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Acronyms

Climate Change Gender Action Plan
Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC [Climate Change Conference]
Gender-based violence
Human immunodeficiency virus
Health National Adaptation Plan
Harmful Practices
International Conference on Population and Development
International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action
Monitoring and evaluation
Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
Means of Implementation
National Adaptation Plan
Nationally Determined Contributions
Non-governmental Organization
Post-traumatic stress disorder
Queen Mary University of London
Sustainable Development Goal
Sexual and reproductive health
Sexual and reproductive health and rights
Sexually transmitted infection
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
United Nations Population Fund
Water, sanitation and hygiene
World Health Organization
Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use

EWS

LNOB LTS Early Warning Systems Leaving No One Behind

Long-term Strategies



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The climate crisis is not just an environmental emergency – it is a growing threat to human health. It deeply undermines sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and fuels a rise in gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful practices, placing the most vulnerable at even greater risk.

The interconnectedness of the impact of climate change with SRHR, GBV and harmful practices is increasingly evident, with climate-related hazards directly harming pregnancy and maternal health, reproductive choice and autonomy, food security, mental health, access to life-saving protection services and commodities, and overall well-being, especially for frontline communities who are the most impacted, marginalized and vulnerable. The climate crisis reinforces inequalities and obstructs progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly gender equality and the people-centred agenda of sustainable development outlined by the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD PoA).

Despite the growing evidence of these impacts, the integration of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices into national climate action remains inadequate. A 2023 United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) review found only 38 out of 119 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) explicitly mentioned these issues, despite nearly all referencing health.

This gap stems from insufficient national data, limited awareness and limited policy guidelines and financing opportunities, which impede country-level responses.

This handbook seeks to guide national and sub-national stakeholders in effectively integrating SRHR, as well as the prevention, mitigation and response to GBV and harmful practices, into climate policies and plans. It also aims to support the integration of climate change into other relevant national development and sectoral policies, such as those covering health, population, gender, youth, GBV and disaster preparedness.

The document has six sections, describing key intersections between SRHR, GBV, harmful practices and climate change in Section 1, and explaining relevant climate policies like the NDCs in Section 2. Section 3 showcases how SRHR, GBV and harmful practices are currently reflected in NDCs, while Section 4 presents a proposed checklist for their ideal integration into national climate policies. Finally, Section 5 provides actionable steps for integrating these considerations within the NDCs and other climate policies, and Section 6 outlines useful tools and resources.

Ultimately, this handbook aims to strengthen national capacity and provide guidance on mainstreaming these critical intersections. By sharing good practices and examples, it contributes to the development of a sustainable, gender-transformative and human-centred climate action, promoting NDCs that meaningfully integrate SRHR, GBV and harmful practices considerations for a more just, equitable and sustainable future.



Development programme of action and climate action

UNFPA, the United Nations agency for sexual and reproductive health, aims to achieve three transformative results by 2030: ending preventable maternal mortality, ending the unmet need for family planning, and ending GBV and harmful practices. Changes in climatic conditions, including rising temperatures, are having both direct and indirect impacts on human health and the people-centred agenda of sustainable development outlined by the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD PoA).

Specifically, these changes impact SRHR,¹ GBV and harmful practices, reinforcing inequalities and hindering progress on the SDGs. The 2025 United Nations data reveal that only 35 per cent of SDG targets are progressing adequately (with only 18 per cent on track), nearly half show insufficient progress (48 per cent), and most concerning, 18 per cent are regressing.² As of 2023, only 15.4 per cent of gender equality targets were on track.³

Growing global evidence⁴ highlights the interconnectedness of the climate crisis, SRHR, GBV and harmful practices. For example, climate change poses a direct threat to maternal health through rising temperatures, heat waves and increased pollution. Indirectly, it exacerbates food insecurity and malnutrition – often triggered by droughts – further endangering maternal health by limiting access to nutritious food and sustainable livelihoods. Additionally, climate change-related extreme weather events, such as droughts and flooding, not only disrupt access to SRHR services due to impact on infrastructure, including roads, water and electricity outages, but also significantly affect mental health, especially among children, young peopleⁱ and women.

Despite the growing global evidence of the impact of climate change on SRHR, GBV and harmful practices, integration of SRHR into national climate action remains inadequate.



A 2023 global UNFPA and Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) review of national climate policies, particularly the NDCs, revealed:

38 out of 119

explicitly mentioned SRHR, GBV and/or harmful practices (all reference health)

This gap arises from inadequate national-level data, limited awareness of the intersections between SRHR, GBV and harmful practices with climate change, limited integrated policies and programmes that address these connections, a lack of clear guidelines on policy integration, and insufficient climate financing opportunities. This hinders country-level capacity to develop effective and targeted policy and programme responses. Yet the escalating effects of climate change will challenge the ability of States to protect, respect, and fulfil fundamental human rights, while neglecting people-centred development incurs severe costs on the poorest and most marginalized communities.

As countries formulate next-generation national climate policies, UNFPA plays a crucial role in ensuring that SRHR, GBV and harmful practices are meaningfully integrated into climate policies. Figure 1 illustrates the path that the climate and ICPD agenda must journey along for a sustainable future. Climate action is crucial in safeguarding rights and choices for all, particularly the most impacted and vulnerable populations. It is essential to recognize SRHR and the prevention of GBV and harmful practices as fundamental for climate resilience, while also ensuring that sexual and reproductive rights remain protected before, during and after climate-induced disruptions. To build a just and sustainable world, climate action must be integrated with efforts to promote human rights, gender equality, and empowerment of children, young and gender-diverse people, securing a future where rights and choices are preserved for every individual.

In keeping with UNFPA's climate change value proposition,⁵ this handbook outlines assessments, identifies gaps and presents steps for incorporating SRHR, GBV, harmful practices and related themes into national climate policies and processes. It shares good practices and examples of national climate policies and processes that effectively integrate these issues, contributing to sustainable development, including gender equality and human-centred climate action.

ⁱ Individuals aged 10 to 24 years as per UNFPA's <u>My Body, My Life, My World</u>, a global strategy to ensure rights and choices for all adolescents and youth.

Figure 1: ICPD Programme of Action climate action strategies for a sustainable and secure future

The ICPD Programme of Action underscores the importance of integrating environmental considerations into planning development, promoting political participation, eliminating poverty, and addressing unsustainable production and consumption patterns. These principles offer valuable guidance for developing climate action strategies aimed at creating a more sustainable and secure future.

HUMAN-CENTRIC CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGIES



HUMAN-CENTRIC AND INCLUSIVE CLIMATE ACTION GUIDANCE

Source: UNFPA (2024)6

.1 Why this handbook?

The purpose of this handbook is to support national and sub-national stakeholders in ensuring the robust integration of SRHR, as well as the prevention, mitigation and response to GBV and harmful practices into climate policies and plans. Similarly, it also intends to support, as relevant, the integration of climate change and its impacts into other key national development and sectoral policies, including on health, population, gender, GBV and disaster preparedness, as well as their implementation. It aims to strengthen capacity and provide guidance on how to mainstream these intersections while sharing additional resources that can further support actors.

Section 1:	Section 2:	Section 3:	Section 4:	 O Section 5:	O Section 5 & 6:
Describes key intersections between SRHR, GBV, harmful practices and climate change	Explains relevant climate policies and processes, including the NDC	Describes and exemplifies how SRHR, GBV and harmful practices are currently reflected in NDC	Proposes a checklist for an ideal integration of SRHR and GBV prevention and protection, including harmful practices, into national climate policies	Provides suggestions on how to reflect SRHR, GBV and harmful practices within the NDCs	Outlines processes for engagement in the review, formulation and updating of NDCs and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and tools that can be used to assess SRHR, GBV and harmful practices integration in their climate policy documents

1.2 Who is this document for?

This document is primarily intended for use by UNFPA regional and country offices, partners and other key stakeholders working around the intersection of gender, health, SRHR, protection, food security, nutrition, water and sanitation hygiene (WASH), adolescents, youth, disaster risk reduction and climate change.

-Summary of key intersections of sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence, harmful practices and climate change

Climate impacts, occurring through direct and indirect pathways, worsen SRHR outcomes, gender inequalities and the overall well-being of communities, particularly women, adolescent girls, people with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression and sex characteristics and other often marginalized and vulnerable groups. Table 1 gives a summary of key intersections of SRHR, GBV, harmful practices and climate change.

ii Encompasses individuals aged 10 to 19 years as per UNFPA's <u>My Body, My Life, My World</u>, a global strategy to ensure rights and choices for all adolescents and youths.

Table 1: Summary of key intersections between sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence, harmful practices and climate changeⁱⁱⁱ

Summary of key intersections between SRHR, GBV, harmful practices and climate change



Human health and health systems

Climate and environmental-related issues have direct impacts on human health, including SRHR, through pollutant exposure, including endocrine-disrupting toxins. Climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems are crucial to safeguarding SRHR.

The climate crisis, along with related environmental issues (including nature and pollution), has direct impacts on human health, including SRHR. Pollutants affect safe and sanitary living conditions, including food and water systems for human health and well-being, while toxins can disrupt endocrine systems, affecting fertility. Climate change also threatens the capacity of health systems to manage and safeguard population health, as infrastructure or critical services may become vulnerable and unreliable. The World Health Organization (WHO) has published guidelines for integrating health into national adaptation plans and strategies (the Health National Adaptation Plan (HNAPs)⁸ for building climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems.



Maternal health and pregnancy

Climate hazards, including extreme heat exposure, and climate-induced food insecurity and disease exposure, contribute to malnutrition and unsafe deliveries, worsening maternal and neonatal outcomes, including stillbirth, preterm birth and low birth weight.

Climate-related hazards like extreme heat, flooding and wildfires directly affect maternal and newborn health, 10 leading to increased complications in pregnancy, including but not limited to anaemia, eclampsia, miscarriages, stillbirths, low birth weight and preterm birth. 11, 12, 13 A one degree Celsius rise in the week before delivery corresponds to a six per cent greater likelihood of stillbirth. 14, 15, 16 Rising temperatures also influence vector-borne diseases, such as malaria, particularly in Africa and Asia, negatively impacting maternal and child health outcomes. 17 Pregnant women, unborn babies and newborns also experience a disproportionate impact of climate change on their nutrition and health, leading to nutritional deficiencies, low-weight births, unsafe birth deliveries and perinatal mortality 16 due to climate-induced water and food insecurity. 19 There is a well-documented link between the climate crisis and increased incidences of mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria, dengue and chikungunya. Malaria infection during pregnancy can lead to intrauterine growth restriction and prematurity among newborns, which can result in low birth weight. 20



Menstrual health and hygiene Climate change exacerbates period poverty and disrupts menstrual health and hygiene; climate-induced livelihood stress and displacement compromise safe, dignified menstrual health management.

