Generation Equality Action Coalition on Feminist Action for Climate Justice (FACJ)



55 STORIES OF CHANGE



GENERATION EQUALITY

FEMINIST ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE
ACTION COALITION



▲ **PHOTO** MARION GABORIT©

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Welcome

from the Leaders of the Action Coalition on Feminist Action for Climate Justice (FACJ)

The Feminist Action for Climate Justice (FACJ) Action Coalition is a unique multi-stakeholder partnership — made up of governments, civil society, grassroots women-led organizations, youth-led organizations, philanthropies, multilateral development banks, international organizations, UN agencies, and private companies. The FACJ Action Coalition works collectively to propel transformative action. Our four Blueprint priority action areas are:

1. Increase direct access to financing for gender-just climate solutions, in particular for women and girls at grassroots levels.
2. Enable women and girls to lead a just transition to a green economy.
3. Build the resilience of women and girls to climate impacts, disaster risks, loss and damage, including through land rights and tenure security.
4. Increase the collection and use of data on the gender-environment nexus.

As the leaders of the FACJ Action Coalition, we invite you to meet this group of over 55 diverse organizations that have made commitments under our Blueprint through 2026. Our goal is to raise awareness of our work and the importance of placing gender equality at the center of climate action. We invite you to join us in supporting the work of this initiative.

THE FACJ ACTION COALITION LEADERS



▲ **PHOTO** ROSALIND HELFAND
FACJ Action Coalition leaders at the Women Deliver 2023 Conference

THE FACJ ACTION COALITION LEADER ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDE

- DIVA for Equality
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- Fridays for Future MAPA
- Girls for Climate Action
- Global Greengrants Fund
- Green Hope Foundation
- International Development Law Organization (IDLO)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)
- Public Association Women's Organization Alga
- Republic of Maldives
- Tejiendo Pensamiento
- UN Development Programme (UNDP)
- UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)

Welcome

from Dr. Jemimah Njuki, Chief of Economic Empowerment, UN Women



In 2021, UN Women together with our partners launched the Generation Equality Forum, which convenes six global multi-stakeholder Action Coalitions and the Global Compact on Women, Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action.

The commitments made by our partners under Action Coalition four — Feminist Action for Climate Justice (FACJ) — showcase the power of collaboration to make a real difference towards realizing a gender-equal green and sustainable future for all.

At the UNFCCC COP 28, UN Women developed and disseminated several policy briefs on the topics of feminist climate justice, gender just transition, the climate care nexus and gender considerations for the loss and damage fund. These briefs speak to FACJ's priority areas.

These stories of change are a clear affirmation of the power of collaboration across stakeholders at all levels as essential to achieving gender equality while addressing the world's most urgent challenges — like climate change. The FACJ partners are making the vision for a better future a reality.



▲ **PHOTO** MARION GABORIT©

EDITORS' INTRODUCTION



▲ **PHOTO** MARION GABORIT©



LOUISA RENOUX
Femmes Santé Climat Chair (Women Health Climate),
Feminist Action for Climate Justice Action Coalition



ROSALIND HELFAND
Thematic Lead, Feminist Action for Climate Justice Action Coalition
UN Women

THE FEMINIST ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE (FACJ) Action Coalition was launched in 2021 in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. Because of this, and also because of the Action Coalition's global nature, most of our meetings were and continue to be held remotely.

Nevertheless, the stories shared by FACJ Action Coalition members from across the world — about their commitments, the actions they are leading, and their impacts — have been a real breath of fresh air and a cause for hope in the face of the climate crisis and its impact on women and girls in all their diversity. And for many "commitment makers" to the FACJ Action Coalition, the coalition has presented an opportunity to share knowledge, engage in collective action, and amplify their voices.

In September 2023, during the 78th UN Generation Assembly in New York, a number of FACJ Action Coalition commitment makers experienced the opportunity to come together in person for UN Women's Generation Equality Midpoint Moment. A series of informal discussions amongst commitment makers on the margins of the Midpoint Moment focused on the desire to increase the visibility of FACJ's individual organizations and their actions.

It was during these discussions that the idea of a white paper featuring a series of testimonials by commitment makers highlighting their actions and impact was conceptualized. First proposed by the French civil society organization Women Health Climate, the idea caught on with the support of UN Women and it was clear that the 68th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) was the right time to launch the paper.

Now we invite you to read these transformative 55 stories of change, which showcase innovative actions at the intersection of issues including feminist climate justice, education, empowerment, poverty, and environmentally sustainable systems. The stories are by governments, civil society organizations, youth-led organizations, international organizations, philanthropies, grassroots women led organizations, and others. They show the success of these commitments that were launched together with France and Mexico in 2021 and chart a path towards lasting change.



▲ **PHOTO** MARION GABORIT©

ACTIONS POUR LA CONSERVATION DE LA NATURE ET LE DÉVELOPPEMENT COMMUNAUTAIRE (ACNDC) / ACTIONS FOR NATURE CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



▲ **PHOTO** ACNDC

ORGANIZATION

Actions pour la conservation de la nature et le développement communautaire (ACNDC) / Actions for Nature Conservation and Community Development

COMMITMENT

Young Feminists for Climate Justice

TYPE & COUNTRY

Youth-led

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

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ACNDC is an organization of young feminists seeking climate justice in the rural areas of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Over time, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has experienced multiple forms of agriculture: commercial, industrial, manual, traditional and modern. Within each of these, land ownership and the subdivision of work divided along the lines of gender and generations is rife. Girls and young women, who make up more than 52% of the population, do not own land, territories or natural resources, which are instead communal or state-owned. Within families, girls and women are destined for exogamous marriages and cannot be educated like young boys. Women and girls are thus illiterate, without expertise or specialization.

Furthermore, women and girls have no access to salaried employment or entrepreneurship. As a result, they are disconnected from the resources of their lands, territories, families and in-laws. The fruits of their agricultural labor are monopolized by the established male system (patriarchal, marital, fraternal). And without land, women not only lack access to income and wealth, they are heavily exploited. Women are relegated to agricultural tasks, such as farm maintenance and subsistence farming, with no share in marketable crops. Women are also overburdened with environmental concerns on various fronts — food, energy, water and sanitation — increasing both their responsibility and their vulnerability to climate change. However, because of the rise in global climate justice strengthened by the UNFCCC Paris Agreement (2015), women and girls are reversing these agricultural socio-cultural norms and addressing the public administrative and technical systems that marginalize and exclude them.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

ACNDC is engaging girls and young women from universities in piloting a process to increase geographical, territorial, demographic and socio-economic knowledge that is applied to participatory mapping through decentralized, democratic partnerships for planning the restoration and conservation of mountainous forest-climate landscapes.

This program is implemented via educational land expeditions and investments which create jobs and improve livelihoods in school and community settings, including the agricultural lands of indigenous, tribal, peasant and rural peoples in South Kivu. At the same time, we are fostering responses to environmental and social crises that are materializing via the leadership of survivors of climate change disasters and armed conflict among displaced people and their host populations in North Kivu.





These two photos were taken during the land expeditions of girls and young women to gather documentation and geographical data on the mountains, rains and windbreaks in the Mwenga Territory.

1. In the mountains of Lukanga in Basile/Mwenga Center in the chiefdom of Basile. The girls learn about the natural resources in these mountains as well as the geographical information. These mountains are degraded by heavy human activity (2023)
2. In the Territory of Mwenga, chiefdom of Lundi, girls learn how to take geographical coordinates from GPS. This mountain is to be preserved because it is still covered with vegetation (2022)

ALTERNATIVES MÉNAGES, NATURE ET MARCHÉS (AMEN) / ALTERNATIVE HOUSEHOLDS, NATURE AND MARKETS

ORGANIZATION

Alternatives Ménages, Nature et Marchés
Alternative Households, Nature and Markets (AMEN)

COMMITMENT

Feminist Volunteers for Climate Justice / Volontariat Féminin de Justice Climatique

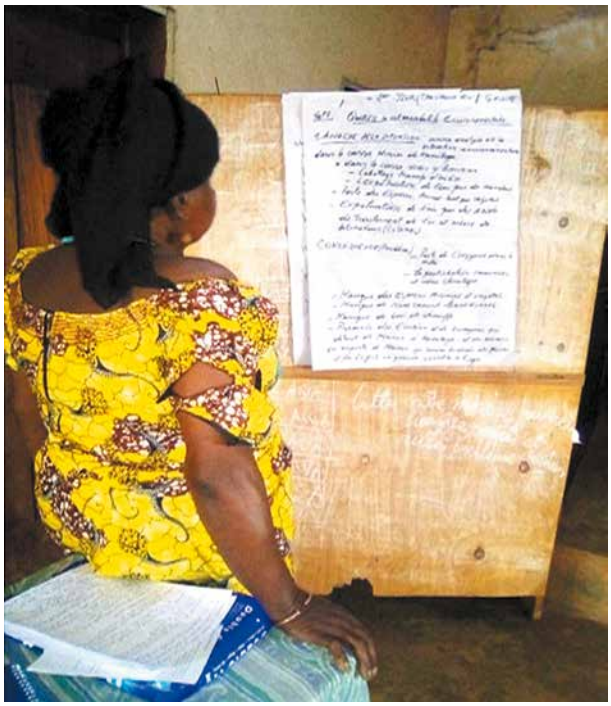
TYPE & COUNTRY

Civil society

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

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◀ **PHOTO** AMEN
In this photo, women learn, analyse and reflect on the flooding of mining rivers by the abundant rains and on systemic solutions that focus on psychosocial and legal assistance to women, on women's rights and mining rights, on personal protection equipment to protect from climactic accidents and manual labour, and on dialogue with urban authorities and artisanal mining cooperatives (project funded by Urgent Action fund Africa, 2021)

AMEN was founded to promote and defend stable household life in a healthy environment, in a transparent market and in a strong community. This is through income generation, the safeguarding of natural resources, the satisfaction of vital needs and full human advancement in a liberal economy, a sustainable ecology and an equitable society.

The DRC and the whole world are facing the greatest atmospheric warming in human history. This is marked by risks and threats to human, domestic and wild animal and plant adaptation on the one hand, and by the escalation of natural disasters on the other. It exacerbates poverty, economic decline and social imbalances. At the same time, it is the result of manual and industrial over-exploitation of resources and mining by communities, the private sector and the public sector including land, water, and forests. These are contentiously divided between the State and its population, the majority of whom are women (over 52%) and young people (56%), living below the poverty line on less than USD $5 a day. Women in the DRC practice both agriculture and mining to benefit both households and businesses through manual and heavy physical labor on the one hand, and artisanal, technological and industrial work on the other hand.

Since the signing of The Paris Agreement in 2015, AMEN has undertaken multiple initiatives to address these issues and accelerate climate justice. Firstly, AMEN assists with the management of agricultural sectors to increase agricultural productivity, benefit local economies, improve the chain of accountability (community and households) and improve laws and social security. AMEN is also strengthening the sustainable food system of the Batwa indigenous peoples through training camps covering 54 subjects within the themes of climate security, green productivity, clean economies, healthy living and autonomous decision making.

Secondly, AMEN defends women's mining rights through community awareness-raising, decision-making roundtables, networking and national advocacy for political and judicial redress against the economic violence of natural resource degradation (water pollution, land erosion and desertification, deforestation and reduced forest carbon sequestration). AMEN also addresses the destruction of productive agricultural assets and livelihoods (oil palm plantations), fish farming (dam ponds) and food production (plantations). Similarly, AMEN addresses linkages between resources degradation and gender-based violence against women and girls, land dispossession and discrimination, rape and sexual violence, the transmission of various skin, eye and diarrhoeal diseases (cholera), HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malnutrition and malaria.

Thirdly, AMEN responds to mining and agricultural accidents linked to environmental and social risks and natural disasters. AMEN provides technical support in the event of flooding of artisanal mining developments through social and legal assistance to married women discriminated against in the inheritance of their deceased husbands. AMEN also provides training networks, joint advocacy and technical monitoring of mining by stakeholders (employers and hill chiefs, workers and technical staff) in artisanal and industrial mining areas.

These and other initiatives contribute effectively to the priority action areas of the FACJ Action Coalition. They increase the feminist and public financial portfolio for women and girls at home and abroad. They engage in humanitarian and climate-focused development transitions and scaling (seasonal economy, carbon market, subsistence and enrichment entrepreneurship, etc.). They educate and empower women in matters of land tenure, adaptation, environmental security and natural disasters.

APCO WORLDWIDE



▲ **PHOTO** APCO WORLDWIDE
Judit, Nicole, and Diego from the APCO with the SE4ALL Youth Ambassadors after the end of the workshop

ORGANIZATION
APCO Worldwide

COMMITMENT
Women, Climate, and the Data We All Need

TYPE & COUNTRY
Private sector
UNITED STATES /GLOBAL

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APCO Worldwide, a global strategic advisory consultancy, stands at the forefront of transformative initiatives dedicated to championing gender justice, climate action, and the elimination of gender-based violence. Committed to fostering a more inclusive, equitable, and rights-respecting world by all societal groups, APCO actively engages in impactful projects that address complex global challenges.

At the intersection of women, climate, and data, APCO is committed to continuing to advance a data-driven approach to addressing some of the biggest climate-related challenges women face. APCO's proactive steps include empowering the next generation of leaders in sustainable energy. This commitment materialized through a pro bono comprehensive media management and public speaking workshop tailored for Sustainable Energy for All's (SEforALL) 2023 cohort of sustainable energy youth ambassadors ahead of COP28.

The workshop aimed to equip emerging leaders with essential communication skills, ensuring they can effectively convey insights and advocate for sustainable energy solutions. APCO sought to amplify the voices of these ambassadors at the intersection of climate change and gender equality. A dedicated WhatsApp group was established to provide ongoing, real-time support, fostering a dynamic space for knowledge exchange and community collaboration.

This commitment aligns with the FACJ Action Coalition's priorities, emphasizing the intersection of climate change and gender equality. By empowering youth ambassadors promoting sustainable energy, APCO contributes to building a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable future. Recognizing the pivotal role these young leaders play in shaping narratives, policies, and initiatives, APCO Worldwide is proud to foster their influence and voice in policy circles and discussions.

Additionally, APCO will host a communications workshop for the FACJ Action Coalition, designed to enhance participants' abilities to effectively convey their climate narratives to the right audiences. This event will guide attendees through storytelling techniques, media engagement strategies, and digital advocacy tools, empowering them to amplify their voices and drive impactful change.

ARTconnects

ORGANIZATION
Artconnects

COMMITMENT
Creative Climate Justice

TYPE & COUNTRY
Civil society
UNITED KINGDOM / GLOBAL

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WEBSITE
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◀ **PHOTOS** ARTconnects

1. ARTconnects workshops providing educational training on climate change to young women in Nigeria with the Migration Blanket - Climate Solidarity film to promote gender equality
2. ARTconnects event providing educational training on climate change to young women in Egypt with the Migration Blanket – Climate Solidarity film to promote gender equality

ARTconnects is a multi-award winning grassroots workshop-based social enterprise founded in 2017 by Salma Zulifqar BEM.

ARTconnects' objectives are to educate and empower marginalised and refugee women and girls around the world, enabling them to stand up for their rights, to prevent gender based violence, promote social cohesion and community based climate action. This is achieved through creative learning on global rights issues such as gender equality, climate change and social cohesion while allowing participants to express themselves creatively and improve mental wellbeing.

Since ARTconnects launched in the UK in 2017, we've hosted over 300 high impact human rights based workshops and high profile events in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East. ARTconnects has reached over a million people in person and millions more through online advocacy. Our hybrid workshops are held in person and online, reaching young people and women in the UK. And we have worked with groups in some 20 countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East alongside partners such as the United Nations, national and local NGOs.

Project evaluations show that 99 % of participants surveyed in the workshops have a better understanding of what climate change is and the disproportionate impact it has on women and girls, and 98 % of participants understood why climate change is so dangerous for our planet and learned how they can help reduce global warming in order to better protect women's rights. 94 % of participants felt less stressed after attending a workshop. Finally, 99 % of participants agreed that they would like to meet people from other cultures promoting social cohesion. The impact of ARTconnects has been described as 'profound'by leading politicians, art critics and the media.

Our work has influenced the messaging and communications for many humanitarian organisations and spurred campaigns for women's representation in climate negotiations as well as giving refugee women in the arts and gender sector a platform leading to more support for them. ARTconnects is multi-pronged: We focus on co-creation of artworks to promote solidarity, tolerance, women's rights and greater understanding between communities and participants. Our artworks and campaigns also educate the public who engage with us in events. Our Migration Blanket - Climate Solidarity film is one of our most recent projects. The film shows how women are disproportionately affected by climate change through the personal experiences of young women in Africa, South Asia and the Middle East. Organisations such as NGOs and educational institutions also utilise the film as an educational tool to prevent violence against women.

In 2023, we campaigned at COP28 with four high profile events calling for women's voices to be heard in the climate change negotiations, and met with decision makers and world leaders to influence increased representation of women in negotiations and contribute our concerns for the texts being discussed via consultations.

ARTconnects is a creative lifeline and through our holistic approach and our networks we are able to reach out to the most vulnerable communities affected by the climate crisis. As poverty increases we commit to scaling up activities to empower more females around the world, and educate them on climate action to improve their rights and empower them to prevent violence against women in their communities.



▲ **PHOTO** ARTconnects

ARTconnects hybrid workshop with marginalised youth in the UK and in East Africa and South Asia on the importance of biodiversity

ASSOCIAÇÃO DE JOVENS ENGAJAMUNDO/ ENGAJAMUNDO YOUTH ASSOCIATION



▲ **PHOTO** ENGAJAMUNDO
Gender and Elections Campaign promoted by Casa Cerrado, Engajamundo working group. *Credit: José Mateus, Engajamundo*

ORGANIZATION
Associação de Jovens Engajamundo / Engajamundo Youth Association

COMMITMENT
Empowering Young Brazilian Girls for Climate Action

TYPE & COUNTRY
Youth-led
BRAZIL

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Engajamundo is dedicated to advancing climate justice with a focus on empowering young people, especially girls, in Brazil and Latin America. Our commitment within the Feminist Action for Climate Justice (FACJ) framework reflects our dedication to addressing the intersection of climate change and gender equality through innovative actions.

One of our key actions is the construction of communication campaigns targeting global conferences like the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP). These campaigns amplify the voices of young people, particularly girls, advocating for climate justice and gender equality on a global platform. Additionally, we produce educational programs such as Educlima Gender, focusing on climate literacy with a strong emphasis on gender equality. These programs empower women and girls from traditional and grassroots communities to lead advocacy efforts at the intersection of climate and gender.

Another significant action is our commitment to ensuring gender balance in our delegations to climate-related events and discussions. We prioritize the participation of young Brazilian girls, especially those from marginalized backgrounds, to amplify their voices and perspectives in decision-making spaces. Furthermore, we conduct workshops and training sessions on climate justice and gender equality, integrating these topics into our internal processes and activities. These initiatives empower volunteers, including young Brazilian girls, to become advocates for climate justice within their communities.

Our FACJ Action Coalition commitment aligns with FACJ's priority action areas by addressing the gendered impacts of climate change, promoting youth engagement in climate advocacy, and fostering inclusive and diverse participation in climate-related discussions and events. By amplifying the voices of young people, especially girls, and empowering them with the knowledge and skills to advocate for climate justice and gender equality, we contribute to a more just and sustainable future for all.

Through our innovative actions and commitments, Engajamundo strives to increase visibility for our work, inspire replication and scaling of similar actions, and support engagement with global conferences and environmental convening. Together with the FACJ Action Coalition, we are driving meaningful change towards a more e quitable and sustainable world.



▲ **PHOTO** ROSALIND HELFAND
Engajamundo members at the UNFCCC COP28

BADABON SANGHO

ORGANIZATION
Badabon Sangho

COMMITMENT
Feminist Movement
Land, Water, Climate

TYPE & COUNTRY
Civil society
BANGLADESH

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▲ **PHOTO** LIPI RAHMAN



▲ **PHOTO** SAHIDUL HAQUE

Badabon Sangho is a women's rights and women-led movement-building organization in Bangladesh. We lead with a feminist approach by engaging women who face the worst forms of violence and discrimination regarding land ownership, race, and natural disasters — and are even expelled from their lands — but are forced to remain silent, not raising their voices or asking for their rights. We have a group-based structure and governance. Group members include rural women, lower caste, Dalit, widowed, separated, divorcees, religious minorities, fisherfolk, migrant workers, crab farmers, and indigenous minorities. Many of our members live under the poverty line and depend on natural resources and lands for their livelihoods, but face hate speech and stigma.

Within five years of founding our movement, the groups accomplished several achievements: facilitating a women's fisher-folk cooperative, launching a wider campaign and advocacy platform to address climate change-induced SRHR abuse, and protecting of women's lands from potential grabbing. The groups have gained a strong reputation and received attention in women's rights to land and water bodies and SRHR advocacy and movements.

