

Women Warming Up!

**Building Resilient,
Grassroots Feminist
Movements for Climate
Justice in Asia-Pacific**



Editors: Tanya Lutvey, Kate Lappin, Camille Risler & Aileen Familiara

Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development
December 2015
Chiang Mai, Thailand

Reproduction of this publication for educational or other non-commercial purposes is authorised and encouraged, provided the source is fully acknowledged.

ISBN:

Supported by



Norad



Sida

Feminist Participatory Action Research Regional Report

**APWLD Climate Justice Programme
2014-2015**



Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AMIHAN	Amihan National Federation of Peasant Women
APWLD	Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development
AR5	IPCC Fifth Assessment Report
AUD	Australian Dollar
CBDR	Common But Differentiated Responsibilities
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CJ-FPAR	Climate Justice Feminist Participatory Action Research
CO2	Carbon Dioxide
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CTUHR	Centre for Trade Unions and Human Rights
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FPAR	Feminist Participatory Action Research
FPIC	Free Prior Informed Consent
G7	Group of 7 countries
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
IAFCP	Indonesia Australia Forest Carbon Partnership
IFI	International Financial Institution
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IWCF	Indigenous Women and Children Foundation
KFCP	Kalimantan Forest and Climate Partnership
LDC	Least Developed Country
LNWDA	Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency
MIWUI	Mugal Indigenous Women Upliftment Institute
MT/c	Metric tonnes per capita
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NREA	National Rural Employment Act
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PHP	Philippine Peso

PNG	Papua New Guinea
Ppm	Parts per million
REDD	Reduce Emission from Deforestation and forest Degradation
REDD+	Reduce Emission from Deforestation and forest Degradation, conservation of existing forest carbon stocks, sustainable forest management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
SDF	Sustainable Development Fund
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SP	Solidaritas Perempuan
SRD	Centre for Sustainable Rural Development
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
USD	US Dollar
VDC	Village Development Committee
VMDC	Village Monitoring Development Committee
WHO	World Health Organisation

Foreword

Climate change is no longer an imminent threat. It is a devastating reality for millions of women in the Asia and Pacific region. Typhoons, flash floods, landslides, drought, rising sea levels, unpredictable water access and weather patterns, crop loss and large scale displacement are a daily reality and likely to increase. For women of the region, climate change often compounds and fuels existing inequalities and chronic marginalisation.

Climate change is not gender neutral. Entrenched, historical gendered roles mean women are more likely to die in disasters, suffer long term health impacts, face reduced income, increased workloads and destruction of livelihoods. They have limited access to resilient resources that make it harder to break the cycle of poverty. But women of the Global South have precious knowledge in natural resource management, adaptation and survival. Excluding them from decision-making prevents effective, gender sensitive policymaking and stops women from contributing their skills, knowledge and experiences, which could benefit entire communities.

However, the devastation of climate change does not have to be inevitable. In fact, climate change could be the circuit breaker our world needs. As we race towards an irreversible climate catastrophe, there is increasing recognition that a grossly unjust system is feeding climate change. Climate change may force humanity to re-think the economic and political systems that are responsible for climate change, for deepening inequalities, for exploitative labour and resource extraction, for gender inequality. If climate change forces societies to re-shape our economies and communities, we must take the opportunity to re-shape them into gender equitable and just communities.

This report is a story of both impact and survival. The following pages contain the stories and findings of nine grassroots groups participating in Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)'s Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR). The Climate Justice FPAR (CJ-FPAR) project supported the collective work of grassroots women from the Philippines, Nepal, India, Indonesia, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, Vietnam and Bangladesh, to document their experiences, responses

and needs to ensure that those most affected by climate change are able to shape policies at the local, national and international level.

Our objectives in CJ-FPAR were to support women at the local level to advance participatory democratic rights of women affected by climate change and ultimately to change systems and structures responsible for marginalisation. We wanted to facilitate a democratic, mutual learning space as part of the bigger, overarching struggle for social transformation.

The single most common finding from the FPAR was that empowered women's movements are imperative to responding to climate change, to building resilience, to developing pro people climate policies and, ultimately, to drive the system change required to shape just, equitable and sustainable futures.

In December 2015, the annual Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Conference on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will be held in Paris. The aim of this COP is to reach a new legally binding, universal agreement on climate change. In past negotiations, developed countries have been shirking their responsibilities, refusing to curb their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or to provide the means necessary to support developing countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change, in accordance to the legal principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)⁵⁴. Adaptation, loss and damage, and financing have all but been ignored and the mitigation pledges by the highest emitters have been far from sufficient to avoid increasing global temperatures by 2 degrees, an objective agreed by the States in 2010. Although women's human rights and gender equality have been historically neglected in official negotiations, some improvements have been realised in recent years, in particular with the adoption of the goal of gender balance in the international climate negotiations in 2012 at COP 18 and a commitment to produce the Lima Work plan at COP20. But there can be no gender equality on a dead planet. Climate agreements must be gender equitable, globally equitable and truly transformative.

⁵⁴ Common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR): principle of international environmental law establishing that all states are responsible for addressing global environmental destruction yet not equally responsible. This principle is explicitly recognised in Article 4 of the UNFCCC.

CONTENTS

<i>Acronyms</i>	2
<i>Foreword</i>	4
<i>CJ-FPAR Participants</i>	6
Section 1: Climate Realities	8
<i>1.1 Historical Responsibility Of Climate Change</i>	9
<i>1.2 Climate justice is a feminist issue</i>	11
<i>1.3 Our Solution: Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR)</i>	15
Section 2: A Region in Crisis	18
<i>2.1 Climate Change in Asia-Pacific</i>	19
<i>2.2 Adaptation</i>	23
<i>2.3 Loss and Damage</i>	25
<i>2.4 Mitigation</i>	28
Section 3: Climate Agents of Change: Impacts of FPAR	31
<i>3.1 Amplifying Women's Voices</i>	32
<i>3.2 Fostering Women's Movements</i>	35
<i>3.3 From Local to Global</i>	36
Section 4: Addressing Climate Change Requires System Change	41
<i>4.1 Climate justice as a pillar of Development Justice</i>	42
<i>4.2 Recommendations</i>	42
<i>APWLD's FPAR</i>	46
<i>International Negotiations and Mechanisms on Climate Change</i>	55

Indigenous Women and Children Foundation (IWCF) – India

IWCF is an organisation in Northeast India that protects and defends the rights of indigenous peoples, particularly by strengthening indigenous women and children's participation in decision-making at the community level. IWCF's FPAR research was centred on the participation of the women in Tamenglong District in decision-making processes, particularly in regards to natural resource management and violence against women and children. Anina Kamei (Young Woman Researcher) Tabitha Trumy (Mentor)

Mugal Indigenous Women Upliftment Institute (MIWUI) – Nepal

MIWUI is a national organisation of Mugal indigenous women of Nepal, established in 2007 to organise and mobilise the Mugal women to establish their social, cultural, economic and political rights. MIWUI aims to give the women the knowledge, training, and skills to claim inclusion in local decision making bodies and demand gender-sensitive climate policies and funding. MIWUI's CJ-FPAR research examined the impacts of climate change upon the lives of women of the Mugal community, in Northern Nepal. Alina Saba (Young Woman Researcher) Toma Lama (Mentor)

Initiative for Right View (IRV) – Bangladesh

IRV is a not-for-profit organisation, committed to upholding women's rights and the equitable distribution of social wealth, through addressing economic justice, biodiversity, climate change, disaster response and risk mitigation. IRV aims to enhance women's capacities for climate change response and understanding, through education and adaptive measures. IRV's research project studied how climate change is altering traditional domestic roles and lifestyles of the Munda indigenous women in Southern Bangladesh. Marina Juthi (Young Woman Researcher) Ainoon Naher (Mentor)

Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF) – Thailand

SDF is an organisation that promotes and supports community-based, multi-stakeholder, participatory approaches to natural resources and environmental management, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and inclusive sustainable development. SDF's FPAR focused on women in small-scale fishing communities in Chanthaburi and Trat provinces, Thailand. The programme built the capacity of local women in coastal resource management and helped them to develop alternative livelihoods. It also supported the women in playing an active role in the development of public policies related to women's rights climate change adaptation and natural resources management. Yaowalak Chantamas (Young Woman Researcher) Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk (Mentor)

Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD) – Vietnam

SRD is a Vietnamese organisation, supporting poor rural communities to sustainably manage their own livelihoods, whilst adapting to the changing climate. In implementing disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation projects in vulnerable areas, SRD seeks to gain governmental recognition of the vital role of women in climate change adaptation and natural disaster readiness at the local, national and regional levels. SRD's FPAR research was on the role, responsibilities and contributions of rural and marginalised women in climate change adaptation and DRR, specifically amongst fishing and rice farming communities in central Vietnam. Nhung Pham (Young Woman Researcher) Toan Tran (Mentor)

Solidaritas Perempuan (SP) – Indonesia

SP is feminist, membership-based organisation made up of grassroots activists, academics and students, committed to a just system where men and women have equal access to and control over resources. SP conducted research on the impact of REDD+ Climate Policy on women's rights in the forests of Central Kalimantan, Indonesia. The FPAR project aimed to build the capacity of women on the impacts of climate projects and policies in their lives, to increase leadership and resilience and to advocate for the inclusion of women in the decision-making processes regarding the management of forest resources. Margaretha Winda Febiana Karotina (Young Woman Researcher) Puspa Dewy (Mentor)

AMIHAN National Federation of Peasant Women (AMIHAN) – Philippines

AMIHAN is a national organisation of peasant women that federates rural women's organisations in the Philippines, aiming to build their influence and capacity. AMIHAN's FPAR research focused on the cultural and social impacts of Typhoon Haiyan on women and the lack of gender-sensitive policies in the aftermath of natural disasters in the Philippines. Danica Castillo (Young Woman Researcher) Tess Vistro (Mentor)

Centre for Trade Unions and Human Rights (CTUHR) – Philippines

The CTUHR is an independent non-government organisation (NGO) engaged in documentation and monitoring of human rights violations committed against the workers and the urban poor. CTUHR's FPAR research targeted poor urban poor women and women workers in Metro Manila and documented the social and economic effects of climate change on these communities, in particular, the impacts of natural disasters. The research results highlight the links existing between climate change issues and a just and equitable transition of the workforce to clean jobs, for which decent work standards apply. Jane Siwa (Young Woman Researcher) Daisy Arago (Mentor)

Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency (LNWDA) – Papua New Guinea (PNG)

LNWDA was founded in 1992, as a means to provide humanitarian aid, rehabilitation and advocacy awareness programmes during the Bougainville crisis. Now, the organisation runs training and awareness workshops on Gender and Human Rights, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Peace Building, among others. LNWDA builds the capacity of the women of the islands and helps them to engage with the PNG government in decisions affecting their lives. For their CJ-FPAR project, LNWDA researched the mass displacement of the Carteret Islanders of PNG, the first ever community to undergo a government relocation plan as a result of rising tides and increasing storm surges. Bianca Carwinn (Young Woman Researcher) Helen Hakena (Mentor)

CJ FPAR Participants

This report is the result of the dedication of our 9 local participants.

Section 1 Climate Realities

“Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, and since the 1950s, many of the observed changes are unprecedented over decades to millennia. The atmosphere and ocean have warmed, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished, and sea level has risen.”

55 IPCC [Core Writing Team, R.K. Pachauri and L.A. Meyer (eds.)], (2014), *Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*, IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, p. 2.

After decades of evidence there is now universal acceptance by member states of the UN that climate change is occurring, caused by humans and threatens the very existence of humanity. Daily news of disasters makes climate denial impossible. With 2014 the hottest year on record, it's difficult to deny the daily realities of a warming planet on current crop yields, displacement and livelihoods.

The predicted impacts of climate change are even more terrifying. It's increasingly clear that without a complete change in our current economic and political systems *and a global commitment to completely shift funding priorities, the future of human beings as a species is unlikely. The latest IPCC report, largely acknowledged as conservative, predicts an increase in temperatures as high as 4.8°C, and a 0.82 metre rise in sea levels within the next century*⁵⁶. Heat waves are expected to last longer and result in higher numbers of human mortality, whilst much needed cold seasons will gradually become shorter, as temperatures rise.

One of the most comprehensive, predictive research models on climate change, conducted by the Global Resource Observatory for the British Government, Lloyds Insurers and other major development banks, found that:

“Based on plausible climate trends, and a total failure to change course, the global food supply system would face catastrophic losses, and an unprecedented epidemic of food riots. In this scenario, global society essentially collapses as food production falls permanently short of consumption.”⁵⁷

The path to human extinction would be a dystopian hell. What is clear is that the first to suffer conflict, starvation and disasters arising from climate change will be women of the Global South. Many of these women already live in fragile states where under-development is persistent and the national capacity to manage climate risks is

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 60.

⁵⁷ Ahmed, N (2015), *Scientific Model Supported by UK Government Taskforce Flags Risk of Civilisation's Collapse by 2014*, InsurgeIntellegence, retrieved 14 September 2015 from <https://medium.com/insurgeintelligence/uk-government-backed-scientific-model-flags-risk-of-civilisation-s-collapse-by-2040-4d121e455997>.

weak. In these countries, as climate change interacts with other features of the often-volatile social, economic and political landscapes, we are also likely to see an increase in political instability and violent conflicts, including gender-based violence⁵⁸.

According to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), global estimates for the number of migrants moving due to climate change will range anywhere between 25 million and 1 billion people by 2050⁵⁹. Populations with low income and who lack the resources for planned migration are becoming increasingly vulnerable to slavery and trafficking into the most exploited forms of labour.

As the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) acknowledged, human rights violations arise from climate change and will be felt *“most acutely by those segments of the population that are already in vulnerable situations owing to factors such as geography, poverty, gender, age, indigenous or minority status and disability”*⁶⁰.