Studies reveal that climate change events could alter the timing of menarche (the first occurrence of menstruation), causing it to arrive early or late as a result of hormonal imbalances from air pollution.²¹ Climate-related events can create or worsen cases of period poverty, where menstrual products, hygiene education and sanitation supplies are hard to access. The lack of economic resources resulting from climate-induced livelihood stress means people who menstruate are unable to afford menstrual products.²² Climate-related events can also affect the safety and privacy of displaced women and girls in all their diversities, putting them at risk of sexual violence. Menstrual products and management could add to waste generation, the release of harmful components and greenhouse gas emissions.²³

ⁱⁱⁱ For proposed interventions that addresses these intersections, see Annex 1: Key intersections between sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence, harmful practices and climate change, and possible interventions



Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Climate-related health systems disruptions and food security undermine the prevention and treatment adherence for HIV/sexually transmitted infections (STIs); drought and resource scarcity increase HIV vulnerability, particularly among adolescent girls, young women and people with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression and sex characteristics.

Access to health services, including impacts on supply chains, can interfere with adherence and management of HIV infection, while reductions in food security can compromise the nutrition required for the proper functioning of medications and to maintain good health.^{24, 25} Climate-related events may also precipitate situations where people are at greater risk of contracting HIV, for example, young women aged 15 to 24 years in areas affected by drought were more likely to have earlier first-time sex, transactional sex and were less likely to stay in school.²⁶ Reduced access to essential reproductive health supplies, such as condoms and antiretroviral drugs (ARVs), heightens the risk of HIV transmission. Interruptions in HIV treatment raise the community's viral load, further increasing the likelihood of both sexual and vertical (mother-to-child) HIV transmission.



Gender equality

Climate change is not gender neutral; it amplifies gender inequality, disproportionately affecting women and girls with intersecting vulnerabilities; structural barriers reduce women's resilience to climate impacts and constrain their role in climate action.

Climate change is a multiplier of existing gender inequities faced by women and girls in all their diversity, particularly those affected by intersecting factors, such as education, wealth and disability status. Women and girls with low levels of education, those in lower wealth quintile, and individuals with disabilities already face numerous challenges, including insufficient access to resources, safe water and sanitation, food insecurity, and restricted access to health care, and education. ^{27, 28} Additionally, women and girls have poorer access to resources that could help with climate adaptation – for instance, agricultural resources such as land titles, irrigation technologies and financial assets. Likewise, discriminatory, patriarchal laws, social norms, customs and institutions limit girls' and women's agency, excluding them from participating in decision-making and community processes to drive climate action. Women and girls are thus at risk of higher vulnerability and are likely to have lower adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change.



GBV and harmful practices

Climate stressors heighten GBV and harmful practices, including sexual exploitation, child marriage and female genital mutilation, especially in fragile settings; climate shocks amplify GBV risks and restrict access to services, thus undermining the rights and resilience of women and girls.

Environmental and climatic changes significantly influence the prevalence of GBV and harmful practices like child marriage.^{29, 30, 31} There is a positive correlation between a rise in temperature and a rise in cases of intimate partner violence. 32, 33 Women who are environmental defenders have also been assaulted, raped and killed while defending environmental commons.34,35 Climate stressors exacerbate resource scarcity, leading to higher GBV rates, commercial sexual exploitation, and early and forced marriages (often linked with female genital mutilation and other harmful practices)36,37 as families seek security.38,39,40,41 Women and girls face increased risks of sexual exploitation, harassment, and violence in contexts where traditional gender roles shift - often due to climate-induced migration of men away from their communities. As women assume the role of primary breadwinners, these changes in social dynamics can expose them to heightened vulnerability. Additionally, climate change threatens the rights of women, girls and people with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression and sex characteristics, increasing risks of violence while compromising their access to services, health care, education, and economic opportunities and growth. 42, 43



People with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics Climate impact worsens vulnerabilities for people with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics due to social marginalization, inadequate health and social services, and legal and social exclusion.

People with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and sex characteristics, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, non-binary, queer, two-spirit, intersex and asexual people, may be at increased risk of poor outcomes due to climate impacts.⁴⁴



Access to SRHR and GBV protection services This is as a result of their pre-existing social marginalization, legal status and the lack of recognition of specific health and social needs in service provision, such as disaster preparedness and response. 45

Climate emergencies impair health infrastructure and disrupt life-saving GBV and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, including access to contraceptives, HIV treatment and emergency care.

Climate-related emergencies cause major disruptions in access to health services and life-saving commodity supply chains, including contraceptives and GBV protection and response services. ⁴⁶ Extreme weather events can damage health infrastructure, health-care supply chains and result in the loss of medical records, ⁴⁷, ⁴⁸, ⁴⁹, ⁵⁹ negatively impacting access to and quality of SRH and GBV services, such as HIV post-exposure prophylaxis, HIV and STI treatment, emergency contraception, safe abortion and rapid GBV response services. ⁵¹, ⁵² Reduced access to skilled birth attendants and emergency obstetric care, as well as to contraception and safe abortion services, can result in increases in maternal morbidity and mortality, perinatal mortality, STIs and unwanted pregnancies. ⁵³ Women and girls in all their diversity, who are more vulnerable to GBV, may find themselves stuck in abusive situations, which impacts their mental health and that of their children – further eroding any resilience.



Mental health and psychosocial support Climate stressors heighten mental health risks, especially for children and adolescents; extreme weather events disrupt fetal development, and climate-related sexual violence and GBV increase mental health challenges, driving mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) needs.

Climate change's impact on mental health is unevenly distributed and is expected to worsen, particularly among children and adolescents, especially girls, as temperatures rise.⁵⁴ A global survey in 2021 revealed that 75 per cent of young people worldwide are frightened about their future due to climate change.⁵⁵ Young people from sub-Saharan Africa, particularly girls, are at the highest risk of mental health issues resulting from increasing temperatures, extreme weather events, climate-related economic and social losses, climate-induced displacements and adapting to new environments, as well as anxiety about the future. Extreme climate events can also negatively impact birth outcomes, potentially disrupting normal fetal development. This may increase the risk of anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression in children as they grow older, sometimes with irreversible effects.⁵⁶ Additionally, increased sexual violence and GBV linked to climate impacts heighten the demand for services for health, MHPSS, and counselling for survivors.



Displacement and migration

Climate-induced displacement and resource scarcity exacerbate existing gender inequities, increasing the risk of GBV, including sexual violence, forced marriage and human trafficking, especially in fragile settings.

Climate change is a driver of displacement and migration of populations affected by climate shocks and stresses (i.e. rising sea levels, extreme weather events and ecological degradation). Climate-induced displacement often disrupts access to essential health services, exposes women and adolescent girls to heightened risks of GBV, and can exacerbate harmful practices. Likewise, climate-related population movements disproportionately affect women, adolescent girls, children and young people, especially in fragile and conflict-affected settings, comprising the majority of 'climate refugees' or climate-displaced population.



Food security

Climate-induced food insecurity worsens risks of malnutrition, menarche disruption, weakening immunity, HIV treatment impairment and violence.

Drought and soil erosion contribute to high rates of undernourishment, primarily driven by significant climate-induced food insecurity, particularly in regions that heavily rely on agriculture. Research shows that food insecurity and malnutrition are linked to delays in menarche.⁵⁷ This means that people who menstruate are especially vulnerable to the impacts of food insecurity caused by climate change, as their nutrient needs increase leading up to and during menstruation. Food insecurity can disrupt the regularity of menarche for girls and adolescents, resulting in increased health risks. Limited access to nutritious food, often resulting from disruptions in livelihoods and income, elevates risks during pregnancy and childbirth.⁵⁸



Water, sanitation and hygiene Additionally, pregnant women may experience weakened immunity and malnutrition, which can affect HIV treatment outcomes and increase vulnerability to infectious diseases. Food scarcity can also force women and girls into unsafe situations, heightening their risk of harassment and violence.⁵⁹

Climate-driven disruptions to WASH – such as water scarcity, saline intrusion, and contamination – negatively affect menstrual, maternal and HIV-related health. These challenges also contribute to increased school dropout rates among girls and elevate their risk of GBV.

Droughts and water shortages severely hinder women and girls from maintaining adequate menstrual health. Water scarcity limits access to menstrual health, hygiene and dignity, which can lead to health issues and result in girls missing school due to concerns about odour and stigmatization. Climate change worsens this challenge by causing a rapid decline in groundwater levels due to erratic rainfall patterns, making it increasingly difficult for people who menstruate to obtain clean, safe water for hygiene, sanitation and drinking. Fetching water is a time-consuming task, and the long distances to water sources often force young girls to drop out of school. The lengthy journeys to access water also increase the risk of GBV for women and girls. Also, carrying water over long distances can lead to complications such as miscarriages, bleeding, and premature births. The saline contamination of drinking water from rising sea levels can negatively impact maternal health, resulting in premature deliveries, risks for preeclampsia and gestational hypertension, adverse fetal outcomes, and even potential maternal death.60 For people living with HIV, contaminated water due to flooding and waterborne diseases can increase risks to opportunistic infections that affect immunity and HIV treatment outcomes.



Adolescents and youth

Adolescents and youths disproportionately suffer long-term climate impacts, mental health disorders and distress risks, as well as eco-anxiety affecting their reproductive intentions.

Climate change affects younger people differently from older people, as they will face its long-term effects. A child born in 2020 could encounter more significant extreme weather events throughout their life compared to a 55-year-old in 2020.⁶¹ Climate change increases the risk of PTSD and other mental health disorders in adolescents and the youth. Climate anxiety and distress affect young people's mental health and are often linked to inadequate government climate action and associated feelings of betrayal.⁶² This fosters pessimism about the future, including reproductive choices and fertility preferences.⁶³



Ageing

Heat-related stress heightens older people's health risks due to their reduced thermoregulation, affecting their adaptive capacity.

The health of older persons, particularly in countries with rapidly ageing populations, is disproportionately affected by climate change. Older persons are less able to adapt to heatwaves, making them more prone to health problems due to impaired thermoregulation; even slight dehydration negatively affects cognitive performance and other bodily functions.⁶⁴



Persons with disabilities

Climate-related emergencies increase GBV exposure and sexual violence risks for persons with disabilities, especially women and girls in all their diversity.

Persons with disabilities, especially women and girls, are at heightened risk of violence, including sexual violence, exploitation and abuse during disasters, particularly in emergency shelters. A global study from UNFPA⁶⁵ reveals that persons with disabilities are up to three times more likely to experience physical, sexual, and emotional violence, and women and girls with disabilities are up to 10 times more likely to experience sexual violence.

Source: Adapted and updated from Baschieri et al. (2025),66 UNFPA (2024),67 UNFPA and QMUL (2021)68



SECTION 2

Overview of Nationally Determined Contributions and other key relevant national climate policies

This section of the handbook presents an overview of policies that highlight existing and potential intersections between climate change and SRHR, GBV and harmful practices. Key policies examined are Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), among others.

2.1

What are Nationally Determined Contributions?

