

TAKING STOCK:
**SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH AND RIGHTS**
in CLIMATE
COMMITMENTS

**A WEST AND
CENTRAL AFRICA REVIEW**

Sexual and reproductive health and rights and rights-based approaches in national climate documents: **A review of Nationally Determined Contributions since 2020 in West and Central Africa**



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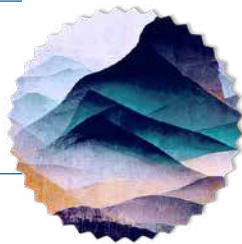
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FOREWORD



In West and Central Africa, climate change is already exerting adverse impacts on the population, particularly impacting millions of vulnerable people living in poverty. Over the coming decades, the escalation of droughts and floods poses significant risks, leading to devastating outcomes such as the destruction of natural resources and ecosystems across the region, with a particular focus on the Sahel.

Climate change poses a comprehensive threat to all sectors of a country's economy, stemming from the combined consequences of heatwaves, floods and droughts. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns that global warming will result in far-reaching repercussions on the health of populations inhabiting tropical regions. The World Health Organization (WHO) asserts that climate change is currently accountable for a minimum of 150,000 annual deaths, a number projected to double by 2030.

The vision of UNFPA – to build a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person achieves their full potential – could be threatened by the climate crisis. By exacerbating inequalities and social injustices, the ramifications of climate change will predominantly affect vulnerable populations, notably women, young people and marginalized groups. These segments will bear a disproportionate brunt of the impacts, depriving them of a world where they can freely make choices about their reproductive lives and overall well-being, devoid of discrimination. Consequently, climate change will negatively influence their access to vital health services, particularly in terms of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

The UNFPA West and Central Africa Regional Office must address several development challenges. Among them is the formulation of a resilience strategy to ensure the realization of its three transformative results: ending preventable maternal deaths, ending unmet need for family planning and ending gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful practices by 2030.

Within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 2015 Paris Agreement, UNFPA is firmly committed to this approach. It lends support to the development of Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) reports, the latest of which have been overseen by Queen Mary University of London.



Based on in-depth analyses of reliable data, the first reports have afforded us a clear understanding of the impacts of climate change. Moreover, they empower UNFPA to effectively construct initiatives that aid communities in adapting to the consequences of the climate crisis and constructing an inclusive and equitable society that upholds the rights of girls, women and young people.

As a leading advocate of ICPD30, the International Conference on Population and Development 30-year review, UNFPA is well equipped to integrate climate adaptation and resilience priorities into national development policies and strategies, such as the fight against poverty, food and nutritional insecurity, gender and social inclusion.

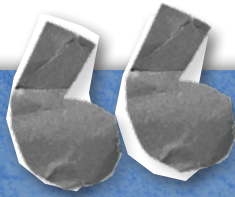
This work increases evidence-based advocacy efforts concerning the interconnections between SRHR and the climate crisis.

As we tackle these issues, our focus should be on developing climate change responses firmly rooted in human rights. This approach is crucial for creating a world without marginalization and ensuring that no population group is left behind.

Sennen Hounton
Regional Director, UNFPA West and Central Africa

Abbreviations

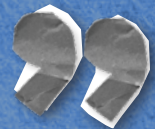
ACE	Action for Climate Empowerment
COP	Conference of the Parties
GAP	Gender action plan
GBV	Gender-based violence
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LGBTQIA+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, asexual and more
NAP	National adaptation plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NGCCFP	National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SOGIESC	Sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics
SRHR	Sexual and reproductive health and rights
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
WCA	West and Central Africa



The unprecedented emergencies of the climate crisis, pollution, desertification and biodiversity loss, coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic, and the impact of new and ongoing conflicts, have accelerated and intensified into widespread and interlinked crises that affect us all.

BUT NOT EQUALLY.

Everywhere, women and girls face the greatest threats and the deepest harm. Everywhere, women and girls are taking action to confront the climate and environmental crises. And everywhere, women and girls continue to be largely excluded from the rooms where decisions are taken.



ANTÓNIO GUTERRES,
UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL



INTRODUCTION



Climate change has lasting impacts on human health and disproportionately affects women and girls.

Women, girls and marginalized groups who are largely dependent on natural resources for livelihoods are among the hardest hit by extreme weather patterns. These weather patterns limit their access to food, water, shelter, education and essential health services, including those that address sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender-based violence (GBV) and preventing harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation.

Emerging evidence shows the direct and indirect impacts of climate change on women, girls and marginalized groups and their SRHR as well as on GBV and harmful practices. A number of studies find that heat has an adverse impact on maternal and newborn health outcomes, increasing the risk of stillbirth (Kuehn and McCormick, 2017; Rylander, Odland and Sandanger, 2013; Olson and Metz, 2020; Poursafa, Keikha and Kelishadi, 2015; Cil and Cameron, 2017; Pacheco, 2020; Yüzen and others, 2023). Additionally, increased poverty and food insecurity driven by climate-related loss of livelihoods are impacting maternal health (IPCC, 2014). Air pollution (Bekkar and others, 2020), climate-related diseases and food insecurity also have adverse impacts on maternal and neonatal health outcomes,

which can be more severe for populations facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. Climate-related events can compromise access to clean water and essential supplies for safe births and personal hygiene. A clear example is the water crisis of the 1970s in Burkina Faso and the Niger. These countries have experienced a temperature rise of 2°C since 1950, leading to a general drop in rainfall. As a result, they suffer from their still-strong dependence on surface water sources, such as rivers, streams and ponds, which are vulnerable to shocks and disasters (WaterAid, 2021).

Climate-related emergencies cause major disruptions to access to health services and life-saving commodities, including contraception (IPAS, 2022). The challenge climate change poses around access to SRHR services will be keenly felt by those who already face discrimination and marginalization (e.g. women, adolescents and youth, LGBTQIA+ adolescents and youth, migrants, internally displaced persons, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and coastal and rural populations), and in areas where access to services may already be limited (e.g. humanitarian settings and areas affected by conflict).



The risks of GBV and child marriage are known to increase in times of stress and scarcity and following extreme weather events and disasters (McLeod, Barr and Rall, 2019; Pope and others, 2022), and climate change exacerbates the drivers of child marriage. GBV is a violation of human rights and has long-lasting impacts, including limiting women's ability to build resilience to climate change, which impedes the capacity of survivors and their dependents to proactively and positively respond to and manage ongoing challenges and crises (Le Masson and others, 2019). Additionally, climate-related loss or change of livelihoods, as well as displacement and migration, increase risks of GBV and harmful practices, including child marriage and female genital mutilation (Ahmed, Haq and Bartiaux, 2019; McLeod, Barr and Rall, 2019; Pope and others, 2022).

Failing to support the achievement of the full range of SRHR and prevention of GBV and harmful practices will hamper women's and girls' capacity to engage in climate action

and policymaking and has direct implications for the achievement of human-centred sustainable development as outlined in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action and reinforced by the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25. Gaps in the realization of SRHR can prevent women and girls from pursuing education, hinder livelihoods and reduce their ability to take part in household and community decision-making. Girls forced to marry before completing their education – and those denied access to education, literacy and public life – may experience limited ability to receive and act on climate information and alerts from disaster early warning systems. The realization of SRHR and the right to be free from violence, particularly for those already facing discrimination, can empower people to exercise their agency and engage in climate action. For those affected by intersecting inequalities, realizing SRHR can allow marginalized groups' needs and priorities to be represented in climate action and policy processes.



The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report found that “the vulnerability of ecosystems and people to climate change differs substantially among and within regions, [...] driven by patterns of intersecting socioeconomic development” and other structural inequalities (IPCC, 2022). These ongoing patterns of inequity are affecting women, girls and marginalized groups disproportionately. It also recognizes that the current efforts to reduce global emissions need to be accompanied by scaled-up adaptation actions that aim at strengthening resilience at the local, national and global levels to support women, girls and the most vulnerable groups from the inevitable impacts of climate change.

