The impacts of climate change are gendered. The response needs to be as well. Women are disproportionately vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. Persistent gender inequalities continue to limit women’s participation in decision-making, restrict their access to financial and technical resources, and prevent them from contributing to and benefitting from new responses to the challenges associated with climate change and ecosystem degradation.

UN agencies, working in close collaboration with governments, multilateral organizations, civil society agencies and the private sector, work to integrate gender equality and women’s empowerment principles into climate change policies and programmes. This effort aims to ensure that climate change decision-making and initiatives at all levels address the needs and allow for the contributions of women and men equitably.
Gender Equality and Climate Change Objectives
UN agencies support Governments and partners to:
• Enhance realization of women’s equal rights and empowerment, including in
decision-making processes
• Increase effectiveness of interventions related to climate change through use of
gender analysis, enhanced capacity, and holistic strategies

Activities
UN system agencies are:
Raising awareness to ensure the integration of gender perspectives into
global and national policy and programmes.

Developing capacity to mainstream gender in the governance of climate
finance, as well as building capacities at all levels to design and implement
gender-responsive climate change policies, strategies and programmes.

Providing research, lessons learned, practical tools and guidance on how
gender considerations can be incorporated into climate change
adaptation and mitigation projects, climate finance, and technology
transfers to support pro-poor, climate-resilient, low-emissions development.

Supporting Governments and other partners to develop and implement
strategies that target multiple complementary objectives, including
gender equality, sustainable development, and poverty and disaster risk
reduction.

Results
Women’s and girls’ education, health, nutrition, economic livelihoods and
political empowerment have been enhanced by work of the entire UN
system, which is mandated to mainstream gender in its initiatives - increasing women’s resiliency to
emerging challenges and expanding their opportunities to act on their own behalf.

Gender equality gaps have been identified and addressed in national
development, adaptation, mitigation, poverty reduction and disaster risk
strategies in dozens of countries.

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) capacities of Government Ministries and civil
society have been strengthened to ensure that the gendered aspects of
disasters and disaster risk reduction are concretely addressed.

In over 40 countries gender-responsive budgeting has been implemented to
help ensure women’s needs on the ground are being assessed, and
responses are adequately funded and monitored.

The establishment of UN Women, to become operational in January 2011,
will strengthen coordination and enhance achievements of the UN
system to further advance gender equality.

Moving forward
UN agencies will continue to support Governments and other partners to identify
gender gaps and tailor their climate interventions to differentiated needs through,
inter alia, capacity building and technical assistance in the interest of equity and
effectiveness.

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