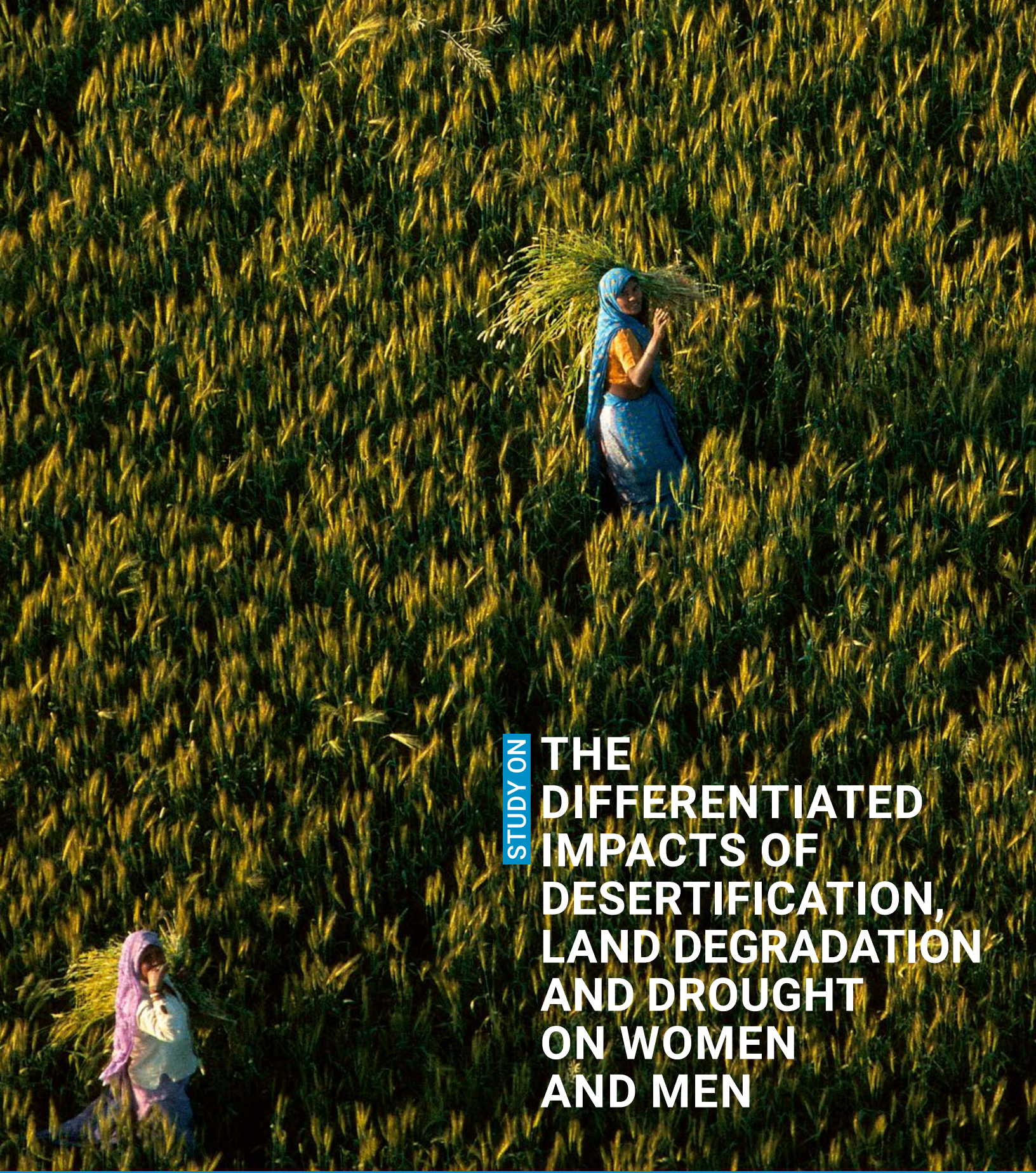




STUDY ON

THE DIFFERENTIATED IMPACTS OF DESERTIFICATION, LAND DEGRADATION AND DROUGHT ON WOMEN AND MEN



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification

United for land

S U M M A R Y F O R D E C I S I O N M A K E R S

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THE DIFFERENTIATED IMPACTS OF DESERTIFICATION, LAND DEGRADATION AND DROUGHT ON WOMEN AND MEN

SUMMARY FOR DECISION MAKERS

Undertaking an analysis of the gender impacts of desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) requires looking at the socio-economic issues that affect women and men differently when the land is degraded or when drought occurs. It means looking at how they are impacted, as well as at the coping mechanisms that they are able to develop in a given socio-cultural and economic context.

This study, commissioned by the UNCCD Secretariat, sheds light on the most relevant problems, as well as solutions, associated to how DLDD affect women and men differently, with an overall impact on the environment and on societies. Its purpose is to inform decision-making processes that relate to gender equality in the context of the UNCCD, specifically around the formulation of concrete policies and measures towards the implementation of the UNCCD's Gender Action Plan.

