

Gender Data Must Be the Bedrock of Climate Justice

GENDER DATA STRENGTHENS CLIMATE CHANGE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Climate change is affecting everyone—but not equally. Women, girls, and gender-diverse people—especially those living in already vulnerable communities—are most susceptible to the effects of climate change due to existing inequalities that limit their autonomy, power, and access to resources.¹ At the same time, they have unique knowledge and experiences that, when recognized and valued, are integral to developing climate solutions and strengthening climate adaptation and resilience.

Gender data helps us understand and respond to the unequal and gendered impacts of climate change by:

- **Highlighting the unique challenges experienced by women, girls, and gender-diverse people;**
- **Showcasing their ability to advance progress on equitable climate solutions as agents of change; and**
- **Pinpointing needed solutions.**

Though there is growing global recognition of the centrality of gender in addressing climate change, high-quality gender data related to the environment and climate change is still limited.² As the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27)³ of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) convenes, leaders must **recognize gender data as an essential tool to strengthen gender-responsive climate adaptation and resilience**,⁴ reduce and redress loss and damage, and advance countries' progress on climate goals and strategies.

Climate justice is a term used for framing global warming as a social, political, and economic issue, rather than one that is purely environmental or physical in nature. It conceptualizes the disproportionate effects of climate change as manifestations of injustice, by examining issues such as equality, human rights, collective rights, and historical responsibilities for climate change.⁵

Gender data is data that is disaggregated by sex, and reflects gender issues, including roles, relations, and inequalities. It can be both quantitative and qualitative, and collection methods account for stereotypes, social norms, and other factors that may introduce bias.⁶

GENDER DATA MUST BE PRIORITIZED WITHIN UNFCCC PROCESSES AND MECHANISMS TO BOLSTER CLIMATE RESILIENCE

For women, girls, and gender-diverse people—whose perspectives have historically been overlooked or excluded—the collection and use of gender data can help address entrenched climate inequalities and inform solutions that reflect their lived experiences. **In other words, gender data can save lives and livelihoods by revealing economic, political, and social barriers and informing targeted solutions that improve climate resilience.** Its collection, analysis, and use should be prioritized within UNFCCC decisions—particularly those concerned with mainstreaming gender within adaptation efforts—as well as actions taken by Parties in response to these decisions.

The agenda for COP27—and the success of UNFCCC processes and mechanisms—rests on the collection, analysis, and use of gender data. For example, gender data is critical to several priorities this session:

THE ENHANCED LIMA WORK PROGRAMME ON GENDER AND ITS GENDER ACTION PLAN (GAP)

At COP27, Parties will conclude discussions on the midpoint review of the GAP. The review is informed by gender data. For example, the UNFCCC Secretariat has prepared a synthesis report that assesses the gender composition of constituted bodies and delegations, as well as analyzing speaking times for women and men during plenaries and meetings at COP26.⁷ At the same time, the GAP includes many aspects that encourage Parties and other actors to collect and use gender data. For example, activity D.7 focuses on enhancing the availability of sex-disaggregated data for gender analysis.⁸ The review is therefore an opportunity to assess progress on those areas of the GAP related to gender data, including beyond participation at COP, and to reinforce the importance of these activities going forward.

THE GLOBAL STOCKTAKE (GST)

The GST is at the heart of the Paris Agreement’s ambition acceleration mechanism. It assesses global progress on the Paris Agreement, focusing on mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation and support, to aid countries in enhancing their climate action policies and plans. The GST will include a review of how Parties’ climate actions respect, promote, and consider their obligations on human rights, the rights of Indigenous peoples, local communities, gender equality, empowerment of women, and the rights of people in vulnerable situations.⁹ Gender data is instrumental to the assessment of equitable, gender-responsive, and inclusive climate action under the GST by enabling Parties to enhance their prospective climate action plans and strategies to benefit people of all genders and social backgrounds.

