

TAKING STOCK:
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH AND RIGHTS
in CLIMATE
COMMITMENTS

A GLOBAL REVIEW

Sexual and reproductive health and rights and rights-based approaches in national climate documents: A global review of Nationally Determined Contributions since 2020



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FOREWORD



Our environmental health and economic growth are under threat from the climate crisis, which is exacerbating inequalities and affecting the health and well-being of women and girls. There can be no doubt that these climate impacts are set to worsen.

The capacity of women and girls to engage in climate action and policymaking is strengthened by sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), including ending gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful practices. Realizing these rights can empower women and girls to exercise their agency, engage in climate action and be represented policy processes. This is particularly important for women and girls affected by intersecting inequalities.

In our work, we are increasingly seeing the devastating effects of slow-onset and extreme weather events on the communities we serve. In East and Southern Africa, tropical cyclones routinely damage health infrastructure, disrupting access to maternal health services and spreading waterborne diseases such as cholera. In Asia and the Pacific, cyclones have battered coastlines and killed thousands of people in recent years, threatening livelihoods, natural resources and access to safe food and water, while increasing the spread of waterborne diseases and negatively impacting pregnancy outcomes.

Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean and Pacific are being hit harder by storms of increasing intensity. These storms damage crucial infrastructure, including health structure, with less time and limited resources to rebuild between disasters. Some island states also face an existential threat from rising sea levels, leaving pregnant women and nursing mothers in an especially vulnerable position.

In the Middle East and North Africa, multi-year droughts threaten the livelihoods of millions, forcing many women to become heads of households as men are more likely to migrate. However, women are often unable to own land and consequently face malnourishment, increasing exposure to GBV and the eventual withdrawal of girls from school. In West and Central Africa, intensifying floods, extreme drought, intense rainfall and desertification are exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities, including climate-related conflict and diminished access to natural resources, affecting food security. These events are becoming more rapid and frequent, devastating lives.

In partnership with Queen Mary University of London, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) – the sexual and reproductive health agency of the United Nations – conducted a global review of the integration of SRHR and rights-based approaches in 119 countries' Nationally Determined Contributions. These are national-level documents outlining the climate commitments of signatories to the Paris Agreement.

The findings of this study underscore the importance of addressing the structural drivers of inequality and discrimination that intersect with climate change impacts. This includes strengthening anticipatory actions for disasters, ensuring SRHR and GBV services provision, and prioritizing vulnerable groups. The report also underscores the critical need for disaggregated data on climate impacts, encompassing both slow and sudden onset events, to understand better the differential effects on various population sectors and guide targeted interventions.

SRHR and ensuring rights and choice for all are cornerstones of resilience and adaptation. Realizing SRHR is an indicator of a healthy and equal society. As the climate crisis intensifies, greater investment, engagement and prioritization of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices are needed to ensure no one is left behind and that inequalities are not exacerbated.

In this context, climate policies must protect human rights and reflect the principles of the ICPD Programme of Action, which safeguards the rights of women, children, refugees, displaced people and disabled persons throughout the climate policy process.

This is a call to action for UNFPA and other advocates of SRHR and rights-based approaches, including policymakers, parliamentarians, researchers and service providers, to enhance engagement with climate change mechanisms and advocate for a better understanding of the interlinkages between climate action and SRHR, GBV and harmful practices.

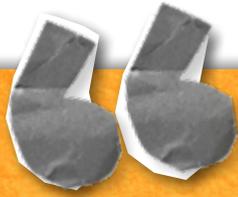
UNFPA has committed to three transformative results by 2030: ending preventable maternal death, ending unmet need for family planning and ending GBV and harmful practices. We must ensure rights and choices for all and strengthen climate adaptation and resilience efforts to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled. We invite our partners to join us in delivering our promise to the communities we serve – to keep striving to ensure we leave no one behind.



Diene Keita,
UN Assistant Secretary General and
Deputy Executive Director (Programme) UNFPA

Abbreviations

ACE	Action for Climate Empowerment
COP	Conference of the Parties
GAP	Gender action plan
GBV	Gender-based violence
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
LGBTQI+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex and other gender identities
NAP	National adaptation plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NGCCFP	National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point
SOGIESC	Sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics
SRHR	Sexual and reproductive health and rights
STI	Sexually transmitted infection
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund



The unprecedented emergencies of the climate crisis, pollution, desertification and biodiversity loss, coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic, and the impact of new and ongoing conflicts, have accelerated and intensified into widespread and interlinked crises that affect us all.

BUT NOT EQUALLY.

Everywhere, women and girls face the greatest threats and the deepest harm. Everywhere, women and girls are taking action to confront the climate and environmental crises. And everywhere, women and girls continue to be largely excluded from the rooms where decisions are taken.



ANTÓNIO GUTERRES,
UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL





INTRODUCTION



Climate change has lasting impacts on human health and disproportionately affects women and girls.

Women, girls and marginalized groups who are largely dependent on natural resources for livelihoods are among the hardest hit by extreme weather patterns. These weather patterns limit their access to food, water, shelter, education and access to essential health services, including those which address sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender-based violence (GBV) and preventing harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation.

Emerging evidence shows the direct and indirect effects of climate change on women, girls and marginalized groups and their SRHR as well as on GBV and harmful practices. A number of studies find that heat has an adverse impact on maternal and newborn health outcomes, increasing the risk of stillbirth (Kuehn and McCormick, 2017; Rylander, Odland and Sandanger, 2013; Olson and Metz, 2020; Poursafa, Keikha and Kelishadi, 2015; Cil and Cameron, 2017; Pacheco, 2020; Yüzen and others, 2023). Additionally, increased poverty and food insecurity driven by climate-related loss of livelihoods are impacting maternal health (IPCC, 2014). Air pollution (Bekkar and others, 2020), climate-related diseases and food insecurity also have adverse effects on maternal and neonatal health outcomes,

which can be more severe for populations facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. Climate-related events can jeopardize access to clean water and essential supplies for safe births and personal hygiene. A clear example is the El Niño-induced drought in Mozambique in 2016, which resulted in scarcity not only of clean water but also of a local source of absorbent plant material specifically used in the production of menstrual products (CARE International, 2016).

The risks of GBV and child marriage are known to increase in times of stress and scarcity and following extreme weather events and disasters (McLeod, Barr and Rall, 2019; Pope and others, 2022), and climate change exacerbates the drivers of child marriage. GBV is a violation of human rights and has long-lasting effects, including limiting women's ability to build resilience to climate change, which impedes the capacity of survivors and their dependents to proactively and positively respond to and manage ongoing challenges and crises (Le Masson and others, 2019). Additionally, climate-related loss or change of livelihoods, as well as displacement and migration, increase risks of GBV and harmful practices, including child marriage and female genital mutilation (Ahmed, Haq and Bartiaux, 2019; McLeod, Barr and Rall, 2019; Pope and others, 2022).

Climate-related emergencies cause major disruptions in access to health services and life-saving commodities, including contraception (Behrman and Weitzman, 2016; IPAS, 2022). The challenge climate change poses around access to SRHR services will be keenly felt by those who already face discrimination and marginalization (e.g. women, adolescents and youth, LGBTQI+ adolescents and youth, migrants, internally displaced persons, Indigenous peoples, people living with disabilities, and coastal and rural populations), and in areas where access to services may already be limited (e.g. humanitarian settings and areas affected by conflict).

Failing to support the achievement of the full range of SRHR and to stop GBV and harmful practices will hamper women's and girls' capacity to engage in climate action and policymaking and has direct implications for the achievement of human-centred

sustainable development as outlined in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action and reinforced by the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25. Gaps in the realization of SRHR can prevent women and girls from pursuing education, hinder livelihoods, and reduce their ability to take part in household and community decision-making. Girls forced to marry before completing their education – and those denied access to education, literacy and public life – may experience limited ability to receive and act on climate information and alerts from disaster early warning systems. The realization of SRHR and the right to be free from violence, particularly for those already facing discrimination, can empower people to exercise their agency and engage in climate action. For those affected by intersecting inequalities, realizing SRHR can allow marginalized groups' needs and priorities to be represented in climate action and policy processes.



The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report found that “the vulnerability of ecosystems and people to climate change differs substantially among and within regions, [...] driven by patterns of intersecting socioeconomic development” and other structural inequalities (IPCC, 2022). These ongoing patterns of inequity are affecting women, girls and marginalized groups disproportionately. It also recognizes that the current efforts to reduce global emissions need to be accompanied by scaled-up adaptation actions that aim at strengthening resilience at the local, national and global levels to support women, girls and other vulnerable groups from the inevitable impacts of climate change.

Recent reviews of the inclusion of SRHR and gender issues in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) documents, including a review conducted by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) with Queen Mary University of London in 2021, identified significant gaps in national adaptation response and financing in critical sectors, such as health systems, protection systems and disaster risk reduction plans (McMullen and others, 2021). The report found that even where gender dimensions are incorporated and elaborated in the national climate documents, they lack clear adaptation actions and require resources as well as monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure successful implementation. The review identified important gaps in the national climate policy integration of SRHR and GBV issues and in the identification of gender-transformative approaches that address the root causes of inequalities in various contexts.



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Photo: © UNFPA/Priscilla Mora Flores



Reviewing national climate policies, including the NDCs, and exploring and addressing gaps related to SRHR and GBV is critical to ensure no one is left behind. It is essential to engage with SRHR and recognize that it includes some of the most stigmatized, deprioritized, yet fundamental dimensions of life, where we often see an acute coming together of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. If the climate crisis is a crisis of inequality, SRHR represents a key intersection in need of attention and investment. This is essential to building a better and more equal world.

UNFPA has committed to three transformative results by 2030: (1) ending preventable maternal deaths; (2) ending unmet need for family planning; and (3) ending GBV and harmful practices. The rapid pace of climate change over this decade will make each of these transformative results more difficult to achieve. UNFPA supports governments to ensure the incorporation of SRHR and GBV issues in the design of national climate policies and solutions, with women, young people and vulnerable groups at the heart of developing innovative solutions to improve climate resilience. This global overview of references related to SRHR, health, gender, young people, rights and population dynamics

will provide an insight into the needs, priorities and gaps of the countries on SRHR in climate policies. The overview also informs cross-country learning. This knowledge supports greater inclusion, representation and action for disproportionately affected groups.

Climate action and the Nationally Determined Contributions

In 2016, 196 countries adopted the Paris Agreement, a legally binding agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that sets a target of keeping the rise in global temperature in the twenty-first century below 2°C and to pursue efforts to limit it further to 1.5°C. As signatories, each country is required to prepare, communicate and maintain NDCs. **Submitted every five years, NDCs are a key national climate policy document and include a description of how a country will work to mitigate and adapt to climate change in their territory.** They lay out actions to address climate challenges at the national level and usually include sections on actions to mitigate the impact of climate change through emission reduction as well as chapters on how to strengthen the resilience to climate change of individuals, communities or systems through adaptation actions. In 2020 and 2021, countries submitted the second round of NDCs showing progress from earlier NDCs, reflecting the highest possible ambition for each country, and including plans for monitoring and evaluation. Another round of NDC submissions will take place in 2025. As NDCs are required by all nations who are signatories to the Paris Agreement, they provide an opportunity to gain an overview of climate plans and challenges in each territory and an indication of levels of ambition over time. They also allow for cross-country and regional comparison.



METHODOLOGY



This report relays the findings of an analysis of the inclusion of SRHR and related thematic areas in NDCs published from 2020 through August 2022, when this analysis was completed.

The global review adopts the broad definition of SRHR set out in the Guttmacher-*Lancet* report of 2018 (Guttmacher-*Lancet* Commission, 2018), which describes SRHR as a set of rights and essential services that meet public health and human rights standards. This package includes GBV. The review accounted for any references to SRHR and GBV and harmful practices. It also explored five other SRHR-related thematic areas: (1) health; (2) gender; (3) human rights, participation and vulnerable groups; (4) youth and (5) population dynamics. These five related thematic areas may serve as important entry points for strengthening SRHR in climate action and achieving rights-based change and gender justice. They were included in this review as they intersect with women's health and rights issues by nature of their definition and content and are relevant to addressing the unequal and disproportionate impacts of climate change on particular groups.

The research team reviewed references to **health** as health is core to SRHR and a component of the well-being of women and girls as it relates to their experience of violence, and because unequal access to and achievement of good health are also issues of justice and inequality. We reviewed references to **gender** as gender mainstreaming and participation is key in achieving gender equality and access to SRHR services, including access

to services for people with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC). In addition, we analysed any reference or considerations for **human rights**, as the realization of SRHR and the right to be free from violence requires human rights-based approaches, which means that all forms of discrimination must be prohibited, prevented and eliminated. In this context, we also reviewed to what extent vulnerable groups were acknowledged or included in the NDCs. We reviewed any references to participation, empowerment and meaningful inclusion of **youth** due to their critical role as agents of change for SRHR in climate action. Finally, we included any references to **population dynamics** such as population size, migration and urbanization and assessed if these were presented in alignment with the human rights-based principles set out in the ICPD Programme of Action.

This systematic process of content analysis of SRHR and GBV and harmful practices and the five thematic areas was performed for each NDC, using the method developed previously for the review of 50 NDCs submitted before 2020 (McMullen and others, 2021). The content analysis was conducted in three stages. In the first stage, references to all five thematic areas were gathered from each NDC into a spreadsheet. In the second stage, content specific to thematic areas was



grouped together to identify the range of concerns or ambitions identified across countries in relation to the theme, i.e. health or gender. In the third stage, a country and cross-country analysis was undertaken to identify gaps and good practices in the NDCs in relation to each thematic area.

The content analysis focused on the extent to which the thematic areas were included in the NDC report. References to the thematic areas may appear as part of a contextual aspect in the country's situation analysis, the acknowledgement of the impact of climate change on that specific dimension, or the provision of a policy or intervention response.

