

# In Search of Climate Justice: Refuting Dubious Linkages, Affirming Rights

Fifteen years ago, at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), a global movement of feminists and their allies successfully debunked population control as a legitimate development strategy. That victory is being challenged today, as advocates for population control seek to regain ground—and capture new resources—by taking advantage of international concern about climate change. At the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, for example, Optimal Population Trust claimed “Contraceptives are the greenest technology!”<sup>1</sup> President Zhou promoted the environmental benefits of China’s draconian family planning policy—400 million fewer births results in 18 million fewer tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions a year. Some environmental activists argue that humans act as climate changers and suggest that population stabilisation policies are more politically feasible and cost-effective than other ways to reduce carbon emissions. Although the UN refused to link issues of population and climate change in the Copenhagen Accord, “the insidious message of population control gained new currency.”<sup>2</sup>

Other groups are also finding population control a useful vehicle to advance their particular interests in the context of climate change. Anti-immigration organisations urge reduction in birth rates to avoid the threat of “climate refugees.” Their radicalised message already resonates in foreign policy circles in Europe and the US. Military and industrial stakeholders who want to deflect responsibility for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions can blame population growth for climate change, making population control the “obvious” solution.<sup>3</sup>

Why should progressive feminists, particularly those who prioritise sexual and reproductive health and rights



Graphic by Maria Mithulath

(SRHR), object to linking climate change and population reduction? The dangers of undue emphasis on population reduction to address climate change are clear. It jeopardises decades of work to advance multifaceted, rights-respecting, environmentally sound and equitable development models. Several problems bear emphasising here:

1. A narrow focus on reducing birth rates ignores the other demographic factors that are part of the population-climate change equation. For example, urbanisation trends, immigration patterns and, perhaps most importantly, per capita resource consumption, all interact with population size to affect the environment. From a demographic perspective, it makes

no sense to single out only one factor—birth rates—as the problem and the solution. Indeed, the other demographic forces may eclipse birth rates as the drivers of environmental decline. Climate change strategies that do not address these other factors are doomed to be ineffective.

2. One-sixth of the world’s population lives in countries with extremely low rates of consumption, including energy consumption. These countries are also countries with higher rates of population growth and hence are the target of population control advocates. They argue that it is the large and growing populations of these countries that threaten climate change.

**Climate justice** (*see* Definitions, p.11) advocates insist that equitable climate change strategies should not displace responsibility for carbon emissions upon those least responsible for them. According to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the largest emissions of greenhouse gases (both historical and current) originate in developed countries. Industrialised countries

with 20% of the world's population are responsible for 80% of the accumulated carbon build-up in the atmosphere.<sup>4</sup> By contrast, per capita emissions in developing countries are low. For instance, according to the International Energy Agency Report (2009), in 2007, US per capita emission was 19.10 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per person, compared to 0.25 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per person in Bangladesh.<sup>5</sup> In parts of the developing world such as sub-Saharan Africa, where population growth rates are high, CO<sub>2</sub> emission rates are very low.<sup>4</sup> Due to their low level consumption, the impact on climate is negligible.

A "Fair Share Level" (FSL) approach to climate control integrates equity and consumption considerations.<sup>6</sup> FSL determines a particular global average of emissions per person. Countries mired in energy poverty are differentiated from those living above that level. In fact, FSL strives to move people out of energy poverty while addressing the consumption of high level consumers. Addressing energy poverty and its consequent negative health outcomes, FSL proponents advocate for convenient fuels and greater access to electricity.

3. Population control strategies have inevitably led to abuses, coercion and the violation of women's fundamental rights.<sup>7</sup> The Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)'s 2009 ICPD+15 monitoring study shows that these violations persist.<sup>8</sup> In 9 of 12 population policies examined, fertility levels were considered as 'too high'; policies aimed at lowering them focused narrowly on birth control, with the burden of contraception mostly falling on women. Where women have greater access to education and employment, more say in household and community decision-making, access to quality sexual and reproductive health services, and are assured of the future prospects of their children, fertility rates inevitably decline.

4. As a matter of human rights, women's right to control their own fertility should not be sacrificed to protect the environment. Nor is that sacrifice necessary. Cutting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through new energy saving technologies and changed consumption patterns would do a great deal more to protect the climate. For example, increased public transport, fuel-efficient cars and a reduction in the number of automobiles would have a greater, more immediate impact on reducing climate change than reducing birth rates, especially the birth rates of the lowest level consumers.<sup>4</sup>

Respect for women's rights, including their reproductive and sexual rights, mandates women's control over their fertility, i.e., to determine whether or not to have children. This is as crucial as other rights, such as women's rights to bodily integrity, to pleasure and to express gender and

sexuality. Since the 1992 Rio Conference on Environment and Development, and through subsequent conferences such as ICPD, and the 1995 Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women, women's rights advocates have insisted on policies that give women greater control over their SRHR and well-being. This includes access to quality contraceptive services to determine their own fertility, amongst other things.

5. Women's bodies should not be the vehicle for climate change solutions, but concern for the impact of climate change on women should prompt effective as well as rights-respecting efforts to control greenhouse gas emissions (GHGE). The heightened vulnerability of women to the environmental impacts of climate change is documented. But there is insufficient attention to date to the disproportionate impact of climate change disasters upon women. After a disaster strikes, women typically lack access to essential services, including obstetric and gynaecological services.

In the aftermath of the floods in Bangladesh and the tsunami in Sri Lanka, for example, sexual abuse of women and sexually transmitted infections increased.<sup>9</sup> Inadequate supplies of condoms and emergency contraceptives to prevent infection and unwanted pregnancies compounds women's vulnerability. Women survivors, often totally responsible for their children, must contend with destabilised food and water supplies. Paradoxically, women both typically have less access to national and economic resources for recovery<sup>10</sup> and are maligned for over-reliance on state rehabilitation and relocation services.<sup>11</sup>

6. Population control strategies may also undermine efforts by developing countries to incorporate

legitimate demographic concerns in national climate adaptation plans. No one proposes simply ignoring the role of population growth in climate change planning. In fact, many national plans by developing countries include greater access to family planning as part of an agenda for climate adaptation while prioritising the welfare of poor communities affected by climate change.

If population growth is considered a primary impetus for climate change, then developed countries may be content with funding family planning in developing countries as climate change strategy. Developing countries have historically received external funding for their family planning efforts. What they need now, however, is additional support to enable them to undertake new climate adaptation and mitigation strategies. Many developing countries are concerned that developed countries will use existing family planning funds to offset the total they would otherwise be

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contributing to assist those countries with climate change.

