



**Spotlight
Initiative**

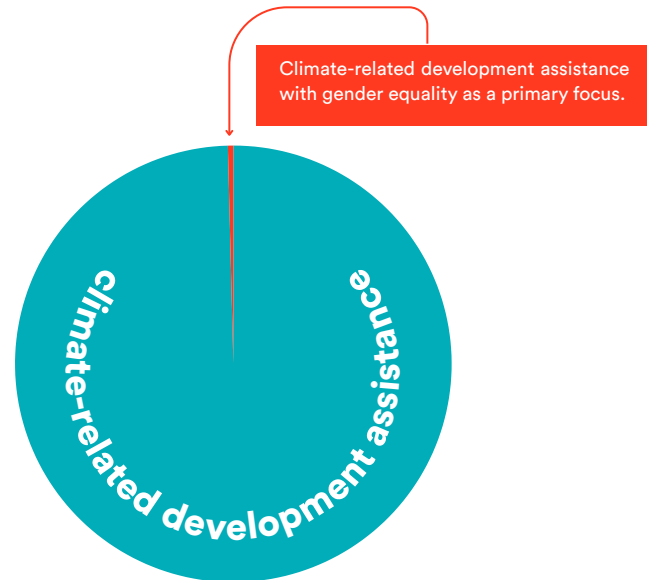


COLLIDING CRISES: How the climate crisis fuels gender-based violence

Issue Brief

Climate change and violence against women and girls (VAWG) are inextricably linked.¹ These links have been well established but inadequately addressed. For decades, feminist and women's rights organizations and movements have pointed out that climate change exacerbates VAWG, and a range of studies have shown how these impacts slow progress across the Sustainable Development Goals, including on education, health, peace and security, and sustainability.²

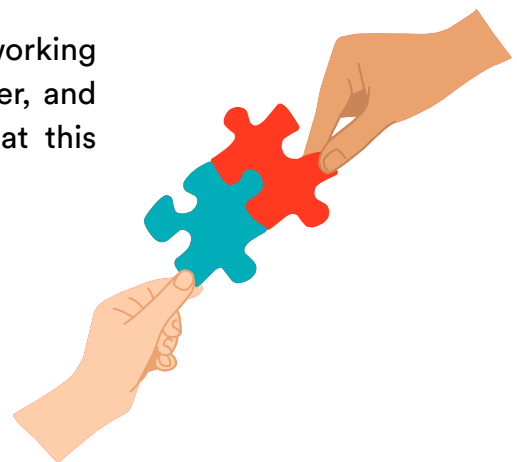
It is also well documented that violence threatens women's and girls' agency and ability to drive climate action and solutions, and reduces our collective capacity to effectively fight the climate crisis. Despite these links, only 0.04 per cent of climate-related development assistance has gender equality as a primary focus, hinting at the small share that goes to VAWG-related efforts alone.³ We can no longer afford to ignore and under-resource the critical voices and efforts at this intersection.



This brief —built off research produced by Dalberg—aims to spark conversation and collaboration across climate and VAWG actors to end violence against women and girls as a foundational – and urgent – part of the climate action agenda. Specifically, it:

- synthesizes the best available evidence on how climate change is exacerbating VAWG and introduces a quantitative perspective of the scale of impacts;
- sheds light on overlooked forms of violence that threaten progress on climate change especially violence that seeks to silence women environmental human rights defenders;
- shows how ending VAWG is critical to effective climate action and a just transition
- offers ideas on how climate and VAWG actors can better work together;

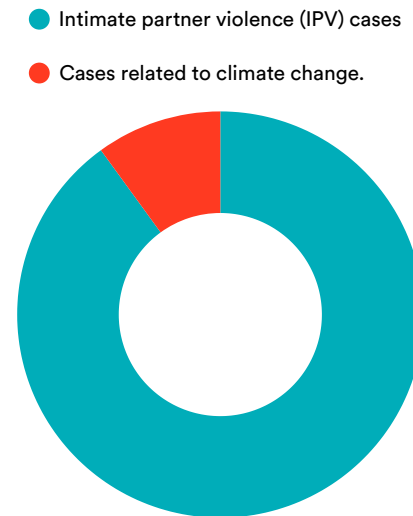
It is imperative that climate practitioners and those working to end violence against women and girls work together, and existing opportunities for collaboration and funding at this nexus show how we can.



