women, 2022a](#); [Thurston et al., 2021](#)). Globally, impacts from climate change unequally affect women and girls compared to men and boys due to existing social norms and gender discrimination. For example, women's domestic workload increases when extreme weather events happen as women often have the disproportionate or sole responsibility to secure resources like food, water, and fuel for their families ([UN Women, 2022a](#)). Also, climate impacts add increased risks of gender-based violence due to displacement and in having to walk longer distances to get water, use toilets, etc. ([OHCHR, 2022](#)).

Limited decision-making power and unequal access to and control over resources can impede women's ability to adopt effective strategies to prepare, adapt, and respond to the impacts of climate change. For example, due to social

norms and unequal access to resources women have a higher likelihood of living in poverty which is correlated with increased vulnerability ([UN Women, 2022b](#)).

Climate change risks are increased for vulnerable groups such as indigenous, racial, and ethnic minority women and girls, older women, LGBTIQ+ people, women and girls with disabilities, migrant women, and those living in conflict and disaster-prone areas ([UN Women, 2022a](#)). These marginalized groups and individuals are excluded from positions of power and decision-making opportunities which limit their long-term resilience ([UNFCCC, 2022](#)).

The following sections will look more closely at specific implications for women and girls in agriculture and income generation, gender-based violence, control over resources, and health.

Agriculture & Income Generation

Women work with and depend more on natural resources and environmental goods and yet have less access to them ([UN Women, 2022a](#); [UN Women, 2022b](#)). Over 40% of the global agricultural labor workforce consists of women, and women are responsible for 60-80% of total global food production ([OHCHR, 2022](#)). In addition, women make up a large percentage of the workforce in the fisheries and forestry sectors ([WWF, 2019](#); [UN Women, 2020](#)). In low- and middle- income countries in particular, agriculture is the most prominent employment sector for women ([UN Women, 2022a](#)). Because these resource-based industries have high vulnerability to climate variability, as the risk of climate change impacts increases over time, the income-generating potential in these industries decreases over time ([Jägermeyr et al., 2021](#)). For example, droughts, floods, and sea level rise can ruin crops which leaves women with very little income during a climate event. When that happens, women must work harder to find other ways to earn income to support themselves and their families ([UN Women, 2022a](#)).

Women's role in agriculture can be undermined not only by the roles and rules in producing, but also in processing (including cooking) and marketing food that are often divided along gender lines and imbalanced gender relations result in time poverty for women ([CARE and FAO 2019](#); [CARE, 2019](#)). Patriarchy, pervasive stereotypes about

men and women's rights and roles, traditional values and cultures, and prevailing economic models combine to reinforce male-centered food and agriculture systems which address women in their stereotypical roles and undervalue their contributions to the economy ([CARE et al 2015](#)). This in turn lessens women's abilities to mitigate and adapt to climate crises.



Gender-Based Violence

Climate change puts women and girls at greater risk of all forms of gender-based violence, like conflict-related sexual violence, human trafficking, and child marriage (CARE, 2022; UN Women, 2022a; OHCHR, 2022). In turn, gender-based violence reduces women's adaptive capacity and resilience creating a negative feedback cycle (UNFCCC, 2022). It is estimated that women represent 80% of the people displaced due to impacts of climate change (OHCHR, 2022; UNFCCC, 2022). During displacement, the risk of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, increases (CARE, 2020; OHCHR, 2022). Temporary infrastructure in emergency shelters, tents, and refugee/migrant camps increase women and girls' vulnerability to violence while sleeping, washing, bathing, and dressing due to physical exposure (OHCHR, 2022).

With increasing scarcity of drinking water due to global warming, women and girls are forced to search farther and farther away for water sources increasing their risk of gender-based violence by having to walk longer distances away from the protection of family and household structures (OHCHR, 2022; UNFCCC, 2022). In a study in Botswana, 56% of the girls reported having to travel longer distances than usual to fetch water (UN Women, 2022b). Due to drought in Kenya, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Somalia, women and girls spend up to eight hours a day fetching water (Abuom, 2017). Longer journeys mean longer time to complete the task and

more time alone outside of the home, increasing the risk of gender-based violence (UNFCCC, 2022).