By the adoption of the Gender Action Plan back in COP 13 (2017), Parties to the Convention already acknowledged the specific role of women in land restoration and sustainable land management, as well as the importance of gender equality as a guiding principle in all policies and decisions associated to the fulfilment of the objectives of the Convention.



"Women are major actors in the global efforts to reduce and reverse land degradation. They restore land, they protect land, they cherish, nourish and care for the land, while also caring for others."

Ibrahim Thiaw

Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)



UNDERLYING ISSUES

LAND RIGHTS

In many countries, women have unequal and limited opportunities to access or own land in their name. As part of this study, a review of the most recent data from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)–Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI)¹ was conducted. It reveals major gaps with regards to women’s land ownership across regions.

The plurality of legal systems renders women’s land and property rights vulnerable or insecure. Equitable land governance and land security tenure are critical to enabling land restoration efforts led by women.

Inheritance laws and practices also tend to block women from owning land. The research found that disinheritance of the surviving spouse still occurs in 96 countries, where there are contradictory and/or no clear uniformity in legal regimes that govern inheritance rights. Women’s rights to inherit their husband’s property are denied in 102 countries under customary, religious, or traditional laws and practices. In addition, 103 countries do not criminalize property dispossession or grabbing of inheritance.

102 countries denied rights under customary, religious, or traditional laws and practices.

103 countries do not criminalize property dispossession or grabbing of inheritance.

COSTA RICA

 **15.6%**

CENTRAL ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS

 **23%**

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

 **4%**

Even in countries where women have the same legal rights as men to own and access land – as is the case in Costa Rica – only 15.6% of farm ownership is in the hands of women. In Central Asia and the Caucasus, despite legal gender equality under law, women own on average only 23% of land. In the Middle East and North Africa only 4% of women hold land titles.

Source: OECD, 2019. SIGI 2019 Global Report: Transforming Challenges into Opportunities. Social Institutions and Gender Index and Quesada-Aguilar, A. 2019. Plan de Acción de Género de la Estrategia Nacional REDD+. Secretaría REDD+Banco Mundial, MINAE, FCPF. Washington, D.C. USA.



¹ OECD, 2019. SIGI 2019 Global Report: Transforming Challenges into Opportunities. Social Institutions and Gender Index. OECD Publishing, Paris

ACCESS TO RESOURCES (CREDITS, INPUTS, TECHNOLOGIES, ETC.)

The study found that women and other disadvantaged groups are more susceptible to climate shocks due to the lack of diversification of their assets, as well as less access to resources to cope with and recover from the damages. This study applies an intersectional lens, meaning that not all genders are equally disadvantaged, other characteristics such as ethnicity, age, income level, matrimonial status, disability status, urban or rural location, and other aspects of identity and situation play an important part.

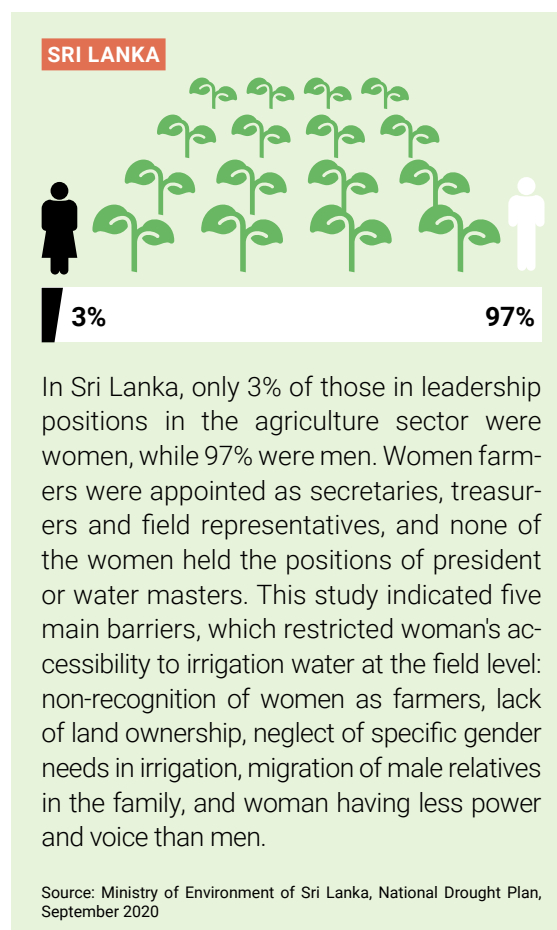
Not having land titles that can be used as collateral, or the lack of secure tenure, hinder women's access to loans and credit, and also limit their access to extension services and training. The lack of recognition of women as farmers and the lack of social acceptance of women's involvement in certain agricultural activities may also lead to their exclusion from decision-making spaces, access to credit, information and services.