The content analysis was completed in August 2022 and included a total of 119 NDCs submitted from 2020 to that date. These include 19 reports from East and Southern Africa, 22 from West and Central Africa, 15 from the Arab States, 25 from Asia and the Pacific, 26 from Latin America and the Caribbean, and 12 from Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The review included one intended NDC (Türkiye), three first NDCs (Iraq, the Philippines and Senegal), one interim updated NDC (the Sudan), 90 updated NDCs, 14 second NDCs and one updated second NDC (the Marshall Islands). In the case of the Marshall Islands, however, the most updated version was insubstantial and hence the review looked at the previous version, even though this was submitted before 2020. One NDC (Iraq) was in Arabic, 87 in English, 20 in French and 12 in Spanish. When the NDC was available in its original language and an English translation, the version in English was reviewed.

To ensure the inclusion of perspectives from young people, UNFPA selected six young people who were members of either the UNFPA Joint Youth Working Group on SRHR and Climate Change or YOUNGO (the youth constituency to UNFCCC) and were experienced in the NDC or a similar

development process. They were based in the five regions where UNFPA works. The youth steering committee produced short reports that provided their perspective on the NDCs and the climate crisis in their region as well as a reflection on how climate change affects SRHR. These perspectives are presented in the Youth Report section of this publication (see pages 30–34).

The results of this global review will provide an opening for dialogue at regional, national and local levels on the ways that climate change and SRHR and GBV intersect. The results will identify entry points for climate action, highlighting gaps as well as opportunities and best practices to allow for greater and more meaningful inclusion of aspects of SRHR in climate policy.

Limitations

NDCs relay a nation's priority actions in responding to climate change and are limited in their ability to unpack specific sectoral actions. Related national climate policy documents will contain more detailed action related to the thematic areas described in this report. Readers are encouraged to keep this in mind when reading the report. Not all countries have submitted an NDC since 2020. For those countries that submitted their first NDC before 2020, an updated NDC was included in the analysis. As we included only the most recent NDC submitted in or after 2020, it is possible that some information included in the first NDC may not have been relayed into the updated, second or interim NDC and therefore was not included in the analysis. Furthermore, many other documents relevant to SRHR and GBV were not included in the analysis, such as other national climate policies or gender action plans (GAPs), which are commonly referenced in NDCs. Our analysis is limited to the information included in the NDCs.



KEY FINDINGS BY THEMATIC AREA

The climate emergency imperils progress towards all our global goals, including achieving sexual and reproductive health and rights for all. Shifting temperatures and other climate consequences may lead to pregnancy losses or low birth weight. Natural disasters often disrupt provision of contraceptive services, which can lead to an increase in unintended pregnancies. Climate-induced disasters can also upend programmes to respond to gender-based violence, and where people are displaced, child marriages and other harmful practices also tend to rise.

DR. NATALIA KANEM,
UNFPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sexual and reproductive health and rights

Our global review of the 119 NDCs shows that 38 countries include issues related to SRHR, GBV and harmful practices (see figure 1), representing 32 per cent of reviewed submissions.

Globally, the most frequent references to aspects of SRHR are maternal and newborn health (23 countries) and GBV (15 countries). There was one reference to harmful

practice (child marriage). Other SRHR issues are much less pronounced. However, NDCs do include references to sexual and reproductive health information and services (six countries), HIV and AIDS, and sexually transmitted infections (three countries), SOGIESC (three countries), adolescent and youth SRHR (two countries), child marriage (one country), contraception (one country) and menopause (one country) (see table 1).



TABLE 1: Number of Nationally Determined Contributions mentioning specific sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence and harmful practices issues out of the 119 Nationally Determined Contributions reviewed

Maternal and newborn health	Family planning and contraception	Abortion and post-abortion care	Menstruation and menstrual hygiene	Gender-based violence	Adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health and rights	Early, forced child marriage	HIV and AIDS and sexually transmitted infections	Sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics	Sexual and reproductive health and rights information and awareness
23	4	0	1	15	2	1	3	3	4



The analysis shows that some countries only refer to aspects of SRHR and GBV in the situational analysis. Others acknowledge the impact of climate change on SRHR and GBV but without addressing specific programmes or interventions. Some countries go beyond references on impact to include a description of action and intervention related to the impact of climate change on SRHR and GBV, including through the description of programmes or the inclusion of budget lines. However, this is a small number of countries and work is needed to support greater linkage of references to meaningful action.

There were six direct references to SRHR, GBV and harmful practices in the 2021 review of 50 NDCs (McMullen and others, 2021), including one reference specifically to GBV and no references to harmful practices. Although the 2021 review was global, it was primarily focused on countries in East and Southern Africa, in which only two countries had references to SRHR. In contrast, there are eight references to SRHR and GBV from countries in East and Southern Africa in the current review, showing some progress in inclusion and prioritization of SRHR.

Maternal and newborn health

Maternal and newborn health is one of the most frequent SRHR issues addressed in the NDCs and was mentioned in 23 of the 119 NDCs. Of these, six countries (Angola, the Congo, Nepal, Panama, South Sudan and Sri Lanka) refer to maternal and newborn health when describing development challenges and/or successes for their country.

A substantial number of countries recognize the direct and indirect impacts of climate change on maternal and newborn health in their NDCs. Some of the direct pathways are outlined by South Sudan (2021: p. 41), where heat exposure and malnutrition are described as increasing infant and maternal mortality and birth complications and worsening maternal and child health overall, while the NDC of Côte d'Ivoire notes the specific risks of extreme heat waves and their impact on pregnant women and women in the process of menopause.

Some countries recognize the indirect negative impacts of climate change and the variations in the pattern and location of vector-borne disease on maternal and newborn health. For example, South Sudan (2021: p. 41) emphasizes how the increased risk of infectious diseases attributed to climate change will contribute to poorer maternal and newborn health outcomes.



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Viet Nam (2021: p. 14) describes the increased prevalence of epidemics and diseases as a specific concern for pregnant women. Floods are highlighted as a climate event that can increase the vulnerability of pregnant women and indirectly affect maternal and newborn health through heightening the risk of developing bronchitis and infections (Albania NDC, 2021: p. 61) and the outbreak and proliferation of meningitis, malaria, cholera, respiratory diseases and typhoid fever (Togo NDC, 2021: p. 39).

Other indirect impacts on maternal health presented in the NDCs include poorer health care access for pregnant women including disruption of access to services (Albania NDC, 2021: p. 61), especially for pregnant women (the Republic of Moldova NDC, 2020: p. 25). Cambodia shows the complexity of climate impacts on maternal and newborn health by describing how climate-related food crises lead to additional time to source water or pasture. This can in turn influence time available for exclusive breastfeeding. Increased workloads and climate change-related stress during pregnancy can also contribute to low-birth-weight infants (Cambodia NDC, 2021: pp. 30–31).

In addition to acknowledging the effects of climate change on maternal and newborn health, some NDCs elaborate possible adaptation efforts to address these impacts. Adaptation efforts generally fall into the categories of measures to improve food security, health information, health system strengthening and other direct health interventions. This is observed in the NDC from the Lao People's Democratic Republic, which includes reproductive health awareness in their water, sanitation and hygiene community campaigns, and in the NDC from Uganda, which considers reproductive health in their integrated health and climate interventions across sectors. Other NDCs similarly address vulnerabilities of women of reproductive age,

such as Tunisia, which targets their food security programme towards women of reproductive age, and Papua New Guinea, which sets targets for the proportion of pregnant women that should be sleeping under a long-lasting insecticide-treated net. While programmes targeting families on climate and health are key interventions proposed by both Iraq and the Sudan, these are not elaborated on.

Some NDCs focus on health systems to improve SRHR outcomes. This includes building the capacity of the local health sector on emergencies related to extreme weather events (Paraguay NDC, 2021: p. 51) and ensuring the health structure is geared to meet SRHR needs of women in a changing climate and takes into account maternal and neonatal risks and indicators in health management information systems (Seychelles NDC, 2021: p. 35). Benin demonstrates strengthening of its health structure by including SRHR, namely through its measure to improve the quality and accessibility of health services for maternal and child health (Benin NDC, 2021: p. 60).

On building ministerial capacity, Sri Lanka proposes to strengthen the social welfare system in the Ministry of Health to cover vulnerable groups, including nursing mothers and young children who are vulnerable to food insecurity, and Tunisia proposes to rethink the programming and assignment of specialists and mother and child health programmes.



Other references to sexual and reproductive health and rights

Sexual and reproductive health information and awareness

Four NDCs prioritize interventions that seek to integrate SRHR in climate-related information and awareness activities. In the health adaptation programme, the Lao People's Democratic Republic is spreading awareness on SRHR in its climate response by informing 20 sensitive communities on water, sanitation, hygiene, dengue control and nutrition, as well as on women's, reproductive and child health (the Lao People's Democratic Republic NDC, 2020: p. 23).

Early and universal education is a focus in two NDCs. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela plans to integrate the environment and comprehensive health into the basic education system, aimed at promoting harmonious relationships between humans and nature from all aspects, and includes sexual reproduction (the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela NDC, 2021: p. 112). Seychelles will integrate comprehensive sexuality education as part of building climate resilience among young people. Education more broadly is a focus area for the Marshall Islands that works with an overall recommendation to "ensure programmes and projects contribute to secure family well-being, including healthy lives and

livelihoods, through education, domestic partnerships, family and household responsibilities, sexual and reproductive health" (the Marshall Islands NDC, 2018: p. 57). Family health and hygiene are mentioned in the adaptation education awareness programme for Belize (Belize NDC, 2021: p. 27).

Other SRHR-related references in the NDCs, such as on HIV and AIDS, family planning and abortion care, are either few in number or completely absent.

The effects of climate change on people living with HIV and changes to HIV incidence are poorly reflected in the NDCs. Only three countries reference HIV and AIDS and, of these, Angola only mentions the country's reduction of HIV prevalence as a positive development for pregnant women (Angola NDC, 2021: p. 20). Togo similarly highlights its progress in increasing access to integrated HIV and AIDS services and considers people living with HIV as a group at increased risk of higher mortality (Togo NDC, 2021: p. 39). Only Malawi gives attention to HIV and AIDS in its climate action and highlights HIV and AIDS as a cross-cutting issue and one of its six priority areas of its National Climate Change Management Policy (Malawi NDC, 2021: p. 8). The few and vague references to HIV and AIDS in the NDCs show that the impacts of climate change on people living with HIV need to be further considered and responded to in climate planning, including disaster response, in times of food insecurity, migration and disruption to health services.

Issues of abortion and post-abortion care are entirely absent from the NDCs, while there is only one reference found on the importance of the use of contraceptives for the promotion of women's economic empowerment and sustainable development, in Dominica (2022: p. 22).



This is despite the fact that a growing body of evidence shows that climate-related emergencies cause major disruptions in access to life-saving commodities, including contraception, and that maternal deaths related to unsafe abortions are likely to be much higher in emergency settings (Chukwumalu and others, 2017). The lack of recognition and response to family planning, abortion and post-abortion care in the NDCs can negate countries' efforts in reducing the unmet need for family planning and preventable maternal deaths.

Sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics

People with diverse sexual orientations are known to face societal marginalization and oppression and may face disproportionate impacts in times of climate crisis. Nevertheless, only three countries reference aspects of SOGIESC. References are in relation to being a group that may experience increased vulnerability during climate change due to social marginalization. The majority of references to aspects of SOGIESC are in NDCs from Latin America, with Mexico

and Costa Rica referencing SOGIESC as a subgroup that feels a disproportionate impact of climate change. Mexico recognizes sexual minorities as a vulnerable group to the adverse effects of climate change (Mexico NDC, 2020: p. 9). Across other regions, Eswatini recognizes LGBTIQ+ people as a vulnerable group (Eswatini NDC, 2021: p. 9). Costa Rica is the only NDC to give attention to transgender people and communities as particularly vulnerable populations to climate change, and goes on to state that consultation with these populations occurred in the development of the NDCs (Costa Rica NDC, 2020: pp. 13, 50, 52–53, 62, 100, 111–112). Costa Rica also includes considerations for transgender community groups in adaptation measures, such as developing spaces for dialogue and participation for vulnerable groups, monitoring the required indicators to ensure empowerment, collecting disaggregated data, and training and capacity-building for institutions and decision makers regarding the differentiated impacts of climate change on these groups. Other references in relation to adolescent and youth SRHR are addressed in the youth section.



Gender-based violence

References to GBV were found in 15 of the NDCs reviewed, with some countries acknowledging the impacts of climate change on GBV. For example, in the Arab States, the NDC of Somalia states that 70–80 per cent of internally displaced persons and camp-based refugees are women, who are exposed to GBV (Somalia NDC, 2021: p. 12). Cambodia describes how, “by exaggerating gender inequality, climate change also reinforces a structural root cause of violence against women and girls” (Cambodia NDC, 2020: p. 40), while Viet Nam states that family livelihood pressures from climate-related stresses “increases the risk of domestic violence and violence towards children” (Viet Nam NDC, 2021: p. 14). Albania also describes increases in domestic violence as a climate change impact (Albania NDC, 2021: p. 61). The mention of rape in the NDC of Antigua and Barbuda was in reference to the name of a civil society organization, Women Against Rape, that was consulted during the NDC update process (Antigua and Barbuda NDC, 2021: p. 58).

Nine countries (the Comoros, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guinea, Jordan, Seychelles, Sierra Leone and Tunisia) include a description of policies or interventions to address the increase in incidence of GBV in the context of climate change. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the Dominican Republic mentions GBV when describing the

Political Constitution (2010), which incorporates equal rights between men and women and prohibits domestic violence and GBV (article 42) (the Dominican Republic NDC, 2022: p. 75). The country also includes violence against women as one of the seven national themes described in the National Plan for Gender Equality and Equity 2020–2030 (the Dominican Republic NDC, 2022: p. 77). El Salvador wants to make sure that women and girls have equal access to its sustainable transportation and technologies, as well as ensuring preferential access to identified groups including adolescents in a society free from violence against women (El Salvador NDC, 2021: p. 93). The Marshall Islands recommends in its second NDC “to eliminate GBV and increase protection and care of survivors” (the Marshall Islands NDC, 2018: pp. 57, 59). Sierra Leone (2021: p. 16) describes gender justice laws that address domestic violence but does not specify further the implication of this law for the country’s climate action. Both Jordan and Tunisia include a measure to support women exposed to GBV as a health-related adaptation pillar (Jordan NDC, 2021: p. 54; Tunisia NDC, 2021: p. 66).

