

EnGenDER

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

Newsletter
July 2020

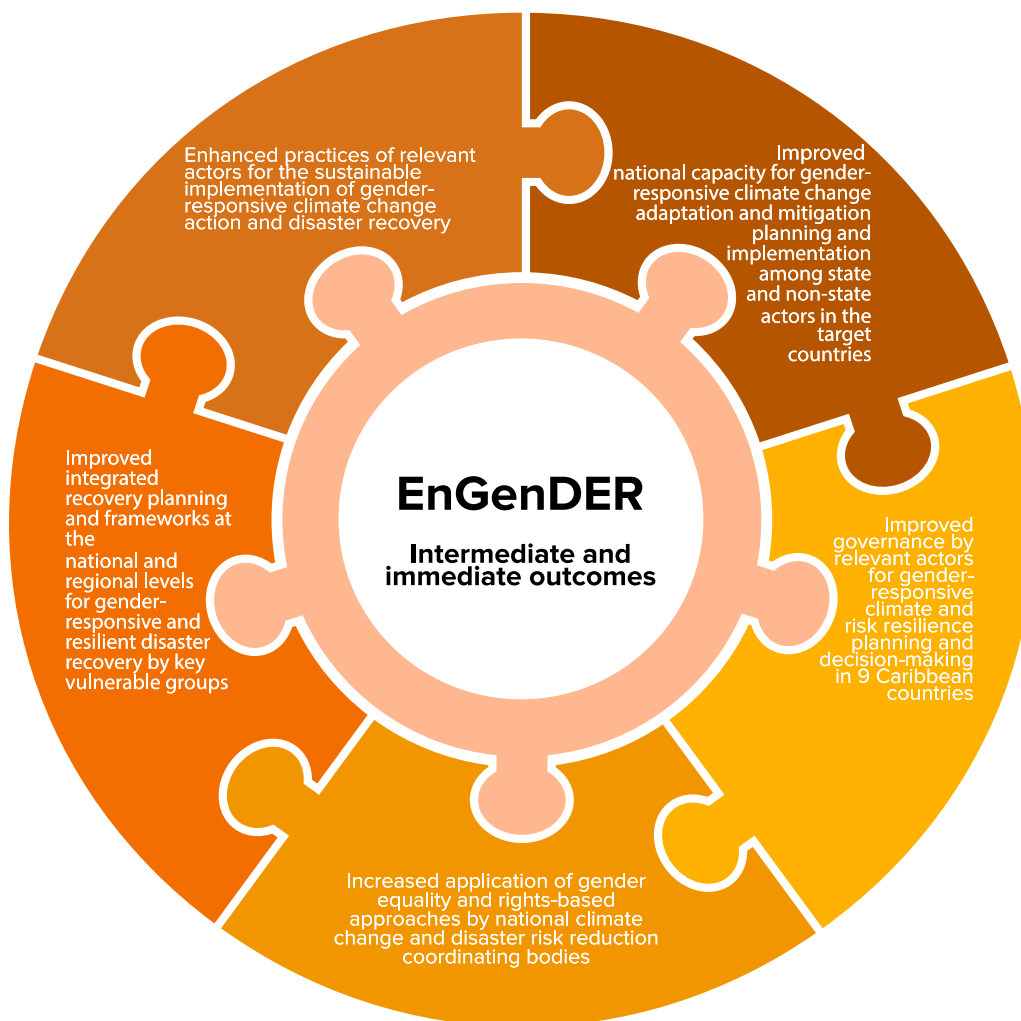
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EnGenDER DIMENSIONS

The **EnGenDER** project will support Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction and environmental management interventions in nine Caribbean countries by leveraging sector-level entry points (e.g. NAPs and NAMAs), specifically supporting implementation and/or upscaling of countries' priority actions. This project will analyse and prioritise the needs of the most vulnerable with respect to climate change adaptation and mitigation in priority sectors, including increasing their resilience in key livelihood sectors.

EnGenDER will also improve institutional capacities for delivering services effectively for the most vulnerable to accelerate post-disaster recovery and mitigate risk. By using a multi-disciplinary and integrated approach, the project also aims to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.