During periods of increased burden, like traveling farther to collect water, there is added pressure on girls to leave school and help their families with household chores (UN Women, 2022a; OHCHR, 2022; IUCN, 2020). A study on droughts in Botswana found that 70% of the children taken out of school during drought periods were girls (FinEquity, 2023). Pulling girls from school increases gender inequality and vulnerability to climate impacts. In addition, in the event of a climate disaster, child marriage can be used as a negative coping mechanism by families to quickly secure funds or assets (UNFCCC, 2022; HRW, 2015). Child marriage negatively impacts girls' education and health which can further increase their vulnerability to climate change impacts.

Crisis situations, compounded by the impacts of climate change, can lead to women and girls being sexually harassed or coerced into exchanging sex for food or water, preventing them from accessing necessary resources. Women may also eat less to avoid intimate partner violence. The effects of climate change, including conflict, resource scarcity, and increased commodity costs, worsen food insecurity and amplify the risk of violence, which has been reported to have increased during crisis situations and due to economic violence at home.

CLIMATE CHANGE, VIOLENCE AND WOMEN IN NORTHWEST NIGERIA

CARE's **Climate Change, Violence and Women in Northwest Nigeria** research aims to understand the intersection between climate change, gender-based violence, and women's resilience in Northwest Nigeria. The research found that climate change has increased the incidence of gender-based violence, particularly domestic violence, as well as forced early marriage and early pregnancy. Women who are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change, such as those who are poorer, less educated, and more isolated, are at an even higher risk of experiencing gender-based violence. However, women are also actively engaged in building resilience to climate change impacts, and their traditional knowledge and coping strategies can inform effective adaptation efforts. The research recommends that interventions to address climate change and gender-based violence must be intersectional and rooted in the needs and experiences of local communities. It also calls for the integration of women's voices and leadership in the design and implementation of climate change adaptation programs.



Food and Water Security

Climate change impacts food security for women in a variety of ways. First, climate change can lead to extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, and storms, which can damage crops and reduce yields, affecting the availability of food (FAO, 2018). As women are often responsible for agricultural activities such as planting, weeding, and harvesting, they are particularly vulnerable to these changes (UN Women, 2018). Second, climate change can lead to changes in temperature and rainfall patterns, which can negatively impact the growth and quality of crops (IFAD, 2021). This can lead to a decrease in the nutritional value of crops, making them less suitable for consumption. Third, climate change can affect the availability and quality of water, making it more difficult for women to access clean water for irrigation, cooking, and drinking. Finally, climate change can lead to conflicts and displacement, which can disrupt food systems and make it difficult for women to access food and water (OCHA, 2020).

Control Over Resources

Men typically migrate from rural to urban areas in search of jobs as social norms around travel are less restrictive for men. For example, in Bangladesh, monsoon season makes travel difficult for women due to social norms that inhibit women from entering crowded buses (Jost et al., 2015). The women left behind then become responsible for the household and family land (UNFCCC, 2022). This increase in responsibilities and workload can often cause shifts in perceived gender roles. It can create conditions to improve the financial situation and decision-making power of women when moving into head of household roles. However, women are limited by structural barriers, such as access to land ownership, based on gender norms of women not being able to own land (UNEP, 2011; Wong, 2016).

Worldwide, women account for less than 20% of all landowners (Wong, 2016). In Kenya, 65% of land is governed by discriminatory laws against women (FinEquity, 2023). Lack of ownership makes women less identifiable as potential beneficiaries of governmental or non-governmental climate mitigation and relief programs. It also limits official decision-making that women can make about land use changes to mitigate or adapt to climate change. Women's reduced access to and usage of formal services like credit and insurance limits their ability to adopt climate-resilience services and practices. For example, in Uganda, a study found that women-led households want to expand agricultural production but lack the money to purchase inputs such as seeds (FinEquity, 2023).



Christian Berg/CARE

Women are also excluded from community level decision-making on climate mitigation and adaptation because of discriminatory gender norms about who can participate, women's general lack of social capital, inconvenient timing and location of meetings, and other exclusive membership criteria like being landowner and/or literate (CARE, 2022b; GCAN, 2022). In Tanzania and Burkina Faso, norms that restrict cross-gender interaction in public spaces make accessing community trainings and meetings inaccessible to women due to the association of public meeting participation with men, reducing their ability to adapt climate change (FinEquity, 2023).