Three countries describe programmes for the inclusion of specific measures to address and account for GBV. Guinea (2021: p. 28) mentions GBV in relation to the risk of violence for women when collecting fuelwood and suggests improving stoves to reduce wood collection time for women, which will also reduce their risk of respiratory diseases. Seychelles explicitly commits to meeting the SRHR needs of women and young people and ensuring vulnerability assessments also capture GBV and SRHR risks (Seychelles NDC, 2021: p. 36). The Comoros describes including measures to address abuse, violence and sexual exploitation of children and women within the National Emergency and Preparedness Plan (the Comoros NDC, 2021: p. 11).



Harmful practices

For harmful practices, we looked at female genital mutilation, child marriage, and son preference and daughter aversion (gender-biased sex selection) (see table 2). We found only one reference that specifically

addressed harmful practices. This was a reference to early marriage in Viet Nam’s NDC, which elaborates on how climate change can lead to a higher risk of early marriage as a means of reducing economic burdens for families (Viet Nam NDC, 2021: p. 14).

TABLE 2:
Snapshot of sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence and harmful practices references in the Nationally Determined Contributions by region

Latin American and the Caribbean	<p>Ten out of 26 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) reference sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and gender-based violence (GBV); none reference harmful practices</p> <p>In Latin America and the Caribbean, 10 of the 26 countries reviewed referenced SRHR and GBV. Specifically, three countries reference maternal and newborn health (Panama, Paraguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela). Antigua and Barbuda, the Dominican Republic and El Salvador referenced GBV. Panama referenced adolescents and youth SRHR and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela SRHR information and awareness. Costa Rica had a number of strong references to sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC). Mexico made one reference to SOGIESC. There was no reference to harmful practices. Dominica mentioned contraceptive use while Belize referenced family health.</p>
Asia and the Pacific	<p>Seven out of 25 NDCs reference SRHR, GBV and harmful practices</p> <p>In Asia and the Pacific, eight out of 25 countries reviewed made 14 references to SRHR, GBV and harmful practices. The majority of references were to maternal and newborn health (Cambodia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the Marshall Islands, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam). The second most common reference was to GBV, in Cambodia, the Marshall Islands and Viet Nam. Viet Nam also referenced child marriage. The Lao People’s Democratic Republic was the only country to reference SRHR information and awareness.</p>
Arab States	<p>Five out of 15 NDCs reference SRHR and GBV; none reference harmful practices</p> <p>In the Arab States, five of the 15 countries reviewed referenced aspects of SRHR and GBV, with a total of seven references. Maternal and newborn health was the most common reference (Iraq, the Sudan and Tunisia). Three countries (Jordan, Somalia and Tunisia) referenced GBV. Tunisia also referenced information and awareness. There was no reference to harmful practices.</p>
West and Central Africa	<p>Six out of 22 NDCs reference SRHR and GBV; none reference harmful practices</p> <p>Among the 22 NDCs reviewed in West and Central Africa, seven countries referred to SRHR and GBV. Maternal and newborn health was most frequently referenced, by four countries: Benin, the Congo, Côte d’Ivoire and Togo. Côte d’Ivoire referenced menopause in relation to heat exposure. Two countries, Guinea and Sierra Leone, referenced GBV while Togo mentioned HIV and AIDS. There was no reference to harmful practices.</p>
East and Southern Africa	<p>Eight out of 19 NDCs reference SRHR and GBV; none reference harmful practices</p> <p>In East and Southern Africa, SRHR and GBV issues were included in eight NDCs, with the most frequent reference being maternal and newborn health (Angola, Seychelles and South Sudan). GBV was referenced by the Comoros and Seychelles. Seychelles also referenced adolescents and SRHR information and awareness. Angola, Malawi and Namibia referenced HIV and AIDS. SOGIESC was referenced by Eswatini and general references to reproductive health were made by Uganda, South Sudan and Seychelles. The Comoros made a link between displaced people and sexual exploitation. There was no reference to harmful practices.</p>
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	<p>Two out of 12 NDCs reference SRHR and GBV; none referenced harmful practices</p> <p>In Eastern Europe and Central Asia, four references to SRHR and GBV were made by two of the 12 countries reviewed. Albania reference maternal and newborn health and GBV. The Republic of Moldova referenced vulnerable pregnant women and GBV. There were no references to harmful practices.</p>

Health

All except two (117) countries – Armenia and Belarus – mention health to some degree in their NDCs (see figure 2) representing 98 per cent of submissions. In the context of the health sector, disasters and/or extreme weather events are mentioned in 114 out of 119 NDCs. Similarly, water access and sanitation (82/119) and food security (79/119) are

also prominent health-related themes across all regions. Early warning systems and health surveillance are mentioned in more than half of the NDCs (72). Other notable references include recognition that the health sector is vulnerable to climate change, as well as mortality and climate-related health research. Importantly, 34 countries included a budget line related to health in their NDC (see table 3).

FIGURE 2: Number of Nationally Determined Contributions that integrate health issues out of the 119 Nationally Determined Contributions reviewed

117
integrate health

119
total Nationally
Determined Contributions

Table 3: Number of Nationally Determined Contributions mentioning specific health issues out of the 119 Nationally Determined Contributions reviewed

Mortality	Diseases	Air pollution	Waste	Surveillance	Access service/supplies	Food	Water	Research	Information/campaigns	COVID-19	Disasters	Budget line
50	84	52	101	72	41	79	82	32	31	78	104	34





Photo: © UNFPA Syria/Karam Al-Masr

Among the disaster-related references, many NDCs focus on strengthening early warning or health surveillance systems. Countries adopt various strategies to track health and diseases in relation to climate change, including epidemiological surveillance, establishing information systems, integrating climate data into national health information systems and building institutional capacity.

One example is the Dominican Republic, which is establishing a programme that seeks to strengthen critical infrastructure through three key initiatives: strengthen and expand early warning systems and set up a National School for Disaster Risk Management; roll out vulnerability assessments in key sectors such

as hospitals, schools and water supplies; and develop a programme to increase community capacities and raise awareness of disaster risk reduction measures (the Dominican Republic NDC, 2022: p. 118). Myanmar describes its tools to trigger timely precautions to the target community, such as audio-video forecasting and SMS and smartphone-based applications (Myanmar NDC, 2021: p. 78). Ethiopia describes the integration of environment and health surveillance protocols to improve basic health services and emergency medical services, as well as a measure to improve early warning systems (Ethiopia NDC, 2021: p. 19). El Salvador is planning the “development of a surveillance, supervision and care model of



the nutritional status of populations affected or at risk”¹ with integration of vulnerabilities in boys, girls and women. This is expected to help reduce population exposure as a result of more effective evacuation procedures and sheltering options, in addition to a food aid approach (El Salvador NDC, 2021: pp. 90–91).

Many countries describe the importance of strengthening the health system building blocks in their NDCs. Haiti, Namibia and the United Arab Emirates show the importance of investing in the health workforce to support system strengthening. For example, Namibia includes actions to strengthen the capacity of health professionals in epidemic preparedness and response, recruit and train community health workers to provide emergency first aid, and improve staff training on prevention and treatment of malnutrition (Namibia NDC, 2021: p. 27). Haiti provides indicators and cost estimates for each of its health sector adaptation measures, such as capacity-building of health personnel with an indicator of the number of training courses held and the rate of personnel trained as the indicator, at an estimated cost of US\$ 151 million (Haiti NDC, 2021: p. 46). To reduce heat-related illnesses, the United Arab Emirates has stipulated a midday break for all outdoor labourers and introduced a “Safety in Heat” programme aimed at reducing heat exposure in the workplace alongside a thermal work limit heat stress index to gauge the suitability of working conditions (the United Arab Emirates NDC, 2020: p. 10). Health financing is another health system “building block” mentioned across the 34 NDCs that provided a budget line related to health. One example is the Project Support for the Livestock Value Chain in Nicaragua 2017–2021, which aimed to address food and nutritional security through more productive and environmentally-friendly farming practices, with an estimated total

cost of €21,223,000 (Nicaragua NDC, 2020: p. 19). While providing a cost estimate of the health-related interventions is important for planning and accountability purposes, many NDCs do not present plans for providing adequate financing for these interventions.

Research on climate impacts on health is important to strengthen the understanding of the drivers, vulnerabilities and impacts in the country context and design targeted interventions addressing the most pertinent issues. Out of the 35 NDCs that mention health-related research, Seychelles commits to undertake more research to further understand climate and health trends and mentions a climate curriculum for professional health education programmes (Seychelles NDC, 2021: pp. 19, 34). Liberia (2021: p. 36) shows the importance of investing in health research in the context of climate change and has committed US\$ 500,000 per year to research the health–climate nexus, including health vulnerabilities caused by climate change. El Salvador intends to strengthen intersectoral and inter-institutional capacity through measures that include research on climate and health (El Salvador NDC, 2021: pp. 87–89).

¹ Translated from the original Spanish.



Gender

The majority (109) of NDCs reference gender – representing 92 per cent (see figure 3). Every NDC of Latin America and the Caribbean and East and Southern Africa has at least one reference to gender, compared with 10 out of the 15 reviewed in the Arab States. Gender

mainstreaming is the most common gender reference and is integrated to some degree in 94 NDCs (79 per cent), while 72 countries (60 per cent) recognize women as a vulnerable group. Other significant references, in order of most common, are female participation (64), women’s empowerment (58) and gender in relation to health (48) (see table 4).

FIGURE 3: Number of Nationally Determined Contributions that integrate gender issues out of the 119 Nationally Determined Contributions reviewed



TABLE 4: Number of Nationally Determined Contributions mentioning specific gender issues out of the 119 Nationally Determined Contributions reviewed

Mainstreaming	Vulnerability	Rights	Participation	Empowerment	Health	Energy	Agriculture	Water/food security
93	72	37	64	58	48	27	59	33





More than half of the NDCs (72) are cognisant of gender- and climate-related vulnerabilities. The NDCs define various elements of gender-related vulnerability, including: poor access to land, finance, information and technology; limited adaptation options and poor decision-making; gender-bound roles in households and in agriculture, including time devoted to domestic tasks and hence the economic disparities and gender imbalances in hardship; and poverty and inability to diversify income. Zimbabwe, for example, describes how women have to walk long distances for water during periods of water scarcity (Zimbabwe NDC, 2021: p. 11). Understanding these gender- and context-specific vulnerabilities is key to addressing the disproportionate impacts on women. Bhutan demonstrates a commitment to combating vulnerabilities by having conducted a national study on gender and climate change, with a focus on the agriculture, energy and waste sector, to inform gender mainstreaming opportunities in the NDC development (Bhutan NDC, 2021: p. 3). Addressing gender vulnerabilities is also a priority for the Republic of Moldova, which seeks to comprehensively assess climate vulnerabilities through a climate lens involving climate specialists and local-level decision and policymakers as well as applying, where possible, an integrated climate

vulnerability and gender assessment approach to identify community-level vulnerabilities (the Republic of Moldova NDC, 2020: p. 31).

Gender mainstreaming in this review is understood as commitments to consider gender issues across adaptation and mitigation measures and/or in other sectors, policies and programmes. In the review, the 94 NDCs that include gender mainstreaming adopt various interventions, such as undertaking gender analyses to inform priorities for climate action, integrating gender issues across sectoral policies, strengthening institutional capacity to integrate gender in climate policies, integrating gender issues in programmes, developing gender-specific indicators and integrating gender issues into monitoring and evaluation. Cambodia provides an excellent example of gender mainstreaming throughout its NDC by considering gender issues in every mitigation and adaptation action (see the table in Cambodia NDC, 2021: pp. 90–134). Haiti proposes tangible activities for gender mainstreaming, including setting up a specific working group on gender and climate change, having at least one gender focal point sitting within the National Committee on Climate Change, and involving gender experts in the development and implementation of monitoring and evaluation frameworks for actions to combat climate change (Haiti NDC, 2022: p. 56). Antigua and Barbuda pledge to develop policies that will ensure that the differential needs of men and women are addressed. These policies will include an equitable distribution of resources, status, benefits and rights as well as the mainstreaming of gender in its energy planning through an Inclusive Renewable Energy Strategy (Antigua and Barbuda NDC, 2021: p. 15).



Photo: © UNFPA Latin America and the Caribbean

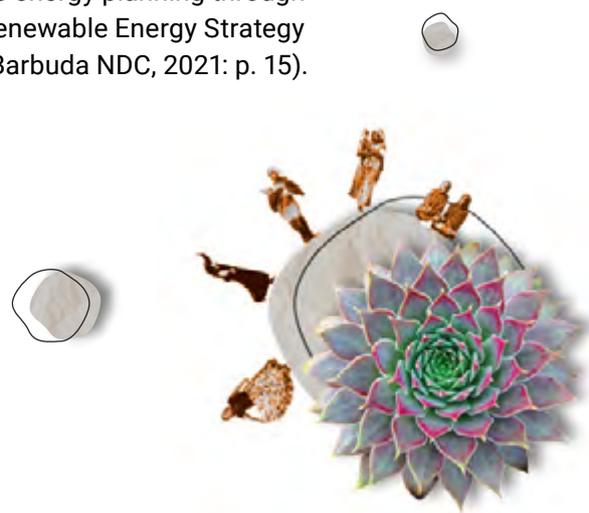




Photo: © UNFPA/Paula Seijo

Many countries acknowledge the importance of collection, analysis and reporting of gender-disaggregated data to identify gaps, needs and opportunities for men and women, and to improve gender and social inequities in climate action. One example is Cabo Verde, which commits to collect and present gender-disaggregated data to identify gaps, needs, achievements and opportunities for women, men, the elderly, youth, disabled persons and marginalized and other vulnerable groups and report on updates every other year (Cabo Verde NDC, 2020: p. 50).

