

FEMINIST APPROACHES TO CLIMATE JUSTICE

A toolkit for building
inclusive climate
advocacy



OXFAM CANADA

**Feminist Approaches to Climate Justice:
A toolkit for building inclusive climate advocacy**

This guide was written by Anya Knechtel with support from Yosra Salem, Amanda Gomm, Lucy Juneau, Ian Thomson, Kelly Bowden and Diana Sarosi. It was created with support from the Clean Economy Fund.

Oxfam Canada acknowledges the historical and ongoing oppression and colonization of all Indigenous Peoples, cultures and lands in what we now know as Canada. We commit to acting in solidarity with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in their struggles for self-determination and decolonization and in support of the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2015) and the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019). Oxfam Canada's offices are located on the unceded, unsurrendered traditional territories of the Algonquin Anishinabe, Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples. We recognize the privilege of operating on lands that these peoples have nurtured since time immemorial. As guests on these lands, we commit to walking in solidarity with our host nations and according to Oxfam's values of equality, empowerment, solidarity, inclusiveness, accountability and courage.

Oxfam Canada is one of 21 organizations worldwide that creates Oxfam International. We work together across 90 countries to fight inequality and patriarchy to end poverty and injustice.

Oxfam Canada

39 McArthur Avenue
Ottawa, ON K1L 8L7
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1 800 466 9326
info@oxfam.ca
www.oxfam.ca

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INTRODUCTION

This guide is designed to help climate activists, environmental not-for-profits and other civil society organizations in Canada adopt an intersectional, feminist approach to climate justice. It provides an overview of why hearing and responding to the diverse experiences of women and girls is essential to climate justice, and provides tools to support the intersectional analysis of policies and initiatives so as advance climate justice for all.

Oxfam has been raising awareness and building momentum to address the climate crisis for the past two decades. Using a rights-based approach, Oxfam has focused on drawing attention to the human costs of climate change, supporting communities to adapt and respond to climate-related risks and providing humanitarian relief in the face of climate disasters. Oxfam's recent advocacy has focused on carbon inequality and international climate finance.

Within this multi-faceted international effort, Oxfam Canada centres gender justice as a critical element of climate justice. Oxfam offers this guide as a tool to support an inclusive, feminist approach to climate justice as organizations and individuals advance their climate advocacy.



GENDER JUSTICE AND CLIMATE JUSTICE:

What's the connection?

In 2021, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) delivered a report outlining the current impacts of climate change and future climate change scenarios, which the UN called “a code red for humanity.”¹ Climate change is already putting the lives and livelihoods of billions of people at immediate risk, displacing tens of thousands of people a year from their homes, fueling conflict and hunger and eroding hard-won gains towards the Sustainable Development Goals.^{2,3} The IPCC warns that unless people take urgent action to slash greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2050 or earlier to hold global warming below the threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius, the world is likely to see increasingly severe humanitarian and ecological disasters.⁴

Yet while climate change is affecting everyone, its impacts are not experienced equally. Women and girls in all their diversity — particularly those living in poverty in the global south — are more likely to suffer the negative impacts of the climate crisis due to vulnerabilities arising from intersectional gender inequalities. Moreover, despite being among the hardest hit by climate change, most of these women and girls bear little responsibility for the carbon emissions fueling climate change. Between 1990 and 2018, the richest 10% of the world’s population accounted for 52% of cumulative emissions, while the poorest 50% were responsible for just 7% of cumulative emissions.⁵

Despite the enormity of the challenges they face, women and girls are standing up as climate leaders and activists at the local to international levels. They are proving that their involvement is critical to achieving climate justice,⁶ and that supporting and amplifying their efforts will help bring about the transformative change the world needs to build a just, inclusive and climate-resilient future.

SIX REASONS WHY GENDER JUSTICE IS CRITICAL TO CLIMATE JUSTICE

01

Women are on the frontlines of the climate crisis as caregivers, resource managers, community leaders and more.

02

Women's livelihoods are highly vulnerable to climate-related risks and disasters, and climate change is pushing more women into poverty and hunger.

03

Climate change is also increasing the burden on women and girls — and exposing them to gender-based violence and conflict as they work to meet their families' needs.

04

Indigenous women and other human right defenders working to protect their traditional territories and ecosystems are at a high risk of violence for their activism.

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Climate-related disasters are driving displacement and migration, putting women at greater risk of violence, hunger and insecurity.

06

Women's participation is key to forging just, inclusive climate policies and initiatives.

01

Women are on the frontlines of the climate crisis as caregivers, resource managers, community leaders and more.

Women's well-being and resilience impact their communities' ability to adapt to changing conditions and to respond to, cope with and recover from disasters. Yet, while women are advancing climate solutions and strengthening their households' and communities' resilience to climate-related risks, the increasing frequency and intensity of climate-induced disasters are stretching their resources and resilience. Further, many women face major challenges such as poverty, violence and discriminatory social, cultural and legal practices that reduce their ability to cope with climate-related risks.

In working to support women, women's rights organizations and those promoting gender equality need to be consulted and engaged in decisions when climate policies and programs are being developed. Women's rights organizations and those promoting gender equality are best positioned to identify the financial resources and support that would help women build their resiliency to climate-related risks and disasters. Ensuring women have access to financial and technical resources, as well as legal recourse, that can help them adapt and respond to climate change is critical for the well-being of their families and communities.



02

Women's livelihoods are highly vulnerable to climate-related risks and disasters, and climate change is pushing more women into poverty and hunger.

Women in the global south, particularly those living in rural areas, are highly engaged in agriculture and other resource-based livelihoods and are often responsible for fulfilling their households' food, energy and water needs.⁷ Women's reliance on resource-based livelihoods contributes to their vulnerability to climate-related risks such as droughts and flooding, yet gender inequities make it more challenging for them to cope with and recover from climate-related hardships or disasters. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), only 10–20% of all landholders in developing countries are women and their labour often remains unpaid and unrecognized in decisions related to land use. Further, women face barriers to accessing the financing, technologies and productive resources that could help them recover from climate-related disasters.^{8,9} As climate-related events become more frequent and intense, their livelihoods and well-being are increasingly at risk.