This newsletter was compiled from the contributions of the EnGenDER Project's donors and implementing partners. The submissions delved into the gender climate nexus and how EnGenDER interventions will support the achievement of gender-responsive disaster recovery and climate and environmental resilience in the Caribbean.

The articles explore the following topics:

- EnGenDER Dimensions
- Why Gender Matters
- Working in Caribbean Communities
- Future Action





Changes

This has changed life as we know it.

The monumental changes that have been wrought by the global pandemic that is COVID-19, require a monumental response. However, the response that is required is new in scale, not in nature. What this acute global emergency has done is highlight what the evidence has been saying for a long time – inequalities represent structural barriers to the wellbeing, coping capacity and decision-making power of men and women and exacerbate vulnerability to shocks. This is true for workers in the informal economy, mostly women, who cannot access national insurance; for children missing school because they have no uniforms or fees or lunch; for illegal immigrants subjected to unfair working conditions or sex and drug trafficking; or young men believing gang crime is their only route to escape poverty and exclusion. This is also true as the climate crisis quietly looms larger and SIDS are expected to suffer a disproportionate level of impact – the Caribbean is the second-most disaster-prone region in the world.

What has not worked is piecemeal disparate measures. As typified by the climate crisis, the current level of global commitment, far less action, is woefully inadequate to meet 1.5°C and arrest the scale of the threats small islands and vulnerable nations face. Similarly, the

patterns of economic growth continue to rely on resource exploitation, waste, pollution and oil. Today's Black Lives Matter protests worldwide attest that centuries of habits cannot be reversed by ad hoc course corrections.

Whatever challenge we may face nationally, regionally or globally, the most vulnerable populations are the ones most severely impacted. We are now at a turning point where we have opportunity to pivot, rebuild and recover by integrating risk, economic and energy resilience and equality for the betterment of all people, the planet and mutual prosperity.

The needed transformation is described as a “fundamental, system-wide reorganisation across technological, economic and social factors, including paradigms, goals and values” and we should indeed “expect opposition from those with interests vested in the status quo.”¹

One of the most important populations in this context is women. It is well documented that women are more severely impacted than men by both disasters and climate change due to a number of factors including, but not limited to, the role that they traditionally play in families and communities as primary caregivers, as well

Photo: Zaimis Olmos/UNDP

¹ 2019 IPBES Global Assessment Report

as providers of food and nutrition. In addition, women's tendency to have more limited access to resources often precludes them from not only economic improvement, but participation in decision making and leadership. This is further compounded when they are also identified in other marginalised groups such as income poor, with disabilities, or ethnic minorities including indigenous people. Increased opportunities for women to participate in both economic and community leadership activities have proven to be beneficial on both the individual household level, but also at the community level. To not take these vulnerabilities and nuances into account is to risk investing resources in areas where the impact will always be limited, and the opportunity to effect real and sustainable change could even be lost.

The **EnGenDER** project aims to open that unmistakable window of opportunity. It aims to mobilise actions, to improve outcomes in adaptation and resilience to climate change by dissecting gender-based needs and capacities and those of highly vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, and ultimately to craft strategies that leave no one behind. All voices, especially the invisible and excluded voices, need to be heard and represented in order to have a clearer picture of reality. Not just in project-level activities, but systematically at all levels in governance, in design and in execution. The ultimate outcome of the EnGenDER project is to support improved climate resilience for women and girls, key vulnerable populations and future generations in the Caribbean.

Formulating solutions that are inclusive and gender-responsive is not a one-time affair. Not only is gender analysis needed at many levels – from household contexts to government structures, but tools and approaches must also touch national policy, sector transformation and community engagement.

Likewise, EnGenDER is contributing to a human rights-based approach to promote gender equality as a core strategy for increasing resilience. This includes gender-based analysis to understand the nuances of men's and women's experiences, accordingly improving sector adaptation plans, budgets and decision-making, and building capacity to systematise and mainstream these inclusive and gender-responsive approaches. The project will also support a new mechanism at the regional level which supports post-disaster recovery that is responsive to marginalised groups and vulnerable populations. The Caribbean Resilient Recovery Facility will not only provide expertise post-impact but critically

help create the systems and capacities to improve countries' resilience pre-impact. To achieve this requires partnerships across all of society, which is why UNDP, UN Women, CDEMA and WFP are collaborating on this project and why we convene actors from different sectors and spaces.

