

Gendered impacts from Climate Change and Disasters

Gender inequality has created imbalances in men's and women's access to information, resources and training, mobility, and decision-making capacity. Climate change impacts, which result in disasters stand to worsen these gaps. To reduce existing inequality, we must integrate how women and men experience the climate crisis into disaster planning.

Women are more likely to: -

- Have less access to services post disaster.
- Be more vulnerable to all forms of gender-based violence, including rape and intimate partner violence.
- Face more challenges from disrupted access to potable water. Women will feel this more severely as they rely on these services to clean their homes, cook, and care for their children. Women in rural areas who depend on their immediate environment for food (backyard gardeners, for example) may struggle to feed their families during a prolonged drought.

It is important to note that pregnant women are especially vulnerable as vector-borne and water-related illnesses, like dengue fever and the Zika virus, can become more active after a disaster.

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In Antigua & Barbuda:-

- Women make up a large part of the workforce in the tourism sector- a highly vulnerable industry to climate change impacts. When a disaster forces hotels to close, the women employed with them may lose their jobs. Out of work, these women can no longer meet their financial obligations. Women also tend to be heads of larger households than men, meaning more families may be affected by women's economic instability.
- Men typically dominate the construction and fisheries sectors in Antigua and Barbuda. These sectors are likely to be active during the rebuilding phase after a storm or major hurricane. Thus, men are better able to find jobs post-disaster.

Older girls may often stay home to care for their younger siblings. This added responsibility distracts them from their studies. It also limits their social development, contributing to an ongoing cycle of poverty and underemployment, and puts them at risk for unhealthy intimate relationships.



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• Single older adults are among the most vulnerable during a climate-related crisis. Due to their age, they are unlikely to be able to prepare their homes for a disaster. They may also find it impossible to navigate damaged roads during the aftermath.

• Men are generally seen as less vulnerable than women. However, this group is less likely to reach out for mental health support after a crisis, making them vulnerable to long-term mental health issues.

Climate change affects us all. Stay informed about its impact on you and your community to keep us all safe.

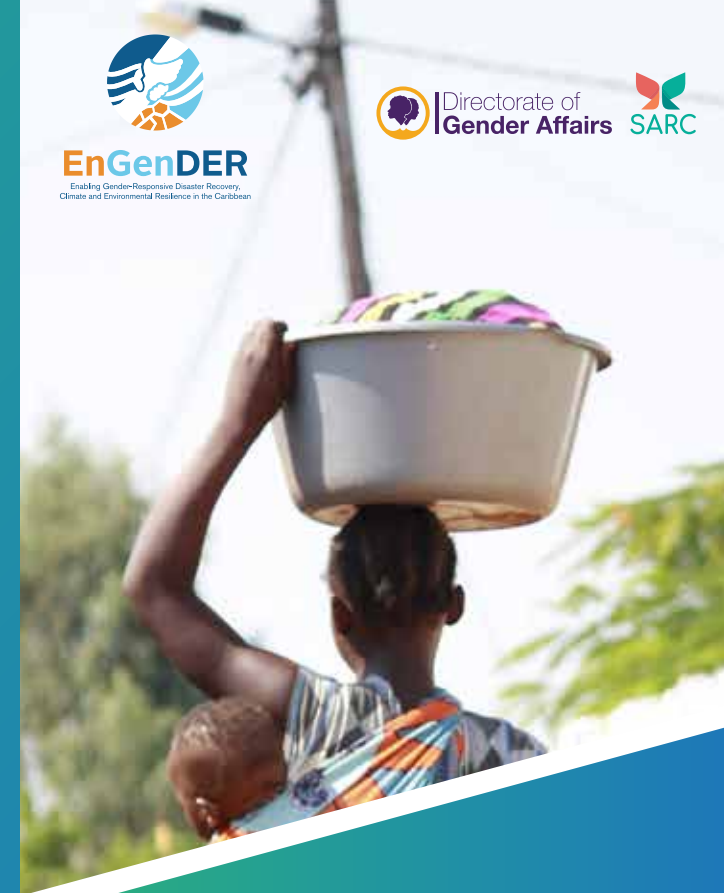


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Enabling Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery,
Climate and Environmental Resilience in the Caribbean



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