

The Intersection of Gender, Poverty & Climate Change



Moderator Welcome & Housekeeping

Leigh Ellwood-Brown



The Intersection of Gender, Poverty & Climate Change

Siew Yong
SI President 2024-2025

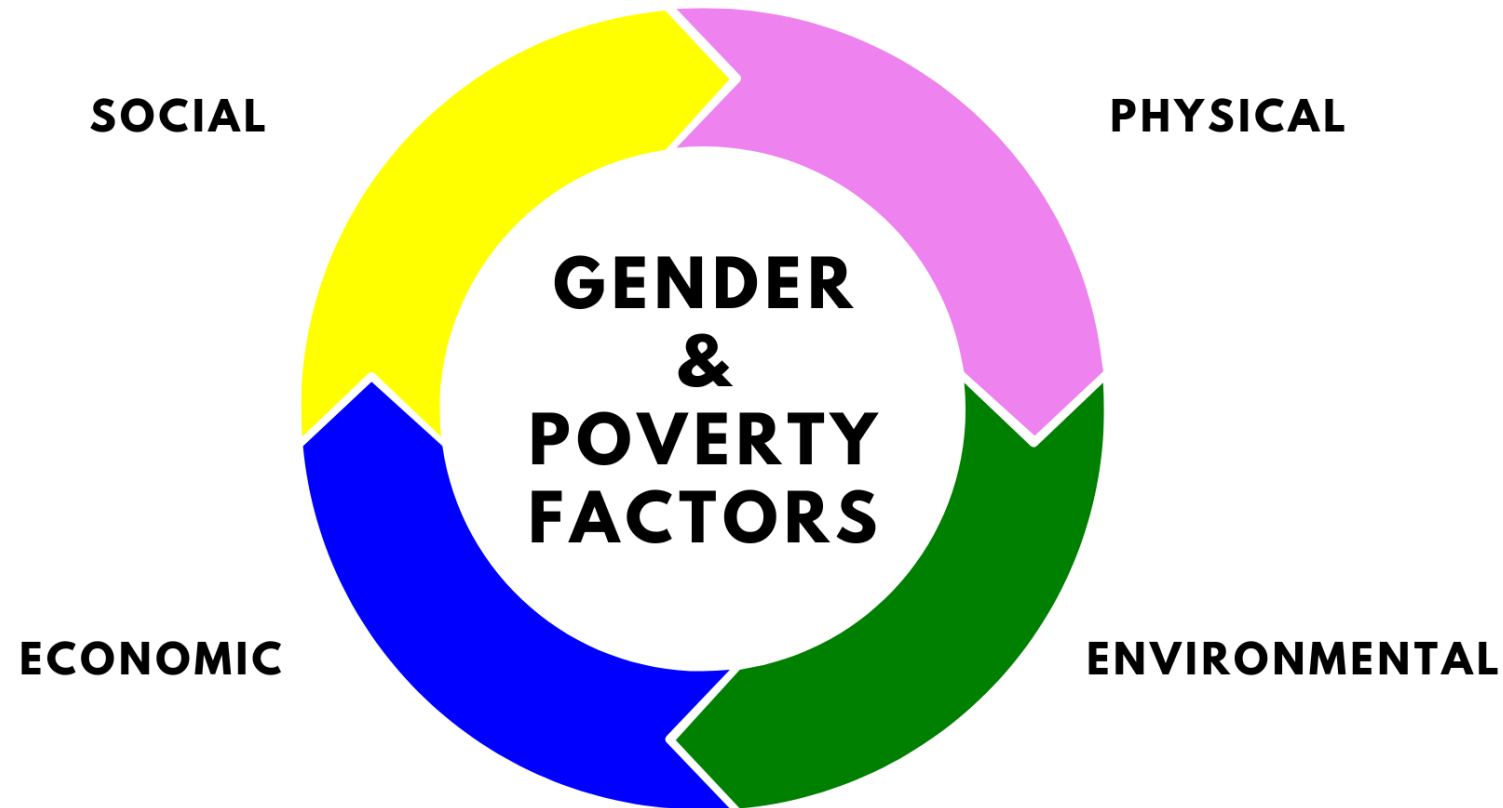


Session Overview

- Increased vulnerability to effects of climate change
- Women face serious economic, political and legal discrimination.
- Economic prosperity, educational attainments and access to healthcare still needs attention.