Mobilizing and organising climate change-affected women and girls in cooperatives is one of the key innovations that Badabon Sangho has introduced. In climate change-impacted areas, men often migrate to the towns for employment opportunities. There they marry again and start a new family. They no longer take responsibility for their ex-wives and children. It is worth noting that women saltwater fishers above about 35 years of age become unable to have sex due to adverse reproductive system health impacts from prolonged exposure to the waist-deep saline water. Despite knowing the potential health risks, women feel helpless and unable to take any action. Mothers of adolescent girls tend to marry off their daughters at an early age due to this kind of experience. Given these issues, Badabon Sangho mobilized women and girls and assisted them in starting cooperatives that provide loans to members with lower interest. Cooperative leaders are assisting members to protect their rights in fishing, reporting violence, and demanding their registration in social safety net schemes.

By way of this campaign and advocacy on climate change-induced SRHR abuse, Badabon Sangho creates awareness of how women and girls are being affected by gender-based violence, reproductive health impacts, early marriage, and bonded labor in coastal areas, particularly fishing communities in Bangladesh. Badabon Sangho has also facilitated bringing women's rights and women-led groups together and introduced policy agendas to the national advocacy discussion.

Badabon Sangho has implemented rights-based innovations through these activities and directly contributed to the FACJ Action Coalition's priority action areas. The innovation is not only protecting the affected women and girls at the ground level but also building women's feminist leadership in most affected areas. The leadership is bringing out local experiences, like SRHR abuse, in the national, regional, and global advocacy agenda as well.

REFERENCE **Scoping study:** Bangladesh Policy Research on Climate Change and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Khulna Division of Bangladesh funded by Arrow.

BREAK.THE.ICE



▲ **PHOTO** BREAK.THE.ICE©
Mental Health Workshop by Break.The.Ice

ORGANIZATION
Break.The.Ice

COMMITMENT
Feminist Action
for Climate Justice

TYPE & COUNTRY
Youth-led
INDIA / GLOBAL

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In a world where important topics are often considered taboo and stigmatised, Break.The.Ice is a youth-led initiative based in India that creates safe spaces for discussion about important matters that are ignored and pushed under the carpet of ignorance.

Currently in 10 + countries, our safe spaces are an empowered platform for individuals to have conversations around these stigmatised yet important issues. From mental health to gender equality to climate action and sustainability, we talk about everything — and how these issues intersect. Presently over 90 + youth volunteers work on the Break. The. Ice team and support our vision.

As an FACJ Action Coalition commitment maker, we wish to highlight the importance and connections between feminist action and climate justice along with a focus on creating awareness, advocacy and taking action. Through our events, workshops, offline drives and awareness sessions, and integrating that with creative social media campaigns and collaborative ideas and concepts, we have been able to engage audiences and stakeholders across the spectrum. More recently, we have expanded to integrate and host events, sessions and expert-led awareness campaigns with 15 + partners, including online and offline engagements, grassroot drives, and sessions to explore awareness.

Though we have implemented these innovative actions to impact and involve more and more individuals, our aim, vision and mission is innovative in itself. Breaking taboos and creating awareness around stigmatised topics is unique and we hope to expand into more remote areas and reduce the digital divide to the maximum extent possible. Along with that, we have explored many formats to break the ice ! These include in person events with experts on the ground, offline drives to teach and educate, online advocacy campaigns for young changemakers and facilitated discussions and collaborations with important social organizations.

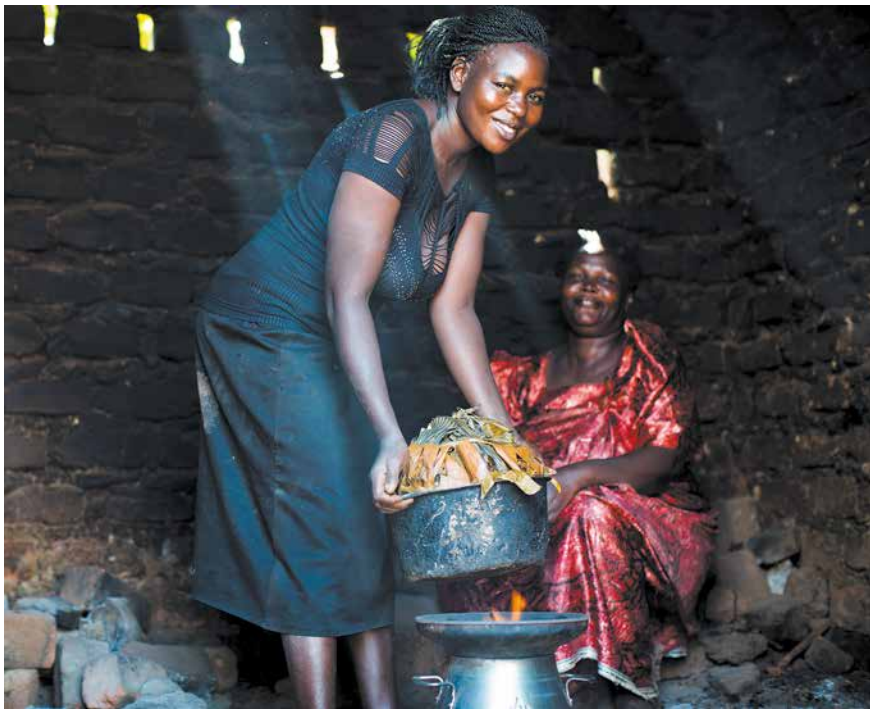
CLEAN COOKING ALLIANCE
HOSTED BY UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION

ORGANIZATION
Clean Cooking Alliance, hosted by United Nations Foundation

COMMITMENT
Empowering Women through Clean Cooking Solutions

TYPE & COUNTRY
Civil society
UNITED STATES GLOBAL

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▲ **PHOTO** BioLite
A woman prepares a meal over an improved BioLite cookstove in East Africa

Since 2010, the Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA) has been committed to increasing women's and people's access to clean, efficient, and non-polluting cooking fuels. By creating a dynamic, inclusive, and financially sustainable industry, CCA strives to help households and governments in the Global South achieve universal access to clean cooking by 2030.

Globally, 2.3 billion people rely on fuels like wood, charcoal, coal, and kerosene to cook, contributing to 3.2 million premature deaths each year, 60 % of which are women and children. Lack of access to clean cooking solutions disproportionately impacts women & girls' health, education, employment, and overall well-being. It also reinforces gender stereotypes and traps women in time poverty. In developing countries, women and children spend up to 10 hours per week gathering fuel, resulting in global economic losses of up to $0.8 trillion annually from lost productivity for women.

Providing women access to modern, safe, and non-polluting energy is a critical, often overlooked means of empowerment and advancing gender equality. CCA's work on gender and clean cooking seeks to empower women by increasing their role in scaling up the adoption of clean cooking technologies. Highlighted below are some of CCA's recent achievements:

1. Cultivate the Professional Talent of Women Leaders

Through its Women in Clean Cooking (WICC) Mentorship Program, CCA aims to support the professional development of female employees and enhance the leadership pipeline for women in the clean cooking sector. This tailored program pairs early and mid-career professionals with senior women in the sector for 1:1 mentorship, complemented by knowledge-building and networking sessions. More than 170 women from 28 countries across Africa, Southeast Asia, and Haiti have benefitted from the mentorship training program.

2. Elevate Gender Research & Evidence

Gender-focused research and evidence are critical to inform the design and implementation of clean cooking solutions so that they can lead to higher adoption rates and improved health outcomes. In 2023, CCA launched its inaugural magazine, "Vantage Point." The first-ever edition of Vantage Point explores the pivotal link between gender equality and access to clean cooking. This edition showcases how clean cooking is central to improving billions of women and girls' health, well-being, and economic opportunities through first-hand accounts, critical analyses, and engaging insights from experts, advocates, and changemakers.

3. Activate Youth Voices

CCA recently launched its first-ever Youth Strategy at YES! Youth Energy Summit aims to engage, empower, and amplify youth voices in the clean cooking sector, especially young women. The strategy seeks to leverage young leaders' unique perspectives, skills, and passion to drive innovation and transformative change in adopting clean cooking technologies and practices through programs like the IGNITE! Youth Accelerator is in partnership with Student Energy.

COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT LED BY **GLOBAL GREENGRANTS FUND AND GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR GREEN AND GENDER ACTION (GAGGA)**



◀ **PHOTO** GLOBAL GREENGRANTS FUND
A Global Greengrants Fund grantee partner marches for rights in Guatemala

ORGANIZATION
Collective Commitment
Led by Global Greengrants Fund and Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA)

COMMITMENT
Roots Rising - Growing Grassroots Gender-Just Climate Action

TYPE & COUNTRY
Collective commitment
GLOBAL

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The current global climate finance infrastructure is an inaccessible and unjust system, exacerbating pre-existing social and regional inequalities. Only 2.4% of all climate-related development assistance is dedicated to gender equality as the "principal" objective, and within that, only 0.22% of overall ODA for climate change and gender equality goes to women's rights organizations. In the case of philanthropic funding, less than 1% of all philanthropic funding globally focuses explicitly on gender and the environment.

Global Greengrants Fund, the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA), and other feminist civil society organizations, are spearheading pivotal initiatives for gender-just climate action resource mobilization to close the finance gap. Their primary aim is to shift decision-making processes and climate financing practices at local, national and international levels to ensure funding reaches grassroots organizations and movements leading critical, gender-just work to meaningfully address the historical and structural inequalities that underlie the root causes of the climate crisis. The following is an example of this type of work.

In 2022, as part of the UN Women Generation Equality Forum's Feminist Action for Climate Justice (FACJ) Action Coalition, Global Greengrants Fund and GAGGA developed Roots Rising, a collective campaign that supports government and philanthropic actors to mobilize resources for transformative, gender-inclusive climate action. The campaign is in direct alignment with one of the FACJ's primary goals to increase direct access to financing for gender-just climate solutions, in particular for women and girls at grassroots levels.

Specifically the campaign aims to:

1. Mobilize at least $100 million of new funding for gender-just climate action by 2026 and set ambitious and justice-oriented mobilization targets by 2030.
2. Provide governments and private funders an accessible mapping of funding mechanisms currently resourcing gender-just climate action at local, regional, and global scales with core, flexible, and multi-year funding.
3. Grow the evidence that flexible, core funding is essential to strengthening systemic, intersectional, and gender-just climate action.
4. Leverage the Campaign as an opportunity to foster collaborations among governments and create possible partnerships between governments and private philanthropy, ensuring continued funding for gender-just climate action.
5. Register and track the public and private resources mobilized by Campaign Partners.

Global Greengrants Fund and GAGGA are working together with the Women's Environmental & Development Organization (WEDO) and other feminist civil society organizations in the global gender-just climate ecosystem to learn from these collectives, movements, communities, and networks, spearheaded by women, non-binary, and trans people, primarily from the Global South and East, and accelerate the resource mobilization for work that already exists at the nexus of gender justice, environmental justice, and climate justice.

1. Campaign Partners include all actors that support and are involved in the Campaign, such as governments, private donors, funders, foundations, networks, grassroots groups, collectives, movements, and organizations.

COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT LED BY **INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE (IUCN) AND WOMEN'S ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (WEDO)**

ORGANIZATION
Collective Commitment
Led by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)

COMMITMENT
Gender and Environment Data Alliance (GEDA)

TYPE & COUNTRY
Collective commitment
GLOBAL

CONTACT
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WEBSITE
https://genderenvironmentdata.org



▲ **PHOTO** UN WOMEN
Members of the organizing team of the Global Conference on Gender and Environment Data at the conclusion of the conference, 29 November 2023, Dubai

The Gender and Environment Data Alliance (GEDA) was established in 2021 by 16 founding members as a Collective Commitment under the Feminist Action for Climate Justice (FACJ) of the Generation Equality Forum. As a membership alliance, GEDA aims to improve availability, accessibility, understanding, and application of quality and robust data and information at the gender and environment nexus. By leveraging the networks of its membership, the Alliance mobilizes diverse stakeholders to curate, communicate, amplify, and learn from gender and environment data.

This is in direct alignment with the FACJ Blueprint target to "Increase the collection and use of data on the gender-environment nexus." GEDA seeks to advance gender-just climate and environmental action by catalyzing and scaling the analysis and use of gender data and intersectional analysis to contribute to equitable and sustainable outcomes for all.

In 2022, GEDA commissioned two feminist researchers from the Global South to conduct an assessment of the status of gender and environment data literature, focusing on women's climate resilience, climate change and disasters, and environmental decision-making. The study found a need to improve and recognize the data and knowledge generated by communities in the Global South, as the majority of academic publications are still led by Global North institutions, and to strengthen feminist participatory action research methodologies.

In 2023, GEDA welcomed 69 new members and 26 data advisors to the Alliance, the majority of them from the Global South, and mobilized diverse stakeholders to engage in several events at the UNFCCC COP28 in Dubai. The highlight was the Global Conference on Gender and Environment Data (28-29 November 2023) co-organized by IUCN and WEDO, co-conveners of GEDA, and hosted by UN Women and the UNFCCC Secretariat (members of GEDA), as well as the COP28 Presidency and the UN Climate Change High Level Champions. The Global Conference brought together governments, statisticians, academics, UN agencies and civil society, including GEDA members, to examine key gaps and trends in data at the nexus of gender and the environment, and issued a strong Call to Action to guide further work at this intersection.

COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT LED BY **INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE (IUCN) WITH THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID)**



▲ **PHOTO** RECOFTC
In Cambodia, RECOFTC and GADC are working to remove GBV barriers in community forestry under the RISE grants challenge

ORGANIZATION
Collective Commitment
Led by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

COMMITMENT
Scaling action on gender-based violence and climate change

TYPE & COUNTRY
Collective commitment
GLOBAL

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Recognizing the barrier that pervasive gender-based violence (GBV) creates for resilience, peace, and well-being for individuals, communities, and healthy ecosystems, IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) is committed to scaling up action against gender-based violence in the context of climate change.

The study led IUCN to establish the Gender-Based Violence and Environment Linkages Center (GBV-ENV Center) which is a platform for gathering resources and tools, mobilizing learning, and forging action. Through the GBV-ENV Center, IUCN has: grown an audience of over 10,000 people; responded to over 400 requests for information and technical support over the last 3 years; helped IUCN members such as Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy, and WWF to develop gender-based violence and environmental linkages policies; supported the Convention on Biological Diversity to pass objectives on GBV and environment links; and is currently supporting UNFCCC Gender Focal Points to address safety from GBV within the next Gender Action Plan.

Under the GBV-ENV Center, IUCN also manages the world's first (and to-date, only) dedicated fund to support environmental programs to address gender-based violence and environmental linkages. The Resilient, Inclusive, and Sustainable Environments (RISE) grants challenge, which has recently surpassed USD 16 million in total funding support, was established in response to IUCN's landmark research, Gender-Based Violence and Environmental Linkages: The Violence of Inequality, the globe's first study to uncover how gender-based violence is present in all environmental sectors, is exacerbated in the face of environmental threats (such as climate change), and is used to silence women environmental activists and defenders.

Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), RISE funds environmental organizations, including Indigenous peoples organizations, with grants between 300-400K to work with grassroots organizations and those with experience addressing gender-based violence to close gaps. At COP28, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)[1] joined the RISE grant-making basket of funds to support the scaling of RISE.

Currently, RISE grants challenge-supported projects are addressing a series of gender-based violence and environment challenges, like the exploitative practice of sex-for-fish; creating safer environments for Indigenous women environmental human rights defenders; and addressing gender-based violence in coastal tourism landscapes, community-led protected area management, and in climate-vulnerable conservancies.

Together, for the first time, through RISE, the environment sector is no longer ignoring the paramount need to address women's safety from gender-based violence to help remove barriers to their environmental rights and leadership roles in climate action.

1. The Government of Norway is also a member in the FACJ Action Coalition, with a commitment on strengthening the role of women in climate decision making.

COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT LED BY **LANDESA, INTERNATIONAL LAND COALITION, HUAIROU COMMISSION, OXFAM, FEMNET, GLTN/UN-HABITAT**

ORGANIZATION
Collective Commitment
Led by Landesa, International Land Coalition, Huairou Commission, Oxfam, FEMNET, GLTN/UN-Habitat

COMMITMENT
Women's Land Rights (WLR) Collective Commitment

TYPE & COUNTRY
Collective commitment
GLOBAL

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▲ **PHOTO** LANDESA
Women from the S4HL Bangladesh Coalition (in Dinajpur, Bangladesh) holding certificates which are the first step in the process of applying for "khas" land, or government land

The Women's Land Rights (WLR) Collective Commitment brings together a wide range of stakeholders to secure land, housing, property, biodiversity, and natural resource tenure rights and participatory land governance for 100 million rural, urban, grassroots and indigenous women and youth; and to collectively advocate for recognition of these rights as a foundation for achieving gender equality, economic justice, adequate housing, climate action, land degradation neutrality, and peace and stability globally.

The leaders of the WLR Collective Commitment (Landesa, the International Land Coalition, the Huairou Commission, Oxfam, FEMNET, and GLTN/UN-Habitat) contribute actively to the resilience priority area of action under the FACJ Action Coalition, and also seek to align with and contribute to the finance, leadership, and data priority areas of action. These efforts are particularly showcased via the Stand for Her Land (S4HL) Campaign, a global advocacy initiative working to implement WLR worldwide and to elevate the leadership of grassroots women at all levels.

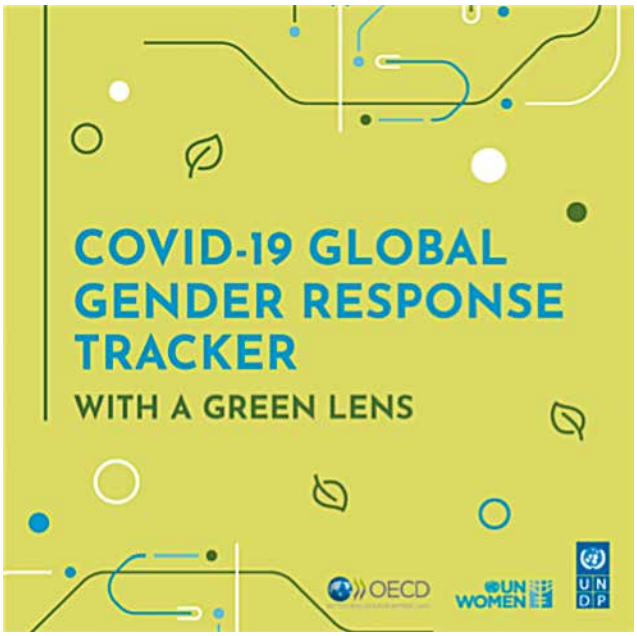
In Uganda and Senegal, S4HL is supporting governments to take gender-transformative approaches in national registration programs of customary land and government-held traditional land, respectively. In Bangladesh, S4HL is supporting government to address gender equity in distribution of government land. In Colombia, S4HL is advocating for recognition of women's territorial rights in the Caribbean Region, via advocacy with municipal officials. In Ethiopia and Tanzania, S4HL is supporting land restoration and stronger WLR and via integrated policy advocacy and land use planning, respectively.

S4HL is supporting greater public awareness of the importance of WLR in Libya, Tunisia, and Lebanon via the Arab Land Initiative, led by GLTN/UN-Habitat, as well as in all other S4HL Coalition countries (Bangladesh, Colombia, Senegal, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Tanzania). S4HL is also supporting grassroots women's leadership via legal literacy and advocacy training in Bangladesh, Uganda, and Ethiopia.

S4HL representatives from grassroots, national, and international organizations, including WLR Collective Commitment leaders, have held a strategic presence at global and regional advocacy venues (the Commission on the Status of Women, Women Deliver, the Conference on Land Policy in Africa, COP28, etc.) to call on governments to strengthen WLR, and on philanthropic, civil society, and private sector partners to support governments in their efforts.

The "resilience" FACJ priority action area seeks to "build the resilience of women and girls to climate impacts, disaster risks, loss and damage, including through land rights and tenure security. The efforts of S4HL and the broader WLR Collective Commitment stakeholder group to secure tenure rights as well as advocacy and leadership capacity for grassroots and indigenous women and youth contribute directly to this objective, as well as supporting the "leadership" and "finance" priority action areas, by increasing the number of women active in local land governance spaces, present in national, regional, and global decision-making spaces related to land and ecosystems as a basis for climate action, land restoration, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development, and increasing finance directed to women and girls in these capacities. Wherever possible, S4HL will also seek to contribute to participatory data-gathering at the nexus of gender and environment.

COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT LED BY **UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP), UN WOMEN, ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)**



ORGANIZATION
Collective Commitment
Led by UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Women, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

COMMITMENT
Gender Response Tracker with a Green Lens

TYPE & COUNTRY
Collective commitment
GLOBAL

WEBSITE
https://data.undp.org/insights/covid-19-global-gender-response-tracker

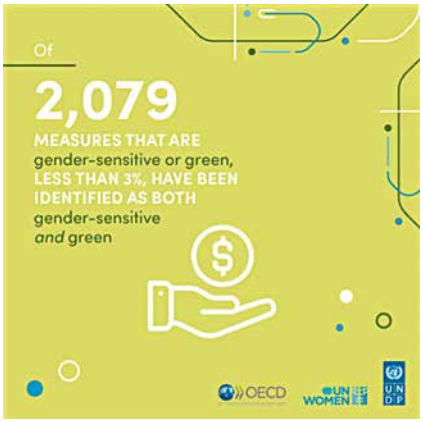
The pandemic response and recovery efforts side-lined women's needs and largely ignored the quickly unravelling effects of climate change and environmental destruction. The UNDP, UN WOMEN and OECD joined forces under the Feminist Action for Climate Justice Action Coalition (FACJ AC) of the Generation Equality Forum (June 2021), and made a collective commitment towards developing a COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker with a Green Lens, a tool that aims to support countries to frame their post-COVID 19 recovery in a more resilient, inclusive and environmentally sustainable way.

The Tracker builds on the UN COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker and the OECD Green Recovery Database, and identifies green and gender-sensitive measures, in more than 200 countries and territories, through the gender-environment nexus. By identifying gaps and opportunities, the Tracker aims to mobilise governments and other stakeholders to integrate a gender and green lens to their COVID-19 response efforts and future policies, to ensure a fairer, more sustainable and gender-responsive recovery.

The Tracker was launched in 2022. Analysis on the Tracker shows that countries worldwide missed the opportunity to address gender and environment issues in tandem during the pandemic. Only 54 measures from the 2,079 total measures fall under the gender environment nexus.

At the same time, the vast majority of green and gender sensitive measures rolled out focussed on economic, business or labour market support; with more than half (30 of 54) providing support for businesses and a quarter geared to protect jobs through labour market interventions (14 of 54). Overall green measures prioritized women's economic security over supporting unpaid care or tackling gender-based violence.

Although the picture is sobering, there are many potential promising pathways for incorporating women's needs and priorities into environmental and climate policies. Innovative and promising policies that promote both environmental objectives and gender equality have been introduced in a variety of countries and contexts, signalling the opportunity and necessity for policy learning and uptake across settings.



COMMUNITY HEALTH

ORGANIZATION
Community Health

COMMITMENT
Advocate for women's empowerment

TYPE & COUNTRY
Civil society
SIERRA LEONE / WEST AFRICA

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▲ **PHOTO** COMMUNITY HEALTH
Lumley Beach cleanup

Community Health advocates for women's economic development in rural communities. We are well known for our work engaging women and girls to address the dangerous impacts posed by climate change in Sierra Leone, especially on women and girls. We share local inspiring stories, including about our record-setting seashore cleanups — our volunteer network conducts these local seashore cleanups throughout the country and removes hundreds of kilos of trash that is not recyclable every year — to create widespread awareness of the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment.

Sierra Leone's marginalized women and girls live in abject poverty. Through agriculture, women have enabled a boom in country-wide income. However, climate change has hindered their efforts to achieve gender inequality, and they have been held back from proudly owning land for cultivation. Women and girls have been left behind in the socio-financial development Sierra Leone. They depend on men who have the skills to best adapt to climate change. This amplifies present gender inequalities and poses particular perils to women and girls' livelihoods, health, and protection.

As women and girls are closely dependent on traditional resources, this also places them at additional risk from the impacts of environmental degradation and growing worldwide temperatures. This can result in a vicious cycle of growing poverty.

Despite these hardships, women have established that once they are enabled to mitigate of environmental disasters, their livelihoods and incomes improve.



◀ **PHOTO** COMMUNITY HEALTH
Women in agriculture

EQUITY WATCH INITIATIVE



▲ **PHOTO** CHIEMEZIE ATAMA

ORGANIZATION
Equity Watch Initiative

COMMITMENT
Engaging women and girls in climate action for gender justice and environmental sustainability

TYPE & COUNTRY
Civil Society
NIGERIA

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Despite the promises of global and national conventions, women and girls, particularly in rural communities in Nigeria, continue to bear the brunt of climate change's impacts due to pre-existing gender disparities. Equity Watch Initiative, a civil society organization located in Nigeria, engages in climate actions for gender justice and environmental sustainability. We aim to address the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and girls by raising our voices for the voiceless poor in rural communities.

According to the United Nations, 9.2 million Nigerians, a majority of whom are women and girls, constitute 6 % of the global population with food consumption gaps and depleted livelihoods. Nigeria currently ranks 103 out of 116 countries assessed with a Global Hunger Index of 28.3 % with at least 5 % of the global burden of under-nutrition. Food insecurity and increased workloads force girls to drop out of school or delay their education. This limits their future opportunities and perpetuates the cycle of poverty and violence. Additionally, limited access to clean water and sanitation due to climate change leads to improper management of menstruation with its attendant health risks. Globally, 2 billion people currently experience water stress, and this number is projected to rise to 5.7 billion by 2050. In rural communities in Nigeria, women and girls spend an estimated 5-7 hours per day collecting water and firewood.

For about 78 % of Nigeria's population in rural communities, the only method of cooking is the traditional three stone fire, which uses a huge amount of firewood and produces a large amount of smoke. Exposure to cooking fuel smoke has been implicated as a causal agent for respiratory and eye diseases. As a result, a large number of women who do the cooking, as well as young children and infants in the vicinity of the cooking area, are mostly vulnerable. The constant search for water and fuel wood also represents a large burden for women and makes them vulnerable to sexual harassment, abuse and rape. Moreover, heavy reliance on fuel wood for the domestic energy supply has exacerbated deforestation which constitutes serious environmental issues.

Equity Watch Initiative provides a shining example of how the fight for climate justice must intersect with the fight for gender justice. We are confronting food insecurity and malnutrition by training women on climate smart vegetable farming, and we are improving their knowledge of climate change through climate education. We address water insecurity and firewood smoke through sensitization, awareness, advocacy campaigns and the construction and distribution of improved wood stoves, as well as trainings on how to make briquette and biochar. We facilitate the planting of fruit trees, and we train women on how to make reusable cloth pads to address period poverty in rural communities.

To date, we have constructed and distributed 20 improved wood stoves, planted 240 food trees, distributed 1650 cloth pads and trained 308 girls on how to make reusable cloth pads.

EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (EBRD)

ORGANIZATION
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

COMMITMENT
Gender and Inclusive Green Economy

TYPE & COUNTRY
Multilateral Development Bank
GLOBAL

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WEBSITE
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▲ **PHOTO** EBRD
Shabnam, a female engineering student in Uzbekistan.

Women are a transformative force for economies. They are proven changemakers mobilizing action for climate adaptation and mitigation across the globe. Evidence shows that women are more likely to start businesses focused on sustainability and that companies with a significant representation of women on their boards are more likely to improve energy efficiency and invest in renewable power generation.

The Paris Agreement calls for the full and effective participation of women in political, economic, and public life — including in climate-related policies, strategies, and solutions. While notable efforts have been made to address the intersectionality of gender and climate, considerable gaps remain in translating these commitments into tangible solutions.

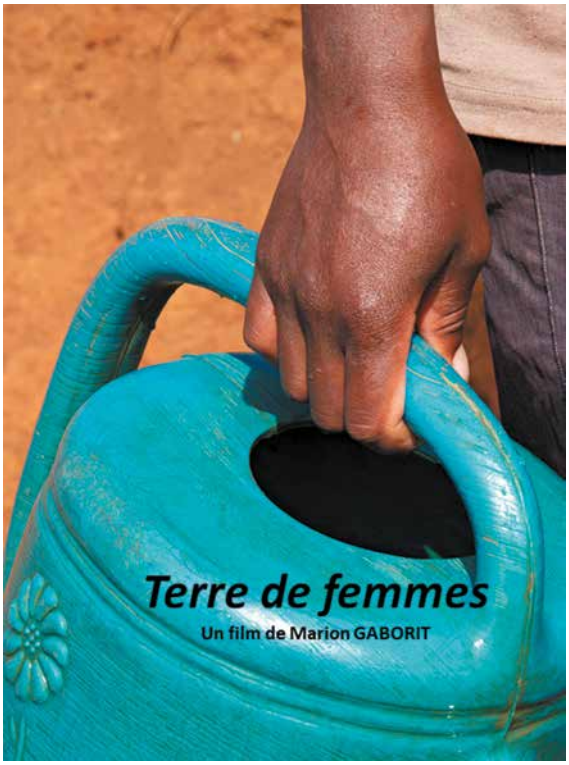
As a leader of the Feminist Action for Climate Justice (FACJ) Action Coalition, the EBRD continues to integrate gender equality as part of green investment, delivering on commitments made in 2021. Together with our clients, partners, and donors, we continue to show commitment to promote gender equality in climate action and harness the skills and potential of women in the green transition.

The EBRD has been scaling up its efforts to increase the role of women across the energy sector where it invests. For example, the EBRD is supporting the empowerment of the new generation of female engineers in Uzbekistan by promoting the introduction of a new gender-responsive certified internship programme with ACWA Power and the Shirin College of Energy. This will increase access to market-relevant skills and employment opportunities for young women, foster skills transfer to young professionals and enhance gender equality in the sector.

The Bank is also promoting women's access to climate finance with the Green Economy Financing Facility (GEFF), one of EBRD's green flagship programmes where the Bank supports businesses and homeowners wishing to invest in green technologies. Within the Facility, EBRD is working with 18 countries to date, accelerating gender-responsive climate financing and ensuring equal access to green finance, low-carbon technology and entrepreneurship opportunities for women and men. Following the successful implementation of gender activities, a second gender component is being launched in four countries to expand impact. As of YE23, around 2700 businesswomen and female homeowners obtained loans or leases to finance green investments, and 1000 women were reached through awareness raising activities and trainings.

Furthermore, the EBRD is promoting gender-responsive corporate climate governance. The Gender Equality in Climate Action (GECA) Accelerator is a practical tool developed by the EBRD in partnership with the African Development Bank and the French Development Agency, to help companies carry out a gender lens assessment of their climate strategies and suggest specific gender-sensitive actions for improved corporate climate policies. The first-ever Turkish energy company benefiting from the GECA Accelerator has been Enerjisa, which has taken a set of specific actions incorporating a gender lens into climate policies including the use of sex-disaggregated indicators, involving women in climate decision-making, and integrating gender considerations into climate targets. The GECA tool has truly been an innovative capacity development tool for Enerjisa promoting women's leadership in climate action and gender-responsive corporate climate governance.

FEMMES SANTÉ CLIMAT / WOMEN HEALTH CLIMATE



◀ **PHOTO**
MARION GABORIT©

ORGANIZATION
Femmes Santé Climat
Women Health Climate

COMMITMENT
La voix des femmes et des jeunes
The Voice of Women and Youth

TYPE & COUNTRY
Civil society
FRANCE

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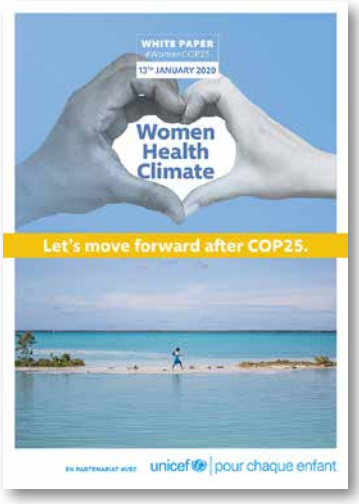
WEBSITE
https://womenhealthclimate.org

Since the 2015 Paris Agreement, Femmes Santé Climat/Women Health Climate, aims to challenge decision-makers on the impacts of climate change impacts on women, namely the health risks and inequalities they face in access to healthcare. Femmes Santé Climat also communicates solutions proposed by civil society at the local, national and international levels. They promote gender equality and women's empowerment through the application of international conventions, and support the work of CEDAW and UN Women.

Women and girls represent 70 % of people living on less than $1 a day, they are responsible for more than 80 % of agricultural production in developing countries, and spend three times more hours collecting water, but they own only 2 % of land and receive only 10 % of income. They are 14 times more likely than men to perish in the event of a natural disaster — which is made more likely by climate change. Their role is central to the family in education and prevention.

Across the world, women depend more on, yet have less access to, natural resources. In many regions, women bear a disproportionate responsibility for securing food, water, and fuel. 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. When disasters strike, women are less likely to survive and more likely to be harmed due to long standing gender inequalities that have created disparities in information, mobility, decision-making, and access to resources and training. As climate change drives conflict across the world, women and girls face increased vulnerabilities to all forms of gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, human trafficking, child marriage, and other forms of violence.

Therefore, Femmes Santé Climat took action by supporting and promoting the film director Marion Gaborit, whose movie "Terre de Femmes"/"Women's Lands," spotlights women's agricultural work with a dozen portraits across several continents. It sketches portraits of workers and reveals their daily lives, telling their stories by sharing their testimonials, dreams, doubts and difficulties. The film showcases potential solutions: If female agricultural workers owned a plot of land or cattle, if they had easier access to loans and training, or if they benefited from the same agricultural means — such as equipment — as men, their situation would be completely different. After several film screenings, organized with a women's network, attendees contributed to fundraising to help some of these women. For example, they helped a young agricultural worker named Mamisoa in Madagascar, to buy land and material she was previously renting. This enabled her to become autonomous and provide an education to her young twin children as a single mother.



White paper
"Women Health Climate"

FONDATION RAJA-DANIÈLE MARCOVICI / RAJA-DANIÈLE MARCOVICI FOUNDATION

ORGANIZATION
Fondation RAJA-Danièle Marcovici / RAJA-Danièle Marcovici Foundation

COMMITMENT
Women & Environment Program

TYPE & COUNTRY
Philanthropy
FRANCE / GLOBAL

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WEBSITE
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▲ **PHOTO** RAJA FOUNDATION
In 2023, eight associations were awarded funds

Founded in 2006 on the initiative of Danièle Kapel-Marcovici, the RAJA-Danièle Marcovici Foundation contributes to the preservation of natural resources, the implementation of concrete solutions, and the promotion of the major role played by women.

The RAJA-Danièle Marcovici Foundation has set up the Women & Environment program to finance actions to preserve natural resources, ecosystems and biodiversity, while supporting the women who play an important — and sometimes pioneering — role in these initiatives. From 2015 to 2023, more than 90 projects have been supported in some 30 countries, offering support to tens of thousands of women. Nearly 70% of the projects supported under this program support the interface between women and agro-ecology: these are initiatives in favor of more ecological modes of production, partially or totally led by women. In 2024, the Foundation strengthened its commitment by supporting more projects within the Women & Environment program.

In addition, to strengthen its strategy and advocacy, at the end of 2022 the Foundation decided to commission an exploratory study of women's and/or feminist organizations and networks involved in agroecology projects in four countries: India, France, Colombia and Senegal.

This study is the fruit of work carried out in 2023 by Carine Pionetti, an independent researcher in political ecology and gender/women's rights. It is based on bibliographical research and a cross-sectional gender analysis of a dozen projects supported by the RAJA-Danièle Marcovici Foundation on the theme of women and agroecology.

The study's conclusions highlight the various success factors for projects aimed at supporting the transition to feminist agro-ecology, and recommends that donors invest in these issues, both in terms of developing a narrative in favor of equality and gender mainstreaming, and in supporting initiatives that promote women's voices and leadership in the ecological transition.

Finally, in 2023, the RAJA-Danièle Marcovici Foundation created the Feminist Climate Fund to provide financial support for young associations founded and/or run by women working to protect the environment and combat climate change. The fund targets associations that have been in existence for more than a year and have a budget of less than €20,000. Particular attention is paid to women who have developed innovations and adaptation strategies to preserve natural resources and biodiversity.

Fondation RAJA Danièle Marcovici
Agir pour les femmes

FRIDAYS FOR FUTURE MOST AFFECTED PEOPLE AND AREAS (MAPA)



▲ **PHOTO** ROSALIND HELFAND
Fridays for Future MAPA and other FACJ Action Coalition members at the UNFCCC COP28, 2023

ORGANIZATION
Fridays For Future Most Affected People and Areas (MAPA)

COMMITMENT
Amplify the voices of activists

TYPE & COUNTRY
Youth-led
GLOBAL

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Fridays for Future Most Affected People and Areas (MAPA) steps up to make the communities that suffer the most from the effects of Climate Change more visible. MAPA includes all territories in the Global South (Africa, Latin America, Pacific Islands, etc.) as well as marginalized communities (BIPOC, women, LGBTQIA+ people, etc.) who live anywhere in the world. We talk about historically underrepresented communities who do not get to live in the same conditions as others (socioeconomic, educational, etc.) and are more impacted by climate change. Intersectionality is MAPA's backbone.

Despite their crucial role in climate action, women's voices often echo faintly in negotiation halls. Their lived experiences, diverse perspectives, and innovative solutions are vital to crafting effective climate policies. Yet, gender imbalances persist, silencing their invaluable contributions. We desperately need inclusive platforms, amplifying their voices through equal representation, targeted mentorship, and recognition of their expertise. Only then can negotiations truly reflect the multifaceted reality of climate change and build a just and sustainable future for all.

As Fridays for Future MAPA, we make sure women and other marginalized genders are focused on policy negotiations. We specifically focus on the UNFCCC and CSW processes to push for policies that acknowledge and integrate the intersectional analysis of gender, climate change, and environmental justice. We have participated in lobbying for the Gender Action Plan and Gender Just Energy Transition in the negotiation text. We are also constantly advocating for increased accountability mechanisms to ensure equitable access to resources and decision-making for marginalized communities from all over the global south and global north. We are also facilitating knowledge and resources to make sure grassroots women from all around the global south can join the international negotiation processes at different stakeholder events throughout the year.

MAPA is a grassroots-led decentralized movement, yet we've managed to collect funding and accreditation and brought youth activists from diverse backgrounds, particularly women and girls from impacted communities, to participate in COPs and share their lived experiences. We have constantly pushed for an increased allocation of climate finance towards projects that specifically empower marginalized women and girls, systematically address gender inequalities, and build climate resilience in affected communities. We have arranged workshops and capacity building in regional and national spaces to make sure that the intersectionality between climate change and gender rights is highlighted extremely clearly in policy outcomes, negotiations, and grassroots organizing. Fridays for Future MAPA has also led the planning of marches, demonstrations, and social media campaigns to raise awareness about the intersection of gender and climate change and garner public support for their demands.

Thus, our demands and recommendations that are integrated as a part of our prior commitments within the FACJ Action Coalition reinforce the recommendations of climate finance mechanisms that empower female and youth-led organizations in the Global South and in marginalized communities of the Global North. We also reiterate that women and young girls must remain and be included at the forefront of negotiations around gender justice, climate policy development, and active inclusion in all international and national stakeholder events.



▲ **PHOTO** ROSALIND HELFAND
Fridays for Future MAPA and other FACJ Action Coalition members at the launch of UN Women's "Feminist Climate Justice: A Framework for Action".

GENDER IN GEOPOLITICS INSTITUTE

ORGANIZATION
Gender in Geopolitics Institute

COMMITMENT
Knowledge is Power: Providing insights and research on gender and climate change to compel decision-makers to adopt gender responsive solutions for climate justice

TYPE & COUNTRY
Youth-led
FRANCE

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◀ **PHOTO**
MILENA BONNEFOUS
Speaking engagement on our report on feminist foreign policy to achieve SDGs

Climate change is the biggest challenge that we have to face, yet, and only a multilateral, holistic, intersectional and gender-responsive solution will trigger structural social and economic changes. The Gender in Geopolitics Institute is the only think tank in France which uses gender as a tool to explore and understand the complex realities of international affairs, and which adopts an intersectional and human rights-based approach. In the post-MeToo era, where there has been an awakening of mentalities and an awareness of the importance of talking about gender issues, it is essential to adopt a gendered vision that is sensitive to women and LGBTQI + people's rights in order to understand our societies and above all to envision a more inclusive and just world.

The disproportionate effect of climate change on women and girls is rooted in discrimination, stereotypes and differentiated education and opportunities between boys and girls. While it is crucial to respond to climate change by supporting gender-just solutions, education is the core issue we would like to address. Building resilience is deconstructing the idea that a girl is less than a boy. Our research targets and challenges those norms in France, in the EU and everywhere else.

A global response is crucial for structural and sustainable change, and this change should be tracked. Because of this, we support and raise awareness of the importance of the Gender and Resilience Index to French institutions, as well as foreign countries' embassies that are based in Paris.

In this context, GGI conducts our FACJ Action Coalition commitment. We provide numerous research papers on topics that intersect with climate change: from gender-based violence, to young women's participation in decision-making, to youth leadership. These papers systematically include recommendations so as to ensure that solutions are disseminated and promoted. Our intersectional perspective enables holistic and inclusive answers that leave no one behind — and we are the only ones in France to do so. We published more than 20 papers on this subject in 2023, increasing the collection and use of data on the gender-environment nexus. This research is a result of geopolitical expertise, stringent analysis tools and a human rights-based approach. It is disseminated to decision-makers, civil society, academia and multilateral institutions.

