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Toolkit for Young Climate Activists
in the Middle East and North Africa Region/Arab States Region

VOLUME VI: GENDER
AND CLIMATE CHANGE

PREFACE

“We, as young people, are agents of change in different sections of society. We are not being left behind in climate action: our voices are being increasingly heard and we are demanding the right to participate fully. In fact, our participation is a right that should be central to the formulation of public policy.

The Toolkit for Young Climate Activists in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region was created by young people who, like you, are concerned about our planet’s situation and who, as activists, have faced many challenges when advocating and taking action. The toolkit uses the term “young people” to refer to adolescents and young people between the ages of 10 and 24 years. The toolkit was originally developed by young people in Latin America and the Caribbean and has been updated and revised for the MENA region based on feedback from young people who live in that region.

Our goal is to share clear, concise, easily understandable information that describes the course that global, regional and national climate action is taking in order to prepare you for meaningful and informed participation.

The Young Climate Activists Toolkit comprises six volumes, each covering a different topic, as set out below. You can choose to read each volume in succession, or you can consult them independently, according to your needs. This volume covers gender equality in climate change activism.

THIS BOOKLET USES THE TERMS YOUTH AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO REFER TO ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE BETWEEN 10 AND 24 YEARS OLD

0 TO 17

10 TO 18

10 TO 24

15 TO 24



Volume I:

Concepts and definitions that every climate activist needs to know

Volume II:

Key tools for advancing global climate action goals locally as well as the Sustainable Development Goals, including the Paris Agreement and nationally determined contributions (NDC), among others

Volume III:

Information about climate governance and the decision-making process at the national and international levels, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, how it works and mechanisms for participation

Volume IV

Details of the Agreement, its importance and all its articles in simple language

Volume V:

Water Scarcity for Young People:Upcoming)

Volume VI:

Introduces the gender dimensions of climate change in MENA and international frameworks on gender and climate change and demonstrates how to undertake a gender analysis of a climate-change issue or policy



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Core Regional Toolkit Team

Eleonor Lefvert (UNICEF), Maha Muna (UNICEF), Natalie Esmail (UNICEF), Chris Cormency (UNICEF), Benjamin Basmaci (UNDP), Yulia Isaeva (UNDP), Loyal Wehbe (UNDP).

Core Youth Team

Sherif AbdelKader (Egypt), Omar Adnan (Jordan), Sarah Al Hartney (Saudi Arabia), Khoulood Hamrouni (Tunisia), Ayshka Najib (United Arab Emirates).

UNDP Shababeek Regional Youth Team

UNICEF and UNDP Review Team

Tarik Hassan (UNICEF), Rockaya Aidara (UNICEF), Salim Oweis (UNICEF), Kitka Goyol (UNICEF), Alexandre Schein (UNICEF), Omar Robles (UNICEF), Amy Wickham (UNICEF), Rania Tarazi (UNDP), Shatha Mahmoud (UNDP), Daria Colella (UNDP).

El Karama Regional Women's Rights Organisation

Victoria Shoukri (State of Palestine), Nimeh Assaf (State of Palestine), Lemar Shanan (State of Palestine), Zein Ahmad (State of Palestine), Sabah Al-Sanieh (Yemen), Tasneem Saqaff (Yemen), Abrar Jbara (Yemen), Sara Atiji (South Sudan), Ajok Dengtiel (South Sudan) and Aluel Deng (South Sudan).



CONTENTS

6

Synonyms And Acronyms

7

Key Concepts

8

Introduction

12

What Is A Gender
Analysis?

12

What Is A Gender-Just
Environmental Approach?

13

What Is A Gender-Just
Advcacy Message For
Climate Action?

14

Use Your Knowledge
To Inform Gender-Just
Environmental Policy
Advocacy And Community
Action

15

Practice Step by step-
Gender-Just Approach to
Climate Action

19

Policy Advocacy and
Community Action

19

UNFCC Gender Action
Plan

22

ACT! Do a gender review of
your countries' NDC

24

Be Inspired!

