

GENDERED IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN NEPAL

Climate change is not gender-neutral. Different roles, responsibilities, social position and access to resources create unequal vulnerabilities for women and men.



Women

- Primary responsibility is to get food, water and firewood, which increases their exposure to droughts, floods, and resource scarcity.
- Limited access to Education and information, Land, finance and resources, decision-making opportunities reduces their ability to adapt to impacts of climate change.

WHY GENDER MATTERS



Men

- More exposed to climate-induced migration and job insecurity.
- Greater financial pressure due to loss of climate-sensitive livelihoods.



Climate change deepens existing inequalities

- By 2050, climate change may push 158 million more women and girls into poverty, which is 16 million more than men (UN Women)

WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?



Ensure equal access to climate resources, finance and technology



Ensure meaningful participation of women in climate-decision making



Integrate gender-equality into climate policies, plans and budgets



Strengthen education, skills, and access to information for better climate adaptation



Invest in women-led climate solutions and strengthen support system

DIFFERENT CLIMATE IMPACTS

WOMEN



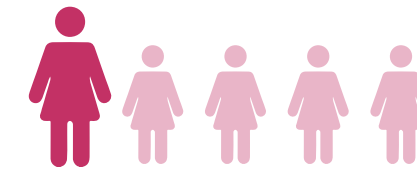
Higher disaster risks



Greater Livelihood impacts



Increased exposure to heat-related health problems and reproductive health impacts



14x

Women are up to 14 times more likely to die during disasters than men.

4 OUT OF 5

4 out of 5 climate-displaced people are women and girls.

MEN



Forced migration for employment and livelihood security.



Economic instability and income insecurity.



Increased mental stress due to financial pressure and displacement.

WHAT NEPAL'S DATA SAYS?

Unequal Access to Resources and Services

Around **31.55** percent of Nepali household are headed by female

88.8% of women (15-49) do not own land, compared to **83.6%** of men

Why it matters:

Limited land ownership and access to resources reduces women's ability to recover from climate shocks and to access climate finance.

Limited Participation in Decision-Making

Only **13.9%** of senior and middle management positions are held by women

Around **37.5%** of women hold ministerial position in Nepal's federal cabinet after the 2026 government formation

Why it matters:

Limited participation in leadership/ decision-making participation can cause women's climate needs and priorities to be overlooked in policies and planning.

Lower Literacy, Skills and Access to Information

Women's literacy rate in Nepal (**69.4%**) is about **14%** lower than men's (**83.6%**)

In 2019, only **27%** of women in Nepal used the internet, compared to **41%** of men, with rural women's access as low as **10%**

Why it matters:

Lower literacy and digital access can reduce women's access to information, making it harder for them to prepare for and respond to climate change.

Climate + Migration

About **73%** of women in Nepal are engaged in agriculture

Why it matters:

Male outmigration further exacerbates women's agricultural burden and responsibility at home and in the community.

Key Sources

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