

EnGenDER Climate Resilience Analysis: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



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

A gender-based climate resilience analysis was undertaken from September 2020 to April 2021 in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) under the Enabling Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery, Climate and Environmental Resilience in the Caribbean (EnGenDER) Project. The project is led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and funded by Global Affairs Canada and the United Kingdom Government. Its overall goal is to enhance gender-responsive climate and disaster resilience in the Caribbean.

The analysis focused on existing gender and social inequities, how climate change will impact on and shape the vulnerabilities among men, women, boys and girls and key vulnerable groups (e.g. elderly, persons with disabilities), and key gaps and opportunities to mainstream gender in two priority sectors in SVG:

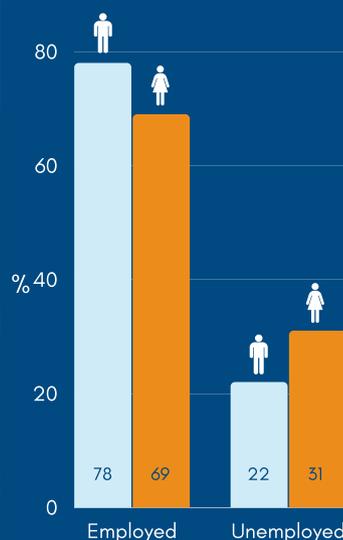
- Agriculture (crops, livestock and fisheries)
- Water

SVG's economy and priority sectors are extremely vulnerable to Climate Change



SVG's highly populated, low-lying coastline is at risk from sea level rise, storm surges and floods which damage coastal community infrastructure and affect livelihoods based in agriculture and tourism. Warmer and drier conditions will reduce crops and fisheries productivity, especially for the Grenadine islands which are especially at risk from water shortages due to drought and coral bleaching due to warmer seas.

Total Saint Vincent and the Grenadines labour force, 2017



While men, women, boys and girls are all at risk from the negative impacts of climate change, labour force data show that women have lower employment rates and are heavily engaged in the informal sector (e.g., agro-processing and vending) with limited earnings and social protections, making them and children in their care less able to adapt to shocks. Rural communities are also vulnerable to climate change impacts due to their heavy reliance on agriculture and fisheries, remote location, limited access to services and infrastructure, and high levels of poverty. The elderly and persons with disabilities are also marginalized and vulnerable.

For more information:

<https://www.bb.undp.org/content/barbados/en/home/projects/EnGenDER.html>

Progress and Gaps

SVG has made strides towards gender mainstreaming in its climate change policies, including the National Climate Change Policy and Strategy, National Adaptation Plan and sectoral adaptation plans for agriculture and water, and in recent project interventions. Key gaps in response remain, however, including:



There is no National Gender Policy, and there is limited gender data to provide guidance for integration of gender concerns



Limited gender-responsive budgeting, and lack of formal institutional mechanisms for cross sectoral and coordinated action on gender



Relatively high levels of poverty and food insecurity and low social protection coverage which increases vulnerability to climate hazards

Recommendations

Agriculture

- Increase investment and training for micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) development, particularly for women and youth, and support entrepreneurship in climate-smart and other lucrative areas of agriculture and fisheries value chains
- Increase financial support, including loans, to increase women's access to land, equipment and clean, safe water for agricultural activities
- Improve childcare and labour provisions to enable more women to participate in agriculture and fisheries

Water

- Develop sustainable and resilient water management systems, with a focus on rainwater harvesting in rural communities, to ensure adequate access to clean water and sanitation

Cross cutting

- Develop a National Gender Policy and Action Plan, including strategies to improve gender statistics and build institutional capacity for gender-responsive implementation at national and sectoral levels
- Implement gender-responsive budgeting to enhance public sector investment and interventions to mainstream gender and build climate resilience
- Strengthen social protection programmes and ensure they are gender-responsive and target those most in need

