United Nations Population Fund
Delivering a world where
every pregnancy is wanted
every childbirth is safe and
every young person’s
potential is fulfilled

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In the lead up to the Nairobi Summit and the UN’s Climate Change Summit in September 2019, UNFPA convened a three-day symposium, focusing on programmatic, partnership and financing opportunities linking ICPD, sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender and climate change resilience.

Welcome addresses set an urgent tone for the need to accelerate the integration of SRHR, gender and climate change. Youth climate change activist, Yola Mgogwana, sent a powerful message to participants about a future that many fear but one that already exists in her community of Khayelitsha in the Western Cape. Doctor Julitta Onabanjo, Regional Director for UNFPA ESARO stressed that climate change is an pressing issue and one that needs to be addressed in order to realize the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Agenda 2063, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)s. Minister Nkoana-Mashabane, Minister of Women, Youth and People with Disabilities, Republic of South Africa, stressed the importance of identifying the financial costs to implement actions relating to climate change and reducing vulnerabilities, and also highlighted the central role women play in generating climate resilience.

Discussions around ICPD and climate change highlighted that people living in the poorest countries, who have contributed the least to global emissions, are already experiencing major crises and will likely feel the impacts of climate change most severely. The ICPD Programme of Action offers a platform for recognising the centrality of solutions driven by and supporting women and girls, young people and marginalized groups, who are already bearing enormous burdens of climate change and environmental degradation. Investing in universal access to SRHR, gender equality, population and development are essential components of climate resilience.
The meeting discussed the significant projected impact of 1.5°C of warming above pre-industrial levels, including major risks to health, livelihoods and water supply. It was agreed that there is a need to raise awareness among the health professionals and the public, including remote communities, about the impact of weather and climate on their well-being and health. Communities and health professionals must be capacitated to use weather and climate information for better health outcomes. There is also a need for a common African position on climate change and the need for Africa to be at the global forefront of adaptation to current and future effects of climate change.

Improving vulnerability assessments and collecting relevant and quality data to inform programme design was repeatedly raised. It was acknowledged that it is complicated to make a concrete, research-based and numerical correlation between SRHR and climate change, yet the information we have is strong enough for action even as the research agenda continues. Expanding research and evidence based on these links was recognized as critical for accelerating action towards sustainable development.

The meeting reviewed the impact that investments in universal SRHR through partnerships can make for individuals, households and communities, such as the work of the Population and Sustainable Development Alliance; the findings of the EU-funded Bale Eco Region (BER) programme in Ethiopia; and the partnerships within the Norway-funded programme (Project for Scaling Up FP in DRC) in DRC. In addition to conducting political mapping and identifying the influencers, participants discussed ways to help SRHR organisations become familiar with climate changes issues and in turn, for climate, environment and conservation organisations to apply a gender/SRHR lens to their work.

Both the research/health system community and the SRHR community have been slow to tackle climate change. Pillars for building health systems resilience include improving health management information systems; developing infrastructure which is critical for planning for new populations; developing the capacity needs of healthcare professionals to respond to affected populations including climate migrants; and establishing effective governance structures. The importance of collaborating with a range of different partners was also highlighted.
The session on **young people and climate change** offered a number of strong arguments for the necessary inclusion of young people as active partners in implementing actions against climate change. Young people around the world are already taking the lead in mobilising climate action. Yet, they cannot do this alone and it is integral that adults support young people, for example, through assisting in organising marches and gatherings and getting permission from the police and other relevant authorities. There is also limited space for civil society engagement in climate change negotiations. There are many initiatives underway on the continent driven by and involving young people, including tree planting and tracks, awareness-raising in schools, and the UNFPA’s Safeguard Young People programme that will integrate climate change into the upcoming third phase of the programme. The importance of reaching young people in rural areas was also raised.

On **ensuring services and protection as climate-related migration and displacement increases**, the meeting noted that while climate change may result in a global emergency, on the ground, it often manifests as chronic stress, fragmentation of households, disruption to education, interpersonal and intercommunity conflict and GBV. There was also a call for more effective implementation of human rights treaties, recognising that climate action can be a transformative agenda for the promotion and protection of human rights. The meeting agreed that while there is a recognition that gender, SRHR and disaster risk reduction (DRR) are linked, this is not yet the reality at the policy level.

In regards to **integrating SRHR, GBV and population data into climate vulnerability assessments**, it was noted that, in addition to ensuring the pathways of impact are defined, it is important to become familiar with the vulnerability and adaptive capacities of communities and the readiness of systems. Data must be available at the onset of the crisis in order to define early actions and preparedness. This is UNFPA’s area of comparative advantage and it needs to be able to respond effectively.

Meeting participants also engaged in **group work**, discussing the key messages needed to be communicated at the Nairobi Summit; what best practices could be identified; the challenges faced in intensifying action against climate change and measures to address them; and the partnerships required for this to become a reality.

When discussing **South-South partnerships**, participants indicated that meaningful collaboration is critical as it contributes to self-reliance while strengthening local and regional partners in development. The African Risk Capacity (ARC) is a specialized unit of the African Union (AU) and supports member states through the African risk insurance policy. To date, 33 member states have signed the treaty and funding is supplied by DFID and KfW Bank in Germany.

An analysis of the **funding for ICPD-based climate change** reveal that money is going to national governments through loans, investments, and projects. The majority of the funds are allocated for mitigation, with little earmarked for adaptation. Although there is a commitment of the global north to spend in developing countries, much of the money goes to western countries, where money is spent within these countries.

It was agreed that countries need to demonstrate climate financing readiness by deepening their skills in political economy, understanding who the political influencers are, and becoming familiar with financial terminology. Countries must have strong systems relating to governance, transparency, accountability and demonstration of results.

As a result of the various discussions and issues raised throughout the symposium, a Call to Action was drafted and read aloud to participants on the third day. After feedback from participants and revisions made after the meeting, the final Future Africa Call to Action was approved.

Overall, participants agreed that the symposium had been a platform for rich discussions, information sharing and inspiring climate action for change. Rather than seeing the end of the symposium as a cessation of a process, participants viewed it as the continuation of an important journey to realize, both at the policy and programmatic level, the relationship between SRHR, gender and climate action.
August 28, 2019
The threat we face together

Climate change is the most significant long term threat to sustainable development, including health, well-being, human rights and the environment. Climate-related disasters have swept across the African continent and projections suggest far worse only years or decades into the future. Africa must be at the global forefront of adaptation to the current and future effects of climate change. Investments in sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality and the empowerment of young people are vital to a climate resilient future.
A golden opportunity for action

The Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 is an historic opportunity to re-establish the powerful links between population, sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender and climate change, and to accelerate action to help the African continent and its people achieve resilient and sustainable development.

The claim that population growth, especially in the poorest countries, is a primary driver of climate change must be treated with major scepticism. People living in the poorest countries, who have contributed the least to global emissions, are already experiencing major crises, and will likely feel the impacts of climate change most severely. Slowing population growth, even rapidly, is not a shortcut to preventing climate change. Indeed, it will have little or no effect if we cannot transition away from fossil fuels and other drivers of climate change and towards renewable and sustainable modes of living.

I’m already living in this future that others fear.
-Yola Mngogwana, 12-year-old eco-warrior from Khayelitsha, South Africa

Whilst Africa at present contributes less than 5 per cent of global carbon emissions, the continent bears the brunt of the consequences of climate change. Africa shall address the global challenge of climate change by prioritizing and integrating adaptation in all actions...
-Agenda 2063

Adaptation actions should follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach, considering vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems and should be based on best available evidence. -Paris Agreement, Article 7

Impacts of climate change are shaped by and amplify gender inequalities. Investments in the full realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights are a vital part of gender equality, including the full participation of women and girls, and are central to realizing the aims of the Gender Action Plan under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as National Adaptation Plans.

Young people are stepping up the challenge of climate change and their involvement in combating climate change is crucial for the Paris Climate Change Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. Empowering young people to be leaders and active partners on climate change is a justice issue and a question of intergenerational equity. The opportunity to join youth mobilization on ICPD and climate change cannot be missed. Across the board, it is critical to bring together civil society movements and the private sector in support of ICPD objectives and climate change.