Health & Nutrition

Climate change is predicted to cause 250,000 additional deaths each year, between 2030 and 2050, due to malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea, and heat stress, with disproportionate representation of marginalized groups like women (WHO, 2021). Women and children are more likely to suffer from climate-induced food shortages and malnutrition (WFP, 2021). In the event of a climate-change related disaster, women are less likely to survive and more likely to be injured (UN Women, 2022a, UNEP, 2011, GCAN, 2022). Limited access to services and health care during a disaster increases maternal and child health risks (UN Women, 2022a). For example, extreme heat can increase the incidence of stillbirth and the increase in spread of vector-borne illnesses (like malaria, dengue, and zika) are linked to poor maternal and neonatal outcomes (UN Women, 2022a; UNFPA, 2021). After a climate disaster, women are less able to access relief and assistance, increasing vulnerability to future disasters (UN Women, 2022a).



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Gender Justice and Climate Change Women's Leadership & Climate Change Decision Making

Due to women experiencing disproportionate impacts from climate change, they need to be a part of the solution. Better integrating women into decision-making at all levels can improve climate mitigation and adaptation policies and outcomes as well as contribute to greater gender equality (CARE, 2020b). It is critical to embed social norms and gender-based violence mitigation in climate justice work. Beyond targeting women for leadership training, it is crucial to work towards changing mindsets and behaviors and enabling the environment and structures that enable women to effectively contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation.

Women in traditional roles in resource-dependent occupations and as caretakers make them an important and essential voice in sustainable and successful climate action. Women's experience in agriculture, fisheries, tourism, conservation, nature-based solutions, and groundwater monitoring enables them to provide critical input for effective and informed action (Rockefeller Foundation, 2022). From working with the resources every day women can provide unique perspective and insights on how to best protect and use them. Women involved in farming activities tend to make climate-resilient choices and act more swiftly based on early warning signs in trying to achieve food security in their households (Landesa, 2012). For example, in the Central African Republic and in Kenya, women adapt

their daily activities according to local methods of predicting changes in rainfall patterns (UNFCCC, 2022).

Women's presence in local climate change response is associated with better resource governance, conservation, and disaster readiness. As water providers and subsistence farmers, women have a microcosmic understanding of the local environment around them. For example, in 2017, after a large hurricane, many men in rural areas of Antigua and Barbuda migrated to urban locations (UNFCCC, 2022). Subsequently, women became heads of households and were included in farmers associations. Issues faced by women, such as water scarcity, were identified by these farmers associations and the government was then able to take legal action to allocate resources towards solving them (UNFCCC, 2022).

Women are often the first responders to a disaster, but rarely the primary targets of disaster preparedness and response information (UNFCCC, 2022). If more women were included in decision-making around disaster preparedness and response, interventions could be better targeted to individuals responding when disaster hits. In addition, including women in household decision-making around planning for, preparing for, and responding to climate shocks and stressors can facilitate decisions that benefit all household members.

What CARE Has Done

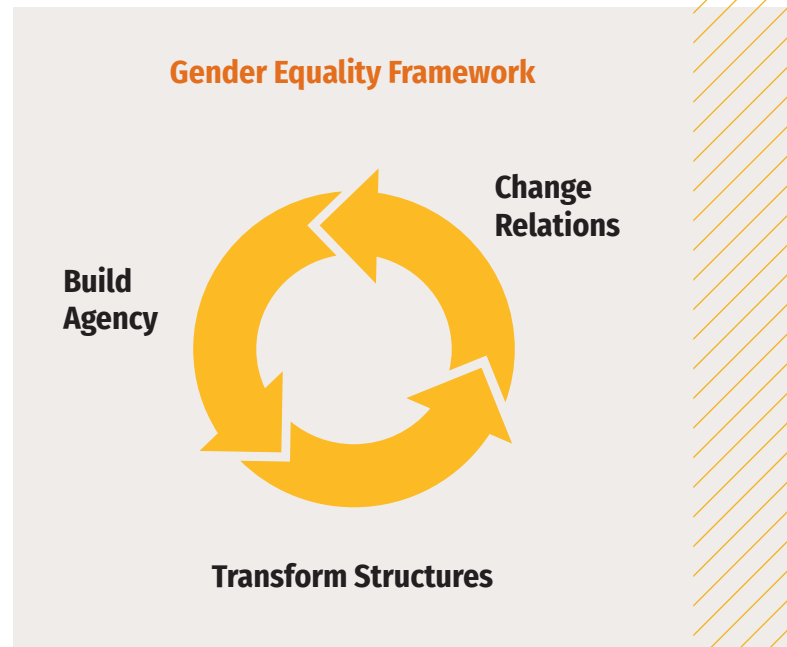
Between 2014 and 2020, CARE and partners helped 5.4 million people in 39 countries, 55% women and girls, to strengthen their ability to build climate resilience and reduce vulnerabilities. As part of Vision 2030, CARE aims to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacities for 25 million poor and marginalized people, particularly women and girls, to the effects of climate change.