In the words of UN Secretary-General António Guterres on this year's International Women's Day:

"Only through the equal participation of women can we benefit from the intelligence, experience and insights of all of humanity."

Formulating these solutions must also be flexible and evolve as people and contexts are also constantly shifting and the results of our work together leads to improving situations. Old problems and wicked problems² cannot be solved by the same thinking that created them and it may in fact exacerbate them. The magic potion must be bold and daring, and if it doesn't work, a different recipe is tested. However, there is no delusion that all problems can be fixed in one project, thus EnGenDER is also helping to mobilise new financing which also adopts this approach to transformation through innovation, gender equality, inclusion and empowerment.

The only thing constant in life is change. What is more important than the change itself is how we respond to that change.

Danielle Evanson

Former Head of Sustainable Solutions and Energy Cluster
UNDP Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean



Photo: Michael Atwood/UNDP

² There is no standard definition for "wicked problems" but they are generally considered to be nearly impossible to solve because of several factors e.g. they have multiple causes, there is incomplete knowledge about it, it involves many actors and large economic burden, and is interlinked with many other problems e.g. climate change, poverty.



Unleashing Potential: Addressing the Climate Change Gender Equality Nexus in Jamaica

Karen lives in a small rural community in Jamaica. She is married to Tom who is a fisher and they have one child, Simone. Karen is a farmer who specializes in cash crops such as hot pepper, lettuce, callaloo and sweet potato which she sells at the market nearest to her community to complement the household income as her vision is to give Simone a good education and a better life. While she loves it, farming for Karen has been a struggle because of inadequate access to irrigation water and the increasing frequency and severity of droughts in the countryside. Karen says she and others have been suffering from the impacts of what is called climate change.

Stories like this abound in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) such as Jamaica whose economy is highly dependent on its natural resources. As such, the men and women in many communities in Jamaica are dependent on the ecosystems for survival. While SIDS grapple with many development challenges, climate change is pervasive and persistent, and the impacts **threaten to undermine decades of development gains and risk future development paths**. Jamaica is already experiencing the effects of longer dry seasons, reduced rainfall, warmer temperatures and more intense and frequent storm systems. SIDS are disproportionately impacted by climate change and women are disproportionately affected.

The impacts of climate change and natural disasters on women are compounded by the fact that they are already disadvantaged in terms of accessing and sharing in development gains. For example, in Jamaica more females are unemployed than males (5.9% male vs. 9% females)³ and women are noticeably few in the apex of decision-making, although this is slowly changing. While UNDP's Human Development Report (HDR) 2019 categorizes Jamaica as a country with high human development, when discounted for gender inequality, the country slips to the middle development category.

The long and short of it is that gender inequality affects us all, but more importantly it disproportionately impacts women and girls, and this is exacerbated by climate change and natural disasters. Women like Karen in the story above will suffer more due to climate change if policy and other interventions are not put in place to not only build resilience but advance gender equality as outlined in Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality.

Human development is at the centre of UNDP's work and achieving gender equality is a core principle. As such, UNDP continuously identifies and supports Governments and other stakeholders in advancing climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster

³ Statistical Institute of Jamaica, January 2020

risk reduction strategies underscored by gender equality imperatives. Vulnerable populations including women are mostly affected by these issues. This is why the “Enabling Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery, Climate and Environmental Resilience in the Caribbean” (EnGenDer) Project is so important to Jamaica. Aligned with the national priorities, the EnGenDER project will complement the Government’s efforts to enhance resilience to climate change and natural disasters by leveraging the country’s access to climate financing and other initiatives with particular focus on those at risk of being left behind.

The EnGenDER project will work at the national and community levels to have the most impact and complement current initiatives that are already taking place. While innovation is at the core of the project, national systems that are already in place will be utilized.