22

Gender Concepts

KEY CONCEPTS

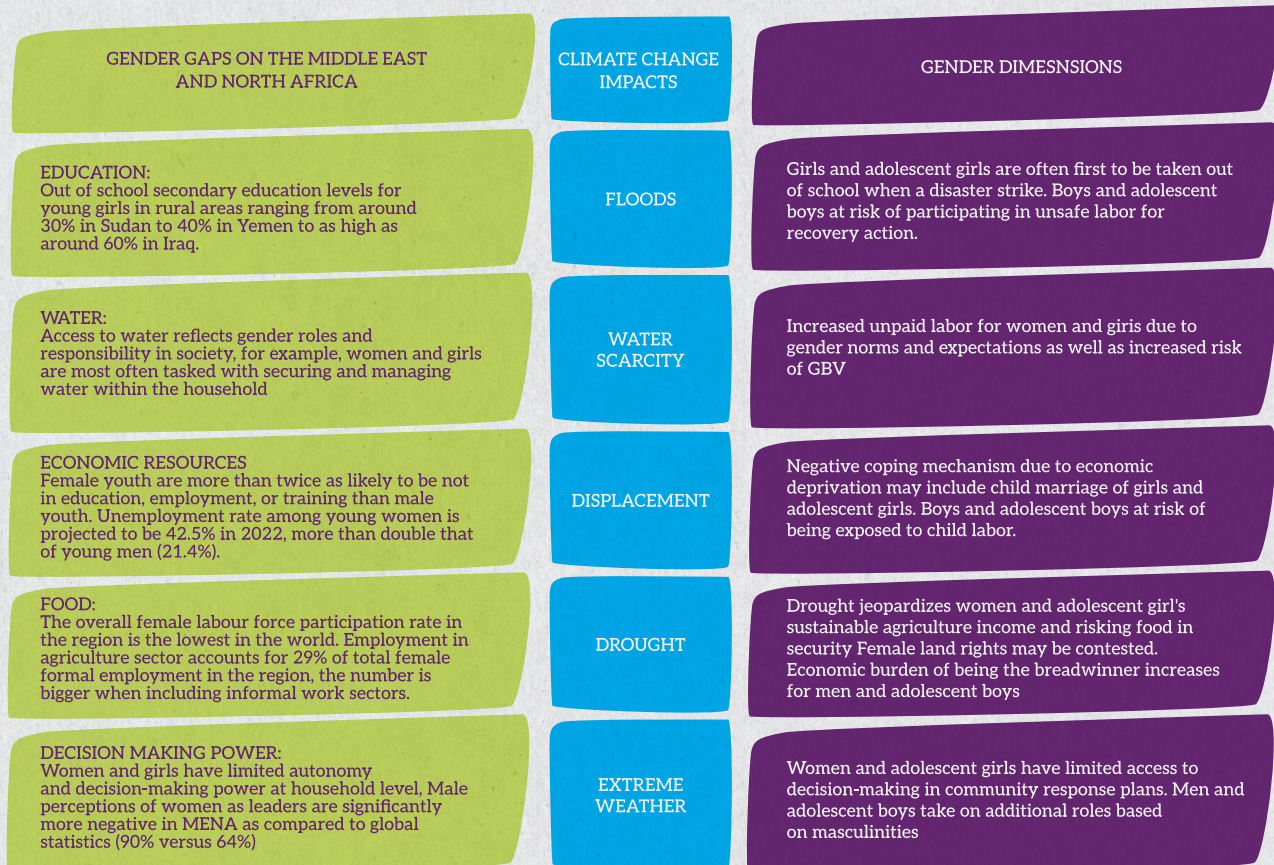
What Is Gender And Gender Equality?

Without the inclusion of half of the world's population, it is unlikely that solutions for a sustainable planet and a gender equal world tomorrow will be realized

Gender refers to the socially constructed roles and relationships, personality traits, attitudes, behaviours, values, relative power, and influence that society ascribes to individuals on the basis of their assigned sex. This means that gender depends upon both our physical being and social expectations or understandings of the roles and responsibilities of women, girls, men and boys in all their diversity, in any given society. Gender is relational and refers not simply to women and men in all their diversity but to the relationships between them.

Gender norms may limit opportunities for boys or girls and can put them at heightened risk for abuse and violence. Gender intersects with other inequalities based on social relationships and power relations within society, including around race, class, geographic locality, ability and sexual orientation. Kindly see the annex for more detailed explanations and examples of different gender concepts and terms.

Without systematic gender analysis, climate-change policies risk intentionally or unintentionally maintaining or deepening gender inequalities. The figure below shows how a gender analysis can explain different gendered outcomes of climate-change impacts due to pre-existing gender inequalities in society. This showcase that climate change is not gender neutral, but that gender norms, roles and responsibilities determine how different groups of people will experience and manage a climate change risk.



INTRODUCTION

The impacts of climate change and natural disasters are not gender neutral, but rather amplify existing gender inequalities in relation to socioeconomic and political status, land rights, livelihoods, health, domestic labour, gender-based violence and safety and security. This volume will introduce you to some of the gender dimensions of climate change in MENA as well as international frameworks on gender and climate change. You will learn how to do a gender analysis of a climate change issue or policy. The volume takes you through the following steps:

- Understanding the gendered dimensions of climate change, including the gender aspects of climate adaptation and mitigation and why they are important.
- Unpacking the meaning of gender and climate justice and how to conduct a gender analysis of climate-change impacts.
- Conducting a gender analysis by implementing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Gender Action Plan (GAP) in your country or undertaking a gender review of your country's nationally determined contribution (NDC).
- Learning more specifically about the linkages between gender and climate change and why they are relevant to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.



BACKGROUND

The MENA region has been facing a range of crises, including economic disparities, conflict and climate change, which have intensified social and economic 'socioeconomic' and environmental issues. Climate change, in particular, poses a significant threat to human development gains, with marginalized communities disproportionately affected by rising temperatures, droughts and water scarcity. In addition, countries in conflict-affected contexts in the region are also among the world's hotspots for climate risks, and 14 out of the 17 most water-stressed countries in the world are located in MENA.

