

Gender and Climate Justice

Dr Sumaia M. Elsayed
Nile Basin Women Network
September 2023

Access to **justice** is a **cornerstone** in
equipping women to uphold and **enforce their**
rights

Expected Outcome

- **This session enables participants to be equipped with :**
- **knowledge on the key gender responsive principles and approaches that can be applied in climate justice planning and programming .**
- **the key gender concepts and principles that can be applied in climate justice planning and programming**
- **the laid down integrated approaches to gender and climate change the relevant linkages on specific areas**

What is Climate Justice?

- Climate justice is becoming a part of the national conversation.
- More and more, people are realizing the effects of climate change on society across pop culture, politics, mainstream news outlets, kitchen tables, and even corporate headquarters.
- it is more difficult for disadvantaged populations to recover from climate disasters, like wildfires, hurricanes, droughts, and floods.
- Often, it is easy for people to view themselves as separate from nature as if we do not feel its impacts.
- But ,we are part of the circle of life and the natural cycles of the earth, It is all a chain reaction.
- Justice indicates that actions have consequences.
- Polluting our home with toxins in the water, soil, and air hurts us. On the other hand , taking care to preserve clean air, land, and water provides a safe environment in which to live
- Justice also means fairness for all people, regardless of socioeconomic background, race, age, gender, neighborhood, or other factors. We all deserve a healthy life.

What is Climate Justice?

- **To Understand Climate Justice, We Must Understand Climate Injustice**

- People who are most affected and have the fewest resources to adapt to climate change are also the least responsible for the greenhouse gas emissions—both globally and within their countries .
- Those people – most often indigenous, and low-income communities , are hit the hardest by effects of the climate crisis. That is climate injustice.

- **Defining Climate Justice**

- Climate justice occurs when those who have the most resources to address the climate crisis actually use them to protect vulnerable communities. Climate justice is a part of environmental justice.
- works to ensure that tools for climate justice reach the hands of vulnerable women and people, as they are most often on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

What is Climate Justice?

- **To Achieve Climate Justice, We Must Have Environmental Justice**
- According to the **Environmental Protection Agency**, environmental justice **“is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.”**
- Environmental justice means disadvantaged groups do not shoulder the burden of the climate crisis. Instead, they are consulted and supported in environmental decisions that affect them.

What is Climate Justice?

- As the UN writes: “The impacts of climate change will not be borne equally or fairly, between rich and poor, women and men, and older and younger generations.”
- Climate change is not only an issue of environmental conservation, but also an issue of justice and human rights.
- Climate justice is the recognition that climate change disproportionately impacts some communities over others and exacerbates underlying systemic inequalities.
- The concept originally emerged as an important nexus between climate change and social justice and has become a key priority for action across multiple sectors. .

- Climate justice is gender justice
- Gender bonds to promote a resilient economic system

Enabling a transformational systemic change for climate justice

- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development outlines the means required for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets.
- These include in particular financial resources, capacity-building, and technologies.
- The role of institutions and of data that support the implementation of relevant policies and measures are also included.
- Moving to transformational systemic change for climate justice will require an equally transformative approach to the means of implementation that is gender-responsive and advances the realization of women's human rights.

Do We need to invest in women to solve climate change

Women and girls experience the greatest impacts of climate change, which amplifies existing gender inequalities and poses unique threats to their livelihoods, health, and safety.

Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls

- **Gender equality is defined as the equal valuing by society of both the similarities and differences between women and men, boys and girls, and the varying roles and responsibilities they choose to play.**

Climate Change Solutions

- How the Climate Justice Movement Could Solve Global Gender Inequalities
- As the most challenging global issue of all time, climate change has not only incalculable ecological impacts but also complex intertwining with global patterns of societal inequality.
- In any climate crisis, women and girls always bear the brunt of the negative impacts.
- women's rights are less frequently discussed in the climate agenda.
-
- It needs to be developed into a well-acknowledged fact that gender equality and the climate justice movement are inseparably linked.
- Climate change has non-negligible gender impacts, including both the aggravation of pre-existing phenomena of gender inequality and climate-derived vulnerabilities.