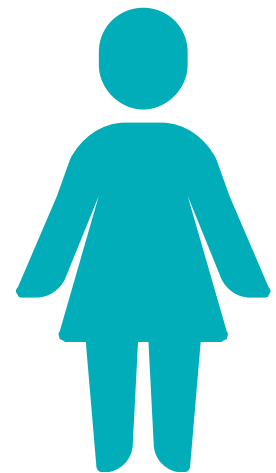
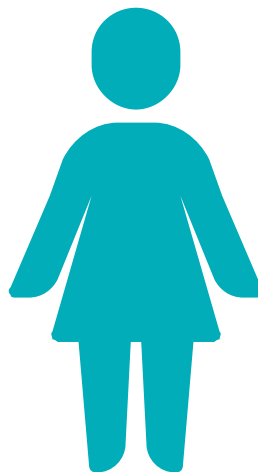
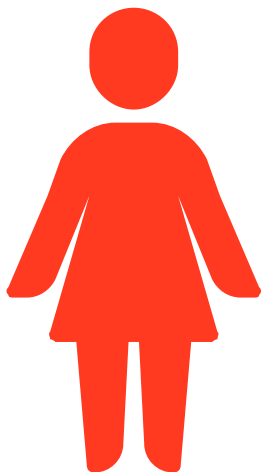
Before the end of the century, 1 in 10 cases of intimate partner violence (IPV) will be linked to climate change.

That will translate into billions of cases of IPV that could be prevented if we prevent further climate change.

Everything we know about climate change suggests that it exacerbates violence against women and girls, a globally pernicious rights violation.



At least one in three women – over one billion women – have experienced violence in their lifetimes, including intimate partner violence, physical aggression, sexual violence or coercion, psychological abuse, and controlling behaviours.⁴



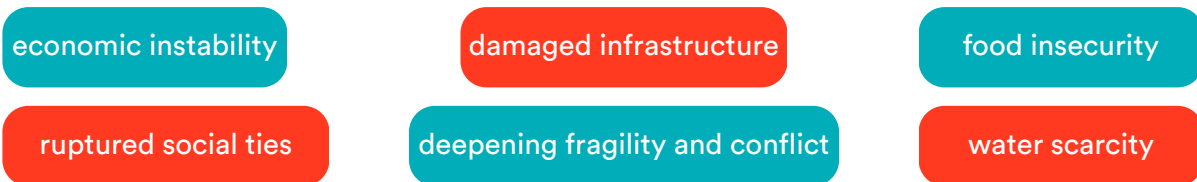
This statistic is well known to be a gross underestimate because of widespread underreporting.

Approximately 40 per cent of survivors disclose incidents to others, while only 7 per cent report to formal sources such as the police, medical services or social services).⁵



The global, widespread and continued prevalence of violence against women and girls is one reason why it is aptly referred to as a “shadow pandemic.” As an illustration of the prevalence of VAWG, 93.1 million people across the world were affected by natural disasters in 2023 and 423 million partnered women are estimated to have experienced violence in the same timeframe.⁶

While climate change does not directly cause gender-based violence, global warming, changing weather patterns and extreme weather events can lead to:⁷



These impacts do not occur in a societal vacuum but intersect with existing systems of power and inequality (i.e. the underlying factors that cause people, communities and states to be violent).⁸ Climate change may thus reinforce or lead to a fallback on uneven power dynamics, discrimination and harmful gender norms, exacerbating VAWG.

There is evidence that climate change increases the severity and number of women and girls experiencing violence. While the true toll of such impacts is not fully known, a growing body of studies begin to show and quantify the various linkages. This initial, if partial, view is striking.

Severity:

Climate change increases the risk of even more extreme forms of violence for over one billion women and girls who already experience violence today.⁹ One study examining the impact of temperature on the likelihood of violence found that women and girls who had already experienced intimate partner violence experienced more frequent and severe forms of IPV with warming temperatures, raising the overall risk of extreme forms of violence such as femicide, sexual exploitation, child marriage and rape as a weapon of war.¹⁰

Another study found that **intimate partner femicide** has risen by as much as **28 per cent during heatwaves**.¹¹ Also, increases in human trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse have been documented in the wake of displacement from disasters and slow onset events like desertification.¹² Natural resource stress has led to violent conflict and displacement in which rape and sexual violence are used as a strategy to intimidate and exert control.¹³



Source: Sanz-Barbero et al., Heat wave and the risk of intimate partner violence, 2018.

Prevalence:

By 2090, an additional 40 million women and girls will likely experience IPV each year in a 2°C warming scenario.