Nationally Determined Contributions are key policy instruments adopted under the Paris Agreement. They reflect the national climate plans of countries that have ratified the Paris Agreement, indicating their voluntary commitment to meet the agreed goals. The NDCs shape the national climate action plans of countries over a five-year period. As countries prepare their next-generation NDCs 3.0, it provides a critical opportunity to ensure SRHR, GBV and harmful practices are meaningfully integrated into their climate policies.

iv The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change, adopted by 196 parties in Paris in 2015 and entered into force in 2016. Its goal is to limit global temperature rise to well below 2°C, ideally 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, foster adaptation to climate impacts, and align financial flows with low-emission development.

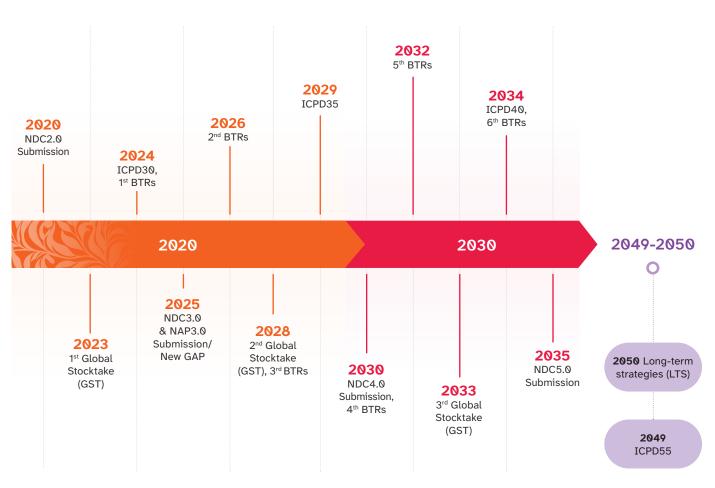
What you need to know about NDCs:

- The first NDCs, initially referred to as Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, covered the period between 2016 and 2020, before countries signed and ratified the Paris Agreement. Following this, they officially became the first NDC for most countries. However, crucial themes such as health, gender, youth and rights were not comprehensively addressed in these initial plans.
- 2. The second NDCs, covering the period from 2020 to 2025, were both updated and more ambitious in targets. In some cases, they were entirely new documents, given that in many countries, the first NDCs had been developed with limited consultation. The second NDCs showed more progress on key themes and featured significantly more elements of participation and inclusion.
- 3. Between 2016 and 2023, 195 countries submitted their first NDCs, with at least 153 countries submitting their second NDCs in 2020 and 2023.⁶⁹ According to Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Paris Agreement, parties were required to communicate a new NDC by 2020 and subsequently, every five years.

2.2

Other relevant national climate policies and processes

Figure 2: Key Paris Agreement timelines



Source: UNFPA (2025)70

Integrating measures to prevent, mitigate and respond to SRHR challenges, GBV, and harmful practices into national climate policies can be more effective when climate action is also embedded across other key national policy frameworks. These include the National Health Plan, National Population Plan, National Development Plan, National Adaptation Communication (as part of reporting to UNFCCC), the National Gender Policy or Plan and any other relevant documents that address these interconnected issues.

Also, it is important that these intersections are reflected in key reports and reviews, including the Global Stocktake and the biennial transparency reports as shown in Figure 2 above. Table 2 below provides further details on some of these key policies and processes.

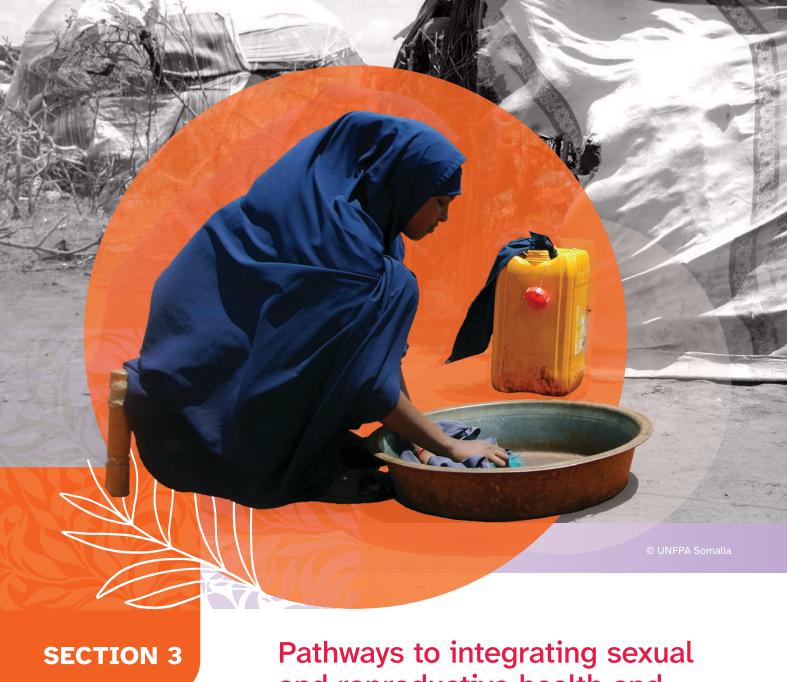
Table 2: List of relevant climate change national policies and processes

Key policy documents	Description	Importance
NAPs	The NAP is a country-led process that enables governments to identify and address medium- and long-term climate adaptation needs across sectors. It provides a framework for integrating climate risks into national development planning and mobilizing resources for adaptation action. NAPs were established at the 16th Climate Change Conference (COP16) in 2010 to address the mediumand short-term adaptation needs and strategies of countries. NAPs are voluntary documents, with more countries submitting a NAP to the UNFCCC. For discussion on the linkage between NAP, NDC and Adaptation Communication, refer to UNDP/WRI Guidance: Enhancing NDC: A Guide To Strengthening National Climate Plans By 2020	Engaging with the NAP process offers an opportunity to mainstream gender, SRH and GBV into national climate policies and ensure that adaptation strategies are inclusive, equity-driven and responsive to population dynamics and vulnerabilities. Participation in the NAP process enhances engagement with key stakeholders and builds synergies with relevant government ministries.
Health NAPs (HNAPs)	The HNAP is a strategic framework developed by ministries of health to integrate health considerations into national climate adaptation planning. It identifies climate-related health risks –such as heat stress, vector-borne diseases, and disruptions to SRH services – and outlines priority actions to build climate-resilient health systems.	The HNAP is a key entry point to advocate for the inclusion of SRH and GBV in national health adaptation strategies, and to support multisectoral coordination that ensures the needs of women, girls and vulnerable populations are addressed in climate-resilient health planning. Overall, the HNAP strengthens the focus on climate change as a health challenge, creating an opportunity to mainstream SRHR, GBV and harmful practices into climate action.
National climate strategy/national climate action plan	National climate strategy or action plans are developed independently by a country either before or after the Paris Agreement. These policies are not a requirement of the Paris Agreement and differ from NDCs. But for countries that do not have either of these policy strategies, the NDCs can serve both purposes.	Strengthen national-level accountability for climate change interventions, including resource allocation and monitoring of progress. Mainstreaming SRHR, GBV, harmful practices and gender into a national climate strategy/ action plans can better leverage existing accountability mechanisms, leading to more effective and measurable results.

Key policy documents	Description	Importance
Climate change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP)	A Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP) is a national policy tool that aims to promote "knowledge and understanding of gender-responsive climate action and its coherent mainstreaming in the implementation of the UNFCCC" and its process. It is a national policy tool integrating gender equality considerations into climate strategies and actions. Countries voluntarily create national ccGAPs, but only a few have developed one to date.	When developed, ccGAPs can be entirely adapted to form the gender sections of the NDCs or NAPs if comprehensive enough. They can be a persuasive tool for advocacy and implementation that sustains critical focus on gender-transformative climate actions in national and sub-national interventions.
Long-term strategy documents	Countries are beginning to put forward long-term plans looking to achieve netzero emission targets and more adaptive capacity across the board. While some have set 2050 as their target year, others are aiming for 2070. These plans represent critical opportunities for engagement and influence.	Provide opportunities for alignment with long-term practices, as well as prevention of and response to SRHR, GBV and harmful practices.
Adaptation communication	This document is mandated by the Paris Agreement (Article 7, paragraph 10) ⁷¹ and includes national adaptation priorities, implementation and support needs, plans and actions of countries. Some countries may choose to submit their adaptation communication as part of a national communication or a national adaptation plan. This document is useful in influencing adaptation outcomes at climate negotiations.	Provides opportunity for ensuring the reflection of national circumstances on SRHR and climate adaptation intersections.
Biennial transparency reports	The Enhanced Transparency Framework requires countries to submit biennial transparency reports every two years, with 31 December 2024 as the deadline for the first submissions. It includes information on mitigation, NDCs progress, policies and measures, impacts and adaptation, finance, technology development, transfer and capacity-building support, capacity-building needs and areas of improvement.	Provide opportunities for ensuring the reflection of the national stocktake on SRHR and climate adaptation intersections and progress on NDCs.
Global Stocktake	A five-yearly inventory on the progress on the Paris Agreement, informing the next cycle of NDCs. The Global Stocktake helps to increase ambition and strengthen national climate policies and global commitments on NDCs.	Provide opportunities for ensuring the reflection of the Global Stocktake on SRHR, GBV and climate intersections in NDCs.
National disaster risk reduction strategies/policies	These national documents demonstrate a country's commitment to the goals of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, including goals for preventing, mitigating, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters.	They have linkages to SRHR and climate change-induced events and can be an entry point for robust integration of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices intersections, especially around adaptation response, anticipatory actions and tailored/effective emergency

response.

Source: Adapted and updated from UNFPA and QMUL (2021)⁷²



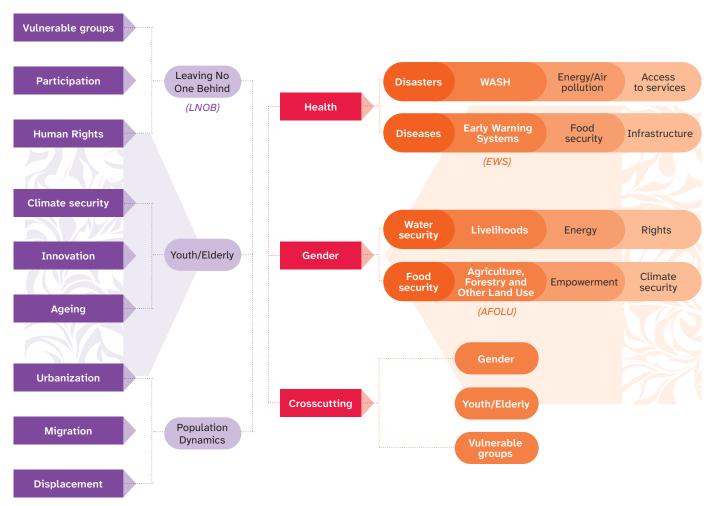
Pathways to integrating sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence and harmful practices in national climate change policies

Despite mounting global evidence on the effects of climate change on SRHR, GBV and harmful practices, these issues are still insufficiently addressed in climate action policies and responses. This gap arises from inadequate national-level data, a limited awareness of the importance of the intersections between SRHR, GBV and harmful practices with climate change, limited integrated policies and programmes that address these connections, and insufficient climate financing opportunities, hindering country-level capacity to develop effective and targeted policy responses. Pathways to incorporate SRHR, GBV, and harmful practices into national climate processes and policies include leveraging entry points within gender, health, and other crosscutting sectors; conducting thorough reviews of national climate documents; and applying a human rights-based approach to programme design and delivery.