While Central America is responsible for only 0.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions, women such as those in Central America's Dry Corridor are heavily affected by the poverty, hunger and societal violence that have worsened due, in part,

to climate change. In 2020, communities already greatly affected by COVID-19 experienced the intense power of hurricanes Eta and Iota. The storms destroyed crops, livestock and homes throughout the Dry Corridor, pushing over 60% of households in the region further into poverty and hunger, with female-headed households and Indigenous peoples being particularly vulnerable.¹⁰

Despite enormous challenges, women have a critical role in managing and conserving natural resources, and their involvement in resource management is crucial to strengthening their communities' resilience to climate change.^{11,12} Investing in women's economic empowerment, further empowering women to manage resources, and supporting their engage in decision-making processes are key factors in delivering gender-responsive climate adaptation initiatives. Programs aimed, for example, at supporting women in securing land rights and planting climate-resilient crops can contribute to reducing poverty and improving food security.



Climate change is also increasing the burden on women and girls — and exposing them to gender-based violence and conflict as they work to meet their families' needs.

As climate change drives environmental degradation and resource scarcity, women's responsibilities are becoming more onerous. Socially defined gender roles in developing countries mean that women and girls often bear the primary responsibility for collecting water, foraging for food and fuel and participating in subsistence agriculture.¹³ In rural Guatemala, women report the time and distance they must travel each day to search for water has almost doubled to eight hours per day as a result of prolonged drought conditions. As women and girls spend more time meeting basic needs, they have less time available for studying, earning an income or otherwise engaging in their communities.¹⁴ Easing women's work burden, improving economic opportunities and reducing care responsibilities are critical to providing women with the time and resources required to invest in building their climate resilience. Involving women in initiatives to improve irrigation systems and manage resources, strengthening women's land rights, providing women with access to technologies and agricultural inputs can also help women benefit from climate-resilient agriculture. Overall, funding and prioritizing gender-responsive climate initiatives can help to address gender-inequities, reduce work burdens and improve women and girls' wellbeing.



04

Indigenous women and other human right defenders working to protect their traditional territories and ecosystems are at a high risk of violence for their activism.

While Indigenous people represent only 5% of the world's population, 80% of the Earth's biodiversity exists within their traditional territories.¹⁵ Indigenous women often face persecution and violence in response to their efforts to peacefully defend their territories against the incursion of agribusiness and extractive industries that are driving climate change and biodiversity loss.^{16,17}

According to Global Witness, in addition to the violence faced by all land defenders (women accounted for 10% of the 212 land defenders killed in 2019), women land defenders also face sexual violence and intimidation meant to silence their activism.¹⁸ Yet human rights defenders are also making gains. In Ecuador, the Waorani Indigenous peoples won a landmark ruling in 2019 that prevented the Ecuadorian government from auctioning half a million acres of their territory in the Amazon rainforest for oil and gas exploration,¹⁹ and Indigenous women's organizations such as Mujeres Amazónicas Defensoras de la Selva continue their efforts to stop the incursion of oil, mining and logging companies in their territories and to conserve critical ecosystems.^{20,21}

Calling on (and out!) governments and industry to uphold human-rights, particularly the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN-DRIP), and working to support and amplify the efforts of Indigenous women and their communities in their fight for Indigenous rights is a critical component of climate justice.

05

Climate-related disasters are driving displacement and migration, putting women at greater risk of violence, hunger and insecurity.

Over the last decade, climate-fueled disasters have become a key driver of internal displacement, with over 20 million people forced from their homes each year. In 2019, Cyclone Idai hit Zimbabwe, killing more than 340 people and displacing 51,000 from their homes. Communities in rural areas of Zimbabwe with poor infrastructure were most affected, as flooding destroyed homes, crops and livestock — essentially destroying the basis of local farmers' livelihoods and forcing many into displacement camps for survival.

As climate change increases the frequency and intensity of severe storms such as Cyclone Idai, women and girls are particularly vulnerable to the impacts. They face an increased risk of gender-based violence when seeking shelter in crowded emergency centres and displacement camps, and even when they return to their communities, women can find it harder to rebuild their lives. Financial insecurity and lack of land tenure, as well as lower education and literacy rates,

can make it more difficult for displaced women to access information on their legal rights and other resources that could help them regain access to their homes.

Addressing social, economic and legal inequalities that heighten women's vulnerability to climate-related risks is critical to improving outcomes for women dealing with climate-related disasters. In addition, improving early warning systems, developing gender-responsive disaster plans and investing in women's rights organizations and programs that support women in recovering from climate-related disasters is important to reducing the risks women face in the lead up and aftermath of climate-related disasters.





Women's participation is key to forging just, inclusive climate policies and initiatives.

06

Climate justice requires inclusive climate policies and actions and that starts with ensuring women in all their diversity have effective access to policy- and decision-making processes. Yet from village councils to international forums, women are under-represented.

The undervaluation of women's contributions, systemic barriers to political participation and other gender inequalities (for example, limited access to education and restricted mobility and land rights) mean that women's contributions are often less visible to policy-makers. This means women's interests and issues are often marginalized in decisions related to climate change. Far from being neutral, gender-blind policies can result in unintended consequences that deepen inequalities.