At the national level, focus will be on supporting systematic changes in climate change, transport and agricultural policies, strategies and plans by infusing climate change and gender equality imperatives, a nexus that should not be ignored. Karen’s story shows the challenges women face in agriculture, but Karen is also affected by transport policies that do not adequately address the plight of women. The EnGenDER project will not only contribute to the Greenhouse Gas reduction potential of the transport sector but also ensure that the needs of women and men are addressed in transport policies, strategies and plans overall. The idea is to create climate-proof transport policies while ensuring world class service, equally accessible to women and men. For agriculture, the EnGenDER Project intends to support climate proofing agricultural policies and plans, especially with respect to enhancing water harvesting measures. Policies, strategies and plans are translated to reality on the ground in communities where real life happens. As such, the EnGenDER Project will support community-based activities to enhance climate change adaptation, sustainable agriculture and increased access to water for both domestic and irrigation uses. Being fully participatory, project beneficiaries (vulnerable women and men) will be part of the design and implementation of activities.

The aim is to transform and enhance the lives of persons in communities as well as nationally with a strong focus on empowering women and building their resilience to withstand and bounce back from crises. Under EnGenDER, UN Women will provide training to infuse gender considerations in national policies and planning.

The global pandemic (COVID-19) is also significantly impacting Jamaica and it is likely that women will be disproportionately affected. In line with UNDP’s support to the Government of Jamaica to prepare, respond and recover from the pandemic, funds of USD 100,000 have been reprogrammed under the EnGenDER Project to provide immediate humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable population with a focus on women. As such, the EnGenDER Project will support the provision of food and personal hygiene packages, cash transfers to vulnerable households and grants to female owned/operated micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Support for psychosocial aid will also be given to women who are facing Gender-based Violence (GBV). The COVID-19 support will target persons living with disabilities, female headed households, teenage mothers and women suffering from GBV.

Strategic partnerships (SDG 17) are essential to advance the climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and gender equality agendas. As such, with the EnGenDER Project being nationally anchored by the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Climate Change Division, a number of other partners are joining forces to ensure that the project is successfully implemented in Jamaica. These include the Planning Institute of Jamaica, the Bureau of Gender Affairs, the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development, The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM), academia, civil society and community-based organisations. Working with the private sector, especially at the community level is being explored. UNDP is also intending to partner with other international development partners (IDPs) doing similar work, where possible. The strategic partnerships with Global Affairs Canada and DFID are essential and the funding that they have provided for the EnGenDER Project is hoped to turn dreams into reality.

Enhancing resilience to climate change and natural disasters while simultaneously advancing gender equality is central for sustainable development and achieving Agenda 2030. Transforming lives is at the heart of the EnGenDER Project and while we work at the policy level, we want to ensure that Karen and many other women can enhance their livelihoods through practical interventions provided through the project.

Richard Kelly

Programme Specialist, UNDP Jamaica

Photo: Zeimis Olmos/UNDP



WHY GENDER MATTERS

Gender-transformative Hurricane Resilience During the COVID-19 Crisis

Avoid. Reduce. Transfer. Assume. These terms are used to describe decisions we make in our daily lives about managing risk, including disaster risk. The impact of natural hazards is not only influenced by their intensity, but also by people's vulnerability, which is directly related to socio-economic factors influencing exposure and the ability to recover. These factors also include elements of gender inequality.

Many Caribbean countries are still in recovery mode from the impacts of environmental hazards, such as hurricanes and tropical storms, which caused more than USD 118 billion in damage and losses over the past 3 years (CDEMA, 2020). Against this backdrop, Caribbean countries and their people, women, men, boys and girls alike are now managing responses to the unprecedented 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), which has been described by the Honourable Mia Mottley, Chair of CARICOM and Barbados' Prime Minister, as "the most destabilizing event for our countries, probably since World War II," during a live CNN Interview on 29 April 2020.

Physical distancing and quarantine measures, curfews, border closures and virtual engagements have become

paramount to saving lives and livelihoods as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. While these restrictions are critical in reducing the spread of COVID-19, they have had a detrimental impact on the Caribbean economy, citizen security and gender equality. Tourism, which contributes more than 25% to the GDP of most Caribbean countries has stalled, a significant number of women who are the majority in the informal sector are now unemployed and, a stark increase in violence against women and children has been reported during the lockdown.

The extent of the socio-economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic has begun to shape the "new normal" for CARICOM Member States. A 1.5% contraction of GDP has already been estimated by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC, 2020). The disruption of international and regional supply distribution chains due to halts in manufacturing plants and business operations in tourism for example, will also result in significant shortages and/or increased cost of goods and materials, and further hits to economies across the Caribbean region.