1.1 Historical Responsibility for Climate Change

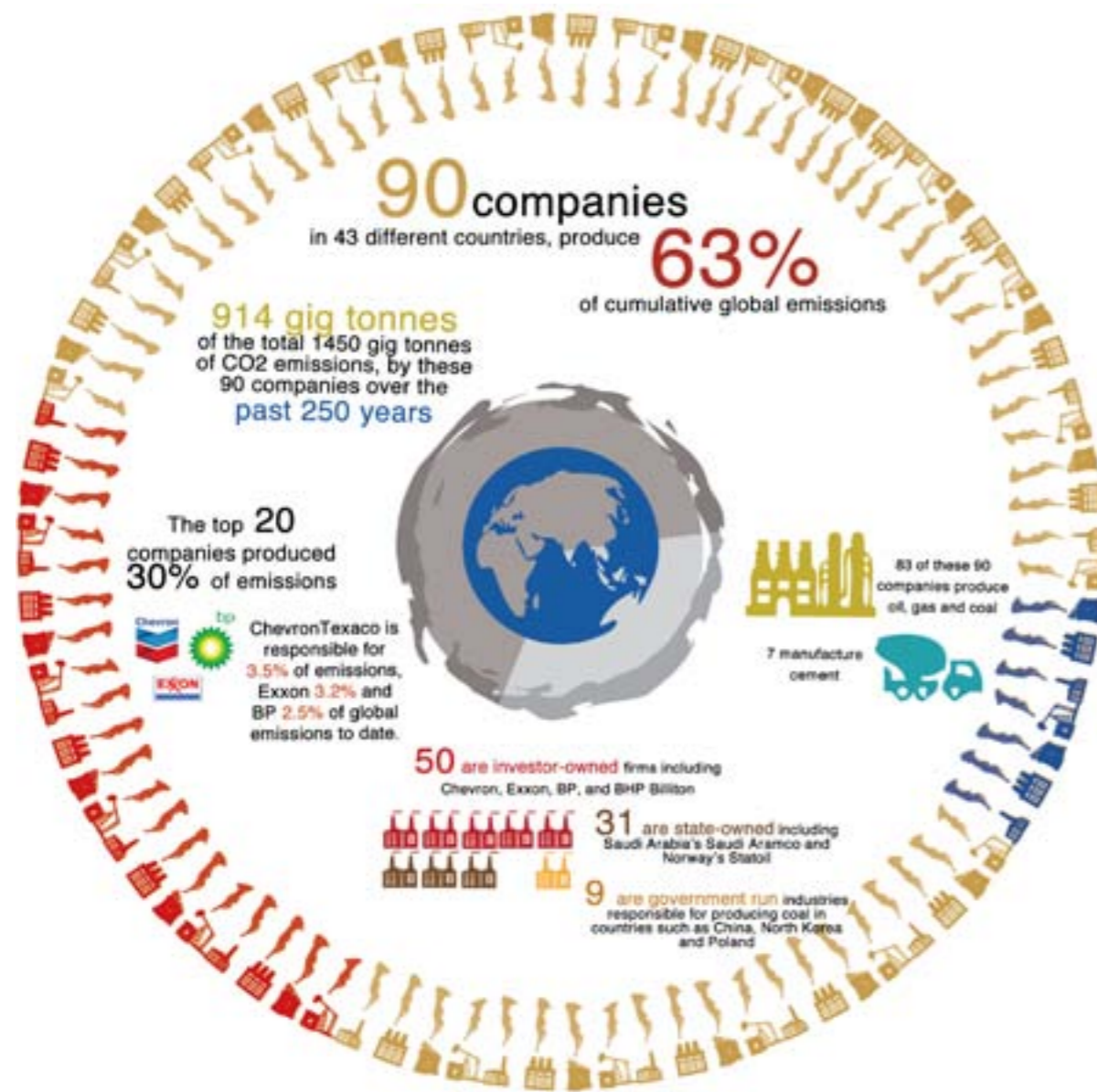
What we are facing is the consequences of a severely imbalanced and unequal system. Perversely, climate change is caused by the wealthiest countries and corporations mostly based in the Global North, while the greatest impacts are felt in the developing world. Just 90 companies have caused two-thirds of historical GHG emissions⁶¹. These companies, made up of multinational corporations, government-run companies and private investor firms, have driven emissions to more than double in the past 25 years. This staggering increase has come *after* governments and the international community first entered into discussions on climate change.

⁵⁸ For more information please refer to APWLD Publication 'Climate change and Natural Disasters Affecting Women Peace and Security', 2015.

⁵⁹ Laczko, F & Aghazarm, C (ed.) (2009), *Migration, Environment and climate change: Assessing the Evidence*, International Organisation for Migration, retrieved June 12, 2015, from http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/migration_and_environment.pdf.

⁶⁰ Human Rights Council resolutions 10/4 (25 March 2009), 18/22 (17 October 2011) and 26/27 (27 June 2014).

⁶¹ Goldenberg, S (2013), *Just 90 companies caused two-thirds of man-made global warming emissions*, The Guardian, retrieved 19 July 2015 from <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/nov/20/90-companies-man-made-global-warming-emissions-climate-change>.



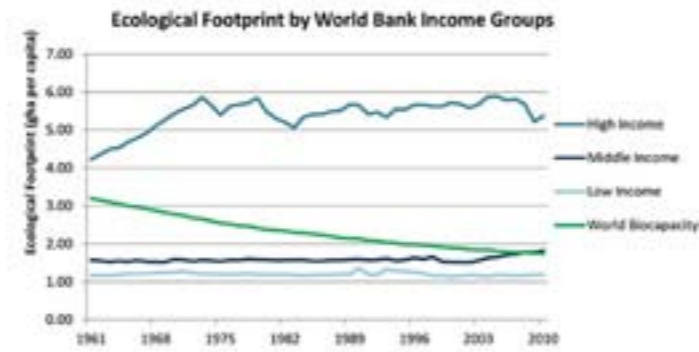
The historical responsibility for climate change clearly sits with developed countries (or annex 1 countries listed in the Kyoto Protocol) and the wealthiest. The powerful members of the Group of 7 (G7)⁶² are responsible for more than half of global emissions⁶³. The United States carbon emissions alone, during the year 2011 were 17 metric tonnes per capita (MT/c)⁶⁴, equalling 17.05% of the world total⁶⁵.

62 The Group of Seven (G7) is an informal bloc of industrialized democracies--the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom--that meets annually to discuss issues such as global economic governance, international security, and energy policy.

63 59% precisely. Bremmer, I (2015), *Here are 5 reasons the G7 Summit was a Disappointment*, retrieved 19 July 2015 from <http://time.com/3918982/g7-summit-obama-united-states-isis-russia/>.

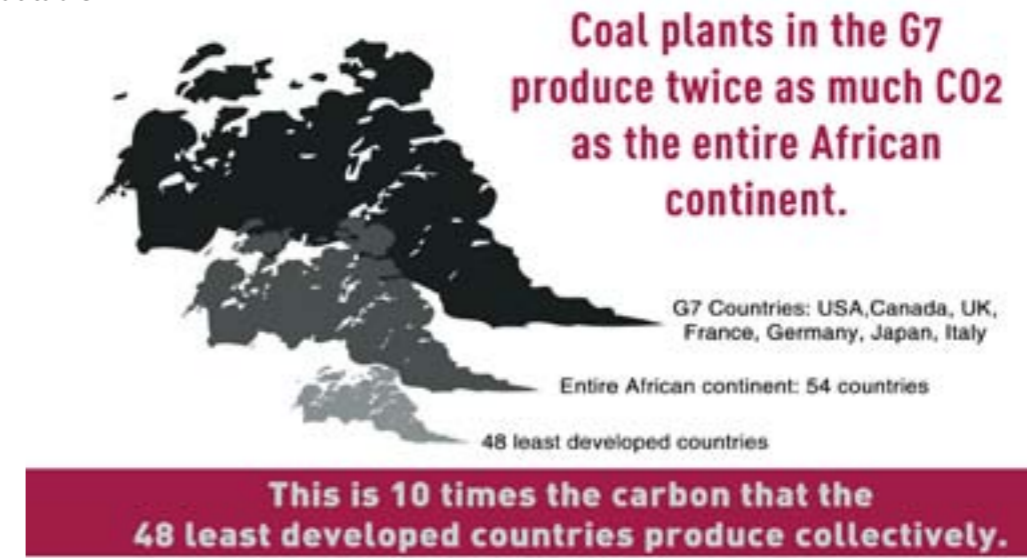
64 World Bank (2015), *CO₂ emissions (metric tons per capita)*, retrieved 19 July 2015 from <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>.

65 U.S Energy Information Administration (n.d.), *International*



Energy Statistics, U.S. Department of Energy, retrieved 14 September 2015, <http://www.eia.gov/cfapps/ipdbproject/iedindex3.cfm?tid=90&pid=44&aid=8&cid=BG,IN,LD,NPP,RP,TH,US,VM,&syid=2011&eyid=2012&unit=MMTC>.

Carbon output table⁶⁶



Sadly, it is the communities that have contributed almost nothing to global emissions who are among those most threatened and affected by climate change. The USA, for example, emits more than 175 times more carbon per person than Nepal, yet the increasing temperatures in the Himalayan region are higher than global averages⁶⁷.

the global South have used very little of the world's resources and they have developed significant knowledge around mitigation, adaptation and environmental development.

1.2 Climate justice is a feminist issue

"Dismantling the stronghold of the empire of patriarchy will not be achieved instantly, but the strength of the poor marginalised women when put together can make the difference, and the change will happen sooner or later."

Indigenous Women and Children Foundation, Final Research Report, India

Climate change is **not** gender neutral. Patriarchal practices, coupled with global economic injustices, make women particularly vulnerable to the degradation of natural resources and during natural disasters. Women of

66 Table 1. Footprint Network accessed at http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/living_planet_report_2014_facts/

67 CJ-FPAR Research Report, *Impacts of Climate Change on Mugal Indigenous Women and Their Access to Climate Justice*, Mugal Indigenous Women Upliftment Institute, Nepal, 2015.

Case Study Carteret Islands, Papua New Guinea⁶⁸

The loss of land for the matrilineal cultures of the Carteret Islands, PNG, is more than just displacement – it is the loss of identity, of culture, and of generational heritage. Rising sea levels have already submerged their island homes, and the PNG government has resettled them in relocation camps outside of Buka Town. Along with their homes, the women of the Carteret Islands have lost their traditional forms of natural resource-based livelihood, as agricultural yields are contaminated by the salinisation of the soil or are no longer seasonally dependable. They have lost their independence, traditions and culture, and now face a life of uncertainty in the relocation sites.

Climate change has already taken their homes

68 For more information please read APWLD Climate Justice Policy Briefs at <http://apwld.org/climate-justice-policy-briefs/>

and it continues to threaten their existence in the relocation camps. Erratic weather patterns, unpredictable rainfall and unexpectedly low dry seasons make it hard for the women of the Carteret Islands to depend on agriculture for income generation, as they have in the past. Not only are the sea levels rising, the salt water is also seeping in from underneath, accelerating the process of salinisation. In the earlier days of their relocation, these women were able to use their own gardens as means enough to support their families and to provide a small income by selling the excess. But this is no longer sufficient. The women have learnt to make ice-blocks for sale at the local market, as well as floured fish, baked doughnuts and scones to supplement their lost incomes.

Some husbands are migrating in search of work, leaving the women of the community to take on the new responsibility as head of the household,

in addition to trying to adapt to their new and changing environment. These women's access to resources becomes further restricted. Sometimes the husband will marry a woman from another district or province in PNG. His first wife will likely lack information about her rights and how to access child maintenance. She will become even more trapped.

The declining biodiversity in the relocation camp not only impacts on the livelihood of the women in the community, it deprives them of adequate access to security, resilience to the impacts of climate change, social relations, health and freedom of choice in the issues that affect them. For women of the Carteret Islands, climate change has already taken their homes, but continues to take more and more. These women need urgent action, as they continue to suffer the effects of a system that does not benefit them.

Climate justice IS a feminist issue. Women are consistently, and more severely, affected by natural disasters and extreme weather events, including during post-disaster response efforts. On average, women and children are 14 times more likely to die during a natural disaster than men⁶⁹. During the 2004 Tsunami off the Indian Ocean, three times more women died than men⁷⁰. Similarly, in Bangladesh, 90% of those killed in the 1991 typhoon were women⁷¹. The pronounced and disproportionate poverty of women in the Asia-Pacific limits their opportunities for escape, or their chances of survival if escape is impossible. Gender roles keep women at home, caring for children and the elderly, in less stable buildings than the men who leave the house for work in public or commercial buildings. Women, especially those who are pregnant or recovering from childbirth, not only have the responsibility of ensuring the survival of their children,

⁶⁹ Blomstrom, E, Cunningham, S, Johnson, N & Owren, C (2009), *Climate Change Connections*, United Nations Population Fund, retrieved 16 September 2015 from http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/climateconnections_1_overview.pdf.

⁷⁰ Henrici, J, Helmuth, A & Braun, J (2010), *Women, Disasters and Hurricane Katrina*, Institute for Women's Policy Research, Washington.

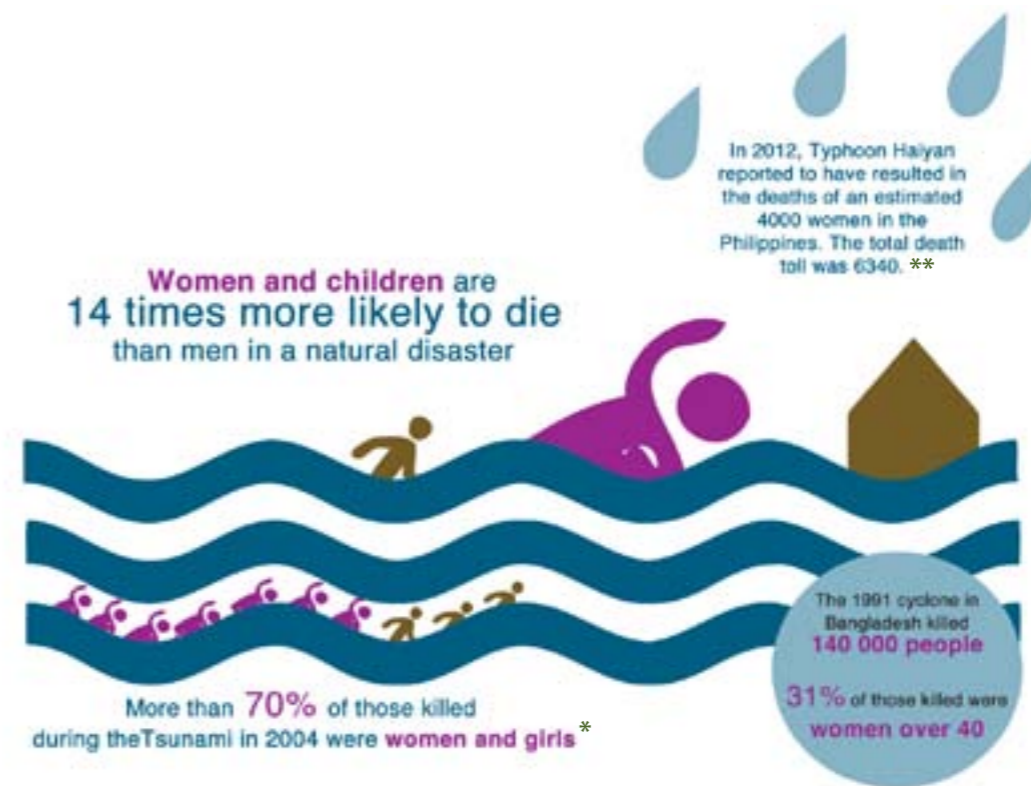
⁷¹ Shrestha, MS et. al (2012), *Regional Flood Information System in Hindu Kush Himalayas with a Gender Perspective*, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, retrieved 30 September 2015 from www.icimod.org/resource/9802.

but also have reduced physical capacity – for example, when it comes to swimming or climbing trees - to escape in the event of an emergency.

Statistics tell us that the difference between gendered death tolls becomes more apparent, the lower the socio-economic standing of the population affected becomes⁷². Women, as primary caregivers are often exposed to the risk of disease and infection, and have limited access to health care, particularly in rural, remote and/or indigenous communities.