Direct and indirect gender-related barriers limit the adoption of sustainable land management (SLM) practices by women. Land tenure insecurity, land availability, education and literacy, gender norms and roles, access to information, agricultural inputs, extension services and financing all play a role in their access to SLM technologies. As a result, women tend to adopt SLM technologies at a rate that is typically lower and slower than that of men. Technology is not gender-neutral: a woman's decision to adopt or not a specific technology is influenced by the agricultural production system, cultural and social contexts, and affordability. Technology can reduce reliance on male or hired labor, reduce women's labor-time, and has a potential to increase women's income and crop yields.

EDUCATION, KNOWLEDGE, TRAINING AND SKILLS

The gendered division of labor prevalent in agriculture, as well as gender norms and perceptions found in many cultures, often limit women's access to training necessary to respond to the effects of climate change, in relation to drought-resistant crop varieties, irrigation technologies and a range of farming techniques.

When droughts become full-fledged disasters, technology is critical to manage the risks. However, early warnings in many cases do not reach women. The research found that women have less access than men to climate forecasts, mainly because the means and ways of transmitting the information are often not appropriate for women (i.e., language barriers, written documents, workshops outside the community, timing of the meetings). Women's lack of participation and involvement impacts their role in preparing effectively for droughts.



PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

It is noteworthy that within the sample taken by this study, in some countries women do not hold a single seat in local government, while in others approximately three out of four seats are held by women. In the implementation Annex I of the Convention, there are countries where women do not have a single seat, in contrast to Annex III, which contains the country where more women hold seats, precisely 72%. However, it was also observed that in Annex III, according to the median and the minimum, 50% of the countries in the sample belonging to this Annex have percentages of seats held by women between 9% and 32.5%, which is low.

In Annex II, the fact that the median and maximum are 16.5% and 44% stands out, because this indicates that 50% of the countries have a percentage of seats held by women between 16% and 44% of the total number of seats available, the percentages being highly variable in those countries.

TABLE Trend measures percentage of female seats in local government by Annex in the 55 countries sampled.

Regional Implementation Annexes	TREND MEASURES IN %			
	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Median
Total	0,0	72,0	27,3	28,0
Annex I	0,0	49,0	24,6	19,5
Annex II	10,0	44,0	21,8	16,5
Annex III	9,0	72,0	34,3	32,5
Annex IV	10,0	44,0	31,6	34,0
Annex V	9,0	48,0	29,0	29,5

AFGHANISTAN



Men are consulted more often than women by humanitarian organizations. For example, in Afghanistan, while 70% of men reported being consulted about their needs, nearly 70% of women had not been consulted.

Source: CARE. 2021. Rapid Gender Analysis, Drought in Afghanistan: Balkh, Ghazni, Herat, and Kandahar Provinces.

NATURAL DISASTERS

Moreover, in 2007, the London School of Economics conducted the most extensive analysis ever done on the effects of natural disasters across 141 countries. They concluded that although disasters create hardships for everyone, on average, they kill more women than men, or kill women at a younger age than men. In this respect, they also found that natural disasters lower the life expectancy in women more so than in men.

Source: Neumayer, E. and Plümpert, T. 2007. The Gendered Nature of Natural Disasters: The Impact of Catastrophic Events on the Gender Gap in Life Expectancy, 1981–2002, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 97:3, 551-566, DOI: 10.1111/j.1467-8306.2007.00563.x



SNAPSHOT ON GENDER PARITY AT UNCCD COP14

The Conference of Parties is the ultimate decision-making body on matters relating to the Convention. While the Gender Action Plan states that Parties will aim for gender parity at all levels of decision-making and implementation of the Convention by 2030, the research found that women's participation in the COP has been quite low, as 79% of delegates attending COP14 were male, and 21% female.

The study found that the average sex composition of all the national delegations to UNCCD COP14, held in 2019, was 22% female and 78% males. Of the 55 countries sampled: 35% had no women participants at COP14, 43% had one to three women participants, 13% had four to six women participants, and 9% had seven or more participants.