While governments balance this "new normal," there is also an 'above-average' forecast for the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season, which takes place from June 1 to November 30. Two weeks before the official start of the Hurricane Season, Tropical Storm Arthur, the first named storm for 2020, forced authorities and communities to speed up their prevention and preparedness measures to prepare for impact.

In the face of these challenges, cost-effective prevention and preparedness measures are critical. Experience

shows that gender-responsive prevention and preparedness leads to more effective local and national response and better management of infectious diseases. To this end, women's leadership and contributions are critical to curbing infection rates and enabling resilience and recovery.

Strengthening Resilience in the Home

Women's essential role in household disaster preparedness is now even more critical. Data from various regulating bodies around the region has revealed that there is high demand for social assistance grants as result of increased unemployment rates caused by the COVID-19 crisis. Single-parent households that are headed by single mothers especially, will now also require support for the added expense of hurricane preparedness supplies. Women and their families will need recourses to be able to purchase the recommended food items to withstand a hurricane impact. These must be non-perishable and stockpiled to last for at least a 2-week period.

Individuals must also prepare and test their Family Disaster Plans, taking into consideration public health safety measures. People may have to follow Government stipulated schedules for when they can leave home, wearing masks as they do so, as seen in the Bahamas and other countries. Apart from the normal supermarket and medication stock ups, they will also have to obtain necessary preparedness items from hardware stores before there is a run on these items and crowding in the


stores. Individuals will also need to stock up on cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items to maintain household sanitation and personal care, which are already scarce in supply and/or unreasonably overpriced.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the demands of the "care economy" (paid and unpaid care and domestic work) have increased. Schools are physically closed, and parents are expected to work and support their children through online learning. These demands will continue and extend into the Hurricane Season. It is important for men to share the responsibilities of care and domestic work. In addition to the conflation of formal work and unpaid care work that families are experiencing, especially single mothers and fathers, one devastating weather event can exacerbate the ability of parents to provide care and resources for their children. Since most students are now enrolled in virtual classrooms, any one hurricane can result in the disruption of electricity and/or telecommunication services such as internet, which would also affect parents' ability to work remotely. Therefore, Family Preparedness Kits should include not only important documents such as passports and immunization cards, but also educational material (secured in plastic) to allow for the continuation of learning and active engagement of children.

[Read more here](#)

Kyana Bowen
Programme Officer, Humanitarian, Climate Change and
Disaster Risk Reduction
UN Women





‘EnGenDER – A Cog in Complex Machinery to Ensure the Caribbean “Builds Back Better”

Photo: Zairis Olmos/UNDP

Climate change remains one of the biggest global threats to sustainable development and our own way of life. The impact is already having a disproportionate effect on the world’s poorest communities, and without concerted global action the world could see reversals in the huge gains in global poverty reduction which the UK ODA has helped to achieve over the last few decades.

Development and economic growth need to be risk informed to ensure sustainability. Reducing disaster losses is key to eradicating poverty. There are complex interactions between natural hazards and human vulnerabilities, and it has been proven that whilst disasters happen globally, the burden of effects are heavily skewed toward the most vulnerable.⁴

People exposed to natural hazards in the poorest nations are over seven times more likely to die, and are six times more likely to be injured, lose their home, be displaced or evacuated or require emergency assistance, than equivalent populations in the richest nations, with 91% of disaster events being climate related. Storms were by far the costliest type of disaster, and

globally, the heaviest cost of storms relative to the size of their economies fall on the Caribbean. Every single one of the top 10 worst affected countries/territories in terms of losses as a percentage of GDP in the past 20 years were Caribbean countries/territories.

The UK has provided £5 million to eight ODA-eligible Caribbean governments to strengthen pre and post disaster management through better (a) public financial planning, and (b) improved recovery systems and resilience measures for poor and vulnerable groups. This programme is part of a broader package of support to the Caribbean region, including innovative support on disaster risk financing channelled through the Centre for Global Disaster Protection in London, the World Bank and the Global Risk Financing facility.