Women's traditional roles – which includes provision of food, water and fuel, and caring for children and the elderly - are often altered in the wake of natural disasters and the slow-onset impacts of climate change on their communities. This is reflected in the experiences of women in the Carteret Islands relocation camps having to ensure the food security of their families in light of disappearing natural resources. Likewise, the Mugal women of Nepal have to walk further every day, to fetch

⁷² Neumayer, E & Plümper, T (2007), *The Gendered Nature of Natural Disasters: The Impact of Catastrophic Events on the Gender Gap in Life Expectancy, 1981–2002*, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 97 (3) pp. 551-566.



* Henrici, J, Helmuth, A & Braun, J (2010), *op. cit.*
** CJ-FPAR Research Report, *Loss and Damages and Gender Differentiated Effects of Typhoon Haiyan in Central Philippines*, AMIHAN Federation of Peasant Women, 2015.

water: "As a result, women have less time to fulfil their domestic responsibilities, earn money, engage in politics or other public activities, learn to read or acquire other skills, or simply rest."⁷³

Patriarchal structures have historically excluded women from education, information, political spaces, resources and opportunities, and legal rights which in turn have reduced their resilience and preparedness in the face of climate disaster and slow-onset impacts of climate change. Furthermore, men are almost always in a more advantageous position than their female counterparts; from having basic survival skills and physical strength to having more opportunity to learn about climatic implications on livelihoods and other matters that affect them and their community. For these reasons, women are consistently excluded from decision-making roles despite their valuable contributions and experience in natural resource management.

Climate change exacerbates patriarchy for many women.

⁷³ UN Women (2009), *Women, Gender Equality and Climate Change*, UN Women Watch, retrieved 15 September 2015 from http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate_change/downloads/Women_and_Climate_Change_Factsheet.pdf.

In Bangladesh, a persistent link has been suggested between the loss of lands and livelihoods due to climate change and early, child or forced marriage⁷⁴. Researchers also found that climate change increased demands for dowry payments, as other forms of livelihoods become less dependable and that child marriage and dowry may in turn form local adaptation strategies.⁷⁵

Climate change exposes women to an increased risk of violence, trafficking and conflict. In the last sixty years, at least 40% of all intrastate conflicts have had a link to natural resources and the environment⁷⁶. Increased economic insecurity related to climate change increases the susceptibility of people, including young women, to

⁷⁴ Margaret Alston et al (2014), *Are climate challenges reinforcing child and forced marriage and dowry as adaptation strategies in the context of Bangladesh?*, Women's Studies International Forum, <http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/oxfam/files/2014/05/Are-climate-challenges-reinforcing-child-and-forced-marriage.pdf>.

⁷⁵ Also see Human Rights Watch (2015), *Marry before your house is swept away*, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2015/06/09/marry-your-house-swept-away/child-marriage-bangladesh>.

⁷⁶ United Nations Environment Programme), retrieved March 12, 2015 from <http://www.unep.org/disastersandconflicts/Introduction/EnvironmentalCooperationforPeacebuilding/tabid/54355/Default.aspx>.

be recruited into combat. Gender-based violence is likely to increase, and there will be a growing expectation that violent solutions to disputes are acceptable.

Climate change is already a driver of migration with estimates that climate-induced migration will reach up to 1 billion people by 2050⁷⁷. Large-scale migrations may increase the risk of conflict in host communities as tensions and competition over land and resettlement areas arise. This exposes women not only to the traditional threats of a violent environment, but also to the dangers associated with long migrations such as hunger, dehydration and extreme weather. Sexual violence is a serious threat both in conflict and in refugee situations. Displacement thus greatly increases the threat of increased sexual and gender-based violence against women.

Women's historical and systematic exclusion from decision-making and their limited access to and control over resources impeded their human rights, well before climate change introduced a new series of challenges. Now, in the midst of climate change, women's voices remain absent from decisions made about environmental management, including climate change adaptation and mitigation, with long-term consequences for the wellbeing of women, their families and the sustainability of their communities. For example, women were excluded from the climate change mitigation project in the Kalimantan region in Indonesia, to the extent that they were not invited to meetings or consulted during the planning phase or monitoring and evaluation activities.⁷⁸

Despite all of this, women are not *only* victims of climate change. They are agents of change. There are numerous examples that demonstrate that communities fare better during natural disasters when women are involved, including when women play a leadership role in early warning systems and reconstruction efforts. Women tend to share information related to community wellbeing, choose less-polluting energy sources and find ways to adapt when environmental changes threaten their family's survival. There is, therefore, an obviously strong need for greater inclusion of women in climate

⁷⁷ Morris, N (2008), *Climate change could force 1 billion from their homes by 2050*. The Independent, retrieved 15 September 2015 from <http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/climate-change/climate-change-could-force-1-billion-from-their-homes-by-2050-817223.html>.

⁷⁸ More information on the project in the Kalimantan region can be found in the Mitigation section.

change-related decision-making spaces. Furthermore, by engaging women as experts in their own survival, including raising their voices in all matters that concern them and their communities, women will be integral players in the fight against climate change.

Case Study Mrs Nguyen Thi Tam An Lai village, Huong Phong, Vietnam⁷⁹

Huong Phong commune is located in one of the most low-lying, flood-prone areas of Thua Thien Hue Province, Vietnam. In recent years, the commune is seeing an increasing frequency and severity of floods, which impacts its aquaculture-based livelihood. Adaptation to these changes requires a lot of work for the community members, especially for the women.

Traditional practice has it that women should be in charge of housework. Additionally, living in coastal villages where the men go out to fish means women of Huong Phong commune have to take on even more responsibility in farming, and buying and selling products in the market. This results in fewer opportunities for them to take part in special activities in the community, including disaster-response training. Yet, with the increased frequency of floods, and given the fact that men are often out of the house, there is an urgent need for the participation of *all* community members – especially women.

During the Vietnam War, Ms. Tam was a member of the local guerrilla warfare. After liberation, she worked as a teacher, has since actively participated in community activities, and is now the head of the commune's women's union. With over 20 years experience of working with women and promoting their roles in the society, she soon realised their significant contributions to adaptation efforts, specifically when it comes to DRR. Women are often responsible for preparing their family before disasters, including securing

⁷⁹ This case study is part of the final research report by Sustainable Rural Development, Vietnam.

possessions and preparing reserve food and water. They are also in charge of taking care of children and the elderly throughout the disaster and helping with post-disaster clean up.

Ms. Tam recalled the horror she and her community went through during the 'Great Flood' of 1999. *"That flood is the worst I have ever witnessed in my life. My husband was away, and my daughters and I struggled to protect our belongings from being damaged. The water level was increasing so fast; water, water everywhere. Besides taking care of my family, as head of the women's union, I went out to help other people, doing my best to make sure that they were safe."*

1.3 Our Solution: Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR)

We believe that the only way towards climate justice requires social movements grounded at the local level by women who are experts in their own experiences. By cultivating grassroots feminist movements, strengthening women's voices in decision-making and ensuring bottom-up approaches to climate change mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage strategies, Feminist Participatory Action Research can break the unequal, patriarchy-prone power relations that have generated climate change.

FPAR not only hopes for a better system, it embodies it. By accepting that all knowledge is gendered, and that all data and expertise is gendered, FPAR challenges history that creates some knowledge as authoritative and empowers marginalised women as the experts of their own lives. FPAR acknowledges that structural change is necessary to break systems of oppression, including patriarchy, fundamentalism and militarism, and so ensures participants are not only objects of research but true authors and owners of it. It is this ownership, which gives the communities in question a very real platform to advocate for change. And from this platform, the women themselves have the chance to meaningfully engage in evidence-based policy discussions.

Each of our participants has had their own separate and unique experience of climate change, yet they have shared common struggles to make the most marginalised women more audible and organised. It is this commonality that has built solidarity amongst the 9 groups of women, from 8 different countries, fostering a regional movement of feminist climate activists.

Our objective was:

1. To work with rural and indigenous women to document their own practices, ensuring *they* become the voices of their community.
2. To find advocacy spaces at national, regional and international levels to ensure these rural and indigenous women influence policy.

Participatory methods, such as focus group discussions (FGD), narration of personal histories and the use of diaries, cognitive mapping of problems (or participatory problem structuring), power mapping, and community mapping, were framed around the individual research context to ensure the loudest voice is that of the community in question. Most importantly, FPAR designed the research in consultation with *all* the stakeholders, whilst ensuring women-only spaces to facilitate free discussions.

It is our belief that feminist, community-lead research methods and the development of national, regional and international advocacy strategies is our most promising chance at successful climate change solutions at all levels. We want to build movements; waves of social action that start at the grassroots and work their way up to wipe out the top-down approaches that have become the norm. FPAR is rooted in movement building, because we believe that building social movements is the key to bringing about long term, lasting and sustainable change⁸⁰.

⁸⁰ Htun, M & Weldon, L (2012), *The Civic Origins of Progressive Policy Change: Combating Violence against Women in Global Perspective, 1975-2005*, American Political Science Review, Vol. 106, No. 3.

Testimonies Of CJ-FPAR

Guru Chotaul, Nepal (CJ-FPAR Participant): *"It feels good to get answers for the problems we had been facing that we didn't know before. FPAR has made me hopeful that there are ways to deal with climate change and our government and Village Development Committee is doing otherwise, we were so worried what would happen if the crops continually fail to grow and rain does not come in time"*

Margaretha Winda Febiana Karotina, Philippines (Young Researcher): *"This research has enriched my knowledge and experience, in particular through the discussions in relation to the situation and experiences of women. How my situation and experience as a single parent (which used to get negative stigma from the society) then becoming the experience for me on how to strengthen myself and made me able to strengthen other women. Thus community women can see that even a single parent can fight for her rights."*

Mrs. Sri Eldawati, Indonesia (CJ-FPAR Participant): *"By frequently participating in the activities conducted by SP, I have gained more experience - one of the experience I can remember most is when doing research, and interviews to the community and leaders in the village. With a capacity that is often given by SP, I now can explain to people, especially women in Mantangai village, about the negative and positive impacts of the project (Kalimantan Forest and Climate Partnership), and I am proud when what I say to them is heard"*

Marina Juthi, Bangladesh (Young Researcher): *"FPAR creates new forms of collaborative relationships essential to empower women and amplify their voices. Now I can work for change."*

Cha Lama, Nepal (CJ-FPAR Participant): *"NGO/INGOs who come to work for a short time are like a garland of flowers, they and their work fade away soon. What we want is a sustainable development and that is only possible through our participation in state level decision making bodies"*

Margaret Tasa, Papua New Guinea (CJ-FPAR Participant): *"My husband left me for another woman who was employed and able-bodied. I was left scared and burdened. Had no dream of having a future. I almost committed suicide two days before LNWDA came to do awareness on gender-based violence. My life was turned around that day, I'm now working and my three children are attending school and having enough food to eat."*

Daisy Arago, Philippines (Mentor): *"It actually challenged dominant notions of knowledge; that it can only come and can only be produced by so-called experts. It is powerful because it gave space for women in the grassroots to build knowledge from their experience—claiming a legitimate place in the field of knowledge production."*

Section 2 A region in crisis

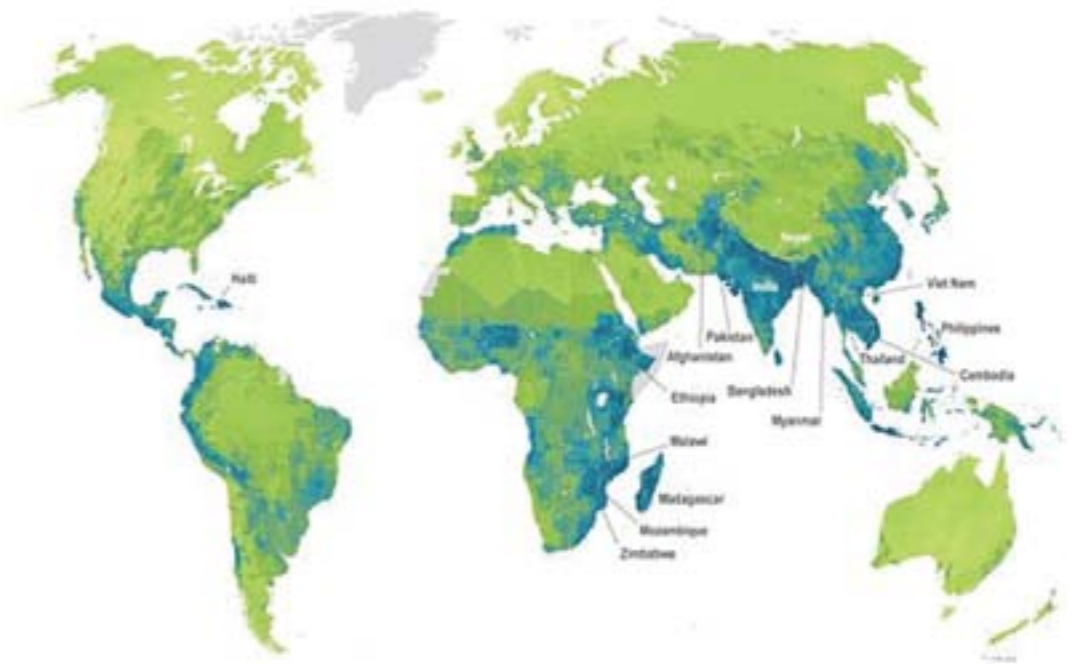
“Climate change already has a serious impact on the livelihoods of women on the islands, as the sea levels rise and storms affect agriculture, water resources and fishing grounds. On the island, there is an increase of women-headed households as men migrate to Buka Town to look for work. Women’s access to food and medicinal plants is diminishing.”
Leitana Nehan Women’s Development Agency, CJ-FPAR Interim Report, PNG.



2.1 Impacts of Climate Change in Asia-Pacific

Countries in the Asia-Pacific region are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Climate change is unevenly experienced with countries closer to the equator experiencing greater consequences of both slow onset increases and disasters arising from warming seas. Additionally, Asia’s higher density populations, particularly in low lying cities and a lack of resilient infrastructure in many poorer countries make it particularly at risk. Populations that depend on natural resources and agriculture are most impacted – IPCC figures estimate declines of up to 50% for staples such as rice, wheat and maize over the next 35 years⁸¹.

Bangladesh and India are often seen at the very top of the list of countries facing the most risks associated with climate change, whilst global studies have also placed Nepal, Philippines, Afghanistan and Myanmar within the top 10 countries facing ‘Extreme Risk’. Thus six of the ten countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change are Asian nations. There is no doubt that catastrophic weather events and the slow-onset impacts of climate change won’t have the same impacts on developed and developing countries. Similarly poorer communities, with poor housing, communications and information access, transport and health access are most burdened.