Background



Physical Factors



Hurricane Katrina 2005



Typhoon Haiyan 2013

Environmental Factors



Economic Factors



Social Factors

**INCREASED
VULNERABILITY
TO CLIMATE
RELATED RISKS
AND ECONOMIC
INSTABILITY**



**RESTRICT
WOMEN'S
ACCESS TO
RESOURCE**

**RESTRICT
WOMEN'S
ACCESS TO
DECISION
MAKING
PROCESSES**

**RESTRICT
WOMEN'S
ACCESS TO
ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITIES**



In Conclusion

UNEA - 6 THEME

**“EFFECTIVE, INCLUSIVE
AND SUSTAINABLE
MULTILATERAL
ACTIONS TO TACKLE
CLIMATE
CHANGE, BIODEVERSITY
LOSS AND POLLUTION”**





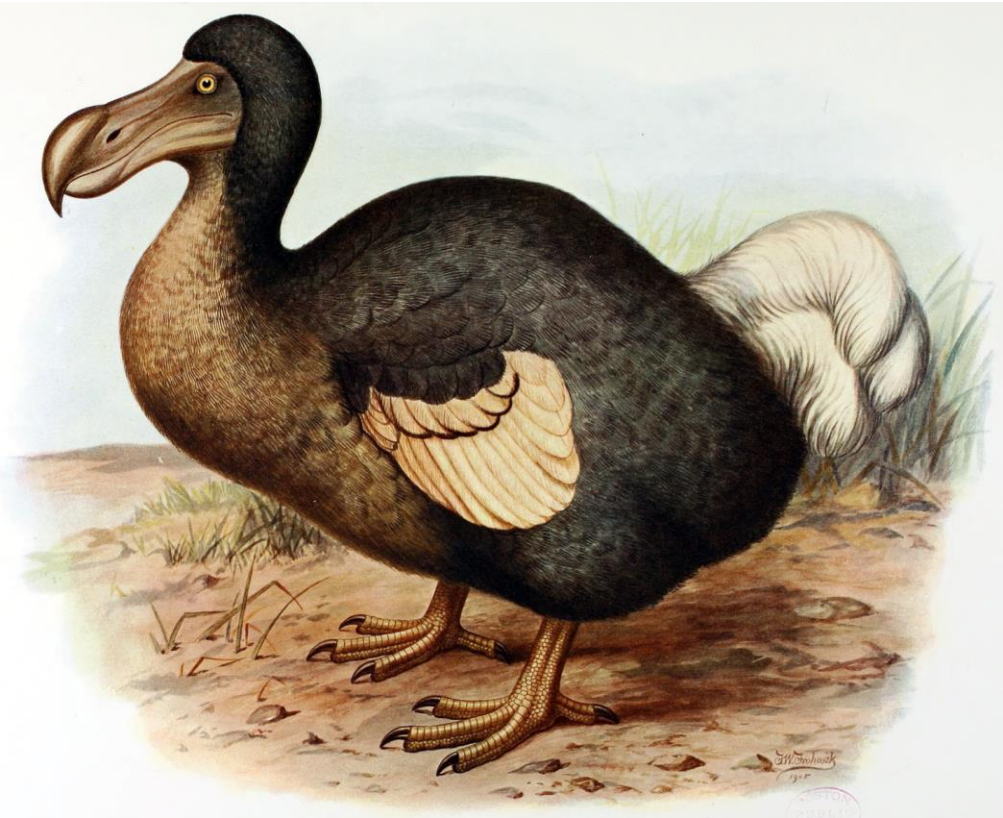
Thank you

We acknowledge the tradition of custodianship and law of the Country on which the University of Notre Dame Australia campuses stand. We pay our respects to those who have cared and continue to care for Country.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME
A U S T R A L I A





Extinct bird: The Dodo

Part of the “Intersections of Gender, Poverty and Climate Change” panel presentation organized by Soroptimist International

Disaster risk reduction is everybody's business

Dizery Salim
March 12, 2024



Living in poverty in a
gendered
society...

...how will I fare under
climate change?



Living in poverty in a
racialized
society...

...how will I fare under
climate change?



Living in poverty in a
globalized
society...

...how will I fare under
climate change?





Living in poverty in an
ableist
society...

...how will I fare under
climate change?



Living in poverty in a
mechanized
society...

...how will I fare under
climate change?



And so on.

Will I be OK?

It's difficult to say.

But we asked people what
they do to stay resilient
amid unhelpful social
dynamics.



Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030



PRIORITY 1 – Understanding disaster risk

- a) Give people actionable info
- b) Track risk history
- c) Do data visualization
- d) Record losses
- e) Publicize hazards
- f) Provide data in situ
- g) Have government officials learn from peers
- h) Talk to scientists
- i) Use lay knowledge
- j) Model risk
- k) Create DRR products
- l) Teach risk
- m) Run mass media campaigns
- n) Turn info to policy
- o) Use word of mouth

Sendai Framework
for Disaster Risk Reduction
2015-2030

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Preamble | 9 |
| Expected outcome and goal | 12 |
| Guiding principles | 13 |
| Priorities for action | 14 |
| Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk | 14 |
| Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk | 17 |
| Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience | 18 |
| Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction | 21 |
| Role of stakeholders | 23 |
| International cooperation and global partnership | 24 |

Priority 2 – Strengthen disaster risk governance

- a) Mainstream disaster risk reduction
- b) Set targeted actions
- c) Re-up capacity
- d) Incentivize compliance
- e) Have watchdogs
- f) Consult public
- g) Coordinate govt
- h) Coordinate frontline
- i) Legislate
- j) Have standards
- k) Clarify scale of governance

Sendai Framework
for Disaster Risk Reduction
2015-2030

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Preamble | 9 |
| Expected outcome and goal | 12 |
| Guiding principles | 13 |
| Priorities for action | 14 |
| Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk | 14 |
| Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk | 17 |
| Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience | 18 |
| Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction | 21 |
| Role of stakeholders | 23 |
| International cooperation and global partnership | 24 |

PRIORITY 3 – Invest in disaster risk reduction

- a) Pay for DRR privately
- b) Transfer risk
- c) Critical systems safeguards
- d) Culture safeguards
- e) Workplace safeguards
- f) Land-use safeguards
- g) Rural safeguards
- h) Building codes
- i) Health system safeguards
- j) Social safety nets
- k) Universal design
- l) Displacement precautions
- m) Financial safeguards
- n) Ecosystems safeguards
- o) Commerce safeguards
- p) Livelihood safeguards
- q) Tourism safeguards
- r) Have data privacy*

*not included in original

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Preamble | 9 |
| Expected outcome and goal | 12 |
| Guiding principles | 13 |
| Priorities for action | 14 |
| Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk | 14 |
| Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk | 17 |
| Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience | 18 |
| Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction | 21 |
| Role of stakeholders | 23 |
| International cooperation and global partnership | 24 |

PRIORITY 4 – Improve disaster preparedness

- a) Update contingency plans
- b) Use early warning
- c) Deploy critical services
- d) Build clearinghouses/stockpiles
- e) Support relief work
- f) Do disaster training
- g) Plan for disruptions
- h) Do drills
- i) Coordinate response across sectors
- j) Stop damage from spreading
- k) Prevent damage next time
- l) Relocate after disaster
- m) Evacuate during disaster
- n) Record morbidity/mortality
- o) Give psychosocial support
- p) Coordinate internationally

Sendai Framework
for Disaster Risk Reduction
2015-2030

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Preamble | 9 |
| Expected outcome and goal | 12 |
| Guiding principles | 13 |
| Priorities for action | 14 |
| Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk | 14 |
| Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk | 17 |
| Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience | 18 |
| Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction | 21 |
| Role of stakeholders | 23 |
| International cooperation and global partnership | 24 |

Different communities across the world share several goals in common:

Stable birth rates

Consistency in early childhood education and care

Effective occupational socialization

Social connectedness

Healthy aging

Reducing harm to body

Etc.

What is the likelihood of achieving those goals under climate change?

(for those living under unhelpful social dynamics, e.g., women)

Using the Sendai Framework to find opportunities for cross-issue solidarity work that benefit women

(hypothetical examples)

Understanding disaster risk

Extreme heat strains the body

More housing is needed for women escaping GBV

Opportunities for human trafficking rise with increased irregular migration

Etc.

