



GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE



KEY DEFINITIONS

SEX: biologically determined, acquired characteristic of organisms (acquired)

Types: female, male, intersex

Indicators: sex chromosomes, gonads, internal reproductive organs, and external genitalia

GENDER: culturally defined, ascribed characteristic of humans (learned)

Types: feminine, masculine

Indicators: attitudes, feelings, and behaviour[s] that a given culture associates with a person's biological sex

SOURCE: APA, 2006

VULNERABILITY: a function of exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity

EXPOSURE: the extent to which a region, resource or community experiences changes in climate and is characterized by the magnitude, frequency, duration and/or spatial extent of a climate event.

SENSITIVITY: the degree to which a system can be affected, negatively or positively, by changes in climate.

ADAPTIVE CAPACITY: a system's ability to adjust to climate change and variability, to moderate potential damage, to take advantage of opportunities or to cope with consequences.

SOURCE: EMB-DENR CLIMATE PROOFING FOR DEVELOPMENT TOOLKIT

INTRODUCTION

Humans are well aware of the adverse effects of climate change across the globe, and how differently vulnerable each country is to the impacts of climate change. The Philippines as a nation belonging to the list of countries most vulnerable to climate change, the population has been exposed to extreme weather events that have cost lives and livelihoods. The countries vulnerability to climate change poses a significant challenge to national development as the Archipelago suffer great losses when strong typhoons, floods, and increasing temperatures strike, resulting to damages in crops and properties, interruptions in business operations, and prevalence of diseases.

However, often overlooked is how differently vulnerable women and men are to the impacts of climate change. In fact, as of January 2016, only 37.5% of INDCs submitted by countries include gender or women as a priority for actions to adapt to and mitigate climate change (IUCN-GGO, 2016). Gender is an important dimension to be considered when planning for climate change, as their vulnerabilities are differentiated given the differences in socially ascribed roles and responsibilities, access to resources and education, participation in decision-making, and certain biological factors. Thus, mainstreaming gender is necessary to better define climate change action plans that account for the needs of women and men and ensure that nobody gets left behind.

SIMILARLY EXPOSED, DIFFERENTLY VULNERABLE

As members of families and communities, both women and men secure their well-being and contribute to their welfare as they cope with the adverse effects of climate change. For example, as contribution to securing food, women have mobilized their families and members of their communities to develop and implement strategies that would preserve food, enhance harvest, secure water, store and cultivate seeds, and acquire food from other sources like in the forests (WEDO, 2008; IRR of RA 9710). During typhoons and floods, men have volunteered to search and rescue loved ones and neighbors, build makeshift structures to facilitate mobility when roads are destroyed, protect their homes against burglars and looters, and rebuild their houses. However, as women and men seem to have differentiated roles in responding to climate change, it also varies how climate change affects them.

Access to capital contributes much to increase human adaptive capacity. Having enough resources enables an individual to acquire goods and services to secure their survival, like food, water, medicine, and shelter. When losses occur as a result of weather events, it is found that economic recovery for women is slower than for men (WEDO, 2008 p.6), given that they have fewer resources to be exchanged for necessary goods and services (WEDO, 2008 p.8), and that because of limited rights to property and management of natural resources, their resources to cope with climate change are therefore also limited (WEDO, 2008 p.6).

Socially ascribed roles for women and men also have implications on climate vulnerability. Cultural expectations on which roles women and men have in the household, communities, and workplaces, and how women and men are subjected to these expectations are connected to how they will be able to access resources and information necessary to adapt to climate change. In fact, it was found that the impacts of climate change on women “will be more severe than men” in light of these socially ascribed roles (Brody et al, 2008; IUCN, 2007; Lambrou and Piana, 2006 in WEDO, 2008 p.6).

For example, tending the house and caring for family members have been associated as the role of women in the household. These involve securing food, fuel, and water, and looking after the sick, all of which become more difficult to accomplish as extreme weather events become more frequent (Enarson, 2000 in WEDO, 2008 p.6).



