

GENDER & CLIMATE CHANGE IN YEMEN



Awatif Alshargabi Gender Specialist CISPPCR Yemen In 2008, Yemen became a participating country in the Climate Investment Fund's Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR). Countries participating in the PPCR develop Strategic Programs for Climate Resilience (SPCRs), which aim to develop an integrated, crosscutting approach to mainstreaming climate resilience, provide measures. an knowledge generation and management, and implement adaptation approach to innovative gender inclusion.

In Yemen Categories of women and youth, as well as the poor and marginalized will be the most vulnerable to the negative climate change, and of desertification, drought and food shortages, especially in developing countries and African countries. due to women bear the responsibility of managing the family in the case of the displacement of men to look for work, when worsened climate change, she will be the most vulnerable one under threat, especially in agricultural areas ,95 % from farmers are women.

- -Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change.
- -Does It Make a Difference If You're a Woman or a Man?

"If women are aware then families can be saved from many losses.... and the women themselves are saved from a lot of suffering."



The Gender/Climate Change Connections

- -Women are more severely affected by climate change and disasters due to:natural
- social roles discrimination and poverty.
- -Women are underrepresented in decision-making about climate change, greenhouse gas emissions and most critically discussions and decisions about adaptation and mitigation.



Women, climate change, & ecological disasters

In Yemen women living in poverty bear the burden of climate change consequences.



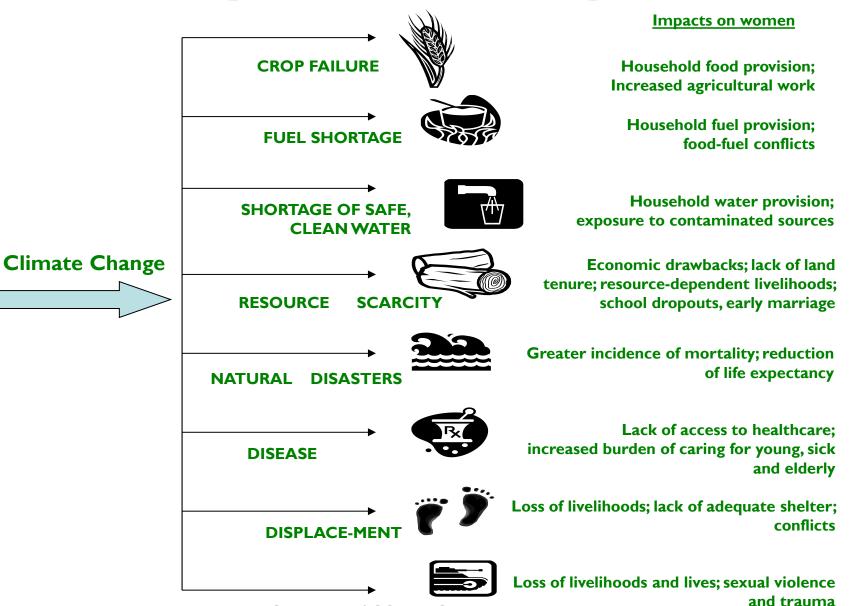
More work to fetch
water, or to collect fuel
and fodder
Increased male-out
migration
More women left

More women left behind with additional agricultural and household duties

=>

Fewer resources to cope with seasonal and episodic weather and natural disasters.

The Impacts of Climate Change on Women



CIVIL WAR / CONFLICT

Climate Change Exacerbates the Cycle of Poverty

Environmental instabilities: i.e. drought/ floods

Insecure livelihoods: i.e. reduced crop yield

Example of exacerbated cycle of poverty for women

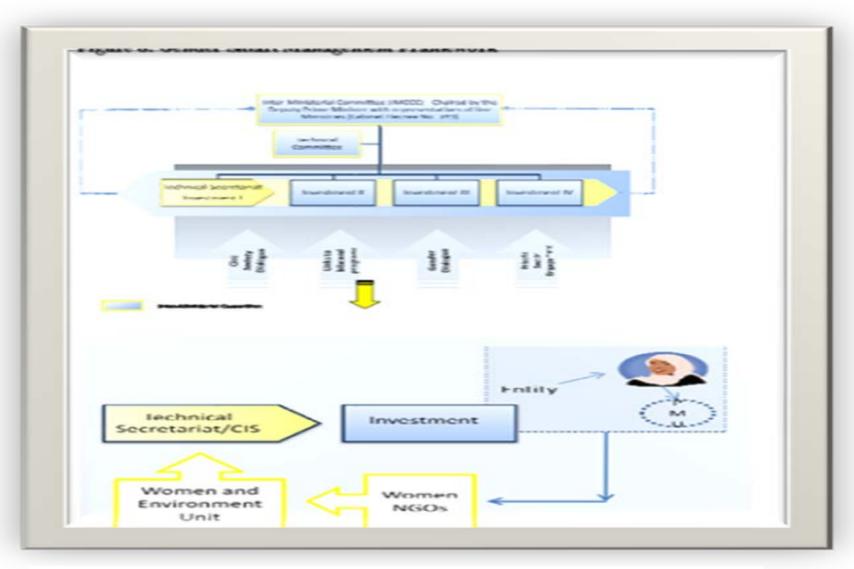
Unsustainable coping strategies: i.e. deforestation; migration; conflict