We, representatives of the community dedicated to fulfilment of the Programme of Action of the ICPD, call on stakeholders across Africa and the world to take advantage of this golden opportunity for decisive action, and to recognize the centrality of solutions driven by and supporting women and girls, young people and marginalized groups, who are already bearing enormous burdens of climate change and environmental degradation. When people are able to decide if, when and how often to have children, through universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, they, their families and their communities become more empowered and resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Healthy, empowered populations including young people

We will integrate sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality, and population and development into climate adaptation actions to achieve resilience to climate change and long term demographic, economic and environmental dividends from a healthy, educated, employed, empowered and adaptive population. We will ensure that climate resilience is rights-focused and people centered, a hallmark of ICPD Programme of Action. We will leave no one behind, realizing the rights and aspirations of young people, key populations, indigenous peoples, disabled persons and other marginalized groups as part of adaptation. We commit to strengthen education curricula that empower young people through integration of sexual and reproductive health and rights and climate change resilience actions. We will work cross-sectorally, with and led by communities, to achieve resilience built on healthy, empowered populations. We will embrace innovation and scale up successful models that connect sexual and reproductive health including family planning with climate change and local environmental sustainability.
Climate-resilient health systems

We commit to strengthen the capacity of health systems to protect and improve population health in an unstable and changing climate, in order to address the challenges that climate change poses to population health. We will mainstream climate resilience into health sector plans. We will ensure that health management information systems incorporate indicators of climate stress linked to major health impacts, and use early warning to shift into early action to reduce impacts of climate hazards. We will conduct emergency response in a way that contributes to long-term strengthening of the health system. We will build new and expanded partnerships, including with the private sector, local community actors, and other sectors, to achieve climate resilient health systems that can deliver and sustain universal access to sexual and reproductive health.

Risk reduction, better preparedness and strong emergency response

We commit to meet the sexual and reproductive health and rights and needs of those impacted, displaced and at risk of climate crises, including protection, prevention and response to gender-based violence. We will ensure that midwifery curricula and other relevant training materials, especially focused on emergencies, including the Minimum Initial Service Package, will incorporate climate risks and impacts with specific focus on new severity and extremes. We will build awareness, knowledge, and capacity on the links between climate-related hazards and sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence, child marriage and other harmful practices. We will raise awareness of new and changing climate-related crises where they may have not occurred, and expand readiness where there may not be prior experience to build on.

Strong, disaggregated data on climate vulnerability and adaptive capacity

We will ensure 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. We commit to expanding research and the evidence base on the contributions of investments in sexual and reproductive health, gender equality and empowerment to climate adaptation and resilience. We will develop common approaches and use core sexual and reproductive health and rights indicators for vulnerability assessment. We will support better data communication and use. We will use new technologies and new approaches to produce better analysis that is responsive to the rapidly changing climate context on the ground. We will work with partners to produce integrated assessments, to limit the burden on communities and governments and maximize cooperation.

Working, financing and acting together

In order to deliver on these objectives, we will ensure diverse partnerships that promote cross sectoral approaches, with the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society organizations, young people, faith-based organizations, schools, the private sector, environmental groups, regional bodies and development banks. We commit to engage with innovative financial mechanisms such as climate-smart insurance systems and blended financing, integrating SRHR and gender responsive programming for climate adaptation and resilience building. Donors and development partners need to commit to increase funding for climate adaptation and resilience and dedicate more resources to enable people, communities and health systems to adapt and to respond to acute and chronic climate challenges explicitly supporting sexual and reproductive health and rights and strengthening commitments to realize and sustain gender equality.
INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

In 1994, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) recognized that “ecological problems, such as global climate change, largely driven by unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, are adding to the threats to the well-being of future generations.” Extreme climate-related hazards are now regularly occurring in Africa: drought in the Sahel, severe water scarcity, more frequent and extreme El Nino events, historically severe storms such as cyclones Idai and Kenneth and more. Climate projections for Africa indicate that mean annual temperature increase will exceed the global average, and impacts will only get worse. Climate change is a multiplier of existing health vulnerabilities, including insufficient access to safe water and improved sanitation, food insecurity, and limited access to health care and education, and climate-related displacement is challenging both protection and the realization of human rights.

At the fifth Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development in Marrakech in April this year, member States recognized that climate change is stalling Africa’s efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063, and stated the need for the continent to urgently formulate a common position on climate change.

In many countries, sexual and reproductive health and protection from gender-based violence (GBV) are also understood as life-saving services as part of humanitarian response to climate-related emergencies. Yet few countries have included investments in realizing universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights as part of comprehensive climate adaptation efforts. The upcoming Nairobi Summit is a historic opportunity to re-establish the powerful links between population, sexual and reproductive health and the environment.

In the lead up to the Nairobi Summit and the UN’s Climate Change Summit in September 2019, UNFPA convened a three-day symposium, focusing on programmatic, partnership and financing opportunities linking ICPD, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender and climate change resilience.

The objectives of the symposium were to:

• Agree on recommendations strengthening the integration of SRHR, gender and youth in climate resilience, as an input to the Nairobi Summit, Climate Summit and other global climate change actions.
• Create a compendium of ICPD-related programmes that will be the basis for expanded implementation on climate resilience in the next five years.
• Strengthen partnerships and financing for shared action.

Participants included experts on climate change from academia and government ministries in select countries (including donor countries); experts on international climate finance mechanisms, with emphasis on financing for health, gender, services, social protection, disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness/response and other relevant issues; UN partners; UNFPA Representatives and humanitarian/technical staff from country offices that are particularly concerned with climate change issues; UNFPA senior management and technical staff from ESARO; relevant technical and programmatic staff from headquarters.
Dr. Onabanjo gave a number of highlights of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development Expert and Ministerial Meeting, held in Ghana in September 2018. The event was an opportunity for countries to discuss the severity and the multidimensional challenge and impact of climate change, including food insecurity and instability. Climate change was highlighted as an urgent issue and one needing to be addressed in order to realize the ICPD, Agenda 2063 and the SDGs.

The need for a common position on climate change in Africa is a priority, as is broadening the action to go beyond reducing emissions to include mitigating the impact of climate change. Efforts have not nearly been sufficient to respond to the urgency of the challenge and therefore, climate action will occupy an important space in UNFPA’s 50-year reflections, as well as the ICPD25 review. Dr. Onabanjo noted that rights should not be held back by climate change even though the connections between SRHR and climate change are clear. It remains important for women to be safe while collecting firewood, to access clinics despite floods and droughts, to maintain nutrition levels despite lack of water or crop failures, for girls to maintain dignity during periods and that no-one is sexually exploited as a result of climate-related poverty.

“When I look at Yola, I see UNFPA’s mascot, who is a 12-year-old girl. There are 33,000 Yolas that will be married this year; and 4,500 10 to 24-year-olds who will get HIV in a week.” - Dr. Julitta Onabanjo
Dr. Onabanjo encouraged the symposium to focus on actions and commitments that can be tabled at the upcoming global Climate Action Summit at the UN General Assembly, as well as at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25.

She recognized the links between climate change and SRHR, human rights, gender, development and social inequalities, and called on the participants to take advantage of this “golden opportunity” to take decisive action now. In addition, South Africa will be taking over the chairmanship of the African Union (AU) in 2020.

It is therefore important to consider how these commitments will be incorporated into the AU’s strategic focus.

YOLA MGOGWANA, a 12-year old climate activist and an Eco Warrior Club Member of the Earthchild Project, opened the Symposium with a powerful message about climate change and its impact in the Western Cape in general and her home community of Khayelitsha in particular. Yola spoke of the Western Cape’s battle with water consumption in 2017. Norms around water use had changed as communities felt the impending urgency as Day Zero approached, the day in which taps were reportedly going to be turned off. Disadvantaged communities, such as the one Yola lives in, were even more challenged by the use of pit toilets. In addition, social economic strife, amplified by the water shortage, had seen educators refusing to attend school due to fear of violence. The multiplier effects of climate change were being felt at various levels and among different groups in society.

“I am already living in the future that others fear. We don’t have enough water in Khayelitsha. There are 65,000 shacks, housing 200,000 people. If floods hit, half the people will die. But we can make a positive impact when we work together. Our dams are now 80 per cent [full]; we did that.” - Yola Mgogwana

MINISTER NKOA-MAHABANE spoke admiringly of the late Minister of Environment, Edna Malelo and her national and regional contributions to environmental protection. She also noted that the language often used when communicating climate change issues is far removed from what many people understand. She encouraged the meeting to look at simplifying climate change language in order to make discussions more accessible and relatable.

The Minister highlighted one of the key agreements from COP 22 relating to gender and climate change: the responsibility of countries to develop gender action plans under UN framework for climate change. This was born from the recognition that Africa is struggling with patriarchy and high levels of gendered poverty and unemployment. Women who live in poverty use natural resources differently, as they are primarily responsible for fetching wood and finding food. While South Africa, the Minister noted, has made gains relating to gender equality, the connection between gender and climate change is still not well understood, particularly in the media. The Minister also reminded the symposium of the importance of not treating women as a homogenous group. She called for better collaboration within and across sectors, citing the current situation where environment ministers collaborate across the continent.

In conclusion, the Minister highlighted the importance of identifying the financial costs to implement actions relating to climate change and reducing vulnerabilities. The source of the funds, she noted, as well as how well it is being utilized must be identified and interrogated. She also stressed the centrality of solutions driven by and supporting women, who are bearing enormous burdens already of climate change and environmental degradation.