Women and girls are not a homogeneous community. Rather, they make up a diverse group of people. However, in general, as a group, women and girls remain marginalized from social, economic and political decision-making worldwide due to patriarchal structures and discriminatory norms. Gender norms, roles, responsibilities, behaviours, sociocultural characteristics, intersectionality and power structures in society determine how different groups of people will experience and manage climate change and disaster risks. Due to structural inequalities and discriminatory practices, women, young women, adolescent girls and girls have less access to and less use and control of natural resources, physical mobility and decision-making power and are subject to household and community expectations. Because of this inequality and discrimination, they tend to be disproportionately affected by climate change and natural hazards. In low- and middle-income countries, for example, women and girls are disproportionately responsible for fetching and treating water. Climate change can result in their having to walk increasingly farther distances to access water, amplifying their vulnerability to violence and reducing the time they could devote to safe employment and learning. The UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls have highlighted the relationship between climate change and increased gender-based violence,

Climate change is not gender neutral but rather amplifies already existing gender inequalities with the most marginalized communities experiencing the greatest impacts. For example:

- Girls' household responsibilities and the distance they must travel to school in increasingly harsh conditions threatens their access to education,
- The availability of water and sanitation is necessary for girls and adolescent girls' reproductive health, with potential negative impact on psychosocial support and well-being,
- Risks associated with climate change exacerbate possibility of gender-based violence, including child marriage, and food insecurity can contribute to high anaemia rates for adolescent girls.

in which she calls for robust gender approaches to monitor and evaluate climate mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction policies. Traditional gender roles and societal inequalities contribute to the low resilience and high vulnerability of all women, young women, adolescent girls and girls to the effects of climate change. While women, young women and adolescent girls serve as primary caregivers in most societies in the MENA region, their limited access to decision-making authority and control over natural resources makes responding to the effects of climate change particularly challenging for them. For instance, in the MENA region, women who are employed in the agriculture sector are more vulnerable than men to droughts and erratic rainfall due to their limited authority over natural resources. To understand how climate change affects genders differently, we must understand vulnerability, exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive opportunities. For instance, during crises exacerbated by climate change, such as more frequent extreme droughts and floods, girls tend to drop out of school more often than boys. This is due to the traditional gender expectations that girls should handle the increased domestic duties or care for siblings. These gender expectations increase existing obstacles to education for girls.

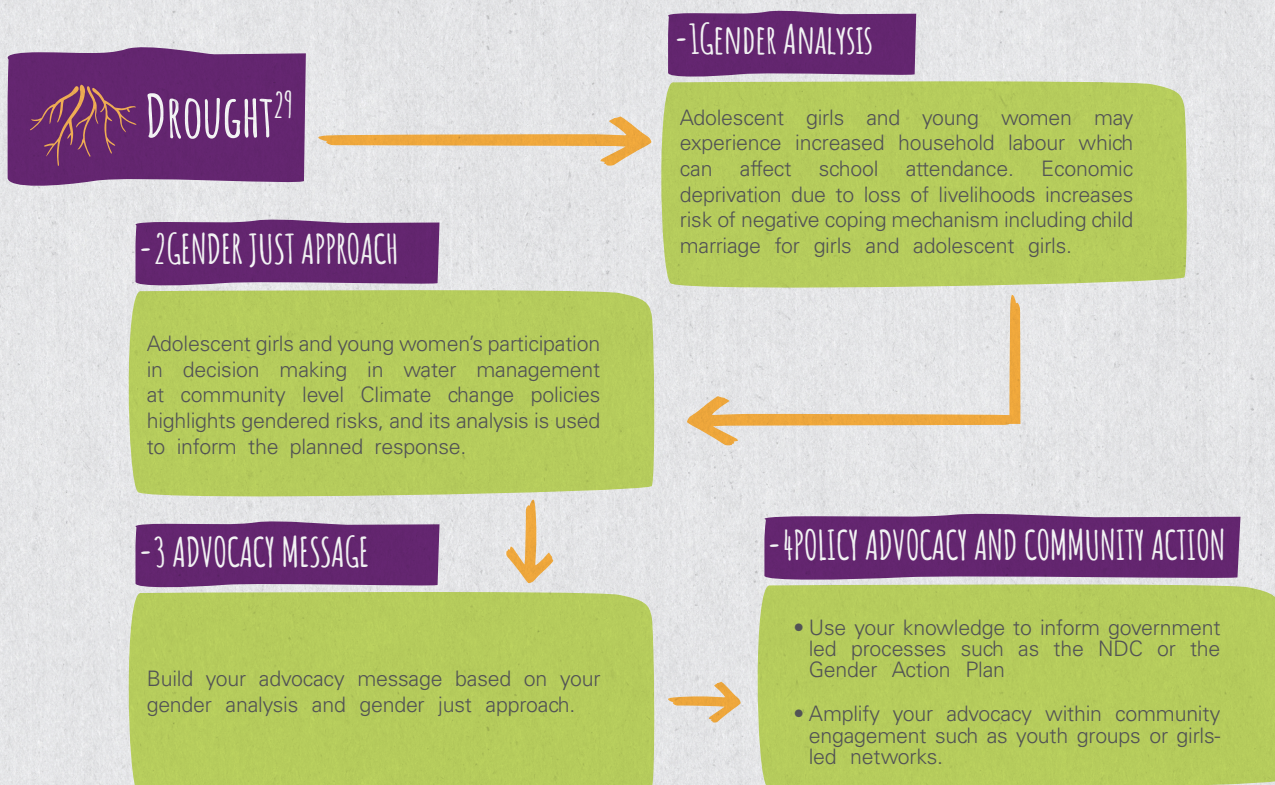
THERE IS NO CLIMATE JUSTICE WITHOUT GENDER JUSTICE!



