

Concept Note IFAD Side Event

CSW66: Understanding the gendered risks: Women as the central piece to the climate adaptation puzzle

15 march 2022 9 am Eastern US Time / 2 PM Central European Time

Background

The priority theme of the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66), taking place from 14 to 25 March 2022, is “Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes”. The CSW will discuss emerging issues that affect gender equality and the empowerment of women and agree on further actions to accelerate progress and promote women’s enjoyment of their rights in political, economic, and social fields. The 66th edition of CSW will assess the interlinkages of the gender dimensions of the applicable climate, environment and disaster risk reduction normative frameworks, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and their synergies with the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Biodiversity is part of the solution to climate change. For men and women in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries, biodiversity is vital for their survival and the survival of their families. Exposing and understanding the gender-differentiated biodiversity practices and knowledge of women and men enhances biodiversity conservation. Many case studies from around the world have demonstrated that in empowering women and vulnerable groups to participate as equals in information sharing and generation, education and training, technology transfer, organizational development, financial assistance and policy development, biodiversity conservation efforts become more effective and efficient. As with biodiversity, climate change does not affect women and men in the same way and it has, and will have, a gender-differentiated impact. Therefore, all aspects related to climate change mitigation, adaptation, policy development, and decision making should include a gender perspective.

Gender mainstreaming is crucial in climate, environment and disaster risk reduction frameworks through the development of coherent, convergent and coordinated gender-responsive national policies, programmes and actions that will lead to joint and mutually reinforcing national and local implementation. Gender mainstreaming requires integration of a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, regulatory measures and budgets in tandem with ensuring women’s meaningful participation and leadership at all levels. This is critical to address the needs and priorities of women and girls, overcoming the multiple and intersecting forms of inequalities and discrimination they face in relation to the drivers and impacts of environmental degradation and climate change and ensuring that women and girls equally engage in and benefit from policies and programmes and their implementation.

Rural women and men increasingly face the challenge of having to adapt their production systems in the context of climate change and natural resource depletion. Growing evidence exist to demonstrate that climate change affects men and women in different ways, often increasing women’s vulnerabilities and gender inequalities. The major gender-differentiated impacts of climate change in

rural areas include the following: i) greater food and nutrition insecurity, affecting particularly women; ii) increased workload of women and girls to collect water and firewood; iii) limited land ownership for women, who have fewer endowments and entitlements to help them absorb shocks; iv) lower access to climate-smart agriculture (CSA) technologies and practices; and v) the gender differentiated impact of disasters and migration.

At IFAD, we define adaptive capacity as the ability of a community or individual exposed to climate change to adjust, absorb, avoid, and/or diffuse the negative consequences of climate change in their production and livelihood context. Their ability to do so is linked to their context, including their level of general development as well as assets, information (including climate information tailored to agriculture), resources and opportunities, alternatives and the diversity of sources of income available to them, as well as the degree to which these are subject to the impacts of climate change, ie (multidimensional vulnerability and the extent to which dimensions are subject to the impact of climate change). IFAD integrates gender concerns into its projects and programmes to increase the equitable and sustainable climate resilience of rural communities to enhance environmental conservation and limit the climate change and the impact of shocks. Strengthening the climate resilience of rural women and girls – their capacity to cope with and recover from shocks – is a vital part of IFAD’s work. This side event aspires to emphasize the notion that rural women and people of diverse genders do not simply suffer from the climate impact as a vulnerable group, but that structural gender inequality puts them at higher risk. This is due to their limited access to resources and opportunities, not having the right to make decisions about their and their family's livelihood, biased social norms, facing barriers towards economic empowerment. Because of this, the intersectional dimension plays a critical role as for example indigenous women or women with a disability are disproportionately affected. As we know, intersectionality does not add up the climate impact, it multiplies. Hence, it is time to negotiate and network for inclusion in climate action, which meant women with disabilities and indigenous disabled people needed to be clearly mentioned and included in documents, policies and UN structures. CSW66 is a prime opportunity to highlight the work in gender equitable and climate resilient food systems and agriculture, and urge donor governments and organizations to do more to support women's, a subtheme of CSW66. This side event highlights the gender transformative approach that demonstrates effective results in building resilience through contextualized adaptive measures to climate unpredictability, and transforming individuals, households and community actors, who are primarily women, as agents of change.