We also advocate for women and girls' leadership — especially in climate discussions at the highest level. In 2023, we published a policy paper that provides solutions and good practices for inclusive and fair leadership and decision-making. This policy paper was promoted through meetings with decision-makers, panels and public discussions and digital campaigns. Youth and women's leadership is key to unlocking inclusive and structural change in every global challenge that we face, including the energy transition, sustainable development, and the transition to a green economy. GGI is actively promoting youth and women's leadership — as ourselves a young female-led organization — and our core values are manifested in our advocacy activities. France's feminist foreign policy and the European Union core value of gender equality should include every public institution, and GGI advocates for cross-sectional action for gender equality and climate justice by 2026.

GenEgaliteECCAS



▲ **PHOTO** GenEgaliteECCAS
Policy Dialogue on FoodLandSlide

ORGANIZATION
GenEgaliteECCAS

COMMITMENT
Strengthening CrossBorder Feminist Solidarity

TYPE & COUNTRY
Civil society
CAMEROON

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GenEgaliteECCAS, with secretariat in Cameroon, is a sub-regional feminist movement of women's rights activists and allies working to advance women and girls' active involvement and meaningful participation around key global strategic events such as the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), UNFCCC Climate Conference (COP) and most importantly the entire Generation Equality processes locally and globally. Our work, covering a broad geographic area and representing a diverse range of stakeholders, including marginalized communities, embodies the essence of the FACJ Action Coalition's mission.

Established in September 2019 under the name Beijing25 Central Africa Region, we were renamed GenEgaliteECCAS. This served to recognize the voices and lived realities of women and girls from the other Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) in our advocacy actions and strategic activism GenEgaliteECCAS comprises members from all 11 ECCAS countries, notably Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Congo Brazzaville, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon Rwanda, and Sao Tome. Our members are working across all six Generation Equality action coalitions' themes and the Compact for Women, Peace and Security.

GenEgaliteECCAS has 50 registered member organizations including 13 institutions. Over 75 % of our members are under 40 years old, and many originate from marginalised and under-represented communities. Our movement operates on trust and is guided by the principles of the African feminist charter. Members of GenEgaliteECCAS have a wide range of expertise and experiences that are critical to gender equality and women's human rights. The movement is inclusive, intergenerational and comprises women in the informal sectors (petit traders and roadside vendors), civil servant retirees, diplomats, students, feminist activists, school dropouts, teachers and adolescents etc.

Some of GenEgaliteECCAS innovative actions include but are not limited to:

1. Since 2021, the platform alongside her members have collectively organised and led 7 cross border feminist solidarity visits to Sao Tome et Principe (STP), Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Cameroon, Gabon, Burundi, Rwanda. The aim of these visits have been to: strengthen feminist activism, movement building, learning and collaboration across the sub region, introduce the Generation Equality Action Coalitions agenda, as well as empower communities and amplify community-led climate solutions. The outcomes of these visits include dialogues with over 150 female members of parliament and senators, as well as ministers and a first lady.
2. Claiming our spaces on the international scene: Through GenEgaliteECCAS, over 20 platform members experienced first-hand what international advocacy and intergovernmental negotiations looks like by participating at major global policy events.
3. The platform alongside her members facilitates innovative climate smart solutions including policy dialogues with community leaders and decision makers around women's involvement in disaster response and management of climate crises.



▲ **PHOTO** GenEgaliteECCAS

GIRLS COMMUNITY RDC

ORGANIZATION
Girls Community RDC

COMMITMENT
Youth and Environment

TYPE & COUNTRY
Youth-led
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

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▲ **PHOTO** GIRLS COMMUNICTY RDC
Pilot field for the production of healthy cassava seeds with the beneficiaries of Girls Community's academy.

Girls Community (G.C.) is a non-profit feminist organization under Congolese law led by young people. Created in 2012 in the DRC, GC works to promote and defend the rights of vulnerable, minority and indigenous girls and young women as well as contribute to sustainable community development. Our mission is to bring together forces to help the girl become a visionary, the next leader, make her voice heard and participate in sustainable community development.

G.C. has worked for 10 years in the Democratic Republic of Congo to promote a sustainable improvement in the living conditions of the most vulnerable populations, particularly girls and young women. This is through sustainable programs to combat climate change and protect childhood, in mental health and psychosocial support, and in sexual and reproductive health, by supporting the access of adolescents and young people to information and services, as well as to the fight against gender-based violence. We also support education by ensuring that girls remain in school, and the promotion of informal training and digital literacy for girls in order to reduce the gender gap in the field of STEM.

Girls Community is an active member of the Generation Equality Forum within the FACJ Action Coalition under our Youth and Environment commitment, which aligns with the Action Coalition priority, "Strengthening the resilience of women and girls in the face of climate impacts, disaster risk, loss and damage, including through land rights and tenure security."

Girls Community's innovations include creating an Innovation Academy with a training and empowerment program for young girls and young women under 30 in environmental professions. This was launched in a working-class and vulnerable neighborhood in the commune of N'sele in the city province of Kinshasa to benefitgirls who are victims of child marriage and early pregnancies and other forms of gender-based violence, as well as internally displaced girls fleeing intercommunity conflicts between the TEKE and YAKA communities in the BATEKE plateaus. Sixty young people were trained in healthy cassava seed multiplication techniques, transformation of cassava tubers into chikwang through the use of local environmentally friendly technologies, the creation of their Agri-preneurs start-ups and recycling techniques for plastic waste into paving stones and other products.

In the province of Tanganyika, Girls Community carried out advocacy with the customary authorities and parents on the access of young indigenous girls and young women to agricultural land. Following our advocacy, ten young people each benefited from one hectare of agricultural land bequeathed by the customary chiefs and their parents: Anastasie Ngoyi, a BAC-3 Agronomy student belonging to the TWA indigenous community, is one of our beneficiaries.

GOVERNMENT ENTITY
NORDIC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS



▲ **PHOTO** ANDREAS OMVIK
The Nordic Council of Ministers hosts FACJ Action Coalition commitment makers for a knowledge exchange at the UNFCCC COP27

ORGANIZATION
Government entity
Nordic Council of Ministers

COMMITMENT
A Green and Gender-Equal Nordic Region

TYPE & COUNTRY
Government entity
NORDIC REGION

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Nordic Knowledge Hub on Gender and Climate
https://pub.norden.org/genderclimate

In 2022 a Nordic study found that Nordic climate policies had been lacking sufficient and actionable gender equality insights. Although the Nordic countries are frontrunners when it comes to green innovation and gender equality policy, not enough had been done to understand the interconnection between gender and climate. The Nordic Ministers for Gender Equality and LGBTI therefore decided to make a commitment under the action coalition Feminist Action for Climate Justice. The commitment aims to accelerate knowledge exchange, advocacy and build alliances for gender-equal climate action in the areas of: green jobs and educational opportunities, representation, empowerment and influence of women in all their diversity in climate change decision making, sustainable consumption from a gender perspective, sex-disaggregated data related to climate action, gender analysis in climate policy, gender budgeting for climate policy measures and gender mainstreaming in climate policy.

As climate change is a global issue affecting all communities, international cooperation and regional knowledge exchange is crucial. All countries must step up their work to solve the climate crisis, while also recognizing that countries, communities and different groups of people are affected in different ways. Against this background, the Nordic Council of Ministers co-hosted an official side event together with the African Union and in partnership with UN Women on why gender is key to the green transition at COP27. There were many lessons to be learned from the African Union who had been working on this issue for many years. This event laid the foundation for the development of a Nordic Knowledge Hub with the aim of collecting up to date knowledge on the gender and climate nexus in the Nordic region.

The Nordic Knowledge Hub on Gender and Climate collects knowledge in the areas of gender and consumption, green jobs, energy, blue and green economies, climate policy and youth climate action and was launched at COP28. Key findings include a connection between sustainable lifestyles and care work as Nordic research is indicating that individuals who take a greater responsibility for care work, regardless of sex, tend to be more engaged in sustainability and climate issues. Another insight was the fact that only one in three green workers in the Nordic region is a woman, and if the gender segregation in the labour market is not addressed sufficiently, the gender pay gap could widen.

The commitment has also allowed for the planning of two networking receptions at COP27 and COP28 together with the Feminist Action for Climate Justice allowing stakeholders from all over the world to exchange knowledge and build alliances to accelerate action. The Nordic region aims to become the most sustainable and integrated region in the world by 2030. On our journey towards that goal, the gender equality perspective needs to be embedded in every step.

GOVERNMENT OF BOLIVIA
ESTADO PLURINACIONAL DE BOLIVIA / PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA

ORGANIZATION
Government of Bolivia
Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia / Plurinational State of Bolivia

COMMITMENT
Indigenous women's leadership in climate action

TYPE & COUNTRY
Government
BOLIVIA

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▲ **PHOTO** MARCOS GONZALES MAMANI
Approval of the Organic Constitution and Rules of Procedure of the Platform of Indigenous and Native Peasant Nations and Peoples for the fight against Climate Change with the participation of indigenous people women leaders, Legislative Assembly 24.05.2023

In 2021, during the Generation Equality Forum in Paris, the Plurinational State of Bolivia undertook a 5-year programmatic commitment in partnership with the Country Office of UN Women in Bolivia, to promote the leadership of women and girls in climate action, especially Indigenous women, Afro-Bolivian women, and women from local communities and rural areas throughout the country. Additionally, the commitment aims to strengthen the resilience mechanisms of women and girls to the impacts of climate change. Since then, the Plurinational Authority of Mother Earth (APMT), as the state entity with delegation and competence in climate change matters within the Ministry of Environment and Water, has joined forces with UN Women to carry out clear and ambitious actions to fulfill this commitment for climate justice.

Actions already taken

1. In 2022, the APMT signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Country Office of UN Women in Bolivia to work together on integrating a gender perspective into state efforts for climate justice. Then, the APMT, recognizing the importance of gender sensitization throughout the personnel who govern, promote, manage, implement, and monitor the Plurinational Climate Change Policy and Plan, requested gender and climate change training from UN Women for its personnel. Thus, 17 officials from the 3 departments of the APMT (Joint Mechanism, Adaptation Mechanism, and Mitigation Mechanism) were sensitized.
2. In 2023, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, through the APMT and with technical assistance from UN Women, and in line with the FACJ Action Coalition's second priority area on "enabling women and girls to lead a just transition to a green economy," conducted a study on gender gaps in decision-making spaces on climate change. APMT also carried out a capacity-building workshop on climate change for the Women's Platform against Climate Change, which brought together 70 diverse Bolivian women climate leaders from across the country.

Actions already initiated for 2024

1. The Plurinational State of Bolivia, through the APMT and with technical assistance from UN Women, has initiated the process of developing the "Gender and Climate Change Action Plan (GAP) of the Plurinational State of Bolivia", which will be a gender-focused public policy instrument that will contribute to greater ambition in the NDC, as well as to the reduction of gender inequalities in climate change management in the nation. This plan will be built as part of a participatory process that will promote the participation and climate leadership of Indigenous women, Afro-Bolivian women, women from communities and rural areas throughout the country.
2. In line with the fourth priority action area of the FACJ Action Coalition on increasing "the collection and use of data on the gender-environment nexus", the Plurinational State of Bolivia, through the APMT and with technical assistance from UN Women, will conduct a study on the experiences of indigenous and rural women in climate action, which will make visible the ancestral knowledge and local practices of Bolivian women, and contribute to increasing the available information on the gender-environment nexus.
3. Bolivia is actively working to promote new spaces for indigenous women leaders in the future, enabling them to occupy decision-making positions. Bolivia, working jointly with allies such as UN Women and the FACJ Action Coalition, has the ambition to organize an international conference to bring under discussion and generate new government commitments for climate justice capacity building of new women leaders and fostering economic empowerment of indigenous women through gender-based projects focused on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

GOVERNMENT OF COSTA RICA
INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE LAS MUJERES DE COSTA RICA / NATIONAL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



▲ **PHOTO** UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME COSTA RICA

ORGANIZATION
Government of Costa Rica
Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres de Costa Rica / National Women's Institute

COMMITMENT
National Action Plan on Gender Equality and Climate Action

TYPE & COUNTRY
Government
COSTA RICA

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The 2020 update of Costa Rica's Nationally Determined Commitments (NDC) to the Paris Agreement represented an opportunity to advance the impact of the intersectional gender perspective in the climate public policies of our country. With the technical and financial support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the leadership of the National Women's Institute (INAMU) and the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE), we undertook the mission of building the National Action Plan on Gender Equality in Climate Action (PGCC), which is also a national commitment to the Action Coalition on Feminist Action for Climate Justice of the Generation Equality Forum.

This construction started with the identification of priority sectors in climate action and the investigation of the most significant gender gaps that would guide us regarding the lines of work that would make up the proposal of the Action Plan. For this analysis, six sectors were selected: Agriculture, Forestry, Tourism, Mobility and Transportation, Energy, Infrastructure. Bibliographic reviews of regulations, public policies, plans, projects and statistical data were carried out, complemented with interviews with officials from public institutions, experts and organizations that work on climate change and/or gender, as well as focus groups with specific female population organizations, such as the LGBTIQ+ population, independent activists, and the CEDAW Shadow Report working group.

With the consolidation of a first proposal for the Action Plan, we started a broad participatory process of consultations with public officials, international cooperation and experts, women in their diversity and women's organizations from the six socioeconomic regions of the country, institutions from the prioritized sectors, the INAMU Women's Forum, the Regional Development Councils and authorities of INAMU and MINAE.

The formalization of the Plan had the political and institutional support of the President of the Republic, the Minister of the Status of Women and the Minister of Environment and Energy, who signed an Executive Decree that declared this Action Plan of public interest and defined its mechanism of governance and management in a shared manner between the governing institutions in matters of gender and environment[1].

This is how Costa Rica began the implementation of the National Action Plan on Gender Equality in Climate Action, with the objective of contributing to the articulation of multisectoral actions that promote the reduction of the differentiated impacts of the climate crisis on women in their diversity, especially those of sectors with a greater situation of vulnerability, and strategic sectors through employability and economic autonomy, the strengthening of capacities and innovation, risk management, incorporation of the intersectional gender perspective in climate action, and production of disaggregated information.

The target population is women in their diversity: Afro-descendants, indigenous people, women from rural, coastal, and urban areas, migrants, those who are living in poverty, older adults, women from the LGBTIQ + population, with disabilities, among others. Therefore we are prioritizing work in territories with an emphasis on strengthening green and blue economies led by women and their groups.

1. Executive Decree N° 44053 MINAE-INAMU.

GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND

ORGANIZATION
Government of Ireland

COMMITMENT
Increase Feminist Climate Justice Action

TYPE & COUNTRY
Government
IRELAND

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▲ **PHOTO** KIARA WORTH©, IISD
Mawahahamisi Singano of FEMNET at Bonn in 2023.

Ireland is committed to increasing space in the UNFCCC processes for feminist climate justice. We will continue to provide finance for gender mainstreaming in the UNFCCC Secretariat, and to increase our investment in climate action with particular focus on supporting women adapting to the effects of climate change.

Through the Department of Foreign Affairs, Ireland supports the Gender team at the UN Climate Change secretariat, which, with the UNFCCC Women & Gender Constituency, works to increase space for women's engagement in the UN climate process. This includes actions such as showcasing women's priorities and events during virtual information sessions convened by the secretariat.

This support is complemented by our funding to the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), a global advocacy organization that strives to ensure gender is considered in climate and environmental decision-making and to advance advocacy at the intersections of gender and climate justice. WEDO aims to show policymakers how they can support gender, environmental and climate justice – by providing research and technical support, training government officials, and showcasing the transformative but under-funded work happening in communities across the world.

Recently, WEDO has campaigned for inclusion of gender language in COP28 outcome decisions; worked to raise awareness of the need for enhanced gender and environment data collection and use, including through their co-hosting of the first Gender and Environment Data Conference, and the launch of a Call to Action; and supported climate justice advocates from the MENA region to travel to and engage in COP28 decision-making spaces.

At COP28, Ireland announced alignment with the Women in Sustainable Economies Initiative (WISE), which has mobilised more than US$900 million in commitments by governments, private sector companies, foundations, and civil society to bolster women's economic participation in a wide range of sectors.

Through the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, Ireland supports the project 'Feminist Communities for Climate Justice', a collaboration between the National Women's Council of Ireland and Community Work Ireland. This project aims to strengthen the inclusion of women and girls in Ireland's domestic climate action, through carrying out further documentation and research, as well as advocacy to ensure better mainstreaming of the experiences, needs and risks of vulnerable groups in domestic policy making.

Feminist Communities for Climate Justice aims to amplify the voices of women and marginalised communities most affected by the climate crisis, supporting their inclusion in national policies. Unique to the project is a feminist community work approach, which champions collective victories, identifies systemic structural issues as creators of inequality, focuses on women's representation in decision-making spaces, and recognises the value of care and caring work as low-carbon, green work.

The project has created an accredited training programme in collaboration with Maynooth University's Department of Applied Social Studies to train community workers in climate justice issues and feminist approaches to their work, and has established a peer-learning network, the Feminist Communities for Climate Justice National Network.

GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS



PHOTOS
KEYSTONE FOUNDATION
Women from the Aadhimalai collective in Nilgiris process NTFPs from the forest

ORGANIZATION
Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

COMMITMENT
Sustainable Forest Management

TYPE & COUNTRY
Government
NETHERLANDS / GLOBAL

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The Netherlands' FACJ Action Coalition commitment on Sustainable Forest Management, strengthens the livelihoods of people in forested landscapes, improves governance and reduces CO2 emissions. Efforts to halt deforestation integrate gender and intersectionality by targeting women to make up at least half of the beneficiaries. More recognition, political support and funding is urgently needed for women-led, participatory efforts to halt deforestation and biodiversity loss as well as to cope with climate impacts.

Through our partners, such as the foundation Both ENDS, we reach the grassroots level to improve the lives of marginalized women. We enable them to exercise their rights, to increase their resources and to improve their representation. Both ENDS works through the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA). Amongst others, it supports the Keystone Foundation to re-grant funds directly to women-led groups for gender just climate solutions. One grantee is the Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyanar Producer Company, a collective of small-scale Adivasi (Indigenous) farmer-producers in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, a tropical forest biome in India. These Adivasi women ensure sustainable management of the biosphere. They are contributing to climate change mitigation by protecting the forest and biodiversity while strengthening their livelihood resilience through the sustainable use and sale of non-timber forest products (NTFPs).

THE AADHIMALAI COLLECTIVE

The Aadhimalai collective involves 2,000 Adivasi families. Women in the collective use their traditional knowledge to protect and restore the Nilgiri's forests and sacred groves. They make sustainable use of NTFPs, including honey, beeswax, shampoo nuts and berries, as well as agricultural produce like coffee, pepper, silk cotton and millets. From these NTFPs the collective makes a wide range of products, such as balms, soaps, baskets and food products. The collective's members also established nurseries for planting NTFPs. Members transfer their knowledge ontraditional seed use to the next generation. Other members act as 'barefoot ecologists', monitoring the Nilgiri's forests, farms, wildlife, habitat quality, water sources and tree phenology based on their traditional knowledge. Together with Keystone Foundation, they have designed and implemented monitoring and data management protocols. The Aadhimalai collective uses this data to plan their production and ensure sustainable yields.

LOCALLY-LED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

By exercising their rights to resources, land and forests, Adivasi women have taken up leadership of forest governance. They decide what to harvest and when. And vice versa, the women's leadership and engagement in the collective has a positive impact on their sovereignty, access to natural resources, health and wellbeing. Improved marketing and local value addition have strengthened their NTFP-based livelihoods. Collectively they bypass middlemen and receive fair market prices for their products. Their processing centers generate employment for over 50 women and have a turnover of approximately EUR 150,000. Within their households, the women exercise their right to decide on their own earnings.

GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN
GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA, MINISTERIO PARA LA TRANSICIÓN ECOLÓGICA Y EL RETO DEMOGRÁFICO (MITECO) / MINISTRY FOR THE ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION AND THE DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGE (MITECO)

ORGANIZATION
Government of Spain
MITECO*

COMMITMENT
Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the ecological transition in Spain

Promoting women's green entrepreneurship and women's entrepreneurship in rural areas

Promoting the integration of the gender approach in water management

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Government
SPAIN

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◀ **PHOTO** MITECO
Discussion panel in the launch event of the report and database on women's green entrepreneurship and women's entrepreneurship in rural areas

***MITECO**
- Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico
- *Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge*

MITECO has undertaken several innovative initiatives related to its FACJ Action Coalition commitments. Altogether these initiatives:

- Contribute to two FACJ Action Areas: "Enable women and girls to lead a just transition to a green economy" and "Increase the collection and use of data on the gender-environment nexus."
- Showcase the intersection of climate change and gender equality through several environmental and socioeconomic dimensions of the ecological transition.
- Contribute at the Spanish national level and at a broader geographical scope.
- Start or extend collaborations with diverse stakeholders.