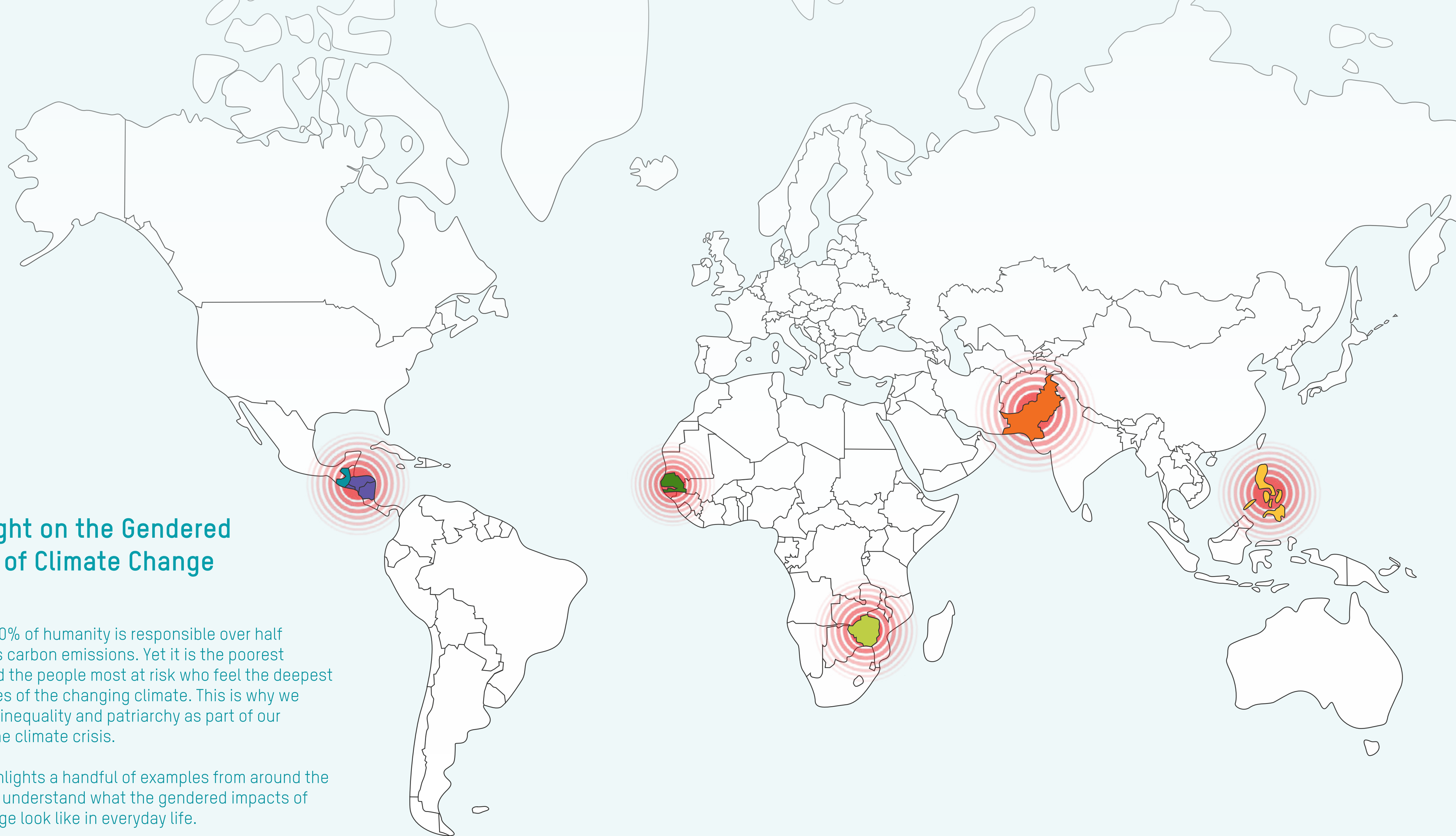
Instead, climate strategies need to address the underlying factors that contribute to gender-based vulnerabilities. Supporting women and youth in all their diversity in their efforts to organize themselves, access resources and effectively participate in decision-making spaces is therefore critical to achieving climate justice.²²

When women are able to lead and benefit from initiatives aimed at building resiliency to climate-related risks and limiting further climate change, we move forward on the path to a just and climate-resilient world. That's why working for gender equality and women's rights is part of the fight for climate justice.

A Spotlight on the Gendered Impacts of Climate Change

The richest 10% of humanity is responsible over half of the world's carbon emissions. Yet it is the poorest countries and the people most at risk who feel the deepest consequences of the changing climate. This is why we have to fight inequality and patriarchy as part of our solution to the climate crisis.

This map highlights a handful of examples from around the world to help understand what the gendered impacts of climate change look like in everyday life.



THE GENDERED IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Increased Gender-Based Violence in Zimbabwe



Cyclone Idai hit Zimbabwe in 2019 displacing 51,000 people from their homes. In this and other disasters or conflicts that force displacement, women are at increased risk of violence. Violence is more likely in crowded group shelters or when women are forced to travel further from home for resources like water and fuel.

Risk to Environmental Defenders in Guatemala



Female Indigenous community organizers have been threatened and even killed as they mount resistance to resource development projects like the San Mateo Hydroelectric dam that put their community water and land resources at risk.

Increased Care Work in Pakistan



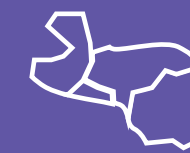
Women are usually responsible for fetching water for the household. The decline in rainfall in Pakistan has made it harder for women to collect water, particularly in areas where there are no bore wells, no electric wells, or no connection to a water distribution network. Women must now walk longer distances to fetch drinkable water because of challenges such as salinity, dry wells, or water impurities. Increased time spent fetching resources like water and firewood adds to the unpaid care work that women provide to families and communities, limiting their ability to participate in public life and community decision making.

Destruction of Women's Livelihoods in Senegal



Women are responsible for providing food for the household through crop production. However, increased drought conditions lead to infertile soil, and flooding from unexpected downpours uproots vegetation and crops, which caused agricultural yields to decline in Senegal. Often women and the elderly are left to fend for themselves as young people and men leave in search of profitable work; as a result of this migration, the village of Landou in Senegal, for example, now has about 118 women and only 20 men.