Legend	
Extreme risk	
High risk	
Medium risk	
Low risk	
No Data	

Rank	Country	Rating
1	Bangladesh	Extreme
2	India	Extreme
3	Madagascar	Extreme
4	Nepal	Extreme
5	Mozambique	Extreme

Rank	Country	Rating
6	Philippines	Extreme
7	Haiti	Extreme
8	Afghanistan	Extreme
9	Zimbabwe	Extreme
10	Myanmar	Extreme

81 Maplecroft (n.d.), *New Products and Analysis*, Verisk Analytics, retrieved 12 June 2015 from <https://maplecroft.com/about/news/ccvi.html>.

Image source: Maplecroft

In Bangladesh, tides are currently rising 10 times faster than the global average, causing large-scale displacement⁸². In 2013, cyclone Mahasen, the Brahmanbaria tornado and floods displaced 1.1 million, 37,000 and 22,000 people, respectively. It is estimated that by 2050, 50 million people will be forced to flee Bangladesh⁸³.

In Vietnam, Typhoon Xangsane caused an estimated \$650 million in damages in September 2006. Meanwhile, a study commissioned by the Thai Government found that the capital city, Bangkok, might be permanently flooded within the next 15 years⁸⁴ and the eastern coast of Thailand is already experiencing high coastal erosion and flooding as a result of climate change. During the past 10 years, these areas have faced intensifying storms and hurricanes, seasonal variability and rising sea levels. Environmental degradation is already seriously threatening the lives and livelihoods of communities living in isolated areas, where the increased frequency in cyclones, river bank erosion, drought, tidal surges and water salinity are escalating challenges defining their daily lives.

Land, livelihoods and loss

The Asia-Pacific region is largely dependent on agrarian activities, but rising salinity, unpredictable rains, droughts, landslides and flooding are continuously sweeping away the once fertile land. The change in rain patterns is resulting in crop failures and women now have to collect more water for irrigation, further increasing their burden of work. Changing weather patterns, including reduced snowfall, unpredictable rainfall, flash flooding and seasonally inconsistent temperatures have threatened the production of crops and resources that are crucial for the survival of the region. In places like Nepal, glacial and ice cap melting has increased the threat of landslides in summer, forcing communities to find alternative sources of income or risk death if they continue along their daily routes. Riverbeds and streams, that were once a good place for cultivation, are no longer safe due to sudden and extensive flooding. The fragile landscape and the lack of adaptive capacity of these communities are only further exacerbated by their existing poverty.

82 Ibid.

83 CJ-FPAR Research Report, *An Initiative to Analyze the Climate Vulnerability and Empowerment of Munda Women through Direct Participation in the Action Research*, Institute of Right View, Bangladesh, 2015.

84 Sattaburuth, A (2015), *Bangkok 'could be submerged in 15 years'*, The Bangkok Post, retrieved 14 September 2015.

CASE STUDY

Tiki Toma Lama, Mangri Community, Nepal

Tiki Toma has spent her entire life in Mangri doing agricultural activities, keeping her busy all year round, except for a few months in winter. Previously, she owned one and a half acres of land and its production was enough to feed her family of six. But over the past eight years, there has been a gradual decrease in production due to erratic seasons and now, Tika's land produces barely enough to sustain her family for five months of the year. As a means to adapt, these days she relies on the income from yarshagumba and other medicinal herbs to sustain the family.

Every year, her family makes a four-day caravan journey to Tibet to sell yarshagumba, and buy as much food as they can afford with the profits. Buying food in Tibet is easier than going to the district centre, because most of the time the district centre runs out of supplies during peak season. It is less risky and easier to drive as landslides have damaged the narrow road leading to the district centre in recent years. But the passage to Tibet is opened once a year for 10 days in summer, and that becomes the only time to buy food supplies for the entire year. In the summer of 2014, Tiki's family made \$700, only 50% of their income from the year before, from selling yarshagumba.

"We don't even get many yarshas these days - I think it is because we are getting less snowfall. It is the problem that we have with the crops - we don't get rainfall at the right time, sometimes there is too much rain and sometime there is no rain at all. We used to make 100 kg of chilly a year and used to barter with that. Now even getting 30 kg is hard. We don't know what happened," Says Tiki.

"Life has become harder for us after losing land in landslides. It was destroyed very badly, the whole plot has been swept away. Not only me, but in 2010 and 2013 there was various landslides around the village,

as we had very heavy rainfall in those monsoon seasons. It not only swept our land away but also destroyed our crops; This happened in August, just two months before the harvesting time.

We didn't receive any help, nor did we know that government would give assistance during such events. No one even reported the event to VDC (Village Development Committee) office. Only after attending the FAPR trainings and meetings, did I come to know that government gives assistance. I think our illiteracy and poverty is the reason no-one cares for us. We live on our own world here, in the village far from any kind of information and opportunity. We don't know anything about events outside our village. Life is very hard for us but we don't have other options. We have to survive here. We had been living here for generations; there is no point in leaving it behind and going somewhere else. I love my lands although it may not produce much anymore."



Washing Away Rights

Prolonged dry seasons are reducing the amount of available, clean water used for bathing, washing, and toilet facilities. In Indonesia, water scarcity means women resort to using water contaminated by nearby palm oil plantations and gold mines. This exposes them and their families to increased risks of skin diseases, diarrhoea, and other threatening gastrointestinal illnesses.

For coastal communities, geographic isolation and limited access to resources compound their vulnerability. In Asia-Pacific communities reliant on aquaculture, women are often primarily responsible for providing food and water, and so they are more susceptible to changes in their natural environment. In these areas, women are suffering climate change effects in the form of changing tidal rhythms, erratic weather patterns, seawater intrusion, sea bank erosion and polluted water. In some others, especially for islanders, communities have already been forced to flee from their homes because of rising sea

levels. In PNG, the government funded the evacuation and the relocation of communities from the Carteret Islands to Buka Island, living henceforth in hostile areas deprived of their traditional livelihoods and culture.

More work, less pay

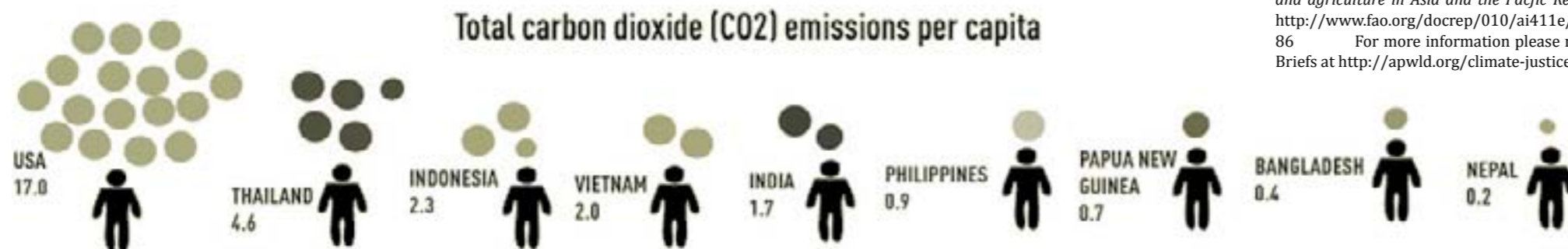
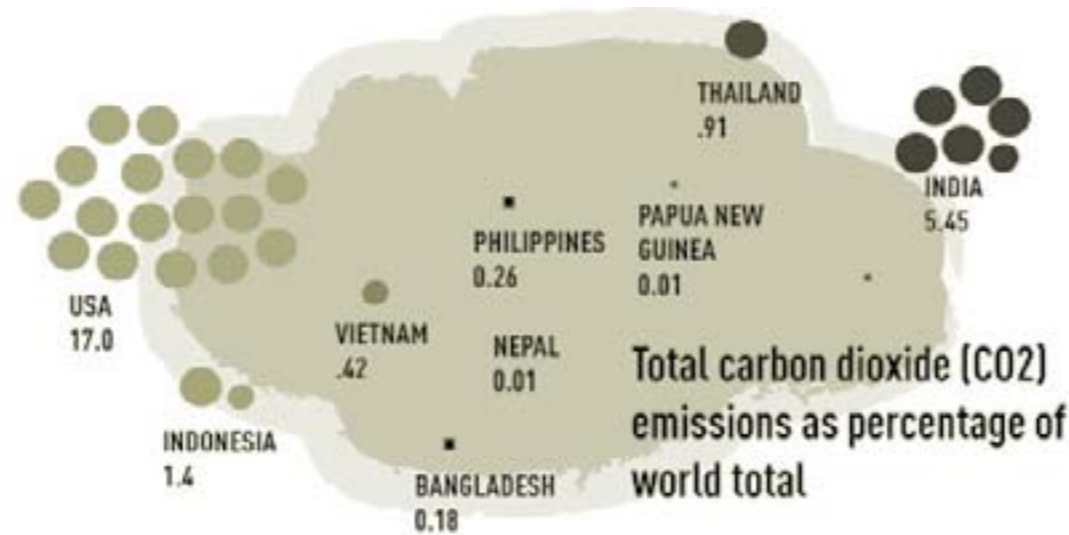
For communities living in the urban areas of Asia-Pacific, increasing global temperatures have a direct effect on job availability when job sites, such as factories, are temporarily closed due to bad weather. Rising temperatures make jobs like street sweeping or selling goods in the local market unbearable. Deregulation and casualisation of the workforce in urban areas, such as in Metro Manila, Philippines, means staff only get paid for the hours they work and a rising number of typhoons and an increase in heavy rainfall often prevent people getting to and from their workplaces. Furthermore, high costs of living in urban areas force many of the urban poor into makeshift homes that are not able to withstand strong winds or flooding.

Reducing budgets

For Asia-Pacific, which is home to half of the world's extreme poor (at least 641 million people⁸⁵) there is very little capacity and means for coping with these new challenges. The diversity of the region - geographically, economically, politically and socially - means that the inhabitants' experiences of climate change distinctive, yet their overall state of poverty amplifies their shared regional vulnerability. A 2012 report by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) stated that by the year 2100, climate change will be costing the Southeast Asian nations of Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines and Thailand 6.7% of their gross domestic product (GDP). For the Philippines, this is on top of the estimated USD 18.6 billion already spent on climate-related damages, over the past 10 years. For countries in South Asia, this cost is expected to be even higher at up to 10% by 2100 for Nepal, whilst Bangladesh is already spending 7% of its budget on climate change related expenditure. For PNG, this figure is set to reach even more, at 15.2%.⁸⁶

Global efforts to address climate change are undermined by their inability to impact GHG emissions to date. In 2013, global emissions were still increasing annually by 2%, and were 61% higher than when climate negotiations started in 1990⁸⁷. We must now accept that the current development model's prolonged assault on the environment requires more than just mitigation strategies to counteract its consequences. We must now emphasise the importance of approaches that *adapt* to the rapidly changing landscape.

Adaptation is the process of making adjustments in environmental, social or economic systems, in response to actual or expected climate change and its impacts. The term refers to changes in processes, practices, and structures, in order to limit potential damage associated with climate change. Adaptation strategies such as drought resistant crops, more resilient infrastructure and economic diversification must be developed in order to avoid the worst impacts. Furthermore, Disaster Risk Reduction strategies, such as early warning systems and weather forecasting, are a crucial means of adaptation for communities who bear the brunt of climate change.



2.2 Adaptation

“Women are concerned and aware about their loss of food production and medicinal herbs. They have started taking part in farming new kinds of vegetables and demanding with the VDC (Village Development Committee) for other income generating programmes, water facility and new variety of seeds and plants and agricultural training.” Toma Lama, Mugal Indigenous Women Upliftment Institute, Nepal

⁸⁵ Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) (2015), *The state of food and agriculture in Asia and the Pacific Region*, retrieved 19 July 2015 from <http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/ai411e/AI411E02.htm>.

⁸⁶ For more information please read APWLD Climate Justice Policy Briefs at <http://apwld.org/climate-justice-policy-briefs/>.

Early warning systems in PNG are the difference between life and death

Adaptation can be the means of minimising the inevitable and devastating consequences of climate change. It can be the difference between life and death. On the Islands of Papua New Guinea for example, the FPAR community has produced a disaster risk-management plan in which they emphasised the need to install early warning systems on the islands and mainland to alert inhabitants before any disasters. In the past,



⁸⁷ Global Carbon Project (2014), *Global Carbon Project*, retrieved on 19 July 2015 from <http://www.globalcarbonproject.org/carbonbudget/14/hl-full.htm>.

the presence of early warning systems such as this could have significantly reduced death tolls during tsunamis, typhoons and hurricanes, if only they had been in place. Unable to change the climate itself, nor depend on the state for protection, island communities are recognising the need to forecast impacts of climate change themselves.

In a region that is so heavily dependent on agriculture, changing rain patterns are disruptive to critical household incomes. Rainy seasons that once started in the month of May are now starting in June, July or even August. For farmers who cultivate water-fed paddy fields, the months used for paddy transplantation are coming later and later and they are no longer able to depend on their seasonal calendars as they have in the past. When the rain does come, it is erratic - insufficient or so heavy that it spoils the crops. In view of persistent crop failure, women are being forced to stop the cultivation of crops and paddy altogether and pursue other means of income. Children are forced out of school in order to engage in work, often migrating to urban areas where there are more income opportunities. Without adaptation strategies in place, the most vulnerable women, households and whole communities across Asia-Pacific will continue to face an increasingly difficult challenge of being able to provide for their families.

Women of the Asia-Pacific region often have restricted access to adaptive technologies, such as water-saving equipment or particular farming implements, due to their limited access to credit, financial resources and limited control over familial income. Moreover, gender bias has also hampered women from acquiring technological knowhow that could benefit them in effectively developing adaptation strategies. For instance, in Tamenglong District, Northeast India, electrical maintenance in households and public places is considered too dangerous for women and they are expected to keep away from electric power outlets. In the absence of men, women of Tamenglong are unable to utilise what adaptive technologies they may otherwise have access to, nor do they have skills to contribute to electrical maintenance that may be of use to the whole community.

Women with agency and social power are able to make significant contributions to adaptive strategies. They

often play a unique role in the stewardship of natural resources, and have the knowledge to shape adaptive mechanisms in vulnerable areas. These women have long been the conservators of their surrounding environments. They have traditional knowledge and experience to adapt to the impacts of climate change and they have dealt with environmental upheaval for thousands of years. But, despite the fact that there is clear evidence of a direct link between gender relations and a community's capacity to adapt to climate change, women's voices in decision-making structures and processes affecting such mechanisms are still inadequate. Greater inclusion of women and the inclusion of a gender-specific approach in climate change adaptation and decision-making are necessary to reverse the inequitable distribution of climate change impacts. Greater inclusion will improve adaptive strategies that reduce the negative impacts on the entire community, thus enhancing human security for all, regardless of gender. Furthermore, the specialised knowledge of indigenous women in the Asia-Pacific must also be recognised as being crucial for successful adaptation strategies.

Indigenous Women of Bangladesh Adapting with the Help of Traditional Knowledge

The Munda indigenous women of Bangladesh are the protectors of their forest, and like women in most indigenous cultures have had to be resourceful over the past generations. They have an abundance of traditional knowledge and experience to adapt to the impacts of climate change. One such example from the Munda women is their ability to predict natural disasters from the movements of a specific breed of ant. Such specialised knowledge, which can often be the key to adaptation via DRR, is that which needs to be acknowledged and incorporated into all decision-making levels regarding climate change, yet the indigenous Munda women continue to face exclusion.