Strengthening risk governance

Put onus on farm owners to protect farm workers

Ensure VAW sector and urban planners are coordinated

Elevate survivors of trafficking of women and girls in the lawmaking process

Invest in disaster risk reduction

Do more research on physical activity's effects on women

Ensure housing set aside for GBV uses green energy

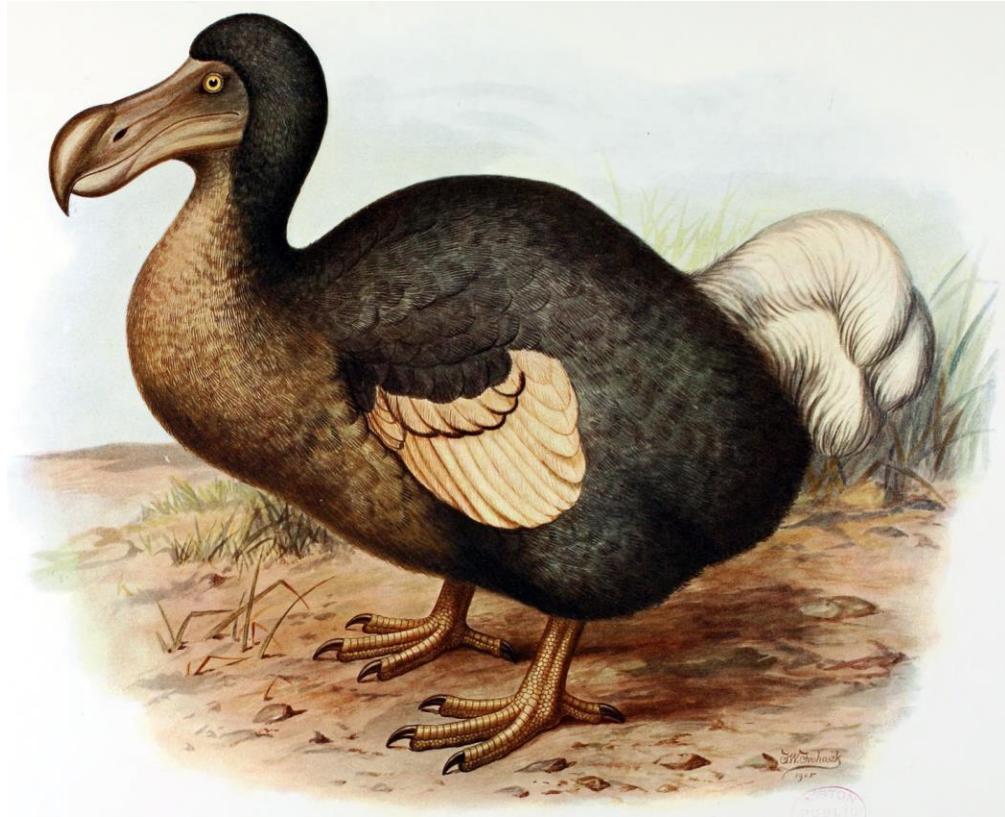
Make migration easier by investing in job certification schemes for women

Improve disaster preparedness

Have a plan for disruption of food production

Know how to give GBV psychosocial support in a disaster

Have relocation plans in place to bypass the need for irregular migration



Cautionary tale: We failed to avert disaster for the dodo by not stopping to ask what was needed.



Mary Muia

**Soroptimist International UN Representative, Nairobi,
Public Health Professional**



The Intersection of Gender, Poverty & Climate Change

- ***Soroptimist in Action***



Introduction

- As we delve into this intersection, we uncover profound challenges and opportunities for sustainable development and social justice.
- Firstly, let us acknowledge the stark reality, climate change exacerbates poverty.
- The adverse impacts of climate change, from extreme weather events to environmental degradation, disproportionately affects women, pushing them further into poverty.
- The climate crisis is not **“gender neutral”**.
- Women and girls experience the greatest impacts of climate change, which amplifies existing gender inequalities and poses unique threats to their livelihoods, health, and safety.



Women & Climate Change

- Now, let us turn our attention to the gender dimensions of climate change. Women and girls, particularly those in developing countries, face unique and disproportionate risks and vulnerabilities.
- Social and economic factors often restrict women's access to resources, decision-making processes, and adaptive capacities.
- As primary caregivers and stewards of natural resources, women play a crucial role in climate resilience.
- Yet, they are often excluded from decision-making and resource allocation processes, exacerbating their vulnerability to negative climate impacts.



Gender, Poverty & Climate

- At the intersection of gender and poverty lies a web of challenges.
- Women living in poverty face compounded vulnerabilities, magnified by gender and socio-economic inequalities.
- Access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities remains unavailable for many women, continuing the cycle of poverty and marginalisation.

Climate Change is a Multiplier.....



- As climate change drives conflict across the world, women and girls face increased vulnerabilities to all forms of gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, human trafficking, child marriage, and other forms of violence.
- At the intersection of gender and poverty lies a web of challenges.
- Women living in poverty face compounded vulnerabilities, magnified by gender and socio-economic inequalities.
- Access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities remains unavailable for many women, continuing the cycle of poverty and marginalisation.