Rise of Food Insecurity in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua



The Central American Dry Corridor is a broad swath of land running through El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Most families in the Dry Corridor depend on subsistence farming for their livelihoods, but failing crops brought on by severe droughts and extreme weather such as Tropical Storm Amanda and hurricanes Eta and Iota have eroded their livelihoods causing an increase in hunger. Women and girls are disproportionately affected - they typically face extraordinary dangers to secure food, and yet, too often eating last and eating least. 8 out of 10 households in the region are resulting to crisis coping mechanisms, while 25% don't have enough to buy basic foods.

Higher Mortality Rates in the Philippines



More women die in disasters than men. In 2013, Typhoon Haiyan, also known as Yolanda, struck the Philippines. Typhoon Haiyan is reported to have killed over 6,300 people, an estimated 64% were women.

A FEMINIST APPROACH TO CLIMATE JUSTICE

WHAT IS FEMINISM?

Feminism is a diverse, dynamic and multi-faceted approach to addressing the discrimination, injustice and violations of rights suffered by women and gender-nonconforming people. At its most basic, feminism seeks to ensure that women, men and 2SLGBTQ+ people are equal in law and in practice. A feminist approach offers an inclusive way to help understand how diverse systems of hierarchy, power and subordination interact across social contexts. Its objective is to create positive futures that uphold the dignity and rights of all.

Taking a feminist approach to climate justice is about challenging the economic, social and political systems that have enabled the climate crisis and holding countries, companies and individuals accountable for their (in)actions and climate commitments.

Yet most importantly, a feminist approach is about empowering women and other vulnerable peoples to strengthen their resilience to climate change, while advancing their leadership in shaping solutions and ensuring climate policies are inclusive and fair.

Respecting and valuing the perspectives, knowledge and lived experiences of diverse groups is key to building a deeper understanding of the challenges climate change presents and developing possible solutions. Honouring the context and complexities faced by diverse groups is also critical to building partnerships or supporting groups working to advance climate justice in their communities.

Collaborative efforts based on respect, understanding and a commitment to positive, transformative change are central to a feminist approach to gender and climate justice. Recognizing the strengths and challenges faced by different groups or organizations can help you identify when it is time to step forward and use your voice to address issues and when it is better to help create space for others or amplify diverse voices and efforts. Committing to a feminist approach also gives individuals and organizations an opportunity to reflect on their ways of working and explore what opportunities there are to become more inclusive, anti-racist and feminist in their leadership, theories of change and initiatives.

WHAT IS INTERSECTIONALITY AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Viewing climate through an intersectional gender lens

When we consider climate change through an intersectional gender lens, we are better able to understand issues that affect how people are experiencing climate change.

Intersectionality, a concept coined by legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw, recognizes the multiple aspects of identity such as gender, socio-economic status, age, geographic location, ability, religion, sexual orientation, race or ethnicity that interact and overlap to shape people's identities and experiences.²³ These elements can compound and exacerbate oppression and marginalization and thereby heighten vulnerability to climate-related risks and disasters.

Feminist intersectionality²⁴ is an analytical framework that helps to explore how differential power and access to resources, as well as systemic inequalities within institutions, economic systems and social practices, can create or reinforce systemic inequalities and explore what is required to overcome barriers to advancing a more inclusive, just society. Later in the toolkit, we'll explore intersectional gender-based analysis (GBA+) as a tool for applying feminist intersectionality to support your climate advocacy.

Intersectional feminism provides an approach for consider what factors lead to increased vulnerability and what conditions need to be met or addressed for people to strengthen their resilience to climate change.

Likewise, in advocating for an inclusive, climate-resilient future, applying an intersectional gender lens can help make visible the systemic inequalities that contribute to climate-related vulnerabilities and how climate policies or strategies can reduce or unintentionally exacerbate inequalities and vulnerabilities depending on the approach and actions.

DECOLONIZING CLIMATE POLICY

Indigenous climate leaders speak to the importance of decolonizing climate policy and addressing climate issues from an Indigenous worldview that incorporates principles of intergenerational well-being and sustainability. As Melina Laboucan-Massimo explores in her documentary series on APTN, *Power to the People*, Indigenous peoples are already leading on climate initiatives and adaptation strategies that empower communities in Canada and internationally.²⁵ Moreover, adaptation strategies that incorporate Indigenous knowledge are proving highly effective at enabling communities to cope with changing conditions resulting from climate change. The SmartICE (Sea-Ice Monitoring and Real-Time Information for Coastal Environments) initiative, for example, combines Indigenous knowledge of ice conditions with scientific monitoring to identify the safest routes to travel by sea ice, enabling northern communities to maintain traditional hunting and fishing activities.²⁶

Indigenous Peoples in Canada and across the world are among those that contribute the least to the growing climate crisis, yet remain among those being impacted the first and hardest by intensifying climate change... To effectively address climate change, policies and solutions need to take aim at the ongoing drivers and root causes of the crisis and should center the voices, needs and leadership of the people most impacted by the crisis.

— Indigenous Climate Action (2021)²⁷

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Meanwhile, Indigenous climate leaders, such as Eriel Deranger of Indigenous Climate Action,²⁸ advocate for climate policies and approaches that effectively engage Indigenous people in policy decisions, uphold Indigenous rights and address long-standing issues that affect Indigenous communities. Deranger emphasizes that decolonizing climate policy requires a commitment to building a nation-to-nation relationship “based on respect, partnership and recognition of rights.”

Deranger points to the persistent effects of colonialism such as the lack of access to basic infrastructure including quality housing, healthcare and safe drinking water that limit Indigenous communities’ ability to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and climate-related risks.²⁹ As highlighted by the tragic death of Joyce Echaquan in a Quebec hospital,³⁰ women and other vulnerable individuals may also experience discrimination rooted in colonialism and racism when seeking to access critical resources located outside their own communities.

Further, policies that continue to support fossil fuel extraction and other polluting industries — often occurring on the traditional territories of Indigenous peoples — fail to address the root problems that are fuelling multiple crises such as health issues, biodiversity loss and climate change.