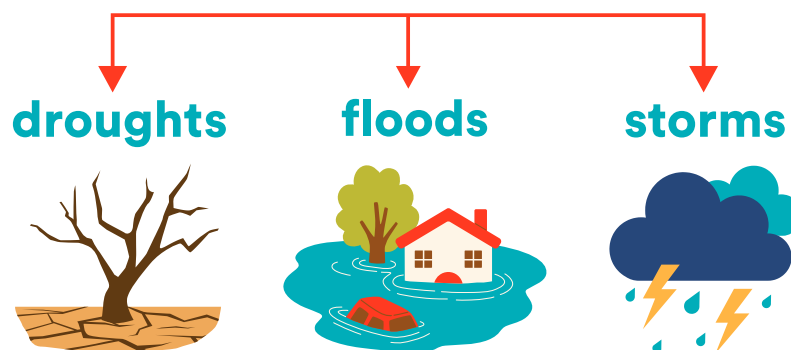
This number will more than double in a much worse 3.5°C warming scenario.¹⁴ An additional 10 million women and girls will likely experience non-partner sexual violence in the same timespan.¹⁵ These figures translate into approximately one in ten women who would experience IPV that could otherwise be avoided if further climate change is prevented – or billions of cases of violence against women and girls that could be avoided between now and 2090.¹⁶



Most of this increase is linked to global mean temperature rise, with early evidence suggesting that:

every 1°C rise in temperature is associated with a 4.7 per cent rise in IPV.¹⁷

The rest is linked to extreme weather events—including:



that become more frequent with climate change.

Both rising temperatures and climate shocks trigger displacement, insecurity, poverty and broader institutional breakdown that can reinforce and incentivize norms and behaviours that increase violence.

These figures are already alarming, yet the true toll would likely be much higher. More quantitative data is needed to take into account all forms of violence against women and girls (not just IPV), the full range of climate events that likely impact VAWG, and how those impacts may change with increasing frequency and severity. The quantification is thus only a partial estimate because:

- It only includes increases in intimate partner violence (IPV), the most common form of violence, and non-partner sexual violence; it excludes other forms of violence such as child marriage, trafficking, emotional and psychological violence, or technology-facilitated violence.
- It only looks at the links between IPV or non-partner sexual violence and temperature rise, and three types of climate events (droughts, floods and storms). It excludes other types of climate events (e.g wildfires, heatwaves and pandemics) and additional slow-onset events (e.g. sea-level rising, desertification, biodiversity loss, ocean acidification, salinization, and land and forest degradation) further escalate drivers of VAWG. Displacement, migration, loss of livelihoods and food scarcity are also worsened by all these events, as is the availability and quality of services for VAWG survivors (as further explored below).
- It does not take into account variations in current prevalence of VAWG across the globe or how the overall risk of violence may change as populations are exposed to more frequent, severe and varied impacts of climate change.

The climate crisis also exacerbates violence against women and girls by making it even harder to address and prevent. Climate change can create environmental conditions that damage or disrupt schooling, health services, public services and infrastructure, utilities, transportation, social services, healthcare and local government.¹⁸



This not only disrupts programming to prevent violence, it reduces access to vital communication networks, front-line service providers, shelters and helplines that enable survivors to seek help. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, many survivors were uncertain about available forms of assistance due to broader disruptions, unable to leave abusive relationships – including because of restrictions on mobility and financial independence – and separated from social support networks critical for mental and emotional health.¹⁹

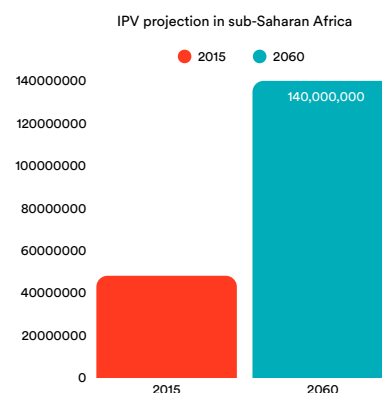
These impacts are not, and will not, be evenly spread. Specifically, risks are greater for:

- **Women environmental human rights defenders (WEHRDs).**²⁰ These individuals – a significant number of whom belong to Indigenous communities – are at particular risk of targeted violence as they speak up to address the climate crisis. Advocacy for land rights, natural resource protection and gender responsive climate transition put WEHRDs in danger of harassment (online and offline), doxing (when private information is publicized without consent), defamation, sexual violence, physical attack and femicide.²¹

Violence can come from their communities, such as in Guatemala where women who reported logging activities to local authorities were forcibly evicted by their neighbours and had their homes burned down.²² It can also come from well-resourced corporate or institutional actors, such as in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where women were sued for defamation for calling out the environmental impact of a hydro-power plant. Violence also often comes from state and private sector collusion, such as in the Philippines where women protesting state-backed mining companies have been harassed, abducted and killed by military personnel.²³ This violence and its intended silencing of WEHRDs is particularly harmful for climate action since WEHRDs are some of the most critical to the realization of climate justice and the prevention of environmentally harmful extractive and fossil fuel operations.



