



Women act as agents of change in Climate change:

"We owe it to ourselves and the next generation to conserve the environment so that we can bequeath our children a sustainable world that benefits all." Wangari Maathai-Environmental activist.

Considering an ever increasing number in the world's population which further leads to human induced greenhouse gas emissions and the over-exploitation of the earth's natural resources the world is further at risk. Although a changing climate affects everyone, it is the world's most vulnerable people, and especially women and girls, who bear the brunt or suffer the most. Climate induced disasters aggravate already existing gender inequalities and women suffer from all kinds of discriminatory practices. Women form a greater portion of the population in rural societies that are heavily dependent on their natural environment for basic physical and economic needs. This population of women often have the least capacity and opportunities to cope with the impacts of climate change, or to participate in critical decisions relating to how climate change can be addressed. Women are more likely than men to suffer from the social, environmental and economic impacts of a warming planet. This is evident in the increasing exposure to barriers in accessing shelter, healthcare, energy and education for their children. The reason why women and girls are more vulnerable to climate change is often socially constructed. Women face specific and greater vulnerabilities due to their different social status and the roles traditionally attributed to them within societies. For example, in many developing countries, women are predominantly responsible for food production, household water supply and energy supply for heating and cooking which are heavily dependent on the state of the natural environment. As climate change impacts increase, these tasks are becoming even more difficult and time-consuming.

Climate change therefore tends to place a larger burden on women and girls especially in developing countries and rural communities. Additionally, women all over the world encounter greater difficulties and barriers than men when it comes to spatial mobility, basic access to education, healthcare, resources (e.g. land, financial resources, etc.), information and technologies, as well as to decision-making processes at all levels. This often stands in the way of women's empowerment in general and of their potential contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation in particular.

A call to action: From the field

- Profiting from waste: ([Watch now](#))
- Local women farmers in Bhutan protecting the country's varied biodiversity: ([Learn more](#))
- Promoting Gender-Responsive Adaptation to Climate Change: ([Watch now](#))
- Gender and Climate change in coffee and cocoa: ([Watch now](#))
- Webinar Gender inequalities in social protection - people, households and climate adaptation: ([Watch now](#))