Do We need to invest in women to solve climate change

- In order to solve these problems, it's essential to consider **innovative solutions** for vulnerable women so that they can implement climate change adaptation measures and benefit from technical assistance digitization. This could increase their performance by 30% and lift 150 million people out of poverty (BBVA, 2022).
- If rural women had the same access to resources as men, agricultural production in developing countries would increase by 2.5-4%, and the number of people in the world would decrease by approximately 12-17%.

Do We need to invest in women to solve climate change

- It is often assumed that all members of a population experience the impact of climate change in the same way.
- Climate change impact is not neutral: it affect women, men, girls, and boys differently due to gender inequalities caused by socioeconomic conditions, cultural beliefs, and traditional practices which have repeatedly put females at a disadvantage.
- “Gender” refers to the socio-cultural roles, norms, and values associated with being a man or a woman.
- These roles, norms, and values determine how women and men prepare for, react to, and recover from climate change impact , and they often cause unequal distribution of power, economic opportunities, and sense of agency.

- Migration to urban areas has also led to more Prostitution. It also increases their exposure to sexual and gender-based violence when they go to urban areas to sell charcoal and firewood. Some women turn to prostitution as a way to survive.
- Cultural beliefs and customs, which had provided a sense of protection from physical and social harm, are being eroded. Social structures that provided protection seldom exist for people who have migrated.
- Furthermore, access to education for children is poor, with malnutrition, displacement and migration preventing children from attending school.

Do We need to invest in women to solve climate change

- • The recent increase in flood impacts in Kasese (Uganda) has led to large-scale displacement, which has resulted in overcrowding of camps.
- This, in turn, has led to gender inequalities, drug and alcohol abuse, and gender-based violence.
- The receding shoreline of Lake Chad Basin (Nigeria and Niger) has spurred competition over dwindling resources.
- Urban migration has increased demand for housing and resources such as water and arable land, creating local conflicts between farmers and pastoralists.
- Displacement also disrupts family social cohesion in Nigeria, leading to numerous reports of domestic disturbances in camps. This increase due to lack of food, improper food aid, and loss of identity, culture and known ways of life.

Do We need to invest in women to solve climate change

- Migrating single men are susceptible to high-risk sexual behavior, exposing them to HIV/ AIDS.
- Those who migrate with family are not able to send their children to government schools at the destination and do not have access to subsidized healthcare.
- This results in higher expenditure on food, health and shelter.
- Women left behind face additional responsibilities that lead to health and nutrition impacts
- Women often take on additional responsibilities when their husbands migrate, creating issues surrounding mobility and immobility.
- Gender-based violence, unsafe shelters, unsafe migration, human trafficking, duty of childcare or supporting the elderly create stress and anxiety in women when faced with migration or displacement.

Do We need to invest in women to solve climate change

- Chitrakoot (India) faces a severe drinking water crisis owing to multiple drought spells.
- The water crisis further aggravates the vulnerabilities of women with respect to sanitation and hygiene, especially menstrual hygiene, making them prone to disease.
- the impact of climate change impact is Groundwater depletion.
- Women must walk long distances and queue many hours for water to meet their livestock and domestic needs.
- Many poor households are forced to sell their assets to make ends meet. When all hope fails, suicide is a reality for many households.

Do We need to invest in women to solve climate change

- Climate change risks and recovery processes interact with local gendered norms to create unequal workloads and specific gendered impacts on everyday life.
- Lack of access to water and power after cyclones, for example, added time burdens to women's workloads in the Cook Islands.
- Similarly, the destruction of forest habitat by Cyclone Harold increased the workload for women and girls, who now have to walk longer distances to access
- People forced to shift livelihoods undergo mental distress, leading to alcoholism, domestic violence and other related issues earn water and fetch fuel wood.

Do We need to invest in women to solve climate change

- Women are more vulnerable to climate change. However, they are essential to mitigate climate change.
- The Gender Action Plan of The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change sets out clear objectives and principles for climate policy, finance, and action that is gender-responsive.
- It considers the unique impacts on women and girls and the importance of equal access and equal outcomes for all. We call on all policymakers and decision-makers to use these principles to inform their action.
- According to UN Women, if rural women had the same access to opportunities and productive resources, their agricultural production would increase between 20 and 30%.

• .

- **The solution:** Increase gender surpluses to encourage education plans where technical tools are provided, and the digitization of tasks is promoted

How we could promote gender and climate justice?