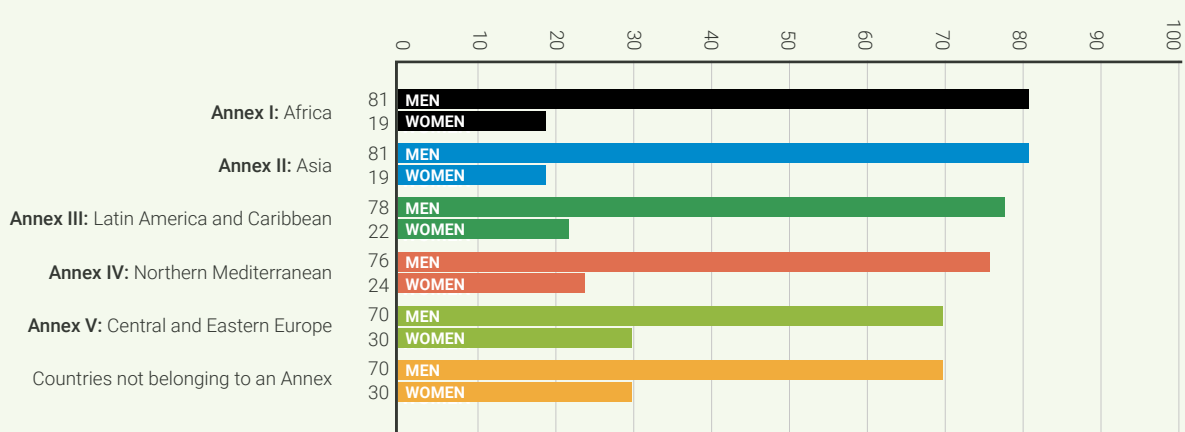
These findings show a substantial gender imbalance. Measures must be determined that encourage and enable the equitable participation of men and women in these high-level delegations in future COPs. The extent of participation by delegates has never been assessed, and further analysis could be undertaken by looking at, for example: the speaking time taken by female delegates, their seniority level and their key engagements.

LACK OF RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION – HOW INSTITUTIONS AND COMMUNITIES TEND TO RENDER WOMEN'S INVISIBLE

Where women do not legally own their land, or where customs and practices prevent their land ownership, they are not recognized as farmers or value chain actors. As a result, they are excluded from access to extension services and inputs available to bona fide farmers, most of whom are men. Due to gender bias, rural women are frequently less able to access new agricultural technology or credit and make investments for sustainable land management such as soil conservation and augmentation, terracing, tree planting and establishment of buffer zones.²



GRAPH Percentage of women and men by Annex



² Tzili, M. 2018. Towards a Gender-Responsive Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. UN Women. New York, USA.

IMPACTS

CARE WORK

In all regions, women perform more care work in comparison with men. Drought and land degradation tend to increase the burden of unpaid care and domestic work shouldered by women and girls, which is also compounded by COVID-19. During droughts, the work of “caring for others” is expressed partly by standing in line and waiting for water, walking long distances and protecting the sick from unsafe water.

In the summer of 2018, in a parish of Caracas, Venezuela, the water service was interrupted for 60 days due to drought. By way of a solution, the residents took advantage of the water stored in a tank in a neighboring building, which they were allowed to access daily from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. In order to fill a container with just 15 liters of water, long lines were formed in which it was observed that the majority were women, who after arriving from work, picking up their children at school or doing housework, had to finish the day waiting for their turn to bring some water to their home, giving up time that would have been dedicated to rest, learning or other activities.

Source: National Drought Plan of Venezuela, 2019.

FOOD SECURITY

When drought and land degradation occur, related food scarcity affects intra-family food distribution. Women tend to eat smaller portions or skip meals, leading to stomach aches, vomiting, weakness, diarrhea and malnutrition. The study also found that food scarcity is linked to the higher incidence of miscarriages, and maternal and child death.

Significant livestock deaths are reported by pastoral communities in drought-affected areas of Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya, mostly affecting sheep and cattle. As a result, household production of milk and meat is low, and the price of milk and other dairy products has skyrocketed. Accordingly, food consumption patterns are deteriorating, with many households in cross-border areas reporting that they are skipping meals and eating less when they do eat. In Turkana, Uganda, 42% of households skipped the entire day without eating

Source: UNICEF. 2017. Horn of Africa. A Call for Action.

HEALTH

Carrying water has a negative effect on the health of women of all ages: young women, girls and pregnant women in particular. Water-carrying methods impose physical loads that can cause musculoskeletal disorders and related disabilities.

The time that is required from women to perform household chores could be spent on paid work/economic activity, education, leisure, or rest. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), globally women spend a collective 200 million hours every day collecting water. By way of illustration, in sub-Saharan Africa, one round trip to collect water takes 33 minutes on average in rural areas and 25 minutes in urban areas. In Asia, the numbers are 21 minutes and 19 minutes, respectively.



SUB-SAHARIAN AFRICA

RURAL: **33 minutes**

URBAN: **25 minutes**

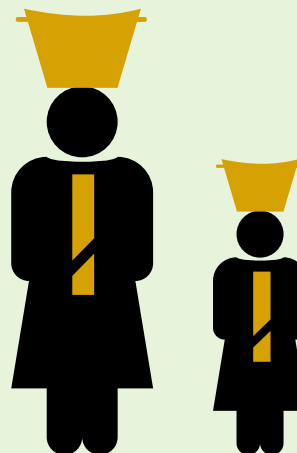


ASIA

RURAL: **21 minutes**

URBAN: **19 minutes**

SOUTH AFRICA



SPINAL PAIN 69%

BACK PAIN 38%

A pioneering study conducted in South Africa concludes that water-carrying methods impose physical loads with the potential to cause musculoskeletal disorders and related disability. The prevalence of spinal (neck or back) pain was 69%, and back pain was 38% for women carrying containers on their head (mean container weight 19.5 kg) over a mean distance of 337 meters.