Almost half of the NDCs highlight women's participation and decision-making in climate action and policies. This includes examples of community-level activities such as those in Sri Lanka, which seeks to increase women's participation through gender-responsive training, promotion of entrepreneurial skills and access to technology and finance (Sri Lanka NDC, 2021: p. 27). In regard to increased decision-making, many NDCs seek to include women in the NDC review process, such as Liberia, which held a National Gender Dialogue that resulted in women taking

ownership of the NDC review process (Liberia NDC, 2021: p. 5). Other NDCs strive to increase women's decision-making power by engaging with them through representative bodies such as women's groups, civil society and advisory councils or including women in local decision-making processes. An example is Cambodia, which commits to having 25 per cent female representation in Village Disaster Management Groups and Commune Committees for Disaster Management, and a 25 per cent increase in the number of women in climate change community-based decision-making positions (Cambodia NDC, 2021: p. 126). Another example is South Sudan, which sets a target of 35 per cent representation of

women in decision-making related to climate change (South Sudan NDC, 2021: p. 149). Dominica commits to reserve access to 40 per cent of its Climate Change Trust Fund for women as well as increase the representation of women in decision-making and the workforce (Dominica NDC, 2022: pp. 21–22).

Of the 58 countries describing strategies to empower women, Bangladesh provides an example of the success of its Country Action Plan for Clean Cookstoves 2013, which focused on leveraging government funds to finance women-led businesses in the sector and that distributed 4.5 million improved cookstoves (Bangladesh NDC, 2021: p. 16), while the cacti planting initiative of Morocco, at an estimated cost of US\$ 3.1 million, aims to help women's cooperatives (Morocco NDC, 2021: p. 31). Barbados places a high priority on encouraging and supporting women's entrepreneurship and business development through grants, loans and technical assistance for micro- and small businesses due to the vulnerability of households headed by women (Barbados NDC, 2021: p. 17).





Population dynamics, human mobility and urbanization

Of the 119 NDCs reviewed, 108 (91 per cent) describe some aspects of population dynamics (see figure 4). This includes

references to population size, age structure, growth and distribution, migration and urbanization. Sixty-five NDCs make specific reference to migration, urbanization and human mobility (see figure 5).

FIGURE 4: Number of Nationally Determined Contributions that integrate population dynamics issues out of the 119 Nationally Determined Contributions reviewed

108

include references to population dynamics

119

total Nationally Determined Contributions

FIGURE 5: Number of Nationally Determined Contributions that integrate migration and urbanization issues out of the 119 Nationally Determined Contributions reviewed

65

include references to migration, urbanization and human mobility

119

total Nationally Determined Contributions



Photo: © Newsha Tavakolian/Magnum Ph



Photo: © UNFPA/Boureima Hama

Many of these NDCs note the impacts of climate change on increasing human displacement and mobility, and elaborate a policy response to include support for internally displaced persons and climate refugees. Mexico acknowledges that increasing adverse hydro-meteorological phenomena, such as flooding and droughts, have forced people to leave their homes, and subsequently pledges to identify and address forced displacement of people due to such events (Mexico NDC, 2020: pp. 14–15). Bangladesh is implementing a shelter project that has a dual focus of providing temporary or permanent houses for landless, homeless or climate refugee families as well as providing tree plantations, rainwater harvesting and improved cookstoves, among other initiatives (Bangladesh NDC, 2021: p. 15). Pakistan plans to provide income livelihood opportunities to disaster-affected communities to manage forced migrations (Pakistan NDC, 2021: p. 57). Somalia includes a measure to facilitate provision of, and access to, adequate, affordable and climate-sensitive shelter to vulnerable groups, including internally displaced persons (Somalia NDC, 2021: p. 11). The Congo outlines strategies to aid the resettlement of climate migrants through extensive consultations with migrants and their host communities, raising awareness of the impacts of climate migration on customary lands and support to local government planning (the Congo NDC, 2021: p. 27). Saint Kitts and Nevis recalls the combined 3,154 people who were displaced by hurricanes Georges, Lenny and Omar between 1998 and 2008 and expresses concern about a potential increase in human mobility, including displacement, migration and community relocation, which could result in significant loss and damage. The island nation also expands on the losses to include “loss of culture, lifestyle, traditions and heritage; negative impacts on physical health, mental and emotional well-being; loss of sense of place and identity and declines in self-determination, dignity and sovereignty” (Saint Kitts and Nevis NDC, 2021: p. 15).



Saint Lucia is establishing contingency funds for climate impacts with flexible and rapid disbursement mechanisms as well as implementing policies that offer assistance and livelihood protection to those who are displaced internally and across borders, as well as to host communities (Saint Lucia NDC, 2021: p. 6).

Climate impacts on rising rates of urbanization is an issue highlighted by some NDCs. In response to the impacts of urban development on climatic and social vulnerabilities, especially in regard to poor quality infrastructure and informal settlements, Panama describes its efforts to create a resilience strategy that includes tools for vulnerability mapping (Panama NDC, 2020: p. 65). South Africa similarly recognizes the challenges of building sufficient resilient infrastructure to cater for a growing urban population and integrates climate change concerns into urban planning and design (South Africa NDC, 2021: p. 10).

Some NDCs perceive population growth as an opportunity to rebuild the economy not just as it was, but more resilient, fairer and better, as

described by Cabo Verde (2020: p. 7). A few NDCs articulate the importance of policy to build economic resilience by responding directly to anthropogenic pressures in a sustainable manner, for example through a project on classified forests (Benin NDC, 2021: p. 32) or by adopting sustainable fishing practices to respond to the pressure on island fishing species (Cabo Verde NDC, 2020: p. 39).

A few countries reference aspects of population growth as presenting challenges in relation to natural resources management. Mali mentions how population growth and climate constraints degraded the country's resources (Mali NDC, 2021: p. 13). Guinea describes how food insecurity is an existing development problem that is difficult to solve in light of population growth (Guinea NDC, 2021: p. 6). Malawi describes how population growth results in an increased demand for fish, which consequently reduces fish catches (Malawi NDC, 2021: p. 4). It is important to emphasize that links between SRHR and population growth can present challenges to the vision of the ICPD Programme of Action.



Youth

The majority of countries (100) – representing 84 per cent of reviewed submissions – mention youth to some degree, most commonly regarding youth participation (62), with most references in East and Southern

Africa (see figure 6). Nearly half the NDCs (57) recognize youth as particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, while other notable references pertaining to youth include references to education and/or awareness (42), health (35) and consideration of future generations (30) (see table 5).

FIGURE 6: Number of Nationally Determined Contributions that integrate youth out of the Nationally Determined Contributions reviewed

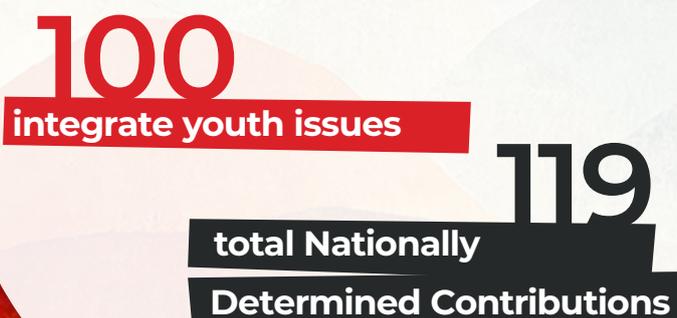


TABLE 5: Number of Nationally Determined Contributions mentioning specific youth issues out of the 119 Nationally Determined Contributions reviewed

As vulnerable group	Participation	In relation to health	In relation to education/awareness	Consideration of future generations
57	62	37	42	30



Regarding youth participation, an example to mention is the Emirates Youth Climate Strategy of the United Arab Emirates, launched in 2018 to develop youth capacity and promote youth participation in climate change via events, mentorship and engagement opportunities, and its Carbon Ambassadors Programme that focuses on climate, sustainable energy and natural resource management (the United Arab Emirates NDC, 2020: p. 9). Other initiatives that promote youth participation include the People Power Ministry for Youth and Sports of Venezuela, created in 2014 to strengthen the organization and participation of youth, which resulted in the development of the Great Youth Chamba Mission in 2017, a strategy to focus and promote public youth policies that has reached 2.5 million youth to date through actions such as youth congresses, formation of disaster risk reduction youth brigades and educational

campaigns (the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela NDC, 2021: p. 121). Cabo Verde also outlines some ambitious interventions for participation and climate empowerment of young people, including setting up a network of youth associations and a focal point for youth participation; the creation of a digital platform with open access data and educational iterative tools, including climate education and ancient coping practices in textbooks and schools; and tripling the number of jobs available for young adults in fields related to climate change and sustainability (Cabo Verde NDC, 2020: p. 51). Saint Lucia remarks that broad consultation and specific engagement of youth stakeholders was crucial in gaining buy-in to the NDC process and revised targets, while also referring to its commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which it is a signatory (Saint Lucia NDC, 2021: p. 14).



Photo: © UNFPA/Shehzad Noorani

Some countries aim to increase youth mainstreaming in policies. This includes Seychelles, which commits to involve youth in the monitoring, reporting and verification system of NDC implementation (Seychelles NDC, 2021: p. 20), and Ethiopia, which plans to increase the number of households using renewable off-grid energy sources for lighting, using the indicator of per cent increase in women and youth participation in renewable energy development and utilization (Ethiopia NDC, 2021: p. 36).

On the vulnerability of young people to climate change, the Plurinational State of Bolivia notes that more than 2.7 million children and adolescents, comprising 24 per cent of the population, live in areas at high risk of floods and droughts (Plurinational State of Bolivia NDC, 2022: p. 5). The Dominican Republic acknowledges that households headed by people between 16 and 17 years of age have the greatest environmental vulnerability (the Dominican Republic NDC, 2020: p. 40). Other examples include youth-heightened vulnerability in Papua New Guinea due to their limited education and employment opportunities (Papua New Guinea NDC, 2016: p. 32); exclusion from decision-making and lack of financial resources, as stated by Cabo Verde (2020: p. 50); and vulnerability to certain climate-related health impacts such as heat stress and dehydration caused by higher temperatures and reduced rainfall, as shown by the State of Palestine NDC (2021: p. 13).

Of the 42 countries to include youth in their NDCs in relation to education and/or awareness, the NDC of South Sudan includes strategies to increase knowledge among

communities regarding climate change via talks at clubs and schools, and to update school curricula with climate change and environmental management (South Sudan NDC, 2021: pp. 93, 145). Antigua and Barbuda commits to several educational and capacity-building actions in its approach to children and youth, including the promotion of environmental education to support climate action, in line with the island nation's commitments to Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) on the involvement of children and youth in adaptation and mitigation action (Antigua and Barbuda NDC, 2021: p. 16).

Youth report: a youth perspective on the Nationally Determined Contributions

Around the world, young people are extremely worried about climate change, with 75 per cent of the youth population fearing the impacts of climate change on their lives, livelihoods and opportunities (Hurley, Dalglish and Sacks, 2022). Many young people report fears about forming families and having children due to the existential threats presented by the climate crisis (UNICEF, 2022). Climate and health impacts will be most severely felt by marginalized children and adolescents, including Indigenous adolescents, refugees and disabled adolescents (UNICEF, 2022). Direct and indirect impacts on mental health are unequally distributed (WHO, 2022) and are expected to worsen in children and adolescents, particularly girls, with increasing temperatures (IPCC, 2022). Four million girls in low- and lower-middle-income countries will be prevented from completing their education because of climate-related events (Malala Fund, 2021). While young people face unique climate-related risks, they have been integral to bringing public attention to the crisis and leading the way in analysis and action and in demanding accountability.





A key component of the climate work of UNFPA is to empower adolescents and young people to build resilient communities, safeguard their well-being and protect their livelihoods. Throughout the development of this report, UNFPA consulted with young people from the UNFPA Joint Youth Working Group on SRHR and Climate Change and YOUNGO, the youth constituency of the UNFCCC. Young people made a number of recommendations:

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 YOUNGO Women and Gender
 Working Group and member,
 Youth Advisory Group of the UN
 Secretary General on Climate Change
 The Gambia



Photo: © New York Times

“With the severe climatic conditions countries in West and Central Africa are experiencing, such as biodiversity loss, gender inequality, youth unemployment, poverty, GBV, maternal mortality and early and forced marriage among other SRHR challenges, **it is crucial to ensure our climate action, including what is recommended in NDCs, includes comprehensive sexuality education in schools centring on women’s experiences to guarantee sustainable changes and resilient communities.** Governments should ensure more adaptive measures to sensitize women and girls on climate change while putting in place safety nets to ensure that they continue to have access to SRHR services even in times of climate events and displacement.”

“The NDC of the Gambia has failed to mention SRHR despite the exacerbation of SRHR cases in the country due to the impacts of climate change. Over the years, the Gambia has experienced an increase in GBV cases, with 533 reported cases at the Network Against Gender-Based Violence (NGBV) one-stop centres, and even more unreported cases, according to the NGBV. Girls are forced into early child marriage. Moreover, the country has also witnessed an increase in maternal mortality and other pregnancy-related challenges, with 452 women dying during childbirth in the last two years according to Women’s Lives Matter. These are situations that continue to be exacerbated by climate change. Recently, the country experienced flash floods and windstorms, leading to the death of people, displacement and triggering GBV incidences.”





Imali Ngusale

Member, UNFPA
Joint Youth Working Group
on SRHR and Climate Change
Kenya

Photo: © Imali Ngusale

“Given that young people continue to be more susceptible to climate shocks and the climate crisis in general, governments in the region should prioritize broad consultation, facilitation, accountability and practical climate action that ensures meaningful inclusion of youth. Nominating youth ambassadors and lauding a few youth groups does not suffice as a legitimate strategy for inclusion. Governments should invest in developing comprehensive youth consultation and engagement strategies to maximize the diversity of youth expertise as well as ensuring that national strategies are robustly inclusive of marginalized groups.”

“More often than not, NDC discussions are confined to government boardrooms, yet the proposals that stem from them affect the

youth and make women, particularly those living with disabilities, invisible and marginalized. This **exclusion of women with disabilities from decision-making spaces makes the vulnerable more vulnerable and the impoverished more susceptible to climate shocks and unpredictable patterns like flooding.** It is therefore crucial for countries to assess the current structural causes of the discrimination and ensure that they are addressed because climate challenges inadvertently perpetuate harmful stereotypes. If SRHR is excluded as a priority area in tackling the climate crisis then it means governments may not recognize SRHR challenges adequately. Generally, in sub-Saharan Africa, the climate crisis could exacerbate the impact of the deficits in existing health systems. Potential climate shocks may impede the advocacy gains in SRHR.”