CARE supports locally led adaptation that is gender transformative. This is a set of climate change adaptation activities developed in partnership with at-risk communities to promote community awareness of sustainable and equitable solutions to current and future climatic conditions. To plan with communities on adaptation options to implement, CARE uses the following adaptation approaches and tools:

- **Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA)** is a tool to gather and analyze information on community-level vulnerabilities (including gendered vulnerabilities) and capacities for climate change.
- **Community Adaptation Planning (CAAP)**, a process that brings together stakeholders in an empowering learning process and results in tangible and flexible plans to reduce vulnerability to climate change over time.
- **Participatory Scenario Planning** an approach to build adaptation scenarios using seasonal user-centered climate information services that is accessible to both women and men.

CARE's [Gender Equality Framework](#) is the overarching theory of change for Vision 2030 and all impact areas. It identifies ways to achieve gender equality and women's voice through transformative change. The aim of CARE's work is to build agency of people of all genders and life stages, change relations between them and transform structures in order that they realize their full potential in their public and private lives and can contribute equally to, and benefit equally from, social, political, and economic development.

Information on CARE projects was gathered from resources provided by country offices. Projects included explicitly focus on both climate change and gender. The PIIRS database was reviewed and all projects that are referred to below are available there.



Build Agency

CARE aims to build consciousness, confidence, self-esteem and aspirations in the non-formal sphere, and knowledge, skills, and capabilities in the formal sphere. The following projects highlight the work CARE has done to build agency.

CARE and World Agroforestry Center partnered to implement the [Enhancing Adaptive Capacity of Women and Ethnic Minority Smallholder Farmers through Improved Agro-Climate Information in South-East Asia \(ACIS\)](#) project in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. From 2015-2018, this project was implemented in five project sites among nine different ethnic minority groups. The project aimed to enable women farmers and ethnic minority farmers to better anticipate and respond to risks and opportunities from changes in the weather. Participatory and equitable agro-climate information services provided locally specific weather forecasts and accompanying agricultural advice to help participants adapt more rapidly to changes in climate and weather. The ACIS project positively impacted farming practices through integrating weather forecasts and a dynamic crop calendar. In addition, through the agro-climate information services, the project enhanced access for women to information and influence on farming decision making.

The **Northern Uplands-Promoting Climate Resilience (NU-PCR)** project was implemented in three districts in Laos from 2014-2018. The objective of the program was to support vulnerable households in remote areas to better understand the current trends and changes in climate and adapt their agricultural livelihoods to these changes. To achieve this, the program engaged local non-profits in CVCA design and implementation to drive creation of responsive projects like capacity-building trainings on diversified agriculture activities and establishing and strengthening farmer groups. The project was successful in improving households' resilience to climate change and was therefore recommended for a second phase. Further, the greatest achievements of the project were in improvement on women's agency, especially ethnic women. CARE's gender training was successful in changing traditionally held attitudes of women functioning as subordinate to men in the family and community. It was noted that men started participating in household and agricultural chores and women began speaking up during farmer group meetings.

Change Relations

CARE aims to change the power relations through which people live their lives through intimate relations and social networks in the non-formal sphere and group membership and activism, and citizen and market negotiations in the formal sphere. The following project has been successful in demonstrating change in relations between women and men.