- Climate Refugees.....

- Climate change-induced migration has become a reality, affecting millions globally.
- Women often bear the brunt of displacement, facing increased risks of gender-based violence and challenges in accessing resources.
- This emphasizes the urgent need to address the negative impact of climate change on gender due to existing inequalities.

Climate Change & Women Health



- Women's and girls' health is endangered by climate change and disasters by limiting access to services and health care, as well as increasing risks related to maternal and child health.
- Research indicates that extreme heat increases incidence of stillbirth, and climate change is increasing the spread of vector-borne illnesses such as malaria, dengue fever, and Zika virus, which are linked to worse maternal and neonatal outcomes





Implications & Solutions-

So, what are the policy implications and solutions?

- We must adopt holistic and intersectional approaches that prioritise the needs of the most vulnerable.
- Gender-responsive and poverty-targeted interventions are critical for building resilience and promoting sustainable livelihoods.
- Empowering women through education, economic opportunities, and access to resources is key to breaking the cycle of poverty and enhancing climate resilience.



As I Conclude,

- Addressing the link of climate change, poverty, and gender inequality requires collective action and collaboration across sectors and stakeholders.
- We must recognise the interconnectedness of these issues and work together to develop inclusive and equitable solutions.
- By prioritising gender-responsive and poverty-targeted interventions, we can build a more resilient and sustainable future for all.
- These efforts should include pro-poor and gender-sensitive legal and policy reform with the view towards strengthening the resilience of poor and marginalized groups (including women & girls).





Thank you



Intersection of Gender, Poverty and Climate Change Panel organized by Soroptimist International

**THE INTERSECTION OF CLIMATE CHANGE, VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG) AND THE
OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO CEDAW**

KABAHENDA KIGGUNDU

12 MARCH 2024



**THE INTERSECTION OF CLIMATE CHANGE, VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG) AND THE OPTIONAL
PROTOCOL TO CEDAW**

**By 2050, climate change will push up to 158
million more women and girls into poverty and
lead to 236 million more women into hunger.**

UN Women 2023



THE INTERSECTIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG) AND THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO CEDAW

- **Displacement of populations**
- **Refugee camps;**
- **Increased risk of violence against women and girls;**

THE INTERSECTION OF CLIMATE CHANGE, VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG) AND THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO CEDAW





THE INTERSECTION OF CLIMATE CHANGE, VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG) AND THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO CEDAW

Environmental degradation

- **Long distances to look for water and wood;**
- **Increased risk of VAWG**
- **School drop-out**
- **Early child marriages**



THE INTERSECTIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG) AND THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO CEDAW

- **Implications**
- **“Gender-based violence undermines not only the safety, dignity, overall health status, and human rights of the millions of individuals who experience it, but also the public health, economic stability, and security of nations.”
United States Agency for International Development (USAID, n.d.)**



**THE INTERSECTION OF CLIMATE CHANGE, VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG) AND THE OPTIONAL
PROTOCOL TO CEDAW**

OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO CEDAW

- **What is it?**
- **How can it offer redress to survivors of VAWG globally?**



Shaleen Wanjiru

**Soroptimist International UN Representative, Nairobi,
Children and Youth Major Group.**

**The Intersection of Gender, Poverty & Climate
Change**

A Youth Perspective



Introduction

- Good morning/afternoon/evening, esteemed delegates and members of Soroptimist International.
- I am honored to be here today to discuss a critical issue: the interconnected nature of gender, poverty, and climate change, and how it impacts young people worldwide.
- Today's presentation aims to unravel the complex web of these issues from a youth perspective, emphasizing the importance of understanding their interconnectedness for effective solutions."



Importance of Understanding Intersections

Intersectionality and Addressing Complexities:

- "Intersectionality, a critical concept, compels us to recognize how individuals' experiences are shaped by multiple identities, like gender, race, class, and location.
- Addressing gender inequality, poverty, and climate change in isolation can overlook the complex ways these issues intertwine and reinforce each other.
- For instance, a young woman living in poverty may be more vulnerable to the consequences of a flood due to limited access to resources, traditional gender roles placing her at greater risk during disasters, and the lack of infrastructure in marginalized communities."



Importance of Understanding.....

