



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Session 1

INTRODUCTION TO GENDER AND CLIMATE
CHANGE



OBJECTIVES

Defining gender in development and understanding the overall gendered impacts of climate change.

Recognising specific gender-based inequalities and role of women as key agents of change in climate responses.

Introducing the idea of complementary goals of gender equality and climate change adaptation.

Grasping the benefits of integrating gender into climate change adaptation initiatives.

CLIMATE CHANGE CONCEPTS

EXPOSURE

and 

SENSITIVITY

and 

**ADAPTIVE
CAPACITY**

make  **VULNERABILITY**

CLIMATE CHANGE CONCEPTS

Vulnerabilities

Vulnerability to climate change is determined in large part by people's adaptive capacity.



Photo credit: UNHCR

Adaptive capacity

Adapting to climate change is about reducing vulnerability to current and projected climate risks.



Photo credit: University of California



GENDER TERMS AND CONCEPTS

What do we mean by 'gender'?

Socially constructed roles, behavior, activities and attributes that a particular society considers appropriate and ascribes to men and women.

These distinct roles and the relations between them may give rise to gender inequalities where one group is systematically favored and holds advantages over another.

Men play an important role in promoting gender equality.

GENDER INEQUALITY

UK Example:

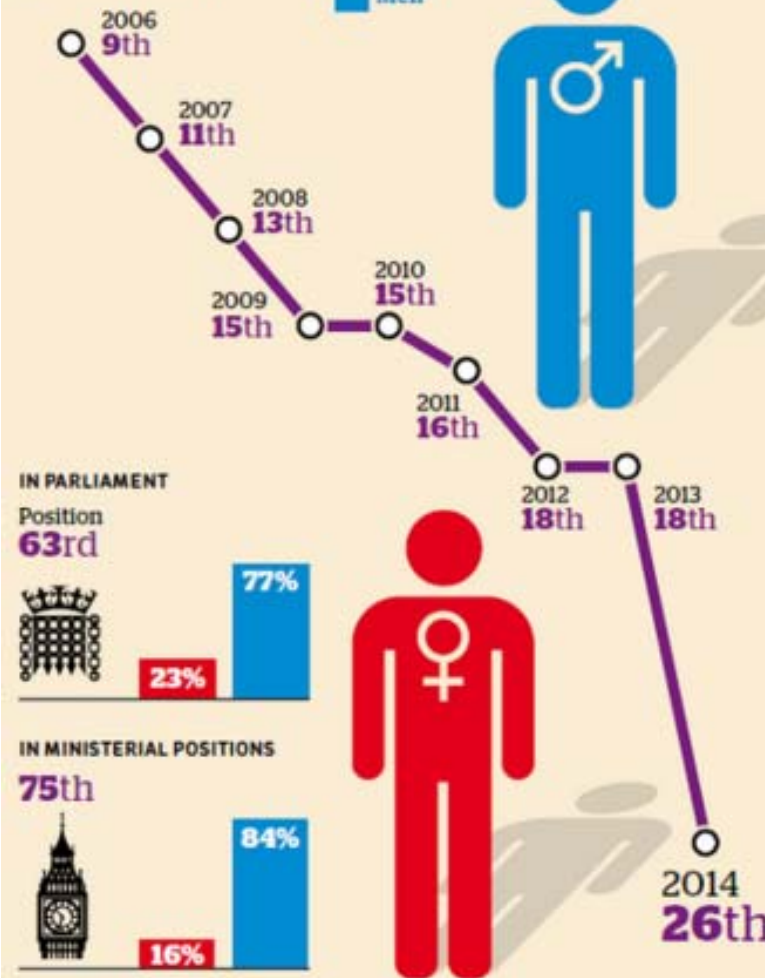
- Positive progress in education and labor force participation
- Less progress in decision-making and governance

The UK's performance on gender equality

Ranked out of 136 countries

BRITAIN'S FALLING POSITION
IN WORLD EQUALITY

Women
Men



SOURCE: WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

GRAPHIC: ROB BROOKS

GENDER INEQUALITIES



Photos credit: Elle Magazine



GENDER STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

70% of those living on less than US\$1 a day are women.

75% of the world's 876 mil. illiterate adults are women

50% - 80% of world food production is by women

In total, women work 2/3 of the world's working hours,

Yet,

Women receive only 10% of the world's income

Women own only 1% of the world's property.

Women own less than 10% of arable land.

2/5 of girls are never born due to a preference for sons.