In this module of the Young Climate Activist Toolkit, you will build upon your climate-change awareness by strengthening your ability to understand the gender dimensions of climate change, develop a gender just environmental approach and use this to inform climate action.

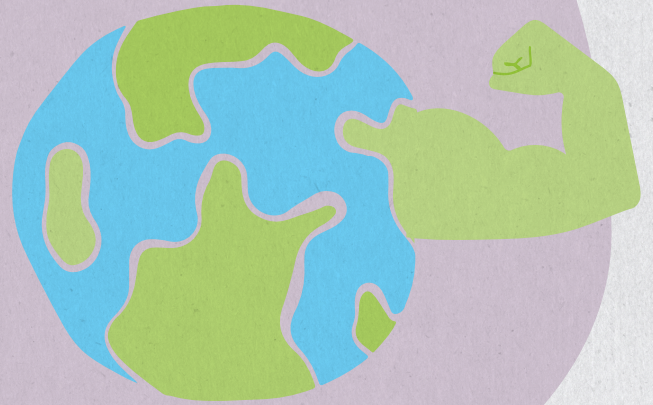
As the figure below shows, it starts by understanding what a gender analysis is and how you conduct it, then using this information to have a gender just approach in mitigation and adaptation strategies and thereafter develop gender-just key messages to inform climate action.

Gender Dimensions of Climate Impact



WHAT IS A GENDER ANALYSIS?

A gender analysis highlights gendered differences in terms of opportunities, barriers, stigma, access to resources, dimensions of labour, participation and social, economic and political decision-making. It can be used to understand the relationship between climate justice and gender equality. When these gendered differences and the resulting inequalities are identified, the gender analysis, including quantitative and qualitative data, is used to shape policy- and decision-making processes to ensure that gender inequalities and needs due to marginalization are considered.



QUIZ TIME-TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Water scarcity makes girls and adolescent girls' menstrual and other hygiene management more difficult, with implications for sexual and reproductive health, well-being, and educational opportunities.

Without adequate access to water, there is an increase in the possibility for reproductive health infections during menstruation

Do you know the percentage of schools in MENA lack access to water and soap for hand washing or basic sanitation services?



WHAT IS A GENDER-JUST ENVIRONMENTAL APPROACH?

A gender-just environmental approach conceptualizes climate change in relation to gender inequality, unequal power relations and decision-making around resource management and allocation. As such, this approach is centered around addressing systemic inequalities to empower women and girls in all their diversity and strengthen their resilience to climate change as well as to advance their leadership to bring about more inclusive and fair policies.

A gender-just environmental approach places climate justice and the rights of peoples, communities and nature at the heart of addressing current and historical social inequalities based on race, gender, citizenship and other forms of oppression. For example, climate change has a disproportionate impact on women and girls in all their diversity as well as on indigenous people, rural communities and marginalized people, yet these groups are the most underrepresented in decision-making forums. When thinking about adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change, it is important to consider the diverse needs and experiences of all individuals, including those who may be affected differently due to existing social and economic inequalities. By using a gender analysis and a gender-just environmental approach in adaptation and mitigation efforts, promoting effective, equitable and sustainable measures, specific challenges can be addressed, and greater resilience can be fostered for all community members. A gender-just environmental approach is also needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal's (SDG). Look at the chart for examples:





SDG1: No poverty supporting people affected by climate change, such as women and young women farmers struggling to grow crops due to droughts or floods can make a meaningful contribution to reducing poverty and building sustainable communities.



SDG3: Good health and well-being providing gender-sensitive health care and support services to address climate change related diseases can empower women and girls to lead healthy and fulfilling lives and help to create a healthier and more resilient world.



SDG5: Gender equality ensuring that women and girls are included in climate change-adaptation planning and decision-making and equal access to education and resources can help to promote gender equality and bring about a more just and equitable world.



SDG7: Affordable and clean energy promoting gender-responsive energy access and transitioning to low-carbon energy sources empowers women and young women to lead the change in creating a cleaner and more sustainable world. By taking control of their energy needs and reducing their reliance on expensive and polluting fuels, women are playing a crucial role in shaping a brighter future for us all.



SDG11: Sustainable cities and communities creating walkable and bike-friendly cities, and improving public transportation not only benefits the environment, but also enables women and girls to move freely and participate in public life. By making our cities more accessible and inclusive, we are creating a world in which women and girls can thrive and achieve their full potential.



SDG13: Climate action is taking action to reduce carbon footprint and promote sustainability is a powerful way for women and girls to share their knowledge and practice towards protecting the planet and within their communities. By using renewable energy sources, reducing waste and advocating for sustainable practices, women, adolescent girls and girls are leading the way towards a brighter, more resilient future for all.



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WHAT IS A GENDER-JUST ADVOCACY MESSAGE FOR CLIMATE ACTION?