Among the FACJ initiatives by MITECO (including the public bodies attached to it), it is especially worthwhile to highlight the following:

- A Collaboration Protocol between the Just Transition Institute and the Naturgy Foundation included a focus on gender equality, which has had impactful outcomes such as:
  - The report Employment of Women in the Just Energy Transition in Spain, which analyzes quantitative gender gaps on employment in jobs linked to the energy transition (in Spain and the European Union) as well as qualitative recommendations to close these gaps. Launched on June 2023, it was highlighted in the IRENA Annual Review 2023 on Renewable Energy and Jobs and had significant spillover effects in national policy planning and decision-making (for instance, to decide the specific commitments by Spain to the Equal by 30 Campaign).
  - The 2023 Training course on Installing solar photovoltaic systems, which only targets and grants opportunities to unemployed women[1].
- To facilitate gender mainstreaming in biodiversity related areas, a Guide to include the gender perspective in projects published in 2022 by the Biodiversity Foundation (FB), targeted the entities collaborating with FB. It has a different focus than the Guide for integrating the gender perspective in the IBEROMaB Network, published in 2022 by the National Parks Autonomous Agency (OAPN) after a participatory process at the Biosphere Reserves of the Ibero-American and Caribbean Biosphere Reserve Network.
- The 2023 report and database on women's green entrepreneurship and women's entrepreneurship in rural areas made available and analyzed sex-disaggregated and gender-sensitive indicators on women's entrepreneurship in the green economy and/or in rural areas (in Spain and the European Union, compared to analogous data on men, other economic activities, salaried workers, and non-rural areas). The report highlights gender barriers to women's entrepreneurship in the green economy and/or in rural areas, also considering in-depth interviews with experts from women's organizations and the Institute for Women (the national level gender equality mechanism). The report also analyzes how gender is mainstreamed across 12 public funding programmes by MITECO related to entrepreneurship in green sectors or in rural areas. It provides recommendations on how to accelerate progress towards effective equality between women and men. The launch event drove further collaboration between diverse organizations.
- The UNESCO-WWAP Project on "Developing capacity for gender-transformative water policies and plans under climate uncertainties and risks - South America" which was started in 2023 funded (76300 USD) through the Spain-UNESCO Trust Fund within the framework of MITECO's support to the Call for Action to Accelerate Gender Equality in the Water Domain.

1. https://www.fundacionnaturgy.org/actividad/curso-de-fp-para-la-empleabilidad-instalacion-de-sistemas-solares-fotovoltaicos/

GOVERNMENT OF UNITED KINGDOM
FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE



▲ **PHOTO** TEA (ROAM)
A member of the ROAM team at work on ROAM Air e-motorbikes

ORGANIZATION
Government of United Kingdom
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

COMMITMENT
Gender-responsive Climate Finance
Women and Girls' Climate Resilience
Women and Girls' Climate Leadership
Data on Gender, Inclusion and Climate

TYPE & COUNTRY
Government
UNITED KINGDOM

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The UK continues to champion our four commitments made under the Feminist Action for Climate Justice (FACJ) Action Coalition in 2021. This includes championing the climate leadership, meaningful decision-making and empowerment of women and girls, including through education, in a transition to an inclusive, green economy.

The UK has embedded our commitments across the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), including through our International Women and Girls Strategy (2023-2030). This Strategy commits us to integrating gender and social inclusion objectives into our climate finance, programmes and strategies, enabling women and girls to be drivers of locally led adaptation and supporting their leadership in a just transition to a green, inclusive economy. The UK's 2023 International Development White Paper also recognises that women and girls are vital to driving locally-led adaptation and, internationally, a just transition to a green, inclusive economy.

We recognise, however, that it is also critical that we put these words into action. For example, at COP28 the FCDO announced an additional £40 million to support the Transforming Energy Access platform to continue and expand its critical work, empowering the female leaders of the energy transition. As a result of this work, since 2016, an estimated 23,000 green jobs have been enabled for women, 600 African women were supported with job placements and training in clean energy businesses, and 57 female students supported to study for master's degrees.

The UK will also host an international conference at Wilton Park on Building Women's Economic Empowerment into Climate Transitions in Spring 2024. The conference is an opportunity to discuss models for green growth and climate resilience that advance women's access to decent work and control over work-related decisions; access to and control over economic assets; and recognition, redistribution and reward for care work. It will bring together actors working at the nexus of these issues from governments, the private sector, academic, civil society, and multilateral institutions to explore the key roadblocks to building women's economic empowerment into the green growth agenda and to share opportunities to work together to overcome these.

The UK funded Work and Opportunities for Women (WOW) Programme is working in partnership with private sector organisations to build gender equality efforts into decarbonisation and climate resilience efforts in their supply chains. In March 2023, WOW hosted a workshop at the Business Fights Poverty's Gender Summit looking at how businesses can apply a gender equity lens to net-zero planning. Following this, they launched practical guidance for companies who are decarbonising at COP28.

GREEN CLIMATE FUND (GCF)

ORGANIZATION
Green Climate Fund (GCF)

COMMITMENT
Amplify the voices of grassroot women and youth; women and girls equitably participate in decision making processes; gender responsive approach to Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA)

TYPE & COUNTRY
International organization
REPUBLIC OF KOREA / GLOBAL

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WEBSITE
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▲ **PHOTO** IUCN GUATEMALA
Capacity building for women's leadership in watershed councils and technical concepts of EbA, October 2022

The impacts of climate change affect women and men differently and women are the hardest hit by dramatic shifts in climatic conditions. Women's mortality from climate-related disasters is higher than that of men; domestic burdens (e.g. collection of firewood and water) increase substantially with various manifestations of climate change.

GCF is the first climate finance mechanism to mainstream gender perspectives from the outset of its operations as an essential decision-making element for the deployment of its resources. It has placed gender as a key element of its programming architecture, and its commitment to gender equality cAenters on gender-responsive climate action programmes and projects that benefit women and men (captured in the GCF Gender Policy adopted by the Fund's governing body in 2015 and updated in 2019). Gender equality considerations are therefore mainstreamed into the entire project cycle to enhance efficacy of climate change mitigation and adaptation interventions and ensure that gender co-benefits are obtained. As such, submitting a gender assessment and gender/social action plan is obligatory documentation in the funding proposal submission process.

Underpinning the climate and biodiversity crises are persistent social and gender inequalities and increased vulnerability to risks. Therefore, climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation projects are more successful, equitable and sustainable when gender considerations and measures are embedded in the project goals and implementation cycle. In partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), GCF project FP087 "Building livelihood resilience to climate change in the upper basins of Guatemala's highlands" focuses on enhancing ecosystems and livelihoods in the area through better watershed management and land use practices. In order to promote improved land stewardship, local communities and organizations are introduced to various learning activities, skills building and training on Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) including sustainable agriculture. Inclusive approaches underpin this project as they work hand in hand with municipal gender offices, local women and youth organizations.

Overall, the project is increasing the resilience of 15,000 women to climate change in the project area. As such, women's capacities have been strengthened leading to their active and meaningful participation in the implementation of agroforestry systems; increased women's voice and agency in EbA; promoted youth participation and economic empowerment especially in sustainable agriculture; and the project continues to leverage on local knowledge to enhance gender results. These outcomes are evidenced through a significant level of participation and leadership positions taken by women in watershed management, and up to 155 women benefiting. In addition, youth are able to generate income on 2,222 square meters of greenhouse agricultural production.

The project will further develop a grant facility on sustainable watershed management practices and promotion of gender equality will be one of the selection criteria in addition to the targeted 10% of grants which will go to women led/owned organizations.

GREEN HOPE FOUNDATION



◀ PHOTO
Green Hope Foundation in action

ORGANIZATION
Green Hope Foundation

COMMITMENT
Resilience Education for Climate Justice

Monitoring the Validity of Gendered Data

TYPE & COUNTRY
Youth-led
CANADA / GLOBAL

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WEBSITE
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Green Hope Foundation is a global young-women-led organization that works across 28 countries with over half a million people in order to implement feminist climate justice through ground-level actions. As a youth-led organization, we are one of the Co-Leads of the Feminist Action for Climate Justice (FACJ) Action Coalition.

Since making our commitments at the Generation Equality Forum in 2021, we, at Green Hope Foundation, have met our targets well before 2026, our original target year, and we are working to expand our impact.

In order to build the resilience of women and girls to climate impacts, disaster risks, loss, and damage, including through land rights and tenure security, and in order to ensure equitable access to climate resilience education for women and girls in climate-vulnerable communities, we have built Green Hope Foundation's first school: the Green Hope Foundation Academy of Hope for Women and Girls. Our Academy of Hope provides climate resilience education to girls in the mornings, enabling them to grow the necessary skill sets to address and solve local problems caused by climate change, build resilience to climate change induced disasters and rebuild post-climate disasters.

Our Academy of Hope also functions as a sewing school for women in the evenings, enabling the women to become economically self-reliant within their climate-vulnerable and climate disaster zones. This contributes to the creation of a gender-smart and climate-smart circular economy, facilitating feminist climate justice and economic justice.

Additionally, our Academy of Hope provides access to menstrual hygiene and awareness as we recognize it as a basic human right and an integral part of addressing the intersection of feminist climate justice and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). Hence, we, at Green Hope Foundation, make sanitary napkins for the women of rural climate-vulnerable communities who do not have access to SRHR or menstrual hygiene.

Additionally, we launched our solar-powered mobile libraries that take books to the doorsteps of out-of-school children, most of whom are girls who have been forced to drop out of school as a result of climate change-induced disasters that have exacerbated pre-existing inequities. Our solar-powered mobile libraries are currently taking books to the doorsteps of over 300,000 out-of-school children, which has led to a drastic increase in basic literacy and climate literacy amongst the girls.

Green Hope Foundation is increasing the collection and use of data on the gender-environment nexus by implementing our second commitment of ensuring that gender-disaggregated data collected by communities, nations, international institutions and similar stakeholders is valid. We have created a database of such data collected from climate-vulnerable areas, particularly those where there has been a history of gender-disaggregated data manipulation to perpetuate the oppression of women and girls. To counteract any wrongdoings or manipulations of data by other stakeholders, we work to ensure that data collected by civilians, particularly data sets collected by women and girls on the ground that reflect their lived experiences of dealing with the impacts of climate change, are recognized as valid.

GROOTS KENYA ASSOCIATION

ORGANIZATION
GROOTS Kenya Association

COMMITMENT
Strengthened voice, leadership and agency of grassroots women towards resilient communities from the adverse impacts of climate change

TYPE & COUNTRY
Civil society
KENYA

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▲ **PHOTO** GROOTS KENYA
Mary Lemosiany, a grassroots leader, making an address during a climate action event in November 2023

GROOTS Kenya, dedicated to empowering grassroots women and girls, acknowledges the significant influence of climate change on gender disparities. The organization believes that grassroots women and girls possess distinctive insights and awareness regarding their communities, making them indispensable contributors to endeavors aimed at enhancing climate resilience. Notably, GROOTS Kenya has recently been honored with the Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs) Annual National Awards, a testament to the recognition of its impactful work in strengthening the resilience of grassroots women and girls against the effects of climate change.

Through targeted training programs focusing on advocacy and leadership, GROOTS Kenya works towards enhancing the agency of grassroots women and girls. This empowerment enables them to seek solutions to the challenges posed by climate change, acknowledging the exacerbated gender inequalities resulting from these environmental shifts. This heightened vulnerability includes risks such as gender-based abuse, unpaid care work, forced migration due to drought, and resource-based conflict.

Contrary to portraying grassroots women and girls as victims of climate change, GROOTS Kenya recognizes them as change agents with coping and mitigation strategies. These women have demonstrated resilience and innovation in developing approaches to mitigate the risks associated with climate change. The organization advocates for the meaningful involvement of grassroots women and girls in shaping climate policy, accessing funding, and driving actionable climate initiatives.

GROOTS Kenya is committed to elevating the voices and leadership of rural, indigenous and pastoralist women to influence decision making. A vivid illustration of GROOTS Kenya's impact is exemplified through the narrative of Mary Lemosiany from Laikipia North. Initially engaged in selling illicit brews, Mary's transformation into a chair lady in the Naibunga Community Land Management Committee underscores the transformative potential of GROOTS Kenya's interventions. Despite challenges and cultural barriers, she emerged as the sole woman on the male dominated land management committee, inspiring others through her resilience and dedication.

Furthermore, Mary's commitment extends beyond leadership roles as she actively engages in capacity-building endeavors such as training on agroforestry and the introduction of sustainable agricultural practices. Through initiatives like bean cultivation, maize planting, and land reclamation and restoration, Mary empowers women who are reliant on livestock for survival to diversify their income sources sustainably. These efforts also foster a just transition to a green economy, aligning with GROOTS Kenya's overarching objectives.

In essence, Mary's story serves as a testament to GROOTS Kenya's approach in strengthening the voice, leadership, and agency of grassroots women towards building resilient communities amidst the challenges posed by climate change. Through concerted efforts encompassing advocacy, leadership training, and community engagement, GROOTS Kenya continues to empower grassroots women and girls to confront and positively impact the prevailing climate change narrative.

HEINRICH BÖLL FOUNDATION WASHINGTON, DC



▲ **PHOTO** HEINRICH BÖLL FOUNDATION WASHINGTON, DC
Liane Schalatek, Heinrich Böll Foundation Washington, speaking on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency, in the first meeting of the Transitional Committee to design the new Loss and Damage Fund

ORGANIZATION
Heinrich Böll Foundation Washington, DC

COMMITMENT
Increase direct access to financing for gender-just climate solutions, in particular for women and girls at grassroots levels

TYPE & COUNTRY
Civil society
UNITED STATES / GLOBAL

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The push for financing to address loss and damage has been decades long and largely unsuccessful. Through concerted advocacy efforts in the lead-up to COP27, in which the Heinrich Böll Foundation (hbf) Office in Washington actively engaged, including through research and an early blueprint for a possible new Loss and Damage Fund (LDF), COP27 ended with the surprising decision to establish new funding arrangements for loss and damage, including a new fund through a Transitional Committee (TC) process. This provided the opportunity in 2023 to influence the actual design of such a new fund to be approved at COP28 in Dubai.

As the TC process looked at designing the core modalities of the new fund, it was crucial that this design took into account the gender implications of loss and damage impacts and provided the framework for funding provisions, such as small grant-focused community-centered direct access modalities, that will provide disproportionately higher benefits to often marginalised and disenfranchised people, including women and diverse gender groups, from the start.

In May 2023, hbf Washington, DC together with the Loss & Damage Collaborative co-authored a comprehensive and authoritative mapping study on "The Loss and Damage Landscape". This study helped to shape the narrative about the underlying principles and key features that a Loss and Damage Fund should have, including through engagement with TC members.

Representing the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) in the TC, hbf Washington, DC actively engaged in all five TC meetings, related workshops and High Level convenings, including through interventions advocating for a human-rights centered and gender-responsive LDF. A main goal of the engagement was to ensure that gender equality concerns were anchored in a draft governing instrument for the LDF, which was considered to be the core outcome of the TC process. Hbf Washington, DC also monitored and shared analysis of the TC process with international women's and feminist groups and broader civil society and coordinated core technical input and recommendations. This included in particular an early submission by hbf Washington (and supported by many organizations) on core operational and governance modalities for a new LDF, as well as a cross-constituency proposal by ENGOs and WGC for an LDF governing instrument and for funding criteria to address loss and damage. In these, hbf Washington played a leading role.

For example, civil society proposed in verbal and written interventions that affected community groups, including women, should have a voting representation in the new LDF Board; this recommendation was picked up in the proposals for the LDF governance by the United States and European TC members. While unfortunately ultimately not integrated into the final outcome document, this effort nevertheless changed the narrative of what is conceivable for a climate fund, with possible improvement still to be realized during fund operationalization efforts in 2024 and beyond. Even though civil society efforts did not yield the exact outcome desired (for an in-depth analysis, see this hbf Washington assessment piece), its coordinated advocacy and outreach strategy nevertheless succeeded in creating the prospect of the new LDF prioritizing more gender-responsive small-scale funding support.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LAW ORGANIZATION (IDLO)

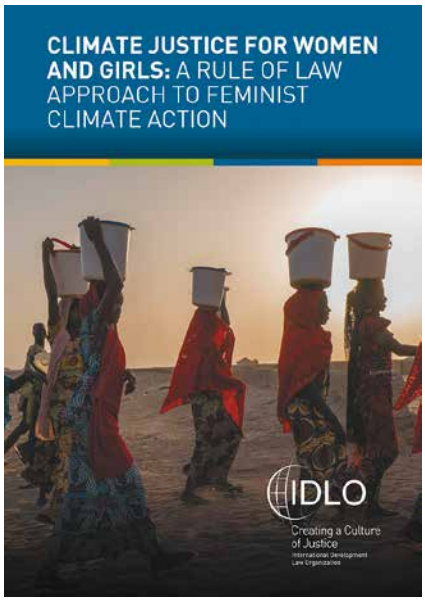
ORGANIZATION
International Development Law Organization (IDLO)

COMMITMENT
Climate Justice for Women and Girls

TYPE & COUNTRY
International organization
GLOBAL

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◀ **PHOTO** IDLO

As the only global intergovernmental organization exclusively devoted to promoting the rule of law to advance peace and sustainable development, IDLO views the rule of law as a powerful tool to enable feminist climate action. IDLO believes that implementation of feminist rule of law-based approaches must be integrated within a broader package of gender-responsive climate and environmental actions that promote women's equal access to productive resources – such as finance, land, water, green jobs, and clean energy – and value their traditional climate knowledge. Articulating that approach, in March 2022, IDLO published a Policy Brief on Climate Justice for Women and Girls: A Rule of Law Approach to Feminist Climate Action to increase awareness and encourage action among policy makers, development partners and donors, as well as other stakeholders.

Across the world, the persistence of gender-based discrimination, inequality and patriarchal institutions contributes to women disproportionately experiencing harmful effects of climate change. In contexts where only men are recognized as de facto household heads, gender-insensitive laws and policies contribute to the dispossession of women by failing to uphold their equal rights to inherit, access, own or dispose of land. In the area of climate governance, the processes for developing and implementing Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans do not explicitly require governments to demonstrate that their climate action agendas are gender responsive. Moreover, negative stereotypes continue to portray women as passive victims of climate change, however, they are already at the forefront of climate action as change catalysts who possess diverse knowledge and skills essential to transformative climate action.

Therefore, IDLO works to address the gender dimensions of environmental and climate justice through interlocking interventions by eliminating discriminatory laws against women and girls, and strengthening women's access to food security, land and other natural resources through a combination of legal empowerment and institution-building initiatives.

FOR EXAMPLE

- **In the Philippines,** IDLO, through the development of an inter-agency partnership with the Climate Change Commission, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Philippine Commission on Women, conducted a legal assessment of climate and environment legislation from a gender perspective. IDLO piloted a framework applying the principles of non-discrimination and substantive equality espoused in the CEDAW Convention and reviewed a total of 53 laws across a broad spectrum of domestic legislation, including climate and environment, disaster risk reduction and management, gender-based violence in emergencies, land and natural resources, participation and leadership, as well as social protection and welfare. The analysis identified gender-blind and discriminatory provisions against women and girls and highlighted contradictions and gaps of legal coherence among climate laws and frameworks. Building on the findings, the recommendations of the assessment center around enactment of new legislation and amendment of legal frameworks to explicitly integrate women's human rights, including their contributions to climate action and protections from differential impacts faced by them due to climate change.
- **In Kenya,** IDLO works with the county governments of Isiolo and Marsabit, towards improving their capacity to implement gender-responsive county-level climate change and natural resource management (NRM) actions for inclusive climate resilience development. IDLO has commissioned a baseline assessment to comprehensively understand the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and girls, strategies to combat barriers and discrimination, empower women to claim their rights and integrate women's active engagement and leadership in climate decision-making at all levels. Based on the evidence-based data, the country governments are expected to establish gender working groups as a sub-theme of the county climate change units. Moreover, IDLO continues to deliver trainings for county governments targeting the county attorneys, county executive officers, and county climate change units to be more responsive to the climate needs of women and girls.

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (IISD)



ORGANIZATION
International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

COMMITMENT
Gender-responsive Adaptation Action

TYPE & COUNTRY
International organization
CANADA / GLOBAL

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▲ **PHOTO** DENNIS NIPAH
Envisioning Resilience trainees in Ghana practice using their cameras.

The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) makes it clear that if adaptation to climate change is going to be effective, it must integrate gender and equity considerations. Gender-responsive adaptation action addresses gender-specific needs, promotes inclusive decision making, and yields equitable benefits for people of all genders and social groups. The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), as the Secretariat of the NAP Global Network, recognizes that there are many opportunities to incorporate gender-responsive approaches as countries advance their National Adaptation Plan (NAP) processes. We therefore committed to work with government partners to advance gender-responsive adaptation action through NAP processes, and we made this commitment in partnership with two governments who are already showing leadership in this area: Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.