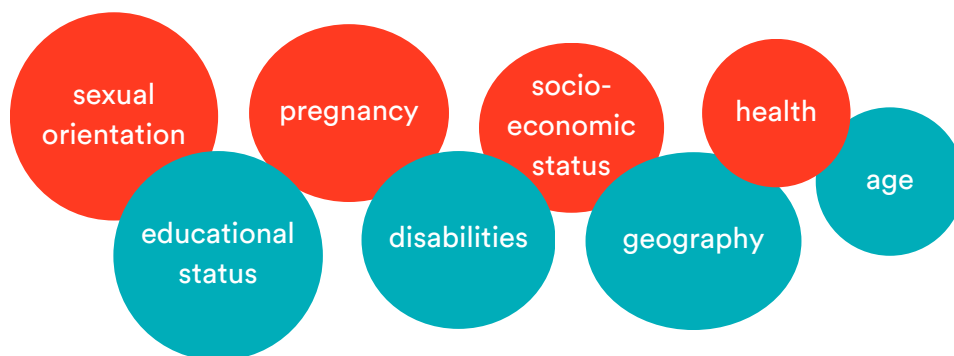
- **Women in regions most vulnerable to climate change.** In a report published in September 2024, UNFPA projects that a 4°C temperature rise, and the volatile socioeconomic conditions that result from it, would be associated with a tripling of people experiencing IPV in sub-Saharan Africa, from 48 million in 2015 to 140 million in 2060.²⁴ The report finds that a scenario where temperature rise is capped at 1.5°C as a result of strong climate action and improved socioeconomic conditions would be able to reduce the share of women affected by violence in the region from 24 per cent in 2015 to 14 per cent in 2060.



- **Those in the poorest regions, particularly rural smallholder farmers and the urban poor.**²⁵ Women smallholder farmers, who are responsible for over half of global food production, are likely to experience crop failures at 4.5 times the current rate by 2030.²⁶ This change in agricultural productivity, and thus economic security and consumption, may occur in contexts where women face barriers to accessing credit or livelihood support and increased family pressures to secure income, driving up risks of violence. Meanwhile, the same inequalities that restrict access to basic services, safety and economic opportunity for women in urban poor communities, increase their exposure to violence, particularly sexual violence.²⁷ These women belong to regions and sectors that have contributed the least to climate change, stressing the need for climate justice.²⁸



- **Those who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.** Systemic injustice and inequality mean that key social factors influence experiences of poverty, insecurity and violence. These include:



It is thus no coincidence that minority groups tend to live under overlapping conditions of high risk to climate change, limited access to resources and increased exposure to violence. The exclusion of women and gender diverse groups from accessing emergency shelters during climate events and post-disaster support services are clear examples of intersecting discrimination that leads to increased risks of violence, specifically physical and psychological violence.²⁹

These impacts, and their uneven distribution, show how the imperative to address violence against women and girls – particularly in the context of the climate crisis – is urgent. What is more, addressing VAWG is essential to combat the climate crisis.



Eliminating VAWG is critical to achieving our climate action goals

Ending violence against women and girls is not just a human rights imperative, it is also critical to our ability to achieve our climate action goals and to do so responsibly. Incorporating efforts to prevent and respond to VAWG in climate action can be a strategy to:

1. **Ensure climate action does no harm.** Climate action – both mitigation and adaptation – must safeguard women and girls by accounting for the fact that they operate in both gendered and increasingly militarized societies. Today, however, we are already seeing how climate solutions that fail to integrate VAWG interventions cause inadvertent harm. For example, carbon credit schemes funding climate-smart solutions have coincided with increased risks of harassment, threats or assaults for women landowners whose rights to land are already contested.³⁰ Similarly, mining sites for green energy minerals have also been sites of sexual violence against women workers.³¹ Climate action must incorporate a gender lens to elevate the unique needs of women to avoid these harms, include their voices in delivering solutions, and ensure the sustainability and intended positive impacts of programming.
2. **Improve resilience for whole communities.** Communities where women and girls are safe are communities of resilience and innovation. VAWG prevention programmes that promote more equitable gender norms and resource distribution help build communities where all people have the agency to prepare, respond, recover and adapt to climate change. These programmes often include measures to support women's safe economic empowerment, advancing gender-responsive green growth. Programmes can add green sector jobs that include women, and help scale successful women-led enterprises in renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture and green technology.³² Preventing violence today is thus an investment in building communities that promote equality, peace and sustainable growth for current and future generations.
3. **Strengthen our collective ability to address climate change.** Ending violence strengthens the ability of women and girls to act as critical agents of change. Women's full participation in political processes – including in climate action – is essential. It ensures civil and political rights and has known benefits across climate mitigation, adaptation, resilience and a just transition. More gender-balanced parliaments, for example, have passed more stringent policies to lower carbon dioxide emissions, improving climate mitigation.³³ Women, particularly Indigenous and rural women, hold knowledge and lead their communities in sustainable resource management and adaptation strategies.³⁴ WEHRDs call out the urgency of clean energy transitions, pushing societies towards more climate-resilient futures.³⁵ These examples show how eliminating VAWG is necessary to protect all women and girls and guarantee their continued leadership on climate action.

The goals of climate and EVAWG actors are increasingly interconnected, our programmes and funding must be too

EVAWG and climate actors need to work together far more than they do today. Increased funding and political commitment are needed for climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience, as well as for ending violence against women and girls.

These are not competing, but mutually reinforcing agendas. If we do not consistently prioritize ending violence against women and girls, we put our climate goals at risk – especially when it comes to ensuring climate action does no harm, building on traditional and local knowledge, and promoting an equitable and just climate transition.

We need to integrate best practices on gender-responsive climate funding, programming, lending, research and policies to ensure VAWG prevention is embedded into climate action. We also need to ensure VAWG programmes take a stronger climate adaptation and resilience lens. And we need to defend, support and strengthen activists and movements at the nexus of climate change and VAWG.

At Spotlight Initiative, we have already begun this work. We employ a comprehensive model that engages with the whole of society, and strive to continually integrate a climate action lens into our cross-cutting work.

Strengthening laws, policies and institutions

Preventing violence

Providing essential services to survivors

Strengthening women's movements



- **Strengthening laws, policies, and institutions:** Spotlight Initiative works to ensure that policies, frameworks and funding instruments across sectors and sub-national systems integrate data-driven and evidence-based measures to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls, including in the context of climate change. We strengthen existing laws and policies, help establish new ones, and ensure they are adequately implemented and funded. In Vanuatu, for example, Spotlight Initiative supported government agencies to develop standard operating procedures for responding to VAWG during and after disasters.³⁶ In Haiti, the Initiative helped integrate efforts to prevent and respond to family violence into the disaster risk management cycle.
- **Preventing violence:** Spotlight Initiative supports programming to tackle harmful social norms and practices to prevent violence and promote equality, including in ways that support an inclusive climate transition. In Liberia, for example, the Initiative retrained midwives who had previously performed female genital mutilation to access alternative livelihoods through climate-smart agriculture.³⁷



- **Providing essential services to survivors:** Spotlight Initiative improves the quality and accessibility of services for survivors of violence, especially those from marginalized communities. This work is particularly relevant in climate disaster response. In Mozambique, for example, the Initiative supported mobile clinics to continue providing essential health services in hard-to-reach communities during a cyclone.³⁸
- **Strengthening women's movements:** Spotlight Initiative funds and partners with women's rights and civil society organizations to combat violence against women and girls. The Initiative convenes these groups through the Civil Society Reference Group mechanism and directly funds them, including those representing youth, facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, and working on climate action and justice. In 2022, the Initiative launched the Pacific Feminist Community of Practice, connecting CSOs across the region at the intersection VAWG, ecological and climate justice, and economic insecurity, to prepare inputs to and inform COP27.

We and our diverse network of partners around the world are committed to scaling up our efforts and strengthening our collaboration with actors involved in the response to the climate crisis. Reach out to us at info@spotlightinitiative.org for additional information on partnership opportunities.

Spotlight Initiative Resources

INTEGRATING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION INTO CLIMATE ACTION

THREE SIMPLE TIPS FOR PRACTITIONERS

Climate change is one of the most pressing global emergencies of our time, with devastating social, cultural, economic, health and human rights impacts that affect people across every region of the globe.