The **Where the Rain Falls (WtRF)** program was implemented in Bangladesh, India, and Thailand from 2011 – 2020. The project aimed to enhance the resilience of marginalized populations, especially women and girls from ethnic minorities to climate change impacts and build their adaptive capacity. A key activity in the WtRF project in Bangladesh was the analysis of gender roles in agriculture to address labor division through a community Gender Action Plan. In this plan, women farmers identified 13 activities for which they felt they could convince their spouse to take shared responsibility. They measured progress every quarter. In 9 months, equitable distribution rose from 22% to 67%. Thanks to this sharing of responsibilities, women in WtRF groups gained 2 to 4 hours a day, which they committed to homestead gardening and other farming activities, adding to the household's food security. In addition, the project aimed to engage men and influence social norms through facilitation of gender dialogue and through that the identification of male champions.

CARE's **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)** work in Vanuatu from 2013 to 2015 aimed to increase the resilience of at-risk communities and schools to the impact of natural disasters. One of the project's explicit objectives was to build women's leadership in disaster preparedness and response by establishing and training Community Disaster and Climate Change Committees (CDCCCs) and supporting them over time with planning, capacity building, and coordination. The CDCCCs aimed to ensure gender balance in membership and provide gender and protection training to CDCCC members. An evaluation of the project's gender-sensitive approach found that the inclusion of women in the CDCCCs resulted in an increased representation of women in community leadership roles and increased respect for women's membership and leadership in disasters, compared to communities without CDCCCs. The evaluation also revealed that greater involvement of women in disaster leadership contributed to more inclusive preparedness and response, with specific actions taken to support women, children, and people with disabilities in preparing, responding, and recovering from Tropical Cyclone Pam.



Transform Structures

CARE aims to transform discriminatory social norms, customs, values and exclusionary practices in the non-formal sphere and laws, policies, procedures, and services in the formal sphere. The following projects demonstrate how structures have been transformed.

The **Ethnic Minority Women's Empowerment Initiative** worked in 52 villages across two provinces in north-western Vietnam from 2013-2017. Working with women farmers, the project aimed to ensure that their crops and livestock could endure the increasing impacts of climate change, that they have access to basic financial services such as saving money and accessing loans, and that they develop the knowledge and confidence to participate in the decision-making process in their homes and communities. CARE established Livelihood and Rights Clubs (LARCs) where groups of about 25 women came together to save and loan money, learn financial and leadership skills, and have open forum about better farming and livestock practices. Through participatory action approaches, CARE worked with Mass Organizations as partners. Working through the Women's Union demonstrated that Vietnam's mass organizations have the potential to be an extremely important component of the country's emerging civil society and can also play an important role in some aspects of technical service provision.



Josh Eskey/CARE

Women's Empowerment: Improving Resilience, Income and Food Security (WE-RISE)

was implemented from 2011-2016 in Tanzania, Malawi, and Ethiopia. At the policy/governance level, the WE-RISE program works to change laws, policies, and practices that perpetuate gender inequality and discrimination. The program engages with government officials, policymakers, and other key stakeholders to raise awareness about the issues faced by women and girls, and to advocate for changes that will improve their lives. Specifically, the WE-RISE program works to strengthen laws and policies related to women's economic empowerment, including access to credit, land, and markets. The program also advocates for policies that promote women's participation in decision-making at all levels, including in politics and governance. In addition, the WE-RISE program works to address gender-based violence and other forms of violence against women. This includes advocating for stronger laws and policies to prevent and respond to violence, as well as working with communities to change attitudes and behaviors that contribute to violence.

Building agency, changing relations, and transforming structures will create a world where women and girls realize their human rights and people of all genders and life stages can live in gender equality.



Sascha Montag/CARE

Anticipatory Action

Anticipatory action (AA) offers the potential to lessen the effects of climate-related hazards like droughts, floods, and storm surges. By taking early action, individuals and communities can decrease the impact of an anticipated disaster rather than waiting for humanitarian assistance after the damage has already been done. AA can be seen as a precursor or a complement to adaptation planning. Anticipatory action helps people prepare for immediate, short-term needs in a crisis scenario, whereas adaptation planning focuses on long-term planning and building resilience.

In Niger, the **Hamzari project** successfully engaged 77% of female food producers in using climate information and implementing risk-reducing measures to enhance their resilience to climate change. Additionally, the project mobilized young people, who make up 34% of producers, to disseminate early warning and emergency response information within their community. The project organized PSP workshops to discuss likely weather scenarios and to adopt relevant advisories and recommendations aimed at preventing or mitigating the associated risks. Participants developed practical and straightforward disaster risk reduction (DRR) plans tailored to their specific location, which addressed common risks such as floods, longer or shorter dry spells (averaging 10 to 14 days), and pest invasions. The community worked with climate information services to create village-level DRR plans.