Working to uphold the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN-DRIP) and working to implement the Calls to Action brought forth from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) are also critical to supporting Indigenous peoples working for climate justice.³¹

Taking a feminist approach to climate justice means adopting a rights-based, transformative approach that recognizes and addresses systemic inequalities that might otherwise limit the effectiveness of climate policies and actions. By applying an intersectional gender lens to issues related to climate change, intersectional feminism can help you, as well as the people you are looking to engage, gain a deeper understanding of how issues affect people in diverse ways.

You can use this understanding to develop climate strategies and initiatives that better connect to people’s lived experiences and address issues that are important to them. This can help motivate more people to support and stay engaged with climate campaigns. Adopting a feminist approach to climate action helps build trust and strong working relationships across diverse communities and can bring about the transformative changes needed to achieve a climate-resilient and just future.³²

ADVANCING GENDER AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

While they may seem like more effort up front, feminist approaches can supercharge your efforts to bring about transformative change by helping expose and address injustices and inequalities that are being intensified as a result of climate change and the systems that perpetuate it.

To get you started, here are a few tools to help you assess whether government policies are working to strengthen gender equality and advance climate justice.

INTERSECTIONAL GENDER-BASED ANALYSIS (GBA+)

Intersectional gender-based analysis (GBA+) is one tool that can help deepen your understanding of how gender and other intersecting factors — and related inequities — affect how people experience climate change and are impacted by climate-related policies and programs.

Rather than a set methodology, GBA+ is an analytical framework that helps you apply an intersectional feminist lens when you're:

- examining how power and privilege affect people's access to resources and their ability to lead or participate in decision-making related to climate change
- working to understand how these factors influence the way people experience climate change and how policies can address systemic inequalities that contribute to climate vulnerability

GBA+ can help support efforts to advance climate justice and human rights because it contributes to effective climate solutions that address the distinct needs and concerns of women, men and 2SLGBTQ+ people in all their diversity. By gaining a better understanding of how initiatives connect to people's lived experiences, you will be more effective in developing engaging actions and mobilizing people across society to respond to the climate crisis.



FARXIA - FIREWOOD - SOMALIA
© Livio Stöckli / Oxfam Novib

Women and girls are usually responsible for the collection of water and firewood, and have to walk long distances for both activities — often alone. Farxia says that she is often afraid when she is out collecting firewood as some men see this as an opportunity to rape and abuse women. In addition, wild animals sometimes attack people.

Her family has been displaced since the drought in Somalialand in 2017. During the drought, the family lost all their livestock. The drought and displacement has also challenged traditional gender roles, with women now taking up even more responsibilities in the household. Men have lost their roles as primary caretakers of the family, and many feel they have lost their 'masculinity'. The overall situation has led to a rise in violence against women.

KENYA: BENEATH THE DRY LAND

Over the past 30 years, climate change and environmental degradation have caused increasingly frequent and severe droughts in Kenya. Recurrent droughts have destroyed livelihoods, triggered local conflicts over scarce resources and eroded the ability of communities to cope. More than 4 million people are now at risk of hunger and over 1.2 million children lack access to education.

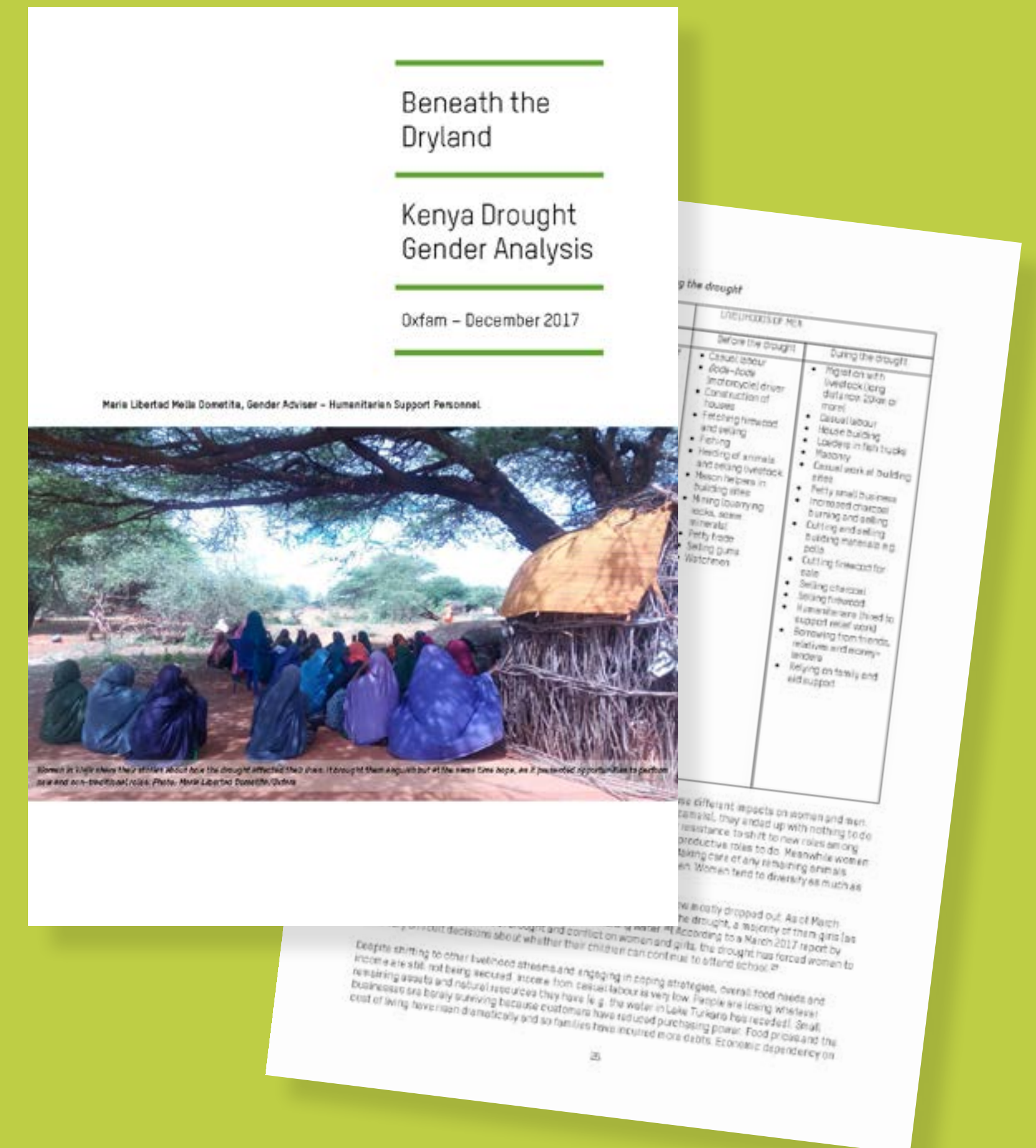
In December 2017, Oxfam carried out a gender-based analysis in partnership with local communities. The assessment focused on the gendered impacts of drought to better understand the differences in how women, men, girls and boys were impacted, as well as their different needs, interests, coping mechanisms, capacities, roles, risks and vulnerabilities.