“African countries, such as Zimbabwe and Kenya, now speak of climate refugees, mobile populations that are at risk of poverty of food insecurity because of drought.” - Minister Maite Nkow-Western Cape
ICPD25 AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The panel comprised the following:

- Doctor Benoit Kalasa, Technical Division Director, UNFPA
- Khulekani Sizwe Magwaza, Secretary-General, South African Youth Climate Change Coalition
- Doctor Dalitso Kabambe, Governor, Reserve Bank of Malawi
- Ben Llewellyn-Jones, Deputy High Commissioner, British High Commission
- Cecilia Njenga, Head of Sub-Regional Office and Regional Programme Coordinator, Southern Africa, United Nations Environment Programme

DR. CATHERINA SOZI, Director UNAIDS, Regional Support Team for Eastern and Southern Africa, facilitated the discussion.

DR. BENOIT KALASA argued for better analysis and communication on the relationship between population dynamics, adaptation and response to natural disaster, noting that slowing population growth is not a shortcut to addressing climate change. Investment in SRHR, gender equality and population and development are vital elements in building resilience to climate change. At the country level, SRHR practitioners must be part of country-driven adaptation frameworks and plans, ensuring a focus on young people is maintained during discussions. Engagement in the climate change process also allows SRHR practitioners to become more familiar with the funding flows to climate change.

In response to issues around the investments of young people and climate action, KHULEKANI MAGWAZA noted that the youth climate movement is growing around the world, although he cautioned against seeing youth activism around climate action as limited to protest marches in the streets. He argued for a consensus on what constitutes climate action. South African Youth Climate Change Coalition, established five years ago, now has a presence in five cities in South Africa. A large part of their work involves studying climate policies and related legislation, identifying the gaps, and proposing solutions. Some of the organisation’s findings to date, are that the current climate policies are inadequate to respond to climate change. Their submission to the draft Climate Change Framework noted that while there is a focus on the rights of people, there is no mention of the right of biodiversity. Mr. Magwaza concluded that young people demand strong quantitative targets for climate solutions, as current solutions are insufficient.

DR. DALITSO KABAMBE began with stating that climate change is the biggest threat of our time. He noted that since 1966, Malawi has experienced recessions seven times, all which can be explained by climate change, in
particular, drought and flooding. As a country heavily dependent on the agricultural sector, droughts and flooding have significantly impacted commodity prices and economic growth. Malawi’s GDP has grown only from $100 to $400 since 1967, unlike other countries such as Singapore and China, whose GDP per capita has risen from GDP $100 to GDP $40,000.

Although Malawi has made progress on reducing maternal mortality, population growth is still a challenge, with forests, rivers and lakes retreating, and desertification increasing. In addition to reviving ecosystems, Dr. Kabambe noted that empowering girls through education is a priority as the fertility rate for girls who have completed high school is 2.3, while the fertility rate for girls who have not, is 6.7. He also called for revitalising the COP 21 Agreement and tackling climate change at the Southern African Development Community (SADC) level.

According to BEN LLEWELLYN-JONES, British Deputy High Commissioner, climate change is critical for realising the continent’s demographic dividend (DD). The UK has been invited by the UN Secretary General to lead at the Climate Action Summit in September 2019 and will also host COP with Italy in 2020. This demonstrates the UK’s commitment to not only taking action against climate change but realising these actions. The UK has committed up to £220m for SRHR up until 2022 and has also increased climate adaptation funding, as it recognizes that climate change is a historical legacy. A national, Twitter-based grid indicates each day, how many hours of energy used in the UK is as a consequence of coal. With conscious and sustained action and monitoring, Mr. Llwellyn-Jones stressed, action against climate change can yield positive results.

CECILIA NJENGA, from UNEP, indicated that the organisation has been called on to lead on nature-based solutions at the upcoming Climate Action Summit. Another positive development was a recent meeting in Harare that saw 48 countries commit to nationally determined frameworks, as well as programmes to ensure a future rise in temperatures is limited to two degrees. A slight increase in temperate has huge impact on our health and well-being, for example, prolonged effects of pollen and air pollution in longer summer periods.

At the national level, the information relating to reducing emissions is often fluid and difficult to apply to real life scenarios. In many urban parts of the continent, transport modes result in heavy air pollution, and the effect of this on expectant mothers is largely unknown. Similarly, informal settlements that use kerosene and coal in closed environments impact upon health outcomes in ways that have not been sufficiently interrogated. This, Ms. Njenga argued, means communities must be involved in data collection in order for a fuller picture of the challenge to be achieved. These issues must be reflected in nationally-determined frameworks. Ms. Njenga stressed the importance of strengthening local action and engaging local governments to ensure that binding commitments are made. In Africa, the climate policy is too focused on mitigation, whereas in reality adaptation should be a key priority, as climate-related hazards are already being felt in many parts of the world.

### Key discussion points

**Integrating investments in SRHR, gender equality, population, development and climate resilience**

Climate change is a multiplier of existing vulnerabilities. It poses a threat to the vision of human centred sustainable development and deepens existing inequalities. Investments in the full realisation of sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender equality are central in improving the resilience of communities to changing climate. Currently, climate finance is skewed towards mitigation; there must be more mobilisation around adaptation. National and global policies should place further emphasis on adaptation but it also remains important to work with communities to strengthen their resilience. Investing in education that empowers young people, particularly girls through integration of sexual and reproductive health and rights, is a key component of this resilience building.

Empowering young people to take climate action is also vital, as many young people are already innovating and devising energy-efficient solutions (including the use of solar and wind energy), and using drones to deliver medicines to rural areas. It is important to explore how these innovations can be brought to scale. These discussions must ultimately result in actions that can be integrated into national development programmes and plans.

**The role of high polluting countries in addressing climate change**

The historical legacy of high polluting countries has long been acknowledged. Countries such as the UK have high emissions, and capacity to finance adaptation efforts. Transition away from fossil fuels and other drivers of climate change is a necessary step towards more sustainable ways of living. High polluting countries must recognize the past mistakes and commit to increase funding for climate adaptation and resilience building.
CHANGING CLIMATE, ICPD25 AND SRHR

The panel comprised the following:
- Doctor Joel Botai, Chief Scientist Application Research, South African Weather Service
- Doctor Daniel Schensul, Data and Risk Specialist, UNFPA
- Wiebke Bender, Associate Programme Officer, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Doctor Angela Baschieri, Population Dynamics Policy Advisor, UNFPA ESARO

The session was facilitated by Alain Sibenaler, Representative, UNFPA Uganda

DR. JOEL BOTAI noted that Cyclone Idai was the worst in Africa on record and the second worst in southern hemisphere. In Africa, floods are the majority of climate-related disasters, with East Africa experiencing the most droughts and windstorms in the Pacific and Indian Ocean highlands. He gave a number of future scenarios based on rising temperature of 2 degrees and 1.5 degree Celsius. West and Central Africa is a climate change hotspot with negative projections for crop production and yield. The Western Sahel is projected to experience the strongest drying with a significant increase in the maximum length of dry spells. Annual rainfall projections in East Africa include the number of consecutive dry days (CDD) and consecutive wet days (CWD) increasing and decreasing respectively, with the agricultural sector taking the hardest hit.

Some mitigation strategies include:
- More gender-sensitive research in order to better understand the health implications of the changing climate and the associated policies
- Large scale capacity development, including targeted educational programmes to train specialists who can then match the specific health and well-being needs of men and women to climate services and information. In addition, there is a need to raise awareness among health professionals and the public, including remote communities, about the impact of changing climate on their well-being and health.

DR. DANIEL SCHENSUL stated that according to the
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) fifth assessment report 2013/2014, the impact of 1.5°C warming risks to health, livelihoods and water supply is significant, with severe risks being seen from as early as 2030. However, the world is currently on a path of an increase of 3 or 4 degrees. Therefore, a key message in current climate change discourse should be that 1.5°C of warming is better than 2°C.

By 2000, it was clear that mitigation was insufficient and there was a need for greater calls for adaptation of the impact of climate change. By 2010, there was recognition that the SDGs must be aligned to low-to-zero emissions and climate resilience. The ICPD journey has been similar, with a move from population control to rights and choice around reproductive health. Although key aspects of climate resilience - education, health, rights and migration - were present in ICPD language, climate change negotiations have largely ignored ICPD. At the level of programmes and action, SRHR and climate change communities are usually not well connected or integrated, although gender, health and human rights are important entry points for climate negotiations. There is a need to increase ICPD/SRHR in climate change agreements, expand financing for ICPD contributions to climate resilience and foster diverse, cross cutting partnerships.

WIEBKE BENDER outlined the framework for a gender action plan (GAP), developed by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2017. These are two-year plans, across the following five priority areas:

- Capacity-building, knowledge sharing and communications
- Gender balance, participation and women’s leadership
- Coherence (across UNFCCC and UN)
- Gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation
- Monitoring and reporting

These GAPs also include activities to be implemented in order for the mandates of the plans to be realized. GAPs will be reviewed at the end of 2019.