In Ghana, adaptation decision makers, including representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency, which leads the NAP process, engaged in dialogue with a group of young women during the pilot phase of the Envisioning Resilience initiative. The initiative aims to amplify underrepresented women's voices in climate change adaptation planning and was implemented in Ghana by the NAP Global Network and Lensational, a social enterprise. The approach involves training in photography and storytelling and culminates in a policy dialogue, where the trainees share visual stories that document their lived experience with climate change and their visions for resilience. Women are powerful actors in driving adaptation action, and using photos and stories as a basis for dialogue helps to build a shared understanding of the impacts of climate change on women's lives and the adaptation priorities for their communities. The initiative has demonstrated that "creative methods can help in moving from 'consultation' to 'engagement' of people affected by climate change" (Dazé et al., 2023, p. 10). This is firmly in line with the Feminist Action for Climate Justice (FACJ) Action Coalition vision, which aims to enable women, in all their diversity, to meaningfully participate in climate-related decision making.

The government of Côte d'Ivoire has made a concerted effort to integrate gender considerations in the country's NAP process, demonstrating how the law and policy elements of the FACJ action plan can be realized. The ministries responsible for climate change and gender recognized the need for cooperation, signing a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize their collaboration on gender-responsive climate action. This partnership led to the establishment of a national platform, bringing together gender and climate change actors, including government, civil society organizations, and researchers. The members of this platform were consulted at various stages of the NAP process, and thanks to this effort, the soon-to-be-released NAP document integrates gender considerations.

NAP processes will drive investments in adaptation over the coming years, whether by governments, private sector actors, or through international climate finance mechanisms. Ensuring that NAP processes are gender-responsive will help to channel resources to women and girls who are on the frontlines of climate change, while also ensuring that all investments in adaptation yield gender-equitable benefits.

INTERNATIONAL LAND COALITION (ILC)

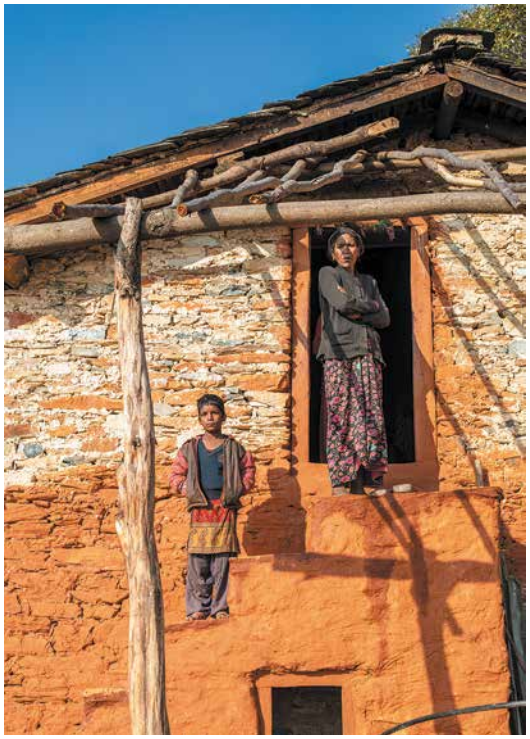
ORGANIZATION
International Land Coalition (ILC)

COMMITMENT
Secure Women's Land Rights to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

TYPE & COUNTRY
International organization
GLOBAL

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◀ **PHOTO**
ILC/BHABISHYA PAUDEL
Freed Haliya (bonded labour) community in Nepal's far western region

The International Land Coalition (ILC) is a global alliance of civil society and intergovernmental organizations aimed at prioritizing people in land governance. With over 300 members, ILC focuses on country-level land governance that meets local needs and safeguards the rights of women, men, and communities.

ILC's initiatives in building climate resilience for rural women in Asia

In 2023, ILC backed initiatives highlighting grassroots' crucial role in combating climate change and advancing gender equality for sustainable development, working with local organizations to empower women and promote inclusivity, equity, and sustainability.

Multiple studies in the region[1] show that Asian women disproportionately face climate change effects like water scarcity and food insecurity, making them vital for climate advocacy. Empowering women enables grassroots initiatives to find innovative solutions for climate adaptation, boosting community resilience, sustainable agriculture, and gender equality.

Enforcing gender-responsive policies and laws, ensuring equal access to resources and decision-making processes, and challenging traditional gender norms that limit women's potential are some of the key priority activities that ILC does in the region.

ILC enhances global, regional, and national women's organizations, focusing on women's land rights, citing examples in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Maldives. It evaluates legal and policy barriers to women's resource access. ILC prioritizes climate resilience, emergency readiness, governance advocacy, and fair land rights, aiming to empower women and communities against climate challenges.

Women's land rights as a solution to the climate crisis

ILC promotes women's land rights to combat climate change and ensure equity, emphasizing secure land tenure for women's empowerment and resilience. It aims for broad impact through policy and program reform, targeting systemic changes for gender equity and climate justice.

In Central Asia, for example, grassroots initiatives have made a tangible impact on pastoralist communities facing climate change challenges. Under the IFAD-ILC roadmap and implementation of the Gender Transformative Approaches[2] ILC members in Kyrgyzstan shared their knowledge of salt-resistant crop production techniques, enabling women farmers to cultivate crops in areas affected by water scarcity and salinity. Additionally, women learned to take unutilized raw fleece — due to lack of its market demand — and make it a sustainable resource that has diversified income opportunities and contributed to the region's climate resilience.

Another good practice led by ILC members in Kyrgyzstan is the installation of artificial glaciers across the country. Artificial glaciers are ice stupas constructed during the winter and used as a source of freshwater in late spring and early summer. For example, in the Issyk-Kul region, such simple technology provides water reserves for irrigation and drinking during the critical spring season for approximately 1,000 household, that is, around 7,000 people in the village.

Grassroots efforts are crucial for tackling climate change and advancing gender equality. Scaling up initiatives, enhancing research, and fostering collaboration among communities, CSOs, governments, and international bodies are vital for broader impact and a fairer society. Collective action is essential for a sustainable and equitable future for all.

1. https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/01/climate-change-gender-equality-and-human-rights-in-asia
2. https://www.cifor.org/wlr/

JEUNESSE ET EMPLOIS VERTS POUR UNE ÉCONOMIE VERTE (JEVEV) / YOUTH AND GREEN JOBS FOR A GREEN ECONOMY





PHOTOS JEVEV ONG

▲ Manual collection of water hyacinths to clear the river surface

▶ Sorting water hyacinths to produce Magic Compost

ORGANIZATION

Jeunesse et Emplois Verts pour une Économie Verte (JEVEV) / Youth and Green Jobs for a Green Economy

COMMITMENT

Sharing Best Practices

TYPE & COUNTRY

Youth-led

BENIN

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The planet's climate has always fluctuated. But since industrialization, the atmosphere's composition has changed due to greenhouse gas emissions. This warming caused by human activities accentuates the natural greenhouse effect and causes significant climate change. It has a significant impact on people and nature and has become a global issue.

In Benin in the Lower Ouémé Valley Biosphere, which is a set of particular terrestrial and coastal/marine ecosystems in Benin with species of interest and a set of villages built along the water body, water hyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes) grows. Water hyacinth is on the list of the 100 most invasive species in the world, and it proliferates dangerously in the waters of the Oueme River and on Lake Nokoué, a RAMSAR site of international importance, to the point of covering almost all of its surface during the seasonal flood period. Additionally, the water hyacinth obstructs communication channels and paralyzes fishing activities, especially preventing women, girls and children from going about their daily lives as they must put ten times more effort into traveling the same distance as they would in the absence of water hyacinths.

The presence of water hyacinth also causes very high eutrophication of the environment and a fatal anoxia impacting the communities who depend on the fish, as well as more than 150 species of birds. A large part of the region's economy, especially that of women, suffers because they form the majority of fishmongers, either as merchants or farmers (Lake Nokoué is considered the most productive lake in West Africa).

Under our FACJ Action Coalition commitment on Sharing Best Practices, with the support of the different communities of women in the biosphere of the valley of the ouémé, JEVEV NGO is launching a project to improve knowledge of the linkages between gender equality and the emancipation of women, wetland management and conservation.

Women play a central role in the management and preservation of wetlands, and they have developed symbiotic relationships with the wetlands that play a major role in their lives. In its implementation, our project will support women through the circular economy by relying on the sustainable and efficient management of invasive plants that make their daily life very difficult and create huge ecological and health problems.

Women of the Future /Femmes d'Avenir/Gnonnou Sonagnon (in the local language), will be this community of women from the Ouémé biosphere that will transform the problem of water hyacinth into an opportunity for adaptation to the effects of climate change caused by rising waters and the proliferation of water hyacinths.

Women of the Future aims to reduce the invasion of this species and thus limit GHG emissions and the spread of heavy metals while providing economic opportunities for women and youth. Specifically, the project will develop water hyacinth into compost and crafts, activities with higher added value than fishing, which should encourage more broadly local residents to collect the hyacinth. It should also make it possible to connect with carbon markets.

NETWORK OF RURAL WOMEN PRODUCERS TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORGANIZATION
Network of Rural Women Producers Trinidad and Tobago

COMMITMENT
Building a Foundation for Women and Girls

TYPE & COUNTRY
Civil society
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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◀ **PHOTO** WORKSHOP FACILITATOR
A training in the Rural and Coastal Community of Matelot



◀ **PHOTO** NRWPTT
Skills training at the university.

The Network of Rural Women Producers Trinidad and Tobago (NRWPTT) is committed to all of the Generation Equality action coalition thematic areas because they are all intertwined with each other and are of extreme importance. None can be left out if we are to succeed with our ongoing focus on gender equality.

Our commitment began at the very first Generation Equality Forum workshop held in Mexico before the meeting in France. Although our commitment is relevant to all action coalitions, we are primarily engaged in the Feminist Action for Climate Justice (FACJ) and Gender Based Violence (GBV) Action Coalitions.

Both of these issues are critical to our country, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Caribbean Region. At the time we made these commitments, our funds were uncertain and we did not know where resources would come from. However, we were engaged in several UN Women global initiatives and projects namely:

- HeforShe
- UN Women Foundations Programme
- UNiTE to End Violence Against Women — 16 Days of Activism / Orange the World
- UN Women Spotlight Initiative

The funding support received for the above mentioned projects were used with permission to incorporate a wider range of innovative events to assist women and girls with building their capacity. We hosted skills trainings to enable them to earn much needed income to help them stand on their own feet.

Some of these skills include:

- How to establish sustainable community gardens and build climate resilient food resources. These initiatives assisted in establishing economic and social well-being.
- How to use the produce they harvest to create products for sale by placing the products in packages ready for the market. We also train them on how to produce flour for bread / gourmet baking.
- Information and technology training for women and girls in rural communities: In all our projects we try to create linkages, as the impact of climate change impacts every aspect of our communities. Where we are lacking funds to engage in separate projects we reach out and link these issues.
- Skills for youth to engage in local government, including youth debating skills taught in four municipalities and 11 regional forums. Public speaking and debate skills, including the use of spoken word, enable engagement in local decision-making processes and understanding of how municipalities work. Through youth debates, we as civil society can advocate by creating linkages between issues.

Partnerships have also been key to our work. For example, we launched our 16 Days of Activism in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister, the Gender Affairs Division, Trinidad and Tobago Police Community Police Section, Police Youth Clubs, UNFPA, and the Equal Opportunity Commission.

We also partnered with institutions like the University of the West Indies, and the Mayor of San Fernando attended the judging of sustainable products made by our students, such as soap, deodorants, and creams. These programs contribute to women and girls' climate change resilience through sharing learning on climate change's impacts on our coastal communities, rural communities, our land, water, agriculture, mangroves and reefs, and livelihoods in Small Island Developing States.

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (OHCHR)



◀ **PHOTO**
GETTY IMAGES

ORGANIZATION
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

COMMITMENT
UN civic space for feminist movements

TYPE & COUNTRY
International organization
GLOBAL

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Climate change affects women, men, boys and girls in different ways. Entrenched and systemic discrimination can lead to gender-differentiated impacts of climate change with respect to health, food security, livelihoods and human mobility, among other things. Intersectional forms of discrimination can make some women and girls more vulnerable to climate change, while excluding women and girls from climate action makes it less effective and further exacerbates climate harms. 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. This inclusive approach is not only a legal, ethical and moral obligation; it will also contribute to climate action that is more effective. Climate change is a human rights crisis that demands a feminist response.

In this context, OHCHR has undertaken initiatives to actively promote an open, safe and inclusive civic space for women human rights defenders (WHRDs) and movements. For example, OHCHR, working with partners including the CBD Women's Caucus, Women4Biodiversity, Women and Gender Constituency and other UN agencies, advocated for the inclusion of a stand-alone target on gender equality in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as well as language on participation, access to information and access to justice and the protection of environmental human rights defenders. The Office has contributed to discussions and activities related to the advancement of gender equality and the expansion of civic space in the context of all three Rio Conventions. OHCHR was also part of producing a Guidance note for UN Resident Coordinators and Country teams on Environmental Human Rights Defenders (2023) and has sought to highlight the voices of women environmental human rights defenders (Leading the fight for climate justice — *youtube.com*).

OHCHR has worked extensively to ensure rights-based and gender-responsive approaches to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, including through engagement with the Conferences of the Parties to the UNFCCC. OHCHR advocated for the Gender Action Plan (GAP) of the UNFCCC to ensure equal participation of women in climate change negotiations and decisions, in addition to equal representation of women in all of the work of the UNFCCC. The Office has also taken part in activities concerning gender-responsive adaptation and integration of gender in climate policies. In general, OHCHR also contributed to the integration of human rights in CSW66 outcomes.

In 2019, as mandated by the Human Rights Council, the Office published an Analytical study on the integration of a gender-responsive approach into climate action at the local, national, regional and international levels for the full and effective enjoyment of the rights of women. In the study, OHCHR found that women's unique knowledge and experience, particularly at the local level, in areas such as agriculture, conservation and the management of natural resources was critical for meaningful, effective and informed action. Relatedly, OHCHR also organized a Panel discussion on women's rights and climate change: climate action, good practices and lessons learned | OHCHR.

Previously, the Office has also produced a Briefing Note on Climate change: protecting women's rights. Jointly with UN Women and UNEP, OHCHR published the Human rights, the environment, and gender equality: Key messages (2021). The OHCHR East Africa Regional Office and the UNEP Regional Office for Africa have also produced A Study on Women, Gender Inequalities and Climate-Induced Migration in East Africa. OHCHR also supported the development and launch of the general recommendation No. 37 (2018) of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change.

PATHFINDER

ORGANIZATION
Pathfinder

COMMITMENT
Action for SRHR and Climate Justice

TYPE & COUNTRY
Civil society
GLOBAL

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▲ **PHOTO** PATHFINDER KENYA
Florence Ken, Chairperson of Fish Traders in Kaksingri Ward. With support from the Darwin Initiative and the women in her community, Florence braved the beach management unit election, vying for a role traditionally held by men — and won

The climate crisis is already here. Climate hazards like storms and extreme heat pose a direct threat to the health and livelihoods of women and girls, exacerbate existing inequalities, and add stress to already overburdened health systems. This is why women-led climate resilience is vital to Pathfinder's mission of building lasting, trusted local partnerships to strengthen health systems and forging resilient pathways to sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.

Building on our work at the nexus of health and environment, Pathfinder has developed a model that elevates women and girls as changemakers in their communities and enables them to lead resilient, local, and rights-based solutions for climate adaptation.

Leveraging a gender-transformative and rights-based approach, cross-sectoral input, and community and women's leadership — and in alignment with the FACJ Action Coalition's second priority area: Enable women and girls to lead a just transition to a green economy—Pathfinder commits to scaling this tested model more widely across its regions of operation.

In Kenya, Pathfinder took action through the Darwin Initiative: Pairing Community Conservation Areas (CCAs) with Sustainable Aquaculture in Lake Victoria project, which cultivates a new model for responsible aquaculture that safeguards native species, while ensuring long-term benefits for local communities and engaging women to serve as entrepreneurs and leaders in the fishing industry. In collaboration with Conservation International, Victory Farms, and Fauna and Flora, Pathfinder has been working with the communities surrounding Lake Victoria to foster sustainable fishing practices.

Prevailing beliefs around gender roles and societal norms often limit women's career growth — and potential for economic independence — within the fishing industry. Coupled with fewer opportunities for education and skills development and lack of access to resources and capital, women are often underrepresented, or not represented at all, in decision-making processes that impact the fisheries sector.

These inequalities feed a cycle of vulnerability and exploitation. Jaboya, or "sex for fish," is a coercive practice stemming from gender-based power imbalances, economic inequalities, and limited opportunities for women.

In an effort to mitigate some of the challenges faced by women in the fisheries sector — and chart a course toward a more equitable fishing industry where no one needs to trade sex for fish — the Darwin Initiative distributed boats to women's groups, equipping these women with the tools they needed to take steps toward economic independence and reshape traditional roles within the fishing community.

Though cultural norms typically excluded women from direct fishing activities, providing them with boats enabled them to employ men, altering the dynamics of ownership within the industry. This shift, in turn, enabled these women to claim ownership of — and profits from — the entire fish harvest.

But it takes more than a few fishing boats in the hands of women to enact meaningful change in the fisheries sector. Additional activities aimed at reducing barriers faced by women in the fishing industry include holding empowerment sessions to enhance women's agency and autonomy; enabling women to initiate income-generating activities, support their families, and reduce financial vulnerability; sensitizing communities about women's issues, gender equality, and the consequences of discrimination, and more.

PLAN INTERNATIONAL, WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA



PHOTO
PLAN INTERNATIONAL WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA
Youth Advocate

ORGANIZATION
PLAN International, West and Central Africa

COMMITMENT
Feminist Action for Climate Justice

TYPE & COUNTRY
Civil society
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The climate crisis is the greatest intergenerational injustice facing children, adolescent girls and youths today. Discriminatory social and gender norms mean that girls and young women are more affected by climate change and yet have the fewest resources to cope and build resilience. The Sahel is the epicenter of a fast-growing crisis with increasing levels of insecurity and climate shocks with resulting severe food insecurity. Girls and adolescent girls in all their diversity constitute almost 50% of the total population in West Africa; they bear the greatest brunt of the climate crisis, but are mostly absent in decision and policy making spaces.

Plan International West and Central Africa has engaged an innovative adolescent co-created Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) on the gendered impact of climate change on adolescent girls in 10 Sahel countries. The study, amongst others, focuses on the rights of adolescent girls to Inclusive Quality Education, Food Security, Protection and SRHR. Engaging adolescent girls as co-creators of this study is on the basis that their agency is widely compromised. Generic policies designed for children or young people often fail to address adolescents in all their diversity and are inadequate to guarantee the realization of their rights, worsened by lack of disaggregated data by age, sex and disability.

The study emphasizes the lived experiences of adolescent girls and young women, and how their rights are affected by the climate crisis, including how climate change intersects with other factors, such as armed conflicts and food insecurity, to exacerbate existing gender inequalities. More so, adolescent girls' voices via this research are being amplified as change agents.

This innovative study is critical to provide legitimacy for evidence-based policy frameworks and laws to address the multidimensional and intersectional nature of the impact of climate change on adolescent girls, as well as inform gender transformative climate change programming that meaningfully engages adolescents.

The following are key highlights of the preliminary findings of the research:

- Climate change induced displacements and related poverty leads to families increasingly resorting to negative coping mechanisms, such child early and forced marriages e.g. in Niger child marriage is at 76% with a climate change risk of 7.3 on a scale of 10.
- Adolescent girls affected by crisis and forced displacement are more than twice as likely to be out of school than boys.
- Girls on the move are vulnerable to sexual exploitation and abuse including during food distribution programs.
- Occurrence of FGM/C remains wide-ranging due to high levels of undetected cases during displacements; e.g. Mali 89% of FGM/C.

CONCLUSION

- Adolescent girls and young women in all their diversity remain vulnerable to deeper climate impacts and significant barriers to adapting to and coping with such impacts.
- Adolescent girls are particularly vulnerable to crises yet are also powerful change agents and part of climate solutions.
- Upholding children and girls' rights and strengthening their meaningful participation in climate decisions and action should be a priority.
- The vulnerabilities of adolescent girls in all their diversity necessitate adequate legal and policy frameworks, and adolescent co-created programmatic interventions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- States and other relevant actors should prioritize the collection and analysis of critical data; disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other aspects of diversity in order to inform the design and implementation of legal frameworks and policies,
- Stakeholders should improve representation and meaningful engagement of adolescent girls in all their diversity, in climate-related decisions and actions.