1. Invest in gender bonds to develop their projects.
2. Educate in technical skills and digitalization.
3. Conduct field analysis to gain a deeper understanding of issues and make evidence-based decisions.
4. Measure the impact of decisions, to look for possibilities for improvement.

What is gender responsive climate action?

- **Gender Responsive action** : The meaningful, informed and effective participation of women and girls with diverse backgrounds in relevant decision-making processes lies at the heart of a rights-based, gender responsive approach to climate action.

What is a gender responsive approach?

- Gender Responsive programming : which includes specific action to try and reduce gender inequalities within communities.
- Gender Transformative programming : which is designed around a fundamental aim of addressing root causes of gender inequality within society.

Importance of Gender Responsive Approach

- Use gender responsive approach to insure contribution to design of better and more transparent interventions that adequately respond to the different needs and priorities of women and men ,girls and boys ,in all their diversity ,leading to more equal results and ultimately advancing .
- the assessment of people's climate-related development needs, risks and capacities into an assessment of possible solutions using complementary methods.
- Ideas for taking the range of solutions and mapping them to a project or program plan that will deliver improved outcomes for women and girls, and for everyone.

What are gender responsiveness programs?

- Gender-responsive programs and policies **reflect girls' and women's realities and needs**, in components such as site selection, project staff, content, monitoring, etc.

long-term outlook on strengthening gender-responsive recovery systems

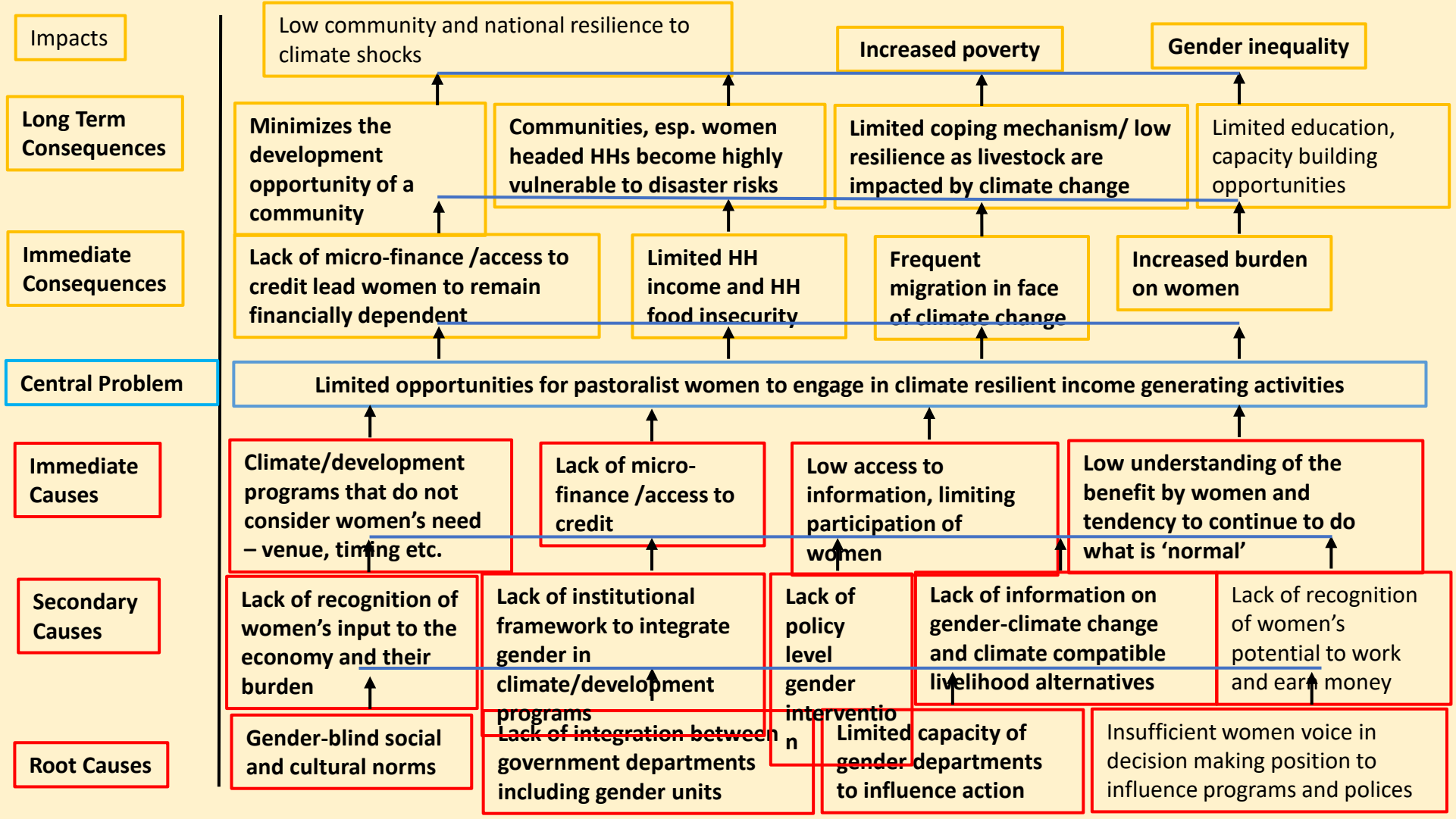
- long-term outlook on strengthening gender-responsive recovery systems is structured around three key areas:
 1. Identifying and Prioritizing Gender-Specific Recovery Needs
 2. Protecting Women and Men from Physical and Psychosocial Harm
 3. Planning for Gender-Responsive Recovery in the Disaster Recovery Framework and Empowering Women for Sustainable and Resilient Recovery

