

# Factsheet for young people

## CLIMATE ADAPTATION IN AFRICA

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## Gender

5 GENDER EQUALITY



**The climate crisis is not gender-neutral, and neither should our adaptation efforts be.**

Women and men experience different levels of exposure, vulnerability and resilience to climate risk and climate change impacts due to differences in rights, responsibilities, and opportunities. Social norms compound these constraints by restricting women's freedom of movement, choice and voice. Women experience differing vulnerabilities due to differences in workload, in access to and control over resources, and participation in decision-making.

Women's vulnerability differs not only because of gender, but also ethnicity, religion, class, location and age.

### MAIN BARRIERS TO RESOLVING GENDER INEQUALITIES



Masculine discourses shaping climate change debates



Deep-rooted sociocultural inequalities



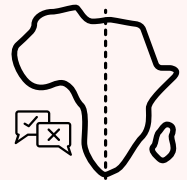
Underrepresentation of women in policy- and decision-making processes



Lack of understanding of structural gender inequalities

### KEY NUMBERS

In half of African countries, the proportion of women in political decision-making was still below 20% as of 2020



At the international level, women make up less than 40% of those attending intersessional and Conference of the Parties (COP) meetings. This is largely because climate change debates have been shaped by stereotypically masculine discourses that exclude or alienate women and their concerns in climate change issues.

10 countries have developed gender and climate change plans in recent years, of which half are in Africa: Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania and Zambia.



Most countries do not have gender-sensitive climate policies.

13% of women in Sub-Saharan Africa claim sole ownership of land, compared to 36% of men



A lack of property and land tenure rights make women vulnerable to climate change, forcing them to work on less productive land and hampering the diversification of their livelihoods.

## GOOD PRACTICES: YOUTH-LED ADAPTATION SOLUTIONS

### Composting and weeds management training for women small holder farmers in lubumbashi

By Marondji Bukoko Pacy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Climate change impacts such as low rainfall are causing reduced crop yields in Lubumbashi in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, leading to insecurity of income and food provision for many households. Marondji Bukoko Pacy, a trainee of GCA's Online Executive Training for Young Women Leadership on Climate Adaptation, aims to tackle these challenges and improve the life conditions of young women in her local community. This project tackles soil degradation caused by extensive mining and improves water efficiency by training 50 women smallholder farmers. The project is expected to improve food security through climate-smart agriculture, supporting green job creation and climate adaptation. Moreover, this project will foster the capacity of women small-holder farmers and housewives to generate their own income and sustain their households for thriving livelihoods, contributing to gender equality and an inclusive economy.

To find out more visit [www.marzcompost.com/](http://www.marzcompost.com/)



### Online executive training – young women leadership on climate adaptation

The Online Executive Training – Young

Women Leadership on Climate Adaptation empowers young women across Africa to unleash their full potential and capabilities to contribute to and drive adaptation solutions. The pilot cycle trained 30 young women from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Zimbabwe who cultivated their potential for innovation by developing micro adaptation projects focused on agriculture and food security, gender empowerment and water management, fostering their leadership skills and making their communities more climate resilient. The training contributed to building young women's leadership in climate adaptation through delivering adaptation education, coaching for adaptation project management, and providing networking skills and opportunities.

More information on the Online Executive Training is available [here](#).



## KEY POLICY MESSAGES

### It is important to be sensitive to gender issues when preparing for and responding to climate change.

To this end, there are a number of proven, promising and innovative strategies that can be used to take into account women's and men's respective capacities, power, social resilience, vulnerabilities and resources as a consequence of gender norms, roles and relations.

**It is crucial to have women represented in decision-making at all levels** in order to be able to influence innovative, sustainable solutions to climatic challenges. Gender balance in national delegations to the UNFCCC (the UN climate regime) should be encouraged and women supported to maximize their voice, confidence and negotiation skills while 'at the table'.

**It is essential to promote women's access to knowledge** related to climate change across all the relevant sectors and strengthen women's decision-making abilities. This will enable them to develop sustainable climate resilience practices and promote gender-sensitive development sector projects.

**More funding at grassroots levels will help empower women.** In addition, gender and climate policies and practice need to be strengthened in climate funding instruments at all levels.

**To track progress, it is essential to develop tools/methodologies/guidelines and indicators for the monitoring, reporting and verification** of the development and implementation of gender-responsive climate policies.

**Governments need support to build their capacity to integrate gender** into national adaptation and mitigation plans, and into sectoral plans and programs through training in gender-responsive policy analysis, policy development, planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.



**Women in Africa are heavily reliant on environment-related livelihoods.** They tend to work in the informal economy, and in low value-added activities that reap marginal returns, making them vulnerable to climate change effects. Here are some ways in which climate change specifically impacts women:

**Climate change will add an additional burden to women's time, especially in the rural part of Africa.**

Water, energy and food shortages, caused in part by climate change, result in time-consuming labour as well as increased costs on the part of women and girls as they must travel further and pay more to collect these resources.



**Women's opportunities for empowerment are limited by an increase in time allotted to domestic activities** as a result of climate change.

Domestic activities limit the time women and girls have to engage in public decision-making, attend meetings, develop and incorporate income-generating strategies into their households, and take part in education and community activities.



**Extreme weather events can leave women vulnerable, owing to lack of reproductive health services, sanitation and clean water.**

In Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe, of the almost two million people affected by Cyclone Idai in 2019, close to 75,000 pregnant women were left vulnerable.

**When climate change leads to shortages of food, cultural norms may lead to greater malnutrition among girls and women.**

For example, women are expected to eat only once they have fed their families, which affects the share of food they receive.



**The gender digital gap in mobile phone ownership and internet use,**

as well as other information and communications technology, is significant in Sub-Saharan Africa. A woman is 13% less likely to own a mobile phone than a man.



**Women's limited access to productive assets and services compromises their adaptive capacity.**

It means that they cannot access credit to finance climate-smart agriculture innovations and have little access to services that could help facilitate investments to obtain new technologies, improve their natural resource management practices, or adopt more efficient and productive cropping and livestock management practices.



## MORE INFORMATION

### GCA's Youth Leadership & Education Program

The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) is a solutions-broker for adaptation action. The Youth Leadership & Education Program aims to make young people central to driving the adaptation agenda.

### Factsheets for young people

This factsheet is part of a series that presents information from GCA's flagship reports State and Trends in Adaptation in Africa 2021 and 2022. It aims to disseminate key adaptation information to young people and showcase youth-led adaptation action from across Africa.

The factsheets are produced under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Patrick Verkooijen Chief Executive Officer of GCA, and the authors of State and Trends' reports Dr. Ede Ijjasz-Vásquez and Dr. Jamal Saghir.

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