In order to attain the goals set out in the Paris Agreement, Country National Adaptation Climate Plans (which are not prescriptive but open to be developed according to country contexts), present a number of ICPD entry points. These include health implications within climate resilience approaches, social protection of vulnerable populations, gender-related guidelines such as GBV and anti-trafficking measures. An example of an SRHR and climate change initiative is the WORTH Initiative, an innovation programme and fund where civil society organisations can develop new, integrated solutions to gender equality, SRHR, environmental sustainability, and climate change adaptation challenges. Investing in gender equality creates an opportunity to accelerate effective climate action and also raise ambition in national climate policies.

DR. ANGELA BASCHIERI noted that some of the SRHR-related highlights of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development held in April 2019 in Marrakech, were that despite the progress made on maternal mortality, more needs to be done to improve neonatal and stillbirths. High unmet need and the prevalence of GBV are also ongoing challenges. Climate change is predicted to exacerbate these developmental challenges already faced by many vulnerable and marginalized groups, including women, girls and rural populations.

With similar urgency, there is a need for a common African position on climate change. In order to improve climate resilience of communities, an integrated approach that looks at the existing vulnerabilities of individuals and communities must be developed. This involves, for example, working across programmes and integrating SRHR, gender equality, poverty reductions and livelihood approaches together with climate adaptation. Incorporating SRHR and gender in climate action is particularly important, as this will foster gender responsive climate adaptation and mitigation policies. Improving vulnerability assessments and collecting relevant and quality data to inform programme design is extremely important. This will also help to strengthen the protection of the rights of people during climate-related migration and displacement. When looking at the challenge from a health systems perspective, the human resources component must be addressed through capacitating health professionals to address climate-related health issues, including gender rights and responding to GBV in climate-related migration. There was also a recognition to strengthen the role of young people in helping to shape climate policies.
Key discussion points

Hard evidence on the causal relationship between climate change and SRHR

In Lesotho, there exists anecdotal data on the impact of drought on child marriage. However, there is very little actual data on this. Similarly, little data around the relationship between climate change, drought and health exists, although it is acknowledged there have been increased suicide rates among farmers and information about poorly-resourced farmers affected by heat stress due to alleviated temperatures. Population-based HIV analysis also did not lead to conclusive results. Some studies show the impact of drought on nutrition, child health and education outcomes, but this is not a direct impact. In light of this, participants enquired as to whether there should be more focus on evidence generation and long-term analysis.

It was acknowledged that to make a concrete, research-based and numerical correlation is complicated, particularly when using certain pathways. Linking weather patterns and health patterns has proven to be very difficult. There is currently work going into understanding the potential pathways that will produce concrete impact and therefore, a causal relationship between SRHR and climate change.

Climate change as a theme at the Nairobi Summit

The upcoming Nairobi Summit is based on five themes and is divided into 16 Accelerator sessions, one on which will be on climate action. The Summit’s 17 global commitments are also open to comments and participants can suggest commitment related to climate action. The Nairobi Summit presents a great opportunity to re-establish the links between population, sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender and climate change.
The panel comprised the following:

- Mette Kirstine Schmidt, Head of Policy Unit, Population and Sustainable Development Alliance
- Negash Teklu, Executive Director, Population Health Environment Ethiopia Consortium
- Doctor Sennen Houton, Representative, UNFPA, Democratic Republic of Congo
- Professor Samuel Nii Ardey Codjoe, Regional Institute for Population Study, University of Ghana

The facilitator for the session was Bettina Maas, Representative, UNFPA Ethiopia.

METTE SCHMIDT gave a brief overview of the Population and Sustainable Development Alliance, a network of 16 civil society organisations (CSOs) from around the world working on SRHR, gender and climate change. The initiative began in recognition of the need to work together in an integrated manner, across sectors and on the global level. This is essential in collating evidence on the relationship between SRHR, gender and climate change.

The Danish Family Planning Association, which has been in operation since 1956, has been involved in two programmes: the afore-mentioned WORTH initiative, as well as a partnership with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The latter builds on existing population, health and environment projects already underway in Uganda and Kenya, and where there has been evidence of unmet needs for FP. In trying to create holistic programmes, and partnering with organisations that have programmatic and policy-level capacities, the Danish FP Association needed to become familiar with climate change issues. It is currently reaching out to gender organisations to demonstrate the importance of integrating SRHR and climate change issues.

NEGASH TEKLU discussed the decision to focus on the Bale Eco Region (BER) in Ethiopia, one of the hotspots for biodiversity in the world. The resource distribution in BER, a world heritage site, is the main source of conflict in the area. Currently, the highlands experience soil erosion, drought, deforestation, flooding, water scarcity and food insecurity, with the main drivers being population growth and poverty. As a result, the lowlands experience chronic food shortages and increased land degradation and drought. Poor SRHR outcomes including low contraceptive prevalence rate, polygamy and gender
inequality, are fuelling the situation. Populations migrate and often encroach on protected areas. Realising the need for an integrated approach, five organisations – SOS Sahel Ethiopia, PHE Ethiopia Consortium, CGIAR, The Frankfurt Zoological Society and Farm Africa – applied for and received a total of €5.5m from the European Union (EU). The programme capacitates community residents with contraceptives using population, health and environment (PHE) approaches for better climate change resilience. The programme was implemented using existing village PHE committees and focused strongly on changing cultural norms and behaviours. While all five organisations worked in the area of conservation, issues of FP, peace and stability and gender equality needed to be integrated. A noticeable change since the programme’s implementation is that the voices of women are stronger and more audible in public spaces. In addition, there has been an increase in contraceptive acceptance and utilisation.

According to SENNEN HOUTON, UNFPA DRC was initially brought into the multi-partner programme, Project for Scaling Up FP in DRC, to provide contraceptives. The World Food Programme (WFP) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) are also participating in the programme. The rationale for UNFPA’s participation was primarily based on the belief that reducing fertility would reduce forestation. The DRC has the world’s second largest forest after the Amazon. The main source of electricity is charcoal and discussions on climate change have only recently moved from mitigation to adaptation. However, UNFPA’s analysis of the situation revealed that lack of electricity was the primary reason women used charcoal. Therefore, addressing fertility would have little impact on charcoal use. Using the ICPD framework, UNFPA highlighted the relationship between population size, fertility, poverty and deforestation in DRC and the inability to position FP in isolation of agriculture and food security.

The project is supported by Norway and implemented by three partners in 10 provinces, with a budget of US$33m over a three-year period. Approximately US$11m will be for the purchase of contraceptives.

PROF. SAMUEL NII ARDEY CODJOE noted that further research is needed to demonstrate the links between SRHR and climate change. Population densities and the pressures of urban infrastructure partly determine the sensitivity of urban populations to climate hazards. Ghana has been challenged with many flooding and extreme weather events in the last few decades. An example of the relationship between SRHR and climate change can be found in communities that are housed in informal structures, and which are affected by climate change such as floods. When these structures are destroyed by floods, populations are displaced and seek temporary means of accommodation. In these shelters, women can become exposed to violence/transactional sex which leads to unplanned pregnancy, abortion, and poor pregnancy outcomes.

In coastal areas such as Accra, where indigenous fishing communities are vulnerable to floods and extreme heat, some outcomes include individual fishermen being unable to fish in extreme heat, dwindling fish supplies and an ultimately negative impact on the economy.

Key discussion points

Cross-sectoral partnerships

It was acknowledged that establishing cross-sectoral partnerships, with and led by communities, are key to achieving resilience built on healthy and empowered populations. Diverse partnerships, including the example in BER, should be fostered as they facilitate inclusive and integrated approaches to climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience.

Role of social accountability in impacting the structural drivers

In BER, making changes in regards to resilience at the household level, led to impact within the community and this has had a multiplier effect. A household champion will become a showcase to the village, which in turn becomes a showcase to the kebele, then to the woreda, then to the district.

Identifying the influencers

UNFPA DRC spoke of the importance of conducting political mapping and identifying the influencers. In the Project for Scaling Up FP in DRC, UNFPA developed a closer relationship with UNDP, the lead agency in the project, as well as the World Bank. Although the latter is not funding the project, they have a strong and reputable presence in DRC. Working closely with the WFP resident coordinator, UNFPA was able to include the issue of GBV prevention alongside road construction in the programme. The project is working with the Ministry of Planning.
The panel comprised the following:
- Professor Michael T. Mbizvo, Zambia Country Director, Population Council
- Professor Susannah Mayhew, Professor of Health Policy, Systems and Reproductive Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- Professor Matthew F. Chersich, Associate Professor, University of Witwatersrand Reproductive Health and HIV Institute (WRHI)
- John Wafula, Humanitarian Specialist, UNFPA Kenya

The facilitator for the session was Dennia Gayle, Representative, UNFPA Namibia.

