



**Spotlight
Initiative**

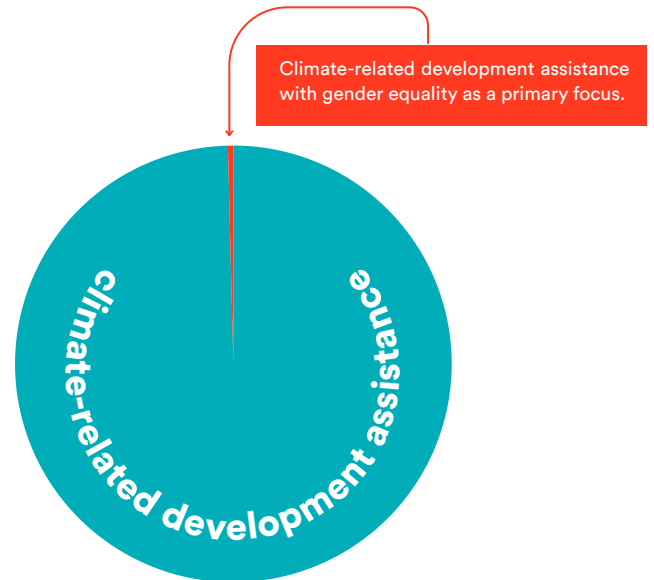


COLLIDING CRISES: How the climate crisis fuels gender-based violence

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

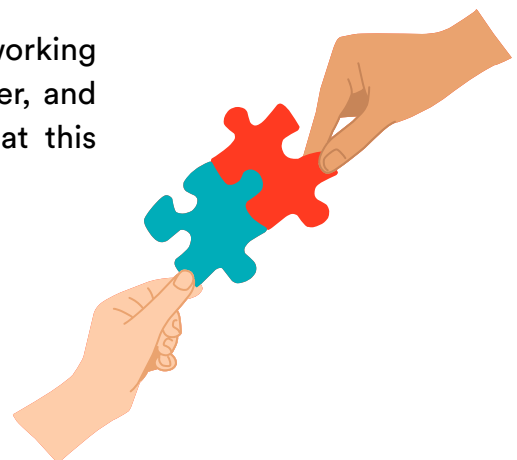
It is also well documented that violence threatens women's and girls' agency and ability to drive climate action and solutions, and reduces our collective capacity to effectively fight the climate crisis. Despite these links, only 0.04 per cent of climate-related development assistance has gender equality 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;

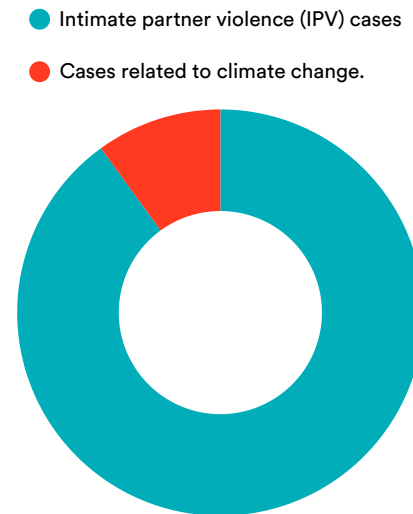
It is imperative that climate practitioners and those working to end violence against women and girls work together, and existing opportunities for collaboration and funding at this nexus show how we can.