By using a gender-just environmental approach that acknowledges the unique challenges of girls and women in relation to climate change, young advocates can create messages that are respectful, inclusive and effective in inspiring action. As a young climate advocate, you can use the 'Head, Heart, Hand' approach to craft compelling advocacy messages that inspire action on climate change.

Here are the main elements of this approach – using:

1. The Head: Use facts and data to highlight the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and girls in all their diversity, particularly those who are marginalized due to social, economic and political inequalities.
2. The Heart: Appeal to human emotions and values that resonate with your audience. For example, discuss the importance of ensuring that everyone, regardless of gender, has the right to live in a safe and healthy environment, or the need to protect the rights and well-being of women and girls in the face of climate change.
3. The Hand: Promote policies and initiatives that address the specific needs and experiences of women in the face of climate change and make specific requests or demands directed towards Governments, businesses and other actors that have the power to create change. This could include calling for the increased representation of women in climate decision-making and advocating for gender-responsive adaptation strategies.



USE YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO INFORM GENDER-JUST ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

With your gender analysis, gender-just environmental approach and advocacy messages at hand, there is an opportunity to use your knowledge to influence decision-makers or organize for change within your community. The youth climate movement around the world is bringing to attention the importance of listening and working with young people to tackle the climate crisis. Young people are best placed to talk about how the impacts of climate change are affecting their generation. Use your expertise and opinion to inform government-led processes, such as the NDC or the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan. You can also amplify your advocacy within community engagement such as youth groups or girls-led climate centered networks.



PRACTICE STEP-BY-STEP GENDER-JUST APPROACH TO CLIMATE ACTION

By conducting a gender analysis, you will be able to map out the gendered impacts of climate change in your context. After you have highlighted those impacts, continue your gender analysis by suggesting what a gender-just environmental approach would look like to respond to the climate risk in a way that ensures gender-just policies and outcomes. This approach will guide the formulation of your advocacy message and your climate action, including policy advocacy and community engagement.

How do you do a gender analysis?

A gender analysis tool to highlight gaps and inequalities by asking questions of how men, women, boys and girls, in all their diversity, is experiencing a context or environment differently based on their gender. These questions focus on expectations, experiences and interactions. Questions will be posed bearing different societal aspects, like legislation, norms, responsibilities, power dynamics and access to resources in mind. The table below highlights different questions that can be posed across the different aspects.

Table 1- Gender Analysis

	Gender Gaps/Inequalities Questions
Laws, Policies, Regulations, and Institutional Practices	Are males and females treated equally in legislation, and by official policies and institutions in the country? How could this impact you?
Norms and Beliefs	What beliefs and perceptions shape gender identities and norms? Do gender stereotypes function as a facilitator or barrier to males' or females' engagement in this activity?
Gender Roles, Responsibilities, and Time Used	Who does what? How do gender roles and responsibilities impact the likelihood that males and females will participate in this project and in development activities in general?
Patterns of Power and Decision-making	Who decides, influences, and exercises control over material, human, intellectual, and financial resources in the family, community and country?
Access to and Control over Assets and Resources including income, employment, and assets such as land.	Do males and females have equal access and the capacity to use productive resources—assets, income, social benefits, public services, technology—and information necessary to be a fully active and productive participant in society?



Below is an example of a gender analysis focusing on one climate-change risk: water scarcity.

The MENA region is reported to be the most water scarce in the world, containing 14 of the 17 most water-stressed countries. Nine out of 10 children live in high or extremely high water-stress countries. Water management reflects gender roles and responsibilities in society. For example, women and girls are most often tasked with securing water within the household. Water systems are most often managed and maintained by men through, for example, water committees.

1. Gender Analysis

What are the impacts of water scarcity on women and girls and their families? Use the gender analysis questions presented in Table 1 and ask yourself what do these elements look like in my community?

Laws, Policies, Regulations and Institutional Practices: Water strategic plans and policies often do not target girls, adolescent girls, and women. Regulations and institutional practices need to advocate for gender equality in accessing water resources, the inclusion of women in decision-making processes, and the management of water service providers.

Norms and Beliefs: Families that experience water shortages are more likely to resort to unsafe water sources, including ditches and open wells. Water shortages also mean that women and girls might have to travel farther using unsafe roads, which has proven to increase the risk for gender-based violence.

Gender Roles, Responsibilities, and Time Used: When access to water decreases, unpaid labour performed by women and girls for the household or community is likely to increase. That means that women and girls have less time for learning, maintaining social networks and caring for themselves and their families.

Patterns of Power and Decision-making: The burden of water collection often falls on children, and especially girls in contexts in which boys' labour outside the home or their education is prioritized over that of girls. This reduces the opportunities for children, especially girls, to attend school.

Access to and Control over Assets and Resources: In context of water scarcity, in which access to water and adequate sanitation are affected, women and girls risk losing access to healthy and dignified menstruation health and hygiene (MHH) management. When there is a lack of information about MHH supplies or the inability of women and girls to access them,

,girls can miss school – and girls who miss school are most likely to drop out. Lacking access to supplies can affect girls' health and well-being, including their reproductive health, life opportunities and sense of agency.