During the assessment, women discussed how they were coping with the drought. Some women were sacrificing their food intake — both in quality and quantity, sometimes skipping meals or not eating all day — in order to prioritize the intake of their children. Men weren't making the same sacrifices as their food intake needs were prioritized. In some communities, both men and women explained how the drought had been changing their traditional roles. The drought had forced many men to travel to cities to seek work, in many cases leaving women to take on all local livelihood activities. The droughts were forcing both women and men to make new arrangements to survive.



Having a better understanding of the situation enabled Oxfam to work with communities to identify opportunities to increase the participation and economic empowerment of women. It also enabled Oxfam to develop programs that helped build greater awareness and understanding of gender equality and women's rights and to work with men and boys to champion these issues in their communities. The program helped build women's confidence to express themselves in decision-making processes and gave them more negotiating power as they learned about their legal and political rights and ways they could advance their economic well-being, as well as to better cope with and deal with the impacts of the drought.

[Click to view PDF](#)





Applying GBA+ often reveals gaps in our data or knowledge and (un)conscious biases in our understanding or assumptions. It also identifies unintended barriers or potential opportunities to create more inclusive, effective and sustainable change benefitting people across diverse communities. The resulting analysis can be used to inform theories of change, strategies and campaigns, as well as the development and implementation of climate projects. GBA+ supports a feminist approach to climate justice by helping ensure that an intersectional perspective and a focus on equality are at the core of all activities and not just an add-on or afterthought.



Follow these simple steps to start apply a rough analysis to your initiative. A more comprehensive set of questions is included in Annex B.

SET UP FOR SUCCESS

01

Before starting, brainstorm who you can consult or work with:

- What problem are you trying to address and what goal are you trying to achieve?
- How do women's rights and gender justice organizations understand the problem? How are they already working on addressing it?
- Who could you consult or partner with in order to bring diverse perspectives into your analysis? For example, women's organizations, youth groups, Indigenous organizations, community groups, 2SLGBTQ+ rights groups or other organizations, groups or individuals who offer diverse perspectives.

CONSIDER THE CONTEXT

02

As you start planning, consider the context of your initiative:

- What is the context in which you'll be carrying out your campaign, initiative or policy?
- What relevant laws, policies, conditions or cultural norms may affect how people experience the targeted situation or action?
- Will the scope and ambition of your project match the time and resources available? Be realistic and consider opportunities to partner with others to share resources and strengthen your work.

GATHER DATA AND INFORMATION

03

When preparing your initiative, check the relevance of the data you're collecting:

- Are there existing sources of gender-disaggregated data? Where are there gaps and how could you obtain data to fill these gaps?
- What gender-disaggregated data and information would help inform your analysis and build your understanding of the context or issue? How can you obtain this data?
- Will the information you are seeking allow you to establish a baseline and inform meaningful, measurable indicators that will help you compare the change, influence and impact of your project on diverse groups?
- Is the diversity in the population from which you are collecting data represented in the data? How can you ensure intersectional representation?

COMPLETE YOUR ANALYSIS

04

In consultation with your team and partners, use the data and information you've collected to build out your gender analysis by considering questions such as the following:

- How do people experience the problem or issue at stake differently as a result of their gender? How might they experience the solutions to that problem differently?
- Which groups are most marginalized and vulnerable due to their class, caste, race, age or ability?
- How do the policies, structures and institutions relevant to this issue treat women, men and 2SLGBTQ+ peoples differently? Do they have a seat and real voice in formal and informal decision-making processes that determine these policies, structures and institutions?
- Are there cultural norms, programs or legal precedents that differentiate treatment based on gender that are relevant to this issue?

TURN YOUR ANALYSIS INTO ACTION

05

Once you have completed your gender analysis, it can serve as a key foundation for developing your theory of change, climate strategy or specific activity. By doing so, you can ensure your programs and initiatives actively address the issues you have identified.³³ You can also continue to update and deepen your analysis as your initiative continues over time.

Find additional questions to consider in completing a GBA+ in Annex B. We also encourage you to add your own questions to this list!

ASSESSING CLIMATE POLICIES: *Three guiding questions*

Holding governments accountable for taking meaningful action on gender equality and climate change is key to moving forward on the path to climate justice.

Can climate policies be gender blind?

Policy-makers, like others, may not be aware of their own biases. If they fail to consult affected communities, decision makers can overlook important considerations that could result in better policy or campaigns. If policies are gender-blind, related programs may ignore the root causes of inequality and unknowingly exacerbate existing inequalities or expose people to further discrimination, exploitation or harm.

Taking into account the policy context, you can ask three basic questions to help guide your assessment of whether or how effectively a policy is addressing intersectional gender issues and advancing gender and climate justice.

01

What evidence is there that the government has applied an intersectional gender-based analysis in developing the policy?