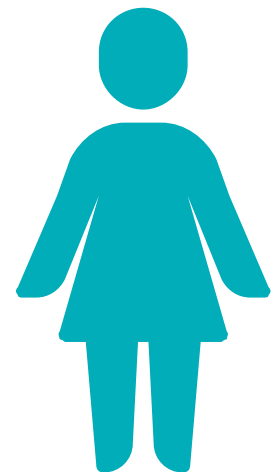
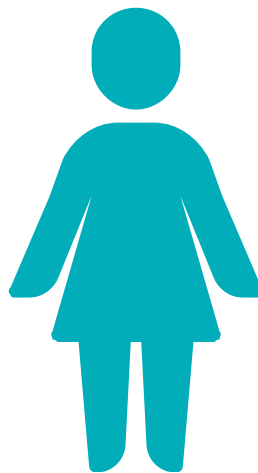
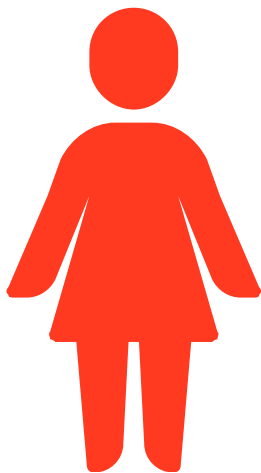
Before the end of the century, 1 in 10 cases of intimate partner violence (IPV) will be linked to climate change.

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



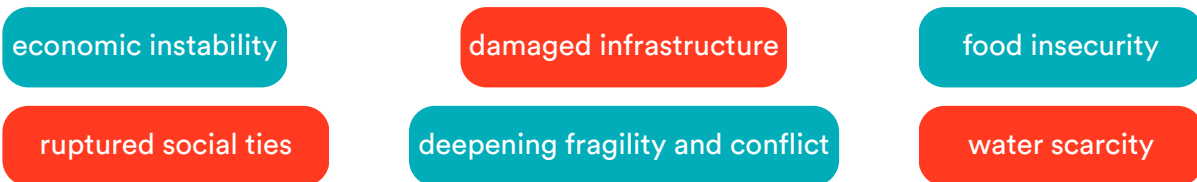
This statistic is well known to be a gross underestimate because of widespread underreporting.

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.

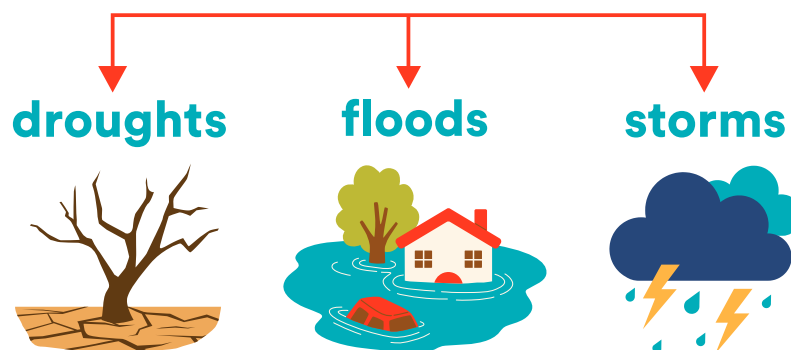
This number will more than double in a much worse 3.5°C warming scenario.¹⁴ An additional 10 million women and girls will likely experience non-partner sexual violence in the same timespan.¹⁵ These figures translate into approximately one in ten women who would experience IPV that could otherwise be 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

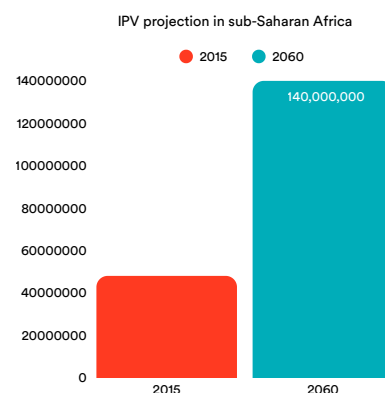
These impacts are not, and will not, be evenly spread. Specifically, risks are greater for:

- **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.