Implementation is through partnerships with the IMF’s Caribbean Regional Technical Assistant Centre (CARTAC) who provides public financial management advice, and a project called “Enabling Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery, Climate and Environmental Resilience in the Caribbean” (EnGenDER), co-financed by the Government of Canada, which is executed by three UN Agencies (UNDP, World Food Programme and UN Women) as well as the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

⁴ The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction in conjunction with the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) has released a 20-year review: “**Economic losses, poverty & disasters 1998-2017**.” (Full report can be found [here](#)).



The EnGenDER programme is part of a multi-donor, multi-project effort to deliver outcomes which will transform the way we plan and invest to secure food and water and reduce the impact of disaster. This means:

transforming planning and investment to build resilient economies and societies;

supporting people in vulnerable situations by enhancing their capacities to adapt to climate change impacts; and

protecting our environment whilst building resilient communities, particularly in rural areas.

The World, in grappling with the current COVID-19 pandemic, has had a stark reminder of how disasters disproportionately affect the vulnerable. We no longer must model effects, as the data collected now confirms what many of us know. The effect of disasters disproportionately affects women and girls and is often compounded by social protection issues. Confinement, loss of income, and increased psychosocial needs have led to a global spike in gender-based, intimate partner and domestic violence.

The EnGenDER Programme activities fit as a cog into a larger machinery to integrate gender equality and human-rights based approaches into disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and environmental management frameworks. This will allow the Region to 'build back better' from the myriad of hazards that the region faces and enhance the opportunities for economic growth and ensure that no one is left behind.

Patricia Shako
Climate and Disaster Resilience Advisor
Department for International Development (DFID)



WORKING IN CARIBBEAN COMMUNITIES

Strengthening National Resilience in the Age of COVID-19

Photo: UN Women/Sharon Carter-Burke

Given the unprecedented impacts of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) across the Caribbean region, the “Resilience in the Age of COVID-19” Workshop hosted by the UN Women Multi-Country Office (MCO) Caribbean attracted approximately 90 technical specialists from the Climate Change, Agriculture, Tourism and Gender sectors across the nine participating EnGenDER countries.

The virtual session held on Wednesday 10th June 2020, provided a platform for Technical Specialists to highlight synergies between their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) but also to Specifically spotlight the application of gender-responsive tools to achieve effective and efficient adaptation financing.

Given that disasters disproportionately affect women and girls; creating situations which are further compounded by social protection issues, UN Women MCO Caribbean Head of Office a.i. Tonni Brodber stressed: “It is impossible to be resilient without thinking about how a hazard impacts the lives of women, men, boys and girls differently. The EnGenDER project is supporting Caribbean Governments in people-centered risk reduction, which is by its very focus gender responsive.”

Opening the session, Senior Director of Global Affairs Canada Caribbean Regional Programme, Benoît-Pierre Laramée in his remarks highlighted: “Recent catastrophic disasters, including a number of devastating hurricanes and now COVID-19, remind us that we need to take action and that business-as-usual approaches are no longer an option. Climate Change has had an extreme impact in agriculture, fisheries, health, tourism, water availability, recreation and energy

use among other things. We also know that women, girls and vulnerable populations are on the front lines of these crises and often suffer the most. As such, we hope that governments prioritize sectors that ensure women and the most vulnerable remain at the forefront”.

Stefan Kossoff, Head of Office, UK Department for International Development (DFID Caribbean) emphasized: “The COVID-19 economic downturn will differ from previous crises, as many of the sectors overexposed to the collapse in economic activity, such as tourism, absorb a sizeable share of female employment. Women’s livelihoods have been drastically impacted by the pandemic, as many rely on informal employment or run small businesses to survive - an issue of great concern for the humanitarian agencies.”

Danielle Evanson, Former Head of Sustainable Solutions and Energy Cluster, UNDP Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean said: “Our collective presence through the EnGenDER project aims to open that unmistakable window of opportunity to mobilise actions to improve outcomes in adaptation and resilience to climate change by dissecting gender-based needs and capacities and those of highly vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities to craft strategies that leave no one behind.”

The participatory session incorporated presentations and activities from the MCO, UNDP, World Bank and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). IISD, a Canadian NGO, began the session by setting the context for a gender-responsive approach to building climate and disaster resilience. This triggered active interaction as participants made key contributions that further shaped the flow of the workshop (See Activity results in Figure 1 and 2).



Figure 1: Word cloud of participant responses to the question “What does Gender-responsiveness mean to you?”