Indigenous and rural women's traditional knowledge on adaptation must be reinforced and the transfer of this knowledge facilitated for the younger generations. This includes knowledge of traditional forest management, sustainable agriculture, pastoralism,

disaster preparedness and rehabilitation. It is important to also note that enhancing and supporting the adaptive capacity of indigenous women will only be successful if this is integrated with other strategies such as disaster preparation, land-use planning, environmental conservation and national plans for sustainable development.

Case Study Hai Duong Commune, Vietnam⁸⁸

In Hai Duong commune, climate change has made the lives of the subsistence-based farmers more difficult, with the worst impacts affecting women. According to Mrs. Tran Vu Kim Hoa, a woman farmer living in Hai Duong Commune: "Land here is becoming so infertile that each year (we can grow) only one crop of wet rice... salt tolerant varieties will grow, while the other crop is abandoned."

Because of salinisation of the land and water shortages, farmers can no longer grow their usual two varieties of wet rice in the summer season. Forced to adapt, they now utilise the salinised land which was previously used for wet rice cultivation and the coastal sandy areas to plant watermelons.

"Other farmers in Vietnam have enough water resources to grow two crops of rice, but in Hai Duong farmers can only grow one. An adaptive farming measure is to use sandy soil on the edge of the coast for planting watermelons, as they require less watering. We are now able to grow two crops each year. Previously, watermelon only yielded from 300-400kg per square meter. However, since we have been trained through the SRD project, the yield has grown to 1 ton of watermelons per 500 square meters." Mrs. Phan Thi Thanh Thuy, Hai Duong Commune

The adaptive cultivation of watermelon in the sandy soil has yielded an annual profit of 20-25 million Vietnamese Dong (equivalent to USD 900-1130) in place of their usual income from the rice cultivation.

⁸⁸ This case study is part of a documentary video produced by AP-WLD in collaboration with Sustainable Rural Development, Vietnam.

2.3 Loss and Damage

"Since my mother thought that flood water level would not rise higher than previous ones, she had made a big purchase of rice from local people and built big and high tanks to store rice in our house. Against her predictions, floodwaters rose above the tanks, submerging them all. As a result of being covered in water for four days, the rice seeds sprouted. When the flood subsided, my mother looked at the flood-soaked tanks and tears streamed down her face." Truong Thi Truc Linh, Huong Phong Commune, Vietnam.

Loss and damage refers to the negative impacts of climate change that cannot be overcome and to which adaptation is no longer conceivable. Whilst mitigation and adaptation can stall loss and damage to a degree, there is an ever-increasing tally of permanent loss already resulting from climate change. The term can refer to the direct physical impacts of extreme weather events and slow onset events, as well as many indirect costs such as loss of life, lost productivity, relocation and loss of livelihoods.

Destruction of homes and loss of property

In Asia-Pacific, home to the majority of the world's people living in poverty, the destruction of property, including houses, roads and hospitals, is catastrophic for the communities involved. Women, already among the poorest of the poor, are further made vulnerable by being forced into temporary shelters or left alone to rebuild in damaged areas, when men return to the workforce.

Case Study Mugu Village, Nepal

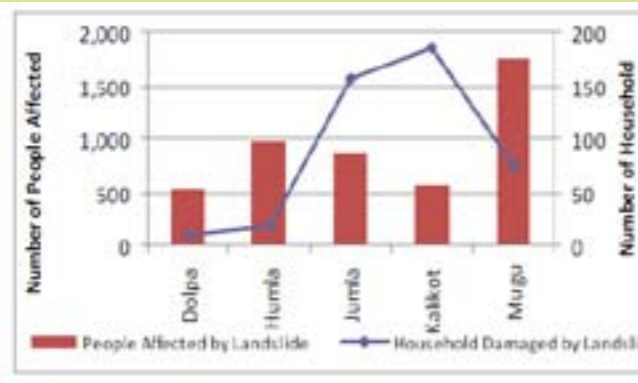
Loss and damage of property, when that property is in the form of crops or land, leads to food insecurity. Losing even a minimum amount of grain for some communities can lead to disaster. When remote communities are cut off from nearby towns or lack transportation,

buying alternative food becomes an impossible challenge, potentially a life-threatening one.

For rural and indigenous women, their remote locations and poorly developed infrastructures not only mean extreme weather events, but also that slow-onset impacts heighten their vulnerability. For the indigenous Mugu community of Nepal, landslides are an ongoing problem which threatens their houses and lives.

One woman from Mugu village in Nepal describes her route for alternative food supplies: *“the walking trail is really, really dangerous, because there are threats of dry landslides and stones falling off the hills. Already so much has been damaged by landslides. We have to keep to a very narrow trail. And if you fall, you fall into one of the biggest rivers in Nepal.”*⁸⁹

People affected by landslides in the Karnali Zone, Nepal (1971-2008)⁹⁰



vulnerable workers' labour rights, particularly for women. It is common that people are unable to work or continue their economic activities following climatic disasters.

Whilst men are the first ones called back to fix infrastructure following a disaster, women are forced to stay home, missing crucial working days, to clean up the damage and look after injured relatives, and at the same time and assume their usual role as primary caregiver to children and elders. In Asia, the majority of women work in the informal sector and labour deregulation is pushing increasing numbers into casualised, temporary employment. So women have no paid days off or sick leave to draw on when climate events prevent them from working. Many women are pushed into poverty and homelessness as a result.

'No Work, No Pay' Policies Cutting Urban Poor Women's Incomes in The Philippines

The result of lost days and hours of work means less income for entire families, further aggravating the economic vulnerability of women in Asia-Pacific. For the urban poor women workers in the Philippines, whose wage rate is only 150 PHP (Philippine Peso) a day (roughly USD 3.30, or 30% of the minimum wage rate), the inability to work due to typhoons or extreme heat has a grave effect on their ability to provide for their families. Even losing two or three hours in a day can be a major blow to their weekly incomes. This scenario is reflected across the Asia-Pacific, as women are forced into engaging in casual labour activities in order to supplement shrinking agricultural yields. The impacts of climate change become an unavoidable reality for these women, who have fewer and fewer options for replacing their lost income.

“As ‘no-work no pay’ policy applies to almost all workers in the research area, women workers take home less pay whenever disasters and flooding disable them from going to work or whenever the company sends them home when there are typhoons,” said Jane Siwa, CJ-FPAR researcher for CTUHR.

As the frequency of strong typhoons or raging flash floods increases, poor households, families and communities of Asia-Pacific are subjected to the same challenges, over and over again. The destruction of homes, properties, and the

reduction of income are becoming frequent in the lives of already marginalised communities. Combined with the already precarious employment and livelihoods, these families find it increasingly difficult to recover and find themselves further entangled in the cycle of poverty.

Struggling in Relocation Sites

Even after the destructions of houses and properties, women continue to face difficulties in relocation sites, which limit their access to jobs, their traditional forms of livelihoods, as well as lacking sufficient services, such as health facilities. Adapting to relocation sites disrupts the way of life for those forced to relocate. Gender-based violence is a common occurrence in resettlement areas. Men are often forced to travel away in order to look for job opportunities, leaving their wives and children vulnerable. Sometimes, these men will leave their wives and families for other women, in turn, causing another level of burden for abandoned women and their children. Without knowledge of their new community, and with their new role as leader of the household, these women are viciously forced into adapting to their new life.

CASE STUDY Typhoon Haiyan Philippines⁹¹

Typhoon Haiyan, also called Typhoon Yolanda, was the largest typhoon recorded to ever hit land, sustaining winds of over 300km/hour and with waves over 3 metres high. It hit the central island regions of the Philippines on 8 November 2013, causing widespread devastation and massive displacement. Typhoon Haiyan is reported to have killed over 6 300 people, an estimated 64% of whom were women. Around 4.1 million people were forced to flee their homes. The devastation is estimated to have cost the Philippines government, \$1.6 billion in total.

The east-central province of Leyte, an island of the Philippines, was at the centre of the destruction. In Tacloban, Leyte, there were 2 500 dead, nearly 29 000 injured and over 1 000 remain missing. Many of the women of Leyte are still living with their families in makeshift houses or tent cities.

⁹¹ For more information please read APWLD Climate Justice Policy Briefs at <http://apwld.org/climate-justice-policy-briefs/>.

These shelters, intended only to be a temporary place to stay, have become the families' only option for a home. The living conditions are harsh: the incidence of hunger and poverty are ever-increasing and people live with the threat of eviction from their temporary shelters at any time. The tent cities are constructed far away from city centres and as a result, those living in them are isolated. They cannot access jobs or services. Health services are limited. Very few buses run to the tent cities, and taxis are very expensive, particularly when travelling long distances to the nearest city.

Women and girls in the Philippines were already vulnerable to sexual violence and trafficking due to high rates in poverty. Their displacement has only made it worse. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) estimates that 5,000 women were exposed to sexual violence in December 2013⁹². After the typhoon, many of these women, unable to provide food for their families, were forced into trafficking just to survive. Many had to continue to make payments to landowners, even though their land and crops were destroyed by the typhoon. With properties and livelihoods swept away, and recovery opportunities out of reach, trafficking surged.

After Haiyan, the Philippines government implemented a programme - Oplan LIKAS (or Operation Evacuate)- to pre-emptively remove informal settler families living in risk zones of flooding during natural disasters. But these resettlement areas face the same problems as the ones experienced in 'temporary' shelters.



⁹² UNFPA (2014), UNFPA Response to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, retrieved 19 July 2015 from <http://philippinereponse.iom.int/blog/unfpa-response-typhoon-haiyan-philippines>.

Climate Change Affecting Health

There are also a multitude of health issues, often leading to death, associated with the slow-onset effects of climate change, such as excessive rainfall, salinisation of soils and waterways and drought. Many of these health issues are affecting women and girls specifically. Reproductive problems, such as miscarriage and birth defects, may arise out of unsanitary conditions during times of crisis. Furthermore skin rashes, gastric piles, long periods of cold and flu, severe headaches, severe back pain during monthly periods have all been reported within the region as increasing in recent years. In addition, alongside slow-onset impacts of climate change comes the malnutrition of women, as they often give up the little available food to feed their children.

Case Study

Carteret Islands, Papua New Guinea

The changing weather patterns and slow onset impacts of climate change are threatening the women of the Carteret Islands relocation sites only sources of income, as crops are no longer dependable for household consumption, or for income generation. Furthermore, this is limiting the diversity in sustainable food resources necessary to provide nutritious diets for their families, thus leading to feelings of hopelessness and anxiety as the women fail to meet their primary concern.

With failing crops and meagre monetary resources, the families at the relocation sites are slipping further into the cycle of poverty and hunger. Children are forced to stay home to help their mothers find other means of food and income. Domestic violence is increasing as families scramble for resources.

To make matters worse, the relocation sites lack sufficient health facilities. Infant mortality rate is high; many women and babies die during childbirth from easily correctable complications. The health facilities that are on the island are usually unattended and do not hold adequate

medicinal supplies anyway. Ships to the mainland are rare, and passage is often treacherous. It is not uncommon for women and children to drown on their way to the mainland to receive healthcare for easily curable diseases.

Women and children frequently suffer from water-borne diseases like dysentery, severe diarrhoea and viral fevers, such as malaria and dengue, during floods and times of excessive rainfall. Due to remote locations, hampered or dangerous access to roads during disasters, it is not always possible to get to a health care facility. The difficulty in accessing basic health facilities across Asia-Pacific has led to the loss of countless women and children to curable diseases. Furthermore, the longer-lasting psychological effects of climate change and disaster-associated trauma also affect women and children more adversely than men. Feelings of insecurity, helplessness, anxiety and depression can far outlast the physical effects of climate change and there is often little time for psychological health and wellbeing in the wake of a disaster⁹³.

2.4 Mitigation

“The Project Management Team⁹⁴ said that it would be difficult if women were involved, because of the lack of knowledge and experience of women.” Solidaritas Perempuan Final Research Report, Indonesia

Climate Change **Mitigation** refers to the efforts aimed at reducing or preventing the emission of GHGs. Burning of fossil fuels being the first cause of global warming⁹⁵, mitigation actions are mainly seeking to transition towards renewable energies, but also reducing the emissions caused by deforestation or through the industrial agriculture system. However, instead of promoting new

93 Renton, A (2009), *op. cit.*

94 The project referenced here, the Kalimantan Forest and Climate Partnership, was a mitigation project – in fact, the first REDD pilot project – implemented in the Kalimantan region in Indonesia. More information can be found in the following case study.

95 IPCC, *Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report, op. cit.*

production and consumption patterns needed, developed countries are pushing forward false solutions that allow them continue their business as usual. The use of market-mechanisms is among these false solutions, including the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) under the Kyoto Protocol (KP) that allows industrialised countries to implement mitigation projects in developing countries to gain Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) that will account for reaching their mitigation targets established under the KP. The Reduce Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) programme⁹⁶ is another offset mechanism, a programme that allows developed countries to buy carbon credits from developing countries that implement REDD programmes aiming at enhancing forest management, and ultimately, reducing emissions from deforestation. Instead of mitigating their own emissions, these mechanisms allow polluter countries to keep their own level of emissions while claiming to meet their legal commitments. These market-based programmes have been heavily criticised for their inefficiency in curbing GHG emissions, but also for their record in violating human rights or their negative impacts on sustainable development⁹⁷.

Indigenous land, often rich in natural resources, makes these communities attractive to mitigation programs like REDD+, whose operation will likely cut the community off from their traditional means of income and livelihood. In Bang Chan Sub district, Chanthaburi Province, Thailand, where climate change is already affecting the communities' livelihoods and sustenance-based lifestyles, a REDD+ pilot program was proposed due to their abundance of mangrove forests. Changing temperatures and weather patterns as well as increased coastal erosion are having a dramatic impact on these coastal communities thus making them ideal candidates for mitigation efforts, rich in natural resources and vulnerable to outside influence. But the implementation of mitigation strategies will likely only isolate the communities, particularly the women, further from their long-established means of supporting themselves by forcing them to give up territorial rights to the land. Without the environment as a means to support

96 The REDD programme was first discussed in 2005 at COP 11, and in 2009, a « + » was added to the acronym, increasing the scope of the programme to « *the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries* ».

97 WWF, *Views on new market-based mechanism*, Submission to SBSTA, March 2013, <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2013/smsn/ngo/342.pdf/>.

themselves, the communities will be left with nothing but a project they don't understand.

To make matters worse, these mitigation strategies do not prioritise the full participation of the indigenous communities in planning cycles, including initial zoning activities. Without the Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) of the communities, the autonomous and collective rights of the indigenous peoples over their land are denied. Furthermore, even when projects are implemented with the FPIC of the communities, women are still commonly and routinely excluded. In Asia-Pacific, where patriarchy is rife and women are systematically left out of decision-making bodies, these mitigation programs, aimed at reducing the threat of climate change, only further exacerbate women's vulnerability to it as they nurture systems that prevent the voices of women from being heard.

