

# Gender

## Climate change impacts women differently and disproportionately than men



**women and children  
are 14 times more likely  
to die or be injured during  
a disaster than men**



## Gender-based vulnerability to climate change: Facts

- Women are hit first and worst by the effects of climate change:
  - In 1991, the cyclone in Bangladesh killed 140,000 people. Within the age group 20-44, the female death rate was 71 per 1000, compared to 15 per 1000 for men (Mushtaque 1993)
  - More than 70% of the fatalities from the 2004 tsunami in Sri Lanka and Indonesia were women (UN ESCAP 2013)
  - Of those killed by Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar in 2008, 61 percent were women and girls
  - The death toll for women and girls following the devastating earthquake in Nepal in 2015 was 55% (UN Women 2015)
- Women are not well represented in decision making processes, which constrains their ability to meaningfully participate in decision on adaptation and mitigation
- About 70% of the 1.3 billion people living in the deepest levels poverty worldwide are women
- Two thirds of the world's 743 million illiterate adults are women
- A global gender gap in earnings and productivity persists across all forms of economic activity
- Burning biomass fuel indoors leads to 2 million deaths per year (mainly women and children)

## Women are key agents, leaders and champions of climate change adaptation and mitigation

*"Women were adapting to climate change long before scientists gave it a name"*

- The women's group APEDED (Association Pour l'Education des Enfants Defavorises) worked with Small Grant Programme on developing an organic herbal tea enterprise to empower poor, unemployed women
- Project implemented by the Grand-Sable Women Planters in Mauritius used women's skills and knowledge to strengthen the overall capacity of the community to adapt to climate change
- Rodrigues Association Feminine Pecheurs Graviers: alternative livelihoods for the Fisher Communities in the South East Marine Protected Area