Source: Geere, J.A.L., Hunter, P.R. and Jagals, P. 2010. Domestic water carrying and its implications for health: a review and mixed methods pilot study in Limpopo Province, South Africa. *Environ Health* 9, 52.



MIGRATION

Drought-related migration increases women's workloads and can lead to reduction of the available resources and labor. Women left to manage their households may lack the power to make timely farming decisions, or to respond to the effects of drought, land degradation and desertification, or extreme weather events. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) points out³ that all migrants are vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, but female migrants are particularly at risk from sexual exploitation, trafficking and violence. Breakdown of protection systems means perpetrators can abuse with impunity. Lack of shelter, overcrowding in camps and poorly lit public toilets increase the risk of gender-based violence, including sexual violence. Moreover, when abuses occur, many migrant women and girls lack the resources, support systems and knowledge to seek help.



DROUGHT

32,000
displacements

According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) 2021 Global Report, conflict and disasters triggered 40.5 million new displacements across 149 countries – the highest number ever recorded. Of these, 32,000 were related to drought. As recognized in the 2019 OECD global report, migrants are often portrayed as a homogeneous group and with little attention paid to the particular needs of women and girl migrants.

Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). 2021. Global Report: Internal displacement in a changing climate.

ACCESS TO FINANCING

Women farmers, entrepreneurs and women's organizations are under-represented in major land restoration initiatives, programs and policy processes. The research shows that limited access to decision-making, structural inequalities and discriminatory laws and practices impact negatively on women's access to financing. In recent years, steps have been taken through public multilateral environmental finance mechanisms to try to redress this situation by making gender analysis mandatory during the project design. Gender policies within these institutions call for more gender mainstreaming during project design and implementation. However, the institutional changes that need to happen at the national level require more efforts to introduce reforms and take inclusive actions that increase women's participation, the protection of their rights and their access to financing.

All projects associated with land degradation and droughts presented to the **Green Climate Fund (GCF)** must include a Gender Assessment, precise interventions to address gender issues from the projects' Gender Action Plans, and an overview of the Annual Performance Report, which is a report that accredited entities prepare yearly to inform the GCF about the projects implementation's progress.

³ <https://www.unfpa.org/news/five-reasons-migration-feminist-issue#:~:text=Significant%20numbers%20of%20female%20migrants%20are%20likely%20to,family%20planning%2C%20antenatal%20services%20and%20safe%20childbirth%20care>

ASSESSMENT OF GENDER EQUALITY WITHIN THE CONVENTION BODIES AND MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Adopted in 2017, the UNCCD Gender Action Plan (GAP) has four priorities for action:

1. women's participation in decisions relating to design, planning, implementation and evaluation of the Convention;
2. women's economic empowerment to eradicate their extreme poverty;
3. strengthening women's land rights and access to resources;
4. women's access to improved knowledge and technologies.

The study provided important new datasets on aspects relating to the GAP priorities for action.

Understanding the UNCCD policy framework and how it enables the achievement of gender equality outcomes is critical. The study found a low participation of women in the delegations attending the Conference of Parties. Women's participation, both within the delegation and through women's organizations, are important steps to be taken to increase understanding and inclusion of gender within the Convention. The review of the reports and plans also revealed some gaps that can be addressed through tailored technical support, evidenced-based information and policy changes.

Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS) reports

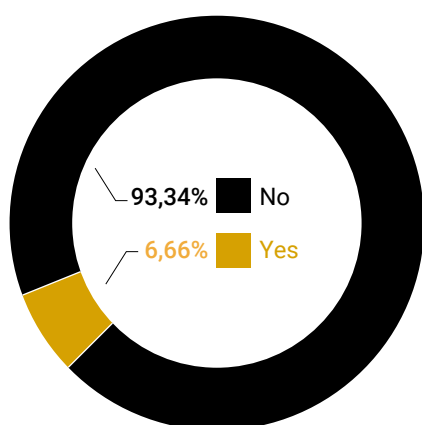
The first reporting process under the UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework – known as PRAIS – concluded in 2018. The current database is based on the 55 countries selected for the gender profiles under this study. Of these 55 countries, six did not have PRAIS reports available. The study found that of the 49 available PRAIS reports, 39 (63.3%) responded to

one or more of the three gender-related questions the report format provided to the Parties, and 18 (36.7%) did not respond to any of these three questions. Four countries include targets in PRAIS reports relevant to strategic objectives 1 and 2 of the Gender Action Plan: Angola, Nigeria, Montenegro and Zimbabwe.

