

Gender, Climate Change, Food Security and livelihood

Commemorating International Women's Day Under the theme:
"Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow"

Sub- theme is: #Break The Bias

The presenter

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Introduction

Climate change is a global phenomenon that has adverse effects on the environment and the human race. It affects all countries whether developing or developed nations. It has no boundaries, however, poor nations, women and girls including other vulnerable and marginalized are adversely affected by climate change. These nations and groups of people already face some kind of discrimination and inequalities, which are worsened by changing climatic conditions.

Studies show that Women and girls are likely to be the most affected during conflicts, natural disasters and by climate change and this is because of their gendered roles as caregivers, household caretakers and resource gatherers. This is also attributed to socio-economic and cultural factors and existing gender inequalities.

Introduction cont.

Climate change affects all sectors across the globe. The agricultural sector is one of the sectors directly and adversely impacted by changing climatic conditions, however, it is also one of the contributors to climate change as it contributes to emission of methane gas to the atmosphere. Climate change impacts on agriculture is directly linked to food security and livelihood. Here we also find that women are more affected than men.

This year the whole globe is commemorating International Women's Day under the theme: "**Gender Equality today for a Sustainable Tomorrow**" the world will not realized stability, peace and security and food security if women who constitute more than half of the population are left behind and gender stereotypes and inequalities remained un addressed.

About climate change

- 1) Climate change is a reality, it is not fabricated
- 2) The world temperature have increased by 2 degrees Celsius
- 3) Climate change is a global calamity
- 4) Climate change affects all sectors
- 5) Climate change impacts are worsened by already existing disparities and injustices
- 6) Women and girls and marginalized are more affected than men and fortunate people.

Causes of climate change

- ❖ The main cause of climate change is fossil fuel; such as coal, oil and gas. When these are burnt they release greenhouse gases to the atmosphere which trap the heat making the earth surface to warm.
- ❖ Climate change is caused primarily by anthropogenic activities
- ❖ The atmosphere already have certain concentration of atmospheric gas. The concentration is increased by the emission of these gases known as greenhouse gases. They trap the heat reflected from the earth surface and radiation from the sun, which supposed to be emitted. When the heat is trapped it caused the earth surface to warm causing what we call global warming which results in change in climatic conditions

Consequences of climate change

The obvious consequences include: ▶ Variability in rainfall patterns

- ▶ Rise in sea level
- ▶ Melting of glaciers
- ▶ Rise in global annual temperature by about 2 degrees Celsius
- ▶ Extreme weather events (hurricanes, cyclones, tsunamis, earthquakes)
- ▶ Droughts and flooding
- ▶ Heat waves

Human rights affected by changing climatic conditions

- ▶ Right to life
- ▶ Right to education
- ▶ Right to housing
- ▶ Right to health
- ▶ Right to water and sanitation
- ▶ Right to food
- ▶ Right to development
- ▶ Right to self- determination
- ▶ The right to meaningful and informed participation
- ▶ The right of those affected by climate change
- ▶ The right of future generations

Gender roles

- ▶ Gender roles are psychological and social construct assigned on a person based on their sex. They are acceptable and approved by the society. It is the gender roles that dictate how an individual is expected to speak, dress, act, groom and conduct himself or herself based on the assigned gender either as a male or a female. For example women and girls are expected to be polite, modest and carry out house chores, while male are expected to provided for the family financially.

Gender roles cont.

- ▶ **Gender ideology** is defined as an individual's attitude to how the roles of women and men are and should be shaped by sex. They are not biological. These roles determined the distribution of males and females into social roles in a society and consequently impact individual's occupational choice, type of a role as a worker, spouse, or parent and many other aspects in life; on the macro-level they affect work-family relations and labor force patterns.
- ▶ **Gender ideology falls into three types**
 - 1) Traditional
 - 2) Transitional
 - 3) Egalitarian

Link between gender, climate change and food security and livelihood

Agriculture is an important sector in every nation's economy. Crops production, livestock husbandry and fisheries and aquaculture contributes highly on economic growth around the globe. In many countries specially in Africa agriculture is the backbone of their economies. Agriculture is highly dependent on climate, therefore any changes in the climatic conditions result in adverse impact on the sector. Projected increase in global temperatures, variability in precipitation patterns, changes in the frequency and severity of floods and droughts, extreme weather events have negative impacts on farmers which result in food insecurity. On the other hand agriculture has a negative impact on the environment and it is among major contributors to emission of greenhouse gases specially methane gas, hence contributing to climate change.