Assess Drivers of Climate and Development Problems, and Possible Solutions

THE CLIMATE PROGRAMME AND PROJECT CYCLE



Problem Tree Analysis: Ethiopia Micro-Finance Case Study



long-term outlook on strengthening gender-responsive recovery systems

- 1. Collect and Analyze Gender- Differentiated Data
- When assessment data do not capture the distinct losses and damages, needs, roles, responsibilities, and capacities of women and men, boys and girls, policies and decisions might be formed based on assumptions and stereotypes that fail to consider gender-specific needs and contributions.
- The collection of gender-differentiated data not only sheds light on the complex realities of the differing and interdependent roles but also provides vital information for developing more-comprehensive, efficient, and relevant recovery strategies.
- 2. Communicate, Consult, and Engage with Affected Women and Men, Boys and Girls, with Inclusive and Participatory Techniques
- 3. Protecting Women, Men and Children from Physical and Psychosocial Harm

Planning for Gender-Responsive Recovery in the Disaster Recovery Framework

- A recovery framework includes five key areas for policy makers to consider in the recovery process:
 1. Policy and strategy setting
 2. Institutional frameworks
 3. Recovery financing
 4. Implementation arrangements
 5. Strengthening recovery systems in advance of disasters .

Gender Considerations in Setting Policy and Strategy

- To ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment are well integrated in the Recovery Framework, governments should consider the following, :
- Articulate a recovery vision and guiding principles that promote gender equality and women's empowerment
- Ensure that policy and legal frameworks address gender equality and women's empowerment
- Integrate gender equality and women's empowerment in the Recovery Framework, sector-based recovery plans, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) frameworks for equitable resource allocation and needs prioritization

Work with women's organizations.

- Women's community organizations have insights, information, experiences, networks, and resources vital to increasing disaster resilience.
- The time challenges of rapid assessments conspire against fully engaging grassroots and community organizations in the aftermath of a disaster, while in fact most such organizations are already engaged in the immediate response.
- Working with established women's community organizations will therefore increase the efficiency of the recovery and reconstruction efforts

case Study: Strengthening the Financial Resilience of the Poorest in Uganda through Gender Responsive Social Protection

- the World Bank and GFDRR are supporting the government to strengthen the financial resilience of the poorest through a large social protection project that provides employment to the population through labor-intensive public works projects and direct cash transfers to households .
- A crisis response mechanism to protect the poor and vulnerable from natural disasters has been designed to scale up assistance through public works following drought events.
- this mechanism takes into account the special needs of women and requires that at least 40 percent of the public works projects' participants are women.
- The project is implementing several gender-responsive measures to ensure that some of the selected activities are located close to villages and appropriately meet the needs of women.
- Through their representation on community committees, women were fully involved in the decision making,.
- The project also improves household income with improved livelihoods through comprehensive skills development training, provision of livelihood grants, and follow-up mentoring support.