Women's rights advocates not only refute the dubious linking of population and climate change, but insist that both **climate justice** and **reproductive justice** (*see* Definitions, p.11) must be integrated in climate change policies. They assert that there can be no climate justice without reproductive justice. They underscore connections between environmental toxins, women's infertility and reproductive cancers;<sup>12</sup> expose links between corporations and occupational health hazards;<sup>13</sup> and campaign for workplace changes that simultaneously improve reproductive justice outcomes and decrease GHGE. One example of this is POLISH (Participatory Research and Organising Leadership Institute for Safety and Health), a project of the Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice, that has done pioneering conceptual and organising work that directly links climate change with the sexual and reproductive health of immigrant women workers. (*See* Monitoring section, p.7).

Feminist research must examine how changing environments affect women's lives and the health and well-being of their families and communities. Appropriate climate change strategies require a deep cultural and localised understanding of how social expectations, roles, status and economic power are potentially affected by climate change. Feminist research to date has been insightful and far reaching—from connecting climate change and women's status, to making essential links between militarism and climate change, and the particular impact of natural disasters upon women. More research is necessary, however, to inform practical recommendations that address women's vulnerabilities while devising climate change solutions.

Greater dialogue and cooperation between the development (including SRHR) and climate change communities are crucial to effectively address the linkages between gender, poverty and climate change. A coalition of women's environmental groups at Copenhagen provided five good reasons why gender equality should be highlighted in the text of the final agreement.<sup>14</sup> These reasons include: women are the key providers of food, water and fuel;<sup>15</sup> are well-positioned to address resource constraints; are leaders in environmental struggles; constitute 70% of those living below the poverty line; and are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation. Their effective advocacy secured the place of gender-sensitive text in the Copenhagen Accord. Despite this victory, these advocates highlight that gender-sensitive texts mean little without an overall outcome that protects the lives and livelihoods of everyone on Earth.<sup>16</sup>

To make sure that gender and SRHR concerns are integral to climate change initiatives requires action on several fronts: (1) ensuring that women and gender issues are included in subsequent climate change negotiations and global policy formulations; (2) recognising women's roles as natural resource managers and household decision-makers as a basis for formulating sound policy, adaptation and mitigation strategies; (3) connecting climate change

and women's health and well-being, including SRH needs, in research and programme interventions; (4) remaining vigilant against discourses that blame women's fertility for climate change; and (5) clarifying the underlying causes of climate change, including a sharper focus on the roles that corporations and the military industrial complex play as primary contributors to climate change.

As increasing resources will be directed to addressing climate change, how we frame this issue will determine priorities and resource flows. There is a lot of work ahead for women to devise and benefit equitably from climate change solutions, and gain fair access to the mass of resources that will flow from this next big development agenda item.

## Endnotes

- 1 *Statements and articles by Optimum Population Trust. See "Contraception is 'greenest' technology,"* [www.optimumpopulation.org/blog/?p=1130](http://www.optimumpopulation.org/blog/?p=1130) See also *Wired*, Thomas. 2009. *Fewer Emitters, Lower Emissions, Less Cost: Reducing Future Carbon Emissions by Investing in Family Planning, A Cost/Benefit Analysis.* UK: Optimum Population Trust.
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- 7 *Hartmann, Betsy.* 1994. *Reproductive Rights and Wrongs: The Global Politics of Population Control.* Boston, USA: South End Press.
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- 11 *The EMERJ report on Climate Change and Reproductive Justice, "Looking Both Ways," documents how in Louisiana, after Katrina, there was a plan to pay women survivors—considered a burden on the state—\$1,000 to have their fallopian tubes tied, instead of addressing environmental destruction caused by Katrina and the environmental crisis.* Available at [www.reproductivejustice.org/ACRJ\\_Looking\\_Both\\_Ways.pdf](http://www.reproductivejustice.org/ACRJ_Looking_Both_Ways.pdf)
- 12 *Two chemicals, Phthalates and Bisphenol A, are of particular concern to fertility and reproductive health and contribute to infertility, miscarriages, breast and prostate cancers.*
- 13 *Large corporations emit CO<sub>2</sub>s through the extraction and manufacture of goods. They also employ many workers who are exposed to environmental contaminants at the workplace and in the compromised neighborhoods where they live, work and play.*
- 14 *Climate Action Network - International Secretariat.* 2009. *ECO 4 Bangkok.* Available at [www.climateactionnetwork.org/eco/bangkok-2009-ecos/Eco4.pdf/view](http://www.climateactionnetwork.org/eco/bangkok-2009-ecos/Eco4.pdf/view)
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# Changing the Climate<sup>1</sup>

Climate justice and gender justice are inextricably linked. Climate change hits poor communities, and particularly poor women, first and hardest. Yet climate change brings economic disruption and hardship for all women, not just the poorest of the poor. Furthermore, adding insult to injury, women are excluded from the policy arenas and inner circles of experts and power-brokers where critical climate change policies are being discussed and forged. It is not that women do not have anything to contribute to climate change discussions—they do, and feminist work has been in the forefront of bringing social analysis into climate change circles—but they are largely missing from the formal decision-making process.

The dominant policy approaches to climate change that have emerged from these masculinised inner sanctums of power are undergirded by ideologies that bode even more ill for women. Two, in particular, merit closer attention:

• **To market we go:** Curiously, economists have risen to considerable prominence as experts on climate change mitigation and adaptation. Nicholas Stern, a British economist who is a particularly influential figure in climate change policy-setting, famously described climate change as “the greatest and widest-ranging market failure ever seen.” The solution to this “failure” is—predictably—yet more market manipulation, notably carbon trading. Carbon trading is a system that establishes permits for carbon dioxide pollution; companies that do not pollute much can sell their “right” to pollute to companies that need permits for extra pollution. Most carbon trading schemes also include an “offset” provision, whereby companies that pollute can buy compensation or “offset” credits, for example, from countries with large forest resources. This scheme, already in place in many parts of the world, represents the triumph of economic ideology over environmental principle: carbon trading schemes privatise the atmosphere, they normalise the notion that there is a “right to pollute,” and that there is a normative share of pollution that, if “underused,” can be transferred to someone else. Carbon trading is rooted in a peculiar notion that there are “under-polluting” states and places; at the same time it does nothing to halt the over-pollution activities of rich countries and companies, activities which often are concentrated in poor neighbourhoods and minority communities.