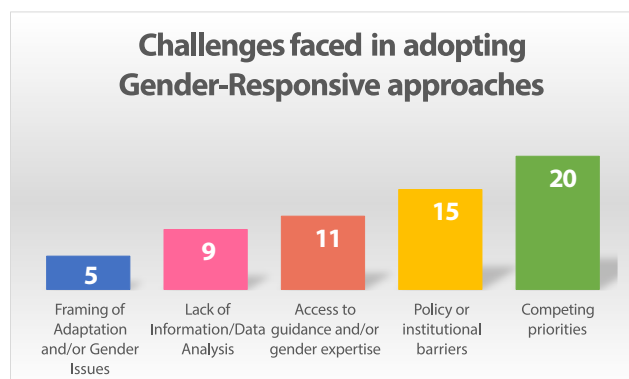


Figure 2: Illustration of participant responses to their major challenges in adopting Gender-Responsive approaches.

EnGenDER’s implementation similarities with the World Bank’s “The Caribbean Resilience Facility” project, offered the opportunity to collaborate, and the Bank delivered a 20-minute presentation on Gender-Responsive Budgeting.

UNDP, through the EnGenDER Project Management Unit, shared on the joint UNDP – UN Women approach for the development of the Budgeted Gender-Responsive Sectoral Plans within the nine countries as outlined in the priority sectors of their respective NAPs. This is another key activity under the EnGenDER Project next steps.

UN Women then harnessed the principles and good practice of Gender Equality Mainstreaming and Gender-Responsive Budgeting to outline the key concepts of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and highlight the key gender inequality issues that may arise in times of disaster. Participants were also able to apply suitable approaches to achieve Gender-Transformative Disaster Resilience through a Case Study exercise that was held on 25 June 2020.

Given the COVID-19 impacted *new normal*, which has meant that in-person training sessions have been replaced by virtual trainings, UN Women is pleased that the training was well received. Approximately 80% of respondents found the training valuable. One participant indicated that the training “broadened considerations/understanding of the varying impacts disasters have, and that COVID-19 has had, on males, females and individuals within those categories; clarifying perspective through the comparison with COVID-19 that the disaster risks we face are not only natural/environmental/physical; (plans regarding NAP implementation), it provided new or additional lens through which to look at an event and identify solutions.” Another participant indicated that “This is a new normal and I believe that the deliverables were met despite constraints.”

Mr. Laramée, closed his remarks by commending the MCO. He stated; “I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the hard work of UN Women in delivering this initiative. We are especially proud of your role in implementing the EnGenDER Project, particularly in advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment in the context of Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction.”

Kyana Bowen
Programme Officer, Humanitarian, Climate Change and
Disaster Risk Reduction
UN Women





Intervention Against Gender Based Violence During COVID-19 in Suriname

The ongoing health pandemic, COVID-19, places a toll on each country and its people as measures to contain and control the spread of COVID-19 are taken. While the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have yet to be fully understood, it is already clear that some of these measures unwillingly led to an environment for increased exposure to GBV. Measures such as confinement conditions, closing of schools, limited or closing of services and curfews. Many persons are in 'lockdown' at home with their abusers while being cut off from normal support services. Former President of the Republic of Suriname, Desiré Delano Bouterse indicated in his statement of June 20, 2020 that one of the observations made during the total lockdown period of two weeks was the increase in mental and physical complaints, particularly in poorly and small-housed families.

Suriname is working on collecting data from various channels to analyze and interpret the figures. Although that process has not been completed yet, it is no overstatement to assume that Suriname too is experiencing an increase in domestic violence. – *stated by the Former Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Mike Noersalim.*

The EnGenDER project is supporting Suriname through "Gender Based Violence (GBV) interventions in response to COVID-19 measures project". This is funded by Global Affairs Canada.

The aim of this localized GBV intervention is to immediately provide support to ensure continuation of essential GBV services, including through remote service provision by the establishment of GBV referral pathways for improved access to services. Secondly, to increase knowledge on GBV and stress coping mechanisms to prevent violence and to strengthen the available support services.