Gender, health, and cross-cutting sectors as entry points for sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence and harmful practices in Nationally Determined Contributions and Other National Climate Policies

In most national climate policies, particularly the NDCs and NAPs, three key sectors serve as entry points for the integration of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices: health, gender and other cross-cutting areas. Health is a critical sector that offers a viable entry point and has gained prominence within the NDCs and the international climate process over the years. Almost all second-generation NDCs made a reference to health. Gender also presents a feasible entry point and is increasingly recognized as an independent section within these policy documents. Nearly all countries in the second round of NDCs reference gender, albeit with varying levels of substance. Some of the climate policy documents recognize gender, adolescents, youth and vulnerable groups as cross-cutting sectors. In some instances, gender, adolescents and youth are effectively addressed as key sub-themes, whereas in others, their nominal mention may suggest a lack of prioritization. Population dynamics, which encompass migration, human mobility and urbanization, represent additional areas of importance, with human rights, vulnerable groups, food security and WASH being significant themes that can help strengthen the incorporation of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices in climate policies and processes.

Figure 3: Key thematic entry points for sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence and harmful practices



Source: Designed by authors



3.2

Reviews of national climate change policy documents

To truly integrate SRHR, GBV and harmful practices into climate action, UNFPA and other key stakeholders have taken a close look at national climate policies, especially NDCs and NAPs. Through major reviews – 50 country analyses in 2021, followed by a comprehensive 119 country study in 2023^{74} – the inclusion of health, SRHR, gender and human rights considerations was assessed, with the findings showing slow progress from the previous review.

In national climate change policy documents, and as shown in Figure 3 above, elements of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices cut across the following thematic areas:

- Health
- Gender equality
- · Food security and agriculture
- Water security and WASH
- Population dynamics (migration, urbanization and human mobility)
- Human rights, participation and considerations for vulnerable groups
- Youth, ageing and climate change (adolescent and mental health, peace and climate security)

The 2023 UNFPA/QMUL review found that all except two NDCs make a reference to health, but only 38 out of 119 NDCs made *direct* references to SRHR, GBV or harmful practices. These included access to family planning services, people living with HIV, maternal health, GBV and harmful practices. These identified areas represent key intersections of SRHR, GBV, harmful practices and climate change. They are highly relevant for countries striving to adapt effectively to the challenges of a changing climate.

In a recent analysis of NAPs, the references to SRHR have grown from 47 per cent in 2020 to 56 per cent as of July 2024, with references to GBV increasing from 16 per cent to 41 per cent within this period. Overall, of the submitted 58 NAPs and 21 HNAPs at the end of July 2024, 53 per cent of NAPs and 43 per cent of HNAPs integrate at least one component of SRHR, with none integrating all aspects of the intersection.

Maternal and neonatal health again led in the SRHR reference in NAPs at 36 per cent and 24 per cent of HNAPs, followed by GBV at 33 per cent and 14 per cent, respectively.⁷⁶ HIV and STIs stood at 10 per cent for NAPs and 14 per cent for HNAPs, with early marriage, contraceptives and comprehensive sexuality education following.

3.3

Population dynamics (changes in population, migration, urbanization and human mobility)

The links have been made of the relevance of population dynamics to drivers of climate change, including changes in population, migration, urbanization and human mobility.^{77, 78} While population dynamics, especially human activities, are linked to climate, blaming population growth alone ignores the disproportionate impact of wealth on emissions. The richest 10 per cent of the world's population contribute over half of greenhouse gas emissions.

A person is not a unit of consumption or emissions



While the 2021 UNFPA/QMUL review of the NDCs noted a few references to population dynamics that diverged from the principles of the ICPD PoA,⁷⁹ the 2023 review did not identify similar narratives. In contrast, the current review found that 109 countries referenced population dynamics, with 65 NDCs specifically addressing issues such as migration, urbanization and human mobility. These countries acknowledge the growing impact of climate change on displacement and propose response measures, including support for internally displaced persons and climate refugees.

This growing recognition within NDCs reflects broader climate trends, as climate impacts continue to force communities to move in increasingly complex and frequent ways. Rising sea levels, extreme weather events and ecological degradation are driving mass migration and population displacement, and this is particularly true for those living in Small Island Developing States and drought-affected regions. These climate impacts are generating a range of mobility patterns, voluntary and involuntary, within countries and internationally. Such climate-induced mobility remains a highly contentious issue within both national and multinational climate debates, but NDCs are increasingly reflecting this.⁸⁰



SECTION 4

Sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence and harmful practices checklist criteria for Nationally Determined Contributions and other national climate policies

4.1

National circumstances: Impact and vulnerability

Most national climate policy documents follow a similar opening or introduction that presents the current national circumstances on climate change. This section summarizes the scale and typology of prevailing impacts, levels of vulnerability, including hot spot areas, and impacted sectors. It is crucial to position SRHR, GBV and harmful practices as core themes in the framing for the section on national circumstances. Their impact across different gender and age groups should be clearly highlighted, alongside a concise analysis of climate-related vulnerabilities and SRHR intersections. This framing will effectively set the stage for the proposed actions and interventions outlined later in the document.

Checklist questions for national circumstances:

- Is there a national-level assessment on SRHR, GBV and climate change?
- Is there any existing vulnerability assessment on climate intersections with gender, age, SRHR and climate change (see tool in Section 6)?
- Are there identified hotspots across the geographies of a given country for a specific typology of impact and vulnerability?
- Is there clear availability of disaggregated data and national-level research documenting impact and vulnerability? What are the existing research and data gaps?
- Are there any existing efforts on climate action by government and non-government actors?

Example of integration in national circumstances in NDCs, NAPs or HNAPs:



South Sudan - Impact on maternal and child health

"South Sudan also has the world's highest maternal mortality rate; 1 in 7 women dies from childbirth or pregnancy. Infant mortality rates are also exceptionally high, with 75 children per 1,000 dying before their first birthday. It is believed that climate change will further increase infant and maternal mortality and birth complications and exacerbate poor reproductive health in tropical developing countries. In particular, the effect of infectious diseases, extreme environmental conditions, malnutrition and heat exposure will lead to serious health risks for mothers and children. Thus, the overall impact of climate change on the population of South Sudan will be detrimental as it will lead to extreme weather events, increased infectious diseases and poor maternal and child health." (South Sudan 2021 NDC, p. 41)

Togo - Climate-sensitive disease vulnerabilities

"In terms of health, high temperatures and flooding lead to the outbreak and proliferation of germs of certain diseases such as malaria, meningitis, typhoid fever, cholera and respiratory diseases that were once localized and controlled. So far, the northern regions (Savannas and Kara) are the most vulnerable. However, the simulation shows that in the future, the risk of its diseases could spread southward with aggravation in the northern regions. The mortality rate would increase, and the vulnerability of the elderly, pregnant women, people with disabilities, people living with HIV and AIDS and children will become increasingly high." [Translated from French] (Togo NDC 2021, p. 39)

Cambodia - Impact on food security, nutrition and pregnancy

"The negative impacts on agricultural production can lead to breakdown of food systems, and vulnerable groups risk further deterioration into food and nutrition crises if exposed to extreme climate events. Adaptation strategies, for example, additional time in sourcing water or pasture, can particularly affect women's labour allocation, in turn influencing time available for childcare and feeding (e.g. breastfeeding exclusively, preparing healthy meals). Further strain on the workload of women and climate change-related stress during pregnancy could contribute to low birth weight, leading to increases in risks of undernutrition and non-communicable diseases." (Cambodia NDC 2020, p. 31)

"Climate change affects gender minorities disproportionately, including women and girls. The areas where women play a central role – food security, nutrition, energy, livelihoods, health, natural resource management, among others – are those most directly impacted by climate change. By exaggerating gender inequality, climate change also reinforces a structural root cause of violence against women and girls." (p. 40)



Albania - Maternal health impacts and GBV risks

"Exposure to high temperatures has adverse effects on pregnant women (teratogenic effect). Following floods, they can develop bronchitis or infections as they clean up damp houses. Pregnant women are disproportionately more affected by health-care access disruption following a disaster."

"Increase in violence against women, both domestic and outside the home, with women heads of households facing a greater risk...Decreased income, loss of access to services that helped alleviate women's workload (e.g. kindergarten, schools, etc.) The increase in violence against women and that of time use on main household chores were also identified as the main impacts of climate change on women's living conditions in the FNC [First National Communication] survey. The survey does not identify significant gender differences regarding the effects of increased conflicts in settlements or in reactions of hopelessness and a sense of loss. The survey also identified significant differences in access to information about adaptation to climate change." (Albania NDC 2021, p. 61)

4.2

Proposed intervention/actions

An effective way to showcase ambition and commitment to taking action is by including clearly defined interventions on SRHR, GBV and harmful practices within national climate plans – interventions that the government actively prioritizes for implementation. Having this captured in a national document builds the basis to ensure collaboration of relevant partners to implement them and shows the commitment of the government to addressing these intersections. These interventions need to have a gender-transformative approach addressing the root causes of gender inequality and emphasizing the role of women in all their diversity and ages, as change agents – not just as those more vulnerable.

- National-level research: The UNFPA/QMUL review of the second cycle of NDCs revealed the need for national-level documented evidence on interventions to address climate change, SRHR, GBV and harmful practices. Although the impacts are widespread across the country, they remain insufficiently captured in a comprehensive format that could meaningfully inform national policy discussions.
- Vulnerability assessment and data: As outlined in Section 5 below, conducting
 vulnerability assessments across districts, counties and provinces is crucial for enabling
 more targeted interventions and generating relevant data to support national-level
 decision-making.
- Gender analysis: Integrating gender analysis into policy formulation and implementation will be critical to ensure that these ambitious NDCs lead to equitable and transformative outcomes. Prior to implementing these interventions, it is essential to conduct a gender analysis using social science methodologies. This analysis should examine the dynamics among women, men and gender-diverse people including their access to and control over resources and the constraints they face relative to one another. Its purpose is to uncover the root causes of gender inequality within target communities and to explore how these disparities impact women, girls, boys and gender non-binary people differently. Particular attention should be paid to the intersections of SRHR, GBV, harmful practices and climate change, especially in sectors such as agriculture, forestry and land use. The interventions will also incorporate a gender-transformative Results Measurement Framework, along with robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanisms to track progress and implementation.

