

# US Women's Caucus at UN : Climate - Women, Girls and Disaster

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### Summary

Climate disasters affect women and girls in different ways than they affect boys and men largely due to pre-existing structural gender inequalities.

- \* The lower socioeconomic group, the greater vulnerability, particularly in Global South
- \* Vulnerability impacts preparedness, evacuation, response, and recovery, and deaths
- \* Roles females hold, existing gender and cultural norms, where they live drive their vulnerability including duties women and girls carry out, the clothing they wear, behavior expected, etc.
- \* Caregiving responsibilities often prevent women's ability to evacuate during a disaster

After disasters

- \* Women are responsible for caring for the injured while still handling daily chores
- \* Girls are pulled out school to take care of households or injured family members
- \* Sexual assaults, intimate partner violence and human trafficking all increase due to financial woes, disaster trauma, substance abuse, etc.

### Fast Facts

A\* Women, boys and girls are 14 times more likely to die during a disaster (1)

B \* Most victims trapped in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina were African American women and children, the poorest demographic in that part of the country (1)

C \* After a disaster, women will be more likely victims of sexual violence, many even avoiding using shelter for fear of being sexually assaulted. (1)

### Recommendations

#### Global

- Fund gender-disaggregated data studies to understand how phases of disasters affect women differently and to be able to devise solutions better suited to women's needs.
- Support funding for gender- specific programs that prepare women and girls for disaster to build resiliency and self-sufficiency to handle contingencies in local context, local climate conditions
- After disasters, provide new clean energy options to replace dangerous, polluting stoves that disproportionately cause illness and premature deaths to women and girls.

#### Domestic

- Provide funding to support sexual and intimate partner violence resources including police and first responder training both inside and outside of the disaster zone.
- Provide adequate financial support for reproductive services as well as culturally appropriate birthing supports including doulas/ midwives to decrease maternal and infant mortality before, during and after disasters.

### **Suggested Reading**

- Gender and Disaster Network: [Gender and Disaster Sourcebook](#)
- Global Facility for Disaster Risk and Reduction: [Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Disaster Recovery](#)
- Global Facility for Disaster Risk and Reduction: [Gender Action Plan 2016-2021](#)
- The World Bank: [Why We Must Engage Women and Children in Disaster Risk Management](#)

### **Foot Notes**

- Source- (1) UNDP Gender and Disasters, 2010  
[AppData/Local/Temp/Gender%20Climate%20Change%20and%20Community%20Based%20Adaptation%20\(2\).pdf](#)
- [AppData/Local/Temp/PB3-AP-Gender-and-disaster-risk-reduction.pdf](#)