

RECOMMENDATIONS

SRHR and Climate Action



INTRODUCTION:

- **The climate crisis negatively impacts **SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**** and the ability to realize fundamental human rights.
- Climate change is a **multiplier of existing health vulnerabilities and is a major threat to the vision of human-centred sustainable development**, as outlined in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) as well as the 2030 Agenda. Climate change is not gender neutral; it disproportionately affects the most vulnerable **WOMEN AND GIRLS**.
- **GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) AND CHILD MARRIAGE** are known to **increase in times of insecurity and increased vulnerability**.
- True climate justice is not possible without considering **GENDER EQUALITY** – and true gender equality is only possible when sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) **are fully realized**.



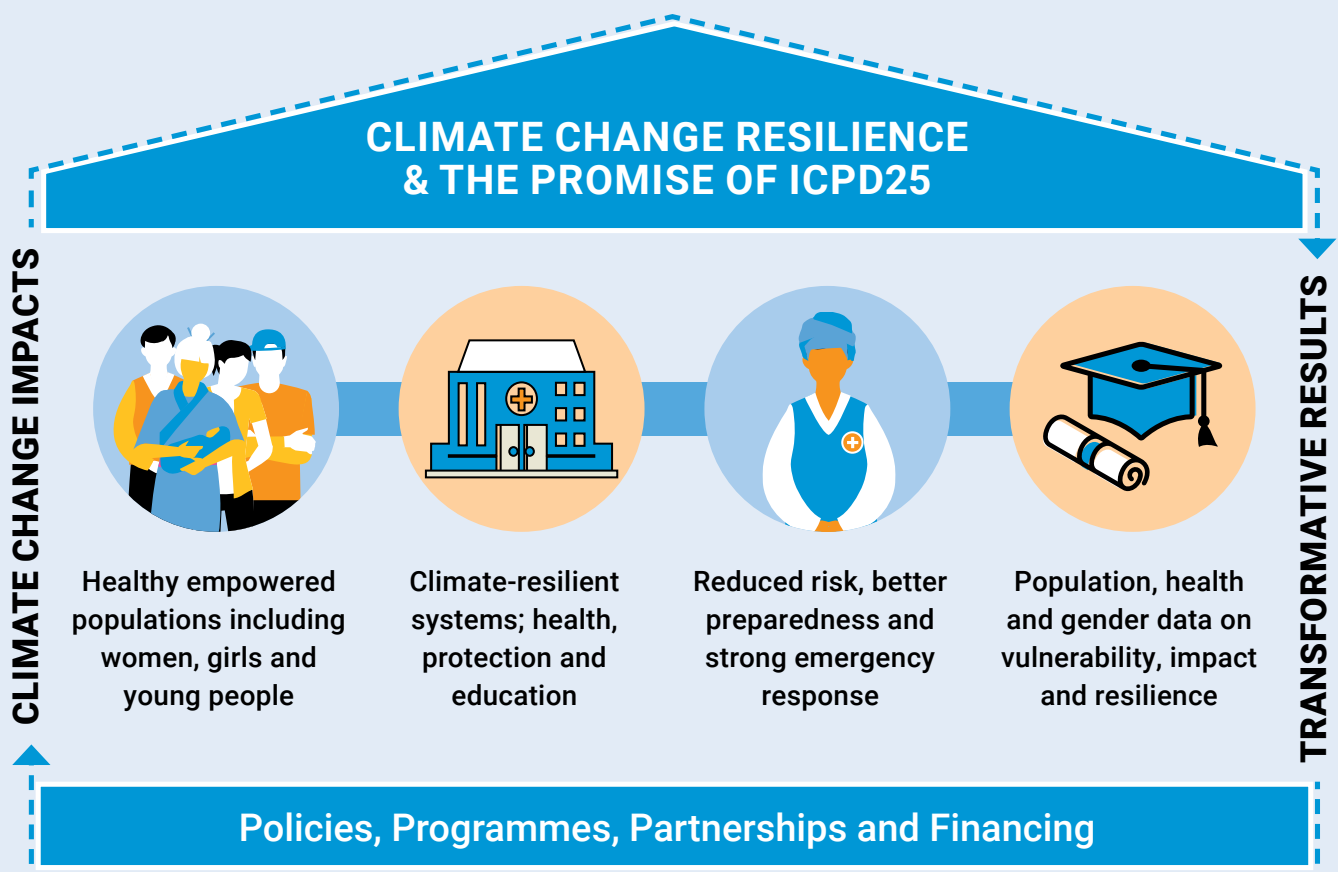
RECOMMENDATIONS:

1

Addressing SRHR and climate adaptation linkages relies heavily on a multi-pronged approach that aims to ensure healthy and empowered populations, including women and young people; integration of SRHR in climate-resilient health, protection, and education systems; risk reduction and emergency response, as well as vulnerability assessments and disaggregated data.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- We need to strengthen **INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE** by investing in a healthy, educated and empowered population, and address and fulfil people's sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- We need to respond to climate impacts by strengthening **HEALTH SYSTEMS**, including SRHR services, and ensuring stronger protection services for GBV response.
- We need to ensure **BETTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN EMERGENCIES** and meet the SRHR needs of those impacted, displaced and at risk of climate crises.
- We need **STRONGER DATA SYSTEMS FOR CLIMATE VULNERABILITY AND ADAPTIVE CAPACITY**. Climate-related vulnerability assessments and action must be informed by disaggregated population, health and gender data to reflect the multiple and differentiated impacts of the climate crisis, including assessment of the impact on SRHR.