THE GLOBAL GOAL ON ADAPTATION (GGA) AND THE GLASGOW-SHARM EL-SHEIKH WORK PROGRAMME (GLASS)

Both the GGA and the GST provide opportunities for enhancing gender mainstreaming and prioritizing gender data. The GlaSS Work Programme was created at COP26 to operationalize the GGA and provide an inclusive, participatory, gender-responsive opportunity to recognize local and national adaptation efforts.^{10,11} Locally-led adaptation efforts, including those based on traditional and Indigenous knowledge, are key to strengthening a community’s resilience, though it is often difficult to report on or share these lessons more widely.¹² Incorporating gender data within reporting mechanisms for national adaptation planning and implementation processes that feed into the GGA could enhance learning from adaptation efforts, especially locally-led adaptation, and help determine whether adaptation progress is equitable.

It is also critical to incorporate gender data into national-level reporting mechanisms. For example:

National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** are essential tools for supporting climate resilience, providing an opportunity for countries to meaningfully incorporate gender considerations into their climate planning and actions. Using gender data to inform these considerations is essential for making these plans evidence-based and gender-responsive. Analyses of gender-responsiveness within NAPs have shown progress in key areas—including the framing of gender issues, use of gender analysis to inform adaptation planning, capacity building on gender and adaptation, as well as incorporating gender considerations into adaptation monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) systems.¹³

For climate action to be effective, gender data, along with other socioeconomic indicators, must be collected and utilized in MEL systems to build a strong evidence base and track gender-differentiated outcomes related to climate change. This is useful for climate resilience planning and implementation, as MEL systems informed by gender data can illustrate progress on climate resilience and gender equality.

PRIORITIES FOR COP27 AND BEYOND

In light of the centrality of gender data to achieving Parties' shared objectives, we are calling on leaders to recognize, advocate for, and use gender data as a tool to advance climate justice and gender equality. Collecting and using data that accurately reflects the lives of people of all gender identities is critical for advancing short- and long-term climate adaptation and resilience.

WHAT LEADERS CAN DO TO ADVANCE GENDER DATA AT COP27:

- **Reinforce the necessity of gender data to achieving the goals of the Lima Work Programme**, capitalizing on the midpoint review of its Gender Action Plan to assess progress toward data-related objectives and underscore the importance of gender data in both the remaining implementation period of the GAP, and any future iterations.
- **Apply a gender lens to the Global Stocktake**, using gender data to assess whether progress on adaptation is equitably distributed among people of different genders and social groups.
- **Include gender considerations in the Global Goal on Adaptation**, encouraging Parties to report gender data, such as gender data on stakeholder participation and impacts of adaptation efforts.
- **Prioritize gender data within climate finance** by including gender considerations and incorporating gender data reporting requirements in the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on Climate Finance.¹⁴ This will encourage alignment between new climate finance goals and gender-responsive climate action.

WHAT LEADERS CAN DO TO ADVANCE GENDER DATA BEYOND COP27:

- **Invest in gender data systems to support climate resilience goals:** The collection, analysis, and use of quality gender data requires significant financial investment, but gender data has long suffered from chronic underfunding. To fill the gender data financing gap, an additional \$500 million is needed every year through 2030.¹⁵

- **Promote cross-sector collaboration and coordination efforts, including with national statistical offices (NSOs):** To promote understanding and application of statistics for gender-responsive climate action, it is necessary to create enabling environments for national statistical systems by encouraging cross-sectoral and cross-institutional capacity building.¹⁶
- **Ensure women's equitable participation and engagement in data collection processes and decision-making:** To effectively implement adaptation strategies and enhance community resilience to climate change, the voices and experiences of women, girls, and gender-diverse people must be prioritized. MEL and other data collection processes should be participatory and gender-responsive to successfully address the gaps where building capacity for resilience is most necessary.¹⁷

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The co-collaborators on this brief are members of the Gender and Environment Data Alliance (GEDA). To learn more, see [GEDA's webpage](#) and [sign up for its newsletter](#).

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