According to PROF. MICHAEL MBIZVO, the Population Council advocates looking at climate change through the gender lens. Some physiological outcomes, such as increased water salinity associated with poor pregnancy outcomes, have been established through a literature review. In addition, heightened flooding and heat has been shown to exacerbate poor pregnancy outcomes. Similarly, water scarcity impacts adherence to medication and retention of care, while the incidence of malaria and cholera is increased by climate change and associated disasters.

However, there is relatively little literature on climate and SRHR and Prof. Mbizvo advocates for funding for these linkages. As previously mentioned by other speakers, many National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) have no clear articulation of gender-specific issues, contraception, or SRHR.

In addition to arguing for identifying and building on best programmatic practices, Prof. Mbizvo highlighted the following research gaps, including:
- Identifying how climate change affect fertility desires, intentions and contraceptive preferences and access
- The pathways from climate change vulnerabilities to SRH outcomes
- The impact of climate change on the SRH of adolescent girls
- Identifying which climate-oriented programme modalities are best positioned for effective integration of SRH activities
**Prof. Susannah Mayhew** indicated that both research/health system community and SRHR community have been slow to tackle climate change. Pillars on building health systems resilience include:

- Health management information systems: there is a need for integrated partnerships in order to collate different information from various stakeholders
- Infrastructure: this is critical for planning for new populations
- Human resources: the capacity needs of healthcare professionals must be considered since migrant populations bring different SRHR needs and the extent to which healthcare professionals can work alongside other sectors must be determined
- Governance: this involves identifying who decides, who pays, and whose voices are heard

Prof. Mayhew stressed the importance of collaborating with partners outside the climate change and SRHR sectors. It remains important to forge new partnerships, while continuing to conduct the research necessary to fill existing knowledge gaps. SRHR community has a lot of experience on linkages and this must be utilized. There is also a need to have cross-sectoral governance structures, including a key role for civil society in order to hold governments accountable. The Thriving Together Campaign is a huge opportunity as it is a movement that believes that the removal of barriers to family planning are critically important not only for women and girls, but also for environmental conservation and biodiversity.

**Prof. Matthew Chersich** spoke about the need for evidence on the impact of the relationship between SRHR and climate change as this is the strongest argument for increased attention and investment in mitigation. For example, heat during pregnancy causes stress and dehydration and can also affect the labour process, leading to poor neonatal outcomes. Long term outcomes include developmental challenges in children and adults. These studies carried out in Sweden have shown that increased temperatures affect maternal and neonatal health outcomes, suggesting that the problem is likely to be much worse in hotter climates such as Africa.

Prof. Chersich suggested that once a pathway for impact has been defined, it should be documented. The researchers must then quantify current impact and project future impact. Indirect causes such as floods, droughts, poverty, migration and food insecurity and their impact on maternal and neonatal health are harder to measure.

At the community level, preparation must be made for pregnant women to manage extreme heat and drought. This can include ensuring the rooms pregnant women are occupying are properly ventilated or have fans. Pregnant women’s hydration levels must be checked regularly. Prof. Chersich also called for using public health tools to advance mitigation, applying pressure on high polluting countries to fund mitigation strategies in lower and middle-income countries, and legally challenging the government in court for violation of rights. He reminded the meeting of the many lessons learned on reducing the number of HIV-related deaths over the years.

**John Wafula** spoke of the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP), a coordinated series of priority actions designed to prevent and manage SRHR in the early phases of an emergency. Specifically, the goal of MISP is to decrease mortality, morbidity and disability in crisis-affected populations. Emergencies will likely erode essential services, to which MISP will respond, after which the process moves to the post emergency, then to managing more comprehensive services.

In 2018, an MISP Readiness Assessment was carried out using an assessment tool, as well as a pre-assessment and assessment workshop. The results, which showed that the majority of objectives were partially fulfilled, also proposed the following recommendations:

- Review and strengthen existing policies and legislations
- Strengthen coordination bodies and cross sectoral coordination
- Map existing facilities, services, and service providers
- Harmonize services with humanitarian guidelines
- Train service providers at national and county levels
- Mobilize resources for preparedness, response and resilience
- Collect and use data for humanitarian programming
Key discussion points

Using the MISP-calculator
Meeting participants discussed the MISP-calculator as a tool that could be used alongside a readiness assessment and that can be used to calculate the number of pregnancies. A country’s census data and contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) could be fed into the M-calculator.

Strengthening the emergency responsiveness of health systems
There was a strong consensus on the need to strengthen health systems to be better prepared to respond to climate-related emergencies. This includes building the capacity of health workforce to respond to emerging challenges and investing in research to understand the different pathways and linkages between climate change and different health outcomes. In the context of weak health systems and emergencies we should think about how to strengthen the systems while simultaneously addressing the emergency response.

Fostering partnerships beyond health sector
The participants highlighted the need to work beyond the health sector to forge new partnerships and in particular, involve the private sector in strengthening the climate resilience of the health sector.
The panel comprised the following:

- Ahmed Mokgopo, Campaigner, 350.org
- Chiagozie Udeh, Secretary Executive, Global Board of Plant-for-the-Planet Initiative
- Hussein Melele, Vice-President, African Youth and Adolescents Network (AfriYAn)
- Xoli Fuyani, Environmental Education Manager, Earthchild Project
- Renata Tallarico, SYP Regional Coordinator, UNFPA ESARO

Linda Lammensalo of UNFPA ESARO facilitated the session.

This session offered a number of strong arguments for the necessary inclusion of young people as active partners in implementing actions against climate change. The young people today are the first generation to witness the impacts of climate change and the last that can solve it. Therefore, many young people are taking the lead in demanding urgent climate action and the right to make decisions that will shape their future. It was recognized that adults can assist young people in regards to organising marches and gatherings and getting permission from the police and other relevant authorities. Yet, more fundamentally what is needed is for young people to be included and taken seriously in climate change negotiations.

According to Chiagozie Udeh, young people on the African continent are tackling climate change in a number of ways. There has been momentum created around climate action by young people, including the championing of a Green deal in the US and collecting one million signatures to present to the UNSG on the need for urgent action. However, while there are pockets of actions in various countries, more needs to be done for the movement to be globally significant. Mr. Udeh also spoke of the shrinking of lakes in Nigeria due to climate change, displacing two million people and paving the way for Boko Haram to recruit individuals in the context of disrupted livelihoods. Therefore, climate challenges are exacerbating security challenges in Nigeria.

Since 2011, the campaign inspired by Wangari Mathai has seen over 15m trees planted. The Trillion Trees Campaign’s website offers an opportunity for young people to communicate what they are doing in order to get funding. This was developed after it was found that young people often worked in silos, with limited visibility and few communication tools. The Trillion Trees Campaign hopes to plant an additional one trillion trees in areas affected by deforestation by 2030. This is to address the ambitious carbon emissions target of the Paris Declaration. While trees have 94 per cent survival rates, they still require management and tracking to survive. The Trillion Trees Campaign will launch an app in New York which will provide notifications for the trees a person has bought.
HUSSEIN MELELE spoke about AfriYan’s work in tracking global and regional commitments, and using different media, including social media, to reach the majority. He called for moving from resolutions to positive action, from yet another COP to concrete implementation from previous COPs. Greater political and legal commitments from leaders, along with greater accountability, will begin to localize climate issues, where the chances of buy-in by communities will be stronger. Mr. Melele also spoke about the importance of investing in sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescents and youth, as a tool for strengthening the resilience of communities and adapting to changing climate.

XOLI FUYANI of the Earthchild Project spoke of the need to engage with children, linking what is happening in their communities with climate change, and thus, inspiring them to create change. One of the biggest issues in many communities is waste management and illegal dumping which has not only environmental risks but also health risks. The programme implemented by Earthchild Project teaches children to be climate smart and among others, recycle at schools. Other projects include eco bricks, which are 2-litre water bottles, stuffed with waste and for which children receive a token which can be exchanged for money. Environmental education and peer education, according to Ms. Fuyani, works well and the organisation has noted that environmental issues are now mainstreamed in science subjects, including technology and geography.

RENTA TALLARICO gave a brief outline of UNFPA’s Safeguard Young People (SYP)’s programme and the manner in which it will integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation. Since 2013, SYP, a programme focusing on adolescent SRHR (ASRHR) and funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), has been implemented in eight countries. In 2018, SDC presented Climate, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction Integration Guidance (CEDRIG), a framework that indicates the impact of a development programme on the environment and vice versa. In the third phase of SYP, the programme will begin climate change education at a community and individual level. There will also be efforts to influence policy and advocacy efforts to ensure that linkages between climate change, SRHR and young people are clear. There are also plans to forge new partnerships in order for the programme to take on a more comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach. The SYP will work with young people in the climate change sector to integrate SRHR into their work.

Key discussion points

**Relationship between increased temperature and education outcomes**

One participant noted that while the actions presented by young people revolve largely around reducing greenhouse emissions, issues such as extreme heat in schools and its relationship to educational outcomes must also be addressed. There is some anecdotal information that higher temperature results in poor performance at school. With girls’ education often predicting their SRHR choices, including sexual debut and pregnancy, the issue of heat, whether as a climate change issue, a health issue or an education issue, becomes important.

