Impacts of Climate Change and Extreme Weather events on women’s autonomy in the Caribbean: A preliminary overview

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Caribbean: Specific vulnerabilities

▪ Geo-ecological characteristics of SIDS and low lying coastal States

▪ 14.5% of residents in Caribbean SIDS live in low-elevation coastal zones less than 10m above sea level and more than 50% of the population live within 1.5 km of the shore

▪ Estimation that annual temperatures in the Caribbean will increase by between 1°C and 5°C by 2080

▪ Economic development of the subregion mainly derived from tourism and industry
The second most hazard-prone region in the world is the Caribbean. Disaster-related costs are expected to escalate in the face of population growth, rapid urbanization, increased exposure of assets and climate change–related phenomena.


Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bahamas, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Montserrat, former Netherlands Antilles, Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Martin, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sint Maarten, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands.
Caribbean women: between vulnerability and resilience

Social, economic & political barriers

Under-employment & unemployment

Violence

Domestic work & unpaid care

Lack of savings

Access to Decision-making
ECLAC Study: Objectives & Scope

Objectives:
- Assess how Caribbean countries have been applying a gender perspective in addressing Climate Resilience and Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction
- Identify good practices and challenges to inclusion of a gender perspective in climate change and disaster risk reduction related policies, plans and strategies
- Provide recommendations on how Caribbean governments can advance inclusion of a gender perspective in climate change and disaster risk reduction actions

Scope:
- 13 ECLAC Member countries, whose national policies, plans and strategies were reviewed
- 13 international and regional frameworks were reviewed
Methodology

After conducting the assessment of national, regional and international frameworks, it resulted in the identification of the following principles:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRINCIPLE</th>
<th>Development of gender-sensitive/gender-responsive policies and programmes related to CC or DRR</th>
<th>= To address the economic, physical and political autonomy</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Specifically including women in the planning, development, implementation and management of CC or DRR policies and programmes</td>
<td>= To address autonomy in decision-making process</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Collecting, assessing, disseminating and utilising sex-disaggregated data</td>
<td>= To track economic, physical and political autonomy</td>
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Preliminary findings: Regional trends

- 13 Countries
- 6 Have a gender equality policy
- 10 Have DRR policy with Principle 1
- 7 Have DRR policy with info on gender
Preliminary findings-
Case studies: Dominica and Grenada

<table>
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<tr>
<th>DOMINICA</th>
<th>GRENADA</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Low-Carbon Climate-Resilient Development Strategy 2010-2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>- UNDP Country assessment on Enhancing Gender Visibility in Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change (2009)</td>
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<td>- Goes beyond identifying gender gaps to addressing them by, for example including:</td>
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<td>◦ recommendations to address the vulnerabilities of women, including pre- and post-disasters;</td>
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<td>◦ provision of social safety nets including micro-finance and micro-insurance to women in rebuilding their homes, businesses and lives after an extreme event</td>
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<td>- One of few countries with gender impact assessment for a particular hurricane (Hurricane Ivan, 2005)</td>
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<td>- Comprehensive Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan, 2014</td>
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<td>- However, limited recommendations from the Gender Equality Policy in National Climate Change Policy (2017)</td>
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<td>- Appointment of Gender and Climate Change focal point and delegations to international activities on Climate Change includes at least one woman</td>
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Preliminary findings: Main Challenges

- Sex-disaggregated data
- National studies
- Financial, technical and human capacity
Preliminary recommendations

- Promote integrated and coherent institutional frameworks
- Appoint gender focal points in climate and disaster institutions that have specific gender training and are tasked with gender mainstreaming
- Adopt/ review current policies/ plans and strategies to ensure linkages between gender and climate/disaster policies and strategies
- Promote community involvement
Preliminary recommendations (cont.)

- Conduct capacity building/training for Gender Machineries on climate change/disaster risk management
- Conduct gender assessment needs post-disaster, with particular focus on economic sectors tourism, fisheries, and agriculture
- Promote training courses to respond to the needs of the community after disaster
- Create awareness raising campaigns in order to sensitize communities Collect, analysis and disseminate disaggregated data
THANK YOU!