• Early warning systems and anticipatory actions: It is important to leverage the availability of impact-based early warning data and advisories to integrate SRHR, GBV and gender-transformative interventions into contingency and anticipatory action plans.

Checklist questions on interventions:

- Are there clear interventions to address the gaps and challenges highlighted or omitted in the national circumstances section?
- Are the interventions substantive and able to address the unique impact on women and girls in all their diversity and ages, including their SRHR?
- Are the interventions proactive and long-term?
- Are proposed interventions clear, measurable, result-oriented and transformative?
- Are they gender transformative and include women, girls and people with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics as part of the solutions?





Seychelles - Climate-resilient SRHR health systems

"Improving the Seychelles health management information systems to incorporate indicators of climate stress linked to major health impacts, including those related to reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health; ensuring that health systems strengthening and related financing for climate resilience takes into account risks to maternal and neonatal health and takes measures to reduce these risks; ensuring that climate-related vulnerability assessments and actions take into account SRH and GBV risks and protective measures and are informed by disaggregated population data." (Seychelles NDC 2021, p. 36)

Tunisia - Gender-responsive health services and delivery

"Measure 1: Improve health services and benefits for women through prevention, through educational promotion, the capacitation of the professionals involved in the organization of awareness campaigns for productive health and reproductive health of women, as well as to prevent and support women against domestic and gender-based violence." [Translated from French] (Tunisia NDC 2021, p. 68)

> El Salvador - Gender-responsive infrastructure and technologies

"Equal access for women and men to sustainable transport infrastructure and technologies, in an environment free of violence against women, and preferential access for girls, boys, adolescents and young people on the roads to schools and higher education institutions." [Translated from Spanish] (El Salvador NDC 2021, p. 93)



Gender-responsive and sexual and reproductive health and rights budgeting

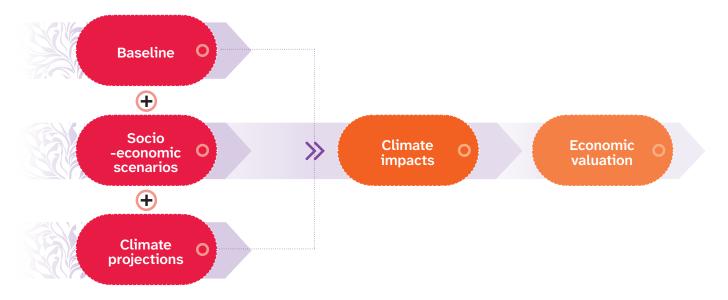
A demonstration of a level of commitment towards delivering and implementing proposed interventions in national climate and development plans is the inclusion of detailed costing and clear budgetary allocations for each plan. Across most reviews of existing climate policies, there is minimal budgetary commitment to gender-related interventions, and no budget allocation yet that specifically addresses issues related to SRHR, GBV or harmful practices.

An ambitious and transformational NDC 3.0 must include budgetary commitments that address these intersecting issues – ideally through unconditional allocations, but at a minimum through conditional ones. While budgetary provisions are an important first step, they alone are not sufficient to guarantee effective implementation.

• Quantify the cost of inaction on SRHR, GBV, harmful practices and climate change:

This critical step offers a compelling evidence base to convince government officials and other key stakeholders to take action to avert the inevitable, more expensive cost of delayed action or inaction. A framework to illustrate the cost of action versus inaction on SRHR, GBV, harmful practices, and climate change could be built upon five building blocks (illustrated in the Figure 4): current baseline (the business-as-usual or inaction situation), change in socio-economics (shifts in societal and economic factors), change in climate (environmental and climate altercations), change in impact (consequences stemming from these changes), and monetary valuation (assigning a financial value to these impacts). This approach not only supports better integration of these issues into policy and planning but also strengthens the investment case needed to secure budgetary commitments and drive implementation.

Figure 4: Framework showing five building blocks to estimate the cost of inaction



Source: Ecologic Institute (2022)

Checklist questions for integration in the budget:

- Were the proposed interventions on SRHR, GBV and harmful practices accompanied by clear budget lines?
- Are SRHR, GBV, harmful practices and social protection interventions included in the budget?
- Is the budgetary allocation adequate?
- Is the budget conditional or unconditional?

Examples of integration in budget lines

There are no budgetary allocations to SRHR, GBV and harmful practices interventions in the series of NDC review studies done by UNFPA and QMUL, as well as other reviews on NAPs and HNAPs done by other organizations. However, health, gender, adolescent and youth interventions receive allocations and can provide great entry points for where SRHR, GBV and harmful practices budgets can be embedded.



Democratic Republic of the Congo – Budget for health facilities, services, policies and preparedness

"Adaptation actions: 1. Construction/rehabilitation of health facilities" 0,92 million USD; 2. Capacity building for access of vulnerable populations to basic health services" 0,88 million USD; 3. Integration of climate change impacts into national health sector policies" 0,06 million USD; 4. Assessing health vulnerability and strengthening the preparedness of health systems to face the morbidity burden attributable to climate-sensitive diseases" 0,4 million USD (Democratic Republic of the Congo NDC 2021, p. 19)

Seychelles - Health plan implementation budgeting

"Health Implementing the Seychelles Climate Change and Health Adaptation Plan: \$10 million USD; Food Security and Improved Nutrition: \$5.649 million USD; Ensuring Climate Resilient Food Security \$9.450 million USD." (Seychelles NDC 2021, p. 37)

Cambodia

"Human health adaptation, estimated finance needed 467,685 USD." (Cambodia NDC 2020, p. 52)

Belize

"Human health – total cost \$12,571,575, funding committed/request: 4,300,000, funding requirement 8,271,575." (Belize NDC 2021, p. 31)

Gender-responsive sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence, harmful practices and climate indicators

It is important to accompany the recommended actions above with specific, quantifiable, measurable and comparable indicators. These indicators not only enable effective tracking of intervention implementation but also enhance the transparency of countries' ambition and commitment levels.

Checklist questions for indicators:

- Are the indicators specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) targets?
- Are the indicators disaggregated by sex, gender, age, indigeneity, disability and other multidimensional factors?
- Are there indicators exclusively or primarily pertinent to women, girls and gender-diverse people?
- Are the targeted outcomes informed by intersectional gender analysis?
- Do the indicators reflect gender issues, including roles, relations and inequalities? (i.e. are there gender-transformative targets).
- Are there explicit gender data related to elements of SRHR, GBV and other harmful practices, including maternal mortality ratio, unmet family planning needs, GBV prevention and response in the indicator targets?
- Are there clearly stated national, sub-national or international key reporting mechanisms to monitor and track implementation?

Examples of gender-responsive climate and SRHR indicators



Lao People's Democratic Republic - SRHR awareness indicator

"20 sensitive communities informed on water, sanitation, hygiene, dengue control, nutrition, women's health, reproductive and children's health." (Lao NDC 2021, p. 23)

Papua New Guinea - Maternal health outcome indicator

"By 2025, at least 85 per cent of [people/children<5/pregnant women] who slept under an LLIN [long-lasting insecticidal nets] the previous night." (Papua New Guinea NDC 2020, p. 49)

Mozambique- Health Indicator

"Losses due to climatic disasters by number of people in affected areas" measured in million USD per capita (Mozambique NDC 2021, p. 67)

4.5

Participatory planning, consultations and validation

A robust national climate policy must be broadly consulted with all groups of stakeholders, including adolescents, youth, women, indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups, ensuring their inputs are well reflected in the planning, drafting and implementation of national documents. Non-government stakeholders and partners must help mobilize engagement and plan and implement various national-level consultations. The government is expected to invite and engage all stakeholders in the process, including women in all their diversity, children, and young people. However, do not wait for this invitation; you can already start reaching out to the relevant government ministry and partners to ensure you do not miss out on the process. If not invited, consider inviting yourself and get involved.

Checklist questions for national consultation and validation:

- Were there consultations on the NDCs or NAPs?
- Are the consultations sectoral or general?
- Were there sectoral consultations on gender, health, adolescents and youth and SRHR?
- Which stakeholder groups were invited to participate in consultation and validation exercises?
- Were SRHR, gender, health, women, people with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression and sex characteristics, the elderly, adolescents and youth-focused/serving organizations invited for consultation?
- Were there extensive consultations, and did the stakeholders receive feedback on the outcome of the consultations?



Examples of integration in consultation and validation:

Democratic Republic of the Congo - Multistakeholder consultation and engagement

"A Technical Coordination Committee and thematic working groups have been set up to carry out the various activities, studies and reports. The Technical Coordination Committee is intended to serve as a consultation body and a space for dialogue, exchange and orientation among stakeholders for the implementation of the NDC."



"It brings together delegates from different public administrations, institutions and organizations with a view to sharing a common vision and understanding in the implementation of projects likely to ensure the advancement of interventions, initiatives and activities in the field of climate change in an atmosphere harmonious and collaborative." (Democratic Republic of the Congo NDC 2021, p. 85)

Cambodia - Gender-responsive multisectoral consultation

"The NDC update process was initiated with the relevant line ministries in March 2020 and included contributions from a number of development partner experts. A private sector event included the participation of stakeholders from a range of different sectors, and local communities and indigenous peoples were engaged in the process. Every effort was made to conduct consultations in a gender responsive way." (Cambodia NDC 2020, p. 7)

Peru – Participatory and inclusive, multisectoral, multilevel and multistakeholder approach

"...during this period of updating Peru's NDCs, the Peruvian State created a temporary Multisectoral Working Group (MWG) tasked with generating technical information to guide the implementation of the NDC...Additionally, the success of this process required not only a multisectoral but also a multi-level and multi-stakeholder approach, due to the need to involve, serve, and engage all spheres of the State, regional and local governments, as well as a wide variety of non-state actors, such as Indigenous or Native Peoples, the private sector, youth, and the general public. The participatory process "Let's Dialogue about the NDCs," instituted during this period, was and continues to be key to this process. Thus, and in accordance with successive decisions within the framework of the UNFCCC, the process for updating Peru's NDCs to 2030 is characterized by having carried out a participatory, multilevel, and multi-stakeholder process with the aim of ensuring the success of the process of formulating, updating, and implementing the country's national contributions." [Translated from Spanish] (Peru NDC 2021, p. 7)

Gender and sexual and reproductive health and rights-responsive means of implementation and collaboration

Beyond the budget, a good national climate policy must have actionable means of implementation that include technology development and transfer, and capacity-building linked as deliverables for specific partners with specific commitments of each partner to relevant interventions proposed in the document. Stakeholders can come together to collaborate and ensure specific commitments are achieved. Multi-stakeholder collaboration is essential here and will help ensure accountability based on what each stakeholder is taking responsibility for.

Checklist questions for Means of Implementation (MOI):

- Is there enough finance, capacity-building efforts and available technology to achieve the commitments of the NDC in relation to SRHR, GBV and harmful practices?
- Does the NDC have a clear MOI?
- Are there clear linkages of MOI to specific partners working across this intersection?
- Do the MOI come with specific timelines and targets?