The **Titukulane project** in Malawi was designed to achieve three objectives. Firstly, the project aimed to increase stable and equitable incomes from agricultural and non-agricultural livelihoods for ultra-poor and chronically vulnerable households, with a particular focus on women and youth. Climate information and advisories provided during the PSP sessions enabled farmers to make informed decisions regarding which farming techniques to employ, and which crops and seeds to plant, which could help increase their incomes. Secondly, the project sought to improve the nutritional status of children under the age of five, adolescent girls, and women of reproductive age. By providing timely climate information, the project could help farmers better manage their crops, potentially leading to increased yields and a more diverse and nutritious diet for community members. Lastly, the project aimed to enhance institutional and local capacities to reduce risk and increase resilience among ultra-poor and chronically vulnerable households, in alignment with the National Resilience Strategy. Through the installation of automated early warning equipment for flooding in Zomba District, the project improved the community's resilience to future shocks and stresses. Twenty-three targeted communities within the Titukulane project now have access to timely climate information, which can help them make more informed decisions about their livelihoods and reduce their vulnerability to climate-related risks.





What CARE Can Do Going Forward

To be successful, climate-resilient policies and sustainability initiatives need to aim at understanding the differential experiences of women and men and focus on achieving equity and equality, thus creating a positive feedback loop that continues to improve global climate-resilience and gender justice.

Embedding/ Addressing Social Norms in Climate Justice Work

Women should be included in climate-mitigation and adaptation decision making and leadership structures to contribute to greater gender equality and because women in positions of power are correlated with positive outcomes for their families and communities. Globally, a woman headed household is correlated with improved school attendance rates for children, increased food security, and reduced energy demand ([UNFCCC, 2022](#)). Women tend to take current and future generations into account in all decision-making ([Joireman & Liu, 2014](#)). CARE has various tools to encourage women's participation and leadership in decision making. Tools such as [Women Lead in Emergencies](#) should be integrated into climate adaptation planning tools and approaches, such as the [climate adaptation action planning](#) (CCAP) process.

CARE work [Engaging Men and Boys \(EMB\) for Climate Justice](#) aims to change attitudes, behaviors, practices, norms and policies related to women's and men's roles. Engagement with men and boys contributes to processes of gender transformative change by reducing barriers women and

girls face to building agency, addressing inequitable power relations and ensuring that changes in power dynamics and social structures are sustained. CARE's work with men and boys is also broadly categorized in terms of three levels of male engagement whereby men and boys are engaged as participants, supporters and allies and champions of gender equality.

Use CARE's signature approach to gender norms transformation, the [Social Analysis and Action \(SAA\)](#) approach. Through this, individuals explore and challenge social norms, beliefs, and practices that shape their lives and health. The goal is to help participants surface and challenge restrictive norms and act together to create more equitable ones.

Integrating GBV in Climate Justice Programming

Integrating GBV prevention and response into climate justice programming is an important step in ensuring that climate programs and policies are gender-responsive and address the needs and priorities of all individuals and communities, including women, girls, and other marginalized groups.

Anticipating and monitoring backlash is a key component of this integration. As climate programs and policies may challenge traditional gender roles and power dynamics, they may also trigger negative reactions from individuals and communities who perceive these changes as a threat to their cultural, social, or economic interests. Anticipating and monitoring these potential reactions can help program

implementers address and mitigate them and prevent them from undermining the effectiveness of the program.

Changing attitudes and behaviors around GBV is also crucial in climate change programming. This includes addressing underlying social norms and cultural beliefs that perpetuate GBV, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, and engaging men and boys as allies in preventing and addressing GBV. Such efforts can be incorporated into climate change programming through awareness-raising campaigns, community mobilization activities, and education and training programs.

Finally, including GBV prevention through household dialogues, activism, and other community-based approaches is an effective way to address GBV in the context of climate change. These approaches can help raise awareness about GBV and its impacts on individuals and communities, empower women and girls to assert their rights and claim their space in decision-making processes, and engage men and boys as partners in preventing and addressing GBV.