Carbon trading has also been taken up in policy circles as a substitute for aid to poor countries: if poor countries can make money by selling their under-pollution credits, then foreign aid can be cut. “Trade not aid” takes on a distinctively sinister character when what is being traded is pollution. This also frames the under-development of poor countries as an economic asset, providing a rationale for the continued dominance of already-developed states.

Feminists might be particularly wary of analyses that promote “under-development” as an asset—women’s docility or lack of agency has often been heralded as their most authentic positionality. The financial benefits of the highly-polluting economic and social system in rich countries are gender-skewed,

and in poor countries, few women see the benefits of climate financing revenues. Carbon trading reinforces status quo power relationships: on a large scale, rich countries still get to pollute, poor countries can get paid for compensating for the rich world’s excesses, and on a small scale, the benefits and costs flow through society differently for women and men.

A market-based economics rationality is an ecologically-impooverished ideology, not suitable for meeting environmental challenges. In many ways, it is arguably the very soul-less rationality of markets that got us into environmental trouble in first place. As Ulrike Rohr points out, “no one can seriously doubt that climate change [itself] is being driven by decisions based on economic considerations.”<sup>2</sup> Interdisciplinary feminist scholarship sheds light on the gendered underpinnings of this ideological cosmology. Working our way through the extensive feminist literatures in ecology, economics, political economy and history, here is what we know: capitalism is gendered; “markets” are gendered; women and men, in almost all societies and historical eras, are situated differently in relation to “market mechanisms”; “market mechanisms” are gendered; market “winners” have tended mostly to be men; women have almost universally been on the down side of global marketisation, and structurally constrained to be so; when the basis for sustaining life and livelihoods is commodified, everyone will be losers, but women are especially disadvantaged. A wilful confusion of market policy and social policy, as in “what is good for markets is good for people/environment,” has never been good for women.

• **When in doubt, blame women:** As this Bulletin’s editorial and Betsy Hartmann<sup>3</sup> trenchantly describe, climate change has re-invigorated “overpopulation” advocacy. In environmental and policy circles in the rich world, arguments that climate change is caused by too-high fertility rates of women in the poor world (also known as “population growth”) are being given increasing prominence—despite the incontrovertible evidence that the few countries in the world where population growth rates remain high, such as those in sub-Saharan Africa, have among the lowest carbon emissions per capita on the planet. One might also note that the dramatic growth of China’s carbon footprint coincides with its also dramatic drop in fertility rates. As Hartmann points out, climate change has brought new twists to what is, after all, a very old blame game. For example, a widely-cited study by two researchers at an American university blames women’s childbearing for creating a long-term “carbon legacy” which argues that not only is the individual woman responsible for her own children’s emissions, but for her genetic offsprings’ emissions far into the future.

**Copenhagen and forward:** In advance of the 2009 Copenhagen climate change meetings, a statement from genderCC, a global women’s group for climate justice, made clear the scope of the challenge that women’s groups were putting before the conference: “*The challenges of climate change and gender*

*injustice resemble each other—they require whole system change. Not just gender mainstreaming but transforming gender relations. . . Not just technical amendments to reduce emissions, but real mitigation through awareness and change of unsustainable lifestyles and the current ideology and practice of unlimited economic growth. Not the perpetuation of the current division of resources and labour, but a cooperative approach to achieving sustainable and equitable societies.*<sup>24</sup> The Copenhagen conference in December 2009 produced no forward movement in any of these terms. However, for the first time, a “Women and Gender Constituency”—a consortium of women’s activist groups—was given official status at the international climate change talks. In the aftermath of the failure of Copenhagen, the Constituency laid out the new challenge to us all: *“There must also be hope. To give up on the process would be to give up on millions of people whose lives depend on a strong, legally binding agreement. There must be individual action, committing to change and making a difference at the household, community, regional and national levels; there must be renewed commitment by our world leaders to look*

*beyond mitigation as a burden on GDP. Women are ready; we are committed to this process and remain optimistic that tackling climate change offers an unprecedented opportunity to transform towards sustainable, low-carbon, transparent, equitable and just economies.”*<sup>25</sup>

The next global climate change conference will be in Mexico in 2010. Women’s groups are already gearing up.

#### Endnotes

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## Climate Change and Gender: Challenges and Opportunities for Women’s Rights Groups

The climate change (CC) crisis offers one of the biggest challenges of our time, with women, particularly the poorest and most marginalised among them, shouldering a disproportionate burden of its effects. Yet, the global need for adaptation and mitigation does provide opportunities for feminists and women’s rights advocacy groups to ensure that solutions invest in achieving gender equality and equity, to truly create equitable and just action plans to curb climate change. It also provides an opportunity to position women as change makers.

Even as we acknowledge that women are the most affected by climate change because of their socio-constructed roles and responsibilities and their less access to resources, it is critical that women’s rights groups position women as change makers to ensure that discourses and policies view women as active stakeholders and contributors to climate change solutions. While positioning a stakeholder group as victims provides a chance to get them in a legal structure as beneficiaries of any compensation package and to correct structural inequities, a legal framework can be corrected even as inequities may continue in the broader socio-cultural space. On the other hand, positioning women as change makers may give them more decision-making power in all spaces, from the home to global climate change negotiation arenas.

In their roles as providers of home comfort, food, fuel, nutrition and water, women are already change makers. Yet the above roles continue to be in the informal domain, their value undocumented in the standard exchange value-based market economy and in measures such as the GDP. As such, economic policies, whether local, national or global, do not consider these activities in the allocation of financial resources. This unfinished agenda of

integrating conventional work domains of women in the formal accounting framework needs to be pushed forward to correct investment allocation plans. Otherwise, this lack of recognition can be dangerous in current CC discourses since women’s conventional roles are the most adversely affected by climate change. Unless pushed, no adaptation framework will automatically consider women’s lack of wellbeing if they need to go further to fetch clean, safe water and fuel, or their increased probability of malnutrition in case of crop failure and food insecurity (particularly in the South Asian context where women are already more calorie-deficient than men). Nor will such frameworks consider health inequity due to increased heat stress; problems related to disasters and conflict (sparked by scarce resources and safe places), such as gender-based and sexual violence, reproductive tract infections, sexually transmitted infections, unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions; or lack of access to vital reproductive health services and supplies to address these.

Ensuring that policies view women as change makers will help allow investments through adaptation and mitigation funds to be gender-sensitive. Shares in these funds should flow to empower women and enable them to exercise their rights to reproductive and sexual health, have a say in decision-making processes in the household and communities, improve their financial position, and help them secure basic services for health, nutrition and water.