Recent reviews of the inclusion of SRHR and gender issues in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) documents, including a review conducted by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) with Queen Mary University of London in 2021, identified significant gaps in national adaptation response and financing in critical sectors, such as health systems, protection systems and disaster risk reduction plans (McMullen and others, 2021). The report found that even where gender dimensions are incorporated and elaborated in the national climate documents, they lack clear adaptation actions and require resources as well as monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure successful implementation. The review identified important gaps in the national climate policy integration of SRHR and GBV issues and in the identification of gender-transformative approaches that address the root causes of inequalities in various contexts.

Reviewing national climate policies, including the NDCs, and exploring and addressing gaps related to SRHR and GBV are critical to ensuring no one is left behind. It is essential to engage on SRHR and recognize that it includes some of the most stigmatized, deprioritized, yet fundamental dimensions of life, where we

often see an acute concentration of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. If the climate crisis is a crisis of inequality, SRHR represents a key intersection in need of attention and investment. This is essential to building a better and more equal world.

UNFPA has committed to three transformative results by 2030: (1) ending preventable maternal deaths; (2) ending unmet need for family planning; and (3) ending GBV and harmful practices. The rapid pace of climate change over this decade will make each of these transformative results more difficult to achieve. UNFPA supports governments to ensure the incorporation of SRHR and GBV issues in the design of national climate policies and solutions, with women, young people and vulnerable groups at the heart of developing innovative solutions to improve climate resilience. This regional overview of references related to SRHR, GBV and harmful practices, health, gender, youth, human rights and population dynamics will provide an insight into the needs, priorities and gaps of the countries on SRHR in climate policies and supports cross-country learning. This knowledge supports greater inclusion, representation and action for disproportionately affected groups.



The impacts of climate change in West and Central Africa

The humanitarian situation in the Sahel is worsening quickly and significantly. Widespread poverty, climate change, several types of violence including riots in major cities, chronically high food insecurity and malnutrition continue to drive extreme levels of vulnerability. The situation is getting increasingly volatile and prone to shocks and natural hazards, putting millions at risk (OCHA, 2021). West and Central Africa (WCA) is home to most of the dry and hot Sahel region. It is an area where global warming worsens the existing challenges, including but not limited to droughts, floods, desertification, food insecurity, terrorism, social unrest, human displacements, political crises and insecurity. The IPCC Sixth Assessment report shows that mean annual temperatures have increased 0.75°C to 1.2°C since 1960 in Central Africa and 1°C to 3°C since the mid-1970s in West Africa, with the highest increases found in the Sahara and Sahel (IPCC, 2022). Across the region, the frequency of hot days and warm nights have increased while cold nights have become less frequent. With the projected increases in temperature, the number of heat-waves will continue to rise. Multi-year droughts have become more frequent in West Africa, and at a 2°C global warming scenario, this region is expected to experience a drier, more drought-prone and arid climate in the coming decades that may cause more conflicts and insecurity. Humanitarian needs are high across the region but especially in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria and northern Benin and Togo, which continue to be on the rise due to the combined impacts of increasingly violent conflicts, deep poverty, climate change and unprecedented food insecurity. The climate impacts are also observed in river floods, which are projected to increase in frequency and magnitude in WCA (IPCC,

2022). The impacts of climate change not only lead to displacement but also further reduce capacities to adequately support and respond to the needs of displaced persons, resulting in poor living standards and limited access to life-saving services.

These climate change impacts have significant implications for the region's development. In terms of human health, tens of thousands of additional heat-related deaths are projected. Dust events in West Africa will cause additional respiratory and infectious diseases and diarrhoeal deaths in children are projected to cause an additional 20,000 to 30,000 deaths in children by mid-century, particularly in West Africa (IPCC, 2022). WCA has historically been exceptionally affected by disease outbreaks such as Ebola due to human-wildlife contact and weak health systems.

The Sahel and West Africa region is characterized by large semi-arid agrosystems, making livelihoods difficult to sustain, especially for those dependent on the agricultural and food economies (McOmber, 2020). Women are among the vulnerable groups with limited opportunities to adapt and respond to climate shocks. Obstacles to investing in resources to recover, structural and normative restrictions and additional domestic responsibilities are all factors that perpetuate gender inequities related to climate change (McOmber, 2020).



Photo: © UNFPA WCARO

Historically, West Africa is one of the regions with the highest levels of human mobility due to its tradition of trade, pastoralism and migration for livelihood diversification. Climate change disrupts traditional migratory patterns and generates new uncertainties for migrants, including pastoralists (Muggah, 2021), and increases rural-to-urban migration and the vulnerability of migrants (IPCC, 2022). A Groundswell West Africa report expects that, without immediate action, up to 32 million people are at risk of internal displacement (Rigaud and others, 2021). The increased competition over grazing land, water stress and food insecurity are risk factors for conflicts in WCA, a region home to seven out of 13 medium-intensity conflict countries as categorized by the World Bank (World Bank Group, 2021). Hence, climate change can exacerbate the risk of international and civil conflict, especially in vulnerable countries that already face income, ethnic and gender inequalities and are highly dependent on agriculture (Igarapé Institute, 2021).

Sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence and harmful practices in West and Central Africa

Despite progress, WCA has some of the poorest-performing health indicators globally. This includes indicators for sexual and reproductive health and GBV. The region requires substantial investments to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets on SRHR and GBV. WCA is home to some of the world's highest fertility rates, with the Niger at 6.7, Mali at 5.7 and Chad at 5.6 children per woman, all ranking among the highest fertility rates worldwide (World Bank Group, 2022). WCA also has the highest maternal mortality and unmet needs for family planning, child marriage and female genital mutilation worldwide. With increasing youth bulge, poverty and inequality, the negative impacts of climate change, humanitarian crises and insecurity, there is a narrow fiscal space for investments in basic social services, particularly in SRHR and GBV services.

Reducing maternal deaths is one of the women's health issues that has seen the most improvement in recent decades. Nevertheless, Chad, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and the Central African Republic all continue to report maternal mortality ratios of more than 800 deaths per 100,000 live births, and most other countries similarly have estimates significantly above the global average (World Bank Group, 2022). Inadequate and insufficient high-quality sexual and reproductive health care is contributing to 103,000 deaths from causes related to pregnancy and 35,000 deaths from causes related to childbirth in WCA, with 2.4 million unsafe abortions in West Africa and 1.1 million in Central Africa (Guttmacher Institute, 2020).



Photo: © UNFPA WCARO



Family planning is another SRHR issue where progress is needed. Every year, 56 per cent of women in West Africa and 67 per cent of women in Central Africa aged 15–49 years have an unmet need for family planning. Of the 14 million women who give birth in West Africa, 7.1 million do not deliver in a health facility and 7.3 million make fewer than the recommended four antenatal care visits (Guttmacher Institute, 2020).

Violence against women is observed across the region. Women living in West Africa experience some of the highest levels of GBV, and one in three women has experienced emotional abuse by their partner (Muluneh and others, 2020). There is limited access to justice, GBV cases are highly underreported due to the lack of information management systems, and there is a lack of available quality GBV services (UN Women, 2022; UNFPA and Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility, 2021). Due to strong social and gender norms,

the low status of women and girls and low education levels, WCA is still reporting a high prevalence of female genital mutilation, with countries including Guinea, Mali and Sierra Leone experiencing rates above 80 per cent for women aged 15–49 (Joining Forces, 2022). Child marriage is a gender-related harmful practice prevalent in WCA, with this region being home to six of the 10 countries with the highest child marriage prevalence in the world. In fact, 41 per cent of girls and young women are married before the age of 18 and Chad, the Central African Republic and the Niger all have prevalence rates of child marriage of more than 25 per cent for girls under the age of 15. This has enormous adverse impacts on girls' education, empowerment and health, including SRHR, and future developments and opportunities in life (UNFPA and UNICEF, 2018). Child marriage seriously harms education, health and the sexual, reproductive and general development of teenagers and young people, which may perpetuate the poverty cycle.