Overall, integrating GBV prevention and response into climate change programming requires a comprehensive approach that addresses the root causes of GBV and fosters gender equality and social inclusion. By doing so, climate change programs can be more effective, equitable, and sustainable for all individuals and communities.

Emphasizing Adolescent Girls' Activism and Engagement

Activism and engagement of adolescent girls is critical to climate justice work given the high youth populations of where CARE works and where climate change is impacting the most. Building in a girls' activism and leadership component in climate justice work means intentionally creating opportunities for girls to be active participants and leaders in these efforts. This could involve initiatives such as:

1. Providing mentorship and training opportunities for girls to develop the skills and knowledge needed to engage in climate activism and advocacy.
2. Creating spaces where girls can share their experiences and perspectives on climate change and be heard and valued in decision-making processes related to climate justice.
3. Supporting girls to take leadership roles in climate justice campaigns and initiatives, such as organizing protests or advocating for policy change.
4. Ensuring that girls' voices are included in conversations around climate solutions, and that their unique experiences and perspectives are taken into account.

By building in a girls' activism and leadership component, climate justice work can become more inclusive, diverse, and effective. It also empowers girls to become agents of change in their communities and beyond and helps to create a more just and sustainable world for future generations.

Investigate Intersectionalities

CARE is a leader in supporting women to have voice and leadership, but more should be done to understand and assess how best to address intersectionalities between a range of identities. This could help design programs and projects that take into consideration identities in addition to gender, such as indigenous, race, ethnic minority, religion, elderly, LGBTIQ+ people, people with disabilities, and migrants.

As custodians of invaluable traditional and indigenous knowledge, indigenous women should be a part of designing climate-resilient policies through culturally respectful and inclusive approaches. In Vietnam, CARE is [identifying and utilizing indigenous knowledge in community-based climate change adaptation practices](#) with tools like surveys to document indigenous knowledge on features



of local plants and livestock and their adaptability to the local conditions. This is happening in certain parts of the world but should be scaled up. For instance, in Indonesia, a grass-roots organization is providing a platform for indigenous women to share traditional water management practices, including preserving and replanting trees around water sources, which has improved water security and sustainable forest management (UNFCCC, 2022). Maasai women in Tanzania have created women's groups to share knowledge about climate-resilient agricultural practices and strategies (Grabe et al., 2014). Through these groups, women were able to take part in decision-making with local farmers associations (Grabe et al., 2014). Policies should encourage the integration of indigenous knowledge and techniques in development projects, and this begins with the establishment of groups (including indigenous women) to mutually support in the creation of community-based climate change adaptation activities.

Central to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals is the [Leaving No One Behind](#) Initiative, focusing on discrimination and inequalities (which are often multiple and intersecting) that undermine the agency of people as holders of rights. The CARE Water + Team is utilizing Leaving No One Behind to emphasize sustainable and equitable clean water and sanitation access for women and girls, the elderly, youth, marginalized ethnic groups, and people with disabilities that meets their specific needs. In Vanuatu, CARE, partnering with an independent Disability Advisor, conducted a gender, disability, social inclusion, political, and economic analysis of water and sanitation in the country. One result of the analysis was a Menstrual Hygiene Management roundtable with men, women (with and without disabilities) and menstrual hygiene management product providers which increased the social inclusions of women with disabilities in decision making positions

around menstrual hygiene activities. CARE should expand its consideration of the intersection of gender transformative work and social inclusions of people with disabilities to more projects around the world.

Another vulnerable population is migrants. CARE's future climate change adaptation and gender justice programming should work to understand the influences of migration on community-based climate change adaptation projects and design projects with migration in mind. In Thailand, CARE partnered with RaksThai and the TransRe Project to create a [Guidebook for Integrating Migration and Translocality into Community-Based Adaptation](#). This Guidebook can be utilized in future projects to recognize the potentials of migration to amplify positive and to mitigate negative effects of migration of community adaptation.

CARE has done some work on intersectionalities between gender, indigenous groups, people with disabilities, and migrants but such work should be scaled up and additional work should be conducted on if/how people who identify by race, ethnicity, religion, disability status, elderly, and LGBTQ+ can participate in climate change adaptation decision making. This would involve investing in how to build their agency, reduce structural barriers, and drive transformational change in CARE's future work.

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