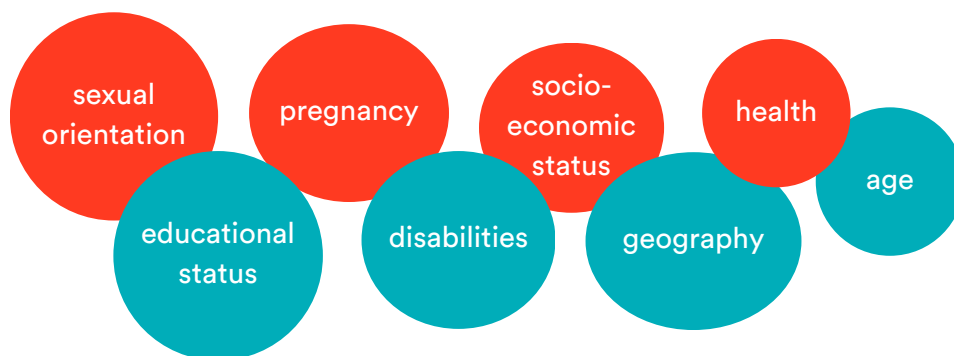
- **Women in regions most vulnerable to climate change.** In a report published in September 2024, UNFPA projects that a 4°C temperature rise, and the volatile socioeconomic conditions that result from it, would be associated with a tripling of people experiencing IPV in sub-Saharan Africa, from 48 million 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 (Spotlight Initiative, 2023)



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 (just over 3 billion), an estimate of the share 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 and an estimate of underreporting. The real prevalence of violence against women is not possible to know, due to high rates of underreporting (see Footnote 5 for one estimate of underreporting rates of intimate partner violence). This brief uses a conservative estimate of the share of affected women who never report IPV (35%) and applied it to the global WHO estimate of reported last-12-month IPV prevalence in 2018 (13%). 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. While regional prevalence estimates are available for IPV, matching estimates were not always available for the climate data used in this model. We have therefore used global averages for data on both violence against women and girls and the impact of climate change. We did this to avoid comparing unmatched regional and global figures which would have led to non-equivalent comparisons. Regional rates of lifetime IPV prevalence 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).

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 Nsahlai 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.

Bibliography

Evidence on the VAWG and climate change linkage:

- Abriel, C. J., Francesc B. D., & Andres, T. Extracting Ecuadorian Amazon Balsa Wood To Boost Green Energy in Europe. (2021). Pulitzer Center. Retrieved July 16, 2024, from <https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/extracting-ecuadorian-amazon-balsa-wood-boost-green-energy-europe>
- Bhargawa, R. and Bhargava, M. The climate crisis disproportionately hits the poor. How can we protect them?. (2023, January 13). World Economic Forum. Retrieved July 23, 2024, from <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/01/climate-crisis-poor-davos2023/>
- Brodie, Z., Hawkins, R., MacLean, C., & McKinlay, J. (2022). "Abusers Are Using COVID to Enhance Abuse": Domestic Abuse Helpline Workers' Perspectives on the Impact of Covid-19 Restrictions on Those Living with Domestic Abuse. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/q8xjs>
- Canoplat, E., Shakirova, M., McElhinny, V., Westerman, K., Cruz, A., & Buppert, T. (2022). Fostering Gender-Transformative Change in Sustainable Forest Management. World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/befdb5a5-0f60-53d6-87c8-9da37e9d12a8/full>
- Castañeda Camey, I., Sabater, L., Owren, C. and Boyer, A.E. (2020). Gender-based violence and environment linkages: The violence of inequality. Wen, J. (ed.). International Union for Conservation of Nature. <https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2020-002-En.pdf>
- Chichoka, B., Hughes, S., & Mitchell, I. Are Providers of Climate Finance Tackling Gender Effectively? (2024, March 1). Center for Global Development. Retrieved July 18, 2024, from <https://www.cgdev.org/blog/are-providers-climate-finance-tackling-gender-effectively>
- Child Marriage and Environmental Crises: An Evidence Brief. (2021). United Nations Population Fund. https://esaro.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/child_marriage_and_environmental_crises_an_evidence_brief_final.pdf
- Climate Action. (n.d.) UN. Retrieved July 16, 2024, from <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/un-chief-all-hands-deck>
- Climate Change Impacts and Intimate-Partner Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa. (2024). United Nations Population Fund. https://esaro.unfpa.org/en/publications/climate-change-impacts-and-intimate-partner-violence-sub-saharan-africa?_ga=2.140181755.954765151.1728360212-1404687833.1728360211
- Closing the Gap, Boosting Ambition: Investing in Women is Key to Climate Action. (2024, March 8). United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Retrieved July 16, 2024, from <https://unfccc.int/news/closing-the-gap-boosting-ambition-investing-in-women-is-key-to-climate-action>
- Dash, K. and Pullanikkatil, D. Blog: Why gender matters in climate finance. (2024, March 19). The Commonwealth. Retrieved July 23, 2024, from <https://thecommonwealth.org/news/blog-why-gender-matters-climate-finance>
- Deininger, F., Woodhouse, A., Kuriakose, A. T., Gren, A., & Liaqat, S. (2023). Placing Gender Equality at the Center of Climate Action. World Bank. <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/099718102062367591/idu08c737dd00f8580412b0aed90fce874ab09b0>
- Development Finance for Gender-Responsive Climate Action. (2022, March 2). Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. [https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD\(2022\)10/en/pdf](https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD(2022)10/en/pdf)
- Desai, B. H., & Mandal, M. (2021). Role of climate change in exacerbating sexual and gender-based violence against women: A new challenge for international law. *Environmental Policy and Law*, 51(3), 137–157. <https://doi.org/10.3233/epl-210055>
- de Oliveira, T., & Tegally, H. (2023). Will climate change amplify epidemics and give rise to pandemics? *Science*, 381(6660). <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.adk4500>
- Dwyer, E., Woolf, L., & Eect, E. Down by the River: Addressing the rights, needs, and strengths of Fijian sexual and gender minorities in disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response. (2021, October). Oxfam. <https://www.preventionweb.net/publication/down-river-addressing-rights-needs-and-strengths-fijian-sexual-and-gender-minorities>
- Exploring Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs Driving Climate Solutions. (2023, December 1). International Finance Corporation. <https://www.ifc.org/content/dam/ifc/doc/2023/exploring-opportunities-for-women-entrepreneurs-driving-climate-solutions.pdf>
- Facts and figures: Ending violence against women. (n.d.). UN Women. Retrieved July 16, 2024, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures#839>
- Feminist Climate Justice: A Framework for Action. (2023). UN Women. <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/Feminist-climate-justice-A-framework-for-action-en.pdf>
- Feng, J., Mildenberger, M., & Stokes, L. C. (2020). Inhumane environments: Global violence against environmental justice activists as a human rights violation. *A Research Agenda for Human Rights*. <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781788973083.00014>
- Former practitioners of FGM lead the fight to end female genital mutilation in Liberia. (2024, February 5). Spotlight Initiative. Retrieved July 26, 2024, from <https://www.spotlightinitiative.org/news/former-practitioners-fgm-lead-fight-end-female-genital-mutilation-liberia>
- Gendered analysis of the impact of climate change on poverty, productivity, and food insecurity: A technical report. (2023, November 28). UN Women. https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/gendered_analysis_of_the_impact_of_climate_change_on_poverty_productivity_and_food_insecurity.pdf

Global Analysis 2022. (2023, April 4). Front Line Defenders. <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/resource-publication/global-analysis-2022>

Human Trafficking in the Wake of Natural Disasters. (2023, August 30). RTI International. Retrieved July 25, 2024, from <https://www.rti.org/impact/human-trafficking-wake-natural-disasters>

Impacts of COVID-19 on violence against women and girls and service provision: UN Women rapid assessment and findings. (2020). UN Women. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/05/impact-of-covid-19-on-violence-against-women-and-girls-and-service-provision>

Integrating Gender-Based Violence Prevention into Climate Action: Three Simple Tips for Practitioners. (December 2023). Spotlight Initiative. <https://www.spotlightinitiative.org/publications/integrating-gender-based-violence-prevention-climate-action>