It must also be stressed that solutions need to bring in transformational change, rather than incremental change. For example, in the matter of biomass burning for cooking, which results in indoor air pollution-related health problems and which affects women disproportionately (particularly in rural areas in

the Asia and the Pacific), it is not a question of having efficient cooking stoves to protect women's health, but of fuel switch: from fossil fuel to alternative, clean energy sources. Moreover, the burden of the cost of this fuel switch should be on developed countries, given their historical and current responsibilities in causing and thus addressing climate change. Women's demands need to be directed towards not only access to better health but also access to state-of-the-art and future technology, without of course forgetting to point out the need to address industrial and vehicular emissions (which contribute so much more to climate change than biomass burning). Positioning issues to provide a boost to transformational changes is a high priority for sustainability transition which goes beyond low carbon growth.

Unfortunately, to date, a very limited number of groups in the region, women's groups included, are addressing the climate change issue systematically. There still seems to be a lack of comprehensive knowledge about climate change and its gender dimensions. Most groups are either operating at a very peripheral level, positioning women as victims without acknowledging their agency or resilience, or failing to look at the additional threats climate change poses. Regrettably, some groups subscribe to the view that reducing population size is the key to addressing climate change despite evidence showing that population size per se is delinked from emission, and that it is per capita consumption/GDP per capita that matters. South Asia, for example, is contributing less than 5% of global emission; even if the whole population is eliminated, it still will not result in a better global environment in the near and medium terms. OECD countries, which have less than 20% of the world total population yet emit 48% of the global CO<sub>2</sub> emission, face the biggest responsibility and burden for action to address climate change. Yet, even in developing countries, at the same population levels, economic activities can be organised more efficiently and emissions reduced by replacing coal, oil and similar fuel with alternative low/no GHG-emitting clean, energy sources.

Sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and the reproductive role of women are two different issues that need to be differentiated in mainstream CC discourses. Adaptation actions should include alleviation of SRH impact, but targeting women's fertility through reducing population growth as a mitigation action/policy needs to be contested upfront. Instead, there is a need to understand the health risks resulting from climate variability to women, during pregnancy and childbirth, as well as in their various workplaces (e.g., homes, kitchens, agricultural fields, fisheries, forests, factories and urban construction sites, among others). There is a need to understand how sexual health and sexual rights will be compromised because of the effects of climate change, as well as to address other knowledge gaps. Changing harmful femininity and masculinity norms and ensuring that the burden of contraception is not just on women, for example, should also be part of global discussions. The prioritisation of actions to safeguard women's rights to health equity needs to be part of agenda setting, in addition to fuel switch, technical efficiency improvement, access to alternative technologies, and changes in per capita consumption levels and patterns.

There is critical need for integration of knowledge from climate change literature, gender budgeting literature and development and

gender studies, as well as women's lived experiences, to prepare a gender-sensitive and rights-based climate strategy. Climate change economics, feminist economics and gender studies economics have so far remained different domains with much potential of integration.

Needs of women who bear the disproportionate burden of climate change impact—with a balance between SRH and non-SRH-related issues—must be included in adaptation and mitigation plans and resource allocations, globally and nationally. Gender-specific adaptation projects need to be in domains which are otherwise categorised under informal activities. Women's rights advocacy groups must demand for a leap in technology in areas such as cooking, energy, water and food security, in addition to calling for changes in consumption, dietary and production patterns and in uneven development. These can help global negotiations bring in transformational changes in technology, behavioural changes and structural changes in macro-economic policy making, rather than pulling the wrong string of population size control to mitigate climate change.

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## International

“Population trends are intimately connected to the growth of greenhouse gases (GHGs) that cause climate change.” This was one of the overarching statements made by some reproductive health groups that participated in the recently concluded Conference of Parties 15 in Copenhagen, Denmark. It builds on an analysis of the national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) of 41 least developed countries, six of which explicitly cited population control as a priority measure that must be funded. In their paper, Leo Bryant and his colleagues asserted that any population reduction measure has to be voluntary, responding to a community’s need to adapt to climate change, and must be integrated into broader development plans.

Yet a number of feminists were not convinced and with good reasons. Many were more keen on obtaining a better deal on reasonable GHG emissions cut and substantial public funding for the adaptation and mitigation measures of developing countries. Others saw population control as another false solution that puts the blame of climate change on women’s bodies. As Titi Soentoro of NGO Forum on the ADB maintained, “Someone must be victimised by such a programme and who else but women. Why not control industries and governments, and direct them to cut their emissions?” Tamra Gilbertson from Carbon Trade Watch, Transnational Institute also pointed out, “This population discussion is really frightening and lacks any historical reference to how women have been abused by the system in terms of their reproductive rights and health.” The link between population control and climate change in terms of amount of emission is likewise untenable. Women are among those who have the least carbon footprint. Further, the GHG emissions have strong class and race dimensions, where at the bottom of the pyramid are people living below poverty clearance, people who are residing in rural areas and indigenous peoples, among many others. Moreover, population control programmes have yet to be framed in a way that thoroughly accounts for sexual diversity; thus, they continue to target the sexual desires of Southern women and devalue their abilities to reproduce.

*Source: Nina Somera, Isis International Manila. Email: nina.somera@gmail.com See we! Year-ender for 2009: Way Forward to COP 16*

## Regional

**113 delegates from 22 countries** representing peasants, agricultural workers, women, indigenous peoples and fisherfolk organisations, as well as health, environmental and consumer groups met in the Conference on Confronting the Food Crisis and Climate Change from 27-29 September 2009 in Penang, Malaysia.

The conference, which was organised by the Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific (PAN AP), culminated with a Unity Statement declaring their commitment to claim people’s right to food, to work together in regenerating nature and society, as well as to further strengthen and consolidate the movements in advancing food sovereignty, gender justice and climate justice. The conference was a platform for sharpening analysis on pressing global issues

of climate change and food crisis. Throughout the event, panel discussions were held to understand the threats and challenges of the food crisis and climate change (including on health), and to advance people’s movements, resistance and alternatives. The conference paved the way for sharing of best practices from grassroots perspectives and collectively identified strategies for action in the areas of food sovereignty, biodiversity-based ecological agriculture (BEA), gender justice and climate justice.