Compared to other parts of Africa, the WCA region has relatively low HIV prevalence – below 2 per cent – but with an estimated population of 471 million people, it hosts almost one third of the people living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa (UNFPA, 2016). Adolescent sexual and reproductive health remains an issue of concern, with adolescent girls in WCA being more likely to initiate sex, give birth earlier and have lower access to family planning services than in other parts of Africa (Melesse and others, 2020).

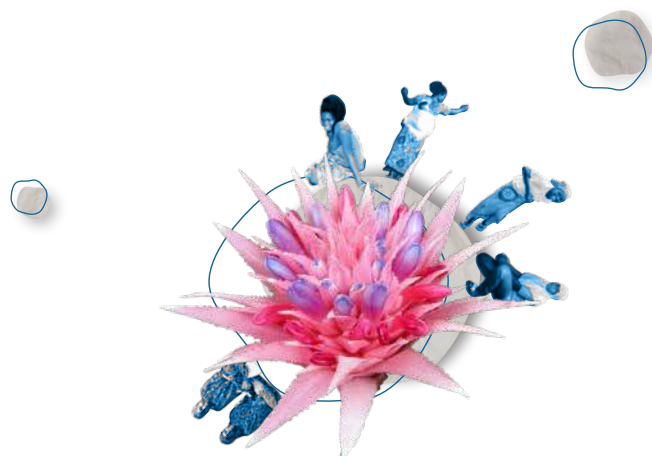
The Ebola outbreak and the subsequent COVID-19 pandemic exposed the shortages of a health-care system under stress. WCA is now facing the impacts of climate change, including climate disasters. Therefore, it is paramount that the region steps up its efforts to build resilient health systems and address the critical gaps in SRHR and GBV in its climate action efforts.

Climate action and the Nationally Determined Contributions

In 2016, 196 countries adopted the Paris Agreement, a legally binding agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that sets a target of keeping the rise in global temperature in the twenty-first century below 2°C and to pursue efforts to limit it further to 1.5°C. As signatories, each country is required to prepare, communicate and maintain NDCs. Submitted every five years, NDCs are a key national climate policy document and include a description of how a country will work to mitigate and adapt to climate change in their territory. They lay out actions to address climate challenges at the national level and usually include sections on actions to mitigate the impacts of climate change through emission reduction as well as chapters on actions to strengthen the resilience to climate change of individuals, communities or systems through adaptation actions. In 2020 and 2021, countries submitted the second round of NDCs showing progress from earlier NDCs, reflecting the highest possible ambition for each country, and including plans for monitoring and evaluation. Another round of NDC submissions will take place in 2025. As NDCs are required by all nations who are signatories to the Paris Agreement, they provide an opportunity to gain an overview of climate plans and challenges in each territory and an indication of levels of ambition over time. They also allow for cross-country and regional comparison.



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METHODOLOGY



This report relays the findings of an analysis of the inclusion of SRHR and related thematic areas in NDCs from WCA countries published in and after 2020.

It adopts the broad definition of SRHR set out in the Guttmacher-*Lancet* report of 2018 (Guttmacher-*Lancet* Commission, 2018), which describes SRHR as a set of rights and essential services that meet public health and human rights standards. This package includes GBV. The review accounted for any references to SRHR and GBV and harmful practices, but also explored five other SRHR-related thematic areas: (1) health; (2) gender; (3) human rights, participation and vulnerable groups; (4) youth; and (5) population dynamics. These thematic areas may serve as important entry points for strengthening SRHR in climate action and achieving rights-based and gender-transformative change. They were included in this review as they intersect with women's health and rights issues by nature of their definition and content and are relevant to addressing the unequal and disproportionate impacts of climate change on particular groups.

The research team reviewed references to **health** as health is core to SRHR and a component of the well-being of women and girls as it relates to their experience of violence, and because unequal access to and achievement of good health are also issues of justice and inequality. We reviewed references to **gender** as gender mainstreaming and participation are key in achieving gender equality and

access to SRHR services, including access to services for people with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC). In addition, we analysed any reference or considerations for **human rights**, as the realization of SRHR and the right to be free from violence requires human rights-based approaches, which means that all forms of discrimination must be prohibited, prevented and eliminated. In this context, we also reviewed to what extent vulnerable groups were acknowledged or included in the NDCs. We reviewed any references to participation, empowerment and meaningful inclusion of **youth** due to their critical role as agents of change for SRHR in climate action. Finally, we included any references to **population dynamics** such as population size, migration and urbanization and assessed if these were presented in alignment with the human rights-based principles set out in the ICPD Programme of Action.

This systematic process of content analysis of SRHR and GBV and harmful practices and the five thematic areas was performed for each NDC, using the method developed for the review of 50 NDCs submitted before 2020 (McMullen and others, 2021). The content analysis was conducted in three stages. In the first stage, references to all five thematic areas were gathered from each NDC into a spreadsheet.

In the second stage, content specific to thematic areas was grouped together to identify the range of concerns or ambitions identified across countries in relation to the theme, i.e. health or gender. In the third stage, a country and cross-country analysis was undertaken to identify gaps and good practices in the NDCs in relation to each thematic area.

The content analysis focused on the extent to which the thematic areas were included in the NDC report. References to the thematic areas in the analysis may appear as part of a contextual aspect in the country's situational analysis, the acknowledgement of the impacts of climate change on that specific dimension or the provision of a policy or intervention response.

The UNFPA WCA region comprises 23 countries; however, only 22 countries submitted NDCs since 2020. At the time the analysis was completed in August 2022, Equatorial Guinea had published its first NDC before 2020 and had not submitted an update since. See appendix 1 for a full list of countries and versions of NDCs included for review.

To ensure the inclusion of perspectives from young people, UNFPA selected six young people who were members of either the UNFPA Joint Youth Working Group on SRHR and Climate Change or YOUNGO (the youth constituency to UNFCCC) and were experienced in the NDC or similar development processes. The young people selected are based in the five regions where UNFPA works. The young people from Asia and the Pacific produced short reports providing their perspective on the NDCs and the climate crisis in their region as well as a reflection on how climate change impacts SRHR. These perspectives are presented in the Youth Report section of this publication (see pages 31–33).

The results of this report will provide an opening for dialogue at regional, national and local levels in the WCA region on the

ways that climate change and SRHR and GBV intersect and identify entry points for climate action, highlighting gaps as well as opportunities and best practices to allow for greater and more meaningful inclusion of aspects of SRHR and GBV in climate policy. This includes identifying and focusing on region-specific entry points in national climate actions to ensure no one is left behind and address underlying patterns of vulnerability and inequalities.

Limitations

NDCs relay a nation's priority actions in responding to climate change and are limited in their ability to unpack specific sectoral actions. Related national climate policy documents will contain more detailed action related to the thematic areas described in this report. Readers are encouraged to keep this in mind when reading the report. Not all countries have submitted an NDC since 2020. For those countries that submitted their first NDC before 2020, an updated NDC was included in the analysis. As we included only the most recent NDC submitted in and after 2020, it is possible that some information included in the first NDC may not have been relayed into the updated, second or interim NDC, and therefore have not been included in the analysis. Furthermore, many other documents relevant to SRHR and GBV were not included in the analysis, such as other national climate policies or gender action plans (GAPs), which were commonly referenced in NDCs. Our analysis is limited to the information included in the NDCs.



Photo: © UNFPA WCARO

KEY FINDINGS BY THEMATIC AREA

The climate emergency imperils progress towards all our global goals, including achieving sexual and reproductive health and rights for all. Shifting temperatures and other climate consequences may lead to pregnancy losses or low birth weight. Natural disasters often disrupt provision of contraceptive services, which can lead to an increase in unintended pregnancies. Climate-induced disasters can also upend programmes to respond to gender-based violence, and where people are displaced, child marriages and other harmful practices also tend to rise.