Kerr-Wilson, A., Gibbs, A., McAslan Fraser E., Ramsoomar, L., Parke, A., Khuwaja, HMA., & Jewkes, R. (2020). A rigorous global evidence review of interventions to prevent violence against women and girls, What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls Global Programme. <https://www.whatworks.co.za/documents/publications/374-evidence-reviewfweb/file>

Kirk, M. and W. Meelis, 'Fast Positive Feedback Between the Adrenocortical Stress Response and a Brain Mechanism Involved in Aggressive Behavior', *Behavioral Neuroscience*, Vol.118, No. 5; <https://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2004/10/feedback-cycle#:~:text=It%20is%20speculated%20that%20the,violet%20in%20seemingly%20benign%20settings>

Maclin, B. J., Bustamante, N. D., Wild, H., & Patel, R. B. (2022). "They think you are weak": Examining the drivers of gender-based violence in three urban informal settlements. *SAGE Open*, 12(2), 215824402210896. <https://doi.org/10.1177/21582440221089645>

Mavisakalyan, A., & Tarverdi, Y. (2019). Gender and climate change: Do female parliamentarians make difference? *European Journal of Political Economy*, 56, 151–164. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejpoleco.2018.08.001>

Measuring the Shadow Pandemic: Violence Against Women During COVID-19. (2021). UN Women. <https://data.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/documents/Publications/Measuring-shadow-pandemic.pdf>

Molyneaux, R., Gibbs, L., Bryant, R. A., Humphreys, C., Hegarty, K., Kellett, C., Gallagher, H. C., Block, K., Harms, L., Richardson, J. F., Alkemade, N., & Forbes, D. (2019b). Interpersonal violence and mental health outcomes following disaster. *BJPsych Open*, 6(1). <https://doi.org/10.1192/bjo.2019.82>

Nsahla, L. K., Constantine, K., & Simon Pierre, P. N. (2023). Associating poverty with gender-based violence (GBV) against rural and poor urban women (RPUW) in Cameroon. *Global Perspectives on Health Geography*, 257–278. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-41268-4_13

Out of sight, out of mind? Transgender people in humanitarian emergencies. (2020, March 31). Humanitarian Law and Policy. <https://blogs.icrc.org/law-and-policy/2020/03/31/out-sight-mind-transgender-people-humanitarian-emergencies/#:~:text=Humanitarian%20crises%20like%20conflict%2C%20disasters,victim%20in%20the%20first%20pl>

Parkinson, D. (2022). Gender-based violence and disaster. *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Natural Hazard Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199389407.013.390>

Parry, K. 'Climate action is incomplete and unsustainable without gender and power considerations': Dalberg on gender and climate change. (2024, May 16). Le. Retrieved July 23, 2024, from <https://leffcommunications.com/2024/05/16/climate-action-is-incomplete-and-unsustainable-without-gender-and-power-considerations-dalberg-on-gender-and-climate-change/>

Pokorny, V. Empowering women-led climate tech startups: Highlights from the LowCarbon. Earth Accelerator session. (2024, March 4). UN Women. Retried July 23, 2024, from <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/stories/feature-story/2024/03/highlights-from-the-lowcarbon-earth-accelerator-session>

RESOURCE-FUL Empowerment: Addressing violence for the green transition. (n.d.). International Union for Conservation of Nature. Retrieved July 16, 2024, from <https://genderandenvironment.org/resource-ful-empowerment/>

The Climate Change-Human Trafficking Nexus. (2016). International Organization for Migration. https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/mecc_infosheet_climate_change_nexus.pdf

The global climate crisis is putting women and girls in extreme danger, UNFPA warns in new data. (2023, November 27). United Nations Population Fund. Retrieved July 16, 2024, from <https://www.unfpa.org/press/global-climate-crisis-putting-women-and-girls-extreme-danger-unfpa-warns-new-data>