*Source: Marjo Busto Quinto, PAN AP. Email: marjo.busto@panap.net / panap@panap.net See www.beaconference.blogspot.com.*

## Asia-Pacific Women in the USA

Effectively solving the climate crisis demands that the strategies and solutions we employ align with a justice agenda. If we fail to make synergistic efforts to protect the planet and lift up the most vulnerable among us, we are doomed to recreate an unsustainable system that demands little of those with the most to give and the most of those with little to spare. Women, who bear an increasingly disproportionate share of the climate change burden are central to the success of this mission.

Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice (ACRJ), an organisation working at the intersections of women’s health with economic and environmental justice, has begun to explore the ways that empowering women in their homes, workplaces and communities can contribute to climate justice.

Most efforts to mitigate climate change have focused on energy producing and transportation industries, which have the largest direct carbon dioxide emissions. However, it is also critical to investigate secondary industries which have more indirect or secondary global warming emissions, and collectively are as dirty as the top emitters.

Nail salons are one such industry. They are the fastest growing sector in the beauty industry, generating more than US\$6 billion in sales annually in the US alone. They provide a critical source of employment for women of colour and immigrant women, many of whom come from the Asia-Pacific. There are approximately 8,300 nail salons and more than 300,000 licensed workers in California alone. While nail salons are not coal plants, the chemicals they use for nails and for cleaning the salons are no healthier for the environment than they are for nail salon workers and owners.

Through our worker organising project POLISH, ACRJ has applied a reproductive justice/climate justice framework to the nail salon industry in Oakland, California. POLISH is looking at the impact of the industry on reproductive justice and on climate change and has helped bring about improvements to the lives of workers. Critical strategies to do this include identifying opportunities in the workplaces of women of colour to increase reproductive justice and decrease greenhouse gas emissions; movement building to build strategic cross-sector alliances; pushing for green policies; and ensuring that marginalised women and youth are protected and not discriminated against during times of climate change disaster.

*Source: Diana Ip, Communications and Development Director, ACRJ. Email: diana@reproductivejustice.org Web: www.reproductivejustice.org*

**Di Chiro, Giovanna. 2009.** "Sustaining everyday life: Bringing together environmental, climate and reproductive justice." *DifferenTakes*, Climate Change Series No. 58. 4p. Available at <http://popdev.hampshire.edu/projects/dt/58>

In this article, Di Chiro examines how globalised capitalist production, as well as environmental degradation and climate change, all undermine social reproduction, or a community's ability to survive and thrive. For her, all environmental issues are reproductive issues, since all are efforts to fight for and ensure the ability to get healthy food, clean water, decent shelter, clothing and healthcare. It covers the right not to have children, and conversely, to have them and raise them in healthy and safe environments. She calls for a holistic politics of "living environmentalism," or political-ecological mobilisation, which reframes environmental and reproductive rights issues in terms of social reproduction. She argues for a rethinking by environmentalists and feminists of the dynamic relationship between production and social reproduction to be able to generate more effective coalitions across these diverse movements.



**Hartmann, Betsy. 2009.** "Ten reasons why population control is not the solution to global warming." *DifferenTakes*, Climate Change Series No. 57. 4p. Available at [http://popdev.hampshire.edu/sites/popdev/files/uploads/dt/DTakes\\_57\\_final.pdf](http://popdev.hampshire.edu/sites/popdev/files/uploads/dt/DTakes_57_final.pdf)

In this concise and very accessible article, Hartmann provides 10 reasons why population control is not

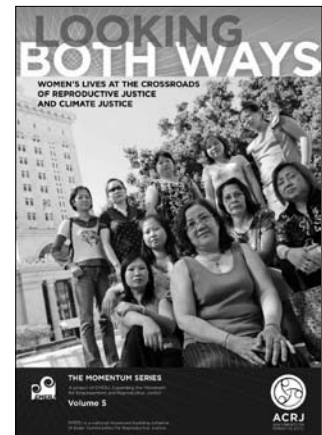
the solution to climate change. She debunks the claim that lowering birth rates is the solution since industrialised countries which have only 20% of the world's population cause 80% of the accumulated CO<sub>2</sub> build-up in the atmosphere. She notes that focusing on population growth lets wealthy countries, corporations and consumers get off the hook, while making the world's poorest people, who are the least responsible, pay. As well, population control erodes reproductive rights, victimises the displaced, and is no substitute for gender justice. Linking population and climate change bolsters anti-immigrant agendas and contribute to the militarisation of climate change.

**Nagel, Joane. 2009.** "Genders, disasters and global climate change." In Nagel, Joane et al. *Workshop on Sociological Perspectives on Global Climate Change, 30-31 May 2008*. USA: National Science Foundation. pp.113-118. Available at [http://ireswb.cc.ku.edu/~crgc/NSFWorkshop/Readings/NSF\\_WkspReport\\_09.pdf](http://ireswb.cc.ku.edu/~crgc/NSFWorkshop/Readings/NSF_WkspReport_09.pdf)

In this paper, Nagel explores some of the implications of gender for global climate change studies. She notes that women's and men's relative places in society, and the moral economies that define their worth, position them differently in terms of their vulnerability to

the impacts of climate change, access to resources associated with recovery from climate-related disasters, and participation in the political processes that shape mitigation and adaptation policies. Nagel also examines gender and the militarisation of climate change, and how masculine interests and masculinist organisations are front and centre in driving climate change, defining climate change studies, preoccupations and remedies. She highlights the destructive roles of militaries as environmental polluters and climate changers. She concludes her paper with querying the role gender plays in shaping vulnerabilities to climate change, and of gendered institutions and ideologies, such as militaries and militarism, in shaping climate change policies and responses.

**Rojas Cheatham, Ann et al. 2009.** *Looking Both Ways: Women's Lives at the Crossroads of Reproductive Justice and Climate Justice*. The Momentum Series, Vol. 5. USA: Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice (ACRJ). 36p. Available at [www.reproductivejustice.org/ACRJ\\_Looking\\_Both\\_Ways.pdf](http://www.reproductivejustice.org/ACRJ_Looking_Both_Ways.pdf)

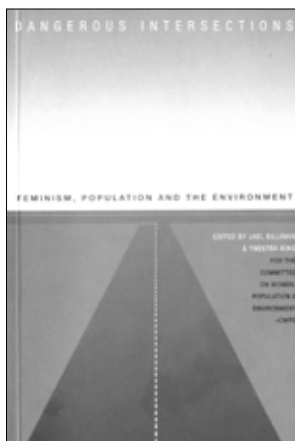


Even though its context and examples are US-based, this resource offers an insightful framework for approaching issues of climate change and reproductive justice that would be useful to Asia-Pacific readers. The authors argue that in order to create the sustainable and just society necessary to effectively confront climate change, we should look for ways to both confront its causes and protect the health and well-being of historically marginalised communities. It describes how looking through both the lenses of climate change mitigation and reproductive justice fosters new and innovative strategies, partnerships and leaders to emerge. It will protect the reproductive justice of women of colour, low-income and immigrant women during climate change crises, as well enable workplace changes that will improve their reproductive justice and mitigate climate change. Finally, the report examines how a reproductive justice lens can be applied to climate change at the city, regional, state and national levels.