DR. NATALIA KANEM,
UNFPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence and harmful practices

The review of the NDCs shows that six out of the 22 NDCs reviewed include issues related to SRHR and GBV (see figure 1). Most of these references acknowledge the impacts of climate change on SRHR and GBV, but only a few outlined specific interventions and/or initiatives to strengthen resilience to climate change through SRHR or GBV services. There were four references to maternal health and one to menstrual hygiene. There were seven references to SRHR, two references to GBV and no reference to harmful practices across the NDCs. Four of the SRHR references were to maternal and newborn health.

Maternal and newborn health

Four NDCs referenced aspects of maternal and newborn health, with the Congo (2021: p. 25) noting that existing high maternal and infant mortality rates already constitute a worrying health issue for the country. Côte d'Ivoire recognizes that climate change-related increases in temperature, including extreme heatwaves and flooding-related disease outbreaks, are climate factors likely to increase the health risks for pregnant women (Côte d'Ivoire NDC, 2022: p. 21) as well as their mortality rate and vulnerability, as seen in Togo (2021: p. 39). Benin (2021: p. 60) is the only country to include measures directly addressing maternal health as it includes an unspecified reproductive health programme in its adaptation component that aims to improve the quality and accessibility of health services for maternal and newborn health.

FIGURE 1: Number of Nationally Determined Contributions that integrate sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence and harmful practice issues out of the 22 Nationally Determined Contributions reviewed in the West and Central Africa region

6

**countries integrate
sexual and reproductive
health and rights**

out of **22**
total Nationally

Determined Contributions

Other references to sexual and reproductive health and rights

Reproductive health is also referenced when describing groups vulnerable to climate-related temperature increases (see table 1). Thus, Côte d'Ivoire (2022: p. 21) draws attention to the risk for women in the process of menopause, and Togo (2021: p. 39) mentions that people living with HIV and AIDS are, as a group, at increased risk of higher mortality and highlights its progress from the previous NDC in improving access to integrated family planning and HIV and AIDS services. Finally, Benin (2021: pp. 27, 57) describes women of reproductive age as a group vulnerable to malnutrition, and has established projects to increase food security and build resilience among these groups.

Gender-based violence

Gender-based violence is only mentioned in two NDCs (see table 2). Only Guinea (2021: p. 28) references GBV in relation to climate change, with its NDC noting the risk of violence for women when collecting fuelwood, and the country's solution to improve stoves to reduce wood collection time for women, which will also reduce their risk of respiratory diseases. Sierra Leone (2021: p. 16) references its gender justice laws that address domestic violence, but does not specify further the implication of this law for the country's climate action.

TABLE 1:
Key references to sexual and reproductive health and rights in Nationally Determined Contributions in West and Central Africa

Benin**	<p>"Support Program for Health Activities of the Reproduction (PAASR): Improve the quality and accessibility of health services for mother and child health." (p. 60)</p> <p>"Food Security and Resilience Building Project (PROSAR) GIZ: Improving the food situation of people vulnerable to malnutrition, especially women of childbearing age and young children." (p. 27)</p> <p>Adaptation measure: "The food situation of people vulnerable to malnutrition, especially women of reproductive age and young children, has improved." (p. 57)</p>
Congo (the)**	<p>"Congo's demographic and health indicators highlight the worrying state of the population's health. This state is characterized by high maternal, neonatal, infant and child mortality and high morbidity." (p. 25)</p>
Côte d'Ivoire**	<p>"In Côte d'Ivoire, the negative repercussions of climate change are perceptible in many sectors, the main ones being the following: (ii) increase in waves extreme heat with intense effects on pregnant women and women in the process of menopause." (p. 21)</p>
Togo**	<p>"In terms of health, high temperatures and flooding lead to the outbreak and proliferation of germs of certain diseases such as malaria, meningitis, typhoid fever, cholera and respiratory diseases that were once localized and controlled. So far, the northern regions (Savannas and Kara) are the most vulnerable. However, the simulation shows that in the future, the risk of its diseases could spread southward with aggravation in the northern regions. The mortality rate would increase and the vulnerability of the elderly, pregnant women, people with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS and children will become increasingly high." (p. 39)</p> <p>Progress made on adaptation efforts by Togo in initial NDC: "Increase in the supply of integrated HIV/AIDS FP services with a percentage of health facilities offering these services reaching 91%." (p. 51)</p>

** indicates that the text has been translated from its source language into English for this report.



TABLE 2:
All references to gender-based violence in Nationally Determined Contributions in West and Central Africa

Guinea**	“Reducing fuelwood consumption results either in saving time on collection, or for those who buy the fuel, in saving money on the fraction of the daily budget managed by women (which includes food, education and care of children). Reducing wood collection time also reduces exposure to the risk of violence against women. In the case of Tier 3 and 4 improved stoves, better combustion reduces exposure to toxic fumes and the incidence of respiratory diseases for women and infants.” (p. 28)
Sierra Leone	“Over the past decade, the government has developed and enacted a range of national laws, policies, and strategies to address gender inequality. This included the passage of the three ‘gender justice’ laws’, which respectively address domestic violence, improve women’s access to land through inheritance, and strengthen women’s rights in marriage and divorce through a registration process.” (p. 16)

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Harmful practices

Despite strong and growing evidence of increasing climate impacts on drivers of harmful practices, none of the NDCs mention the intersection of climate change and harmful practices in the region.

Health

All 22 NDCs contain some reference to health (see figure 2), although Sao Tome and Principe only mention issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic without further discussing the impacts of climate change on health.



FIGURE 2: Number of Nationally Determined Contributions that integrate health issues out of the 22 Nationally Determined Contributions reviewed in the West and Central Africa region

22
countries integrate
health
out of **22**
total Nationally
Determined Contributions

Eleven countries describe aspects of mortality, of which six (Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Chad, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo) directly link the increased risk of loss of human life to climate disasters and extreme weather events. Chad (2021: p. 32) describes how extreme weather events like floods and heatwaves can lead to the death of schoolchildren and teachers. Mauritania describes premature deaths due to epidemics, epizootics and general health risks from climate change (Mauritania NDC, 2021: p. 46) and Côte d'Ivoire references indoor and outdoor pollution (Côte d'Ivoire NDC 2022: p. 16). Côte d'Ivoire (2022: p. 17), Ghana (2021: p. 4) and Mali (2021: p. 54) are the only countries that explicitly describe how climate actions in the NDCs will contribute towards reducing loss of lives, as they suggest that the greenhouse gas emission reductions and related improved air quality will avert 7,000 premature deaths, 2,900 deaths and 2.4 million premature deaths by 2030, respectively. Côte d'Ivoire (2022: p. 36) further adopts adaptation measures for coastal areas that are likely to reduce the loss of human life linked to floods and associated epidemics.

Climate-related diseases are mentioned in the majority of the NDCs (15 out of 22). Seven of these reference vector-borne diseases, six mention diarrhoeal diseases, including cholera, and seven refer to respiratory diseases. The NDCs also mention other diseases to varying extents, such as meningitis (the Central African Republic NDC, 2021: p. 24; the Niger NDC, 2021: p. 9; Togo NDC, 2021: p. 39), typhoid (the Central African Republic NDC, 2021: p. 24), seafood poisoning (Sierra Leone NDC, 2021: p. 9), as well as foot-and-mouth disease, lumpy skin disease and the spread of ticks (Benin NDC, 2021: p. 9). The NDCs speak to various issues of climate variability that lead to the increased risk of disease and/or changes in disease patterns. Extreme weather events are commonly mentioned as a direct risk factor for disease emergence, such as in the NDC of Cameroon (2021: pp. 4, 31),



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which notes droughts and floods as amplifiers of diseases. Several countries highlight temperature increases as a risk factor for diseases, including Sierra Leone (2021: p. 9) and Togo (2021: p. 39), which outline the risk of diarrhoeal and other diseases.