**Balancing climate change and economic needs of young people**

In places where there are few economic prospects and/or private sector investment, and where job opportunities are not rampant, creating momentum around climate action can be difficult. However, if young people are to support a move from fossil fuels to green energy, they must be encouraged to understand the economic benefits of it. In the past, solar panels were expensive, however, in rural areas, installing solar panels is a viable business for community members with the relevant skills. Many green initiatives are beginning to yield profits.

**Reaching youth in remote areas**

The meeting learned that in one innovation programme, from ideation to implementation to evaluation, emerged from young people in rural areas. The programme is still running, creating awareness, and promoting male engagement in menstrual hygiene. New ideas are being piloted while data is routinely collected. These accounts indicated that young people are experts on the issues affecting them and in many instances are leading innovative approaches in tackling climate change. However, young people should not be expected to carry out climate change work alone; they need partnerships, and organisations in the room should facilitate discussions with donors, partners, the private sector, the government, among others to ensure that young people are embraced as active partners in implementing actions against climate change.

**Declaring a climate emergency**

The meeting discussed the fact that the first challenge – to place climate action on the global agenda – has been accomplished. It is now important that young people are empowered to make decisions about their own future. Some young people are declaring this period a “climate emergency”. Declaring a climate emergency would mean that governments would need to take urgent action against climate change and move from words to concrete actions.
The panel comprised the following:
• Professor Rachel Jewkes, South African Medical Research Council
• Abigail Noko, Head of Office in East and Southern Africa, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
• Andrea Wojnar, Representative, United Nations Population Fund Mozambique

Beatrice Mutali, Representative, UNFPA South Africa, facilitated the session.

PROF. RACHEL JEWKES highlighted that climate change results in acute and chronic stress in women. Although climate change may result in a global emergency, on the ground, it manifests as chronic stress. Both chronic stress and acute disasters lead to GBV. Chronic stress at household level leads to fragmentation of households and disruption to education, interpersonal and intercommunity conflict, and GBV. This leads to stress, poor health and poor education outcomes. In addition, acute stress during disaster can result in intimate partner violence. Some migrants are in a vulnerable situation with no documentation and this can lead to instances of transactional sex. In addition, women must be protected from violence while in displacement shelters or refugee camps.

The modalities to the prevention of violence against women (VAW) are varied. They include conditional cash transfers given over a longer period of time; economic empowerment initiatives and gender transformative interventions; incorporating GBV in school curriculum; parenting interventions; and community interventions to change social norms.

ABIGAIL NOKO noted that states that have signed human rights treaties and therefore, have an obligation to ensure human rights are upheld. Climate change, although a relatively new topic in the human rights discourse, is a direct and indirect threat to human rights. Climate change forces states to ensure they are providing prevention...
and protection to groups at risk. In addition to looking at the right to health, development, housing and education, discussions about safe, voluntary, sustained and dignified returns are also important. Therefore, climate action can be a transformative agenda for the promotion and protection of human rights.

The OHCHR’s study on gender-responsive climate action reinforced the belief that men and women, boys and girls, experience climate change in different ways. The study highlighted the issue of intersectionality and multiple forms of discrimination women face, and placed women’s agency at the centre of any programmatic intervention.

ANDREA WOJNAR helped the participants to understand the devastation Mozambique faced as a result of Cyclone Idai where an area of the country the size of 500,000 football fields flooded. The winds were devastating and the subsequent infrastructure damage significant. Ms. Wojnar commented that during this time, women were vulnerable to abuse or rape for the food they were entitled to. Food was distributed through the village chief as opposed to a systematic community or aid channel.

In addition, health and police functions were disturbed, while communities were listless and bored, having little to do but to wait for the next food distribution. This led to negative coping strategies such as transactional sex. Young people left school to secure income for their families; husbands abandoned wives; migrant men that sought work outside the impacted area often did not return. There were also reports of men taking aid and buying alcohol.

The response to the disaster included establishing UNFPA’s girl friendly spaces, the establishment of protection desks where the support from the police, the criminal justice system and psycho-social professionals could be accessed. Socio-economic activities were introduced and GBV referral pathways were established, including a toll-free hotline to report abuse. The GBV case management system called “one file”, was created where a survivor’s engagement with police, psychologists and courts was captured in the system and entered into one file. The extensive youth network in Mozambique made awareness-raising relatively easy.

### Key discussion points

#### More effective implementation of human rights treaties

There is an element of commonality in all treaties which is non-discrimination and this provides opportunity for protecting women. However, a review of legal instruments such as the Abuja Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community reveal that implementation is delayed due to countries claiming to not have the human and financial resources. When states ratify an instrument, they are subject to a review on a periodic basis and to receive recommendations. States must be able to show progress from one year to the next, even though this progress may be incremental. Lack of funding should not deter this progress. In addition, countries should show where an attempt has been made to secure international funding.

#### Cash transfers versus sustainable wealth

A study on cash transfers in Syria, found that giving cash to women led to more effective household management. However, this is context specific. In some cases, giving cash to women, may make them more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. Conditional cash transfers in particular context, can reduce risk. However, in the longer term, sustainable wealth creation is more favourable.

#### Intersectionality of vulnerabilities

Intersectionality and multiple forms of discrimination that women experience, particularly during humanitarian emergencies was discussed. It was recognized that climate change could be a transformative agenda for the protection of human rights.
The panel comprised the following:

• Biplabi Shrestha, Senior Programme Officer, Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)
• Zainab Yanusa, Children and Youth Constituency to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
• Alain Sibenaler, Representative, UNFPA Uganda

The session was facilitated by Justine van Rooyen, Programme Policy Officer - Gender Adviser, World Food Programme.

BIPLABI SHRESTHA highlighted that after ARROW’s scoping studies in 2014/15 to look at intersections between SRHR and climate change in eight countries in Asia, it was discovered that during a climate crisis girls drop out of school and women go farther into forests looking for firewood, exposing themselves to violence. Despite impending danger, women in Bangladesh were found to have stayed behind to manage their households. In Pakistan, women encountered difficulty in seeking SRHR services due to the unavailability of female healthcare workers. In some cases, women were unable to leave shelters unless accompanied by their husbands. In Bangladesh and Nepal, an increase in child marriages was viewed as a coping strategy in the context of economic hardships.

Overall, there is a recognition that gender, SRHR and disaster risk reduction (DRR) are linked, but not at the policy level. Women are often not included in climate change and DRR discussions and therefore decisions are made without understanding women’s experiences. There is also limited space for civil society engagement in climate change negotiations.

According to ZAINAB YANUSA, there are 214 million women in the world who want access to contraception. Many still experience unwanted pregnancies. Reducing unwanted pregnancies translates to empowering women and increasing the resilience of vulnerable communities to changing climate. In Nigeria, states bordering Lake Chad are experiencing climate insecurity, and Boko
Haram is capitalising on this. In 2012, over 2,000 girls and women were abducted and their sexual rights and health rights violated.

The Children and Youth Constituency of the UNFCCC works with a network of 1600 youth-led NGOs and 43,000 persons in the constituency/network. Women and gender working groups submitted ideas on adaptation and the organisation is about to embark on policy training and capacity building.

ALAIN SIBENALER stated that Uganda is the country with the 3rd largest number of refugees in the world, while battling drought and other effects of climate change. However, the country has made remarkable strides in building climate change resilience among women and young people in Uganda. The UNFPA country office (CO) was able to make good use of the Emergency Response Fund which had an impact on child marriage and school drop outs. Evidence gathered at community level, along with World Bank studies highlighted the impact of climate change on child marriage and national economy. This made for a powerful argument.

The Uganda CO also drafted an investment case for FP, and there have also been shifts in programming, with a strong call for social change innovation and working with young people as assets during a humanitarian response. Currently, a young woman has developed a sanitary pad made from sugar cane and received funding from a Japanese cosmetic company. It remains important to creating openings for young people and link harnessing the demographic dividend with benefits of a digital revolution.
The panel comprised the following:

- Clement Kalonga, Technical Services Manager – SADC RVAA Programme, Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Secretariat
- David Obongo, Resilience Officer, Food and Agricultural Organisation
- Dr. Daniel Schensul, Data and Risk Specialist, UNFPA

The session was facilitated by Young Hong, Representative, UNFPA Malawi.

CLEMENT KALONGA indicated that in response to conflicting national reports about a climate emergency, SADC established Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (RVAA) in 2005. This served as standard procedure to collect data together and present to government. Initially, discussions focused on how many people were insecure. In 2012, issues of resilience were incorporated into discussions. By 2017, an effective VAA integrated climate change with gender equality, poverty, HIV, and resilience. Mr Kalonga suggested civil society organisations attend VAA meetings and advocate for SRHR to be included in the analysis.