**Satterthwaite, David. 2009.** "The implications of population growth and urbanisation for climate change." *Environment and Urbanization*. Vol. 21, No. 2, pp. 545-567. Available at <http://eau.sagepub.com/cgi/content/short/21/2/545>

This evidence-based paper considers the implications of population growth and urbanisation for climate change. It emphasises that it is not the growth in populations, whether urban or rural, that drives the growth in greenhouse gas emissions (GHGE) but rather, the growth in consumers and in their levels of consumption. To get the much-needed rapid global decrease in GHGE, there is a need to focus on changing the consumption patterns of consumers with "above fair share" emissions, even as provision must be made to allow

low-income, low-consumption households with GHGE per person below the global “fair share” level to increase their consumption. He adds that addressing climate change must be focused on development (which includes ensuring environmental health, secure homes, adequate incomes, good schools, water and sanitation, greater legal protection for low-income groups, more possibilities for these groups to influence policies and hold government accountable). This must also include support for sexual and reproductive health and rights, including family planning, but within a recognition that this is part of a good health care system and that unintended pregnancies are not simply the result of a lack of family planning but also of gender dynamics that must be addressed within a larger development agenda.



**Silliman, Jael and King, Ynestra (Eds.). 1999. *Dangerous Intersections: Feminism, Population and the Environment*. London & New York: Zed Books. xxiv + 283p.**

This landmark collection of essays provides a multicultural and international feminist perspective on the major global problems of environmental degradation, economic development and the population “explosion.” Published more than a decade ago, it remains

a very important resource for those of us trying to analyse and find alternative solutions to the current linkages being made between population growth, women’s bodies and climate change. Papers include Patricia Hynes’ “Taking population out of the equation: Reformulating I=PAI,” which provides a keen analysis of why it is essential to not treat all people as the same and to parse out which sectors of the population are impacting the environment, how and why in order to come up with appropriate solutions, and Joni Seager’s “Patriarchal vandalism: Militaries and the environment,” which examines the disproportionate impacts of militaries, governments and corporations on the environment.

**United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). 2009. *State of the World Population Report 2009, Facing a Changing World: Women, Population and Climate*. USA: UNFPA. 104p. Available at [www.unfpa.org/swp/2009/en/](http://www.unfpa.org/swp/2009/en/)**

While there is a disproportionate focus on population growth in the overview and conclusion that runs counter to the rest of the report, the other sections of the publication puts forward a nuanced view of the relationships between population dynamics, gender, development and climate change. The report acknowledges that the linkages between population and climate change are complex and indirect, and that population growth is not the only demographic factor relevant to climate change (others include changing population age structures, changes in household size and urbanisation). It mentions that consumption patterns and levels and

economic change are more critical influences on climate change than population growth and change. It notes that the extent to which slower population growth will matter to mitigating climate change depends on the future of world economic, technological and consumption trends. It recognises the inequity of developed countries’ being largely responsible for the current build-up of greenhouse gas emissions, while developing countries are the ones largely affected by climate change. It also argues that women and other marginalised groups are impacted disproportionately by climate change, and that they can (and do) lead and participate in finding solutions. Despite the above facts, the report is disappointing in its simplistic conclusion that slower population growth may help bring down global emissions, and enable more immediate adaptation. The conclusion fails to emphasise that different groups of people consume differently and thereby contribute to climate change differently. Further, the report’s concluding recommendations do not include solutions related to curbing unsustainable consumption, production and technological patterns. It also fails to re-emphasise the need for developed countries to give development assistance aside from climate funds, to support developing countries achieve a “greener” path to development, and to radically reduce their own emissions. The report argues that it is not suggesting “population control”; rather it calls for respecting reproductive rights and providing universal access to sexual and reproductive health services (including voluntary family planning), and for improving gender relations. What the report neglected to mention though, is that the population control ideology still colours current mindset and practice; therefore it is critical to remain watchful that these population-climate change linkages do not translate to erosion of women’s rights on the ground.

**UNFPA & WEDO. 2009. *Climate Change Connections: Gender and Population, Resource Kit*. USA: UNFPA. 39p. Available at <http://www.unfpa.org/public/site/global/lang/en/pid/4028>**

This six-part resource kit argues for incorporating a gender perspective into climate change policies, projects and funds to ensure that women contribute to and benefit from equitable climate solutions. Despite the title, the publication broadly covers a variety of sectors (e.g., natural disasters, health, migration and conflict), and not just population. The kit mentions that increased population growth typically means increased GHGE. However, it acknowledges that demographic factors affect emission patterns and energy use, and that unsustainable consumption and per capita emissions are higher in developed countries. It argues that policies affecting population trends (e.g., educational opportunities for girls, economic opportunities for women and access to reproductive health) can reduce vulnerability to the impacts of a changing climate and slow GHGE growth. It also calls on developed countries to provide compensatory and reparative financing to developing countries for adaptation and mitigation efforts, to commit to strong regulatory emissions-reduction targets, and to free up external debts of developing countries. The kit is a useful tool, providing policy guidance, information and pointers on financing, entry points on making national adaptation plans work for women, best practices from across the globe and advocacy plans.

## Other Resources

ARROW. 2008. "Feminist and rights-based perspectives: Sexual and reproductive health and rights in disaster contexts." *ARROWs For Change*, Vol. 14 No. 3. 12p. Available at <http://arrow.org.my/home/images/publications/AFC/v14n3.pdf>

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McAdam, Jane & Saul, Ben. 2009. "An insecure climate for human security? Climate-induced displacement and international law." Sydney Centre for International Law. 25p. Available at [http://papers.ssm.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=1292605](http://papers.ssm.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1292605)

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*in Action*, No. 2. Philippines: Isis International-Manila. Available at [www.isiswomen.org](http://www.isiswomen.org)

For more resources on these issues, see:

ARROW. 2010. "ARROW annotated bibliography on climate change, population and sexual and reproductive health and rights." Malaysia: ARROW. Available at [www.arrow.org.my](http://www.arrow.org.my)

## ARROW Publications

Thanenthiran, Sivananthi & Racherla, Sai Jyothirmai. 2009. *Reclaiming & Redefining Rights: ICPD+15: Status of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Asia*. 162p. US\$10.00

ARROW. 2008. *Advocating Accountability: Status Report on Maternal Health and Young People's SRHR in South Asia*. 140p. US\$10.00

ARROW. 2008. *Surfacing: Selected Papers on Religious Fundamentalisms and Their Impact on Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights*. 76p. US\$5.