Six NDCs directly link gender with health (see table 3). Guinea, Mauritania and Togo outline climate-related health risks, particularly for women. These include respiratory diseases due to toxic air pollution from cooking (Guinea NDC, 2021: p. 28), epidemics, epizootics and other risks (Mauritania NDC, 2021: p. 46). Four NDCs include measures or interventions on gender and health, as seen in the NDC of Ghana, including an adaptation action aimed at managing climate-induced and gender health-related risks with 31.5 million beneficiaries (Ghana NDC, 2021: p. 25). Both Mauritania (2021: p. 61) and Nigeria (2021: p. 28) include strategies to strengthen their response at a national level by proposing a health strategy for women and integrating gender issues in the health sector, respectively. Both countries also include community health projects that either strengthen women's resilience or the capacity of female community nurses. Guinea is the only country that includes impact indicators specific to women, including water and sanitation (Guinea NDC, 2021: pp. 12, 41).



TABLE 3: The Nationally Determined Contributions of Guinea and Mauritania describing linkages between gender and health	
Guinea**	"In this respect, the measurement of the proportion of women having access to a source of drinking water and sanitation infrastructure provided for in the country's detailed commitments provides information on the evolution of their conditions." (p. 41)
Mauritania**	"Strengthening the resilience of rural women to the effects of climate change: Establishment of community health mutuals for the benefit of women in the wilayas of Assaba, Brakna, Gorgol and the two Hodhs, conditional." (p. 61)

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Common determinants that are related to health include waste, pollution, water and sanitation, which are to some extent mentioned in 20 out of 22 NDCs. Sierra Leone (2021: p. 30) is the only country that links waste management to youth by aiming to build the capacity of community youth to transform waste into wealth.

A large share of the NDCs refer to food security and malnutrition (16 out of 22). Four countries (the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Sierra Leone) refer to malnutrition as a development challenge, and the latter directly states that the high level of malnutrition and child mortality make the country vulnerable to climate shocks (Sierra Leone NDC, 2021: p. 9). Sierra Leone (2021: p. 20) states the need to address disease outbreaks and disasters to reduce food security risks, Togo (2021: p. 61) aims to reduce malnutrition through the fight against food insecurity and Liberia (2021: p. 31) includes interventions to develop national dietary guidelines to support climate-resilient, food-secure livelihoods by 2025.

Since this review looked at NDCs from 2020 onwards, more than half of these (14 out of 22) refer to the COVID-19 pandemic. Several describe how COVID-19 exacerbated existing vulnerabilities (Chad NDC, 2021: p. 10), such as security concerns, fragile economies or the Ebola health crisis as mentioned by Guinea (2021: p. 7) and Liberia (2021: p. 2). While COVID-19 is mainly

described as a challenge, Sao Tome and Principe (2021: p. 1) envisions a post-COVID-19 pandemic green recovery and sees this as an opportunity to consolidate a more prosperous future by pursuing low-carbon and resilient development.

Health surveillance, including early warning systems, is a priority concern in 12 out of 22 NDCs. Almost all of these adopt various strategies to track health and diseases in relation to climate change. The Central African Republic (2021: p. 29), the Congo (2021: p. 32), Côte d'Ivoire (2022: pp. 21, 35), Ghana (2021: pp. 15, 25), Liberia (2021: p. 36), Mauritania (2021: p. 19), Senegal (2020: p. 38) and Togo (2021: p. 43) all outline interventions to improve epidemiological surveillance to track climate-sensitive diseases and epidemics, for example, through establishing information systems, integrating climate data into national health information systems and strengthening technical capacities. Other strategies are found in the NDC of Gabon (2022: p. 23), which aims to invest in a centre for medical research for better monitoring of the impacts of climate change on emerging diseases, and in the NDC of Cabo Verde (2020: p. 45), which aims to create a profile on health and climate change to strengthen its database and progress tracking. Cabo Verde also discusses climate change regarding its One Health Strategy, which is designed to inform all health-related policies and has a holistic approach to human, animal and environmental health.





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Only four countries focus on strengthening research on the linkages between climate change and health, and only three are related to human health. The Central African Republic (2021: pp. 28–29) plans to produce evidence of health systems, together with its vulnerability to climate risks, to identify adaptation options. The Congo (2021: p. 27) aims to improve research on understanding climate health impacts. Liberia (2021: p. 36) commits to increase funding by half a million dollars per year for research on the climate health nexus, including health vulnerabilities caused by climate change.

Just five NDCs include a focus on health information and campaigns. Liberia (2021: p. 36) seeks to establish 425 community health clubs to disseminate information on changing health risks, while Mali (2021: p. 76) plans for awareness-raising activities

on the impacts of air pollution on human health and Côte d'Ivoire (2022: p. 35) aims to educate the most vulnerable on the health risks associated with climate change.

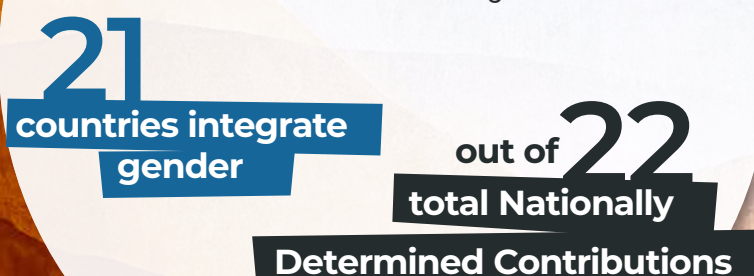
Finally, a few NDCs focus on strengthening health systems through various measures. Some of these include deploying or building the capacity of health workers and technical teams, including specialists for referral facilities, to understand the increased health risks due to climate vulnerabilities (Liberia NDC, 2021: p. 36; Mali NDC, 2021: p. 76; Côte d'Ivoire NDC, 2022: p. 35), investing in medical technical platforms and health infrastructure (Burkina Faso NDC, 2021: p. 16) and by integrating environmental dimensions into institutional capacities to strengthen health infrastructure (Benin NDC, 2021: p. 61; Côte d'Ivoire NDC, 2022: p. 35).

Gender

Gender featured prominently in the NDCs, with only Gabon having no reference to gender (see figure 3). A common aspect found in 17 out of 22 NDCs is some commitment to gender mainstreaming or integration of gender issues across the NDCs and/or sectors. Countries like Burkina Faso (2021: p. 6), Chad (2021: pp. 31–32), Mali (2021: p. 19) and Nigeria (2021: p. 29) describe how a detailed gender analysis informed the development and identification of priorities in the NDC. In Chad, studies on climate change and gender provided three concrete recommendations: (1) strengthen the capacities of the ministry in charge of gender to exercise their catalytic role in integrating gender into climate change policies; (2) systematically implement gender issues across climate policies and plans; and (3) guarantee women's access to decision-making spheres.

With a commitment to gender mainstreaming, many NDCs outline strategies for taking gender aspects into account in implementing the NDC. Guinea (2021: p. 12) notes its commitment to gender-specific monitoring in its outcome and impact indicators to understand possible differentiated impacts between genders. Mauritania (2021: p. 12) takes a different approach and reserves 10 per cent of the budget for each programme or project for the integration of gender, youth and human rights dimensions. Several NDCs comment on how they aim to integrate gender across other sectors. While most NDCs present this in general terms regarding raising awareness and building capacity for more gender-sensitive sector policies, others point to the specific sectors they are targeting.

FIGURE 3: Number of Nationally Determined Contributions that integrate gender issues out of the 22 Nationally Determined Contributions reviewed in the West and Central Africa region



Examples include urban planning (Benin NDC, 2021: p. 54; Liberia NDC, 2021: p. 15), tourism (Cabo Verde NDC, 2020: p. 13), security and stability (the Niger NDC, 2021: p. 2), agriculture (the Gambia NDC, 2021: p. 22) and just transition (Nigeria NDC, 2021: p. 1). A few countries point to the necessity of working closer with gender ministries. In Côte d'Ivoire (2022: p. 22, 37), this has already successfully translated into the establishment of a memorandum of understanding between the ministries of

environment and sustainable development and the ministry in charge of women, family and children. Another successful outcome of cross-sectoral collaboration is the gender and climate strategy, and Côte d'Ivoire (2022: p. 37) plans to strengthen local capacity in operationalizing the strategy. Finally, Mali (2021: p. 22) plans to develop objectives and indicators specific to each sector, looking at the impacts relating to gender in areas of mitigation and adaptation.