The impact of the climate crisis on sexual and reproductive health and rights. (2017). United Nations Population Fund. https://esaro.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/advocacy_-_impact_of_climate_crisis_on_srrh.pdf

Thurston, A. M., Stöckl, H., & Ranganathan, M. (2021). Natural hazards, disasters and violence against women and girls: A global mixed-methods systematic review. *BMJ Global Health*, 6(4). <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2020-004377>

Totapally, S., Jayaram, S., & Agarwal, A. (2022). Imperative to Invest: How addressing violence against women and girls today reduces violence over time, fosters peace and stability, and enables people to reach their full potential, all of which advances us towards the SDGs. Dalberg. https://spotlightinitiative.org/sites/default/files/publication/Imperative_to_Invest.pdf

Tran, D., & Hanaček, K. (2023). A global analysis of violence against Women Defenders in Environmental conflict Nature Sustainability, 6(9), 1045–1053. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-023-01126-4>

Tran, D., Navas, G., Martinez-Alier, J., & Mingorria, S. (2020). Gendered geographies of violence: A multiple case study analysis of Murdered Women Environmental Defenders. Journal of Political Ecology, 27(1). <https://doi.org/10.2458/v27i1.23760>

United Nations General Assembly. 1993. Resolution 488/104: Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993, December 20). Retrieved July 16, 2024, from https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocities-crimes/Doc.21_declaration%20elimination%20vaw.pdf

Unseen, Unheard: Gender-based violence in disasters. (2015). International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. <https://www.ifrc.org/sites/default/files/2021-08/1297700-Gender-based%20Violence%20in%20Disasters-EN.pdf>

Violence Against Women Prevalence Estimates, 2018. (2021, March 9). World Health Organization. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240022256>

Wijdekop, F. Environmental Defenders and Their Recognition Under International and Regional Law – An Introduction. (2021). International Union for Conservation of Nature. https://www.iucn.nl/app/uploads/2021/03/environmental_defenders_and_their_recognition_under_international_and_regional_law.pdf

Women produce up to 80% of food in developing countries. (2023). Food and Agriculture Organization. Retrieved July 23, 2024, from <https://www.fao.org/family-farming/detail/en/c/1634537/#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20FAO%2C%20women,productivity%2Denhancing%20inputs%20and%20services>

Women RISE for Nature. (n.d.). International Union for Conservation of Nature. Retrieved July 16, 2024, from <https://genderandenvironment.org/wr4n/>

Evidence on the global mean surface temperature increase:

Rohde, R. Global Temperature Report for 2023. (2024, January 12). Berkeley Earth. Retrieved July 26, 2024, from <https://berkeleyearth.org/global-temperature-report-for-2023/>

Climate change widespread, rapid, and intensifying – IPCC. (2021, August 9). Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Retrieved July 26, 2024 from <https://www.ipcc.ch/2021/08/09/ar6-wg1-20210809-pr/>

Evidence on the global population exposure to climate events:

Agwe, J. N., Arnold, M., Buys, P., Chen, R. S., Deichmann, U. K., Dilley, M., Kjevstad, O., Lerner-Lam, A. L., Lyon, B., & Yetman, G. Natural disaster hotspots: A global risk analysis. (2005). World Bank Group. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/621711468175150317/Natural-disaster-hotspots-A-global-risk-analysis>

Climate Mobility Impacts. (2023). International Organization for Migration. Retrieved July 16, 2024, from <https://www.migrationdataportal.org/climate-mobility-impacts>

IDMC Data Portal. (n. d.) Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. Retrieved July 16, 2024, from <https://www.internal-displacement.org/database/displacement-data/>

Jones, B., & O'Neill, B. C. (2016). Spatially explicit global population scenarios consistent with the shared socioeconomic pathways. Environmental Research Letters, 11(8), 084003. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/11/8/084003>