As climate change and environmental degradation increase, so too do incidents of violence against women and girls (VAWG). Extreme weather and climate events drive economic instability, food insecurity, displacement and mental stress, while also disrupting infrastructure and public services. These stressors heighten the likelihood of men perpetrating gender-based violence, including rape, sexual assault and harassment, intimate partner and family violence. They also lead to an increase in child marriage, trafficking and sexual exploitation. Pressures on the environment and its resources exacerbate existing power imbalances in communities and households, with gender-based violence often employed as a means of enforcing and maintaining existing privileges. In turn, violence and gender-based discrimination in social, cultural, legal, economic and institutional contexts worsen the impacts of the climate crisis on women and girls and constrain their ability to safely lead, organize and participate in environmental conservation. This makes potential solutions to the climate crisis less sustainable (and responsive), and undermines environmental progress.

- In Puerto Rico, following Hurricane Maria in 2017, there was a 62 per cent increase in requests for services for survivors of gender-based violence.¹
- Following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, women who were displaced to trailer parks were 54 times more likely to be raped than those who were not displaced.²
- In Ethiopia, the impacts of prolonged droughts in 2010 and 2011 led to an increase in early marriage in exchange for livestock.³
- Between 2016 and 2019, almost 1,700 acts of violence were recorded in Mexico and Central America against women environmental human rights defenders.⁴

THREE WAYS TO INTEGRATE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION INTO CLIMATE ACTION:

Create an enabling policy and programming environment for the elimination of VAWG in the context of climate change

In many regions, the consequences of climate change are becoming increasingly predictable. Climate adaptation and mitigation policy frameworks, strategies and procedures, and funding instruments (including loss and damage funds) must integrate VAWG prevention and response measures from the outset. This will help ensure their relevance and responsiveness. Critically, policymakers and practitioners working on climate action should partner with women's rights organizations and women's movements to strengthen policymakers' awareness of the relationship between climate change and violence against women and girls.

In **Vanuatu**, Spotlight Initiative worked in coordination with the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation and the National Disaster Management Office to develop an operating procedure for gender-based violence in emergencies. This includes a survey guide on how to navigate referral mechanisms for women and girls displaced by climate change. Additionally, in **Grenada**, Spotlight Initiative supported women's rights advocates to provide inputs to national government bodies on climate change and disaster risk mitigation.

Strengthen essential services for violence during climate-induced disasters

For women and girls who experience violence before, during and after environmental disasters, the provision of coordinated, accessible essential services is critical. Survivors' immediate and longer-term needs require a combination of health, psychosocial and justice services. Policymakers should ensure providers of essential services to ensure place for how to comprehensively address these services during environmental crises.

1 After Hurricane Maria: A hidden crisis of violence against women in Puerto Rico, 2018.
2 Climate Change and Gender-Based Violence: What are the links?, GBV Airlt Helyar, 2021.
3 Horn of Africa: A call for action, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 2011.
4 Tendencias en defensoras de tierra, territorio y justicia, Iniciativa Mesoamericana de Mujeres Defensoras de Derechos Humanos, 2021.

Integrating gender-based violence prevention into climate action (Spotlight Initiative, 2023)

Spotlight Initiative

2023

PUBLICATION

Guidelines on the Integration of Violence Against Women and Girls including Family Violence in Disaster Risk Management in the Caribbean.

Spotlight Initiative

As part of the United Nations Secretary-General's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Guidelines on the Integration of Violence Against Women and Girls including Family Violence in Disaster Risk Management in the Caribbean (Spotlight Initiative Caribbean Regional Programme and UNDP, 2023)

End notes

¹ The 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women defines violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.”

² See bibliography for full evidence on the VAWG and climate change linkage.

³ OECD, Development Finance for Gender-Responsive Climate Action, 2022; Leff, ‘Climate action is incomplete and unsustainable without gender and power considerations’: Dalberg on gender and climate change, 2024.

⁴ WHO, Violence Against Women Prevalence Estimates, 2018.

⁵ Palermo et al., Tip of the Iceberg: Reporting and Gender-Based Violence in Developing Countries, 2014.