BOX 1:**The Nationally Determined Contribution of Cabo Verde outlining measures for climate-empowering women**

“Under the lead of the Climate Department and the Ministry for Family and Social Inclusion, and with the support of The Cape Verde ICIEG [Institute for Gender Equality and Equity] and the INE [National Institute of Statistics of Cabo Verde], the following measures are planned for climate-empowering women and reducing their climate vulnerabilities:

- By 2022, assess which groups and individuals are most vulnerable to which climate effects, distinguishing between age, gender, income, sector, education, location, impairments etc. and define and operationalise group specific climate adaptation measures and climate empowerment actions;
- By 2022, integrate climate issues and Action for Climate Empowerment into the updated gender equality plans and strategies;
- By 2022, ICIEG will define climate policy-specific needs, targets and indicators on gender-climate mainstreaming for all industries and Government offices. Therefore, the capacity [...] ICIEG and [...] INE to collect, analyse and interpret gender-disaggregated statistics and qualitative studies for climate relevant sectors, or make better use of available data, will be reinforced;
- Define roles and responsibilities of and within different institutions with regard to gender and climate actions; appoint a National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point, linked to the Climate Governance Framework (see below, section on Transparency and Governance);
- As part of the National Action Plan under preparation, present gender-differentiated and disaggregated data to identify gaps, needs, achievements and opportunities for women, men, the elderly, the youth – children in particular – and marginalised and vulnerable groups, especially in rural communities and report on updates every other year onwards;
- Accountability: Every year, DNA [National Directorate of Planning/Ministry of Finance] and DNP [National Directorate of Environment] report on progress in empowering vulnerable groups in climate action and on the effects of gender-sensitive climate policy planning, budgeting, and implementation.” (p. 50)

Climate vulnerabilities can strongly compromise the achievement of the SDGs and negatively impact and exacerbate existing gender inequalities, as noted by Burkina Faso (2021: p. 2) and Mali (2021: p. 21). A majority (16 out of 22) of the NDCs are aware of the vulnerabilities of women, which Cabo Verde (Cabo Verde NDC, 2020: p. 12) further defines in terms of being adversely affected by climate hazards with limited ability and income to recover. One commonly mentioned vulnerability factor is women's gender-bound roles in households and agriculture. These factors include women's role in food preparation (the Congo NDC, 2021: p. 40; Guinea NDC, 2021: p. 28), in water and wood collection (Cabo Verde NDC, 2020: p. 14; Nigeria NDC, 2021: p. 28), in fish processing and marketing (Cabo Verde NDC, 2020: p. 38; Sierra Leone NDC, 2021: p. 15) and in child and elder care, family nutrition and management of natural resources in sectors susceptible to climate change (Mali NDC, 2021: p. 21). The time devoted to domestic tasks, and hence the economic disparities and imbalances in hardship, limits women's opportunities for adaptation (Côte d'Ivoire NDC, 2022: p. 20). Lack of land ownership is another common factor shaping gender vulnerabilities as described by the Congo (2021: p. 40), Cabo Verde (2021: p. 12), Guinea (2021: p. 43) and Sierra Leone (2021: pp. 16–17) with the latter pointing to the challenge of patriarchal norms dominating property ownership and inheritance as well as discrimination in the public domain. Other challenges shaping gender vulnerabilities include underrepresentation in decision-making bodies (Cabo Verde NDC, 2020: p. 12; Mali NDC, 2021: p. 21), women not well represented as beneficiaries of climate programmes (Burkina Faso NDC, 2021: p. 5), limited access to knowledge, capital and credit and technologies (Guinea NDC, 2021: p. 43; Nigeria NDC, 2021: p. 28; Cabo Verde NDC, 2020: p. 12; Sierra Leone NDC, 2021: p. 16) and socioeconomic factors of education, poverty

and unemployment (Chad NDC, 2021: p. 31; Cabo Verde NDC, 2021: p. 12; Mauritania NDC, 2021: p. 47). According to Chad (2021: p. 8), the COVID-19 pandemic has amplified some of these gender vulnerabilities.

A common approach to targeting gender vulnerabilities is to build resilience and the ability to adapt to the negative impacts of climate change (Cameroon NDC, 2021: p. 32) and ensure that men and women equally benefit from the opportunities offered by programmes to combat climate change (Mali NDC, 2021: p. 23). Some of the more specific strategies include the facilitation of land access and social safety nets for women (Chad NDC, 2021: p. 31), the creation of green jobs (Côte d'Ivoire NDC, 2022: p. 4) and clean cooking and reducing fuelwood consumption by providing improved ovens and stoves (Nigeria NDC, 2021: p. 28; Guinea NDC, 2021: pp. 28, 42).



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Women's participation and decision-making are also commonly highlighted in more than half of the NDCs (14 out of 22), although a number of these more indirectly engage with women through representative bodies such as women's groups, civil society agencies and advisory councils for women. One example is Côte d'Ivoire (2022: p. 10), which, through a structured dialogue with stakeholders, gathered inputs for a national gender and climate change strategy. Many countries have institutional frameworks for stakeholder consultations on gender issues, for example, the National Climate Change Stakeholder Forum in the Gambia (2021: p. 34), the technical coordination led by the Ministry of Environment of the Congo (2021: p. 36) and the NDC business roundtables (Nigeria NDC 2021: p. 42). Liberia describes a concrete outcome of some of these initiatives (2021: p. 5). The country held a National Gender Dialogue focusing on women leading climate action, which resulted in women taking ownership of the NDC revision process. The commitment to increase women's participation in climate action is defined by Guinea-Bissau (2021: p. 35), which envisions a future where women are seen as agents of change contributing to the assessment of needs and prioritization of initiatives with equal participation in decision-making. Similarly, Mali (2021: p. 9) sees women as agents of change and holders of knowledge and skills related to mitigation and adaptation. While this is the ambition, only a few countries explicitly mention women's role in implementing climate action. Sierra Leone (2021: p. 48) is committed to empowering women for meaningful participation in NDC implementation with a voice in climate management decision-making. Benin (2021: p. 36) sets gender mainstreaming targets for the percentage of women taken into account in implementing projects and Mali (2021: p. 21) aims to include women's voices, needs and expertise in climate change programmes.

Agriculture is the sector most often referenced regarding gender and is mentioned in 17 out of the 22 NDCs. Many of these include specific actions for women in agriculture, with several aimed at strengthening women's empowerment and resilience to manage risks and participate in all steps of the value chain, thereby increasing agricultural productivity (Chad NDC, 2021: p. 44; the Congo NDC, 2021: p. 42; Liberia NDC, 2021: p. 31; Mali NDC, 2021: pp. 40–41). Cabo Verde (2020: p. 37) and the Women's Act in the Gambia (2021: p. 34) highlight access to agricultural financing and credit programmes for women. While Benin (2021: p. 58) sets an overall objective to promote job creation by creating agricultural enterprises for women, Mali (2021: pp. 40–41) proposes to improve land allocation systems. Côte d'Ivoire (2022: p. 35) proposes several measures that consider the differentiated impacts on women and men, including environmental information systems and the promotion of agricultural practices adapted to women. Projects specifically targeting women small-scale farmers are presented by Guinea-Bissau (2021: p. 30), Nigeria (2021: p. 28) and Mali (2021: pp. 40–41), with a focus on diversification of agricultural production and provision of agroprocessing and storage facilities. Several NDCs introduce specific targets and indicators for women to be accountable for addressing gender inequalities. For instance, Cabo Verde (2022: p. 37) sets a target that 40 per cent of agricultural workers will be women by 2030 and the Central African Republic (2021: p. 17) sets a target that 50 per cent of the households included should be owned by women.