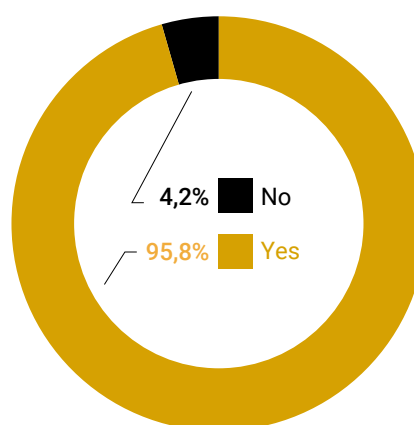
LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY (LDN) PROFILES

The LDN country profiles present evidence-based arguments that support investment in LDN by showcasing the importance and multiple benefits of taking actions to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation. The LDN country profiles were found to have little inclusion of any gender-related data or analysis. Out of the 30 country LDN profiles listed on the UNCCD website, only 2 (6.66%) include references to women.

GRAPH Percentage of LDN profiles that include references to women



GRAPH Percentage of NDPs that include gender keywords



National Drought Plans (NDPs)

As part of the drought initiative launched in October 2017, the UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism (GM) supported 60 countries in the design of NDPs. Out of the 48 existing NDPs, 46 (98.53%) include references to gender keywords. This may be attributed to concerted efforts made by UNCCD in recent years, and in particular the GM, in providing close support and guidance to countries on how to integrate gender into these plans.

Four strategies were used by countries to address and promote gender equality considerations in the NDPs. These strategies are developing a gender normative framework in relation to drought management, including sex-disaggregated data or a methodology to collect it, integrating gender as a transversal axis or theme, and explicitly mentioning the national mechanism for advancement of women as a relevant actor. These findings show that providing tailored support to Parties enhances the understanding and inclusion of gender within the reports, policies and plans.

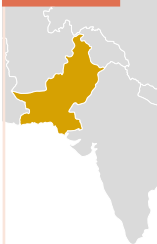


PROMISING PRACTICES

The study discovered a range of innovative and promising practices, led by women to address the underlying issues in the following realms:

LEGAL REFORMS

PAKISTAN



Positive steps towards gender equality include Pakistan's 2011 Anti-Women Practices Law, which seeks to protect women's right to inherit property.

LATIN AMERICA



Countries including Colombia, Costa Rica and Nicaragua have introduced legislation on land ownership, making joint titling compulsory for land granted by the state to both married and de facto couples.

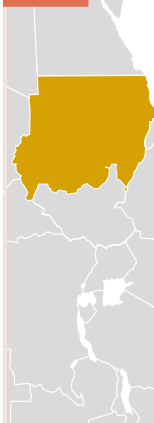
TRAINING, SKILLS AND INFORMATION

JORDAN



WADI has helped to establish a community nursery in the eastern desert of Jordan, producing high-quality native seedlings and entirely run by women using state-of-the-art gender-friendly methodologies and protocols for seedling production. Strategic engagement with men locally mitigates potential cultural resistance.

SUDAN



Zenab for Women in Development has developed an agricultural program for Sudanese women farmers, viewing them as "game changers" to build resilient livelihoods, thus improving food security and household income. Women are trained in sustainable agricultural practices and provided with high-quality agricultural inputs and access to credit.

FINANCING

One important finance mechanism is the Global Mechanism (GM) of the UNCCD. The GM is a specialized body of the UNCCD that supports countries to mobilize financial resources and increase investments in sustainable land management, helping reverse, control and prevent DLDD. Guided by the UNCCD GAP, it seeks to ensure that gender is mainstreamed by country Parties in project preparation. The GM has established alliances with organizations such as UN Women and IUCN to support gender equality and women's empowerment in their work.

WOMEN IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH (STEM)

The Ibero-American Women's Network for Climate Action (IBWoClimA) aims to foster a leading role for women scientists in climate research and focuses on the study of the impacts of climate change with a gender perspective in Latin American countries. It is undertaking an evaluation of publicly available data that would allow a gender-differentiated analysis of impacts of climate extremes and would provide a first pilot dataset that can be replicated in the participating countries. Based on that initial information, additional relevant variables may be considered to look out for other data sources that may exist, but not as public records.

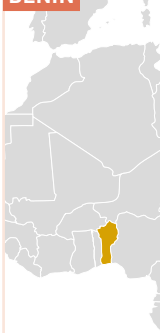
TECHNOLOGIES

INDIA



Bhungroo is a women-led irrigation system developed by Indian women farmers that relies on rainwater harvesting. A water management system injects and stores excess rainfall underground and lifts it out for use during dry spells. The system serves more than 18,000 impoverished farmers (with over 96,000 dependent family members) and is a fully women-driven process.

BENIN



The Solar Electric Light Fund (SELF) runs a Solar Market Garden project in Benin that combines solar-powered pumps with drip irrigation systems to provide a cost-effective and environmentally friendly way to pump water for irrigation from nearby rivers and underground aquifers. This allows girls and women to reallocate their time to educational and economic pursuits rather than fetching water.