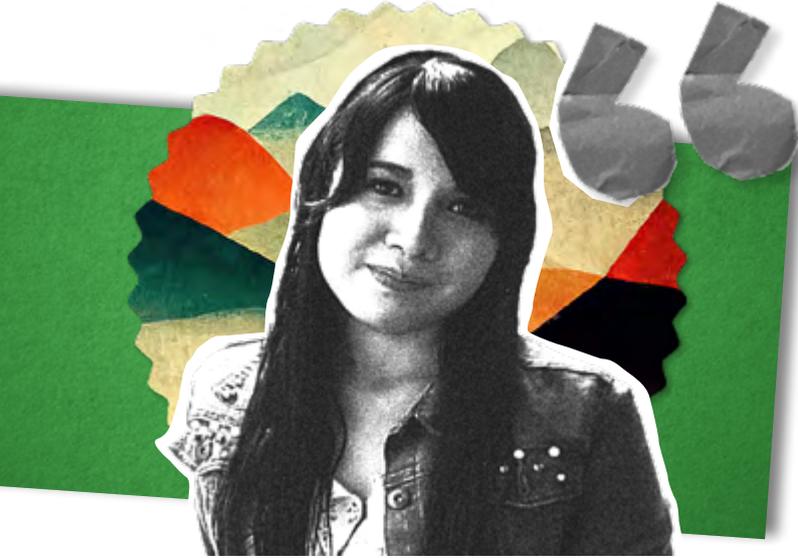


Photo: © Isabel Adriana García Gómez

Isabel Adriana García Gómez

Member, UNFPA
Joint Youth Working Group on
SRHR and Climate Change

Mexico

“For me, the fact that we find the word ‘youth’ on the NDC is just a first sign of maybe achieving intergenerational justice. **However, finding the word is not the same as having meaningful youth engagement and not the same as youth being active parts in the NDC implementation.** So my suggestion would be that the NDCs update the structure of the reports detailing, per stakeholder, the actions taken to include them and the best practices. Also, quantitative data is needed to showcase the impact and evaluate the representation of youth and gender approach in the process.”

“Although many NDCs of my region recognize the persistence of structural inequalities that place people in different degrees of vulnerability, and efforts are made to include the perspective of gender, intersectionality and in some cases the youth perspective in a transversal way to guarantee that no one is left behind, we still need to move to the generation of information with data disaggregated by gender and age that allow them to know and make visible other direct and indirect impacts of climate change on other rights, such as SRHR and GBV.”

Ahmed Owda

2022 Contact Point
YOUNGO Health Working Group
the State of Palestine

“Support youth-led NDC implementation projects by establishing a fund or window of an existing fund that includes small grants for youth to support NDC implementation through relevant projects and support by providing technical guidance to governments on effective youth engagement. Ensure youth are key stakeholders in urban and rural programmes.”

“**There are some updated NDCs that do not mention youth and gender, which makes me as a youth disappointed** because the youth can play a very important role in their countries and accelerate the development and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in their countries. We have the vision to make our countries and regions better, but we don’t have the opportunity to share it.”



Photo: © UNEP at UNEA-5.2





Photo: © Divisional Youth Forum/Jawad Hossain

Tasnia Ahmed

**Member, UNFPA
 Joint Youth Working Group on
 SRHR and Climate Change**

Bangladesh

“Facilitating country access to women capacity-building support and knowledge resources in response to requests for support on gender mainstreaming in climate action; and surfacing successes, effective practices and lessons from around the world and widely disseminating these through country peer exchanges and knowledge products, as well as sharing empowering tales of women making a difference.”

“As a young woman in the region, I am worried by the fact that several of the revised NDCs omit women and youth. It is so frustrating to see the lack of recognition of the fact that young people can have a role in the implementation of climate policies and the development of the region aligned with Sustainable Development Goals.”

Valery Flores

**Member, Global Coordination
 team at YOUNGO**

Peru

“Advancements are made to include youth, women and Indigenous people are welcome, but a missing issue is the inclusion of people with disabilities. Also, making the information accessible to everyone is key – and available in Indigenous languages. One suggestion is the **creation of youth advisory groups at the local level to oversee the implementation of NDCs on the ground** and to communicate how they affect daily life.”

“As youth, however, the level of vulnerability of all youth is not the same. Some have more adaptive capacities, and some need more help. Good progress is that youth is not seen as only vulnerable but also as a stakeholder that is capable of contributing.”



Photo: Valery Flores at Youth4Climate pre-COP26



Leaving no one behind: human rights, participation and consideration of vulnerable groups

The majority of NDCs (101) describe segments of their population as vulnerable to climate change, and/or consider such groups in climate action (see figure 7), with 84 countries describing vulnerable groups as a key consideration for climate mitigation and adaptation strategies (see table 6). One hundred

NDCs acknowledge that some groups are more vulnerable to climate impacts. Most commonly, the vulnerable groups of the population are described as women, young people, older people, low-income groups, disabled persons and Indigenous peoples. Other people of interest mentioned in fewer NDCs include people of African descent, waste workers, residents of less developed areas, smallholder farmers, older people and coastal populations. Addressing population vulnerability to climate impacts is a priority across the NDCs (see table 6).

FIGURE 7: Number of Nationally Determined Contributions that integrate human rights, participation and consideration of vulnerable groups out of the 119 Nationally Determined Contributions reviewed



TABLE 6: Number of Nationally Determined Contributions mentioning specific human rights, consideration of vulnerable groups and participation out of the 119 Nationally Determined Contributions reviewed

As main pillar/ strategy	Vulnerable groups			Participation of population in:			Human rights
	Communities dependent on natural resources	In relation to health	In relation to gender	Nationally Determined Contributions development	Local resource management	In relation to gender	
84	53	49	69	115	66	71	41



Of the 119 NDCs reviewed, 59 mentioned women as particularly vulnerable to climate change, while 53 out of 119 NDCs described heightened vulnerability to climate change due to the population's dependence on natural resources, and 49 out of 119 described population vulnerability in relation to health impacts of climate change. Nearly all (115/119) countries mention some degree of participation of the population in climate policy or action, and 115 out of 119 NDCs describe public participation in NDC development. Most NDCs also noted participation in relation to gender (71/119) and in sustainable local resource management (66/119). Forty-one of the 119 NDCs reference human rights in their NDC, with the highest number of references arising in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Jordan adopts a useful approach of detailing different groups of society and the specific reasons for their vulnerability, and then the measures to address these vulnerabilities, such as the creation of new green jobs for the unemployed and the development of green infrastructure in urban areas accessible

for disabled persons (Jordan NDC, 2021: pp. 22–23). The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela also provides measures to address vulnerable poor communities, working in consultation with 3,000 Indigenous communities, and with a specific goal to create 533 homes to help eradicate extreme poverty by 2025 (the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela NDC, 2021: p. 127). Social protection is a priority for Cabo Verde, which plans to expand livelihood protection policies that assist vulnerable, low-income individuals to recover from damages associated with extreme weather events (Cabo Verde NDC, 2020: p. 43). Dominica commits to a number of key measures specific to building the resilience of the Indigenous Kalinago people, including widespread climate risk education and awareness; the establishment of a climate change “easy access trust fund” to address threats to food security; community disaster shelters; and the construction of a landing site in Kalinago Territory for Indigenous fishers unable to travel to the urban centre of Marigot, among other measures (Dominica NDC, 2022: p. 24).





Photo: © UNFPA/Luis Tato

In terms of public participation in climate action, Honduras demonstrates best practice by detailing how public participation and consideration of vulnerable groups took place in NDC development, and by conducting two active listening sessions and four workshops with women, youth, Indigenous peoples and people of African descent to gather information about their needs, contributions and advocacy role in climate change actions (Honduras NDC, 2021: p. 23). Saudi Arabia describes the Human Capability Development Program, which officially launched in 2021 to develop citizens' capabilities to participate effectively in the ongoing local, social and cultural development (Saudi Arabia NDC, 2021: p. 12). The Ministry of Land and Environment of Mozambique has launched the National Climate Change Conference, which is held every two years as a forum open to public participation to share information, experiences and good practices in climate change (Mozambique NDC, 2021: p. 57). The Forest Carbon Cooperative Fund of Nicaragua provides an excellent example of public participation in sustainable natural resource management. Through this initiative, rural communities and Indigenous peoples living in the forests of the Caribbean Coast, Bosawas and Maiz peoples will reduce deforestation and forest degradation, prevent the emission of approximately 11 million tons of carbon dioxide and, in exchange, receive positive financial incentives of US\$ 55 million over five years (Nicaragua NCD, 2020: p. 17). Belize described its inclusion of vulnerable populations from

the inception workshop and throughout the NDC update process, for which progress was validated by a technical committee of sector leads including representatives of Indigenous peoples (Belize NDC, 2021: p. 38). The Philippines includes a reference to the NDC development through meaningful participation from all sections of society, including people with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities; however, it provides no further details on the methods or means used for inclusion (the Philippines NDC, 2021: p. 1).

Forty-one NDCs highlighted the intersection of climate change and human rights as a critical area of attention for the development of national climate action. Both Papua New Guinea (2016: p. 8) and the Marshall Islands (2018: pp. 8, 59) commit to promoting a human rights-based approach in all related planning, programming and implementation, with the latter proposing to support gender and human rights experts in advocacy, engagement and capacity-building, and for enhancing gender in sector-specific elements. Kenya (2021: p. 10) and the Comoros (2021: p. 10) talk about their laws against discrimination on the basis of gender, with the Comoros going further to list the various rights and the enforcement of human rights of women and girls as well as international conventions that address these rights. Mauritania (2021: pp. 7, 12) commits to integrate human rights as a cross-cutting aspect in implementing its NDCs and acts by reserving 10 per cent of the budget of each project to human rights, gender and youth. Dominica (2022: p. 65) makes specific reference to its support to the right of the Kalinago people to self-determination and other human rights according to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In the NDC, Dominica also prioritizes identified adaptation measures together with the Kalinago people to reduce the threats to their existence as well as their livelihood and culture, and recognizes them as the most significantly disadvantaged group in the country.



DISCUSSION

This review found that 38 out of the 119 NDCs reviewed refer to dimensions of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices.

Across NDCs, the most frequent references to aspects of SRHR are to maternal and newborn health and to GBV. There is only one reference to harmful practices, and this is specifically on early marriage. Considering that the intersections between climate change, SRHR, GBV and harmful practices are growing in recognition, including within formal evidence bases, it is promising to see that almost one third of all NDCs reviewed include some aspect of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices. Substantial climate action that addresses the ways in which climate change heightens vulnerability, inequality and injustice can only be achieved by considering SRHR, GBV and harmful practices. Greater translation of the recognition of climate impacts on SRHR and GBV into substantial policy, programmatic and funded action is required. For countries that do not acknowledge the impacts of climate change on SRHR, GBV and harmful practices in their NDCs, linkages to health, youth and gender can serve as important entry points.

While not all countries recognize the climate impacts on maternal health outcomes, more than half of the countries mention health surveillance and/or early warning systems. Countries such as Paraguay and the Central African Republic are among the few that aim to strengthen their epidemiological surveillance systems to track impacts of

climate change on human health. These and similar interventions across the NDCs create momentum to advocate for the inclusion of maternal and newborn health outcomes in climate-related health surveillance to provide a better understanding of the climate-related health needs of women of reproductive age.

References to SRHR beyond maternal health and GBV are sparse and varied. In general, better data and evidence is required to further articulate the impacts of climate change on women, girls and marginalized groups, particularly in relation to SRHR. This includes undertaking assessments and developing indicators, measures and categories for data collection that better reflect a wide range of gender, health and SRHR impacts and in a disaggregated way. Cabo Verde describes such plans in their NDC. Disaggregation of data should go beyond gender to include further categories related to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. Research should be undertaken in national and regional contexts, ideally by local researchers using a wide range of methodologies, including participatory and qualitative approaches, which can also assist in determining the utility and appropriateness of indicators and quantitative measures.

SRHR can be integrated into vulnerability assessments by building on initiatives featured in some NDCs. These include undertaking risk and vulnerability assessments of

rural communities in the Solomon Islands, collecting socioeconomic data to understand vulnerabilities as proposed by Sierra Leone, or conducting sector-specific vulnerability analysis to understand specific needs of communities, as proposed by Pakistan in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector. Some NDCs also demonstrate the potential and entry points for such assessments.



Photo: © UNFPA Philippines/Ezra Acayan

The NDCs reviewed show limited investment in SRHR and gender-related policy interventions. There is a need to increase funding and ambition for adaptation, including for health and SRHR interventions. Funding for loss and damage, building adaptive capacity and increasing resilience should support women, girls and others hardest hit by the crisis through a range of programmes and initiatives that are responsive to community-identified needs. While limited, some NDCs recognize a range of interventions and

programmes that could include integrated programmatic components related to SRHR, such as clean energy technology transfer, including reusable cookstove interventions or livelihood and economic security projects related to agriculture. For example, as two thirds of the NDCs in West and Central Africa recognize food insecurity as a challenge, this can be a starting point to address the social and cultural norms that increase GBV in times of food scarcity. Few NDCs link programmes and initiatives to budget lines and improvements in this would strengthen the meaningfulness of references to aspects of SRHR and related themes.

While several countries describe action related to the thematic areas considered, there is insufficient detail on implementation plans and costings. Including such information would strengthen the quality of references and better allow for assessment of implementation and achievement. Beyond listing thematic areas such as rights or gender, following through in ways that are meaningful for local populations would require investment, implementation and monitoring. Increasing the representation of women, girls and other groups facing discrimination and marginalization within all dimensions of climate policy would go some way towards better ensuring diverse voices and experiences are reflected in climate policy and action. While 105 NDCs detail how consultations took place regarding NDC development and many list groups consulted, there is no measure or detail on how meaningful this participation was. Minimum standards of representation, with a consideration of how to facilitate access, including through training, funding and capacity-building, is required to ensure participation is meaningful and not tokenistic.

NDCs need to better reflect the experiences and needs of people facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and better account for impacts on sexual health

and rights, including addressing the needs of diverse SOGIESC. Only a few countries specifically mentioned the impacts of climate change on these groups.

While most countries recognize the disproportionate impacts of climate change on women, only a few countries fully elaborate on critical policies and intervention responses. Some NDCs that identify an increased incidence of GBV cases during emergencies also articulate policy and intervention responses that are costed in the national budget. The analysis of this wave of NDCs shows there is a need to further expand the adoption of gender mainstreaming in national climate policy and support national best practices, such as the establishment of a National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point (NGCCFP).