ARROW. 2007. *Rights and Realities: Monitoring Reports on the Status of Indonesian Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights; Findings from the Indonesian Reproductive Health and Rights Monitoring & Advocacy (IRRMA) Project*. 216p. US\$10.00

ARROW. 2005. *Monitoring Ten Years of ICPD Implementation: The Way Forward to 2015, Asian Country Reports*. 384p. US\$10.00

ARROW, Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR). 2005. *Women of the World: Laws and Policies Affecting Their Reproductive Lives, East and Southeast Asia*. 235p. US\$10.00

ARROW. 2003. *Access to Quality Gender-Sensitive Health Services: Women-Centred Action Research*. 147p. US\$10.00

ARROW. 2001. *Women's Health Needs and Rights in Southeast Asia: A Beijing Monitoring Report*. 39p. US\$10.00

Abdullah, Rashidah. 2000. *A Framework of Indicators for Action on Women's Health Needs and Rights after Beijing*. 30p. US\$10.00

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Electronic copies are available free-of-charge at [www.arrow.org.my](http://www.arrow.org.my)

## Definitions<sup>1</sup>

### Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

**Mitigation** refers to “ways of reducing the levels of greenhouse gases (GHG) that are causing climate change,” while **adaptation** refers to ways to reduce “people’s vulnerability to climate shocks and stresses in the future.”<sup>2</sup> Mitigating climate change and helping communities cope with and adapt to its impacts are both necessary and urgent. However, mitigation and adaptation measures must be reframed to take account of justice and equity dimensions, gender issues and sustainability practices, to ensure that measures proposed do not create new inequities, vulnerabilities and insecurities (e.g., building big dams may result in loss of ancestral lands and livelihoods; devoting forests and lands to agrofuel may have serious implications on food sovereignty; and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation or REDD may target indigenous people even as they fail to stop and penalise commercial logging). The dominance of market and techno fixes, including carbon trading and geo-engineering, must be questioned. Adaptation efforts for the most vulnerable and marginalised groups (including women who are poor, indigenous, with disability, lesbian and transgender, and living in areas most affected by climate change) must be prioritised.

### Climate Justice (CJ)/Fair Share Level

A **CJ framework** considers social justice and equity dimensions in addressing the climate change crisis. One way of doing this is through utilising the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities,” which “recognises that historically, industrialised nations have emitted far more greenhouse gas emissions than developing nations... enabling a cheaper path to industrialisation; rich countries therefore face the biggest responsibility and burden for action to address climate change; and rich countries therefore must support developing nations adapt to avoid the polluting (i.e., easier and cheaper) path to development—through financing and technology transfer, for example.”<sup>3</sup> Developed nations need to fulfil responsibilities outlined in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), such as urgently cutting down on emissions and paying their historical carbon debt, as well as providing technology transfer and adaptation funds in order to allow for the developing countries’ “cleaner” development (both economic and social).<sup>3</sup>

**Fair Share Level**, an example of an equity-driven approach to climate justice, integrates equity and consumption considerations in reducing global emissions to address climate change. Attaining Fair Share objectives would require the changing of consumption patterns of those above the “fair share” level of emissions. It also enables those who are consuming too little to move out of energy poverty (e.g., move to more convenient fuels and have better access to electricity), which would improve their health outcomes as well.<sup>4</sup>

Other activists define CJ as addressing unequal power relations among nations, as well as other inequalities, while dealing with the climate change crisis. Mitigation and adaptation measures must improve the circumstances of the most vulnerable even as they take the most culpable to task, and must result in new economic and political systems that are both sustainable and just.<sup>5</sup> “[C]hallenging corporate food systems and land appropriation to ensure food security, supporting immigrant and refugee rights, preparing for socially just and effective disaster response, opposing nuclear power and ending

militarism...are all crucial links to addressing climate change while reducing inequality.”<sup>6</sup> It must also be stressed that climate justice, gender justice and reproductive justice are inextricably linked.

### Gender Justice (GJ)

GJ “articulates a feminist approach that goes beyond seeking an equitable share in the existing power system, which has been causing the current problems,” but of changing the system. It “puts a focus on ‘what is just?’ and ‘what kind of justice do we want?’” GJ activists question the dominant perspective in climate change that focuses mainly on technologies and economic instruments, and instead “want to put caring and justice in the centre of measures and mechanisms.”<sup>7</sup> In this framework, climate change solutions address the gender dimensions of climate change; do not deepen the injustice, inequities and inequalities among genders; and ultimately, challenge and change unequal gendered power relations. For example, GJ activists demand that adaptation activities should be channelled towards women in developing countries since they are especially vulnerable to climate change impacts. Women’s full involvement in adaptation efforts is also essential.<sup>2</sup> GJ activists also call for the inclusion of gender budgeting and gender audits in all funding for climate change adaptation and mitigation, and for investments in programmes for adaptation and mitigation, technology transfer, capacity building and others to contribute to social justice, and to gender justice in particular.<sup>8</sup> While GJ usually only includes women and men, transgender people and other gender non-conforming people must also be included to ensure justice for all.

### Reproductive Justice

Reproductive justice (RJ)<sup>9</sup> places reproductive health (RH) and reproductive rights (RR) within a social justice framework. It is “the complete physical, mental, spiritual, political, economic, and social well-being of women and girls, and will be achieved when women and girls have the economic, social and political power and resources to make healthy decisions about our bodies, sexuality and reproduction for ourselves, our families and our communities in all areas of our lives.” While the RH framework “emphasises the very necessary reproductive health services that women need,” and the RR framework is “based on universal legal protections for women and sees these protections as rights,” the RJ framework “stipulates that reproductive oppression is a result of the intersections of multiple oppressions and is inherently connected to the struggle for social justice and human rights.”