GENDER AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Schematic credit: UN Zero Hunger Challenge

SMART ECONOMICS



Business case for gender:

Concentrating on tangible benefits for both women and the communities and nations they live in



Photo credits:
Above: www.huffingtonpost.com
Right: Oxfam UK

SECOND SHIFT

**Productive work
IN ADDITION TO
reproductive work and
home duties**



Schematic credit: siliconindia.com



Cartoon credit: Pierre Kroll

**Men need to be as
involved as women in
finding and supporting
gender solutions**

APPROACHES

Approaches to working on gender in development:

Gender mainstreaming:
transform unequal social
and institutional structures

Beyond mainstreaming:
specific activities that change
and improve human
wellbeing and benefit women



Photo credit: Silva Larson

ACTIVITY: GENDER ROLES



Photo credit: girltalkhq

How do the different roles of men and women result in different adaptation needs?



Photo credit:
Silva Larson

GENDER AND CCA



Photo credit: Red Cross

Just as climate change will affect regions very differently, it is also clear that climate change will affect men and women differently, depending on their roles and responsibilities in the household and community.



GENDER AND CCA

Key areas of gender-based inequalities relevant to CCA:

- Land rights
- Division of labor
- Existing knowledge systems and skills regarding CCA
- Power and decision-making
- Embedded inequalities in policies and institutions, both formal and informal
- Perceptions of risk and resilience.



GENDER AND CCA

Climate change threatens to reinforce gender inequalities and even erode progress that has been made towards gender equality in many developing countries.

Poor women's limited access to resources, restricted rights, limited mobility and voice in community and household decision-making can make them much more vulnerable than men to the effects of climate change.

Women hold unique knowledge and skills. It is therefore vital that men's and women's different needs, perspectives and knowledge, be taken into account when planning adaptation activities.

ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND OTHER ASSETS



Photo credit: Silva Larson



Adara women ready to test "modern gear" (image: Michel Blanc)

Photo credit: Michel Blanc for WorldFish

AGENTS OF CHANGE



Photo credit: Hoang Dinh Nam



Photo credit: Mary Bariiki

WORDS OF CAUTION



Photo credit: Rupak De Chowdhur/ Reuters



Photo credits: Silva Larson



IN SUMMARY

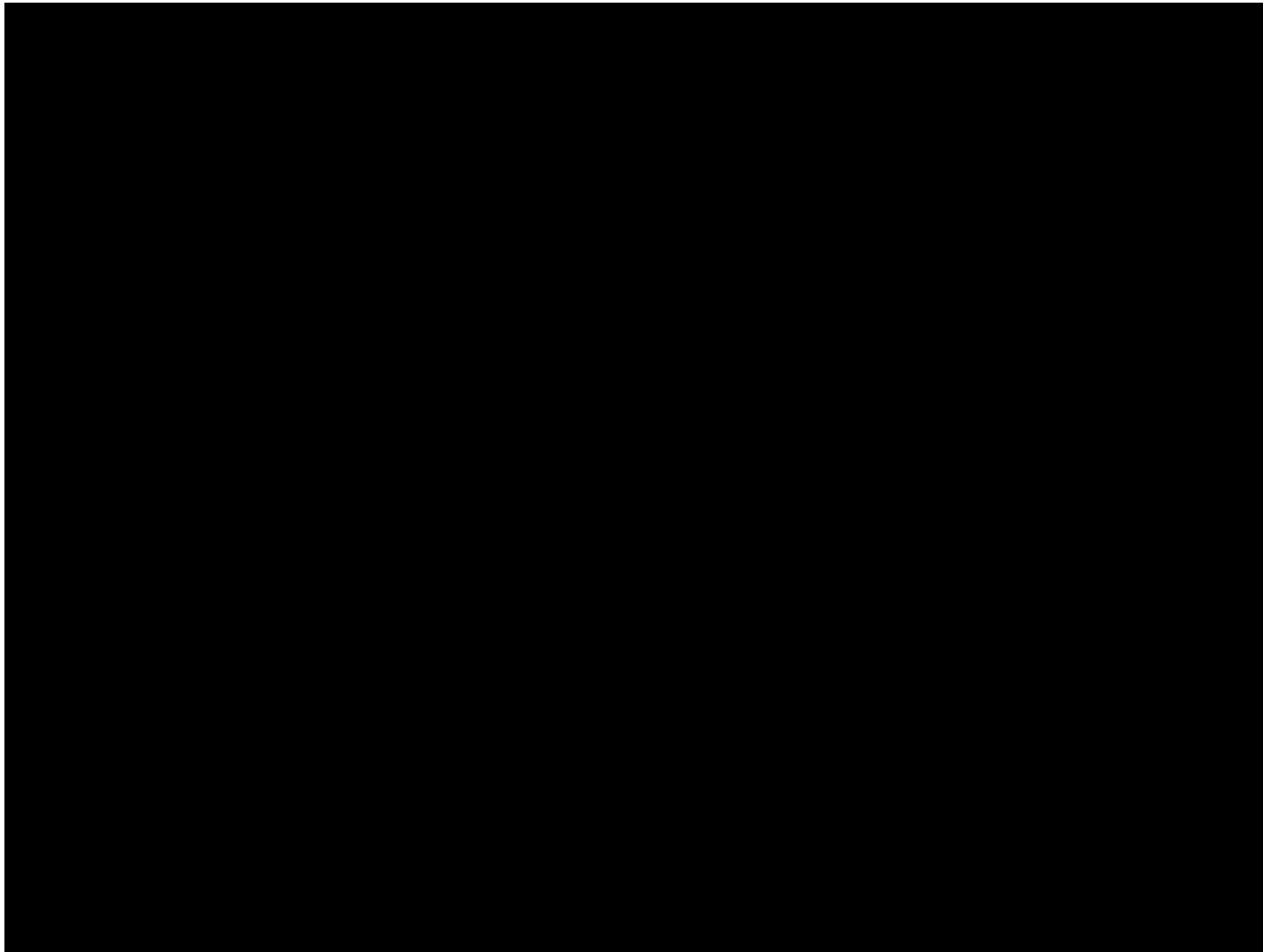
In this session, we furthered our understanding of:

- **the overall gender dimensions of climate change**
- **specific gender-based inequalities**
- **the role of women as key agents of change**

We introduced the idea of complementary goals of

- **gender equality and climate change adaptation,**
- **the idea of going “Beyond Mainstreaming”.**

Why gender matters?





Introduction to gender and climate change

PLENARY DISCUSSION

Your Experiences

ACTIVITY: GENDER ROLES



Photo credit: girltalkhq

ACTIVITY: GENDER ROLES

	Women	Men	Link to Climate Change Variability
Roles	What are women's roles and how does that impact/constrain their mobility?	What are men's roles; and are they limited by mobility?	Their ability to migrate in search of economic opportunities makes it easier for men to deal with crisis, and may result in benefits for the family as a whole. However, male migration often increases women's workload, as they are left behind to manage the household in addition to usual tasks. It can also increase women's exposure to other risks, such as gender-based violence and HIV infection.
	What are women's role when it comes to agriculture and livestock?	What are men's roles with respect to agriculture and livestock?	Both crops and livestock are affected by climate change, and this has profound consequences for household food security. Men often claim safer/more fertile land for growing market-oriented crops, leaving women to grow household-oriented crops on more vulnerable/less fertile land.
	What are women's roles with respect to food storage and preparation? What about selling of food products?	What are men's roles with respect to food storage, preparation or selling products?	In addition to the challenges described above, climate change has implications for food preparation and storage (in terms of water for food preparation and the vulnerability of food stores to extreme events, such as cyclones and floods). Harvests may be reduced or even wiped out by floods or droughts. This affects market prices and the availability of surplus to sell – placing pressure on both men and women to identify other sources of income and reduce major expenditures (e.g. school fees). In times of food shortage, women are often expected to feed other members of the family before attending to their own needs.
Resources	Do women from your country earn more income than men?	Or do men earn more income than women? How is this perceived?	Men typically have more money and other assets than women. Men's savings provide a "buffer" during tough times and, along with other assets, make it easier for them to invest in alternative livelihoods.
	Who has more access to information (men or women?) What about access to education?	What ways do men access information that are not accessible to women, and why?	Managing climate-related risks to agricultural production requires new information, skills and technologies, such as seasonal forecasts, risk analysis and water-saving agricultural practices. Men are more likely to have access to these resources and the power to use them and are therefore, better equipped to adapt. At the same time, women often have traditional knowledge that can inform adaptation efforts. Both new and old information is important in the context of adaptation.
Power	Do women have less or more power over family finances/assets?	Do men have more family finances and assets? Why or why not?	Without the power to decide on family resources and finances, women's ability to manage risks by, for example, diversifying crops, storing food or seeds or putting money into savings, is limited.
	What are women's roles in community politics? Is it supported?	What are men's roles in community politics? Is it assumed?	Men are likely to have more influence over local governance-promoting policies and programs that may not support women's rights and priorities.
	What kinds of restrictions do women face in terms of mobility?	What restrictions do men face when it comes to mobility?	Mobility is a key factor in accessing information and services. It is also critical for escaping the danger posed by extreme weather such as floods. Therefore, women are often at higher risk from these events.