⁶ The population affected by natural disasters in 2023 is sourced from EMDAT 2023 Disasters in Numbers. The authors estimate the number of women and girls experiencing violence in 2023 by multiplying World Bank data on the total population of women aged 15 and above in 2023 (422.6 million), an estimate of women aged 15 and above who are partnered based on UNDESA World Marriage Data (70%), and an estimate of IPV prevalence for any 12-month period (20%) based on WHO data. The real prevalence of violence against women is not possible to know, due to high rates of underreporting (see footnote 5 above for one estimate of underreporting rates of intimate partner violence). Regional rates of violence vary from 16.3% in East Asia to 65.64% in Central and Sub-Saharan Africa. (Devries et al, The global prevalence of intimate partner violence against women, 2013). Thus, this 20% figure provides on conservative estimate of what the true rate of prevalence of intimate partner violence might be in any 12-month period.

⁷ UN Women, Feminist Climate Justice: A Framework for Action, 2023.

⁸ Spotlight Initiative, Integrating gender-based violence prevention into climate action, 2023.

⁹ Acts of violence may seem more permissible as a coping strategy for stress. Additionally, economic hardship can drive increases in child marriage in contexts where girls are seen as tradable assets and climate-induced disruptions to education are made permanent (Parkinson, Gender-Based Violence and Disaster, 2022; UNFPA, Child Marriage and Environmental Crises: An Evidence Brief, 2021). Health and justice systems may be preoccupied with urgent disaster response, reducing support for violence prevention, help for survivors, and accountability for perpetrators (Parkinson, Gender-Based Violence and Disaster, 2022).

¹⁰ Nguyen, Temperature and intimate partner violence, 2023.

¹¹ Sanz-Barbero et al., Heat wave and the risk of intimate partner violence, 2018.

¹² IOM, The Climate Change – Human Trafficking Nexus, 2016; RTI International, Human Trafficking in the Wake of Natural Disasters 2023.

¹³ Women face heightened risk of this violence since they are often responsible for agriculture and resource management and face gendered expectations to secure food, water and fuel despite conditions resulting from climate change that make this work harder (ICRC, Unseen Unheard, Gender-based Violence in Disasters, 2015; IUCN, Gender-based violence and environment linkages, 2020).

¹⁴ These estimates are modelled based on Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) scenarios, which model different trajectories for future greenhouse gas concentrations. Specifically, it is based on RCP 2.6, a pathway that requires aggressive curbing of emissions to ensure global temperature remains at or below 2 degrees centigrade above pre-industrial levels, and RCP 6.0, which assumes that emissions continue to increase and peak around 2080, before declining, resulting in a global temperature increase of 3-4 degrees centigrade by 2100.

¹⁵ We calculate that the prevalence of non-partner sexual violence as approximately one-fourth of IPV prevalence (WHO, Violence against women prevalence estimates, 2018, 2021). We do not have data to estimate how this ratio will change in response to climate crises. However, given the expected increase in displacements and precarious living situations, non-partner sexual violence may increase even more rapidly than IPV.

¹⁶ Between 1 in 8 (13%) and 1 in 16 (6%) of the 640 - 690 million women are estimated to experience intimate partner violence in the year 2090, with the lower bound representing conditions under RCP 2.6 and the upper bound representing those under RCP 6.0. These estimates are rounded to 1 in 10. This calculation draws from UNDESA population projections and IOM Global Data Institute estimates of the total population exposed to droughts, floods, and storms in 2090. The calculation also estimates billions of additional cases of IPV based on an estimated 11% prevalence rate of past 12-month IPV for all partnered women aged 15 and above between 2024-2090 in RCP 2.6 (up to 2 degrees centigrade warming scenario). In RCP 6.0 (up to 3.5 degrees centigrade warming scenario), it estimates an 11% prevalence rate between 2025-2049 and a 12% prevalence rate between 2050-2090 given the progression of global warming. Estimates are conservative since they use a constant prevalence rate for each specified time period, while prevalence rates actually increase gradually year-on-year.

¹⁷ Of the 40-90 million additional women and girls who will experience IPV, approximately 85 per cent (35 – 75 million) will be linked to global mean temperature rise, with the rest linked to extreme weather events. Calculations based on available studies (focused on married women specifically) suggest that with each degree centigrade in temperature rise, violence is expected to increase by approximate 4.7 per cent. (Zhu et al, Association of Ambient Temperature With the Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence Among Partnered Women in Low- and Middle-Income South Asian Countries, 2023; Nguyen, Temperature and intimate partner violence, 2023). The 4.7% calculation is derived from taking the average of the estimated percent rise in IPV reported in the Nguyen and Zhu studies. The researchers looked at 4 studies measuring estimated percent rise in GBV associated with climate change and only focused on the 2 that measured the increase for IPV specifically.