2. Gender-just environmental approach in climate-change response strategy

Given these gender dimensions, what aspects should be considered for a gender-just environmental approach in your climate-change response strategy? Remember, a gender-just environmental approach recognises unequal power relations and addresses systemic inequalities to create more inclusive and fair climate change policies and solutions. This includes ensuring that decision-making forums for climate change at local, national and international level are inclusive and value the perspective and experiences of different groups, such as adolescent girls and young women's, in climate change response and advocacy. Climate action should promote equal and effective participation that enables adolescent girls and young women to contribute fully to the planning, formulation and implementation of policies and strategies. For example, to have a gender-just environmental response to address **water scarcity**, the following aspects could be considered:

- Adequate and safe access to services: ensure girls, adolescent girls and young women's safe access to water in private and public spaces, by recognising gender considerations and barriers reflected in the gender analysis.
- Voice and participation: adolescent girls' and young women are leaders and have an active role to design community-based adaptation responses for water scarcity and inform decision-making forums such as water committees.
- Enable solidarity and agency in climate action: highlight the importance of proven indigenous technology and traditional knowledge and practice, with its community-based and collectively held knowledge of land, sky and sea, which are crucial for resilient and interconnected adaptation and mitigation strategies.
- Prioritise girls in funding, policies and resource allocation: scale-up female-led and gender responsive adaptation strategies, vital traditional knowledge and proven indigenous technologies and investing in strategies on sound water usage.

3. Gender-just advocacy messages and climate action

Now formulate your gender-just advocacy messages and climate action. Here are two related advocacy messages developed by adolescent girls and young women in the region:

- Ensure that adolescent girls and young women have access to water in schools to enable safe and dignified menstrual health and management so that they can continue school during their period.
- Promote and scale-up women-led adaptation and mitigation strategies, including by consulting with women and girls and investing in strategies on sound water usage, traditional composting/recycling practices and water purification techniques.

You may also be inspired by community youth-led initiatives to advocate for protecting and preserving local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices in different sectors

Watershed and Development Initiative (WADI), Jordan

Women- and youth-led restoration of ecosystems in the desert

WADI developed a scientific and sustainable ecosystem restoration model linking biodiversity and watershed restoration to ecotourism-based income generation for women and youth. WADI works closely with the Dissi Women's Cooperative, which operates native tree nurseries employing Bedouin women in Wadi Rum. The initiative provides opportunities for women and youth to acquire technical and leadership skills and involves women and youth in consultations and design choices at the local level.



STEP 4. POLICY ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

While children and youth, and particularly adolescent girls, are the most affected by climate change, they are also valuable agents of change leading a new wave of climate action. Across the globe millions of children and young people have united to share their concerns and demand that governments and businesses do a better job to protect their future. It is important that young people can be strategically engaged in climate action and that these voices are at the forefront of the climate agenda. There are multiple ways to engage in community climate action and advocate for policy change, for more information have a look at UNICEF Youth Tool Kit for Climate Activist II: Tools for Climate Action.

In this section, you will learn more about how you can influence specific climate change policy processes and use your gender-just environmental approach to advocate for a more equal and sustainable future. First, you will learn how you can strengthen gender-just environmental approaches in your country by unpacking the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan. The objective of this section is to learn about the GAP, understand how you can contribute to its implementation in your country and be inspired by initiatives led by young women and girls in your region. Thereafter, a similar exercise will be shared focusing on gender analysis of the NDC's



UNFCCC GENDER ACTION PLAN

Under the Paris Agreement, States parties are obliged to respect, promote and consider their obligations on the empowerment of women and intergenerational equity.[13] Article 7(5) states that the States parties acknowledge that adaptation action should follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, and should be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems, with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant socioeconomic and environmental policies and actions, where appropriate.



What is the GAP? The Lima work programme on gender (LWPG) was established during COP 20 in 2014 with the objective of advancing gender balance and integrating gender considerations while implementing the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement to achieve gender-responsive climate policies. In the annex of the LWPG, you will find the GAP.

The GAP has five priority areas:

1. Capacity-building, knowledge management and communication
2. Gender balance, participation and women's leadership
3. Coherence
4. Gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation
5. Monitoring and reporting

UNFCCC encourages stakeholders like you or your organization/initiative to submit any contribution, including communication campaigns, awareness-raising or community-based initiatives aligned with the GAP via a form on their website. This is an opportunity for your ideas, results and lessons learned to be amplified via UNFCCC platforms.

What do these priority areas mean in terms of activities?

- Capacity-building, knowledge management and communication.
- Raise awareness of gender mainstreaming with Governments and other stakeholders.
- Undertake a gender review of national climate change policies, such as the NDC and NAP.
- Share evidence and your experience of the different impacts of climate change on women, girls, men and boys and the role of women and girls as agents of change.

Gender balance, participation and women's leadership

- Promote initiatives for capacity-building in leadership, negotiation and the facilitation of negotiation for women delegates, including through webinars and in-session training to enhance women's participation in the UNFCCC process.



Gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation


- Advocate for your Government to facilitate access to climate finance for grass-roots women's organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities. Watch this video to learn more.
- Raise awareness of the financial and technical support available for promoting the strengthening of gender integration into climate policies.
- Promote your gender-just technological solutions to address climate change.
- Advocate for protecting and preserving local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices in different sectors.
- Advocate for the full participation and leadership of women and girls in science, technology, research and development.