The event is in English with interpretation in French, Spanish and International Sign (IS) language.

Consolidating Gains and Accelerating Progress

The opportunity to share good practices and lessons learned from the field in addressing existing discriminatory social and legal barriers, will allow for positive synergies in achieving inclusive and equitable climate resilience outcomes. resources and assets. This particular approach is required to stand a chance to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Since issues as gender and climate are cutting across every SDG, a piece meal approach will not be sufficient.

Objectives of the event

- Highlight the critical role of rural women and girls, including pastoral and indigenous women and those with disabilities, at the nexus of climate resilience, resilient food systems

- Showcase good practices on how to address structural and power imbalances for women and other marginalized groups to adapt to climate change and build climate resilience
- Advance efforts to harmonize gender transformative programming with key climate change mitigation and adaptation policies.
- Highlight how to measure effective results in building climate resilience and enabling gender transformative pathways at individual, households and community levels.

Key messages

- 1. Gender inequality is both a driver and consequence of exposure to climate risks and disasters, which results in disproportionate impacts on women and girls.** Gender inequality puts rural women and girls at higher risk because it limits their access to resources and opportunities and reduces their autonomy to make decisions about their own lives. However, given the significant role rural women play in agriculture and food security, they also have the potential to take forward adaptation measures as key agents of change
- 2. Address structural barriers and power imbalances for women and other marginalized groups to adapt to climate change and build climate resilience.** Due to discriminatory stereotypes and social norms rural women's knowledge of CCA and mitigation of disaster risks are devalued and not taken into consideration. Therefore, there is need to focus on gender transformative CCA and DDR programming, which actively seeks to build equitable social norms and structures in addition to individual gender-equitable behaviour, giving sufficient attention to the specific needs of men, women and youth, and their limited access to resources, including capital, land, time or even the right to make decisions.
- 3. Ensuring equal voice, equal access to decision-making.** The adaptive capacity benefits of giving women equal voice in their homes, communities and at the national level include more resilient livelihoods options and better incomes, reduced workloads, improved health and education and improved management of their natural resources and assets
- 4. Economic empowerment of women in agri-food value chains** is a proven strategy to build more resilient and inclusive food systems and increase women's coping and adaptation capacities

Agenda

TIME (CET)	
14.00-14.05	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Ndaya Beltchika, Lead Technical Specialist - Gender, Targeting and Social Inclusion, IFAD
14.05-14.15	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Santala Satu, Associate Vice-President, External Relations and Governance Department (ERG), IFAD
14.15-14.20	Video recording - Keynote Speech <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Sabrina Elba, IFAD Goodwill Ambassador
14.20-15:00	Panel Discussion: Women's role in climate change adaptation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderator: Ms. Ndaya Beltchika Panelists: Ms. Danielle Nierenberg, President of Food Tank Ms. Mueni Mutinda, Public Policy Advisor on Climate Change, Canadian Foodgrains Bank Ms. Pratima Gurung, President of the National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal (NIDWAN)
15.00-15.20	Q&A
15.20-15.25	Video: I Demand – Voices of rural women and girls
15.25-15.30	Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Guoqi Wu, Associate Vice-President Corporate Services Department and Gender Champion, IFAD

Event webpage

[CSW66 side event - Understanding the gendered risks: Women as the central piece to the climate adaptation puzzle \(ifad.org\)](https://www.ifad.org/cs66/side-event/understanding-the-gendered-risks-women-as-the-central-piece-to-the-climate-adaptation-puzzle)