Lange, S., Volkholz, J., Geiger, T., Zhao, F., Vega, I., Veldkamp, T., Reyser, C. P., Warszawski, L., Huber, V., Jägermeyr, J., Schewe, J., Bresch, D. N., Büchner, M., Chang, J., Ciais, P., Dury, M., Emanuel, K., Folberth, C., Gerten, D., ... Frieler, K. (2020). Projecting exposure to extreme climate impact events across six event categories and three spatial scales. Earth's Future, 8(12). <https://doi.org/10.1029/2020ef001616>

Wang, T., & Sun, F. (2022). Global gridded GDP data set consistent with the shared socioeconomic pathways. Scientific Data, 9(1). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-022-01300-x>

Evidence on the impacts of climate events on VAWG prevalence:

Allen, E. M., Munala, L., & Henderson, J. R. (2021). Kenyan women bearing the cost of climate change. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 18(23), 12697. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph182312697>

Anastario M, Shehab N, Lawry L. Increased gender-based violence among women internally displaced in Mississippi 2 years post-Hurricane Katrina. Disaster Med Public Health Prep. 2009 Mar;3(1):18-26.<https://doi.org/10.1097/DMP.0b013e3181979c32>. PMID: 19293740.

Asadullah, M. N., Islam, K. M., & Wahhaj, Z. (2020). Child marriage, climate vulnerability and natural disasters in coastal Bangladesh. Journal of Biosocial Science, 53(6), 948–967. <https://doi.org/10.1017/s0021932020000644>

Boddy, J., Harris, C., O'Leary, P., Hohenhaus, M., Bond, C., Panagiotaros, C., & Holdsworth, L. (2024). Intersections of intimate partner violence and natural disasters: A systematic review of the quantitative evidence. Trauma, Violence, & Abuse. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15248380241249145>