The NDCs reference young people throughout, but often as a group that will be unjustly impacted or as a group in need of consultation. The NDCs include some positive examples for increasing youth participation, such as in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, South Sudan and the United Arab Emirates. Despite these positive references, ways to ensure that participation is meaningful, and that feedback and consultations are translated into action, are unclear from the NDCs. As consultation processes across multiple groups become standard in climate policy, accountability measures are needed to ensure that what is gained from these processes is reflected in climate policy and action.

Climate-related migration will pose a challenge to maintaining and achieving SRHR as well as preventing GBV and harmful practices, as shown in the analysis of inclusion in these and related thematic areas. Women and girls are on the move due to both disasters and slow-onset weather events, but there is insufficient consideration given to SRHR, GBV and harmful practices. NDCs should increase

their recognition and commitment to protect the rights of persons displaced due to disasters and conflict, which includes provision of and access to high-quality SRHR. In general, a greater consideration of intersectionality and assessing who is being made increasingly vulnerable to climate impacts is required. This includes country-level analysis to determine who these groups may be and how best to support them to participate in climate action.

As we approach the 30-year review of the 1994 ICPD Programme of Action, there is a need to ensure that language and policy around the relationship between population and climate change is in line with the principles set forth by the ICPD Programme of Action. Countries with the highest population growth tend to be those with the lowest emission levels (Ritchie, 2023). Identifying the accurate relationship between aspects of climate change and demography, reinforcing rights-based approaches and upholding the principles and commitments of the ICPD are essential for a just response to the climate crisis (Kanem, 2017). Within the NDCs there is a need to ensure that references are consistent with the ICPD Programme of Action principles and to underpin climate policy with a voluntary, human rights-based approach to reproductive choices.



Photo (collage): © Rawpixel

RECOMMENDATIONS

Data and evidence

- 1. Strengthen the national-level evidence on the impacts of climate change on SRHR, GBV and harmful practices.** This should include improving data systems to better account for and forecast the differentiated impacts of climate change on SRHR, GBV and harmful practices, including through the conduct of gender-related climate vulnerability and risk assessments which integrate SRHR and GBV. Detailed country-level research, preferably led by local researchers, on the intersections between climate, SRHR and GBV is required to better support communities at the local and national level but also to contribute to the global evidence base.
- 2. Scale up efforts to collect and use disaggregated data and account for the differentiated impacts of the climate crisis.** The demonstration of such efforts in the NDCs is encouraging. Gender-disaggregated data supports the identification of groups that are more vulnerable to climate impacts and can help mobilize more sensitive and accurate climate action. This better represents the differentiated impacts of the climate crisis while supporting research, data, planning and intervention to reach better outcomes. This also enables gender-sensitive budgeting, including for components related to SRHR and GBV.

Financing and accountability

- 3. Increase support, funding and evaluation for adaptation and resilience-building efforts, including within NDCs and in the development of climate policies.** While adaptation sections are increasing in frequency and detail within NDCs, greater support, evaluation and financing are required to ensure these policies reflect the needs of underserved populations and topic areas, such as SRHR and GBV.
- 4. Strengthen the integration of costed SRHR and GBV interventions across sectors in climate policy and action.** Include SRHR and GBV issues in domains such as gender and health, as these represent entry points for the inclusion of SRHR in national climate policies. Costed action, tied to monitoring and indicators that reflect impacts on gender, health and SRHR and GBV, requires more financial and technical support. Many existing interventions, particularly related to gender and health, could begin to provide or increase the integration of programming on SRHR and GBV.
- 5. Strengthen health systems' resilience to climate change by ensuring the inclusion of SRHR.** This includes ensuring the inclusion of SRHR in vulnerability risk assessments, disaster preparedness plans and health information management systems. Ensure appropriate human resources are available for health, monitoring and evaluation indicators, the allocation of funds and a coordination mechanism.



Gender equality and representation

6. **Scale up and strengthen gender-transformative climate action through the inclusion of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices issues.** This includes the appointment and strengthening of the role of a NGCCFP to be placed in the relevant ministry, as recommended by a decision of the 2019 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP25); the review of existing gender-related climate policies; and the integration of gender-transformative approaches in all aspects of climate change policies and programmes/interventions, based on a solid foundation of context-specific analysis.
7. **Recognize the impacts of climate change on the drivers of GBV and harmful practices.** Support the development of best practices for responding to GBV and harmful practices, and for ensuring the resilience, including financial, of essential services to prevent and respond to GBV. This can be achieved through partnership with gender and rights actors such as organizations of disabled persons, women-led organizations, Indigenous peoples' groups, youth-led organizations and front-line responders.
8. **Ensure inclusion and a minimum standard of representation in the development and implementation of climate policy at multiple levels.** This includes the inclusion and representation of women, people with diverse SOGIESC, young people, Indigenous peoples, older people, disabled persons and others as relevant.



Photo: © UNFPA Latin America and the Caribbean

Human rights and leaving no one behind

9. Improve the understanding of the impacts of climate change on sexual and reproductive rights and on people with diverse and underrepresented SOGIESC. There is insufficient understanding and recognition of the impacts of climate change on people with diverse SOGIESC. Increasing this understanding will require specific, local and sensitive action that is participatory, accountable and calls on existing best practices.

10. Mobilize and support young people. Support youth climate networks and establish a permanent youth engagement mechanism on climate change at the national level to ensure the mainstreaming of youth priorities across the design and implementation of national climate policy and action.

11. Take an intersectional approach to develop, review and implement climate policy that recognizes the structural drivers of inequality and accounts for multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. Climate policy and action must recognize how many of the people who already face barriers to SRHR and GBV services and the realization of their sexual and reproductive rights are likely to be disproportionately affected by climate change.

12. Enhance recognition of climate change impacts on GBV and harmful practices in NDCs and relevant climate policies.

National climate policies should more meaningfully account for the delivery of GBV services during climate-related events. This includes strengthening the engagement with national gender/GBV-focused mechanisms (e.g. ministries, parliamentary caucuses, civil society networks) as well as climate-focused national mechanisms to present regional and national analysis of the interlinkages between climate change, GBV and harmful practices and collectively develop a consensus on policy advocacy and programming strategies and interventions. This could be achieved through the creation of a common platform for meaningful dialogue, with key mechanisms, networks and leaders engaged in addressing GBV and climate change.

13. Ensure that climate policies are based on human rights and reflect the principles of the ICPD Programme of Action, including protecting the rights of women, children, refugees, displaced people and people living with disabilities, in climate policy development. A human rights-based approach that supports individuals to make the reproductive choices that best suit their personal circumstances is core to achieving SRHR. Population dynamics are relevant for climate policy and planning and the NDCs reflect on urbanization, changing population size and structure and the need for population dynamics analysis for forward planning.

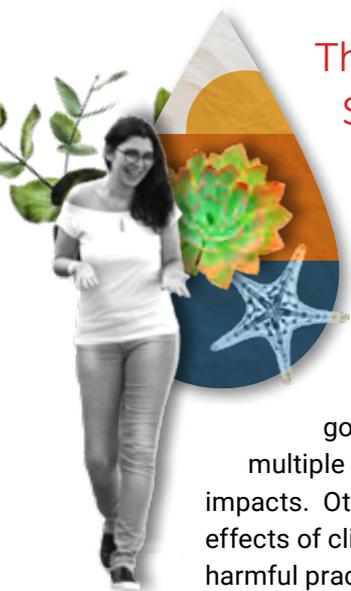


CONCLUSION

Since climate change is already happening and is likely to worsen, it is imperative that we act and adapt, including through upholding sexual and reproductive health and rights as a foundation of resilience and of the sustainable well-being of societies overall.

DR. NATALIA KANEM,
UNFPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





This global review of 119 NDCs on the integration of SRHR and right-based approaches in NDCs found 38 references to SRHR, GBV and harmful practices.

The NDCs of very few countries not only acknowledge the impacts of climate change on SRHR and GBV but go on to propose substantial and multiple interventions to address these impacts. Other countries acknowledge the effects of climate change on SRHR, GBV and harmful practices, but without addressing a specific programmatic dimension. Some countries only refer to aspects of SRHR and GBV in their country's situational analysis.

This is a call to action for UNFPA and other advocates of SRHR and GBV prevention and response to enhance the engagement with climate change mechanisms, including policy-makers, parliamentarians, researchers and service providers, to advocate for better understanding of the interlinkages between climate action and SRHR and GBV. There are opportunities to ensure more meaningful climate action that addresses vulnerability, inequality and the importance of leaving no one behind. SRHR and interventions to address GBV and harmful practices are cornerstones of resilience, adaptation and realizing that SRHR is an indicator of a healthy and equal society. As the climate crisis intensifies, greater investment, engagement and prioritization of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices is needed to ensure no one is left behind and that inequalities are not further exacerbated.

As the next round of NDC submission approaches in 2025, there are opportunities for engagement with relevant bodies to address the intersection of SRHR, GBV, harmful practices and climate change more broadly in national climate policies, and equally to address climate change in national

SRHR, GBV and harmful practices policies through people-centred, rights-based and gender-sensitive approaches. This engagement should go beyond the NDCs to engage national-policy-level ecosystems including national climate policies, gender action plans (GAPS), national adaptation plans (NAPs), health sector plans, the commitments around the Summit of the Future and other relevant plans. Civil society and public engagement and consultation should be meaningful and externally assessed to ensure that data and feedback collected during consultations is reflected in NDCs.



Photo: © UNFPA West and Central Africa

Taking action

The results of this report will provide an opening for dialogue at global, regional and national levels on the ways that climate change, SRHR, GBV and harmful practices intersect and to identify entry points for climate action. Highlighting gaps as well as opportunities and promising practices allows for greater and more meaningful integration of aspects of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices in climate policies.

Below are some suggested avenues for further engagement with climate, SRHR, GBV and harmful practices policies in your region or territory:

Create a platform for stakeholder involvement at all levels and work across sectors to ensure integration of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices in relevant policy and programming.

- Disseminate the findings of this report among relevant stakeholders, including colleagues, ministerial actors, fellow activists and other interested parties in your region. Organize a discussion forum or workshop to facilitate an exchange of ideas and perspectives on the intersections between SRHR, GBV, harmful practices and climate impacts within your local context. This platform will provide an opportunity to explore how these findings align with and enhance the understanding of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices in relation to climate change in your specific region.

Specific ideas to strengthen the discussion include:

- Invite experts, researchers and practitioners working in the fields of SRHR, GBV, climate change and environmental justice to share their insights and experiences.
- Encourage participants to share local case studies, success stories, challenges and innovative approaches to addressing

SRHR, GBV and harmful practices in the context of climate change.

- Facilitate group discussions and brainstorming sessions to identify key priorities, gaps and potential strategies for integrating SRHR, GBV and harmful practices into climate policy and action.
- Conduct a comprehensive mapping of climate policies in your country, going beyond the NDCs. Explore and identify other relevant climate policies, such as GAPs, NAPs or any other national policies that provide opportunities for the inclusion of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices.

Specific ideas to strengthen the mapping process include:

- Collaborate with local research institutions, civil society organizations and relevant government agencies to gather information and analyse the existing climate policies.
- Examine the extent to which these policies address issues of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices and identify potential entry points for integration.
- Highlight good practices and successful initiatives within climate policies that address SRHR, GBV and harmful practices and showcase them as examples to inspire further action.
- Actively engage in national consultations on climate policy, including the updating of NDCs and the development of NAPs and GAPs. Stay informed about the processes and timelines related to these consultations, and proactively seek opportunities to participate and contribute your insights and perspectives.

Specific ideas to strengthen your engagement include:

- Reach out to relevant government agencies, United Nations entities and civil society organizations involved in the climate policy development

process, expressing your interest in participating and contributing.

- Prepare position papers or policy briefs highlighting the importance of integrating SRHR, GBV and harmful practices into climate policy and action and share them with key stakeholders.
- Advocate for the inclusion of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices in the discussions, emphasizing their critical role in addressing the climate crisis and ensuring the well-being and rights of all individuals, particularly those most vulnerable to climate impacts.
- Collaborate with like-minded organizations and activists to amplify your collective voice and advocate for meaningful inclusion and action on SRHR, GBV and harmful practices in climate policy at the national level.

Contribute to the national dialogue and strengthen NAPs and specific interventions to include delivery of SRHR and GBV services for women and girls as well as prevention of harmful practices.

- Learn about the NDC and NAP development or update process in your country or region:
 - Research and gather information about the specific steps and timeline involved in the development or update of NDCs and NAPs in your country or region.
 - Identify the key government agencies or bodies responsible for coordinating these processes and reach out to them to request information or guidance on how to engage effectively.
 - Attend workshops, webinars or information sessions organized by government agencies or climate-related organizations to learn about the requirements and expectations for engaging in the NDC and NAP development or update process.

- Connect with local civil society organizations, research institutions or advocacy groups that have experience or knowledge about the NDC and NAP processes to gain insights and guidance.
- Advocate for the meaningful inclusion and engagement of stakeholders:
 - Advocate for the meaningful inclusion and active engagement of a diverse range of stakeholders in the development and implementation of NDCs and NAPs. This includes local groups, young people, women's groups, Indigenous peoples, underrepresented groups and other relevant stakeholders.
 - Engage with decision makers, government officials and relevant institutions through letters, petitions or direct meetings to emphasize the importance of inclusive and participatory processes.
 - Collaborate with local organizations and networks that represent the interests of marginalized or underrepresented groups to amplify their voices and advocate for their meaningful inclusion.
 - Highlight the benefits of diverse perspectives and experiences in crafting climate policies that address the specific needs and challenges faced by different groups.
 - Provide concrete suggestions and recommendations for ensuring inclusive engagement, such as organizing targeted consultations, creating dedicated spaces for marginalized groups to voice their concerns, and establishing mechanisms for ongoing dialogue and feedback.
- By actively engaging in the NDC and NAP processes and demanding inclusive participation, you can contribute to the development of more comprehensive and equitable climate policies that reflect the needs and aspirations of all stakeholders.



