

# What does gender-responsive social protection have to do with the climate crisis?



Crises, including climate shocks, disproportionately impact women and children. Ahead of COP26, a panel of leading experts exchanged ideas on the role of social protection in addressing climate change impacts on women, children and vulnerable communities.

## Urgent need to invest in climate response

Financial resources are needed to address climate impacts on women, children and vulnerable groups. This includes increasing investments in social protection to ensure systems are already in place prior to climate disasters to respond to climate impacts and build resilience. Financial investments can be channeled through Funds, e.g. Africa Risk Capacity's Gender Transformative Fund.

## Disconnect between gender, climate change and social protection

Responding to the climate crisis requires intentional programming, policies and delivery, and better coordination and engagement across sectors. There is a disconnect between gender equality practitioners and actors working on social protection and climate.

## Preventing, mitigating and responding to the climate crisis

Gender-responsive social protection has a role in not only responding to need as a result of the crisis, but also has a role in mitigating the effects on future climate change, as well as a role in preventing climate change through incentivizing, and financing, environmental-friendly choices in consumption and production at the household level.

## 5 actions for leveraging the potential of social protection for gender-transformative change

1. Expand social protection coverage.
2. Integrate gender equality and social protection into climate change policies.
3. Clear links between social protection and disaster risk financing.
4. Coordinate across actors, experts and agencies, including between climate, social protection, and gender experts.
5. Empower and support those most affected by climate change to engage with climate disaster planning and to shape the solutions needed.

## KEY MESSAGES FOR COP26 LEADERS

“Two things. Sustainable finance and global coordination of financial instruments. Secondly, incentives.” - Mattias Lundberg

“I would ask for more honesty and credibility, push for more credible ESG measurements, especially for gendered impacts.” - Dr. Jyotsna Puri

“Finance! Setting up or designing special funds focused on promoting gender-sensitive investments in all climate change programmes, policies, and plans... to ensure sustainable livelihoods for women and girls.” - Dr. Christiana George

“Invest in gender-responsive social protection and the links to disaster risk management, financing and climate policies.” - Alicia Herbert, OBE