- Cannon, C. E., & Kovach, K. (2023). Intimate partner violence and disasters: A review of the literature. *Traumatology*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/trm0000491>
- Carrico, A. R., Donato, K. M., Best, K. B., & Gilligan, J. (2020). Extreme weather and marriage among girls and women in Bangladesh. *Global Environmental Change*, 65, 102160. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2020.102160>
- Corno, L., Hildebrandt, N., & Voena, A. (2020). Age of marriage, weather shocks, and the direction of marriage payments. *Econometrica*, 88(3), 879–915. <https://doi.org/10.3982/ecta15505>
- Díaz, J. J., & Saldarriaga, V. (2020). A drop of Love? rainfall shocks and spousal abuse: Evidence from rural Peru. *SSRN Electronic Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3662976>
- Epstein, A., Bendavid, E., Nash, D., Charlebois, E. D., & Weiser, S. D. (2020). Drought and intimate partner violence towards women in 19 countries in sub-Saharan africa during 2011-2018: A population-based study. *PLOS Medicine*, 17(3). <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1003064>
- Gender Equality, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction. (2016). UN Women. https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Field%20Oce%20ESEAsia/Docs/Publications/2016/02/I_H_brief_7jan16_email.pdf
- Lee, R., White, C. J., Adnan, M. S., Douglas, J., Mahecha, M. D., O'Loughlin, F. E., Patelli, E., Ramos, A. M., Roberts, M. J., Martius, O., Tubaldi, E., van den Hurk, B., Ward, P. J., & Zscheischler, J. (2024). Reclassifying historical disasters: From single to multi-hazards. *Science of The Total Environment*, 912, 169120. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.169120>
- Logie, C. H., Toccalino, D., MacKenzie, F., Hasham, A., Narasimhan, M., Donkers, H., Lorimer, N., & Malama, K. (2024). Associations between climate change-related factors and sexual health: A scoping review. *Global Public Health*, 19(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/17441692.2023.2299718>
- Miguel, E. (2005). Poverty and witch killing. *The Review of Economic Studies*, 72(4), 1153–1172. <https://doi.org/10.1111/0034-6527.00365>
- Nguyen, M. (2023). Temperature and intimate partner violence. *Scottish Journal of Political Economy*, 71(2), 197–218. <https://doi.org/10.1111/sjpe.12365>
- Palermo, T., Bleck, J., & Peterman, A. (2013). Tip of the Iceberg: Reporting and gender-based violence in developing countries. *American Journal of Epidemiology*, 179(5), 602–612. <https://doi.org/10.1093/aje/kwt295>
- Rai, A., Sharma, A. J., & Subramanyam, M. A. (2021). Droughts, cyclones, and intimate partner violence: A disastrous mix for Indian women. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, 53, 102023. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdrr.2020.102023>
- Sahni, V., Scott, A. N., Beliveau, M., Varughese, M., Dover, D. C., & Talbot, J. (2016). Public Health Surveillance Response following the southern Alberta floods, 2013. *Canadian Journal of Public Health*, 107(2) <https://doi.org/10.17269/cjph.107.5188>
- Sanz-Barbero, B., Linares, C., Vives-Cases, C., González, J. L., López-Ossorio, J. J., & Díaz, J. (2018). Heat wave and the risk of intimate partner violence. *Science of The Total Environment*, 644, 413–419. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2018.06.368>
- Sekhri, S., & Storeygard, A. (2014). Dowry deaths: Response to weather variability in India. *Journal of Development Economics*, 111, 212–223. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jdeveco.2014.09.001>
- Schumacher, J. A., Coey, S. F., Norris, F. H., Tracy, M., Clements, K., & Galea, S. (2010). Intimate partner violence and Hurricane Katrina: Predictors and associated mental health outcomes. *Violence and Victims*, 25(5), 588–603. <https://doi.org/10.1891/0886-6708.25.5.588>
- Thurston, A. M., Stöckl, H., & Ranganathan, M. (2021a). Natural hazards, disasters and violence against women and girls: A global mixed-methods systematic review. *BMJ Global Health*, 6(4). <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2020-004377>
- van Daalen, K. R., Kallesøe, S. S., Davey, F., Dada, S., Jung, L., Singh, L., Issa, R., Emilian, C. A., Kuhn, I., Keygnaert, I., & Nilsson, M. (2022). Extreme events and gender-based violence: A mixed-methods systematic review. *The Lancet Planetary Health*, 6(6). [https://doi.org/10.1016/s2542-5196\(22\)00088-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/s2542-5196(22)00088-2)
- Violence Against Women Prevalence Estimates, 2018. (2021, March 9). WHO. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240022256>
- WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women. (2005). World Health Organization. https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/43310/9241593512_eng.pdf?sequence=1
- Women's Protection Technical Working Group. (2010). Women's Protection Assessments: Post Cyclone Nargis, Myanmar. https://www.urban-response.org/system/files/content/resource/files/main/f6caa5ecd57bc6054925776100202_full-report%5b1%5d.pdf
- Zhu, Y., He, C., Bell, M., Zhang, Y., Fatmi, Z., Zhang, Y., Zaid, M., Bachwenkizi, J., Liu, C., Zhou, L., Chen, R., & Kan, H. (2023). Association of ambient temperature with the prevalence of intimate partner violence among partnered women in low- and middle-income South Asian countries. *JAMA Psychiatry*, 80(9), 952. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2023.1958>

Additional sources:

Devries KM, Mak JYT, Garcia-Moreno C, et al. The global prevalence of intimate partner violence against women. *Science*. 2013;340(6140):1527–1528. <https://www.science.org/doi/abs/10.1126/science.1240937>



 info@spotlightinitiative.org

 spotlightinitiative.org

 [@GlobalSpotlight](https://twitter.com/GlobalSpotlight)

 [@TheSpotlightInitiative](https://facebook.com/TheSpotlightInitiative)

 [@spotlightinitiative](https://instagram.com/spotlightinitiative)



**Spotlight
Initiative**
To eliminate violence
against women and girls



Dalberg