

Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for Climate Adaptation and Resilience

Realizing rights and resilience for girls and women in all their intersecting identities



Climate change disproportionately threatens the most vulnerable girls and women, in all their intersecting identities, and has detrimental effects on SRHR.

Structural gender inequality makes girls and women more vulnerable to the harms of climate change, such as food insecurity or displacement from natural disasters that create significant barriers to education, financial resources, and access to decision makers, processes and policies that shape their lives.

Climate change:



Harms maternal health



Leads to increased gender-based violence and child marriage



Reduces access to life-saving SRH services

Why it matters

True climate justice is only possible when gender equality and SRHR are fully realized. SRHR programs that include right-based family planning are a strong adaptation strategy to climate change.

Building a sustainable future for all requires the full potential—and participation—of girls and women in environmental and climate action, and the realization of that potential depends on their health and rights.

What we can do

Addressing the linkages between SRHR and climate adaptation requires a multipronged approach that considers intersectionalities across population health; integrates SRHR into climate-resilient health, protection, and education systems; and strengthens risk reduction, emergency preparedness and response, and data systems.

We must respond to climate change by:



Investing in a healthy, educated, empowered population whose sexual and reproductive health and rights are addressed and fulfilled.



Strengthening health systems, including for SRHR services, and stronger protection services for GBV responses.



Ensuring better preparedness and response in emergencies to meet the SRHR needs of those who are affected or displaced by climate crises.



Establishing stronger data systems for assessing climate vulnerability and adaptive capacity.



Enhancing collaboration between actors working on climate change, health, and women's rights.

A rights-based and intersectional approach to SRHR realization should be part of any and all climate change adaptation measures in order to ensure a healthy, empowered population, including women, girls, and young people.