¹⁸ EPSU, Public service and adaptation to climate change, 2017.

¹⁹ Brodie et al., “Abusers are Using COVID to Enhance Abuse”: Domestic Abuse Helpline Workers’ Perspective on the Impact of COVID-19 Restrictions on those Living with Domestic Abuse, 2022; UN Women, Measuring the shadow pandemic: Violence against women during COVID-19, 2021.

- ²⁰ IUCN defines Environmental Human Rights Defenders (EHRDs) as: “Any individual or group of individuals working to protect promote human rights in the context of the environment, such as the defense of land rights, access to natural resources and the right to a healthy environment (IUCN-NL, Environmental defenders and their recognition under international and regional law – An introduction, 2021). Women Environmental Human Rights Defenders (WEHRDs) are defined as “women defenders working on human rights issues related to environmental justice, land rights and access to and control over natural resources” (IUCN, Gender-based Violence and Environmental Linkages: The violence of inequality, 2020).
- ²¹ Tran and Hanacek, A global analysis of violence against women defenders in environmental conflicts, 2023; Front Line Defender Global Analysis, 2022; Tran et al., Gendered geographies of violence: a multiple case study analysis of murdered women environmental defenders, 2020.
- ²² Front Line Defenders, Statement-Guatemala: Concern at the Violence and Continued Lack of Protection of Land and Territory Defenders of the Maya Q’eqchi’ Region in Alta Verapaz, 2022.
- ²³ EJ Atlas, Mining and murders on indigenous land in San Teodoro, Mindoro Oriental, Philippines, 2022.
- ²⁴ UNFPA projects climate change impacts on IPV in sub-Saharan Africa based on a combination of Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (projections of global socioeconomic changes) and Representative Concentration Pathways (projections of greenhouse gas concentrations). It examines impacts in three scenarios: a pessimistic scenario of SSP3/ RCP 7.0 (up to 3.7 degrees centigrade warming) where there is intense regional rivalry and deprioritization of environmental issues; a middle-of-the-road scenario of SSP2/ RCP 4.5 (up to 2.6 degrees centigrade warming) where there are no major shifts from historical patterns; and an optimistic scenario of SSP1/ RCP2.6 (up to 1.5 degrees centigrade warming) where the world shifts towards a more sustainable path. We draw from analyses on the pessimistic and optimistic scenarios (UNFPA, Climate Change Impacts and Intimate-Partner Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa, 2024; IPCC, Future Global Climate: Scenario-Based Projections and Near Term Information, 2021).
- ²⁵ Nsahla et al., Associating Poverty with Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Against Rural and Poor Urban Women (RPUW) in Cameroon, 2023; UNFPA, The global climate crisis is putting women and girls in extreme danger, UNFPA warns in new data, 2023.
- ²⁶ WEF, The climate crisis disproportionately hits the poor. How can we protect them?, 2023; FAO, Women produce up to 80% of food in developing countries, 2023.
- ²⁷ Maclin et al., “They think you are weak”: Examining the Drivers of Gender-Based Violence in Three Urban Informal Settlements, 2022.
- ²⁸ WEF, The climate crisis disproportionately hits the poor. How can we protect them?, 2023.
- ²⁹ Oxfam, Down by the River: Addressing the rights, needs, and strengths of Fijian sexual and gender minorities in disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response, 2018; ICRC, Out of sight, out of mind? Transgender people in humanitarian emergencies, 2020.
- ³⁰ IUCN, Women RISE for Nature.
- ³¹ IUCN, RESOURCE-FUL Empowerment: Addressing violence for the green transition.
- ³² IFC, Exploring Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs Driving Climate Solutions: A Discussion Note, 2023; UN Women, Empowering women-led climate tech startups: Highlights from the LowCarbon.Earth Accelerator session, 2024.
- ³³ Mavisakalyan and Tarverdi, Gender and climate change: Do female parliamentarians make difference?, 2019.
- ³⁴ Kerr-Wilson et al., A rigorous global evidence review of interventions to prevent violence against women and girls, 2020; World Bank, Fostering Gender-Transformative Change in Sustainable Forest Management, 2022.
- ³⁵ Front Line Defenders, Global Analysis, 2022.
- ³⁶ Spotlight Initiative, Integrating gender-based violence prevention into climate action, 2023.
- ³⁷ Spotlight Initiative, ‘Former practitioners of FGM lead the fight to end FGM in Liberia’, 2024.
- ³⁸ Spotlight Initiative, Integrating gender-based violence prevention into climate action, 2023.

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