Increased burden on household: i.e. more time collecting water, food, fuel



Overall SPCR Management Structure



SPCR

Strategic Program for Climate Resilience

Women, environment and climate change

General objective:

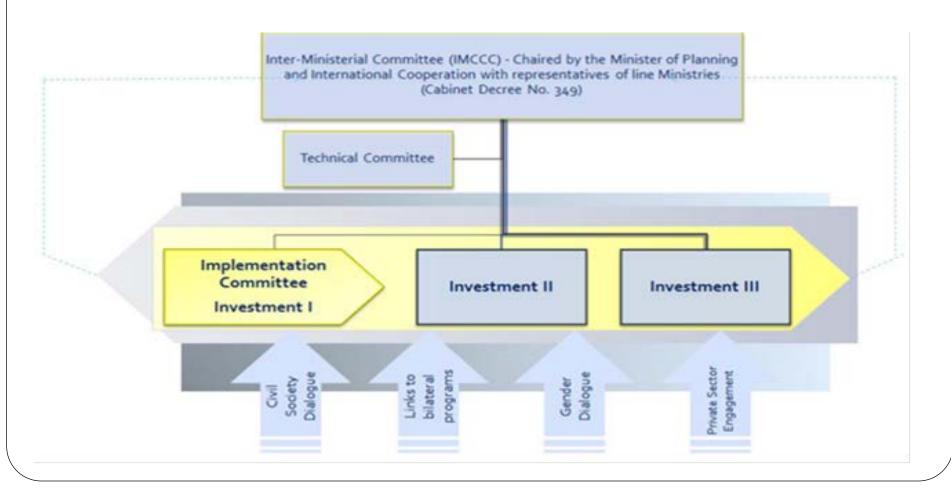
Build the capacity of women and the development of knowledge, skills and trends to maintain health and protect the environment, and strengthen their role in ecosystem management and policy-making and decision-making related to the environment and climate change, the development of a strategy for the integration of gender environmental sector

Sub-goals:

- Development of Knowledge young girl in various stages of education and the promotion of trends and skills to maintain the health and protect the environment.
- The development of environmental awareness among women in the family and the community to contribute to environmental protection and preservation.
- Building the capacity of working women and the development of knowledge, skills and trends to maintain health and protect the environment.
- Raise the proportion of women's representation and active participation in the environmental sector in various levels and fields and specialties, and enhance their role in the management of the ecosystem.
- The adoption of a gender-sensitive approach in the development of policies, strategies and decision-making related to climate change.

The Gender Smart Management Framework is a positive step forward for gender inclusion in Yemen, and offers some important lessons for countries seeking to institute similar programs in their work. These lessons highlight the importance of

- 1) integrating gender into the institutional framework.
- 2) ensuring that the right women are targeted and with the appropriate support.
- 3) instituting an accountability mechanism.



First, gender was integrated into the foundation of the Climate Information System and PPCR Program Coordination project from the start, as it was considered a regular part of the national dialogue for the SPCR, and included as an essential pillar of stakeholder engagement. Throughout the SCPR preparation process, feedback from women's groups such as the Yemeni Women's Union (YWU) and Women Environmental Society, were actively sought. As a result of the design and consultation built into the SPCR development process, all of the SPCR investments include gender as a cross-cutting topic.

Second, the women selected to be a part of the PMU under the framework must be technical specialists from participating implementation agencies, this helps ensure that the focus is on the women's contribution and impact, rather than on the numbers they represent, alone. The women then receive priority training opportunities that increase their capacity to make effective contributions to project implementation. This targeted approach to gender inclusion helps ensure that tangible impacts, terms of skills-building and applied expertise are achieved.

Third, the Government and development partners involved in the project were highly supportive of the framework and are being held accountable to its enforcement through institutional design. As seen in the diagram, women's groups are assigned a role in the management structure of the PMU; the Women and Environment Unit of the Environment Protection Authority, with the support of local women's NGOs, is entrusted to monitor and evaluate on a regular basis the gender inclusion across all investments. This includes annual assessments on how to improve gender aspects with recommendations for improvement.

What are we looking forward to

Care-giving. Because women are primary care-givers in times of disaster and environmental stress, the heavier burdens of care-giving tend to make them less mobile.

Workloads. Climate Change is expected to magnify existing shortfalls in water resources and fuel wood. More time spent fetching water or wood will increase women's workloads. Limiting their opportunities to branch out into other(non-traditional activities).

We have to :-

Women's mobilization, participation and leadership

Women in decision-making positions

Women's solutions, innovations and perspectives at the forefront

Targeted advocacy → gender equality is a <u>prerequisite</u> for sustainable development

The benefits of mainstreaming gender in climate change [include] increased awareness, improved capacity, sensitivity to traditional knowledge and risk reduction..."

What we have to do?

- -Integrate a gender perspective into policy and decision making in order to ensure that the **CISPPCR Yemen** mandates on gender equality are fully implemented.
- -Ensure that financing mechanisms on mitigation and adaptation address the needs of poor women and men equitably.
- -Build capacity at all levels to design and implement genderresponsive climate change policies, strategies and programmes.
- -Develop, compile, and share practical tools, information, and methodologies to facilitate the integration of gender into policy and programming.







THANKYOU