Consider if the policy:

- considers or addresses the potential impacts (negative impacts and benefits) on women and diverse communities, especially those experiencing marginalization due to intersecting factors of discrimination such as gender, race, class, sexuality, disability or other identities
- upholds the rights of Indigenous peoples, including the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent

02

Does the policy support the leadership and/or participation of women, girls and gender-nonconforming people from across diverse communities?

Assess if the policy:

- was developed in consultation with members of affected communities, including women and gender-nonconforming people in all their diversity
- includes specific measures or funding that will engage women and members of diverse communities in developing or participating in innovative solutions to climate change that address their needs and experiences
- includes initiatives that specifically aim to advance equality and justice within the context of climate actions
- funds, launches or expands the implementation of local, community-based initiatives, particularly those led or implemented in partnership with women's organizations or other feminist organizations

03

Does the policy support transformative change and seek to address injustices?

Question if the policy:

- moves towards ending subsidies to polluting industries, stopping their expansion, the harmful exploitation of resources, and the abuse of rights such as environmental protection and human rights, as well as land rights
- contributes to delivering Canada's fair share of emission reductions or global climate financing to help developing countries mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change
- targets the systemic social, economic and/or political discrimination or inequalities experienced by diverse populations, contributing to climate vulnerability

If you recognize that a policy or initiative doesn't account for women or marginalized groups, consider how it could be improved and then speak out! And remember, it's ok to point out when the government is doing things right — everyone likes a little encouragement — but you can also suggest ways they can continue to improve.

Not sure if a policy hits the mark? Consult with members of affected communities or advocates who are working on the issue to learn more and see how you can support their efforts.

**SPEAK OUT
AND AMPLIFY**

Gender justice and climate justice are issues worth speaking out about — as are ideas about how they can be achieved. When you are engaging with or campaigning on these issues, think about the narrative you want people to remember by asking yourself:

Who is being affected and how?

Can I help amplify the voice of those who are impacted?

What change needs to occur to improve the situation?

Who needs to take action to make this happen?

How can others support the changemakers or create the political space for change?

Is this the right moment to speak out, or to amplify other voices, or to step back to make space for others to be heard?





Crafting a compelling narrative — whether through images, words or soundscapes — draws attention to why the issue is worthy of attention and support. Whether you are aiming to catch the attention of people living in your community, fellow activists or politicians, consider the key points you most want them to hear.

Once you're ready, consider how you can:

Partner with organizations representing diverse, racialized and/or marginalized communities to help amplify their voices and concerns

Connect the scientific data of climate change with people's lived experience

Draw attention to what actions are required to bring about positive changes

Look beyond social media for opportunities to voice your message

Empower people to send their own messages

If you're working to reach out to people, try to offer them a way to take action, whether it's joining a march, signing a petition, supporting an organization working to bring about change or giving them the tools to reach out to policy makers. Change happens when good ideas are acted on. Speak out and help make change happen.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Adopting a feminist approach to climate justice can help to build new partnerships, expand the reach of the climate movement and advance more inclusive and transformative policy recommendations to government.

We hope this guide has provided you with some tools and advice on how to apply an intersectional lens and feminist principles when designing climate campaigns, policies or programmes. By changing the way we understand, organize and advocate, we can help to reduce poverty and gender inequality. Climate action that values diversity and inclusion addresses systemic racism and gender biases as it advocates for a green economy.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

To learn more about the intersections between climate and gender justice browse through these key resources:

Oxfam Canada. *Policy Hub: Women's Fight for Climate Justice.*

www.oxfam.ca/policy-and-practice/womens-fight-for-climate-justice

Explore Oxfam Canada's latest blogs, briefing notes and reports to learn more about women on the frontlines of the climate crisis and how women are leading the fight for climate justice.

Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women. (2021). *Feminist Intersectionality Primer.*

www.criaw-icref.ca/publications/feminist-intersectionality-primer

CRIAW's primer on intersectional feminism provides a framework for analyzing the systemic inequalities and related power dynamics that contribute to women's experiences of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

Climate Action Network. (2021). *Chapter Four: Indigenous Sovereignty & Energy Justice. Pathways to Zero.* www.climateactionnetwork.ca/pathways-to-zero-video-library

As part of CAN-RAC's Net Zero webinar series, Indigenous climate leaders from the Assembly of First Nations, Sacred Earth Solar, Indigenous Clean Energy and SevenGen speak to the importance of Indigenous-led climate solutions and the need to decolonize climate policy in order to uphold Indigenous rights and sovereignty and support long-term health and well-being.

Equality Fund and Nobel Women's Initiative. (2020). *Supporting Women's Organizations and Movements: A Strategic Approach to Climate Action.* nobelwomensinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2007/02/Climate-Brief_Feb2020_Final.pdf

Making the case for a feminist approach to international climate change policy, this report highlights how funding and support for local, women-led climate change responses can contribute to better climate adaptation and mitigation results in communities.

Generation Equality Forum. (2021). *Feminist Action for Climate Justice*

https://forum.generationequality.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/FACJ_AC%20.pdf

Find out more about the 2021 Generation Equality Forum's key priorities for the Feminist Action for Climate Justice Action Coalition, including increasing direct financing for gender-just climate solutions, supporting women's and girls' leadership in a just transition, strengthening resilience and improving access to disaggregated data on gender and environment.

Indigenous Climate Action. (2021). *Decolonizing Climate Policy in Canada.*

www.indigenousclimateaction.com/decolonizing-climate-policy

Indigenous Climate Action's (ICA) report, Decolonizing Climate Policy in Canada, provides an insightful critique of Canada's federal climate plans, including the 2016 Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change (PCF) and the 2020 A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy (HEHE).

Khosla, Prabha. (2021). *Gender Equality and Intersectional Analysis Toolkit.*

www.criaw-icref.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Gender-Equality-and-Intersectional-Analysis.pdf

This toolkit released by the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women explores how intersecting factors of identity shape power and oppression and offers further guidance on identifying, collecting and organizing data, as well as analyzing proposed actions or policies from an intersectional feminist perspective.