The EnGenDER Project is aiming to improve the institutional capacities for delivering services effectively to the most vulnerable and to accelerate post-disaster recovery and mitigate risk. In the upcoming six months several community engagement activities will be rolled out as well as specific activities targeted to social workers/case workers and victims of GBV. A training of trainers on remote GBV case management service provision to build a national corps of GBV trainers and to strengthen the capacity of social workers/case workers in Suriname, is one of the targeted activities.

The Ministry of Justice and Police, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are working together with civil society organisations and government institutions for this response to GBV during the COVID-19 emergency in Suriname.

Gillian Babb
Focal Point - EnGenDER
UNDP Suriname



Photo Zaimis Omos/UNDP

Improving Disaster Recovery

The road to improving disaster recovery in the future has many paths. An important one is research and evidence, which asks "what do we know?" in order to pinpoint challenges and identify solutions. In the case of WFP's work on shock-responsive social protection through EnGenDER, in collaboration with Oxford Policy Management, several aspects of this question are explored to determine how social protection can better support people vulnerable to and impacted by disasters and crises.

The first aspect is analysing how social protection and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) systems and policies relate to one another in the Caribbean. While several Caribbean countries have quite comprehensive DRM frameworks, DRM has yet to be mainstreamed in many sectors, including social protection. At the same time, several national disaster management mechanisms include a specific role for ministries responsible for social protection, and issues of disaster risk and climate change are becoming more frequently included in social protection policies. The research also found a widely held view that social protection has a role to play in addressing the impacts of disasters and substantial interest in strengthening this role.

A second dimension of the research is understanding experiences to date on using social protection to support people to cope with the impacts of disasters and financial crisis. Here the research found a small but growing number of examples, including the use of social protection in response to hurricanes in Grenada (2004), Jamaica (2007) and Dominica (2017), as well as helping to protect the economic well-being of people hit by the 2008 financial crisis (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia and Jamaica).

Finally, the research looked closely at social protection and DRM in Belize, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Guyana and Dominica to identify ways to prepare social protection systems to respond to shocks and strengthen links with DRM. Through working closely with national disaster agencies and social protection ministries, case studies were produced that outline practical steps on how information management, targeting, coordination, financing and delivery mechanisms could be strengthened and used to provide assistance to people impacted by shocks. Engaging with social protection ministries and national disaster offices throughout the process helps make research a catalyst for change rather than a report on a shelf.

As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded, every country in the EnGenDER programme has turned to social protection in some form to help address the economic impacts of COVID-19. WFP's regional research, capacity-building and learning initiatives on shock-responsive social protection have provided a base to inform these efforts and will continue to evolve, driven by lessons emerging from the COVID-19 experiences.

Sarah Bailey

Head of Programme, World Food Programme (WFP)



FUTURE ACTION

Next Steps

1

The coronavirus pandemic is teaching us several things and there are parallels that can be drawn between the pandemic and climate change. Whatever challenge may be faced nationally, regionally or globally, which tests the resilience of social structure and institutions, it has become evident that the poorest and most vulnerable sectors of populations are the ones most severely at risk. In the framework of UN strategy to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, UNDP, UN Women and the Government of Canada have worked together to reprogram USD 1,149,000 of EnGenDER resources (USD 900,000 from UNDP original allocation and USD 249,000 from UN Women) to support governments' actions by addressing the compelling needs of the most vulnerable segments of the population in nine Caribbean countries.

2

One of the main goals of EnGenDER is to support the Caribbean in its effort to access climate finance. To do so, an Offer of Complementary Funding to Governments was issued, that saw the successful submission of proposals from six countries. To this end, this complementary funding to Governments will assist in accelerating the closure of the existing climate financing gaps and in so doing will contribute to achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and increased national resilience. As the evaluation process of the proposals is being finalised by an ad hoc panel composed of DFID, the government of Canada and UNDP, we look forward to providing further updates on the next releases of the EnGenDER newsletter.

3

The Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) is an analytical process used to assess how diverse groups of people may experience policies, programmes and initiatives and has been used by the Government of Canada since 1995. During the next months, EnGenDER will be merging this approach with a human-rights based Climate Change Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) to conduct the first in-depth baseline assessment of gender and climate change policy and programming in nine Caribbean countries. The data stemming from this study will inform the formulation of tailored-capacity building initiatives as well as the development of budgeted gender-responsive and inclusive NAP and NAMA sector action plans.