FALLING INTO A TRAP WHILE MAKING ENDS MEET

Given how micro-crediting schemes tend to attract more women, and given the role of managing finances in the family, more women than men in the agriculture sector face “chronic indebtedness” as they try to make ends meet for the family when their crops fail due to the changing climate.

In fact, a study involving women in rice production found that in order to support rice cultivation and supplement the family’s income, 94% of them resorted to “informal moneylenders, small convenience stores, cooperatives, and relatives”.

SOURCE: REYES-CANTOS, 2006 IN SPIELDOCH, 2007 IN WEDO, 2008, P.8

PUTTING THE NEEDS OF OTHERS FIRST

In times of crises brought about by extreme weather events, there are distinctions in the responsibilities and expectations attributed to women and men. For example, women tend to secure that the other members of family have

food to eat first before themselves. Men on the other hand tend to compromise their health and safety as they are expected to volunteer in rescue activities.



SOURCE: WEDO, 2008 P.8 AND UNFPA AND WEDO, 2009 P. 2



Pregnant women become more sensitive to the impacts of climate change as they would require special care given their condition. Health care services must be easily accessible, but may be delayed when weather events disrupt hospital operations and prevent women from travelling to hospitals and health centers due to floods or damage roads. Also, without sufficient health facilities for pregnant women in evacuation centers, the wellbeing of the mother and her child may be compromised. In addition, although pregnant women are prioritized during rescue operations, extra care must be given to ensure that these will not cause further harm to the mother and her child.

The table below further summarizes the direct and indirect impacts of climate change to women.

ISSUE	IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE	DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACTS ON WOMEN
NATURAL RESOURCES, FOOD, WATER, FUEL & LAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drought and/or flooding from temperature changes and erratic weather - Decreased soil fertility - Decreased crop yields or crop failure - Resource scarcity - Shortage of clean, potable water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased household work burden and time spent on gathering water, food and fuel such as firewood (sometimes leading to lower school enrolment rates, decreased literacy rates, or early marriage) - Increased hunger and calorie reduction for women - Exposure to contaminated water resources - In regions with restricted land rights, women potentially forced off/without access to fertile land - Loss of traditional land tenure
NATURAL DISASTERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Warming oceans - Changing weather patterns/seasons - Erratic and more intense weather events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of access to education/information about weather - Restricted ability to respond (e.g., women often unable to leave house without male companion) - Lack of survival skills regularly taught to boys, such as swimming or tree climbing - Women regularly excluded from disaster recovery decision-making
HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in infectious, water-borne or vector-borne diseases, e.g. malaria, due to increased temperatures and intensified storms - Heat-related illness - Malnutrition - Increased air pollution, allergies and asthma - Mental disorders such as anxiety and depression 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pregnant and lactating women, along with the very young and very old, are most vulnerable to health threats - Increased lack of health-care services, immunizations, family planning, reproductive health care in disaster zones - Potential increase in maternal and infant mortality rates due to lack of care - Lack of services and hygienic supplies in relief shelters for pregnant, lactating or menstruating women
POPULATION GROWTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Growth expected in areas at risk to severe climatic changes and where people rely on natural resources for survival 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Competition for increasingly scarce government and natural resources - Most vulnerable populations (e.g., women) continue to be under threat - High fertility rates impact women’s health
URBANIZATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rural-to-urban migration increases due to environmental degradation, reduced productivity and conflict over resources - Informal shelters and communities expand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Settlements—sometimes informal—may be unhealthy and dangerous, lack water and sanitation and be built on vulnerable land - Urban formal markets tend to benefit men - Poor urban women lack health services - Urban poverty projected to increase