- A small addition emphasized protecting water ecosystems and resources and incorporating water into adaptation efforts
- A specific reference to water resources could significantly affect adaptation and just transition in Africa's water sector, one of the worst hit by climate change.

The Nile River Basin

- Every aspect of human development is connected with water.
- Growing food, getting basic hygiene, earning a living, doing sports or preserving a natural environment all depend on availability of and access to sufficient water.
- Population growth and economic development push the rapidly growing demand for water; they also lead to environmental degradation and (interact with) climate change, putting additional pressure on water resources and threatening their renewable supply.
- Water then becomes increasingly scarce.
- The increasing gap between demand and supply of the renewable water resources in recent years has become both a source of conflict and regional cooperation for the eleven countries that share its basin.



The Nile River Basin

- Water conflict is a dispute between different regions or countries about, the distribution and use of freshwater.
- Conflicts arise from the gap between growing demands and diminishing supplies.
- low water availability can lower food production and industrial output, and potentially lead to conflict.
- According to UNESCO, the current interstate **conflicts** occur mainly in:
 - the Middle East (**disputes** stemming from the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers among Turkey, Syria, and Iraq; and the Jordan River **conflict** among Israel, Lebanon, Jordan and the State of Palestine),
 - in Africa (Nile River-related **conflicts** among Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia)

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD)

- The NBD is a regional NGO network its secretariate Based in Entebbe/ Uganda.
- It has been creating awareness and building capacities of stakeholders as well as facilitating dialogue platforms on impacts of climate change and how to adapt to and mitigate climate related hazards.
- The NBD has supported 11 riparian to strengthen their capabilities to mainstream adaptation, introduce effective.
- to build capacity for stronger NBD that supports water and environmental sustainability in the Nile riparian countries.

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD)

- NBD developed Training Manual on Water and Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Resiliencies, targeting youth and women of the Nile Basin .
- To meet these challenges, and to spread good practice, guidelines for trainers which are needed urgently.
- Help learners with a wealth of practice-based water managements and climate resiliencies knowledge, and a process to assess, analyze, and plan for focused sustainable environment, integrated water resources management, integrated flood and drought risk mitigation, and climate resiliencies within their work profiles.
- These guidelines will help to resolve those challenges, In order for People to become good trainers they have to be good facilitators first.

The Regional Nile Basin Women's Network

- It was established on the first of December 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya, **aiming** at:
- -Empowering women through participation to build inclusive development.
- - Raising awareness.
- -Building capacity of stakeholders.
- -Increase women access to resources.
- -Mobilizing grass root women to play role in sustainable development.
- -Promote gender equality .
- Each country has its Nile Water women network its aims and objectives is build on the national context of their country based on the regional network aim .

Action points

An enabling and gender sensitive legal framework is a prerequisite for women to enjoy their right to a healthy environment



People-centred institutions are key to deliver gendered responses on climate justice

- Transformational systemic change for climate justice requires governance with the capacity to focus on sub-national, national and regional specificities and contextual realities.
- The increased presence and strength of sub-national, national and regional mechanisms responsible for supporting gender mainstreaming across all sectors and at all levels, and for ensuring accountability for results is also critical to enhance gender-responsive climate action at policy and programme level.

- Impact investing is vital to promote gender bonds that stimulate economic development.
- Financing is essential to facilitate the production of inclusive businesses run by women in the rural sector.
- Insure access to teaching programs and credit tools, which would strengthen and build the confidence of women and their ability to transform and overcome limitations.
- it is important to highlight that the educational system must provide technical assistance and digitization tools to increase productivity.

- it is important to measure every decision made and collect data to make evidence-based data.
- it is essential to consider women throughout the decision-making process and co-create with them.
- women's groups to step up and actively contribute to rescue efforts and the rebuilding of their communities.
- ensures that the gaps, barriers and challenges preventing the equitable participation of women as decision-makers and beneficiaries can be overcome rather than reinforced.
- promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

Questions for the participants

- Give examples from your country or your own experiences.
- What solution had been applied . Is it gender responsive ?
- What lessons learned ?