According to DAVID OBONGO, vulnerability assessment must be coupled with alerts on decision-making by national and international players, as there is little point to having a vulnerability assessment report if it is not going to be acted upon. Women, girls and the poorest households are the most vulnerable as they often lack the means to anticipate, absorb and recover from shocks. However, studies have shown that some female-headed households are more resilient than poorer-male headed household, indicating that groups are not homogenous nor are they equally vulnerable. Data collection, assessments and analysis should be disaggregated according to not only gender, but also other aspects of social vulnerability such as age, disability, ethnicity and socio-economic status.

There are 6 capital assets around vulnerability: human, social, economic, physical, natural and political. An
important insight from the 2015/16 El Niño experience in the region was the need to act early on possible crisis warning signs. Countries that declared national disasters early made better political decisions on early action.

**DR. DANIEL SCHENSUL** argued that vulnerability assessments are vital to shaping action. These assessments need to identify what is termed as “no regrets” preparedness; essentially actions that can be implemented ahead of a crisis. In the event that the crisis does not occur or it manifests in a different, less intense manner, these actions will still contribute to the development process. The importance of the humanitarian/development nexus approach is therefore key.

In addition to ensuring the pathways of impact are defined, it is important to become familiar with the vulnerability and adaptive capacities of communities and the readiness of systems. Data must be available at the onset of the crisis in order to define early actions and preparedness. During an emergency, census and population data is often used to understand the adaptive capacities of the populations. This is UNFPA’s area of comparative advantage and it needs to be able to respond effectively. There is usually a convergence of methodologies in the form of different maps, information, data, location of shelters, roads and other vital spatial information that can assist the humanitarian team prepare the response. Countries should be able to access basic information on, for example, maternal mortality and GBV in country and project how these may worsen in the context of an oncoming disaster. While there may be months of lead time before a disaster, in some cases, as in the event of Cyclone Idai, there may be only a few days’ preparation. Therefore, there is a need to invest in new technologies and approaches to produce better analysis that is responsive to the rapidly changing climate context on the ground.

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**Key discussion points**

*Access to data*

There are platforms, including the H6 Partnership and Harmonisation For Health in Africa, that can facilitate easier access to information, particularly in the context of a multiplicity of reporting tools that currently exists. Communities often get exhausted having to answer the same questions. Thus, there is a need to forge partnerships to produce integrated assessments to limit the burden on communities and governments and maximize collaboration.

A remote regional server is currently being developed at SADC secretariat with all VAA data. This is in response to the fact that many documents get lost and information management is generally poor. While the Secretariat does not allow partners direct to access the database, this could change if member states give authorisation.

*Importance of a central database at national level*

Because of its access to census data and close relationships with national statistical offices, UNFPA can advocate the importance of a central database of information as this proved to be a challenge during the Cyclone Idai. UNFPA has been advocating census release of data, including vulnerability data. A model that currently exists that could serve as an example is the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean which holds data for all the regions.

*Working as One UN*

During an emergency, governments will most likely approach FAO or WFP for initial consultation, as opposed to UNFPA. However, working under the banner of One UN, and speaking with one UN voice, UNFPA can facilitate access to data that would inform the national response. FAO also noted that their resilience working group is working to establish a strategic framework around adaptive systems, trying to bridge the gap between emergency and development. This can also be seen as working under the One UN.

*Opportunities for utilising emergency funds for development planning*

There are significant funding flows during humanitarian events, as opposed to funds channelled for development. Yet, disasters are recurring. Countries should explore opportunities for integration. Currently, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) is considering funding early action for the first time. However, CERF will only support life-saving activities, as opposed to risk reduction or resilience, which would have to be embedded in development programming.
**EMPOWERED POPULATIONS INCLUDING YOUNG PEOPLE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key messages to be taken to Nairobi</th>
<th>Best practices</th>
<th>Barriers to action and how to overcome them</th>
<th>Partnerships needed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Climate resilience must include those often left behind, including LGBTI groups and key populations.</td>
<td>Linking donor funding or using best standards.</td>
<td>There is a concern about reverting to traditional population growth/control strategies.</td>
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<td>Must be mindful of various pitfalls of different framings around mitigation, adaptation and resilience.</td>
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**EMERGENCIES, RISK REDUCTION AND PREPAREDNESS**

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<tr>
<td>We are in a climate crisis, and need to act accordingly, “be climate smart” to respond to, prevent, prepare for impact on GBV and build resilience. How do you integrate climate change into national programming with mitigation interventions. Use technology to get the data needed for more effective GBV/SRH response. Investing in resilience building is good for socio economic development and human rights. Promotion of equality, empowerment through SRH and credit/financial literacy. We commit to contribute to green practices and exhort donors and private sector to invest in research to ensure green SRH products/services. Challenge private sectors to have eco-friendly supply chains. Develop a climate change marker</td>
<td>Green Social entrepreneurship Uganda Youth Enterprize Model Climate sensitive curricula for Midwives in MISP GRID on mobilizing data on what is happening on the ground</td>
<td>Our own ability to sensitive on impacts of climate change Lack of timely evidence to make decisions; disaggregated data and analysis</td>
<td>Private sectors and sister agencies such as WFP and FAO Partner with youth and women Strengthen collaboration with Intergovernmental bodies/institutions around climate change e.g. IGAD</td>
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**Group Work**

Meeting participants were divided into three groups to discuss the key messages needed to be communicated at the Nairobi Summit, what best practices could be identified, the challenges faced in intensifying action against climate change and measures to address them, and the partnerships required for this to be a reality. The results of the group discussions are tabled below.
<table>
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<tr>
<td>Donors and governments need to commit more resources to enabling health systems to adapt to respond to acute and chronic (longer term) climate challenges explicitly supporting SRHR within this. SRHR experts need to work with climate experts to look at climate from SRHR lens</td>
<td>Ensure climate resilience in National Development and Health Sector Plans</td>
<td>Link across silos (communicate, share information, support joint action etc.):</td>
<td>Donors and governments need to work through existing structures during emergencies and commitment to MISP transition to strengthen health systems and mobilize financing</td>
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<td>Share and coordinate data between climate and SRHR</td>
<td>Include youth networks (on climate and on SRHR); Climate and SRHR and wider Health (including UHC) groups</td>
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<td>Support MS to incorporate health components and climate resilient health systems and SRHR in their Nationally Determined Contributions reports.</td>
<td>Private sector e.g. Philips provided solar powered back packs of equipment for midwives</td>
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<td>WHO to define guideline/package of climate adaptation services, with SRHR/GBV lens</td>
<td>Communities are critical –</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Adapt existing health packages and get finance involved</td>
<td>Encourage practitioners to go to meetings, events, conferences to speak about issues across sectors</td>
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<td>Identify climate and SRHR champions</td>
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<td>HMIS to incorporate climate indicators</td>
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<td>Donors to increase funding for climate response and adaptation; training of health professionals</td>
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<td>Donors to work through existing structures during emergencies and commitment to MISP transition to strengthen health systems and mobilize financing</td>
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<td>Define the emergency-development nexus for sustained funding for SRHR in climate context.</td>
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<td>School based health programmes to incorporate impact of heat on learning and SRH.</td>
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<td>Climate-health education as part of health programmes in schools and elsewhere</td>
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The panel comprised the following:

- Fiona Clark, Social Development Advisor, Department for International Development (DFID)
- Christiana Adokiye George, Gender Advisor, African Risk Capacity
- Doctor Tshilidzi Madzivhandila, Chief Executive Officer, The Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN)
- Marielle Sander, Representative, UNFPA Eritrea, facilitated the session.

DR. TSHILIDZI MADZIVHANDILA advocated that south-south partnerships, as meaningful collaboration, are critical as they contribute to self-reliance, while strengthening local and regional partners in development. It must be determined if Africa has a common global south agenda on climate action, as the evidence to support this position and the capacity required to gather the evidence needs this positioning. Some questions Dr. Madzivhandila posed included; who is amplifying the voice on advocacy, what is the common messaging and the extent to which there are safe dialogue platforms and whether the institutional frameworks exist.

As part of the driving force behind the research agenda on food, agriculture and natural resources nexus, FANRPAN is part of regional and global forums and national research institutions, using the global forum on agricultural research to communicate their findings. Some of the lessons learned through its extensive partnership network include the importance of transparency, emphasis on meaningful participation, the benefits of being a consortium, clearly defined roles and responsibilities, and mutual response and accountability.

In response to how climate change is integrated into a gender strategy and the manner in which it impacts partnership, CHRISTIANA ADOKIYE GEORGE gave a brief overview of the African Risk Capacity (ARC), a specialized unit of the AU. All members of the AU are members of the ARC and the organisation supports Member States (MS) through the African risk insurance policy. This insurance is given at the government level.
To date, 33 MS have signed the treaty and funding is supplied by DFID and KfW Bank in Germany. To date, ARC has made US$36.8m in pay-outs. Risk pooling is based on diverse weather systems, after which funds are leveraged for early and predictable action.