Examples of gender and SRHR/GBV/harmful practices-responsive MOI integration:



Bhutan - Participatory coordination mechanism

"Ensure that the challenges and opportunities of climate change are addressed at all appropriate levels, through adequate means of implementation (finance, technology, capacity building and awareness) and integration into relevant plans and policies. The national institutions for coordination of climate change actions across key agencies and stakeholder groups have been revitalized with the Climate Change Coordination Committee (C4) from the erstwhile Multisectoral Technical Committee on Climate Change. In addition, a climate change 'one stop platform' is being set up to help coordinate multi-stakeholder dialogue to develop and implement climate-related work in Bhutan, with the aim to improve coordination between the different climate-sensitive sectors, enhance knowledge management and improve reporting and monitoring of all climate actions in Bhutan." (Bhutan NDC 2021, p. 2)

Dominica - Gender-responsive monitoring and reporting

"Five priority areas have been identified for Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting on Gender Mainstreaming and Climate under the GMR [draft NDC Gender Mainstreaming Roadmap (GMR)]. These are as follows:

- Capacity-building, knowledge management and communication
- Gender balance, participation and women's leadership
- Coherence
- Gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation
- Monitoring and reporting"

(Dominica NDC 2022, p. 26)

Paraguay - Gender-responsive capacity-building

"This means of implementation seeks to strengthen the training, empowerment, awareness, research and transparency processes that allow the consolidation of existing technical capacities as well as building new capacities of key actors, decision makers, national technicians, academia and civil society. Based on the needs detected, the following lines of action are proposed by 2025:

- Citizen awareness and education for climate action.
- Integration of the gender perspective and attention to vulnerable communities for the formulation of policies, programmes and climate action plans."

[Translated from Spanish] (Paraguay NDC 2021, p. 106)



SECTION 5

Steps to Integrate sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence and harmful practices considerations into Nationally Determined Contributions and other climate policies

5.

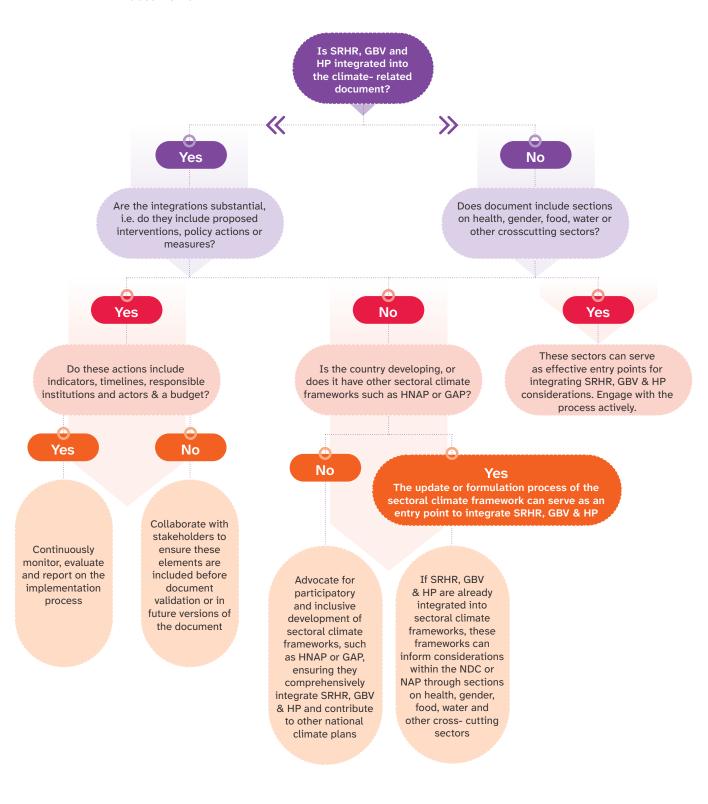
STEP 1 - National stocktaking of existing climate policies^v

Review the existing NDC, NAP, HNAP and ccGAP to understand the gaps and opportunities to integrate or strengthen existing integrations of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices priorities.

Figure 5 illustrates a systematic process to identify how and where SRHR, GBV and harmful practices can be integrated. The steps outlined below can guide stakeholders to comprehensively analyse existing climate documents, including national and sectoral plans, polices and frameworks, to pinpoint current inclusions, gaps and potential areas for more robust integration of the ICPD PoA mandate, informing subsequent steps for enhancing the documents.

Y For more steps see Annex 2: Step-by-step guide: Influencing and supporting a country beyond NDC process.

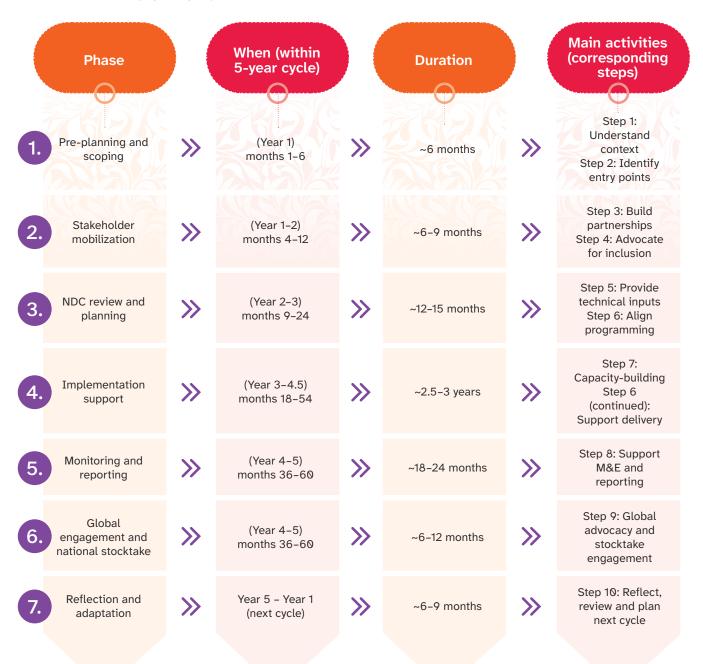
Figure 5: Steps in integrating sexual and reproductive health and rights into climate-related documents



Source: Designed by authors

Additionally, Figure 6 suggests phases and an indicative timeline to guide engagement in the NDC formulation or update process to follow.

Figure 6: Indicative timeline: Engaging in the Nationally Determined Contributions process (5-year cycle)



5.2 STEP 2 – Identify the penholder for document drafting vi

This is often a consultant from the lead ministry or lead development partner who is supporting the process. Identifying the penholder helps to build collaboration and better understand the scope of the document and what exact inputs will be needed on SRHR, GBV and harmful practices. Initial conversations can help create more opportunities for the integration than intended.

vi For a list of key stakeholders, refer to Annex 3: Sample key national stakeholder mapping for Nationally Determined Contributions engagement.

STEP 3 – Gender-transformative vulnerability assessments in the Nationally Determined Contributions and Other National Climate Policies

Lead ministries are often busy with requests from various stakeholders across society. As a result, they tend to prioritize submissions that are supported by a well-prepared position paper – one that outlines key research findings, evidence, proposed interventions, indicators and budgetary considerations relevant to the document being drafted. One format for a climate position paper could include conducting a national or sub-national climate vulnerability assessment of the impact of climate change on gender equality, SRH and GBV, including harmful practices, while utilizing disaggregated data.

Vulnerability assessment and data generation: Climate-related vulnerability assessments that incorporate the impact of climate change on diverse women and girls and vulnerable groups will provide a better understanding and data on the required actions to enhance gender-transformative climate adaptation measures. Gender-transformative vulnerability assessments are crucial for a comprehensive and well-informed NDC, NAP and ccGAP and to support the identification of gender-transformative actions. The lack of gender vulnerability assessment of climate change impacts on women and girls in all their diversity has emerged as one of the most obvious gaps for countries to strengthen gender-transformative climate actions. The UNFPA East and Southern Africa Regional Office has collaborated with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and WHO to support the <u>harmonization of vulnerability assessment tools</u> that incorporate SRHR, HIV and GBV in vulnerability assessment practices and coordination mechanisms. The platform has additional functionalities for broader analysis, including identification and estimation of people affected by humanitarian crises and the impact on issues like GBV, HIV and access to SRHR services. The tools are people-centred and can be used to identify the priorities of different groups affected by humanitarian emergencies on the supply and demand sides for SRHR, GBV and HIV services, with a focus on community perspectives and the most vulnerable groups. They were designed to be flexible and adaptable to specific organizational needs and contexts, and can be used to complement other assessments or as a standalone exercise focusing on SRHR, GBV and HIV. An example is the <u>vulnerability assessment of the impact of climate change on gender equality, sexual</u> and reproductive health and gender-based violence in South Sudan.

5.4 STEP 4 - Consultations and validation

Support women, people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and individuals with various sex characteristics, adolescent and youth groups in various consultation exercises and capacity-strengthening engagements. Their participation should extend to the final validation process to guarantee that perspectives on these intersections are reflected through a broad range of stakeholders, demonstrating their significance and priority.

STEP 5 - Follow-up until submission

It is important to accompany the process to the last moment; your task only ends with the submission, and then you plan for implementation. There are usually many iterations of the document until it is submitted, so it will be important to follow closely and ensure that key inputs are retained in the submitted version. In rare cases, it could take years for a finalized document to be submitted.

STEP 6 - Implementation and resource mobilization

Once submitted, the implementation process is expected to begin in earnest. It is important to work with key government ministries to agree on the implementation plan and order of priority, and commence domestic and international resource mobilization efforts to deliver the interventions in the commitment. One of the first key steps towards implementation is capacity-building.

• Capacity-building of national actors and the government on SRHR, GBV and harmful practices. One of the lessons learned from the national-level engagement in the climate processes, including the development of national climate policies, is the need for adequate capacity-building of key government and other national stakeholders to understand these intersections and the concept of gender-transformative actions. Robust capacity-building that includes strengthening the role of the National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points (NGCCFPs) could make a big difference and ensure that mainstreaming these intersections will be more organic in the future. The UNFPA East and Southern Africa Regional Office has prepared a highly recommended training, Resilient Futures: Integrating SRHR, Gender Equality, for National Climate Action – A Training Manual on SRHR, Gender and Climate Change Resilience for Government and Non-State Actors/Stakeholders, which could be useful in delivering such a comprehensive capacity-building exercise. It will be important to include relevant line ministries in this collaboration. The following ministries are recommended, with the understanding that these should be adapted based on each country's specific context and institutional arrangements:

Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment/Climate/Forestry, Ministry of Gender/Social Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs/Disaster Risk Reduction, Ministry of Youth, Ministry of Energy and Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning.

5.7

STEP 7 - National reporting mechanism

It is also important to ensure that relevant evidence, research and data are collected and reflected in the various national climate reporting mechanisms, including the biennial transparency reports, national communications, adaptation communications and any other similar reporting mechanism that feeds into the global process. Once a substantial number of country reports are submitted, a synthesis report is typically produced. These synthesis reports play a key role in shaping decisions and outcomes at major global forums, such as the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties, which in turn help guide national-level priorities.