Case Study

Kalimantan Forest and Climate Partnership (KFCP), Indonesia⁹⁸

The livelihoods and health of the women of the Central Kalimantan region of Indonesia are being threatened every day by changing weather patterns and unpredictable seasons resulting from climate change. The traditional methods of resource management practiced by the women, such as rubber tapping and fishing, are also endangered by mitigation projects targeted in their region.

Kalimantan Forest and Climate Partnership (KFCP) is one of these projects. As part of REDD, KFCP was funded by the Australian government for AUD 30 million under the Program of Indonesia-Australia Forest Carbon Partnership (IAFCP). This was the first REDD pilot project in Indonesia, and was planned for three years, 2009 – 2012. Despite receiving a two-year extension, and an additional AUD 17 million, many of the project's targets were still not achieved.

98 For more information please read APWLD Climate Justice Policy Briefs at <http://apwld.org/climate-justice-policy-briefs/>.

The problems for the local indigenous women began in the early stages of implementation. The regional strategy for REDD+ in Central Kalimantan was still under development and there were no safeguards protecting the community, particularly the women, from potentially adverse impacts of the project. The draft strategy failed to even include an adequate situation and impact analysis of women and the forest, despite their crucial role in forest resource management in the area. The draft contained no gender-disaggregated data; no gender analysis, no gender action plan and certainly no gendered safeguards to protect the rights of the women.

To make matters worse, women were excluded from all decision-making processes related to the KFCP activities. During one village meeting after the project, it was reported that women who were invited to participate, were done so only as a means of filling a quota. Only certain women were afforded the opportunity to fill this quota, such as those who were considered educated or the wives of village officials.

The zoning of forests for REDD+ activities created another problem for the women, and without adequate FPIC or participation in decision-making about the project, they began to see the KFCP as nothing more than a means to replace their lost livelihoods. One woman from SeiAhas Village, Central Kalimantan said of the program: *"I don't know about the KFCP project, or what the objective of the project is. When there's a meeting in the village related to KFCP, they rarely invite the women. Even if there were invitations, I couldn't understand what they are saying. I only know that there will be job opportunities, such as seeding and planting given by the KFCP."*

The program has made irrevocable changes to the culture of the community. People no longer came to a village meeting unless money for transportation or meals was provided, a result of the practice of providing compensation for meeting attendance started by the KFCP. Once built upon values of togetherness and unity, the KFCP contributed to the degradation of the community spirit.



Section 3 Climate Agents of Change: Impacts of FPAR

3.1 Amplifying Women's Voices

“The women felt more confident with their capacity and knowledge to be involved, and even to argue, in discussions or meetings. They are now often invited to attend meetings in the village. Even opinions of women are now taken into consideration in village meetings. This makes them feel strong and appreciated by the other villagers.” Solidaritas Perempuan, Indonesia

Through Climate Justice FPAR, we are building solidarity and raising women's voices across the region. By strengthening women's collective action in the target communities, FPAR is fostering change inside and outside of the communities. One woman has the capacity to make change, but as a group, women's voices can be an incredibly powerful tool. When women of Asia-Pacific come together with the collective intention of breaking the oppressive power structures feeding climate change, they have the strength to realise climate justice for themselves.

Speaking Up in Conferences, Meetings and Events

Women of Asia-Pacific are familiar with taking a backseat in issues that affect them. Often excluded from community-based events and meetings, these women are rarely given an opportunity to speak up. Indeed, it is even sometimes difficult for women to publicly introduce themselves in formal situations. Attending these events has been a role once occupied by the men in the communities, but through FPAR, things are starting to change. Women who have rarely had the opportunity to attend any seminars or workshops held in their communities, who have never had the chance to formally learn about their rights, are an increasingly visible (and audible) presence in their communities.

“I gained more confidence and feel change in myself since the day I join the rapid response team. In the village meeting, I can stand up and raise my voice of what I do not understand and what I have seen and experience. I can

even sing a song if being asked without feeling shy and/or afraid.” Mrs Le Thi Chiu, Hai Dương commune, Vietnam

The strength of these women's voices extends beyond the community. In some cases, groups formed through the CJ-FPAR have participated in national events, representing the women of their community. In the Philippines, participants joined the National Conference of Disaster Victims and Survivors in November 2014, in solidarity with other victims of natural disasters. These women, from the research municipalities of Palo and Tolosa, ensured that the stories of the women of Leyte were heard at the national level. Participation at national events allows the collective voice of women to be even louder, and generates networks that were once out of reach for these women. It allows women to engage with decision makers on an equal footing and to interact with government officials, policy makers and village leaders. Not only can the women share their unique experiences, they also have the newfound strength to demand change.



Sonam Lama, Mugu Village, Mugu District, CJ-FPAR participant speaking at a meeting of government officials and indigenous women in Mugu: “This is my first time ever participating in this kind of interaction programme, where so many officials from government bodies and media are present. I never thought I would be able to speak in public but I am proud today that I am able to. This has made me realise that if given the chance we indigenous women can also speak about our concerns in such forums. I request all the government bodies present here today, especially the Women Development office to include us in the trainings and projects implemented by them.”

Women's Participation in Existing Groups, Structures and Decision-Making Bodies

Grassroots women are coming to realise that climate change issues are very much related to women's participation in decision-making processes, particularly on the management of natural resources and women's land and property rights. Furthermore, it has also provided the opportunity for men in the communities to recognise the true capacities of women. Through their increasingly active participation in meetings and events, and their joining of existing groups and structures, women have proven that they have the collective strength to make a change.

Case Study Village Rapid Response Team Vietnam

Women have been demanding increased representation in government policy and decision making bodies. In Vietnam, this has meant 60 women from the two participating communes joined the previously male-only, Village Rapid Response Team. Besides participating in the usual activities of the team, the women have practically applied their knowledge on how to

use their collective feminism for positive means. These 60 women have taken the initiative to organise themselves into a sub-group at village level to prepare and organise their own activities, such as starting a movement within their communities called “Green and Clean Roads in the Village” and “Reducing Plastic Bags” in celebration of International Environment Day on June 5th.

“The first day of joining the rapid response team, there were a small number of other women whispering that this is the work of men and that women should never do it. But some time later, when we women were cleaning village roads and helping the community during a disaster, everyone started to change their views and behaviour. Now others are saying that it is true that women can also do the work that previously only men did!” Mrs. Nguyen Thi Hoa, Hai Duong Commune, CJ-FPAR Participant

Case Study Tamenglong District Northeast India

In Tamenglong District, the Village Council has started inviting women's groups to participate in their meetings because they have seen the active participation of these groups in various workshops and seminars. As a direct result, the Council is finally allowing space for the women to be heard. Three women leaders are now members of the Village Monitoring Development Committee (VMDC) under the National Rural Employment Act (NREA) scheme from the government of India. The fact that there are three women members in the VMDC is a significant change in the social-political structure of the village.

Women as Powerful Advocates in Decision-Making Spaces

Grassroots women are influencing and challenging traditionally gendered beliefs. In Bangladesh, an Upazila (local council) Vice-Chairman is now showing more concern for the problems facing the Munda community due to the ongoing advocacy efforts of the women participants. Furthermore, government officials and local administrations are participating in awareness raising programmes, and are for the first time being sensitised to the vulnerability of the indigenous communities to climate change.

In Bangladesh, one of the group leaders of the CJ-FPAR activities, Rajkumari Munda, has been elected as a member of Village Policing Committee and is now attending the committee meetings regularly. Meanwhile in PNG, there has been some progress in having women sit in at Council of Elders meetings, although their suggestions are yet to be taken into account. The rate of progress is promising, albeit slow.

“One day some community leaders from other areas approached me and asked me to come along to Shyamnagar town centre. And I asked why? They explained that they wanted to recruit me as a Policing Committee Member, representing my village. I got to hear and learn about the role of a committee member. Then I sat with my villagers and discussed the challenges we were facing. If it went on this way, we would continue to suffer and we wouldn’t be able to move forward.” Rajkumari Munda, Village Policing Committee, Bangladesh⁹⁹

Through FPAR, small-scale fishing communities in Thailand have been able to participate in the policy development process to revise the Fishery Act, as well as having participated in the development of the Promotion of Marine and Coastal Resources Management Act. Despite the fact that a specific focus on women and feminist issues in the final drafts of the two important Fisheries

⁹⁹ Quoted from the documentary video produced by APWLD in collaboration with Initiative for Right View, Bangladesh.

Acts has not been included, one opportunity now exists at the local level to include women’s perspectives; Both the revised Fishery Act, and the new Promotion of Marine and Coastal Resources Management Act, provide for local management committees to be established at the provincial level, comprising local actors and stakeholders. This means that women activists, with skills learnt through FPAR, can advocate to secure adequate representation of women small-scale fishing communities in the local management committees.

“The knowledge on climate change makes the women better equipped to participate in shaping relevant policies and actions to address the issues affecting them.” Amihan National Federation of Peasant Women, Philippines.

The Climate Justice programme has increased the collective capacity of women in the communities and partnering organisations to utilise the FPAR approach as an effective research method. Through conducting the research, the capacity of local women to identify issues and problems in their community that affect them has increased significantly. For communities that are hosts to harmful mitigation programs, such as the Kalimantan region in Indonesia, FPAR has enabled the participants to map the actors and factors that challenged their rights over forest management during the implementation of the project.



3.2 Fostering Women’s Movements

“The solidarity walk is the first ever walk in that area of women, workers and urban poor that called for climate justice. Preparing for the walk also opened new opportunities to make political alliances with local government as the local council expressed her solidarity to the movement for climate justice and decent work during the program.” Centre for Trade Unions and Human Rights, Philippines.

Women’s movements are critical to gender, climate and development justice. The largest global study on violence against women (VAW) found that the most critical criteria for bringing about progressive changes to laws and policies on VAW were the existence of autonomous feminist movements¹⁰⁰. Thus, an essential element of FPAR is to foster collective movements for change.

“We are at a crossroads. We do not want to be compelled to survive in a world that has been made barely liveable for us ... slavery and apartheid did not end because states decided to abolish them. Mass mobilisations left political leaders no other choice.” Noam Chomsky, Social Justice Activist and Political Commentator¹⁰¹

Because women are the experts in their own lives, in their own situations, in their own struggles, it is impossible to have climate justice without their input. When women come together, they are harder to ignore. They are harder to exclude from decisions made about them. That is why by cultivating and fostering women’s movements, FPAR equips participants with skills that will make an impact. When these movements grow and come together, they form waves, and these waves can cause real change that reinforces women’s integral role in a just society.

¹⁰⁰ Htun, M & Weldon, L (2012), *The civic origins of progressive policy change: combating violence against women in a global perspective, 1975-2005*, op. cit.

¹⁰¹ Quoted in Howard, E (2015), *Tutu, Klein and Chomsky call for mass climate action ahead of Paris Conference*, The Guardian, retrieved 16 September 2015 from <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/aug/26/campaigners-mass-climate-action-paris-conference-noam-chomsky>.

In natural disaster affected areas, such as the Philippines, women’s movements have provided immediate assistance to their communities, including in relief and medical missions and food programs. In Vietnam, women’s participation has been introduced through the Village Disaster Response Team, allowing them not only the opportunity to contribute to the group’s activities but also to form their own sub-group, further solidifying their collective strength and visibility.



CASE STUDY Indonesia

Through their organisation, women’s leadership the Kalimantan Region is gaining recognition, despite initial apprehension by the men of the community and some of the women themselves. In Indonesia, it was reported that not only women are invited to the meetings, but also that the society recognised that women had greatly contributed to documenting and advocating their struggles with the REDD+ program. Through this movement, the women were able to collectively take action at the community level against further extension of the KFCP program, specifically to reject the extension of the KFCP project in the village of Kalumpang. This movement received the support of the village Government and together, they managed to stop the project’s continuation.

CASE STUDY

Mugu and Mangri Villages, Nepal

In August 2014, a women's group was formed in Mugu and Mangri villages, Nepal. This was the first time that these indigenous women had come together to talk about their rights. The group, now comprised of 12 members, has since coordinated an interaction programme on the rights and situation of indigenous women in Mugu with local stakeholders, including the district development office, district agriculture office, district security office, district forest office, women's development office and local media. This ground-breaking event was the first time that government officials had ever participated in a meeting to discuss the unique struggles of indigenous women in their district, and it was facilitated through the strengthened movement of the women themselves.

FPAR gives participants skills to successfully form independent women's groups on the ground, many of which can go on to be formally registered. In the Philippines, participants started out by volunteering with AMIHAN before emerging as organisational leaders themselves. The women have also begun to participate in collective actions, the biggest of which was the first anniversary of Haiyan protest action on November 7, 2014. This community-level movement, made by the participants of FPAR, has gone on to join a bigger movement at the national level, alongside other victims and survivors of natural and man-made disasters.

Feminist movements can raise awareness on not only women-centred issues, but also those that affect the whole community. They can facilitate workshops, which openly sensitise participants on topics that are usually considered taboo. They can work actively for the welfare of women in their communities. They can facilitate networks that are crucial in mobilising communities for collective action. And these movements, grounded in local women's experiences and struggles, can be the key to climate justice.

Making feminist waves in Northeast India

In Northeast India, collective action was made visible on International Women's Day 2015, in an event collaboratively organized by four grassroots women's organisations in the Tamenglong district, as well as during a peaceful rally on International Children's Day 20th November 2014, to raise awareness on "Stop Violence Against Children" and the "Lives of Children Affected by climate change".

3.3 From Local to Global

Grassroots and local women are systematically sidelined from decision-making that affects them, from policy-making that could benefit them, and from experiencing the development justice that they deserve. Without a voice in these forums, we will never be able to realise true climate justice. Grassroots women have the knowledge and skills that can minimise the impacts of climate change, not only within their communities, but also globally, and they have the experience and understanding necessary to contribute to truly genuine and equitable development.

In 2014, CJ-FPAR participants were able to raise their voices at the international level. This is what they had to say.

Marina Pervin, Bangladesh UNFCCC – COP20 Lima, 2014

I am from Bangladesh - a country where up to 20 million people may be displaced by climate change by 2020, before the agreement you are negotiating even comes into effect. In a country with deep levels of poverty and extreme vulnerability to climate change, the Indigenous Mundas women I work with are most affected. They no longer have any soil to plant crops, they face daily threats to their livelihood and safety. Floods, salinity, droughts and typhoons now make the daily struggle to survive even harder for some of the most marginalised women in the world.



We came to this meeting seeking two major outcomes:

1. A commitment to an effective, equitable and just new agreement that is binding, ambitious and commits to immediate, transformative action, both in regards to mitigation and adaptation and all means of implementation.
2. A commitment to an agreement founded on the respect for human rights and gender equality, including the rights of future generations.

Neither of these two demands has been advanced here. It horrifies me that I will have to go back to Bangladesh and tell our communities that wealthy governments sat here negotiating which lands will be lost, which communities displaced, which cultures destroyed and which peoples lives are worthless and expendable. There can be no gender equality on a dead planet. Nor can we achieve a sustainable, just and liveable planet without gender equality.