Strengthen the evidence base for the interlinkages between climate change and SRHR, GBV and harmful practices in your country and region.

- Gather information in your country, region or territory:
 - Conduct research and gather information on the intersections between SRHR, GBV, harmful practices and climate impacts in your specific context. Look for existing studies, reports or data that highlight these connections and provide insights into the challenges and opportunities for addressing them.
 - Engage with local research institutions, universities or non-governmental organizations working on climate change, SRHR, GBV and harmful practices to explore possibilities for collaboration and knowledge sharing.
 - Participate in relevant meetings, workshops or conferences that focus on climate change, SRHR, GBV or harmful practices to learn from experts and practitioners in the field and gather valuable information.
- Incorporate SRHR, GBV and harmful practices as areas of interest:
 - Advocate for the inclusion of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices as specific areas of interest in relevant research undertakings, meetings, data-gathering activities and programmes. Emphasize the need to understand and address the intersections between these issues and climate impacts.
 - Collaborate with researchers, organizations or institutions working on climate change to explore opportunities for joint research or data-collection initiatives that incorporate SRHR, GBV and harmful practices as key components.
- Engage with local or regional climate change platforms, working groups or task forces to raise awareness about the importance of addressing SRHR, GBV and harmful practices and advocate for their inclusion in discussions and decision-making processes.
- Raise questions and ensure accountability:
 - Participate actively in relevant forums, such as policy dialogues, conferences or community meetings, where climate change and related issues are discussed. Raise questions and highlight the intersections between SRHR, GBV, harmful practices and climate change.
 - Engage with duty bearers, policymakers, parliamentarians and government representatives at the national and regional levels to hold them accountable for considering the intersection of these issues in their work.
 - Request transparency and accountability in national and regional climate change strategies, policies and programmes, urging decision makers to integrate considerations of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices in their approaches.
 - Collaborate with local and regional advocacy groups, women's rights organizations, youth networks and other relevant stakeholders to amplify your voices and jointly advocate for the recognition and inclusion of these intersections in climate change policies and actions.
- By gathering information, incorporating these issues in relevant activities and demanding accountability, you can contribute to raising awareness and promoting the integration of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices considerations in climate change agendas in your country or region.





Resources to help to

Take Action

UNFPA's [value proposition on climate change](#)

FAQ: [UNFPA and the Climate Crisis](#)

Recommendations: [Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Climate Action](#)

[Resilient Futures: Young People, the Climate Crisis, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights](#)

Evidence brief: [Child Marriage and Environmental Crises](#)

[Gender-Based Violence in the Context of Climate Change in the Arab Region 2023 Review of Evidence and Pathways](#)

[Population Data Portal](#)

Advocacy brief: [The Impact of the Climate Crisis on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights](#)

Review summary: [Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in National Climate Policy](#)

Infographic: [Bodily Autonomy and Access to Family Planning are Essential for Responding to Climate Change](#)

Infographic: [The Negative Impact of Climate Change on Maternal Health](#)

Infographic: [Environmental Crises Exacerbate Some Drivers of Child Marriage](#)

Infographic: [Climate Change and Gender-Based Violence](#)

[Integrated Climate Change Action in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Gender Based Violence Programming](#)

Infographic: [Responding to Climate Change Requires Health Systems Strengthening](#)

Animated video for adolescents: [Climate Change's Impact on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights](#)

Animated video: [The Impact of the Climate Crisis on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights](#)

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Sexual and reproductive health and rights references identified in Nationally Determined Contributions

All sexual and reproductive health and rights references in Nationally Determined Contributions	
Angola	Population health: "Contributing to the population growth tendency is the declining of mortality in the country in recent years as a reflection of the increase of life expectancy at birth, decrease of juvenile mortality rates and lower HIV prevalence in pregnant women (despite existence of some provincial variation)." (p. 20)
Eswatini	Cross-cutting: "Climatic factors have affected Eswatini in multiple ways, exposing its population to problems ranging from food insecurity and livelihood loss to epidemics and mortality. However, these impacts are not equal as population segments are disproportionately affected by them. Eswatini has recognized several such vulnerable groups such as women, LGBTQI, rural population, elderly, disabled and youth to name a few. The interests of these vulnerable groups are protected through a series of cross-cutting actions." (p. 8)
Malawi	"In 2016, Malawi adopted the National Climate Change Management Policy (NCCMP) which provides strategic direction for the country's priorities for climate change interventions through six priority areas...: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change adaptation; • Climate change mitigation; • Capacity building, education, training and awareness; • Research, technology development and transfer and systematic observation; • Climate financing; and • Cross-cutting issues (including gender considerations, population dynamics and HIV and AIDS)." (p. 8)
Namibia	Health: "The main causes of adult mortality are AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Since these diseases often co-occur, it is difficult to establish the exact cause of death. Climate change is already exacerbating the causes of infant and adult mortality, and this will likely worsen in the future." (p. 22)
Seychelles	"Encourage life skills and family life education that integrates comprehensive sexuality education as a key part of building climate resilience among young people especially in vulnerable communities prone to climate impacts." (p. 19) "Improving the Seychelles health management information systems to incorporate indicators of climate stress linked to major health impacts, including those related to reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health." (p. 35) "Ensuring that health systems strengthening and related financing for climate resilience takes into account risks to maternal and neonatal health and takes measures to reduce these risks." (p. 35) "Committing to strengthening the capacity of health systems to protect and improve population health that meets SRHR needs of women and young people in an unstable and changing climate." (p. 35) "Ensuring that climate-related vulnerability assessments and actions take into account sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence risks and protective measures and are informed by disaggregated population data." (p. 36)
South Sudan	"South Sudan also has the world's highest maternal mortality rate; 1 in 7 women die from childbirth or pregnancy. Infant mortality rates are also exceptionally high, with 75 children per 1,000 dying before their first birthday. It is believed that climate change will further increase infant and maternal mortality and birth complications and exacerbate poor reproductive health in tropical developing countries. In particular, the effect of infectious diseases, extreme environmental conditions, malnutrition and heat exposure will lead to serious health risks for mothers and children. Thus, the overall impact of climate change on the population of South Sudan will be detrimental as it will lead to extreme weather events, increased infectious diseases and poor maternal and child health." (p. 41)

¹ Quoted text has been translated from its source language into English for this report.



All sexual and reproductive health and rights references in Nationally Determined Contributions	
Uganda	"Implement integrated health related climate interventions considering policies on water and sanitation, education, social protection and reproductive health care." (p. 24)
Benin¹	Adaptation programme: "Support Program for Reproductive Health Activities ... Improve the quality and accessibility of health services for mother and child health." (p. 60) Strategies, programmes and projects: "Food Security and Resilience Building Project (PROSAR) GIZ", with actions enabling the preparation and implementation of the NDC: "Improving the food situation of people vulnerable to malnutrition, especially women of childbearing age and young children." (p. 27) Food security adaptation measure: "The food situation of people vulnerable to malnutrition, especially women of reproductive age and young children, has improved." (p. 57)
Congo (the)¹	"The Congo's demographic and health indicators highlight the worrying state of the population's health. This state is characterized by high maternal, neonatal, infant and child mortality and high morbidity." (p. 25)
Côte d'Ivoire¹	"In Côte d'Ivoire, the negative repercussions of climate change are perceptible in many sectors, the main ones being the following: ... Health: ... increase in waves of extreme heat with intense effects on pregnant women and women in the process of menopause." (p. 21)
Togo¹	Human settlements and health sector: "In terms of health, high temperatures and flooding lead to the outbreak and proliferation of germs of certain diseases such as malaria, meningitis, typhoid fever, cholera and respiratory diseases that were once localized and controlled. So far, the northern regions (Savannas and Kara) are the most vulnerable. However, the simulation shows that in the future, the risk of its diseases could spread southward with aggravation in the northern regions. The mortality rate would increase and the vulnerability of the elderly, pregnant women, people with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS and children will become increasingly high." (p. 39) Progress made on the adaptation efforts of Togo in initial NDC: "Increase in the supply of integrated HIV/AIDS FP [family planning] services with a percentage of FS [healthcare facilities] offering these services reaching 91%." (p. 51)
Tunisia¹	"Measure 1: Improve health services and benefits for women through prevention, through educational promotion, the capacitation of the professionals involved in the organization of awareness campaigns for productive health and reproductive health of women, as well as to prevent and support women against domestic and gender-based violence." (p. 68) "Measure 2: Specify adequate human resources policies in the health sector, able to reduce regional disparities, particularly in terms of access to healthcare, and rethink the programming of specialties and the assignment of specialists and mother and child health programs in the interior regions of the country." (p. 68)
Iraq	"Raise health awareness among communities exposed to climate change-related diseases and support the health and family programme." (p. 9)
Sudan (the)	"Increasing health resilience to climate change-related diseases and reducing the associated mortality by supporting family's and school's health programmes." (p. 8)
Cambodia	"The negative impacts on agricultural production can lead to breakdown of food systems, and vulnerable groups risk further deterioration into food and nutrition crises if exposed to extreme climate events. Adaptation strategies, for example additional time in sourcing water or pasture, can particularly affect women labour allocation, in turn influencing time available for childcare and feeding (e.g. breastfeeding exclusively, preparing healthy meals). Further strain on the workload of women and climate change-related stress during pregnancy could contribute to low birth weight, leading to increases in risks of undernutrition and non-communicable diseases." (p. 31)
Lao People's Democratic Republic (the)	"20 sensitive communities informed on water, sanitation, hygiene, dengue control, nutrition, women health, reproductive and children health." (p. 23)

¹ Quoted text has been translated from its source language into English for this report.



APPENDIX 1

All sexual and reproductive health and rights references in Nationally Determined Contributions	
Marshall Islands (the)	"Ensure programs and projects contribute to secure family wellbeing including healthy lives and livelihoods, through education, domestic partnerships, family and household responsibilities, sexual and reproductive health; Eliminate gender-based violence and increase protection and care of Survivors." (p. 57)
Nepal	"Rates of child and maternal mortality reduced significantly as well." (p. 11)
Papua New Guinea	"Indicator: By 2025, at least 85% of [people/children<5/pregnant women] who slept under an LLIN [long-lasting insecticidal nets] the previous night." (p. 49)
Sri Lanka	<p>"Sri Lanka performed well in its efforts to attain the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the targets set for 2015 for child mortality, maternal mortality, reproductive health, and eradication of malaria were successfully met with a well-established healthcare system. Infant mortality is 7 per 100 live births, maternal mortality is 35 per 100,000 live births. However, malnutrition among children and women is inexplicably high in Sri Lanka and vector-borne diseases like dengue and leptospirosis claim many lives annually. Major concerns include pregnant women with low BMI [body mass index] on or before 12 weeks of pregnancy (15%), low birth weight of newborns (nearly 12%), underweight infants (6.4%), young children aged 1-2 (12%), aged 2-5 (19%) can be highlighted." (p. 43)</p> <p>"Social welfare systems strengthened to cover vulnerable groups including families below the poverty line, elderly, disabled people, nursing mothers and young children in Medical Officer of Health (MOH) areas identified as vulnerable to food insecurity." (p. 44)</p>
Viet Nam	"Several negative impacts of climate change on women's health include increased prevalence of diseases and epidemics, especially among pregnant women, girls, women with chronic diseases and elderly women." (p. 14)
Mexico	"The consequences of the adverse effects of this global phenomenon are even more serious for individuals and groups in vulnerable social, economic and environmental situations, including women, indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities, children, youth, migrants, people with disabilities, sexual minorities, low-income groups and the elderly." (p. 9)
Paraguay	"Drive response capacity building of the Health local sectors (regions), Regional Hospitals, District Hospitals, and the Family Health Units (USF) in emergencies associated with phenomena extreme weather and climate." (p. 51)
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (the)¹	"Among the integrating axes of the Bolivarian National Curriculum of the Basic Education Subsystem, we have 'Environment and Comprehensive Health' aimed at promoting the development of harmonious relationships between human beings and nature (environment), highlighting the importance of looking at the whole Planet Earth as an integrated system, in which human beings are immersed, where we must learn to take advantage of and make rational and conscious use of natural resources. In addition, it promotes the understanding of comprehensive health, from all aspects (sexual reproduction, risk management, recreation, nutrition, among others), thus minimizing threat scenarios, natural physical risks and social impacts, which leads to the strengthening of a culture of prevention, contributing to the full development of the human being and to living well." (p. 112)
Costa Rica¹	<p>"Among the most vulnerable groups are people with disabilities, transgender people, older adults, women and youth and children, Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendant communities." (p. 13)</p> <p>"Starting from 2021, the country will develop spaces for dialogue and participation, both virtual and face-to-face, for groups that are particularly vulnerable to climate change, including the Afro-descendant community, organized groups of women, youth, the transsexual community, Indigenous Peoples, people with disabilities and older adults, in a way that is appropriate and accessible to the realities, worldviews and traditions of the different communities and populations." (p. 50)</p> <p>"By 2030, the country will have differentiated data on the reality of groups historically excluded and most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, including at least the Afro-descendant community, organized groups of women, youth, the transsexual community, Indigenous Peoples, people with disability and older adults." (p. 53)</p>

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All sexual and reproductive health and rights references in Nationally Determined Contributions	
Panama¹	"Inequalities between men and women suggest a situation of feminization of poverty, where differences in terms of individual income, unemployment, underemployment and land ownership are just some areas that show gender inequality. According to information provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the value of the HDI [human development index] for women corresponding to Panama in 2018 is 0.794, while for men it is 0.790, and, consequently, the value of the Index of Gender Development is 1,005. On the other hand, the 2010 HDI introduced the Gender Inequality Index, which reflects gender-based inequalities in three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment, and economic activity. Panama obtained a value of 0.460 in the Gender Inequality Index, so in 2018 it ranks 108th out of a total of 162 countries. For every 100,000 live births, 94 women die from pregnancy-related causes, and the adolescent fertility rate is 81.8 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19." (p. 23)
Belize	"...develop education awareness programme to educate population on adaptation measures as it relates to family health and hygiene." (p. 27)
Dominica	"Reinforce priorities around poverty reduction, promotion of justice and economic and social empowerment of women and girls informal sector work and contraceptive use to ensure Sustainable Development." (p. 22)
Albania	Health: "Exposure to high temperatures has adverse effects on pregnant women (teratogenic effect). Following floods, they can develop bronchitis or infections as they cleanup damp houses. Pregnant women are disproportionately more affected by healthcare access disruption following a disaster." (p. 61)
Republic of Moldova (the)	Climate impacts: "Increased costs in people's assistance, especially vulnerable groups (children, pregnant women, older women and men, etc.)." (p. 25)

Appendix 2: Gender-based violence references identified in Nationally Determined Contributions

All gender-based violence references in Nationally Determined Contributions	
Antigua and Barbuda	Civil Society Organizations consulted in Nationally Determined Contributions, including Women Against Rape. (p. 58)
Comoros (the)¹	Gender and climate change: "The National Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan has taken gender into account in the education and protection sector, which should result in the establishment of mechanisms for monitoring and raising awareness among the populations displaced from different forms of abuse, violence and sexual exploitation, prevention of abuse, violence and sexual exploitation of children and women, proper care for each of the vulnerable groups identified by providing the human resources and essential materials and the establishment of basic protection and supervision structures adapted and accessible to vulnerable groups, in particular women and children." (p. 11)
El Salvador¹	"Equal access for women and men to sustainable transport infrastructure and technologies, in an environment free of violence against women, and preferential access for girls, boys, adolescents and young people on the roads to schools and higher education institutions." (p. 93)
Seychelles	"Ensuring that climate-related vulnerability assessments and actions take into account sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence risks and protective measures and are informed by disaggregated population data." (p. 36)

¹ Quoted text has been translated from its source language into English for this report.