- Individuals' experiences are shaped by a complex web of intersecting identities, such as gender, race, class, and location. (Source: Kimberlé Crenshaw, Critical Race Theory)
- Addressing these issues in isolation can overlook the complex ways they reinforce each other.
- For example, poverty can limit access to resources and infrastructure, making individuals more vulnerable to climate shocks like floods or droughts.
- This, in turn, can further exacerbate poverty, creating a vicious cycle.

.

Impact of Severe Weather Changes on Poverty....



- Extreme weather events, intensified by climate change, disproportionately impact those in poverty:
 - **Economic losses:** The World Bank estimates climate change could push an additional 120 million people into poverty by 2030, primarily in developing countries heavily reliant on agriculture and susceptible to extreme weather events.
 - **Food insecurity:** The World Food Programme expects the number facing acute hunger to rise by 26% by 2050 due to climate change, impacting the most vulnerable communities who struggle to access stable food sources.
 - **Displacement:** By 2050, 216 million people could be forced to migrate within their countries due to climate change (The World Bank), further straining resources and exacerbating existing inequalities.



Impact of Severe Weather Changes on Gender.....

- Women and girls are often disproportionately affected by climate change due to existing inequalities:
 - **70%** of the world's poor are women and girls (World Bank).
 - Traditional roles as caregivers, food producers, and water fetchers expose them to higher climate risks, as evidenced by the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, where women faced a greater burden of caregiving and faced higher risks of violence and exploitation.
 - Limited access to information, technology, and decision-making power hinders their ability to adapt and participate in solutions.
 - **For example**, women in some cultures may not be able to own land, limiting their ability to access resources and implement climate-resilient agricultural practices.





Negative Impact of Climate Inequality:

Climate inequality refers to the unequal distribution of climate change impacts, resources, and decision-making power.

- Communities in the Global South, who contribute less to historical greenhouse gas emissions, often suffer the most from climate change consequences.
- This disparity is rooted in historical inequalities, economic disparities, and geopolitical factors, leading to a situation where marginalized communities face the brunt of the consequences while having limited resources and participation in decision-making processes.
- A 2021 report by the UN Environment Programme revealed that the developing world is spending three times more on adapting to climate change than they receive in climate finance, highlighting the lack of equitable resource distribution.



Youth Perspective on Climate Change:

Young people are at the forefront of the climate movement, demonstrating passion, creativity, and unwavering determination to fight for a better future.

- **Disproportionate Impact:** *Young people bear a disproportionate burden of* climate change consequences, from disrupted education due to natural disasters to health risks from pollution and extreme weather events.
- **Leadership in Action:** Youth are actively leading movements for climate action globally, rallying for policy change, engaging in climate strikes, and advocating for sustainability in their communities.
- **Fresh Perspective:** Their unique outlook brings innovative solutions to the forefront, challenging conventional approaches and driving the adoption of renewable energy, sustainable practices, and eco-friendly policies.



Youth Perspective on Climate Change...

- **Intergenerational Equity:** Understanding climate change from a youth perspective ensures that decisions made today consider the long-term consequences and equitable distribution of resources for future generations.
- **Empowerment and Engagement:** By involving young people in decision-making processes, we empower them to shape their future, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility in addressing climate challenges.
- **Examples of youth-led initiatives:**
 - **Fridays for Future:** A global movement started by Greta Thunberg, mobilizing millions of students to demand climate action from world leaders.
 - **The Sunrise Movement:** A youth-led organization in the US advocating for a Green New Deal to address climate change and economic inequality.
 - **Local initiatives:**
 - **Social media activism:**



A Call to Advocacy and Action:

Therefore, Soroptimist International calls for:

- **Urgent and ambitious climate action:** We urge governments, businesses, and individuals to adopt comprehensive and equitable strategies to mitigate climate change and adapt to its consequences.
- **Investing in gender equality:** We advocate for policies and programs that empower women and girls, ensuring their equal participation in decision-making processes and access to resources to build resilience to climate change.
- **Amplifying the voices of youth:** We encourage meaningful engagement of young people in climate action and support their initiatives to create a more sustainable future for all.

Together, we can build a world where climate action, gender equality, and youth empowerment are not separate goals, but pillars of a more just and sustainable future!



The image features a vibrant yellow background with intricate white geometric patterns. These patterns include concentric circles, star-like shapes, and interlocking lines, creating a complex, maze-like design. A solid black horizontal band runs across the center of the image, providing a stark contrast for the text.

Q&A

Closing Remarks

President Siew Yong Gnanalingam



Thank You