Look at the GAP and the suggested activities above and see if you and your organization are leading initiatives that support the GAP. You can also report your contributions directly to UNFCCC. Check the following link for more information.

Promising practice: Tunisian national delegation and the participation of young women

In 2021, the Minister of Women, Family and Elderly Affairs of Tunisia stressed the importance of establishing concrete policies to improve the participation of women and give them the opportunity to access innovation and renewable energy. In 2022, the Tunisian national delegation was led by a woman and the percentage of females was 43 per cent, including young women. Young women in the Tunisian delegation noticed that the Action for Climate Empowerment and gender framework were given less attention in the preparations for and during COP 27 and were able to integrate gender perspectives into the discussions around adaptation and mitigation, including the role of women in rural areas, specifically in agriculture, and their specific contribution to adaptation strategies, and to highlight the importance of including women's perspectives in adaptation and mitigation action and policy was highlighted.

In 2023, the Minister of Women, Family and Elderly Affairs launched the first National Gender and Climate Change Action Plan of Tunisia, which specifically highlights investing in women's economic empowerment in responding to climate change.



Did you know that at the current rate, gender parity in national delegations to COP will not be achieved until 2040? In its report after COP 27, UNFCCC noticed a decrease in women's representation in national delegations, with global numbers showing that 37 per cent of delegates were female and that they used a total of 29 per cent of the speaking time.

The Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) has developed the Gender Climate Tracker which allows you to see the percentage of females in each of the delegations represented at COP.

ACT! CONDUCT A GENDER REVIEW OF YOUR COUNTRIES' NDC

"We are changing the stereotype of women being vulnerable, or women being victims. We are building a new narrative, to shift from vulnerability to resilience and leadership in adaptation strategies"

Young gender justice climate activist from the MENA Region during COP 27

As we have learned, climate change impacts do not occur in isolation. They exacerbate existing social and economic challenges, with the most marginalized communities shouldering a disproportionate burden. Therefore, it is crucial for climate action and policies to adopt a justice-oriented approach that prioritizes equity and equality.



Did you know that in 2019, fewer than 2 percent of national climate strategies mentioned girls?

The Paris Agreement preamble states that:

...Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity.

In other words, parties to the Paris Agreement are required to integrate gender equality into the planning



and implementation of national tools for climate change mitigation and adaptation, including the NDCs.

Review your country's NDC

Reviewing your country's NDC with a gender lens is a key entry point for climate advocacy and can help influence your government to adopt more gender just climate action.

Follow the guidance below to kick-off your NDC review:

1. Go online to find your country's most updated NDC at the UNFCCC website or by clicking here and going to the NDC Registry.
2. Download your country's NDC and use the gender analysis tool to review the NDC from a gender perspective.
3. While reviewing the NDC, ask yourself to what extent the policy is gender just. You can use the checklist below for guidance.
4. To find additional useful tools to support your gender analysis of the NDC, refer to the resources below.

- WEDO Gender Climate Tracker
- WEDO Spotlight Gender in NDCs
- Care about Climate NDC Equity Tracker
- Care About Climate
- EmpoderaClima Database
- Climate Action Tracker
- Plan International Girl's Rights Platform

Questions	Yes	No
Does the NDC mention gender?		
Does it mention women? If so, does it mention women in an empowering way as agents of change or rather as a vulnerable group?		
Does it mention girls? If so, does it mention girls in an empowering way as agents of change or rather as a vulnerable group?		
Does it include data disaggregated by age, gender and disability?		
Does it mention the increased risk of gender-based violence in relation to climate-change impacts?		
Does it reflect on the health, education, and social impacts of climate change on women and girls differently from boys and men?		
What tools are mentioned to ensure a gender just environmental approach?		
Does it highlight the importance of partnerships with organizations led by women, girls or young people?		
Does it suggest the systematic use of gender analysis?		
Does it include intersections with other climate justice and equity needs (e.g. environmental racism, economic equality, education and livelihoods)?		



LEARN FROM YOUR PEERS IN THE REGION: GENDER REVIEW OF THE SAUDI ARABIA NDC

Care About Climate's NDC Equity Tracker provides both a platform and key education structures for international youth to develop local analysis, criticism and suggestions for growth on their countries' NDCs. In 2021, Sarah Al-Harthy and Eshraq Al-Haddad reviewed the NDC of Saudi Arabia and highlighted that it referred to economic diversification and SDG implementation as the key enabling strategies to achieve climate-change mitigation and adaptation goals, while omitting to highlight the involvement of women,

young people and civil society in climate action. Al-Harthy and Al-Haddad argued that Saudi Arabia had yet to recognize the disproportionate vulnerability of women due to sociocultural structures and the importance of empowering women to access resources and information and be part of decision-making processes. They recommended that gender justice and equity be prioritized in the NDC by including initiatives that build resilience in women, reduce vulnerabilities, and create employment opportunities for women in mitigation and adaptation roles.



BE INSPIRED!