Stakeholder engagement

The United Nations Country Team, led by the Resident Coordinator's Office, and the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP), plays a vital lead role at the country level, interfacing directly with the ministry. It collaborates with other United Nations partners to engage with national counterparts on enhancing and implementing the NDC, NAP, HNAP and ccGAP. UNDP works closely with various in-country partners on NDC support, linking these processes to broader development and sectoral planning, including the SDGs. National stakeholders, in cooperation with UNFPA, should capacitate the Ministry of Health on climate-resilient health systems and the integration of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices. Engaging with relevant government ministries, particularly the lead ministry responsible for NDC submission (often the Ministry of Environment/Climate or Forestry), is essential. The NDC Partnership also offers an avenue for engagement and coordination, with designated focal points in member countries and opportunities for institutional members.

STEP 8 - Mobilizing climate finance for implementation

Climate finance is critical in implementing key national commitments on climate action and can be mobilized from government, bilateral, multilateral and private sector sources. In 2021, the Secretary General called for 50 per cent of climate finance to be devoted to climate adaptation and building resilience, ⁸¹ and it is highly likely that the emphasis on adaptation will increase in every country. Between 2016 and 2022, the total share of climate adaptation finance mobilized by developed countries increased from 17 per cent in 2016 to 25 per cent in 2019, to 28 per cent in 2022 of overall global climate finance. ⁸² However, mitigation finance still takes the largest share, continuing to account for 60 per cent of climate finance, and cross-cutting activities that address both mitigation and adaptation are growing to 13 per cent of the total. Most of this financing was provided as loans. Also, it is important to encourage domestic finance, especially by ensuring that a percentage of the national budget is consistently allocated to meeting the climate commitments.

When accessing funds from key multilateral climate funds, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Adaptation Fund, Global Environment Facility and Fund for responding to Loss and Damage, accessing entities, in most cases, need first to be accredited by meeting the eligibility requirements set by each of the financing organizations. In the case of the Green Climate Fund, a wide range of entities can be accredited, including national, regional and international ones, and they can be private, public, non-governmental, sub-national, national, regional or international organizations.⁸³

For the Adaptation Fund, they have accredited <u>implementing entities</u> across three key classifications, including national implementing entities, regional implementing entities and multilateral implementing entities. Funds can be accessed through these entities; the Fund also provides learning grants for knowledge exchange between national implementing entities and other adaptation stakeholders.

The Global Environment Facility provides funds across various conventions supporting work on biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, land and ocean. The Fund for responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) provides further opportunities for climate finance.

Partnerships are essential for mobilizing climate finance, particularly at national and regional levels. Submitting a consortium proposal – with multiple partners alongside the lead applicant – is strongly encouraged. This approach not only strengthens collaboration but also helps build the capacity of key national and community-based organizations to implement large-scale climate projects. Over time, such capacity-building efforts can enhance their prospects for accreditation with major climate finance institutions, strengthen national direct access entities and local ownership.



SECTION 6

Other useful tools and resources

- UNFPA (2025). <u>Resilient Futures: Integrating SRHR, Gender Equality, for National Climate Action A Training Manual on SRHR, Gender and Climate Change Resilience for Government and Non-State Actors/Stakeholders</u>
- UNFPA SRHR and Climate Tracker
- UNFPA (2025). <u>Vulnerability assessment of the impact of climate change on gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence in South Sudan</u>
- UNFPA et al. (2025). <u>Harmonization of vulnerability assessment tools for SRHR, HIV and GBV in humanitarian settings</u>
- UNFPA et al. (2025). <u>Handbook for Conducting Multi-stakeholder Vulnerability Assessments</u> for SRHR, HIV, and GBV in Humanitarian Settings
- UNDP Guidance: Enhancing NDC: A Guide To Strengthening National Climate Plans By 2020
- World Bank: HNP Climate & Health Guidance Note
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) guidance: <u>Integrating Human</u> <u>Rights in NDC 2022, OHCHR</u>
- NDC Partnership: <u>Unlock Finance Route</u>
- WHO (2024) Quality Criteria for Integrating Health in NDCs
- Green Climate Fund: Accredited Entities
- Adaptation Fund: Implementing Entities
- International Office for Migration (IOM): Technical guide on <u>integrating human mobility</u> and climate change linkages into relevant national climate change planning processes
- UN Women: Financing Gender Equality in the Green Transition in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Toolkit to Integrate Gender in Climate Policies
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): IPCC Reports



Annex 1:

Key intersections between sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence, harmful practices and climate change, and possible interventions

Category	Specific climatic event/ factor	Possible pathways	Impact on SRHR, GBV, harmful practices and population	Possible interventions
Human health and health systems	Pollution, extreme weather, degraded environments.	Toxin exposure, strain on health systems, disrupted SRH service delivery.	Endocrine systems/fertility disruption, reduced access to health care, increased health vulnerabilities.	Support integration of SRHR into HNAPs, strengthening climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems.
Maternal health and pregnancy	Rising temperatures, flooding, droughts, extreme heat, food/water insecurity, disease outbreaks.	Malnutrition, vector-borne diseases, unsafe deliveries, inadequate contraception, lack of safe abortion services.	Stillbirth, preterm birth, low birth weight, miscarriage, maternal mortality, anaemia, and eclampsia.	Ensure access to maternal care, contraception and safe abortion services in climate emergencies, promote integrated nutrition and disease prevention in climate and SRHR interventions.
Menstrual health	Air pollution, displacement, economic stress, climate-/ eco-anxiety and stress.	Hormonal imbalance, limited access to menstrual products and sanitation supplies.	Period poverty, safety, privacy and GBV risks, health issues, school absenteeism, child marriage.	Distribute menstrual products and sanitation supplies, promote menstrual hygiene management education and safe WASH.
HIV and STIs	Service disruptions, food insecurity, migration, risky coping behaviours.	Interrupted antiretroviral therapy (ART) supply, compromised nutrition, increased risk-taking behaviours.	Increased transmission risks, poor treatment adherence, increased community viral load, worsened health outcomes.	Ensure continuity of HIV and STI services, targeted education, social protection in climate emergencies to reduce vulnerability and integrate climate-resilient food security and nutrition support.
Gender equality	Intersecting vulnerabilities, structural barriers, resource scarcity, exclusion from decision-making.	Insufficient access and control over resources, limited participation and power decision-making in climate action.	Increased vulnerability, lower adaptive capacity, weakened resilience.	Promote gender-transformative policies, empower girls, women and gender-diverse individuals' leadership and as change agents in climate actions, including targeted social protection schemes.

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GBV an harmfu practice	stress/ es scarcit temper	resource y, rising ratures, e-induced	Increased intimate partner violence, early/ forced marriage, commercial sexual exploitation, violence against women environmental human rights defenders.	Heightened GBV and harmful practices risks and prevalence, compromised safety and rights.	Scale up GBV prevention, mitigation and response in climate emergencies, support legal protection, trauma-informed survivor care.
People w diverse se orientati gender ide and expres and se characteris	xual prepare and research properties and research properties and soon margin	edness sponse on, legal	Lack of inclusive planning and services.	Disproportionate impacts, lack of protection.	Support inclusive policies, ensure access to tailored service provision.
Access SRHR and protecti service	GBV infrastr	se, e-induced ion,	Damaged health infrastructure, broken life-saving commodity supply chains, limited access to skilled health workforce.	Increased maternal morbidity and mortality, STIs, unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortion, GBV, waterborne diseases.	Strengthen climate- resilient health systems, including workforce and medical supply chain for SRHR and GBV services in crises, last-mile service through informal health-care workers.
Mental he and psycho well-bei	temper extrem events climate	e-related mic and losses, exiety, pods	Anxiety, distress, disrupted fetal development.	Higher depression, PTSD, especially among youth and girls, increased sexual violence and GBV and demands for GBV protection services.	Integrate culturally appropriate MHPSS, as well as adolescent and youth-focused mental health programmes, in climate action.
Displacen and migra		drought, ical lation,	Forced relocation, disrupted services.	Heightened GBV risks and harmful practices, health service gaps, loss of rights.	Provide mobile health/ GBV services, support displaced women, girls and young people.
Food securit	y erosior agricul produc liveliho decline	n, flooding, tural ee/ ood	Malnutrition, delayed menarche, weakened immunity.	Pregnancy risks, GBV and sexual exploitation risks from food scarcity affect HIV treatment outcomes.	Support food access and nutrition during pregnancy and for menstruating individuals, linking food, SRHR and climate resilience programmes.
WASH	drough intrusio	ar rainfall, at, saline on, water nination arcity.	Unsafe hygiene, heavy water- fetching burdens, water-borne diseases.	Infections, school dropout, especially of girls, GBV, maternal and fetal morbidity and mortality, menstrual and HIV health complications.	Improve access to climate-resilient, safe water and sanitation for SRHR, reduce GBV risks.

Adolescents and youth	Long-term climate impact, including climate anxiety, solastalgia,vii educational disruption, and climate-induced displacement and conflicts.	Mental health impacts, pessimism about the future.	Stress, health risks, influences reproductive choices and fertility preferences.	Engage adolescents and youth in climate and SRHR programmes, for instance, through advisory boards to get feedback on actions, mental health support; support adolescent and youth inclusion in NAPs and NDCs, and other related policies; support meaningful child and youth inclusion in decision-making, including through consultations.
Ageing	Heat-related stress, service access issues.	Reduced thermoregulation, dehydration.	Cognitive and bodily functions decline, health risks.	Tailor health services for older persons and support heat resilience.
Persons with disabilities	Exclusion in climate emergency responses, shelter inaccessibility.	Barriers to safety, GBV exposure.	Increased physical/ sexual violence, lack of services.	Ensure accessible GBV and SRHR services, protection in emergencies.
Indigenous Peoples	Land degradation, rising sea levels, resource extraction in ancestral territories.	Environmental loss forces displacement, weakening traditional protection systems and excluding them from formal adaptation planning.	Reduced access to culturally appropriate SRHR services and supplies, heightened GBV risks in displacement camps and during resource-scarce periods, erosion of traditional support networks and protective norms.	Support innovative action and solutions developed in Indigenous communities through funding; engage Indigenous Peoples in research, evidence and policy, and formally recognize Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge and sustainable practices.
Urban slum communities	Urban heat island effect,viii flash floods damaging informal WASH infrastructure.	Extreme heat exacerbates overcrowding in poorly ventilated homes; flood damage cuts off access to health and protection services.	Heat stress undermines maternal and neonatal health; disrupts sleep and mobility, flood-induced WASH breakdown increases menstrual health challenges and STI risks, overcrowded shelters heighten GBV incidents.	Promote green, inclusive and healthy cities through infrastructure and typologies comprising dense, walkable, human-friendly cities that reduce material consumption, per capita emissions and social inequalities; advocate for stronger alignment of national climate plans with national urban policies.

vii The fear of irreversible damages to one's environment.
viii <u>Urban heat island effec</u>t is a phenomenon where urban areas experience higher temperatures than outlying areas due to a combination of diminishing green cover, heat gain and thermal properties of the materials commonly used in urban surfaces, as well as waste heat from human activities (such as industrial processes, transport and air conditioning).