- ▶ Women are found in the three components of food security that's production, distribution and utilization, therefore more affected by adverse impacts of climate change. In the context of South Sudan you find women as smallholder farmers which are mostly subsistence farming. If you go to local markets such as Konykonyo Market, Gudele, Munuki in Juba you will see women dominating the produce market. They sell vegetable and fruits among others.
- ▶ Crops will be affected and food production will be reduced due to droughts and floods, rise in temperatures which increases the rate of evaporation and evapotranspiration, hence reducing soil moisture which will cause crop failure reducing crop yield
- ▶ Livestock will be affected by stresses from head waves, lack of water and reduced amount and quality of fodder and pastures.
- ▶ Fisheries will be affected by climate change as a result increase in water temperature, which makes it more hospitable to invasive species. During flooding the water quality reduces and many toxic substances, like agricultural waste are washed in to water bodies posing more threat on aquatic life. Some solid waste such as plastic materials are also washed to rivers.
- ▶ Impacts on all these sub divisions of agriculture have great impact on food supply across the globe and reduction in food supply, lack of accessibility pose a challenge to the poorest populations and the most affected are women.

Climate change and food security

- ▶ Climate change is a threat multiplier for hungry and undernourished people.
- ▶ Countries with high levels of hunger are often also highly vulnerable to climate change, and have a low capacity to adapt.
- ▶ Climate change affects food production and availability, access, quality, utilization, and stability of food systems. In short, it impacts all aspects of the food system.
- ▶ Extreme weather-related disasters are increasing and reduce the yields of major crops.
- ▶ Higher levels of CO₂ reduce the nutritional value of crops.
- ▶ The global food system contributes about one-third of greenhouse gas emissions. About $\frac{2}{3}$ of food are lost and wasted from farm to table. These losses therefore exacerbate climate change without improving food security or nutrition.
- ▶ Climate change and conflict combined destroy livelihoods, drive displacement, widen inequalities, and undermine sustainable development.
- ▶ Ending hunger and under-nutrition in a changing climate demands large-scale action.

Why are women more affected?

From gender role women are given domestic responsibility which makes them more attached to the environment and natural resources. They are the gatherers of resources such as water, firewood and other basic needs extracted from the environment.

- ▶ Gender inequalities, discrimination and stereotypes
- ▶ Lower socio-economic status
- ▶ High illiteracy level as women are deprived education
- ▶ Lack of access to information
- ▶ Women are usually not part of decision making process in most cases
- ▶ Lack of integration of gender issues in national and international policies
- ▶ Violation of basic human rights
- ▶ Limited choices and freedom
- ▶ Exclusion of women participation in climate action
- ▶ exclusion of women voices
- ▶ Lack of access to land and financial resources

How are women impacted by climate change and food insecurity?

- ▶ Since women are given domestic role, they are responsible for providing for the family. This makes them travel long distances during droughts and floods in search of resources such as water and fuel. Along the way they face many challenges as some are raped, some killed or kidnapped, others are bitten by reptiles and wild animals and many die because of being overwhelmed by so much burden.
- ▶ Climate change deepened or rather worsens domestic violent.
- ▶ Women become malnourished, because of food insecurity
- ▶ Forced and early marriages take place as many families will see girls as the source of their income.
- ▶ Studies show that women die during calamities more than men.
- ▶ Violation of basic human rights which are women rights
- ▶ Displacement

Gender equality and sustainable development

- ▶ Women constitute more than half of the world's population. Sustainable development goals (SDGs) cannot be realized or achieved when the majority of the population is left behind.
- ▶ Empowering women and promoting gender equality is very crucial to accelerating sustainable development.
- ▶ Ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls is not only a basic human right, but a multiplier effects across all other development areas
- ▶ Since women and girls bear the burdens of climate change they are very essential in leading and driving change in climate adaptation, mitigation and solutions
- ▶ Gender equality is one of the 17 sustainable development goals

Roles of women as change drivers and catalyst

- ▶ Women are the most affected by climate change
- ▶ Women lead well in time of crisis
- ▶ Women are significant organizers
- ▶ Women have the solutions
- ▶ Women turn knowledge into action
- ▶ Women are economic dynamos
- ▶ Women are visionaries

In conclusion

- ▶ The world will not realize stability, peace and security and food security if there are still numerous gaps in gender equality. If women are not included in leadership and in decision making process we will still be struggling to achieve all that the whole world is planning. From family, community, local, regional and global level women play a very vital role in development, food security and in the fight against climate change. In order to develop sustainable women have to be included in the search for solutions and implementation of adaptation and mitigation mechanism to address climate, hence enhancing food security and livelihood.
- ▶ Everyone of us on a personal level or in a community or a country have to joint hand against gender equality, because if we fail to do that all of us are at risk. We have to break the bias and limitations which are deepening gender.
- ▶ Everyone is responsible and we will all be accountable if we do not close gender equality gap.

Thank you very much for
listening and deciding to take
action against Gender
inequalities