Other sectors referenced regarding gender include water and food security (13 out of 22) and energy (7 out of 22). In terms of energy, some notable interventions are found in Cabo Verde's NDC (2020: p. 24), which plans to operationalize its Action Plan for Gender and Energy by 2030. Other NDCs describe how women benefit from and have a role in solar energy, including as solar technicians and project managers (the Central African Republic NDC, 2021: p. 15; Sierra Leone NDC, 2021: p. 39). Mali (2021: p. 37) states that its mitigation initiatives will improve women's access to energy technologies and create job opportunities for women in traditionally male-dominated jobs in the energy sector. Climate-resilient food and water security for women is a priority across the 12 NDCs. One gender-sensitive project is found in the NDC of Guinea-Bissau (2021: p. 30), which promotes a resilience credit initiative that includes entrepreneurship and business opportunities in the field of food security, in alignment with gender equality and women's empowerment.

Aspects of disasters and displacement in relation to gender equality are discussed in only a few NDCs. Sierra Leone (2021: p. 21) is one of the only countries to acknowledge that climate-related natural disasters disproportionately affect women. Cabo Verde (2020: p. 43), Guinea (2021: p. 43) and Guinea-Bissau

(2021: p. 30) respond to this vulnerability through gender-sensitive projects on climate information and early warning systems and increased participation in agropastoral conflict management committees. Sao Tome and Principe (2021: p. 8) refers to its gender policies that promote gender equality in managing natural disasters to increase their adaptation participation. Gender in relation to migration is an issue only mentioned in two NDCs. The Congo (2021: p. 27) seeks to explore gender inclusion in resettlement for climate-induced migration. The Niger (2021: p. 30) relies on data from their Ministry of Environment, which includes a reference to a recent national study on the link between migration, gender, social inclusion, environment and climate change.

Gender-disaggregated data is another common feature across the NDCs, and countries like Guinea, Burkina Faso and Mali commit to gender-disaggregated indicators and monitoring. As described in the NDC of Cabo Verde (2020: p. 50), this data can help assess which groups are more vulnerable to specific climate impacts and operationalize group-specific climate adaptation measures (as shown in box 1). Finally, countries like Mali (2021: p. 22) propose gender-sensitive budgeting in the revision of sectoral policies and programmes.





Population dynamics, human mobility and urbanization

All NDCs reviewed in this region included some reference to population dynamics (see figure 4). Migration and displacement are commonly mentioned in 10 out of 22 NDCs

that outline how the movement of populations has implications for climate change and vice versa (see figure 5).

FIGURE 4: Number of Nationally Determined Contributions that integrate population dynamics issues out of the 22 Nationally Determined Contributions reviewed in the West and Central Africa region

22
included references of
population dynamics
out of **22**
total Nationally
Determined Contributions

FIGURE 5: Number of Nationally Determined Contributions that mention migration, urbanization and human mobility out of the 22 Nationally Determined Contributions reviewed in the West and Central Africa region

10
references of migration,
urbanization and
human mobility
out of **22**
total Nationally
Determined Contributions

The majority describe how climate variability has increased climate-induced migration and displacement of communities (the Niger NDC, 2021: p. 7; Senegal NDC, 2020: p. 35). The drivers are mainly related to extreme weather events (Gabon NDC, 2022: p. 23) such as drought (Chad NDC, 2021: p. 16) as well as loss of coastal territory (Cabo Verde NDC, 2020: p. 42). Nigeria (2021: p. 10) exemplifies this with the 2012 floods, which affected seven million people, displaced 2.3 million and killed 363. An alternative link between climate and migration is found in the NDC of Cameroon (2021: p. 9), which predicts that refugees and displaced persons will put pressure on natural resources such as water points. A few countries propose solutions to support people displaced due to climate change. While Cabo Verde (2020: p. 43) presents action to protect displaced populations, the Congo (2021: p. 27) outlines strategies for resettlement through extensive consultations with migrants and support to local government planning. Gabon (2022: pp. 6, 23–24) similarly supports activities on resettlement, preparedness and for climate-related migration and refugees

(see box 2), and Mali (2021: p. 69) includes a project on strengthening the resilience of agropastoral populations.

Urbanization is referenced in 10 NDCs. As described by Ghana (2021: p. 18), most countries view this trend as a challenge for development. Several NDCs note how the increased urban population puts pressure on sustainable management of waste (the Central African Republic NDC, 2021: p. 19; Sierra Leone NDC, 2021: p. 16), food security (Cameroon NDC, 2021: p. 8) and water resources (Sierra Leone NDC, 2021: p. 7) and increases gender and youth vulnerabilities (Mauritania NDC, 2021: p. 47). Sierra Leone (2021: p. 16) further describes how urbanization has not been accompanied by sufficient resources to cope with the accelerated demand for infrastructure, implying that climate risks can increase vulnerabilities of those already at risk, including people in informal settlements. While the challenges of urbanization are well described, only a few countries, such as the Niger (2021: p. 20) and Senegal (2020: p. 4), present an ambition to manage development issues related to urbanization without specifying action in further detail.

BOX 2:**The adaptation actions of Gabon to address climate-induced migration****

“Urban planning, climate resilient architecture and resettlement of people and industries in areas that will be prone to flooding in the coming decades.” (p. 23)

“Preparedness for increased climate-related migration and instability in the region.” (p. 24)

“Manage the inevitable increase in the number of climate refugees, who will flock to the Humid Congo Basin to cope with the loss of agricultural yield in the surrounding regions and countries.” (p. 6)

** indicates that the text has been translated from its source language into English for this report.



The NDCs present various aspects of their countries' demographic profiles, and 19 out of 22 present aspects of their age composition, population sizes and density, geographical distribution and fertility levels. Population growth is one of the most referenced population dynamics issues across the NDCs, and countries link this to climate change to varying extents. Some NDCs perceive population growth as an opportunity to rebuild the economy not just as it was but more resilient, as described by Cabo Verde (2020: p. 7). Hence, a few NDCs respond directly to the anthropogenic pressure in a sustainable manner, for example, through a project on classified forests (Benin NDC, 2021: p. 32) and by adopting sustainable fishing practices to respond to the pressure on island fishing species (Cabo Verde NDC, 2020: p. 39). Guinea-Bissau (2021: p. 11) gives attention to land protection and refers to the evidence that pressure on natural resources by local populations is less within protected areas than in areas that are not regulated.

Population data, in particular on population growth, has in many NDCs been central to analysing estimates of waste-related increases to greenhouse gas emissions (Gabon NDC, 2022: p. 22) and larger demands for natural and public resources such as energy needs (Benin NDC, 2021: p. 24; Guinea NDC, 2021: p. 8). Hence, countries like Guinea (2021: pp. 20–28) have used data on population growth to identify its targets for future per capita consumption of firewood, thereby contributing to sustainable development by being aware of the total consumption levels. The Niger (2021: p. 7) mentions its high fertility level, which fell from 7.6 to 6.2 children per woman between 2012 and 2021. The NDC report does not describe further its relation to or implication for climate change.

A few countries highlight the negative implications of population growth on natural resources. Mali (2021: p. 13) mentions how population growth and climate constraints have led to overexploitation and degradation of the country's resources. Guinea (2021: p. 6) describes how food insecurity is an existing development issue that is difficult to solve in light of population growth. Water security is also discussed in relation to population growth, with Guinea (2021: p. 40) and Gabon (2022: p. 21) noting the pressure on water resources and the latter further presents the exacerbated risk of cross-border water-related conflicts in the region. A few countries outline how population growth exerts pressure on natural resources (Cameroon NDC, 2021: p. 8), intensifies the exploitation of resources and coastlines, increases waste disposal, puts the health of coastal ecosystems at risk and eliminates the capacity of nature to regenerate itself (Cabo Verde NDC, 2020: p. 38). It is important to stress the importance of a human rights-based approach to SRHR and that links between SRHR and population growth can present challenges to the vision of the ICPD Programme of Action.