PROJECT RED
MENSTRUAL HYGIENE FRIENDLY SPACES (MHFS)

ORGANIZATION
Project Red Menstrual Hygiene Friendly Spaces (MHFS)

COMMITMENT
Green Girl Power: Sexual and reproductive health and rights of women, girls and people who menstruate through an intersectional lens of climate justice

TYPE & COUNTRY
Civil society
INDIA / GLOBAL

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▲ **PHOTO** MHFS
Facilitated by Aashraya, the girls at Kasturba Gandhi School in Lucknow are using art as a medium to promote sustainable period products

Menstrual hygiene (MH) and climate justice (CJ) are interconnected beyond personal well-being and highlight the broader socio-environmental implications. MH of individuals is intricately linked to environmental sustainability, and is urgent to address this connection for an equitable and ecologically conscious future. This is related to the environmental impact of traditional menstrual products, like plastic sanitary pads that contribute significantly to waste generation, often ending up in landfills or water bodies. Embracing eco-friendly alternatives, such as reusable menstrual products, MHFS promotes better MH in India and aligns with climate-conscious practices, reducing waste and resource consumption.

Climate change impacts MH, particularly in vulnerable communities, where extreme weather events disrupt the supply chains of menstrual products, posing threats to those relying on traditional methods like cloth. Recognising and addressing these issues is crucial. Limited awareness and cultural taboos surrounding menstruation hinder open conversations and education on sustainable menstrual practices. MHFS engages with all people with knowledge about eco-friendly options and fosters a more sustainable approach to MH.

An Indian government's recent survey highlighted that 27% of young rural women use unsanitary methods for menstrual protection, while 57% of rural women and 50% of all respondents have used cloth for menstrual protection at some point. Dasra, in their study, pointed out that close to 23 million girls drop out of school at menarche in India. After continuous lobbying for mandatory pad vending machines at all public schools to address the dropout rate of girls, which went unheard due to high costs of pads and commercial machines, Aashraya Seth, founder of MHFS, invented India's most affordable ($30) sanitary pad vending machine to dispense biodegradable pads at no cost. Working with the Uttar Pradesh government, MHFS installed these machines in over 150 spaces that are supporting 70,000+ underserved tribal menstruators and differently-abled girls in shelter homes, enabling them to continue their schooling and experience happy periods.

MHFS is addressing the problems of accessibility, affordability, education, bodily autonomy, breaking stereotypes, and sustainability in the mh sector in India.

MHFS NOW ENGAGES IN:

1. **Installing Pad Banks in public schools.** For schools in rural and tribal areas that lack electricity and resources for an expensive vending machine, Pad Banks dispense an affordable, non-electric, sustainable, biodegradable pad. These are installed in washrooms and promote bodily autonomy and access to menstrual products just like toilet paper tissue.
2. **Sustainable menstrual curriculum** to sensitise young people on the best practices of MH. Where mindsets, religious customs, and biases prevent women from discussing menstruation freely, we engage with schools in a Training of Trainers model. Beyond that, our volunteers conduct community trainings at the grassroots training over 100,000 people.
3. **Menstrual cup and cloth pad / period underwear** are sustainable options for menstruators with WASH facilities. Cloth pads are available for $1 and can be used for up to three years. Menstrual cups are $4 and can be used for up to ten years. Down to Earth reported that over 100,000 tonnes of plastic waste come from sanitary pads every year. Hence, MHFS provides affordable options to reduce individual carbon footprints, which are used by over 1000 menstruators from tribal and underserved communities.

In conclusion, the relationship between menstrual hygiene and climate justice underscores the need for holistic solutions. MHFS holistically provides a solution in the face of climate-related challenges, and addresses cultural stigmas.

PUBLIC ASSOCIATION WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION ALGA



◀ **PHOTO** OLGA DJANAEVA
Women presenting a quilt representing a visual narrative of their journey towards building a resilient community that can adapt to climate challenges and manage natural resources sustainably. These women are not just participants but active agents of change in their community, leading the way in climate adaptation efforts

ORGANIZATION
Publica Association Women's Organization Alga

COMMITMENT
Advancing Grassroots Women's Leadership

TYPE & COUNTRY
Civil Society
KYRGYZSTAN

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Public Association Women's Organization Alga is a grassroots organization launched by rural women and based in Kyrgyzstan. We are committed to empowering rural women to become leaders in their communities and advocates for environmental sustainability.

Founded in the rural area of Kyrgyzstan, where the impacts of climate change are profoundly felt through altering weather patterns, diminishing water resources, and increased land degradation, Alga recognizes the pivotal role women play in rural economies, especially in agriculture and natural resource management. Through our initiatives, we aim to bridge the gap between gender equality and climate resilience, ensuring that women are not only beneficiaries but also key actors in climate action. The mission of Alga is to improve the socio-economic status and living conditions of rural women by developing women's leadership and potential, widening opportunities for their self-realization, as well as through promotion of gender equality, strengthening women's participation in the process of sustainable development and protecting their human rights. Alga provides comprehensive support to rural women and rural communities through development of various skills, information, training, research, monitoring and data collection, development of social partnerships, and advocacy at different levels.

INNOVATIVE ACTIONS

- **Community-Based Sustainable Agriculture Programs:** Alga initiated a program to train women in sustainable agricultural practices. This initiative focuses on introducing organic farming techniques, crop diversification to ensure food security, and the use of water-efficient irrigation methods. By integration of these methods, there can be an increase in productivity and a reduction in the use of harmful pesticides, leading to healthier soils and increased biodiversity.
- **Renewable Energy Solutions for Rural Households:** Understanding the critical role of energy in achieving climate goals, Alga develops partnerships with local and international organizations to provide information and solar energy technology for rural households. This effort has not only facilitated access to clean and renewable energy sources but has also empowered women by freeing up time previously spent on heating houses and water to meet family needs, enabling them to pursue education and other economic activities. Successful experience of solar panels installed in households will demonstrate improved living conditions and reduced carbon emissions.
- **Climate Resilience and Adaptation Workshops:** Alga develops workshops and training sessions aimed at building the capacity of rural women to adapt to climate change. Topics include sustainable water management, conservation farming practices, and the creation of early warning systems for natural disasters. These workshops are designed to equip women with the necessary tools and knowledge to lead their communities in adaptation efforts, ensuring that they can sustainably manage natural resources and safeguard their livelihoods against climate shocks.

The work of Women's Organization Alga aligns with the objectives of the Feminist Action for Climate Justice (FACJ) Action Coalition by demonstrating the critical intersection of gender equality and climate action. Through our sustainable agriculture programs, renewable energy projects, and climate resilience workshops, we are not only contributing to the mitigation of climate change but also advancing the economic and social status of rural women. Our initiatives showcase how empowering women with knowledge, resources, and decision-making capabilities leads to more sustainable and equitable environmental management. Highlighting our commitment and innovative actions serves as a testament to the transformative power of integrating feminist action into climate justice efforts, generating pathways for a more resilient and sustainable future for all.

RURAL WOMEN NETWORK (RWN)

ORGANIZATION
Rural Women Network (RWN)

COMMITMENT
Empower the Women Agricultural Producers

TYPE & COUNTRY
Civil society
KENYA / EASTERN AFRICA

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▲ **PHOTO** RURAL WOMEN NETWORK, 2023
Virginia Nduta (Keekonyokie) in her recently formed kitchen garden

Supporting the livelihoods of women in pastoralist communities: Rural Women Network (RWN) is a not-for-profit grassroots women's network, operating in Kenya. RWN is a platform for rural grassroots women agricultural producers with a rich experience in climate smart agriculture. Our focus is to empower rural women agriculture producers, especially in marginalized arid and semi-arid lands (ASAL) through poverty alleviation and dignified livelihoods.

Feminist Action for Climate Justice Commitment: Empower the Women Agricultural Producers: RWN has empowered grassroots women to localize the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda in national policy frameworks. This has made rural women powerful partners in the implementation of the SDGs. Our focus is to have 30% women in leadership in five counties by 2026, enabling them to participate effectively in development. This will translate words into action by not "Leaving Rural Women and Youth Behind."

RWN also has a strong partnership with the national government, four county governments and other stakeholders leading to the empowerment of 487 women in climate smart agriculture and three commodity-based market-oriented producer cooperatives.

RELEVANT ACTIONS

- **Establishment of Livelihood Learning Centers:** RWN, with funding from the Community Resilience Fund, has established two new Livelihood Learning Centers (making a total of three). These green hubs demonstrate technologies, innovations, and production and management practices. The centers offer information on diversification of food intake, nutrition, and providing microclimate regulation. The women are trained as trainers, empowering them to share knowledge within their communities.
- **Promotion of Indigenous African Leafy Vegetables (ALVs) and Spiral Gardens:** RWN has initiated a project promoting production of indigenous African Leafy Vegetables (ALVs) due to their resilience to drought. The organization has partnered with the County Government of Kajiado to develop a 5 year ALV development strategy.
- **Supporting Livelihoods of Women in Marginalized Pastoralist Communities:** RWN's commitment aligns with the FACJ Action Coalition's priority action area of supporting the livelihoods of women in marginalized pastoralist communities.
- **Social Mobilization and Gender Empowerment:** Beyond agricultural initiatives, RWN has worked on social mobilization, capacity development, and economic independence for women. Traditional gender roles are being challenged as women gain representation in decision-making positions, including local water and education committees. RWN's approach addresses the broader context of gender empowerment, recognizing economic independence and social mobilization are integral components of climate justice.
- **Shift in Traditional Gender Roles:** RWN's efforts in social mobilization and economic empowerment contribute to the goal of gender equality. Challenging traditional gender roles and increasing women's representation in decision-making addresses the inequalities that often exacerbate the impacts of climate change.
- **Local-Led Climate Adaptation and Awareness:** RWN's approach to promoting locally-led climate adaptation aligns with an emphasis on community-driven solutions. The organization provides training and knowledge for informed decision-making.

RWN's impactful initiatives exemplify a commitment to climate justice by addressing specific challenges faced by women in marginalized pastoralist communities. Through innovative projects, the organization not only enhances resilience but also fosters empowerment, equity, and sustainable livelihoods.

SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC



▲ **PHOTO** SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC©
Empowering young minds in India through our *'Conserve my Planet'* program. Witnessing the next generation embrace sustainable and inclusive energy transition

ORGANIZATION
Schneider Electric

COMMITMENT
Accelerating women's representation & entrepreneurship

Empowering women in the energy field

TYPE & COUNTRY
Private sector
GLOBAL

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Schneider Electric and its Foundation's dedication to empowering youth for a sustainable and inclusive energy transition through the Youth Education and Entrepreneurship program is exemplary. Through initiatives like the Conserve My Planet program, the impact driven company has been instrumental in educating and inspiring young minds to become proactive impact makers in the realm of energy conservation and environmental protection.

The Conserve My Planet program, launched in India, stands out as a beacon of innovation and impact. It provides a platform for students to not only learn about crucial concepts like energy conservation and renewable energy but also to actively engage in hands-on activities that foster a deeper understanding and appreciation for environmental stewardship. By incorporating interactive workshops, classroom sessions, and outdoor activities, Schneider Electric ensures that participants emerge as true Green Ambassadors, equipped to make a tangible difference in their communities.

What sets this program apart is its unwavering commitment to gender parity. Schneider Electric's efforts to ensure that 50% of the program's participants are girls underscore its dedication to fostering inclusivity and diversity. By empowering girls from a young age, the program not only addresses the gender gap but also cultivates a new generation of female leaders in the energy and environmental sectors.

Moreover, Schneider Electric recognizes the importance of community involvement in driving sustainable change. By engaging parents, teachers, and other stakeholders, the company fosters a supportive ecosystem that encourages active participation and provides essential resources and encouragement to young participants.

The core messages of the Conserve My Planet program resonate deeply with the urgent need for action in the face of climate change. By advocating for energy conservation, responsible waste management, and the adoption of renewable energy sources, Schneider Electric empowers youth to become catalysts for positive change in their communities and beyond.

Innovative actions such as the city-level Championship provide students with a platform to showcase their creative solutions to environmental challenges, fostering a spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship among participants. Additionally, the program's focus on interactive learning methodologies and real-world application ensures that students are not only educated but also empowered to apply their knowledge in practical ways.

One remarkable success story from the program is that of Koushalya, a 7th-grade student whose innovative science model on "Aquaponics" showcased at the city-level Championship captivated audiences and demonstrated the power of creative thinking in addressing environmental challenges.

Looking ahead, Schneider Electric's ambition to expand the program and empower 120,000 Green Ambassadors by 2025 is commendable. By nurturing the next generation of sustainability leaders, the company continues to make significant strides towards achieving UN Sustainable Development Goal 13 on Climate Action.

In conclusion, Schneider Electric's commitment to youth empowerment in sustainability sets a shining example for companies worldwide. By investing in education, innovation, and community engagement, Schneider Electric is shaping a brighter, greener future for generations to come.

SPRING OF THE ARID AND SEMI-ARID LANDS (SASAL)

ORGANIZATION
Spring of the Arid and Semi-arid Lands (SASAL)

COMMITMENT
The eco-village (Enkang') model for gender equality and climate resilience for the pastoral communities of Musenke village, Kajiado county, Kenya.

TYPE & COUNTRY
Youth-led
KENYA

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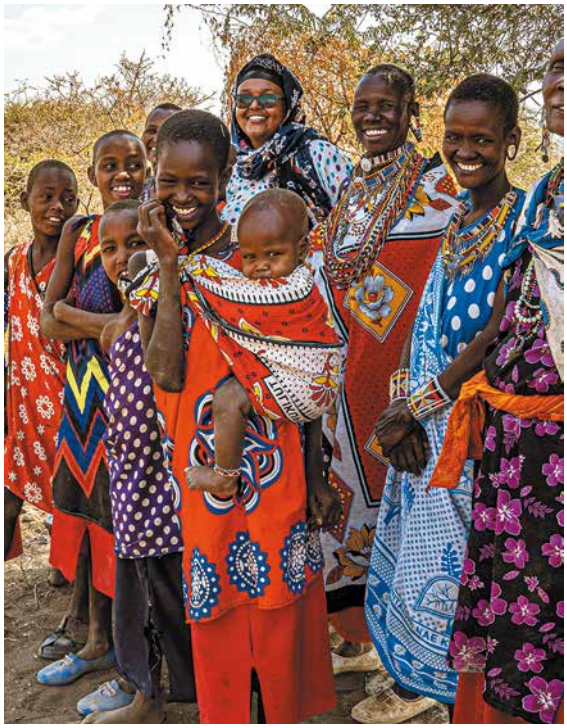


PHOTO
JIM MUOK, MEECHUM ENTERPRISES FOR SASAL
Several of the women and girls who are Eco-village beneficiaries after a training by SASAL

The pastoral community of Musenke sub-location in Kajiado County, Kenya has long experienced myriad challenges directly or indirectly attributed to changes in weather patterns, under development, marginalization, government neglect and harmful cultural/societal practices. These causal factors have resulted in multiple other problems for the community affecting health, gender equality and gender-based violence, education, economic status and land rights.

Because of these issues, Spring of the Arid and Semi-arid Lands (SASAL), a local grassroots women-led organization in Kenya, conducted a study to carefully identify and understand the root causes of gender-based violence and related issues, the extent of harm and response levels, the community's cultural practices, and economic status and willingness to accept and welcome change. The study also helped to establish baselines and statistical data, hence guiding implementation and solutions planning, as well as tracking impacts and project sustainability.

The study revealed that the most common types of GBV encountered by women and girls of the Musenke sub-location are early marriage and physical assaults, including rape. Assaults usually occur when they fetch water, collect firewood and when herding animals. Early marriage was highly related to persistent droughts. Cultural practices played a major role in driving or promoting some forms of GBV, such as physical assault, emotional abuse and FGM. Other GBV related issues are: lack of policing services, lack of access to justice channels and lack of awareness amongst community members. Women and girls from this location also lack economic status, hardly earning enough with their small businesses such as milk vending, vegetable sales and "Shuka" (textile) selling. Therefore they are unable to fend for themselves and are left at their husband's/society's mercy.

SASAL accounted for all of these factors and, together with the community, came up with a holistic solution. This is the Eco-village or the Enkang' model that employs observational learning to inspire and promote behavioral change. The model involves the building of a gender-equal, climate-resilient pastoral village run by those who wish to be society's change agents. They will in turn inspire other community members to change through their own actions. The Eco-village will also show the world how an extremely patriarchal/climate-vulnerable society can turn the tides to practice gender equality and become more environmentally sustainable. This is a model that can easily be replicated in other patriarchal and climate-burdened pastoral communities. Other aspects of the model include improved modernized Manyattas (huts), economic empowerment activities, sustainable pastoralism, improved access to water, sanitation facilities, clean energy, and cultural preservation among others. These are all geared towards addressing the challenges identified in our research.

To date, the program beneficiaries have been selected (357 people), trained and 63 women have already joined an economic empowerment program on beadwork. They've made the first batch of products which SASAL marketed and sold while investing the proceeds in their second batch, as well as attending more trainings on financial management, color coding, professional bead finishing etc. Some of the programs under the model are set to start come March 2024 (modernized manyattas, sanitation facilities, improved access to water among other programs).

TEJIENDO PENSAMIENTO



▲ **PHOTO** EDWIN CEBALLOS
Indigenous women engaged in the project *Women Weaving in Science.* Rio Nambi Nature Reserve. Ricaurte

ORGANIZATION
Tejiendo Pensamiento

COMMITMENT
Knowing to Converse
Food Sovereignty

TYPE & COUNTRY
Youth-led
COLOMBIA

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Indigenous women possess invaluable knowledge in the management of natural resources due to their daily contact with biodiversity and are responsible for transmitting knowledge to their children through shagra (cultivation system), the use of plants in rituals and ceremonies, and agricultural practices. They are also responsible for the preparation and preservation of food. Therefore, they are essential in the conservation of ecosystems and continuing the oral education of future generations. Because of this, it is necessary to invest in capacity building programmes and exchange of experiences that involve them in planning processes related to biodiversity and climate.

For this reason, Tejiendo Pensamiento — an indigenous women youth-led organization in Nariño, Colombia — developed a community science programme called "Women Weaving in Science" for indigenous women from the Great Pastos Territory. This initiative involved the participation of 20 young women leaders, students, scholars and researchers from 6 communities through a hybrid training of four (4) modules.

Delivered by highly qualified professionals, it includes one (1) on-site camp, three (3) workshops on self-care and collective care and one (1) field study on birds. The programme aims to eliminate the gender digital divide and recognise young indigenous women's participation in climate action, and enables them to influence environmental and gender policy frameworks within institutions. For example, participation in the Regional Youth Summit on Climate Change, United Nations Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change.

The programme also strengthens initiatives that are led by women in STEM areas. In this sense, the field study "Avifauna monitoring as a social endorsement of biodiversity", recorded 55 species of birds, some of which are categorized as threatened according to the Red Book of Birds of Colombia and IUCN. The next step was to combine efforts to monitor biodiversity and design conservation plans. It is worth noting that this is the first monitoring carried out in an area of 3 hectares belonging to an indigenous family, whose mission is to conserve and preserve the Páramos ecosystems.

Another fundamental programme element was workshops on "Self-care and collective care for indigenous women", which made visible the effects of the climate crisis on women's bodies as well as the territory due to the reduction of natural resources, including access to water, land, forests and seeds. This reduction has led to the loss of knowledge associated with ancestral agricultural practices.

And, there is a need to increase the production of data on the gender-environment nexus for policy formulation, which is articulated in the FACJ Action Coalition's priority action areas. The last workshop focused on the use of digital platforms, piloting the WOMER app, a tool that helps indigenous women to collect and analyse data on gender and climate change from a decolonial approach, ensuring self-determination and data governance. This makes visible the fact that Pastos women have no say in community decisions, land ownership and ethnobotanical knowledge.

Currently, Tejiendo Pensamiento is planning Phase II, focusing on the use of WOMER to be led by the 20 women in the project to collect more rigorous data. re-training in data analysis takes place in 2024.

THE ELDERS

ORGANIZATION
The Elders

COMMITMENT
Advocacy for a Green and Gender Just Recovery
Advocacy for Adaptation Funding

TYPE & COUNTRY
Civil society
UNITED KINGDOM / GLOBAL

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▲ **PHOTO** THE ELDERS

The Elders long-term objectives under the climate crisis programme are positioned to complement their Feminist Action for Climate Justice Action Coalition (FACJ) commitments. These include strengthening global solidarity mechanisms to support the most vulnerable, and aligning public and private finance with global climate and nature goals, whilst raising diverse and feminist voices and concerns.

In July 2023, Mary Robinson, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Graça Machel were in Kigali to participate in the Women Deliver Conference. Their main objectives were to engage and amplify women leaders in the Global South while stressing the intersecting nature of the climate crisis as a central concern for women leaders of all fields. At the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) and FACJ panel, Mary Robinson addressed grassroots feminist leaders, speaking of weaving climate into all feminist mobilisation to advance global green recovery that centres women and girls.

Graça Machel's keynote speech at the Women Deliver Special Plenary, sharing Elders experiences and reflecting on today's impediments to women's leadership, received wide acclaim and was highlighted by BBC News Rwanda, All Africa and Devex. The Elders' own social media posts received over 2.6k engagements and notable women-led groups also echoed Elders' calls to phaseout oil, coal and gas. With organisers estimating over 6000 participants attended, and around 100,000 joined virtually, Elders were able to reach a wide audience in calling for the advancement of a global green and just recovery.