All gender-based violence references in Nationally Determined Contributions	
Guinea¹	"Reducing fuelwood consumption results either in saving time on collection, or for those who buy the fuel, in saving money on the fraction of the daily budget managed by women (which includes food, education and care of children). Reducing wood collection time also reduces exposure to the risk of violence against women. In the case of Tier 3 and 4 improved stoves, better combustion reduces exposure to toxic fumes and the incidence of respiratory diseases for women and infants." (p. 28)
Sierra Leone	"Over the past decade, the government has developed and enacted a range of national laws, policies, and strategies to address gender inequality. This included the passage of the three 'gender justice' laws', which respectively address domestic violence, improve women's access to land through inheritance, and strengthen women's rights in marriage and divorce through a registration process." (p. 16)
Tunisia¹	"Measure 1: Improve health services and benefits for women through prevention, through educational promotion, the capacitation of the professionals involved in the organization of awareness campaigns for productive health and reproductive health of women, as well as to prevent and support women against domestic and gender-based violence." (p. 68) "Measure 2: Specify adequate human resources policies in the health sector, able to reduce regional disparities, particularly in terms of access to healthcare, and rethink the programming of specialties and the assignment of specialists and mother and child health programs in the interior regions of the country." (p. 68)
Somalia	"Climate change has exacerbated gender inequality in Somalia, with women and children affected more by climate change effects due to lack of access and control of critical resources, biased labour division and absence from decision-making processes from households to the national level. For example, reports indicate that 70-80% of those in internally displaced person and refugee camps are women, who are exposed to gender-based violence." (p. 16)
Jordan	"Improving the existing social protection system to cope with climate change consequences and serve Jordanian segments of society including the poor, orphans, elderly, abused women and children among other vulnerable groups and individuals." (p. 53)
Cambodia	"Climate change affects gender minorities disproportionately, including women and girls. The areas where women play a central role - food security, nutrition, energy, livelihoods, health, natural resource management, among others - are those most directly impacted by climate change. By exaggerating gender inequality, climate change also reinforces a structural root cause of violence against women and girls." (p. 40)
Marshall Islands (the)	"Ensure programs and projects contribute to secure family wellbeing including healthy lives and livelihoods, through education, domestic partnerships, family and household responsibilities, sexual and reproductive health; Eliminate gender-based violence and increase protection and care of Survivors." (p. 57)
Viet Nam	"Family livelihood pressure increases the risk of domestic violence and violence towards children." (p. 15)
Dominican Republic (the)¹	"The Political Constitution of the Dominican Republic (2010) incorporates important elements for the advancement of gender equality, declaring that the State must promote equal rights between women and men (article 39), responsible motherhood and fatherhood, and assessment of domestic work (article 55), as well as sanctioning domestic and gender violence (article 42)." (p. 75)
Albania	Lives: "Increase in violence against women, both domestic and outside the home, with women heads of households facing a greater risk • Decreased income • Loss of access to services that helped alleviate women's workload (e.g., kindergarten, schools, etc.) The increase in violence against women and that of time use for main household chores were also identified as the main impacts of climate change on women's living conditions in the FNC [First National Communication] survey. The survey does not identify significant gender differences regarding the effects of increased conflicts in settlements or in reactions of hopelessness and sense of loss. The survey also identified significant differences in access to information about adaptation to climate change." (p. 61) Overview of measures and barriers: "Council of Europe's 2011 Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence ("The Istanbul Convention"). Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women." (p. 62)

¹ Quoted text has been translated from its source language into English for this report.

Appendix 3: Harmful practices references identified in Nationally Determined Contributions

All harmful practices references in Nationally Determined Contributions	
Viet Nam	"Climate change may also lead to a higher risk of early marriage as a means of reducing economic burdens for families." (p. 15)

Appendix 4: Summary tables

Table 1: Sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence and harmful practices references by region

Region (number of Nationally Determined Contributions)	Maternal and newborn health	Family planning and contraception	Abortion and post-abortion care	Menstruation and menstrual hygiene	Gender-based violence	Adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health and rights	Early, forced child marriage	HIV and AIDS and sexually transmitted infections	Sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics	Sexual and reproductive health and rights information and awareness	Other
Arab States (15)	4	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0
Asia and the Pacific (25)	7	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	1	0
Eastern Europe and Central Asia (12)	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
East and Southern Africa (19)	3	0	0	0	2	1	0	3	1	1	1
Latin America and the Caribbean (26)	3	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	2	0
West and Central Africa (22)	4	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	23	1	0	1	15	2	1	3	2	5	2

Table 2: Human rights, participation and vulnerable groups references by region

Region (number of Nationally Determined Contributions)	Vulnerable groups				Participation of population in:			Human rights
	As main pillar/strategy	Communities dependent on natural resources	In relation to health	In relation to gender	Nationally Determined Contribution development	Local resource management	In relation to gender	
Arab States (15)	13	7	7	7	14	12	9	3
Asia and the Pacific (25)	20	13	16	13	25	18	13	9
Eastern Europe and Central Asia (12)	6	3	2	4	9	3	7	4
East and Southern Africa (19)	5	4	3	11	19	5	14	7
Latin America and the Caribbean (26)	22	11	15	18	25	19	18	13
West and Central Africa (22)	17	14	6	16	22	9	10	5
Total	75	48	44	62	105	60	64	39

Table 3: Population dynamics, human mobility and urbanization references by region

Region (number of Nationally Determined Contribution reviewed)	Any reference to population dynamics	Migration, urbanization, human mobility
Arab States (15)	13	9
Asia and the Pacific (25)	19	10
Eastern Europe and Central Asia (12)	11	5
East and Southern Africa (19)	19	14
Latin America and the Caribbean (26)	24	14
West and Central Africa (22)	22	14
Total	108	65

Table 4: Youth references by region

Region (number of Nationally Determined Contributions)	As vulnerable group	Participation	In relation to health	In relation to education/awareness	Consideration of future generations
Arab States (15)	7	7	3	4	2
Asia and the Pacific (25)	13	8	14	10	9
Eastern Europe and Central Asia (12)	3	7	1	4	1
East and Southern Africa (19)	10	12	5	10	2
Latin America and the Caribbean (26)	15	18	10	10	13
West and Central Africa (22)	9	10	2	4	3
Total	57	62	35	42	30

Table 5: Gender references by region

Region (number of Nationally Determined Contributions)	Mainstreaming	Vulnerability	Rights	Participation	Empowerment	Health	Energy	Agriculture	Water/food security
Arab States (15)	10	7	4	6	4	3	2	6	2
Asia and the Pacific (25)	17	13	9	13	8	13	5	11	6
Eastern Europe and Central Asia (12)	9	5	1	5	3	5	4	4	4
East and Southern Africa (19)	18	13	7	10	16	9	4	9	1
Latin America and the Caribbean (26)	23	18	13	16	14	12	5	12	7
West and Central Africa (22)	17	16	3	14	13	6	7	17	13
Total	94	72	37	64	58	48	27	59	33



Table 6: Health references by region

Region (number of Nationally Determined Contributions)	Mortality	Diseases	Air pollution	Waste	Surveillance	Access service/supplies	Food	Water	Research	Info/campaigns	COVID-19	Disasters	Budget line
Arab States (15)	5	11	8	11	9	2	12	14	2	5	11	15	8
Asia and the Pacific (25)	8	22	12	22	16	6	21	20	7	3	18	25	6
Eastern Europe and Central Asia (12)	2	4	3	8	2	3	5	6	3	3	5	5	3
East and Southern Africa (19)	8	17	7	18	19	9	5	10	7	11	14	18	5
Latin America and the Caribbean (26)	16	17	11	22	14	14	20	17	9	4	16	24	4
West and Central Africa (22)	11	13	11	20	12	7	16	15	4	5	14	17	9
Total	50	84	52	101	72	41	79	82	32	31	78	104	35

Appendix 5: Overlapping themes by country

Region	Country	Sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence and harmful practices	Gender	Health	Population dynamics	Vulnerable groups	Participation	Human rights	Youth groups
East and Southern Africa	Angola	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
	Burundi		●	●	●		●		●
	Comoros (the)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Democratic Republic of the Congo (the)		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Eswatini	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
	Ethiopia		●	●	●	●	●		●
	Kenya		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Malawi		●	●	●	●	●		●
	Mauritius	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
	Mozambique		●	●	●		●		
	Namibia	●	●	●	●		●	●	●
	Rwanda		●	●	●		●		
	Seychelles	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	South Africa		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	South Sudan	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	United Republic of Tanzania (the)		●	●	●		●		●
	Uganda	●	●	●	●		●	●	●
	Zambia		●	●	●		●		●
	Zimbabwe		●	●	●		●		●





Region	Country	Sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence and harmful practices	Gender	Health	Population dynamics	Vulnerable groups	Participation	Human rights	Youth
West and Central Africa	Benin	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
	Burkina Faso		●	●	●	●	●		●
	Cameroon		●	●	●	●	●		
	Cabo Verde		●	●	●	●	●		●
	Central African Republic (the)		●	●	●	●	●		●
	Chad		●	●	●	●	●		●
	Congo (the)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Côte d'Ivoire	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
	Gabon			●	●	●	●		●
	Gambia (the)		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Ghana		●	●	●	●	●		●
	Guinea	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
	Guinea-Bissau		●	●	●	●	●		
	Liberia		●	●	●		●		●
	Mali		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Mauritania		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Niger (the)	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
	Nigeria		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Sao Tome and Principe		●	●	●	●	●		●
	Senegal		●	●	●	●	●		
Sierra Leone	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	
Togo	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	



Region	Country	Sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence and harmful practices	Gender	Health	Population dynamics	Vulnerable groups	Participation	Human rights	Youth
Latin America and the Caribbean	Antigua and Barbuda	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
	Argentina		●	●	●	●	●		●
	Barbados		●	●	●	●	●		●
	Belize	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Brazil		●	●	●			●	
	Chile		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Colombia		●	●		●	●		
	Costa Rica	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Cuba		●	●	●		●		
	Dominica	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Dominican Republic (the)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	El Salvador	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Grenada		●	●		●	●		●
	Guatemala		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Haiti		●	●	●	●	●		●
	Honduras		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Jamaica		●	●	●		●		
	Mexico	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Nicaragua		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Panama	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Paraguay	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	
Peru		●	●	●	●	●		●	
Saint Kitts and Nevis		●	●	●	●	●		●	
Saint Lucia		●	●	●	●	●		●	
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	





Region	Country	Sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence and harmful practices	Gender	Health	Population dynamics	Vulnerable groups	Participation	Human rights	Youth
Arab States	Bahrain			●	●	●	●		
	Egypt		●	●	●	●	●		●
	Iraq	●	●	●	●	●			●
	Jordan	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Kuwait		●	●	●		●		
	Lebanon		●	●	●	●	●		●
	Morocco		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Oman			●	●		●		
	State of Palestine (the)		●	●	●	●	●		●
	Qatar			●	●	●	●		●
	Saudi Arabia			●		●	●		●
	Somalia	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
	Sudan (the)	●	●	●			●		
	Tunisia	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	United Arab Emirates (the)		●	●	●	●	●		●



Region	Country	Sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence and harmful practices	Gender	Health	Population dynamics	Vulnerable groups	Participation	Human rights	Youth
Asia and the Pacific	Bangladesh		●	●	●	●	●		
	Bhutan		●	●	●	●	●		●
	Cambodia	●	●	●		●	●	●	●
	China		●	●	●	●	●		●
	Fiji		●	●	●	●	●		●
	Indonesia		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Japan		●	●			●		●
	Lao People's Democratic Republic (the)	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
	Malaysia		●	●		●	●		●
	Maldives		●	●	●	●	●		●
	Marshall Islands (the)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Mongolia			●		●	●		
	Myanmar		●	●	●	●	●		●
	Nauru		●	●	●	●	●		●
	Nepal	●	●	●		●	●		
	Pakistan		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Papua New Guinea	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Philippines (the)		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Samoa		●	●	●	●	●		●
	Solomon Islands		●	●	●	●	●		●
Sri Lanka	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	
Thailand		●	●		●	●		●	
Tonga		●	●	●	●	●		●	
Vanuatu		●	●	●	●	●		●	
Viet Nam	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		





Region	Country	Sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence and harmful practices	Gender	Health	Population dynamics	Vulnerable groups	Participation	Human rights	Youth
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	Albania	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Armenia		●		●		●		●
	Belarus								
	Bosnia and Herzegovina			●	●				
	Georgia		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Kyrgyzstan		●	●	●	●	●		●
	North Macedonia		●	●	●	●	●		●
	Republic of Moldova (the)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Tajikistan		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Türkiye			●	●				
	Ukraine		●	●	●		●		
	Uzbekistan			●	●	●	●		●



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