RECOMMENDATIONS:

2

Climate change disproportionately affects vulnerable and marginalized individuals and communities, and therefore, an intersectional approach that explicitly considers existing barriers and inequalities is needed to promote the full realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights, with corresponding benefits for climate adaptation and resilience. People who already face barriers to fulfilling their SRHR needs are often disproportionately affected by climate change. Factors related to identity and social position are experienced as overlapping and intersecting drivers of marginalization. An intersectional approach is essential to tackle existing inequalities in SRHR and to maximize the power of SRHR to help build adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change.

RECOMMENDATION:

- **WE NEED TO ADDRESS** the underlying patterns of inequality and integrate SRHR in adaptation response to strengthen resilience to climate change.



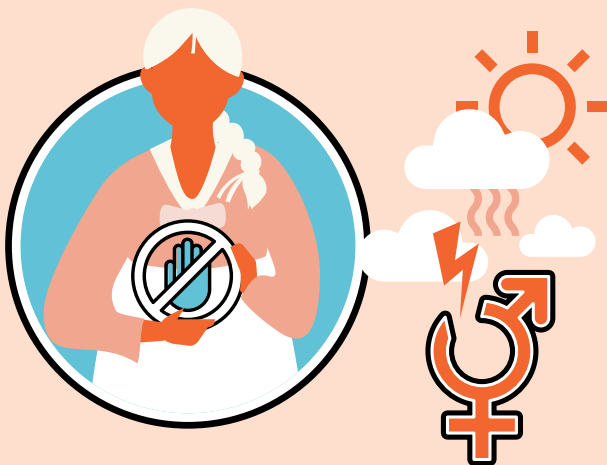
RECOMMENDATIONS:

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Gender-based violence (GBV) represents a critical intersection of SRHR and climate change that should be addressed in relevant policy, programming and action. GBV is known to increase during times of insecurity, stress and scarcity, during pandemics and following disasters. Climate change also exacerbates the existing drivers of child marriage, including as a coping mechanism in times of insecurity and due to poverty, or as extreme weather events make it harder for families to feed their children. Adapting to a changing climate must include action on GBV and harmful practices such as child marriage.

RECOMMENDATION:

- **CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE POLICIES**, objectives and financing must support action to end GBV and harmful practices.



IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON GBV

When women and girls need to travel greater distances to gather **BASIC NECESSITIES SUCH AS WATER AND FIREWOOD** they can also be at increased risk of physical and sexual violence

THE TANNA WOMEN'S COUNSELLING CENTRE reported a

300% INCREASE

in new domestic violence cases after two tropical cyclones hit Tafe province in **VANUATU** in 2011 (CARE, 2015)

GBV, trafficking, and child, early and forced marriages



INCREASE FOLLOWING DISASTERS AND EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

(McLeod, 2019; Mason, 2016)

During a period of drought in

UGANDA from **2014** to **2018**,

there was an increase in the rates of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and female genital mutilation

(Mason, 2019)

WOMEN WHO ARE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS have also been assaulted and killed while defending environmental commons



Climate change

INCREASES THE RISK OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

(UNFCCC, 2019, etc)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

4

Young people today are leading climate action and need to be meaningfully engaged in formal climate policy processes. Climate justice means not leaving anyone behind, including young people, especially in front-line communities.

RECOMMENDATION:

- **CLIMATE ADAPTATION NEEDS TO ENSURE** meaningful youth engagement in climate policy design and implementation as well as providing financial support to youth innovation on climate change adaptation responses, including aspects related to human rights, gender equality, and sexual and reproductive health.



RECOMMENDATIONS:

5

Current levels of climate finance directed towards meeting the needs of women and girls impacted by climate change are extremely low and insufficient. Supporting and empowering women and girls' adaptation and resilience to climate impacts through politically and financially supporting SRHR services, family planning and education will ensure that families and communities can respond better to climate impacts, build resilience and ensure gender and climate justice.

RECOMMENDATION:

- **Member States should commit to the 50:50 ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION SPLIT** and also commit to spending 1 per cent of global climate finance (as part of the \$100bn target) per year on women and girls, specifically their SRHR and education needs.





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