

# Impact on Women & Girls

Climate change has severe impacts across the globe. It can affect food systems, eco-systems, natural resources, socio-economic systems, human health and welfare, and is increasingly a driver of conflict and displacement. Climate change also has grave consequences to GBV, as it increases the drivers for violence, particularly in conflict, displacement, food insecurity, socio-economic impacts and the disruption of protective systems.

It is estimated that 80 per cent of people displaced by climate change are women, according to UN Environment.

Women and girls are at the highest risk of GBV from Climate related issues and disasters, for example women and girls are primarily responsible for food production and water collection globally. As these key resources are becoming scarcer and unaffordable, violence against women and girls increases. Socioeconomic pressures drive sexual exploitation and abuse, early and forced marriage and intimate partner and domestic violence, among other forms of GBV.

# Impact on the LGBTQIA+

The lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual and ally (LGBTQIA+) community is one such group, which, because of its social vulnerability, is a hidden victim of climate change to a wide extent.

LGBTQIA+ individuals are uniquely vulnerable to exclusion, violence and exploitation because of the cumulative impacts of social stigma, discrimination and hatred. The social stigma around the LGBTQIA+ community also makes several social opportunities and infrastructure unavailable to them.

LGBTQ persons are vulnerable to homelessness as they are often forced to leave their homes due to conflict with the family, violence or threats of violence or abuse.

Also, prior to a disaster, members of the LGBTQ community may not have access to the same assets, resources and information as the general population because of potential exclusion, isolation and restricted social networks. This can affect resilience and how a person might experience a climate shock.

# Hurricane Irma and the impact on Barbuda

- Of the 2 Barbudans who died as a result of Hurricane Irma, one was a child (anecdotal estimates have child's age at 2) who died in his guardian's arms, and another was an elderly woman (estimates have the age at 90) who died of pneumonia.
- Of the over 400 households registered by the Red Cross it is estimated that at least half are female headed households.
- Female Headed Households were found to be larger than those of male headed households. Most female landowners, are head of households.
- Women and men indicated that the sex segregated spaces have become a significant cause of stress, since married and partnered men and women are not allowed to be in the same space. The lack of intimacy was reportedly a source of tension in many relationships.

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Climate change has direct impacts on natural resources that are essential for daily life, such as water, fishery resources, available energy sources, and biodiversity. When these resources become scarce or hard to access, there can be serious gender and time-use implications. Women, especially rural, indigenous and campesino women, have the main responsibility for feeding their families and for collecting basic resources needed for household subsistence, such as water and firewood.

These culturally assigned duties represent unpaid work done by girls and women; and the scarcity of these essential resources can mean it takes longer to gather them, thus deepening the structural challenges of inequality.



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**The incidence of  
Gender Based  
Violence on women,  
LGBTQ+, etc. persons  
due to climate  
change impacts.**