This was a devastating meeting for me and for millions of women. But it is not too late. In the next twelve months we must shape a new future and design new economies and new societies. Those economies must redistribute wealth, power, resources and opportunities as well as carbon in ways that allow Mundas women to imagine a future for their children. This is what the majority of people on this planet want. You have one year to show the people of this planet that democracy still exists and that the Mundas women are not expendable.



Alina Saba, Nepal Voices From the Frontlines Panel UN Climate Summit, New York, 2014

When I was born in an Indigenous Limbu village of Eastern Nepal, no one had heard of climate change. Our communities struggled to make their living from land amidst armed conflict, feudal hierarchies, strangling debt and disasters that were slowly increasing. It was impossible, then, for anyone in the village to imagine that I might one day speak at the United Nations during a Climate Summit that will bring world leaders together to address the world's biggest problem.

I am the first person from my village to obtain a university degree. With this enormous privilege I decided to focus on the rights and development of Indigenous peoples and quickly realised two things. First, threats to our lands threaten our livelihoods, our culture, and our very existence. Second, Indigenous women across the world, particularly in least developed countries like Nepal, are the least audible, most excluded and seemingly the most expendable when the world is focused on maximizing profits and consumption. Isolated geographically, linguistically, culturally and religiously, these women have not been part

of climate negotiations locally or internationally.

Reading UN climate reports that reveal our future is truly terrifying. If we continue extracting, consuming and emitting as we are, the temperature is likely to rise by 4 degrees Celsius or more. That would be disastrous for humanity. But it will be the most disastrous for those who live the most sustainable lives -- Indigenous, rural and poor women and their communities in the least developed countries. With none of the benefits of 'development' or globalisation and none of the responsibility for climate change, Indigenous women have every right to question the shocking selfishness of the international community.

The answers lie in human rights and equality. The gargantuan threat of climate change should force us to re-think global systems that are disastrous for the planet and deeply inequitable. These systems mean 85 people in the world have more wealth and consume more than 3.5 billion people -- half the world's population. Our survival is dependent on governments making binding and drastic commitments to reduce emissions. But it is also dependent on a commitment to finally deliver on human rights promises and provide Development Justice to all.

Alina's reflections on the Negotiations...

'Both of us (Agnes and I) were shocked when we arrived in New York by the inequality of the world. Days earlier we had been in communities that live without power, without access to health services and often live on less than one dollar per day. We felt that we had arrived on a different planet. But the problem is we live on the same planet, a planet that is deeply inequitable, a planet where the actions of people living far beyond their needs is making the lives of women in our communities unliveable.

When I was speaking at the UN Climate Summit I felt proud, nervous and, most of all, fearful. I was fearful that governments listen only to the power and money of corporations who urge them to continue on the path of increased consumption, production and emissions. I was fearful that our Indigenous communities are destined to lose their lands to landslides, that our crops will continually fail, that women will continually feel forced to migrate as domestic workers. And I was fearful that this planet will not be habitable by the end of this century.

So I put my nerves aside and did my best to provide a picture of what climate change looks like to Indigenous women living in the most remote regions of Nepal. I tried to paint the picture of what is currently happening, of the isolation of the women and their inability to have a voice in climate policies. And I tried to explain the truly terrifying prospect of what will happen to our communities if countries don't immediately act to stop emissions and create a new world order.

We wanted to tell countries that climate change is, essentially, a social justice issue. Those who have caused the least harm to this planet, indeed those who have nurtured and cared for our environment are the very same people being punished for the excessive consumption and pollution of the obscenely rich. They have not benefited from "development," their human rights have never featured in global plans. They were expected to wait until the fruits of globalisation "trickled down" to them but instead all that trickled down to them is the toxic waste of globalisation -- climate disasters.



**Agnes Kinaka, Carteret Islands, Papua New Guinea
Peoples General Assembly
New York, 2014**

I know my island home will vanish one day because of climate change -- I will be landless and homeless! My name is Agnes Kinaka. I'm 36 years old. I am a single mother with 4 children. I belong to the Halia-speaking people of Carteret Islands from Papua New Guinea who are amongst the world's first environmental migrants.

Our island is a part of us. For a thousand years these islands provided for our ancestors and us. They provided us food, our homes, our way of life. But our islands are rapidly disappearing and no longer safe. As a matrilineal community I should be able to provide my children with a future that comes from their inherited, communal right to our islands. In the past 10 years, as the seawater rose and huge tidal waves began to

ravage our islands, hundreds of us living on the islands experienced the terror of environmental devastation. We could no longer bring up families there.

One day in 1989 huge waves crushed through my island, breaking the island in two parts. I was terribly scared. I thought God the Creator was punishing us because this was also the beginning of the Bougainville Crisis. I was confused! Huge giant waves went through the island taking with it everything on its part. Plants died. There was no food, no safe drinking water. Women and children had little to eat. When they were sick there was no medication, no shipping, no communication with the outside world because of the Bougainville blockade created by the Government.

We did not cause the world to warm. We did not over fish, over log or try and become rich. But we're paying the price for those in the world who did. Together we the women from the community have started to talk about the loss and damage that we have experienced due climate change caused by others.

We want the world to know our stories. We would like to show the world what greed and the need to consume everything is doing to the indigenous peoples of the world. We want justice from the world community. They must promise to stop global warming and there must be a way to make sure governments keep their promises to all people -- even those in far away islands. We don't want other women to suffer the way we did and we want a future for our children and future generations. We must choose ways that will allow everyone in the planet to live in a sustainable way and not destroy whatever resources we have left.

Agnes's reflection on the Negotiations...

I came to the UN Climate Summit with many fears as well as hope. I had never left the Islands before. I had never been to our capital city Port

Moresby, been on a plane and every step I took brought me face to face with something new and strange. I was fearful when I was taken into immigration for three hours and questioned about my trip and about climate change. I was fearful when I crossed the street, when I went in an elevator, when I went on a train, but I am far more fearful that my children will have no future, that their matrilineal birth right – their Island – is no longer habitable and they will have nowhere to live, no garden space to grow their food, no way to fish.

I found it difficult to understand life in New York. I asked people where the food came from. They told me shops. But I couldn't see anywhere that food was growing so I asked again and found out that the food came in on planes, like I did. I could see so many expensive things but no wealth to make those expensive things – no trees, no resources, no mines.

I had never spoken in front of foreigners before. I was nervous. But when I saw Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner from the Marshall Islands address all the governments and mention my island and when I saw Alina and the other women speak on the panel, I felt empowered. I felt that it is women like us who really should be speaking up. I was able to speak to UN representatives, to other civil society groups and even to media, and after the UN Climate Summit I spoke at the People's General Assembly. There I told a room of more than 100 people about our disappearing Islands, our lives and the demands of women in my community.

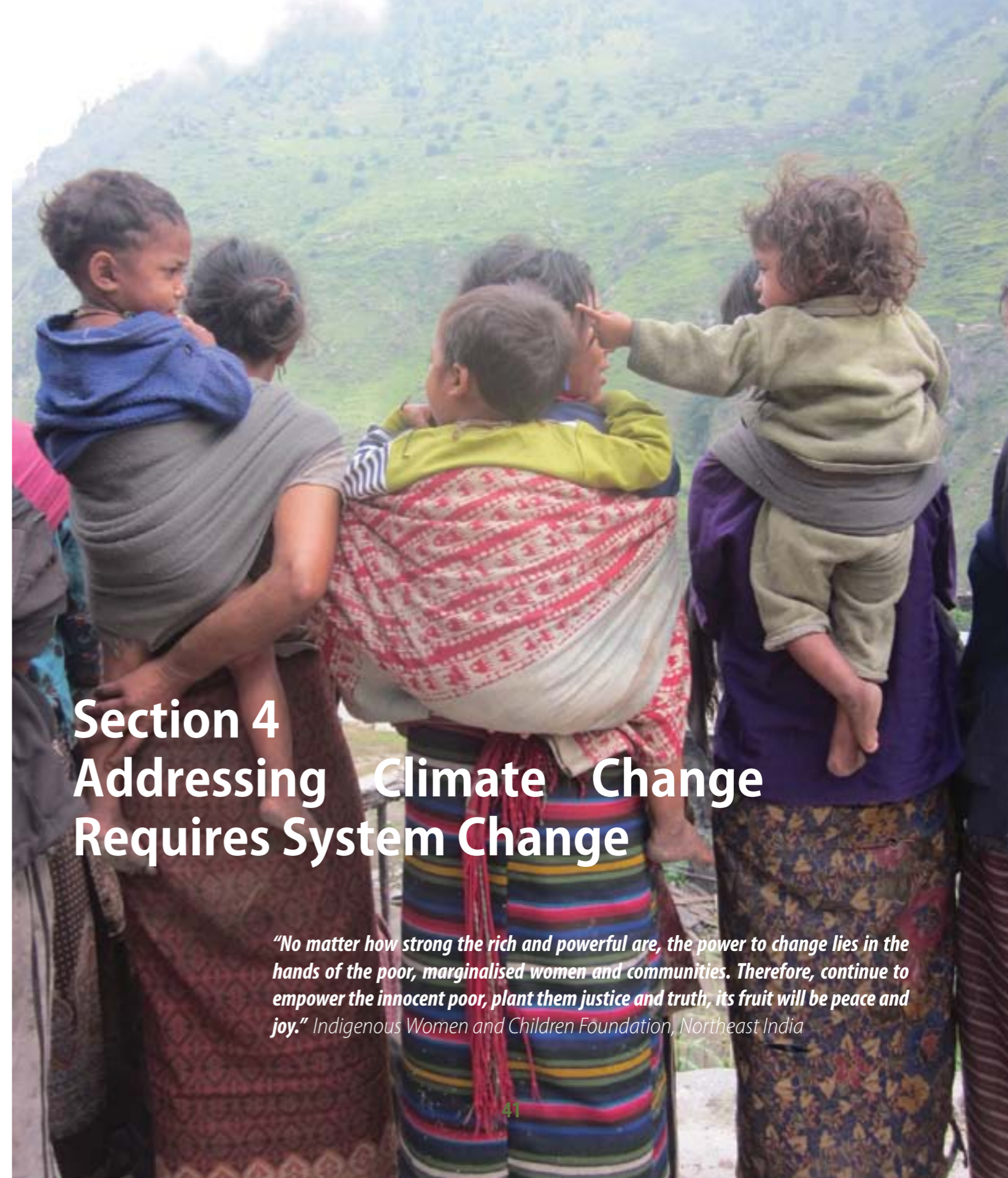
Neither of us had ever done media work and now the concerns and demands of our communities have been published globally, in our regions and in our community. Even though both of us felt fear and some disappointment, we came away with hope. Climate change forces us to reconsider the global, inequitable system we have created. Maybe climate change can force us to actually consider a new, more equitable and

locally driven, sustainable world. If wealthy countries honour their existing commitments to take responsibility for their historical debt to the world's poor and compensate for their pollution and halt their emissions, we could finally deliver on the promises made 66 years ago through the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We both wondered whether people in rich countries are concerned about the impact of their lives on women in the Global South. But when we marched on the streets of New York, when we listened to other civil society and even some governments at the Climate Summit, and when we got such a good response to our visit, we felt hopeful. We went home with the knowledge that there are millions of people mobilising to demand climate justice. Our future now relies on a complete shift in climate, in economies, but also in power. From the streets of New York to the streets of Kathmandu, the villages of our mountains and the Islands of the Pacific people are ready for a new, just and sustainable world. They are ready for development justice.¹⁰²

¹⁰²

Statements have been shortened.



Section 4 Addressing Climate Change Requires System Change

“No matter how strong the rich and powerful are, the power to change lies in the hands of the poor, marginalised women and communities. Therefore, continue to empower the innocent poor, plant them justice and truth, its fruit will be peace and joy.” Indigenous Women and Children Foundation, Northeast India

The climate crisis is the result of our current model of development, driven by neoliberal economic rules that are striving for increased levels of production and consumption to generate growth, without any social or environmental considerations. Growth of profits. Growth in extraction. Growth in production. Growth in consumption and growth in waste. To maintain this growth, corporations' interests, deregulation of the economy, and free trade agreements are encouraged through International Financial Institutions (IFIs) that present them as solutions. This model generates insane levels of inequality and destroys our planet. Today, only 1% of the world's population owns 48% of global wealth! 85 of the world's richest people own as much as the poorest 3.5 billion and the bottom 50% of the global population share just 1% of the wealth¹⁰³. Developed economies, accounting for 15% of the global population, use about half of the global resources, contribute the most to global warming and to the environmental degradation.

The inequality and climate crises are interlocked: we won't address them without addressing their structural causes, rooted in our neoliberal economic model.

In Asia-Pacific, civil society demands a new development model and has termed it Development Justice. Development Justice is designed to redistribute power, resources, wealth and opportunities between states, between rich and poor and between men and women. It requires five transformative shifts: Redistributive Justice; Economic Justice; Gender and Social Justice; Environmental/Climate Justice; and Accountability to all peoples. Climate Justice is just one of these five, interconnected and inextricably linked pillars. Without the realisation of all five, there will be no development justice. Without climate justice, there can be no development justice.

4.1 Climate justice as a pillar of Development Justice

The term 'Climate Justice' recognises that climate *injustices* have been committed and must be remedied. Climate justice recognises that the historical responsibility

¹⁰³ Treanor, J (2014), *Richest 1% of people own nearly half of global wealth, says report*, retrieved 19 July 2015 from <http://www.theguardian.com/business/2014/oct/14/richest-1percent-half-global-wealth-credit-suisse-report>.

for the vast majority of GHGs emissions lies with the industrialised countries of the Global North and their big corporations. Climate justice demands accountability for actions that have caused harm. Industrialised countries have contracted a debt towards developing countries and their inhabitants, especially marginalised communities that are today at the frontlines of climate change. Climate justice demands accountability, through the payment of their climate debt. Climate Justice demands economic justice, social justice, ecological justice and gender justice.

Conversely and perversely, the people who are most impacted by climate change, by global warming, by environmental disasters are those with the least responsibility for global warming: **women of the global south**. Women of the global South are owed an historic debt given development of the rich has been at their expense. Women of the global south have used very little of the world's resources and developed significant knowledge around mitigation, adaptation and environmental development. Climate Justice requires an end to patriarchal practices that marginalise women as well as an end to the production and consumption patterns that cause global warming.

In practice, climate justice would mean that the already-agreed principle of CBDR would result in drastic reduction of GHG emissions by those with the highest historical culpability and that remedies would be provided to those who have been most impacted and that climate policies would be developed with those most wronged: **women of the global south**.

4.2 Recommendations

- Commit to a radical and urgent transition from extractive, profit-based economies to people centred models that are just, equitable, gender-sensitive and locally driven.
- Commit to a comprehensive, ambitious and binding new climate agreement which aims to limit global warming below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and that ensure a 'paradigm shift' in global governance and economies focused on redistribution of wealth, power and resources, guided by science and

principles of equity.