Youth participation experiences at the regional and international levels

Hala Al Naamani, a female youth climate change champion

Hala Al Naamani, a climate change and gender equality advocate based in Lebanon, champions the circular economy as a powerful tool to advance climate action in the Arab region. She views the circular economy as essential for reducing waste, enhancing resource efficiency, and cutting greenhouse gas emissions, especially in a region facing diminishing natural resources. As the co-founder of Paltic, a woman-centred social enterprise, Hala works to combat climate change by transforming plastic waste into sustainable, aesthetically pleasing materials through a circular economy model. She believes that women entrepreneurs and youth advocates play a crucial role in shifting from linear consumption patterns to circular ones, supporting both climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Meet Ayshka Najib, a female youth climate change champion

Ayshka Najib, a gender and climate activist from the United Arab Emirates, views climate justice as an issue deeply intertwined with human rights and social equity. She argues that climate change exacerbates existing socioeconomic inequalities, including racism, sexism, ableism, and class disparity. Ayshka advocates for an approach that acknowledges how structural inequalities disproportionately impact vulnerable populations in the climate crisis. Emphasizing the importance of gender justice within climate action, she calls for inclusive strategies that prioritize the rights of women and girls in all their diversity. As a member of the UNICEF MENA Technical Cohort on Advancing Girls and Young Women's Leadership in Climate Change and a UNICEF Youth Advocate, Ayshka has leveraged her expertise to highlight the intersection of gender equality and climate change, assisting other young women and girls in her region to analyse national policies through a gender-sensitive lens.

Meet Mona Al Ajrami, a female youth climate change champion

Mona is a climate change activist from Jordan's South Valley who is dedicated to raising awareness about the link between gender equality and environmental justice. As a participant in UNICEF's Girls' Leadership Program, she leverages her leadership skills to empower young people to combat climate change. Her activism emphasizes engaging youth in adaptation strategies, such as planting native and water-resistant plants like indigenous zaatar. Mona's efforts inspire young people, especially young women, to become leaders in environmental and social change while challenging gender stereotypes. She is also addressing the issue of girls in her community who are forced to leave school due to gendered expectations that require them to take on domestic or agricultural tasks, often at the expense of their education.



GENDER CONCEPTS

Gender Concept	Definition	Local Scenarios
Gender Equity	Gender equity is the practice of ensuring fairness across all genders in the distribution of resources and opportunities. It involves acknowledging both historical and ongoing inequalities and implementing measures to address and rectify disparities faced by marginalized groups.	In many societies, the views of women have traditionally been dismissed. An example of the way change can occur is a consultation that was held in the community of Wadi Rum, Jordan, to discuss a new water project. Due to existing gender inequality and gender norms, no women could attend. However, their views on the issue had been gathered ahead of the meeting through a household survey and their responses to the survey succeeded in informing the discussions.
Gender Equality	Gender equality means providing equal rights, responsibilities, and opportunities for all genders—girls, women, boys, and men. It ensures that the interests, needs, and priorities of everyone are considered, acknowledging and respecting the diversity within these groups.	A good example of increasing gender equality is a project that brought renewable energy, including electricity, to hard-to-reach rural communities in Yemen. With a reliable energy source, women were able to start businesses to become self-supporting, including in clothing, incense and perfume fabrication and dairy processing.
Gender Roles	Socially constructed roles assign different responsibilities and expectations to women, girls, men, and boys within their societies.	For example, in some societies, farming is typically expected of men, while in others, this role is assigned to women.
Gender Relations	Socially determined and influenced by social, cultural, political and economic expectations. A range of elements, including the family, social and cultural institutions, and legal systems shape gender relations. Gender relations are at play both within households (private sphere) and within the community and workplace (public sphere). Gender relations analysis examines a situation through the lens of gender roles, focusing on power dynamics and their impact on the lives of women, girls, men, and boys, as well as their interactions with one another.	In some societies, men hold the primary decision-making power over water and land resources, often through their roles in water committees or similar bodies. Meanwhile, women and girls are frequently responsible for securing water for the household, which often involves collecting it.
Gender Norms	Gender norms are deeply entrenched, widely held, learned beliefs on gender roles and expectations that govern human behaviours and practices within a particular social context and at a particular point in time.	Gender norms shape expectations about what women and girls, as well as men and boys, are permitted or expected to do in a society. These norms influence their behaviour, appearance, and roles in both private and public spaces. For instance, in some societies, girls are often expected to take on household responsibilities such as cooking, cleaning, and caring for siblings, more so than boys.

Gender Concept	Definition	Local Scenarios
Intersectionality	A framework for understanding how aspects of a person's social and political identities combine to create different forms of concurrent and historical discrimination and privilege. These identities include, among others, gender, race, ethnicity, disability, class, sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, and age.	An example would be a young woman living with a disability who is unable to access services after a flood because of non-inclusive infrastructure as well as increased safety and mobility issues due to gender norms.
Matriarchy	A form of social organization in a culture or community in which descent and inheritance are traced through the female line of a family.	In a matriarchy, women control resources, are landowners, hold higher status in the community than men and act as decision-makers at both the household and community levels. Matriarchal societies are unusual in MENA.
Patriarchy	A form of social organization in a culture or community in which descent and inheritance are traced through the male line of a family.	In a patriarchy, men have control over resources, are landowners, hold higher status in the community than women and are decision-makers at both the household and community levels. Patriarchal societies are the norm in MENA.