CONSERVATION/LEVERAGING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

UGANDA

Many areas in the Rakai district of southern Uganda have brackish or dirty water not fit for human consumption. Women in the region either spend long hours fetching water or must spend a significant portion of their income on the water for drinking, cooking and bathing. The Uganda Rainwater Association has trained women affected by HIV and tuberculosis to construct rainwater catchment jars. The training, which included apprenticeship programs for orphans and other vulnerable youth, allowed for the establishment of small enterprises based on producing the rainwater jars.

PARAGUAY

The Macharety Guaraní Women's Organization in Paraguay is building cisterns to allow indigenous women and their families to remedy the lack of fresh water in the area, given the prolonged droughts, and to realize their right to water. Previously, they consumed water from tajamares (open reservoirs) that caused diseases. In addition, they had to walk several kilometers in search of water. Women's health is deeply affected by this burdensome task, and by the diseases contracted by drinking unsafe water, and its use during childbirth has caused severe health problems for the mother and newborns, even several deaths.



RECOMMENDATIONS

GENDER PARITY AND WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION

Recommendations for Parties, observer organizations, civil society organizations and Secretariat

Promote the equal participation of women and men in UNCCD processes and structures and analyze the barriers which may be preventing a gender balance.	Adopt robust mechanisms to guarantee representatives of marginalized voices (inclusive nomination) to attend UNCCD meetings and committees, in particular the COPs and Committees for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRICs).
Facilitate access to and use of digital and other communications technologies and modalities, including hybrid meetings, to increase the inclusion of women, in all their diversity, and their contributions to analysis and decision-making on key policy commitments.	Increase the commitments of countries for equal participation of women and men.

Recommendations for Parties

At the national level:

Build the capacity of national women's machineries (i.e., Ministry of Women Affairs) so that they can engage in the topics pertinent to UNCCD in consultation processes in a substantive and informed manner.	Build awareness and capacities in government ministries and departments to address specific topics related to gender and DLDD, including gender-responsive budgeting.
Build the capacity of women commission/ groups who are working on the implementation of CEDAW to include and report on environmental related indicators.	Promote ongoing linkages, communication and data sharing among offices and committees working on gender in DLDD.
Regularly share information on gender parity in staffing of national organizations working on desertification, land degradation and drought.	Promote trans-sectorial initiatives to mainstream gender in DLDD policies and programs.

LAND

Recommendations for Parties, observer organizations, civil society organizations and Secretariat

Collect and disseminate information about the progress toward gender-equal land rights over time.	Provide better targeted, available and flexible finance (opportunities) with attention to the specific needs of women in rural communities and indigenous populations.
Design, implement, or support policy advocacy initiatives such as promotion of women's access to common lands.	Explore innovative options to support land tenure for women (e.g., concessions).
Facilitate women's active participation and leadership.	
Close the gender data gap to move toward evidence-based interventions and responses by: Disaggregating data, gender targets and baselines by sex, age and disability, race/ethnicity, geography, class, livelihood source, migrant status, gender identity. Pairing land degradation indicators with socio-economic indicators. Regularly collecting and publishing this disaggregated data. Aligning gender data to be collected with national, regional and global indicators. Tracking the land rights and land ownership of women and men. Presenting gender-environment issues to the groups collecting data, to highlight data opportunities. Supplementing the Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS) with gender and land tenure data. Creating a universal digital platform for harmonizing and standardizing gender data and information including consideration of the creation of a regional and global data bank.	

Recommendations for Parties

Ensure gender-equal and meaningful participation in land and natural resource governance at the national and landscape levels through:

Inclusive national-level coordination.

Community and women-led participation, planning and leadership.

Strengthen and enforce legal protections for the land rights of vulnerable groups and women via:

Legal protections for communities and women, including ensuring equality in compensation and access to grievance mechanisms.

Implementation and enforcement of policies and laws.

Promotion of women's access to common lands.

Eliminating the barriers that impede the access to women to the land.

Availability of legal information and advice to communities, in their own languages and according to their culture (e.g., local law desks/offices).

Gender-equal land rights, under both customary and statutory law.

Supporting communications and awareness-raising campaigns on land rights.

Fulfilling international mandates such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas UNDROP and Article 26 of the UNDRIP.

Acknowledging and considering the gender gaps linked to land rights that could lead to GBV.

Equalize the access to, use and control over land, forests and natural resources through:

Better access to technology, services and resources for women and marginalized groups

Mechanisms facilitating women's acquisition of land for restoration

Gender-responsive land and natural resource use and management, including the use of the SLM Gender Responsive Tool

Require financial mechanisms to incorporate measures to increase women's access to available finance