- Human rights, gender equality, indigenous peoples rights, food security, just and equitable transitions should be recognised as objectives of the Paris agreement, and incorporated in all elements of the document and in all climate actions and decisions (including mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, finance, technology, capacity building and transparency).
- The Paris agreement must respect all agreed principles of international law, in particular CBDR.
- The Paris agreement should respect all existing principles of international law and in particular, long-held principles of sustainable development that includes the 'no harm principle', the 'precautionary principle' and 'polluter pays'.
- Ensure the active participation of the most affected, including women, in all climate decision-making processes/in any climate-related policies, programmes or actions; quotas should be established to ensure the inclusion of women's movement representatives in all climate and development bodies at the local, national, regional and international levels.
- Adopt a binding regulatory framework to address private sector violations (starting with the UN Human Rights Council's resolution for a binding framework to regulate transnational corporations).

Mitigation

- Establish a **long-term mitigation objective** that all people live within per capita bio-capacity of the planet (reducing ecological footprint to 1.7 hectares per person without offsets) whilst providing the solidarity required to ensure all countries can achieve a high human development index.
- Ensure the elimination of all fossil fuel and establish a target of 100% safe, clean and renewable energies by 2030 for developed countries and 2050 for developing countries.
- Establish a **global carbon budget** that should be

equitably distributed between countries and people according to their historical responsibilities and their national capacity.

- Recognise that the realisation of developing countries mitigation obligations is conditioned to the provision of support by developed countries.
- Establish a **global moratorium on the pursuit of existing and creating of new fossil fuel** extractive sites/new dirty harmful energy projects, including large scale agro-fuels, mega dams and hydro projects and nuclear energy.
- Promote **energy democracy** by ensuring a shift from to public and community/ decentralized renewable and clean energy.
- Recognise the right of **access to clean, safe and environmentally, socially and economically sound energy**, in particular for the poorest and marginalised people.
- Reject any mechanism that are commercialising the climate or the nature and have proven their inefficiency, including carbon-trading, offsetting, REDD+, among others.
- Promote structural transformations of our consumption and productions patterns, especially in developed countries.

Adaptation

- Adopt a **global adaptation goal** that aims to increase climate resilience and adaptation capacity of communities and peoples, especially the ones at the fore front of climate change and especially women.
- Recognise the **urgent adaptation needs** of developing countries, particularly least developed countries (LDC) and small island developing states (SIDS).
- Developed countries must recognize their historical responsibilities and fulfil their obligation to **support adaption measures** for developing countries, including through finance, technology transfer, capacity building and the removal of patent and

intellectual property restrictions.

- Recognise the link between **the level of adaptation needed** (and associated financial and technical support) and **the level of mitigation efforts**.
- Ensure that all adaption actions are **gender-responsive**.
- Ensure support towards small-scale, locally owned and developed ecological responses ensuring food sovereignty; in particular, promote agroecology practices and reject climate smart agriculture.
- Retain and promote traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous and rural women.

Loss and Damage

- Recognise loss and damage as a standalone element in the Paris agreement, separate and distinct from adaptation.
- Loss and damage should address long term and slow onset loss and damage as well as immediate disaster related damage.
- Compensation mechanisms under loss and damage should include affected people, including effective participation of women.

Climate Finance

- Be constituted exclusively from **public funds from developed countries to developing countries** - private finance should be additional and shouldn't be accounted as climate finance.
- Be **new** and **additional** from existing commitments, especially ODA.
- Be delivered in forms of **grants**; climate finance should benefit developing countries and communities, not adding extra burden through debt-creative mechanisms.
- Adopt a **50/50 balance between mitigation and adaption** for the allocation of climate funds, with loss and damage on top of adaptation funding.

- Adopt a clear road-map on the provision of developed countries commitments based on developing countries needs starting from the floor of \$100 billion a year that allows **clarity** and **predictability**.
- Establish a **review mechanism** every 5 years that allows financial commitments to be scaled up and assesses the delivery of developed countries' financial commitments, with **a clear accounting approach and methodology framework** both agreed by developed and developing countries.
- Adopt **new public sources of revenue**, such as a global financial speculation/transaction tax, taxes on harmful industries, redirection of fossil fuel subsidies, etc.
- Climate finance should be **gender-responsive and prioritise local driven projects**; gender equality should be a principle and an objective of all funding and mechanisms that allow direct access to the most affected at local and community levels, with dedicated funds to support women's local movements.
- Review and reform eligibility criteria for all climate funding bodies to **enable small, local women's movements to access funds. Further, develop modalities that allow movements to utilise and report on funds in culturally and linguistically diverse ways**.
- Gender safeguards including ex ante human rights and gender impact audits must be compulsory for all climate / sustainable development projects.

In particular, for the GCF:

- Develop strong **social and environmental safeguards** to ensure that any funds go to any fossil fuel or any other harmful energy projects or programmes. Strong social safeguards should ensure that all human rights, including women's and indigenous' rights are not undermined by any projects funded by climate finance, including their livelihoods.
- Prioritise micro grants for local communities adaption needs.

- Include local communities, in particular women's local groups, in the design and implementation of any funding proposal presented and approved by the GCF.
- Develop pilot programmes to apply energy democracy for all, including women.

Accountability, Transparency

- Establish a review of countries commitments every 5 years: for developed countries, it should include the review and scale up of their mitigation targets and level of support to developing countries, including financial support.
- Strong and effective compliance mechanism to ensure accountability for and fulfilment of Parties' obligations.

Just Transitions to Decent Work

- Develop the concept of **'just and equitable transitions'** to ensure transition plans expand to transitioning to just, sustainable and equitable economies that promote Decent Work for women and redistribute job opportunities and the gendered division of labour, including the burden of unpaid care work.
- Ensure 'just and equitable' transitions by building resilience and adaptive capacity of the poor, including through providing **living wages, regular jobs, more viable livelihood and social services**.

APWLD's FPAR

Purpose is structural change: the purpose of our research is to bring about structural changes that women identify as critical to their enjoyment of human rights.

Amplifies women's voices: the research gives voice to women as the experts and authors of their own lives and policy decisions. It strategically places them as researchers and experts and promotes them into policy dialogue

Owned by community: Research decisions are made by the community of women who are the stakeholders of the research project.

Takes an intersectional approach to identity and experiences of discrimination, exclusion and marginalisation: recognising the diversity of women's experiences, identities and power;

Aims to shift power: the research seeks to reconstruct traditional power imbalances such as researcher / subject and also aims at challenging and shifting gendered sources of personal, political and structural power

Fosters movement building / collective action: the research process itself should be seen as a collective process that strengthens solidarity but in addition the research aims to empower women to work collectively for long-term structural change

Builds capacity of all: FPAR always involves capacity-building but also recognises that capacity-building and learning are a collective, political action of all the players involved.

Free prior informed consent of all participants is prioritised in FPAR.

Safety, care and solidarity with participants is essential.

FPAR achieves these principles by:

Developing capacity and skills of our movement;

Fostering knowledge, data, tools and resources for women's movements;

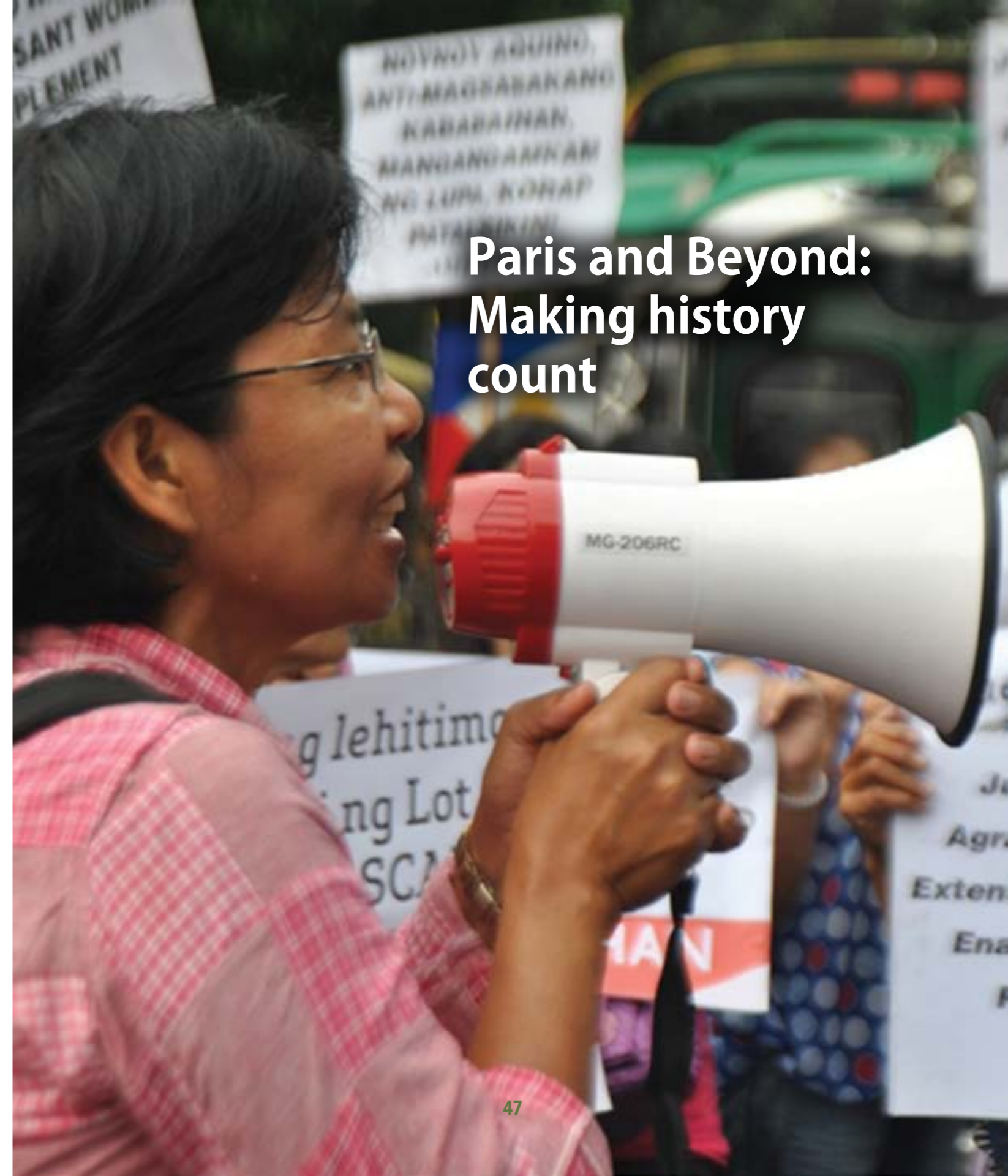
Securing space for advocacy to change laws, policies and practices;

Creating movements and collective pressure for structural change.

The 'F' in FPAR

A feminist analysis is central to FPAR. FPAR aims at empowering women as advocates, authors and owners of policy solutions thus challenging patriarchal systems. A feminist approach ensures that gendered power relations at all levels are interrogated. A feminist approach means that we recognise and validate women's experiences and the researchers similarly share and contribute to the knowledge of gendered experience. A feminist approach means that we consider the practical barriers to women's participation in the project and take steps to ensure these are broken down.

Though FPAR research is in favour of females, it has nonetheless benefited male members of the community through their wives and women counterparts – an equal and just society benefits everyone. Both the poor and marginalised men and women are now aware that their indecent wages, unemployment problems, extreme poverty and GBV are all part and parcel of the adverse effects of climate change.



Paris and Beyond: Making history count

In 1992, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) established the framework for international climate negotiations. Despite 20 years of negotiations the current rate of emissions growth would result in temperature increases of between 4 and 6°C¹⁰⁴ and CO₂ levels are now 60% higher than they were in 1990¹⁰⁵. To tackle this acute situation, States have committed “to develop a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties” to be adopted at COP 21, in December 2015, in Paris.

Ahead of COP 21, countries were expected to submit their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to the global efforts that are scientifically required to avoid dramatic impacts of climate change. Civil society assessed these contributions using the principles of equity and historical responsibility. The analysis provides an indication of what a “fair share” would look like if historical responsibilities and respective capacities are used to guide contributions¹⁰⁶. The analysis reveals that

the majority of developing countries have exceeded or broadly met their fair share (graphic 1). What this analysis also clearly shows is that there is a large gap in commitments required to keep temperatures below 1.5c. Several commitments are also contingent on the availability of financing, technology, and capacity-building.

In the chart below, ‘wealthier countries’ are those with a fair share in excess of their domestic mitigation potential, and that therefore need to meet parts of their fair share through international action (financial, technological, and capacity building) to enable mitigation elsewhere. ‘Poorer countries’ have domestic mitigation potential larger than their fair share. The light green portion of the left bar offers an indicative proportion of wealthier countries’ fair share that can be achieved through international action. The grey/blue hatched area of the right bar represents mitigation pledged by poorer countries that is conditional on international support.

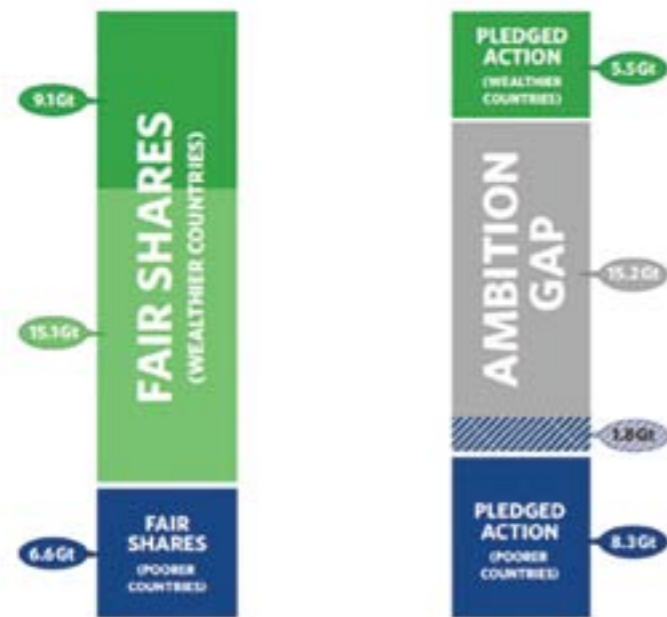


Figure: Fair Shares vs. Pledged Action (mitigation in 2030 below baseline in Gt CO₂eq)⁵⁴

104 IPCC, *Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report*, op. cit.
 105 Marshall B, Solomon M. H., & Edward M, 2015, *Global non-linear effect of temperature on economic production*, Nature International Weekly Journal of Science, <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nature15725.html>
 106 *Fair shares: A Civil Society Equity Review of INDCs*, Summary, October 2015, https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/file_attachments/ib-civil-society-review-climate-indcs-191015-en_2.pdf

54 *Ibid.*



**Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)
189/3 Changklan Road, Amphoe Muang, Chiang Mai 50100, Thailand**

Phone: (66) 53 284527, 284856

Fax: (66) 53 280847

E-mail address: apwld@apwld.org

<http://www.apwld.org>