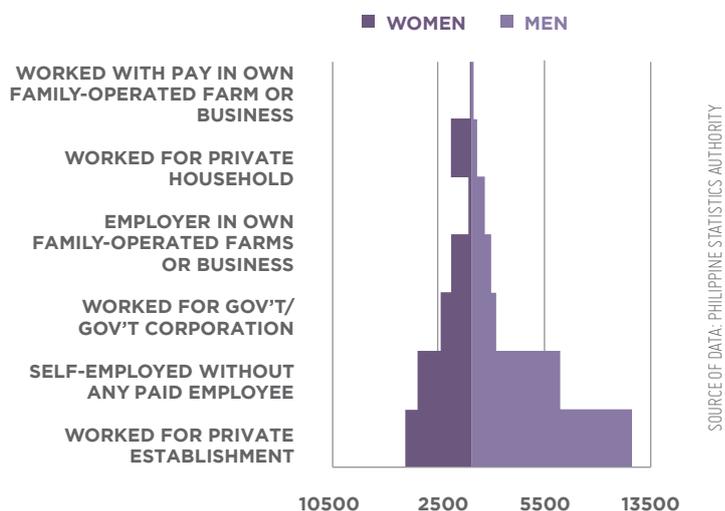
ISSUE	IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE	DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACTS ON WOMEN
MIGRATION & DISPLACEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disaster events can lead to displacement, temporary and permanent, internal and international - Environmental degradation and competition for resources prompts women and men to move - Forced migration due to regional vulnerability possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women comprise at least half of world migrant populations, but their needs are not prioritized in migration policies - Women often lack resources to move, but post-disaster may lack resources to cope at home - Forced migration could exacerbate women's vulnerability and lack of access to resources and livelihood options
HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loss of/change in family composition due to migration/displacement and/or fatalities from natural disasters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rise in female-headed households (FHH) - Limited resources for FHH in recovery/insurance programmes or funds that prioritize access for men - Lack of land rights jeopardizing women's food and livelihood security - Gendered divisions of labour reinforced - Decreased numbers of women in some households due to female disaster mortality
CONFLICT & VIOLENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Competition over limited resources can trigger conflict or displacement - Shortages in regular rainfall and overall scarcity of natural resources can increase civil war by 50% - Increased anxiety and distress over livelihood insecurity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conflict amplifies existing gender inequalities - While men are more likely to be killed or injured in fighting, women suffer greatly from other consequences of conflict such as rape, violence, anxiety and depression - Higher levels of violence in the home and in post-disaster relief shelters

SOURCE: UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA) AND WOMEN'S ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (WEDO). (2009). CLIMATE CHANGE CONNECTIONS: WOMEN AT THE FOREFRONT.

GENDER IN THE PHILIPPINES

As of 2014, men comprise 60% of employed persons in the country, where women only take 40%. More men than women are employed in private establishments, self-employed without paid employees, and employer and employed in own family-operated farm or business. More women than men however are unpaid family workers, worked in government or government corporations and private households

In terms of human development, we have set gender targets as part of our Millennium Development Goals, which we have fallen short of meeting. Under Goal #3 on Promoting Gender Equality and Empowering Women, we were able to meet only 41.1% in 2014 of the targeted 50% by 2015 of the share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector in 2014. This is only a 1% contribution to the baseline in 1990. However, under Goal #5 on Improving Maternal Health, we were unable to achieve our target of reducing maternal mortality ratio by 2015 to 52 from the baseline in 1990 at 209, since in 2011 the ratio has increased to 221.



PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY & EMPOWER WOMEN

INDICATOR 3.2 SHARE OF WOMEN IN WAGE EMPLOYMENT IN THE NON-AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

BASELINE	TARGET	LATEST
1990	2015	2014
40.1	50.0	41.1



IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

INDICATOR 5.1 MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO

BASELINE	TARGET	LATEST
1990	2015	2014
209	52	221 (182-260)

SOURCE: PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY (2015) MDGWATCH: STATISTICS AT A GLANCE OF THE PHILIPPINES' PROGRESS BASED ON THE MDG INDICATORS AS OF SEPTEMBER 2015. RETRIEVED FROM [HTTP://NAPPSA.GOV.PH/STATS/MDG/MDG_WATCH.ASP](http://nappsa.gov.ph/stats/mdg/mdg_watch.asp)

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