At the Africa Climate Summit (ACS), Graça Machel participated in events empowering African women as prominent players in adaptation strategies. She conversed with women and youth on climate solutions and negotiations. Graça Machel's ACS interventions linked to both FACJ commitments. She spoke to the BBC, illustrating the need to increase feminist and African leadership in tackling the climate crisis. An op-ed in The Guardian urged for more adaptation funding reached approx. 3.53 million. Climate leaders appreciated her timely comments on clean energy investment.

Throughout 2023, Elders supported the Climate Youth Negotiator Programme (CYNP), an initiative offering capacity building for youth UNFCCC negotiators. Sessions ahead of COP28 benefited over 200 individuals in over 50 countries. Mary Robinson and Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein shared their insights into international negotiation processes. Graça Machel held a mentoring session with young African negotiators during the ACS, sharing her experiences engaging in multilateral negotiations as an African woman. Elders received feedback that their CYNP participation gave young negotiators greater confidence and skills.

Ahead of COP28, and aligned with the second commitment, Elders launched a digital hub featuring trailblazing young climate actors. Mary Robinson consistently pushed for support for women's leadership in the climate sphere during public and private engagements in 2023. Her concerns on lack of gender inclusion were heard by COP28 President designate, Sultan Al Jaber, who agreed to participate in an online summit organised by She Changes Climate to promote gender inclusion. The Elders' COP28 objectives exemplified both their FACJ commitments – centring voices, needs and solutions of women, youth and Indigenous communities in the final text and decision-making spaces. Whilst outcomes were not as hoped, Elders helped raise ambition.

THE SOLUTIONS PROJECT, USA



▲ **PHOTO** KEN SCHELS
Grantee partner: NY Renews

ORGANIZATION
The Solutions Project, USA

COMMITMENT
Accelerating Women of Color Led Climate Solutions Through Scaled Financing & Visibility

TYPE & COUNTRY
Philanthropy and Civil Society
UNITED STATES

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The Solutions Project's work recognizes that leaders of color—especially women—are closest to the problems caused by climate change, and are forging the way in bold and imaginative responses to the climate crisis. But their work is under-resourced and under-recognized. The Solutions Project funds and amplifies their solutions, and builds their power to advance an equitable and regenerative economy.

Working in solidarity with grassroots movements, The Solutions Project's award-winning grant and narrative programs support hundreds of women-led, Black, Indigenous, immigrant, and other people of color-led organizations across the USA to create holistic solutions that improve lives, inform policy, and shift culture. Our work recognizes that it is these women of color frontline leaders who are at the forefront of designing and implementing equitable climate solutions at the community level.

The Solutions Project makes grants primarily to women of color-led organizations with a focus on those operating on less than $500,000 annual budgets. This grantmaking propels the transition to a just and regenerative economy and fortifies community preparedness, resilience and response to climate-instigated disasters. The Solutions Project also provides significant communications capacity to frontline organizations to amplify their work and shift public narratives on climate change. This dual pronged strategy of investment and amplification turbo-charges the capacity of frontline organizations to instigate systemic change and puts women and communities of color at the forefront of the climate response. Our work not only reduces pollution and tackles root causes of climate change and systemic racism, but improves health, economic and social outcomes within the most vulnerable communities, improving millions of lives. In 2023 the organization supported over 125 grantees through direct grantmaking and an additional 52 organizations through independent ecosystem and frontline-led funds it co-developed and administers with partners.

The Solutions Project's three year Generation Equality commitment, made in September 2023, is to mobilize and grant $30 Million to frontline grass-roots organizations - primarily led by women of color - working to develop and scale community level climate solutions in their own communities. This investment will be paired with communications and narrative tools to accelerate and amplify their solutions.

Further innovative steps being taken by The Solutions Project as part of its commitment include:

- The establishment of a comprehensive climate disaster response, preparedness and resilience strategy, with a specific lens towards the needs and leadership of women.
- Pilot work to map, understand and fund grantree partner work on climate migration.
- Grantee and organizational communication to uplift the climate solutions of grassroots partners and to elevate the impact of federal investments in climate solutions.

This commitment reinforces the following priorities of the Feminist Action for Climate Justice Action Coalition:

- Increase Direct Access to Financing for Gender-Just Climate Solutions, In Particular for Women and Girls at the Grassroots Level
- Enable Women and Girls to Lead a Just Transition to a Green Economy
- Build the Resilience of Women and Girls to Climate Impacts, Disaster Risks, Loss and Damage.

In 2023 the organization supported over 125 grantees through direct grantmaking and an additional 52 organizations through independent ecosystem and frontline-led funds it co-developed and administered with partners.

TREMENDAS

ORGANIZATION
Tremendas

COMMITMENT
Academia Climáticas / Climate Academy

TYPE & COUNTRY
Civil society
LAC BASED IN CHILE

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▲ **PHOTO** TREMENDAS
Volunteers from Tremendas painting a canvas to be used in the International Women's Day march. March 8, 2023

Tremendas, an organization based in Chile dedicated to empowering girls, adolescents, and young women, operates through a movement rooted in informed activism, collective leadership, intersectionality, and sisterhood. With a focus on achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Latin America and the Caribbean, Tremendas emphasizes the perspective of rights, progressive autonomy, and intergenerational dialogue. This transformative movement, known as the girls' movement, aims to break knowledge barriers through innovative academies and addresses climate change by empowering girls with technical skills and conflict resolution capabilities.

In response to the environmental crisis, Tremendas launched Climáticas in 2021, an initiative providing gender-focused environmental education. Emphasizing local solutions, Climáticas nurtures a new generation of environmental leaders through collective action. Acknowledging that girls are not just the future but also the present, Climáticas moves beyond rhetoric to tangible actions.

The organization supports girls leading climate initiatives, fostering triple-impact projects for sustainable development. By 2023, Tremendas has trained over 1,700 leaders aged 12 to 25 from 19 countries, emphasizing environmental knowledge and community action.

Simultaneously, Tremendas works with committed volunteers to drive broader social transformation. Through the first Advocacy Academy in 2023, the organization empowered volunteers with leadership, negotiation, and political advocacy skills. This initiative aims to express the dreams and concerns of girls and young women in Chile, paving the way for a Tremendous Society.

The National Consultation of Girls, involving nearly 4,000 participants, provided a platform for girls in Chile to voice their concerns. Covering 82% of the country's communes, the consultation amplified the voices of those in extreme territories often excluded from participatory processes.

Resulting from these efforts, the 10 Proposals of Girls and Young Women were formulated. These proposals address universal access to quality education, comprehensive sex education, environmental education as a climate solution, transition to a sustainable economy, civic education, sexual and reproductive rights, mental health awareness, a life free from violence and discrimination, gender-inclusive justice, and universal access to technology.

Presented in public hearings before the Chilean constitutional plenary in 2023, these proposals were incorporated into the draft of the final proposal voted on December 17. They were also shared with government authorities, including the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Women and Gender Equity.

Going beyond the 2023 constituent process, the 10 proposals seek a new social and political treatment of childhood and youth. Tremendas actively pursues a new generation of female leaders, welcoming 159 girls from the 2023 Generation. With over 400 members in Chile and 1700 worldwide, Tremendas is recognized as the largest girls' movement in the region.

The organization concluded the year with Founder Julieta Martínez receiving recognition as one of the 21 leaders for the planet by El País and CAF, the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, further highlighting the impactful work of Tremendas in advancing gender equality and sustainable development.



▲ **PHOTO** TREMENDAS
Tremendas gathered under the slogan *'Never again without us. Girls present, Tremendas incidents.'* March 8, 2023

URGENT ACTION FUND AFRICA (UAF-AFRICA)



▲ **PHOTO** FREEPIC.COM

ORGANIZATION
Urgent Action Fund Africa (UAF-Africa)

COMMITMENT
Resourcing Feminist Movements

TYPE & COUNTRY
Philanthropy
KENYA / AFRICA

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Generation Equality Forum (GEF) was established to accelerate its targets from 2021 to 2026. UAF-Africa made commitments to mobilise funds up to $2,000,000 in this period to track progress across Africa around the commitments from national governments and other stakeholders towards GEF. This commitment encapsulates and funds women of all diversities in order to hold governments accountable towards the fulfilment of women's rights in the areas of climate and environment, economy, SRHR/GBV and women activists. The example below depicts one funded group that demonstrated their advocacy strategy skills, thereby compelling the government to attend to their demand for water provisions which restored sanitation services.

In 2022, UAF-Africa supported Human Rights for Women and Girls with Disabilitiesy (WAG-Disability Rights) in Malawi in order to address gender violence against women, especially women and girls with disabilities resulting from lack of access to clean water. This was part of the quest for water justice for women and girls with disabilities, who encounter more difficulties when searching for water, such as being forced to travel long distances in search of water for both domestic and drinking purposes. The group advocated for potable and clean water for women with disabilities by engaging with local leaders to develop rules that would enable the following: protect the community against unnecessary tree-felling activities that eventually cause drought and difficulty in accessing water, holding dialogues with government departments in charge of water supply in order to cease water resource privatization efforts, providing water access to women with disabilities, and engaginged women and girls with disabilities to enhance solidarity through water justice campaigns and collective amplified voices.

WAG-Disability Rights's intervention led to increased awareness about the barriers hindering access to safe water by women, especially women and girls with disabilities. Local leaders committed to spreading their advocacy to government authorities to support the establishment of safe water sources that are favorable and accessible tofor women and girls with disabilities. And they agreed to draft rules to protect these water sources, particularly through tree planting.

To date over 100 women and girls with disabilities can access clean water provided by the government. Also,, over 300 tree seedlings were distributed to the communities where women and girls with disabilities live. These were planted as a means of conserving the water resources in times of drought.

Additionally, over 50 households of women and girls with disabilities were found to access the clean water sources, a development never experienced before. And local leaders have appreciated the need to involve women and girls with disabilities in decision making processes to enable their voices to be heard as a way of protecting their human rights. Finally, there's a reported reduction in cases of gender-based violence amongst women, especially those with disabilities, as they no longer need to travel long distances to access water, hence limiting their exposure to violence.

VILLAGE FARMERS INITIATIVE (VFI)

ORGANIZATION
Village Farmers Initiative (VFI)

COMMITMENT
Advancing Climate Change Adaptation Solutions and Women's Economic Empowerment

TYPE & COUNTRY
Civil society
NIGERIA

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▲ **PHOTO** ASIKARALU OKAFOR
Empowering women smallholder farmers.

Most global, regional and national policies in climate change adaptation call for building women's economic and environmental resilience. But the reality is that women are turned into agricultural laborers rather than farmers in their own rights and are the worst hit whenever any climate event occurs. Women make up to 43% of the smallholder farmers that catalyze our rural economies, but they have less access to credit, education, land ownership, high quality inputs, and rural extension services than their male counterparts. Beyond the smallholder farmers, women work throughout the agricultural value chain and related endeavors to produce over half of all the food that is grown and consumed. But due to gender-specific social norms, they use fewer productive inputs resulting in yields that are 20-30 percent lower than that of men.

Even when climate interventions funds and programs are provided by the government and donors, they hardly get to the most vulnerable women and youth smallholder farmers.

Social norms also form barriers, constrain women from accessing credit to buy land or traveling to sell produce at more profitable markets to advance their farming careers even when local laws and policies are inclusive.

Village Farmers Initiative's vision is to preserve indigenous food heritages with culturally appropriate and regenerative agricultural practices for achieving human, economic and environmental resilience and sustainability.

In response to the problem of the most vulnerable population of women and youth, VFI started a project on "taking climate actions for women's economic empowerment". This Community-based project leverages traditional ecological knowledge to provide economic and psychosocial support for women and youth from the socially and economically disadvantaged communities in Nigeria.

Our overall goal is to reduce hunger, depression, stress, anxiety and increase effective climate-risk management techniques while building a more resilient people, economy and environment. VFI also assesses risks of gender-based violence on women and girls in flood ravaged communities and provides adequate support for women and youth smallholder farmers /fishers on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

VFI advocates for a gender responsive approach in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of national, regional and global policies and programs delivering solutions to help indigenous women to have meaningful roles. We employ more women in our agricultural projects and give them the support they need to become more productive and resilient.

We assist in improving the wellbeing of their families by changing the way we provide climate adaptation solutions. We also help women smallholder farmers transcend stereotypes and reach their full potential.

WILD HEART KENYA



ORGANIZATION
Wild Heart Kenya

COMMITMENT
Implementation of nature climate mitigation and restoration

TYPE & COUNTRY
Women and youth-led
KENYA

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▲ **PHOTO** FAZEELA MUBARAK
Fazeela Mubarak at Msorongo Primary School doing a sanitary pad distribution. The school borders the Tsavo migratory corridor and most of the children here are from families affected by climate change

Wild Heart Kenya is a women and youth-led group that was formed to support communities and wildlife affected by the climate crisis with a focus on women and children. Our work intersects with the UN Sustainable Development Goals of No Poverty, Gender Equality, Clean Water and Sanitation, Climate Action, and Life on Land. Our grassroots work focuses on restoration, whilst supporting communities affected by the climate crisis, climate education and supporting girls affected by period poverty.

Our efforts align with the FACJ Action Coalition blueprint framework intended to empower and maximize the potential of diverse women and girls. Our primary objectives involve strengthening resilience to climate and disaster risks and mitigating climate change. Our focus area is the Coastal and Southwestern regions of Kenya, where we actively engage with women, children, and young girls from marginalized communities. Through our initiatives, we have successfully restored over 10,000 trees, provided support to 1,500 girls affected by period poverty, and imparted climate education to 100 children. These achievements underscore our commitment to making a positive impact on the environment and the lives of those in need within our targeted communities.

Over the next 3 years, our strategic plan will focus on gender equality, alleviating poverty, and curbing biodiversity loss by addressing the impacts of climate change on women. Our climate mitigation model, which is focused on nature restoration, aims to plant 20,000 trees, thereby contributing to the restoration of forests and enhancing green cover in communities affected by the climate crisis. We will also embark on climate education for 300 children in rural schools, enabling them to become advocates for their communities.

In our commitment to gender equality, we are determined to support 1,000 girls affected by period poverty, recognizing the intersectionality of climate change — due to issues like diminished access to clean water — and its disproportionate impact on vulnerable groups. This approach not only empowers women affected by climate change but also involves girls and young women with limited access to green spaces, fostering inclusivity and equality.

By combining these efforts, we are confident we will make an impact in promoting gender equality, reducing poverty, and contributing to the preservation of biodiversity, all of which will address the challenges brought about by climate change.

WOMEN ENGAGE FOR A COMMON FUTURE (WECF)

ORGANIZATION
Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF)

COMMITMENT
Gender-Just Climate Programmes

TYPE & COUNTRY
Civil society
GLOBAL

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▲ **PHOTO** ANNABELLE AVRIL / WECF

Trupti Jain speaking at the mentoring training for previous and new Gender Just Climate Solutions Award Winners during COP28 (peer-to-peer learning)

We know that the solutions to a more climate just future already exist – and they are feminist. However, gender just climate solutions often remain unrecognised and underfunded, and feminist voices continue to be underrepresented in climate decision-making. That is why Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF) supports local feminist organisations with strengthening capacity, implementing and upscaling gender just climate solutions, and promotes the participation of women in all their diversity in climate decision-making processes, from the local to the international level.

Through the Gender Just Climate Solutions Awards — jointly organised by WECF and the Women and Gender Constituency — we identify and celebrate the most outstanding grassroots climate actions that centre women's leadership and gender-equality. The three winners are invited to attend the climate negotiations, granted a monetary prize, and receive year-round mentoring support. The yearly celebration at the Climate Conference (COP) puts a spotlight on these amazing cross-cutting initiatives and showcases how these actions can be replicated and scaled with the right support.

One of these long-term success stories is the 2018 Technical Solutions winner: Trupti Jain, from Naireeta Services, India. With their innovative, endogenous, rainwater storage technology, named A, Naireeta's team helps save farmers' crops from climate disasters like monsoon heavy floodings and ensure adequate irrigation during droughts. The women farmers who co-own a Bhungroo are trained to build and maintain the systems, as well as to better understand climate challenges. With doubled harvests and incomes, and through their role as Women Climate Leaders, they gain decision-making power and take on leadership roles in community governance. Thanks to the provided mentoring support and with the help of the Gender Just Climate Solutions Scale Fund — a collective FACJ Action Coalition commitment led by WEDO, WECF, WEP, FEMNET and members of the WGC* —, Trupti is now working on deploying the technology to several countries in Africa.

It is time to upscale feminist climate solutions — like Trupti's — far and wide, and demand that feminist voices are represented at climate decision-making spaces.

*** ABBREVIATIONS OF ORGANISATIONS**

- **WEDO:** Women's Environment and Development Organisation
- **WEP:** Women Environmental Programme
- **FEMNET:** The African Women's Development and Communications Network
- **WGC:** Women and Gender Constituency

WOMEN ORGANIZING FOR CHANGE IN AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (WOCAN)



PHOTOS LARISSA DOMINGUEZ FUENTES

▲ Women farmers and entrepreneurs from Salgara village, India, engaging in dialogue to develop an activity profile for gender analysis



▲ Local women from Osmanabad, India, exposing the results of group discussions on the institutional profile for gender analysis

ORGANIZATION

Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)

COMMITMENT

Scaling up impact using the W+ Standard

TYPE & COUNTRY

Civil society

GLOBAL

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WOCAN calls for institutions funding climate action to recognize and reward women's organizations, crucial for biodiversity restoration and climate resilience, which oftentimes lack resources for climate adaptive responses. Our FACJ Action Coalition commitment is making a difference with the W+ Standard.

The W+ Standard and credits present an innovative solution to address women's empowerment in climate, agriculture, and natural resource projects. The W+ Standard provides a comprehensive framework to both measure and verify the advancement of women, and reward them via a market-based mechanism (W+ credits), thereby ensuring environmental benefits while fostering sustainable development.

Women have long been underrepresented in such projects, particularly in the global south, where they face issues such as limited financial support, inequitable benefit sharing, and exclusion from leadership roles. This presents a conundrum as women are on the frontline of climate change mitigation and adaptation, playing a vital role in offering unique perspectives, expertise, and problem-solving capabilities. Evidence also shows that empowering women in leadership positions within projects is a catalyst for better and more sustainable outcomes[1].

The W+ Standard was recently applied to a project of the Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) in Maharashtra, India. The project, Women-led Community Resilient Local Governance (wCOREL), focuses on climate-resilient farming and regenerative agriculture entirely through women's organizations and collectives. It promotes sustainable community development by repositioning women as change makers and fostering collective leadership. Across 500 villages and districts, it aids women and girls from poor communities, smallholder marginalized farming households, landless households, and women-headed households by providing orientation and support for women farmers, workshops on climate-resilient farming models, and leadership initiatives to expand women's participation in decision-making and governance spaces.

The project implements the W+ Standard to measure and verify women's empowerment using two of its domains: Education & Knowledge and Leadership. As of January 2024, the project generated close to 1 million W+ credits. Given the current market value of USD20 per credit and a stipulation that a minimum 20% of revenue from the sale of credits be returned to women in the project, women's organizations should see an inflow of significant and much needed income. This will help them to finance their own self-determined solutions for climate resilient infrastructure, create alternative, women-led agriculture value chains, and gain economic empowerment and access to land rights and assets.

The wCOREL project serves as a compelling case study showcasing the holistic approach and tangible outcomes of the W+ Standard and credits. Through its innovative and transparent market-based mechanism, it is a crucial financial resource for women at the grassroots level and validates the impact that a focus on leadership and community organizing has for bringing significant changes to rural women's lives in their fight against climate change.

By addressing a new awareness around levels of gender blindness in agriculture and environmental organizations implementing Nature-Based Solutions, the W+ Standard has upgraded requirements. Project developers must now demonstrate intentionality through a Gender Action Plan or Women's Empowerment Plan. The standard has also increased attention to allegations of gender-based violence in its Do No Harm indicators. Gender bias often excludes women from impactful activities in reducing GHG emissions, improving agriculture and restoring ecosystems. The new requirements incentivize behavioral change among project developers, supporting solutions that leverage women's roles for climate mitigation and adaptation.

1. https://dt-global.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/asean-integrating-gender-into-vcms-volume-iii-final-1.pdf

Thank you

Thank you to the teams of *Women Health Climate*, *UN Women's Economic Empowerment Section* and *Generation Equality* who made it possible to share these *Stories of Change*. We also want to acknowledge the dedication, time and efforts of each contributing FACJ Action Coalition commitment maker to this publication, as well as the FACJ Action Coalition leaders.

These 55 stories highlight just a portion of the over 200 commitments made to the coalition by over 150 organizations. To learn more about the FACJ Action Coalition and all of its commitment makers, please visit the online "Action Coalitions Commitments Dashboard" and the Directory.

Here you can more broadly explore the work of all of the Generation Equality Forum Action Coalitions and the Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action in more depth, as well.



GENERATION EQUALITY

FEMINIST ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE
ACTION COALITION