DROUGHT

Recommendations for Parties and civil society organizations

National and local authorities to guarantee that drought preparedness, ⁴ drought response ⁵ and drought recovery ⁶ efforts, initiatives and policies are gender responsive.	Ensure that adaptation initiatives within short-term humanitarian programming focus more effectively on the specific needs and issues that women and girls face.
Support communities, and especially women, to identify and pursue adaptation strategies that positively respond to drought. Where possible, this support should include identifying women practicing optimal adaptation strategies who can then mentor other young women.	Expand support to mitigate the uncertainties faced by women in relation to sudden and slow onset events, including droughts, land degradation and other disaster risks (i.e., gender-responsive carbon credit markets for rangelands).
	Establish flexible social protection, insurance and financing mechanisms to support economic and social displacement arising from drought (i.e., climate and disaster risk financing and insurance).
Increase investment in labor-saving sustainable infrastructure systems as well as mechanization, for enhanced access to energy, water, and sanitation, and the improvements in service provision (notably social services, such as health, education, childcare, reliable and safe transportation and care for the elderly) to reduce women's and girls' unpaid care and domestic work and increase their resilience and recovery from environmental crises and disasters. Examples include:	
Provide inputs adapted to climate change trends , such as seeds, fertilizers and pesticides.	Establish and restore facilities providing water for domestic needs, livestock and to support market gardens as an income-generating activity.
Build the technical capacities of women producers by providing access to new production technologies and agro-meteorological assistance.	Promote water and soil conservation activities , and the diversification of agricultural production and food products.

⁴ Established policies and specified plans and activities taken before drought to prepare people and enhance institutional and coping capacities, to forecast or warn of approaching dangers, and to ensure coordinated and effective response in a drought situation (contingency planning). <https://knowledge.unccd.int/unccd-terminology>

⁵ Drought response (such as the provision of assistance or intervention during or immediately after a drought disaster to meet the life preservation and basic subsistence needs of those people affected). <https://knowledge.unccd.int/unccd-terminology>

⁶ Drought recovery refers to the decisions and actions taken after a drought with a view to restoring or improving the pre-drought living conditions of the stricken community, while encouraging and facilitating necessary adjustments to reduce drought risk. <https://knowledge.unccd.int/unccd-terminology>

Recommendations for Parties, observer organizations, civil society organizations and Secretariat

Seek the commitment of states to review existing domestic laws, bilateral and multilateral agreements, and regional migration arrangements, and consider new laws and agreements, to facilitate migration as an adaptation measure acknowledged under international human rights law and international labor law.⁷

In drought risk management (DRM):⁸

Ensure that data and information gathered for risk analysis and evaluation **is sex disaggregated**.

Guarantee that gender considerations are an integral part of the development, implementation, and review of decisions to reduce, control, accept or redistribute drought risks.

Enhance existing monitoring systems utilized by state and non-state actors to tangibly measure and document the impact of drought on vulnerable communities. Data should be consistently disaggregated by age, sex and disabilities (SADD).

Recognize that temporary, circular, or permanent **migration can be an important means** for persons to adapt to drought and cope with disasters and, in order to expand the number and range of regular pathways for affected persons.

Advise of the risks of increasing women's and girls' unpaid care and domestic work in drought mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, or disaster risk reduction programs and initiatives; solutions must reduce, not increase, women's and girls' unpaid care and domestic work.

⁷ Based on IOM. 2017. https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/environmental_migrants.pdf

⁸ DRM focuses on delivering a drought-resilient society by reducing drought risks and promoting environmental, societal and economic opportunities. <https://knowledge.unccd.int/unccd-terminology>



CONCLUSION

Gender continues to be one of the world's strongest markers for disadvantage, which is why reducing inequality is fundamental to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other internationally agreed-upon goals. This study sheds light on the impacts of land degradation desertification and drought **looking at the structural nodes of gender inequality⁹**:

- socio-economic inequality and the persistence of poverty;
- inequitable control of and access to natural resources (including land);
- lack of or limited access to markets, capital, training, technical assistance, financial services and technologies;
- patriarchal, discriminatory and violent cultural patterns;
- the sexual division of labor and the unfair social organization of care;
- the concentration of power and hierarchical relations prevailing in the public domain, where institutional decision-making structures in the field of sustainable development demonstrate women's limited access to the exercise of power and decision-making processes.

TWO OF THE SDG5 TARGETS ARE PERTINENT FOR THE STUDY UNDER THIS SECTION

- ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life;
- undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources.

Accordingly, the production, analysis and use of statistics should be integral to gender equality policies in all countries and should be a priority among official producers of national statistics. It is critical to generate information systems to transform data into information, information into knowledge and knowledge into political decisions.

The report provides key recommendations for policymakers to address these imbalances and ensure that all genders contribute to and benefit from land restoration and relevant environmental protection initiatives. It recognizes that gender equality by 2030 requires urgent action to eliminate the many root causes of discrimination that still curtail women's rights in private and public spheres.

⁹ ECLAC. 2017. Estrategia de Montevideo para la Implementación de la Agenda Regional de Género en el Marco del Desarrollo Sostenible hacia 2030 (LC/CRM.13/5), Santiago. Two more nodes, in addition to the ones identified by ECLAC have been added for the purpose of this study: inequitable control of and access to natural resources (including land) and lack of or limited access to markets, capital, training, technical assistance, financial services and technologies.



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification

United for land