Annex 2:

Step-by-step guide: Influencing and supporting a country beyond the Nationally Determined Contributions process

1. Understand the national NDC context

- Review existing NDCs (first and updated versions) to understand current priorities, gaps and commitments across sectors.
- Review other national climate-related policies: e.g. NAPs, SDG strategies, sectoral plans and relevant legislation.
- Understand the country's climate vulnerabilities, emissions profile and development context.
- Map key actors: Identify the lead ministry (usually Environment or Climate), line ministries (e.g. Health, Gender, Agriculture, Energy, Youth) and national climate platforms.
- Map national budget cycles and identify if and how NDC/NAP and other climate priorities are integrated into national budgets and climate expenditure tracking systems.

2. Identify entry points for engagement

- Find the most relevant alignment(s) between your mandate (e.g. SRHR, gender, youth, health, food security) and existing or upcoming NDC review/implementation timelines.
- Identify windows in the NDC revision and **budgeting cycles** where inputs are most influential (e.g. before national budgets are finalized, during sector plan reviews). Flag where underfunded or unfunded gender, health, youth, and rights-based priorities exist.
- Look for:
 - **Sector-specific consultations** (health, gender, agriculture, WASH)
 - Thematic windows (loss and damage, adaptation, just transition, finance)
 - Cross-cutting themes (gender, equity, inclusion, human rights, SRHR)

3. Build strategic partnerships

- Engage with:
 - National focal points for UNFCCC/NDC
 - Relevant ministries (e.g. Climate, Health, Gender, Planning, Finance, Disaster Management)
 - National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point
 - Climate finance focal points
 - Other United Nations agencies, youth and women-focused international NGOs and donors involved in NDC processes.
- Join or support national NDC working groups or technical committees.
- Engage **ministries of Finance, Planning,** and line ministries (Health, Gender, Energy, Youth, etc.) to build cross-sectoral alliances.

4. Advocate for inclusive, gender-responsive, rights-based approaches

- Promote the integration of:
 - Gender equality and social inclusion
 - Gender-transformative approaches
 - **Human rights,** especially SRHR, GBV, people with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics

- Adolescent and youth engagement
- Disability inclusion
- Indigenous Peoples' inclusion
- Use data, case studies and community perspectives to show why and how these issues are climate relevant.
- Advocate not only for inclusion of SRHR, GBV, gender, children, youth and disability in NDCs, but also for their budgetary prioritization. Promote the integration of genderresponsive and equity-focused budgeting in NDC planning and sectoral budgeting.

5. Provide technical inputs during NDC planning

- Offer evidence, tools, or support for:
 - Sectoral vulnerability assessments (e.g. health, gender analysis, SRHR, food security)
 - Baseline data and indicators
 - Co-benefit analysis of inclusive climate actions
 - Cost-benefit assessments for adaptation actions
- Support consultation processes, especially at the sub-national level.
- Support **budgeted action plans** that quantify investment needs for inclusive, resilient programming.
- Help estimate the **economic and social co-benefits** of investing in areas like gender equality, SRHR, GBV prevention, adolescent and youth engagement.

6. Align programmatic interventions with NDC implementation

- Embed NDC priorities into:
 - United Nations cooperation frameworks
 - Sectoral programming (e.g. health system resilience, climate-smart agriculture, GBV response in emergencies, disaster risk reduction)
 - Humanitarian and development plans
- Ensure internal and partner budgets and proposals are aligned with NDC priorities to support national goals.
- Mobilize funding aligned with NDC goals (e.g. Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, bilateral donors), linking climate finance with development and humanitarian programmes.

7. Strengthen the capacity of national and local actors

- Train government counterparts and civil society on:
 - Gender-transformative and rights-based climate action
 - Climate and gender, age and sex-disaggregated data collection and reporting
 - Climate budgeting and finance access
 - Gender-responsive budgeting
- Support institutional capacity for intersectoral coordination.

8. Support monitoring, evaluation and reporting

- Work with national actors to:
 - Integrate **gender**, **health**, **and equity** indicators into NDC M&E frameworks
 - Build data systems that are disaggregated by sex, age, gender, disability, etc.

- Contribute to **transparency mechanisms** (biennial transparency reports, NDC progress reports)
- Participate in or co-facilitate stocktaking exercises (e.g. Global Stocktake)
- Ensure the NDC M&E framework includes tracking of budget allocations and expenditures for climate action, disaggregated by sector and population group (gender, age, disability, etc.).

9. Advocate at regional and global levels

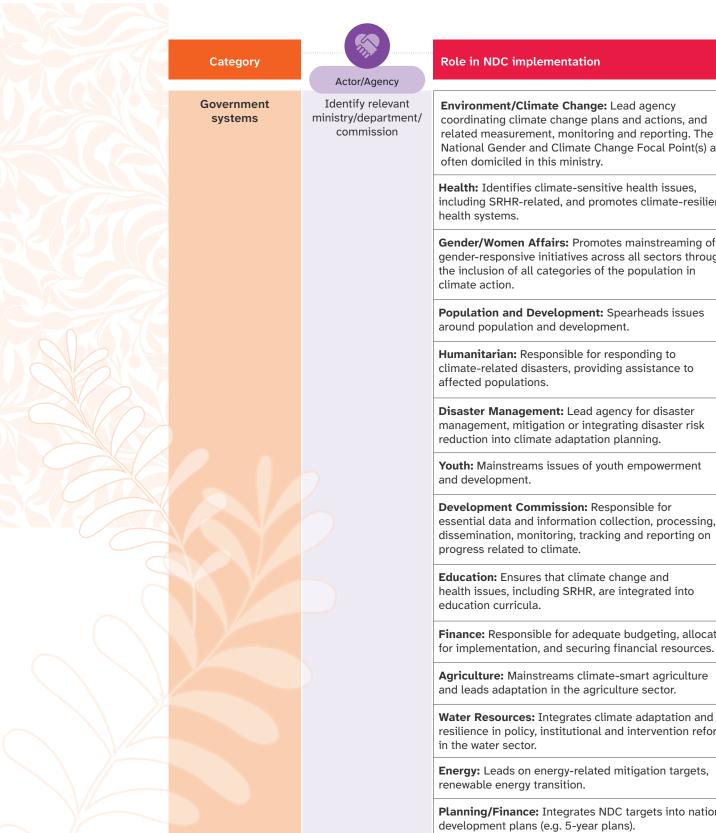
- Share local and national lessons learned in:
 - UNFCCC platforms
 - COPs and Subsidiary Body sessions
 - Regional climate weeks
 - Donor consultations and climate finance platforms
- Use South-South Cooperation to amplify country experiences.
- Advocate for increased international finance for adaptation, gender equity, health and SRHR in climate policy spaces.
- Showcase evidence on the cost-effectiveness and return on investment of inclusive climate actions.

10. Sustain engagement and reflective learning

- Conduct **joint reviews** with the government and stakeholders to adjust support strategies.
- Invest in participatory evaluation and knowledge sharing.
- Ensure local voices and evidence inform future NDC cycles.

Annex 3:

Sample key national stakeholder mapping for Nationally Determined **Contributions engagement**



Environment/Climate Change: Lead agency coordinating climate change plans and actions, and related measurement, monitoring and reporting. The National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point(s) are

Health: Identifies climate-sensitive health issues, including SRHR-related, and promotes climate-resilient

Gender/Women Affairs: Promotes mainstreaming of gender-responsive initiatives across all sectors through the inclusion of all categories of the population in

climate-related disasters, providing assistance to

Disaster Management: Lead agency for disaster management, mitigation or integrating disaster risk reduction into climate adaptation planning.

Development Commission: Responsible for essential data and information collection, processing, dissemination, monitoring, tracking and reporting on

health issues, including SRHR, are integrated into

Finance: Responsible for adequate budgeting, allocation for implementation, and securing financial resources.

and leads adaptation in the agriculture sector.

resilience in policy, institutional and intervention reforms

Energy: Leads on energy-related mitigation targets,

Planning/Finance: Integrates NDC targets into national

Planning/Finance: Facilitates local-level climate planning and NDC implementation.

	United Nations Agencies	UNDP	Lead United Nations partner on NDC support; governance, technical capacity, and climate finance.
		United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Technical input on low-emission development, greenhouse emissions monitoring, clean energy planning.
		UNFPA	Technical support for human-centred climate action and resilience that incorporates population dimensions, particularly focusing on vulnerable groups and addressing issues like SRHR and GBV.
		UN Women	Promotes gender equality and ensures women's full participation in climate action.
		WHO	Ensures that NDCs are implemented effectively and sustainably, especially in the health sector.
		UNICEF	Promotes the inclusion of children and young people in climate action, as well as their rights and responsibilities.
		Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Supports climate-smart agriculture, adaptation in land use and food systems.
		United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	Promotes energy efficiency and low-carbon industrial development.
		International Labour Organization (ILO)	Advocates for green jobs and just transition in alignment with NDC goals.
	International non-governmental organizations (NGOs)/development partners	partners relevant to	SRHR and Climate Justice Coalition
			International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
			Women's Environment Development Organization (WEDO)
			Women Deliver
			Akina Mama wa Afrika
			NAP Global Network
			International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW)
			Ipas
			International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
	Donors/ multilateral funds	Green Climate Fund	Provides finance for mitigation and adaptation projects aligned with NDC, NAP, ccGAP and other national climate strategy priorities.
		Adaptation Fund	Provides finance for adaptation projects aligned with NDC, NAP, ccGAP and other national climate strategy priorities.
		Fund for responding to Loss and Damage	Provides finance for Loss and Damage response linked to climate-related events.
		Green Environment Facility	Provides finance for work on climate change, biodiversity, land degradation and environment.

World Bank	Financing low-carbon infrastructure, policy support and technical assistance.
African Development Bank	Investment in clean energy, agriculture, gender-transformative adaptation, and resilient infrastructure.
Asian Development Bank	Investment in clean energy, urban adaptation and resilient infrastructure.
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (United Kingdom)	Bilateral support for NDC implementation, technical assistance and locally led adaptation.
European Union	Provides climate finance, capacity-building and policy support for NDC and NAP-related sectors.
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)	Supports climate governance, inclusion and capacity for NDC implementation.
	African Development Bank Asian Development Bank Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (United Kingdom) European Union Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

NGOs/ civil society/ academia/ grassroots Girls' and women's rights groups

Climate experts/advocates

SRHR experts/advocates/groups

Gender experts/advocates

Health experts/advocates

Associations for professionals, such as midwives and obstetricians

Women's networks and gender- and disability-focused NGOs/networks

Youth/youth-led organizations or networks

Environmental rights groups

Indigenous or Native Peoples

Community groups and leaders

Private sector

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