### Endnotes

- 1 Compiled by Maria Melinda Ando, AFC Managing Editor. Email: [malyn@arrow.org.my](mailto:malyn@arrow.org.my)
- 2 Terry, Geraldine. 2009. “Introduction.” In Terry, G. (Ed.). 2009. *Climate Change and Gender Justice*. Oxford, UK: Oxfam GB. pp.1–10. Also see Glossary: [http://unfccc.int/essential\\_background/glossary/items/3666.php](http://unfccc.int/essential_background/glossary/items/3666.php)
- 3 Shah, Anup. “Climate justice & equity.” [www.globalissues.org/print/article/231](http://www.globalissues.org/print/article/231)
- 4 Satterthwaite, David. 2009. “The implications of population growth and urbanisation for climate change.” *Environment and Urbanization*. Vol. 21, No. 2, pp. 545–567.
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## Examining Pacific NAPAs for Gender and SRHR

National Adaptation Programmes for Action (NAPAs) are critical documents for developing countries to plan for and fund their response to climate change. This is especially so for Less Developed Countries in the Pacific whose development challenges are subject to the first and most dire impacts of human-induced climate change—loss of home islands and entire countries through sea level rise. Tuvalu and Kiribati are comprised entirely of low-lying islands and so will be the first affected. However, all countries in the Pacific have low-lying inhabited islands.

NAPAs offer developing countries new possibilities for coordinated long-term development programmes, but cannot solve all development problems. Yet, there are huge opportunities for advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in the NAPAs. Firstly, NAPAs encourage inclusive stakeholder participation because the guidelines specifically mention the need to include “gender considerations.” Unfortunately, two of the five Pacific NAPAs (Kiribati and Vanuatu) do not mention gender at all and only two specifically mention including women’s agencies in the NAPA teams (Samoa and Solomon Islands) (see Table 1). Even as all attempt to incorporate women’s concerns, women are looked at as one homogenous group; none considers lesbian and transgender women or women with disabilities. Secondly, NAPAs also encourage debate about the links between effects of human-induced climate change and the dynamics of population change, providing the opportunity to shift from arguments about “overpopulation” towards more progressive understandings of SRHR. Unfortunately, the issue of overpopulation has entered debates in the formulation of all these Pacific NAPAs, and some of the misguided responses have been to focus narrowly on family planning. This in effect takes gender equality arguments back two decades. Further, in Pacific NAPAs, vector-based health concerns predominated despite concerns about HIV/AIDS among seafarers in Tuvalu and Kiribati and about maternal mortality in all countries. Thirdly, NAPAs are funded from new sources of financial aid which can provide direct support, but can also release funding into traditional health areas, which remain critical for addressing SRHR and gender equality.

There are, however, challenges and risks in the Pacific NAPA process. While country ownership of NAPAs is critical, too many countries and agencies do not support SRHR, yet officially endorse gender equality—clearly the links between the two are not made. Analysis of the five Pacific NAPAs (see Table 1) reveals that gender is mentioned only a few times and there is no mention of SRHR. Should we be surprised? Should we be concerned? Yes and No.

Yes, because the links between providing additional resources for enhancing livelihoods through better water and food and SRHR have not been made. And, yes, because neo-Malthusian arguments are populating the analytical and policy gaps.

No, because the priorities of the Pacific NAPAs are to secure livelihoods. All Pacific NAPAs are strong in their commitment to improving food security and water access. These issues are critical for their ability to adapt because women need to be nourished,

Table 1. An Analysis of Pacific NAPAs

Features under Assessment	Kiribati	Samoa	Solomon Islands	Tuvalu	Vanuatu
Completion	01/07	12/05	12/08	05/07	12/08
Reference to population (pop) growth (PG)	16x; pop increasing; PG leads to increased pressure for resources; pop policy important in adaptation	5x; pop increasing; PG to exacerbate climate change (CC) impacts & create pressure on resources	10x; pop small but rapidly growing; PG one of exploitative activities, & exacerbate CC effects	11x; low national PG but rising pop in capital; PG a stress factor for health & resources	12x; PG increasing; increase pressure on resources (tied to poverty); will exacerbate CC impacts
Reference to gender	0	3x; gender equality a guiding principle; refers only to men and women	2x; 1 of criteria for prioritisation of adaptation needs & options	4x; gender equality a guiding element; through participation of women in NAPA process	0
Reference to women	2x; women a subgroup in nat'l consultation	10x; women part of NAPA team & consultation process; women's groups' adaptation responsibility for water supply	14x; women's key roles in various areas recognised; CC's impact on women highlighted; got women's input; women's groups to be involved in adaptation activities	7x; "allow" women's voices to be heard; project by an NGO cited as good example	2x; women's groups part of project on food security
Reference to other groups	Reference to youth groups; No reference to lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgenders (LGBT) and other gender non-conforming people, people with disabilities and other groups				
Involvement of Ministries of Health (MOH) and Women	MOH	Both	Both	Not specified	Not specified
Involvement of communities & NGOs	Communities consulted through survey	Village-level consultations; NGOs part of NAPA team & consultation	Consultative process involving communities, islands & villages	Communities consulted; NGOs part of NAPA team & consultation	Provincial-level consultations; civil society part of team & consultation
Reference to disasters	12x; more comprehensive disaster bill considered	13x; disaster planning part of adaptation	47x; need disaster risk reduction (DRR) & mgmt. strategies	51x; need DRR, preparedness & response	23x; DRR & disaster mgmt. promoted
Reference to health	26x; in final 10 projects, only re: water resource adaptation & well improvement	97x; climate health cooperation programme 1 of 9 project priorities	150x; health inc. in 1 project together with education, water, sanitation, agriculture	28x; health 1 of 7 prioritised adaptation projects	17x; 11th of 11 priorities
Reference to SRHR	0	0	0	0	0
Reference to family planning (FP)	2x; FP considered a priority but not in final 10 priority projects	0	0	0	0
Reference to agreements	No reference to CEDAW, ICPD, FWCW				

Compiled by Maria Muluata Avula, Programme Officer, ARROW

hydrated and clean to be able to exercise their rights to other basic services like sexual and reproductive health care, education, shelter and citizenship.

The aim of NAPAs is to secure new funding to confront the new challenges of human-induced climate change. Submitting them is a major achievement for developing countries confronted with on-going development challenges such as, for instance, appalling urban crime, tragic road and marine accidents, blatant government corruption and unforeseen natural catastrophes. If this new funding can be channelled into wider areas of livelihood development, other commitments have a better chance of being met. Unlike the challenge of integrating SRHR into disaster plans and programmes, the challenge for each NAPA is to recognise the different order of complexity in the links between SRHR, gender equality and climate change.

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