In collaboration with UN Agencies, humanitarian actors and NGOs, ARC offers Replica, an insurance product for countries lacking financial and operational capacity for greater coverage expansion. ARC’s Replica expands climate risk insurance coverage to more people and improves the effectiveness of emergency humanitarian response in countries prone to extreme weather events.

ARC developed a gender strategy in 2018, with the aim of transforming DRM approaches to ensure gender equality for vulnerable men and women in its Member States. This includes facilitating gender audits at country level and supporting gender responsive financial mechanisms. ARC gender platform will assist countries to make the connections between gender, DRM and SRHR and be able to support this with available data.

In response to the extent to which SRHR and youth is going to be included in DFID’s partnership strategy, FIONA CLARK highlighted the UK strategy of working in Africa, based on 4 pillars: prosperity and economic growth; peace and security; the environment and climate, and demography. The change in development assistance by the UK is largely rooted in how much of the 0.7 per cent overseas development assistance is actually spent by DFID.

Currently, 25 per cent is funnelled through other overseas departments such as Forests and Fisheries, Department of Defence, the British Council, among others.

At the FP Summit in 2017 in London, the UK committed to £220m a year until 2022 to the International Climate Fund. Since 2015, as a result of South Africa earning a high income country status, DFID closed its bilateral aid programme in South Africa. Although DFID is no longer funding programmes in South Africa, it is continuing to work with South Africa to develop programme across the region and across DFID’s four pillars. Regional work on climate change involves protection of forests, production of renewable energy, supporting RVAA, and transforming water programmes. DFID is looking to South Africa to utilize its expertise in climate change and gender and SRHR.

DFID is keen to support catalytic interventions, offer technical assistance and support for data. The organisation has bilateral programmes across 16 countries in Africa, however, there is a push for more multi-country programmes, across thematic boundaries. This will result in greater regionality and break the habit of working in silos. One example is the Women’s Integrated Sexual Health programme which is implemented in 20 countries, although Ms. Clark admitted there is no climate focus. DFID’s Advisors now attempt to work across thematic areas, while at the country level, assisting stakeholders to bring different agendas together, is part of the new approach.

Key discussion points

Social accountability by the global north

In response to questions around repatriation funds deposited in the UK by corrupt African leaders, DFID indicates that it has been doing a lot of work around international trade to ensure investment in Africa is responsible, addressing issues such as modern slavery, climate gender focus, investment in women-owned businesses, among others. It has also been looking at the supply chains in countries that British companies work in. DFID also engages with BRICS countries, working with China and India about how they are investing in Africa. This contributes to investments being responsive.

In terms of capital flight, there is a programme tracking and combating illicit financial flows. Currently, monies are funnelled back to strengthen these organisations, however, there have been conversations about whether the illicit funds can be channelled back to development and/or climate change.

Working together to address climate

Addressing climate change, while ensuring the rights of women and girls, young people and marginalized groups, who are already bearing enormous burdens of climate change and environmental degradation, requires diverse partnerships that promote cross sectoral approaches. Strengthening South-South cooperation was highlighted to be a vital tool for strengthening local and regional partnerships. Yet, it was recognized that this should exist in parallel with North-South relations. Consensus was reached on the importance of establishing a common Global-South agenda for climate action.
The panel comprised the following:

- Sharon Murinda Shupikai, Senior Regional Programmes Officer, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- Chinwe Ogbonna, Advisor, UNFPA East and Southern Africa
- Chiagozie Udeh, Secretary Executive, Global Board of Plant-for-the-Planet Initiative

The session was facilitated by Dr. Sennen Hounton, Representative, UNFPA DRC.

**SHARON MURINDA SHUPIKAI** gave a brief overview of some of SDC’s available instruments for financing, noting that the SDC has a seat in the Green Climate Fund and has made contributions of €100m. SDC also sits on the board of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and supports the One UN Climate Change Learning partnership. At national level, it provides support to countries to implement climate change learning strategies.

SDC’s financing channels include:

- Humanitarian aid, funds utilized only in humanitarian situations and sent directly or through partners such as the UN, International Organisation for Migration, WFP and/or other organisations working during the crisis
- Global cooperation which looks at critical issues at global level
- Regional cooperation such as the regional programme in the Southern Africa region that focuses on relevant issues
- Bilateral country programmes

SDC also contributes to regional programmes such as the SYP programme, alongside other donors. SDC’s global programme on climate change and environment supports different programmes, including ARC. SDC’s CEDRIG tool guides new projects and potential partners to be climate smart by completing a climate risk check.

**CHINWE OGBONNA** noted that developed countries have committed to mobilising resources for climate action and doubling adaptation financing in developing
countries until 2020. An analysis of the funding flows to climate change reveal that money is going to national governments through loans, investments, and projects. The majority of the funds are allocated for mitigation, with little earmarked for adaptation.

Although there is a commitment of the global north to spend in developing countries, much of the money goes to mitigation activities within the countries in the global north. The Green Climate Fund is increasingly a major source of adaptation finance, with 50 per cent going to adaptation. Of this, 50 per cent goes to small island developing states, less developed countries and other African countries. The largest source of approved funding for adaptation projects is the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience of the World Bank’s Climate Investment Funds.

Ms. Ogbonna argued that countries need to demonstrate climate financing readiness by deepening their skills in political economy, understanding who the political influencers are, becoming familiar with terms such as blended finance, return on investment and value for money. Countries must have strong systems relating to governance, transparency, accountability and demonstration of results.

CHIAGOZIE UDEH also discussed the persisting imbalance between mitigation and adaptation funding. An example of this imbalance is the Green Climate Fund (GCF), which is supposed to fund mitigation and adaptation equally, yet according to January 2019 numbers, GCF funds 43 per cent mitigation exclusively and 29 per cent adaptation exclusively, while the rest is mixed. Mr. Udeh also pointed out that so far, only 22 African countries have accessed Adaptation Fund. None of the countries that suffered the hardest consequences of cyclone Idai and Kenneth, including Malawi, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, have received any adaptation funding. Mr. Udeh highlighted that whilst Africa at present, contributes less than 5 per cent of global carbon emissions, the continent bears the brunt of the consequences of climate change. Thus, Africa must be at the global forefront of adaptation to the current and future effects of climate change. Countries in the Global North must take responsibility for their continuing fossil fuel emissions and invest in Africa through climate finance mechanisms.

**Key discussion points**

Country readiness for accessing climate funding

National governments have to be transparent and show readiness to access these funds. Donor countries must also see this as an obligation, not charity, as the countries most vulnerable to changing climate have contributed the least to global emissions. Countries can make use of ARC since the process of getting countries capacitated for funding is comprehensive. ARC uses cross-sectoral technical working groups that come together around the contingency planning table. Therefore, build capacity around African RiskView in order for countries to utilize it, is important.

Countries must understand how revenue allocation is made in national governments. Arguments should relate to human capital and population, and investment in girls, essentially adopting a people-centred solution.

Investing in adaptation funding

Donors and development partners need to commit to increase funding for climate adaptation and resilience, and dedicate more resources to enable people, communities and health systems to adapt and respond to the challenges posed by changing climate.
CLOSING REMARKS

MARGARET MALU, Deputy Regional Director, WFP, addressed the meeting, highlighting that the impact of climate change means that a significant number of people in Southern Africa will be classified as acutely food insecure. The majority of these will be women and children, who will require an emergency response. Currently, WFP provides assistance for 5.4m people in Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Malawi.

Gender inequalities, Ms. Malu noted, persistently impact upon women’s adaptive capacity during emergencies. However, women can and do play a critical role due to having local knowledge and leadership around sustainable resource management at the household and community level.

Women’s political leadership on the continent has generally led to a political climate being more responsive, leading to peace and resulting in improved outcomes. Without women’s participation, inequalities can be further entrenched. Integrating SRHR and gender into climate change programmes ultimately results in increased adaptation measures.

Rather than seeing the closing of the symposium as the end of a process, Ms. Malu encouraged the meeting to see it as a continuation of the journey to integrate climate change, gender and SRHR.

In her closing remarks, DR. JULITTA ONABANJO explained that the commitment for a stronger relationship between climate change, SRHR and gender, emerged from the ICPD Review in Accra. It was clear that unless substantive changes were made, meeting the SDGs by 2030 and other global and regional commitments would not be possible. The symposium proved to be a safe space to explore, analyse and discuss the nexus and how to improve it in action.

She noted that while everyone brought a sense of richness to the symposium, she was particularly appreciative of the contribution of young leaders. All meeting participants represented only a percentage of the work being carried out and therefore, there is a very rich resource to build on. Dr. Onabanjo argued that it is imperative that the sector builds faster and sets more ambitious targets and commitments. After expressing gratitude to all the participants for their valued contributions, Dr. Onabanjo officially closed the meeting.