Laboucan-Massimo, Melina. *Power to the People.* www.aptn.ca/power-to-the-people

On APTN, Indigenous climate activist Melina Laboucan-Massimo hosts Power to the People, a weekly TV documentary exploring the challenges and benefits of renewable energy and sustainable living projects, empowering indigenous communities in Canada and internationally.

Statistics Canada. *Gender, diversity and inclusion statistics.*

www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/topics-start/gender_diversity_and_inclusion

A useful source for disaggregated data for diverse population groups.

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). *1.5 Degrees: A Climate Action Blog.* (Filtered for entries focused on Gender and Climate Change). unfccc.int/blog?field_page_topic_target_id=3986&search_text=&sort_bef_combine=created+DESC

Read interviews and profiles of women climate leaders from around the world to better understand the varied issues women are confronting in their fight for climate justice.

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). *Climate Change: Protecting Women's Rights.* www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/materials/2PGenderLight.pdf

This blog post outlines why an inclusive approach to climate action is critical to upholding women's rights.

ANNEX

A. KEY CLIMATE AND GENDER POLICIES: UNFCCC AND GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

The following policies and frameworks inform Canada’s international and domestic climate policies and actions and serve as a reference for assessing how effectively climate policies address intersectional gender issues.

Source	Policy	Description
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	<u>Paris Agreement</u>	The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. Signatories to the agreement commit to action on climate change with the goal of limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels.
	<u>Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender</u>	Parties to the UNFCCC established a work program to advance gender balance and integrate gender considerations into the Paris Agreement to help achieve gender responsive climate policy and action.

Source	Policy	Description
Government of Canada	<u>Canada’s 2021 Nationally Determined Contribution Under the Paris Agreement</u>	<p>The Government of Canada submitted its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UNFCCC in July 2021, as required under the Paris Agreement. The NDC outlines Canada’s commitment to reduce emissions by 40–45% below 2005 levels by 2030 and states Canada’s support for the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan to “further advance women-led and gender-responsive climate action at national and multilateral levels.”</p>
	<u>A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy Annex: Gender-Based Analysis Plus</u>	<p>Canada’s updated climate plan (2020) sets out five pillars for action and outlines policies, programs and investments aimed at cutting pollution and building a stronger, cleaner, more resilient and inclusive economy. The annexes include a GBA+ analysis of the plan.</p>
	<u>Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP)</u>	<p>Adopted in 2017, the FIAP establishes Canada’s commitment to advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through its international assistance programs.</p>
	<u>Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+)</u>	<p>An overview of Canada’s approach to GBA+ in examining how various intersecting identity factors impact the effectiveness of government initiatives.</p>

B. ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER IN COMPLETING AN INTERSECTIONAL GENDER-BASED ANALYSIS (GBA+)

Main Question	Additional Questions to Ask
<p>What is the context?</p>	<p>What is the legal status of women in the area of intervention?</p> <p>What are commonly held beliefs, perceptions and stereotypes relating to gender that pertain to this situation?</p> <p>What existing gender norms and values pertain to this situation?</p> <p>Is the initiative/project responding to gender-differentiated patterns of division of labour, wage gaps, etc.?</p>
<p>Who does what?</p>	<p>What is the division of labour among women and men related to this situation?</p> <p>What relevant gender differences exist in training, education and participation levels in the specific sector of intervention?</p> <p>What is the participation between women and men in the formal/informal economy?</p> <p>Who manages the household?</p> <p>Who participates in the care of children and of the elderly?</p>

Main Question	Additional Questions to Ask
Who has what?	<p>Do women and men have equal access to resources, including finance, technologies, information and services that affect engagement or participation?</p> <p>Who has control over these resources?</p> <p>Do women and men equally benefit from these resources?</p> <p>Do women and men have equal access to education, technical knowledge and/or skill upgrading?</p>
Who decides?	<p>Who participates in the decision-making related to this situation?</p> <p>Are the bargaining positions of women and men different?</p> <p>Is there equal participation of women and men in the political sphere?</p> <p>Who has political influence?</p>
Who benefits?	<p>Where are the opportunities or entry points to ensure equal participation and benefits?</p> <p>Does the project address the different needs and priorities of women and men?</p> <p>Will the services and technologies provided by the project be available and accessible to both women and men?</p> <p>Does the initiative/project recognize the distinct vulnerabilities of women and men (such as, health vulnerabilities) and develop specific response strategies for each target group?</p>

Main Question	Additional Questions to Ask
<p>Who are the stakeholders?</p>	<p>How might gender and other factors affect how stakeholders relate to, engage in or benefit from the initiative?</p> <p>Which groups have a strong voice and whose voices might need support to be heard? What assistance do these individuals or groups identify as being helpful?</p>
<p>What are the gender impacts?</p>	<p>How will women and men be targeted and reached?</p> <p>Are there any women’s groups, associations or NGOs in the area that the initiative/project can partner with?</p> <p>How will the activities and services of the project benefit women and men?</p> <p>Is the initiative/project likely to have adverse effects on women or men?</p> <p>How will the initiative/project affect relations between women and men?</p> <p>How will the initiative/project ensure women and men have equal access to the opportunities and services that the project provides?</p> <p>How can the initiative/project ensure and enhance women’s participation in the activities or services provided?</p>

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OXFAM
Canada

Mailing Address

Oxfam Canada
39 McArthur Avenue
Ottawa, ON, K1L 8L7

Contact us by Phone

Tel: +1 (613) 237-5236
Toll-Free:
1-800-60-OXFAM
or 1-800-466-9326
Fax: +1 (613) 237-0524

Contact us by Email

General Inquiries
info@oxfam.ca

Donor inquiries
donor_relations@oxfam.ca

Membership inquiries
membership@oxfam.ca

Media Requests

Paula Baker, Media Relations
Phone: (613) 240-3047
Email: paula.baker@oxfam.org