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Youth

Young people are considered to some extent in 19 out of 22 NDCs, while Cameroon, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal do not mention young people (see figure 6). Around half (9 out of 22) describe young people as a vulnerable group to climate change, with three countries ascribing this vulnerability to unemployment (Sierra Leone NDC, 2021: p. 14; Mauritania NDC, 2021: p. 47; Nigeria NDC, 2021: p. 30). Other factors shaping young people's vulnerability include malnutrition due to food insecurity (Benin NDC, 2021: p. 27), exclusion from decision-making and lack of financial resources (Cabo Verde NDC, 2020: p. 50), social unrest, urbanization (Mauritania NDC, 2021: p. 47) and limited access to resources and adaptive capacity (the Gambia NDC, 2021: p. 21). Cabo Verde (2020: p. 43) recognizes the differentiated impacts of disasters on young people, to which it responds with an action to set up early warning systems and adopt a national climate change vulnerability index. Cabo Verde (2020: p. 50) and Burkina Faso (2021: p. 18)

further point to the need for disaggregated data to have updated data on vulnerable groups, including youth and children.

Various approaches to youth participation are discussed in 10 out of 22 NDCs. The majority commit to increasing young people's participation in climate action and sustainable development, considering them as agents of change (Nigeria NDC, 2021: p. 30; Mauritania NDC, 2021: p. 47; Cabo Verde NDC, 2020: pp. 49–50) and foster social inclusion and empowerment of young people (Ghana NDC, 2021: p. 8; Sierra Leone NDC, 2021: p. 19). More specifically, some NDCs propose concrete actions for youth participation, for example, through youth-led schemes in waste collection and in off-grid solar energy interventions (Sierra Leone NDC, 2021: p. 36), in safeguarding natural resources as foresters, conservationists or entrepreneurs in locally sourced product businesses (Cabo Verde NDC, 2020: p. 30) and in water management and in the reduction of conflicts related to land use (Côte d'Ivoire NDC, 2022: p. 35).

FIGURE 6: Number of Nationally Determined

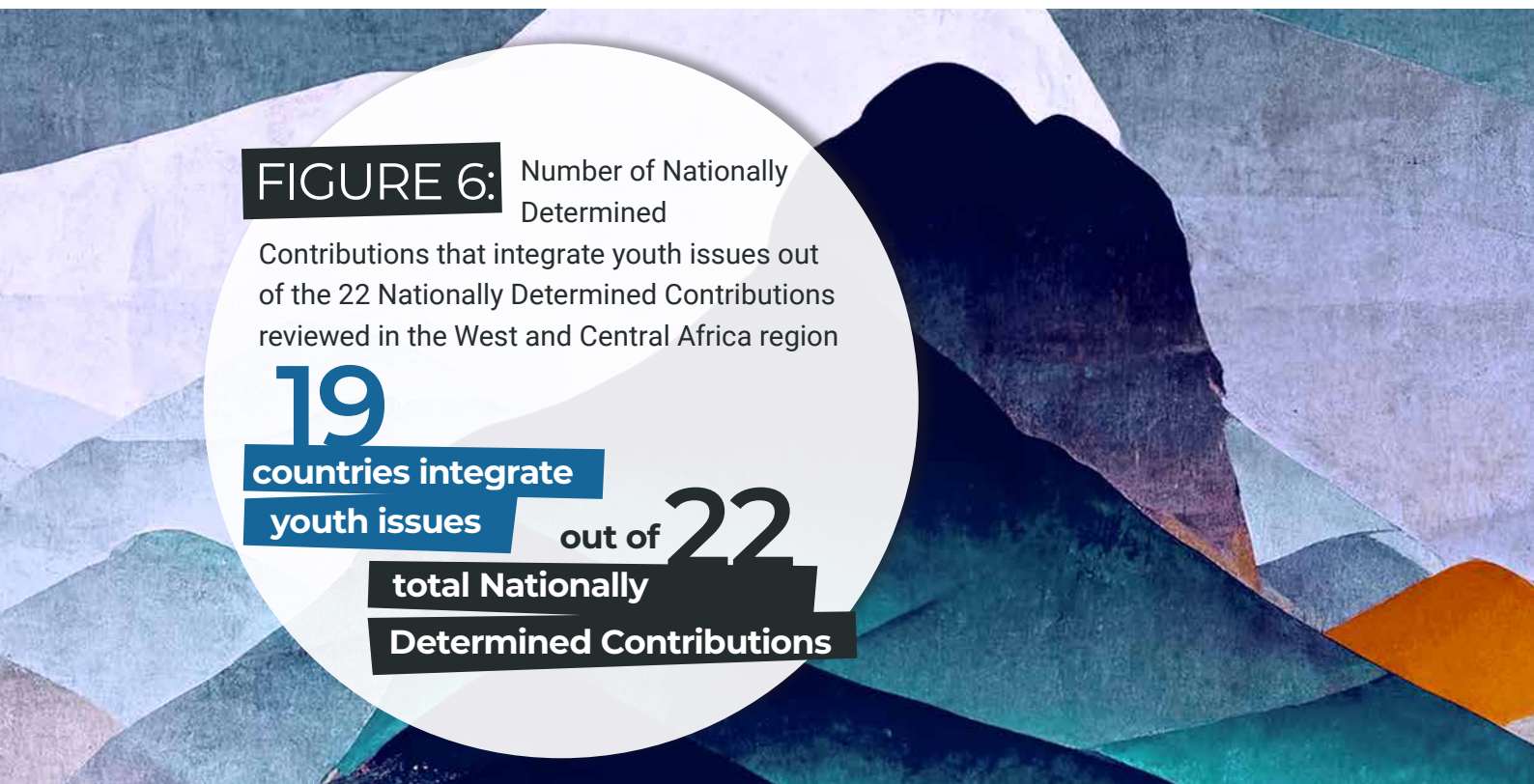
Contributions that integrate youth issues out of the 22 Nationally Determined Contributions reviewed in the West and Central Africa region

19

countries integrate youth issues

out of **22**

total Nationally Determined Contributions



Another common issue related to youth participation is young people's role in policy development, which is discussed in at least four NDCs. Young people have a significant role assigned in the NDC development process in a few countries, for example, through the Advisory Council for Youth (the Congo NDC, 2021: p. 36) and through a Youth Dialogue that led to a declaration securing youth participation in the NDC (Liberia NDC, 2021: p. 5). Cabo Verde (2020: p. 50) and the Gambia

(2021: p. 34) commit to engage with young people in climate policy, with the latter doing so through the participation of youth groups in the National Climate Change Stakeholder Forum. Mali (2021: p. 77) will include young people in a monitoring and coordination committee. Some of the most specific and ambitious interventions for the climate empowerment of young people are found in Cabo Verde's NDC and outlined in box 3.


The Nationally Determined Contribution of Cabo Verde outlines interventions for youth participation in climate action

"As concerns strengthening of participation and climate empowerment of society in general and young people in particular in the area of climate change, the following measures to build climate literacy, skills and engagement are planned:

- By 2022, identify and set up a network of youth associations (per island/municipality or city) as a focal point for youth participation in climate action and the annual;
- A digital platform, open access data and didactic iterative tools, such as Les Fresques du Climat, digital inventory by the young of the coping strategies of the old, for civic inter-generational knowledge building and sharing will be available by 2023 to engage all interested civic groups in climate conversations;
- Facilitate public access to climate information and include climate education and ancient coping practices in textbooks and schools for all age groups by 2025 and train teaching staff accordingly;
- From 2023 onwards, roll out specific training programmes, create job opportunities and offer financial support (including through tailored loan facilities for vulnerable groups) to individuals and entrepreneurs interested by the fields of RE [renewable energy], EE [energy efficiency], renewable water and other resources efficiency, regenerative agriculture, nature-based solutions, responsible tourism, marine protection and technology, shipbuilding, sustainable aquaculture. In addition, youth should be able to further their education in areas such as: repair and maintenance of appliances and bicycles, food processing and preservation, supply of local products to hotels, cultural services, recycling industry, digital tools allowing energy and resources savings, language proficiencies etc;
- By 2030 triple the number of jobs available for young adults in fields above related to climate change and sustainability (compared to today's level);
- The 2025 commitment to create a strong platform for the empowerment of the young, women and society as-a-whole in climate change policymaking and the implementation of climate change responses fostering knowledge, skills and sustainable jobs." (p. 51)

BOX 3:

The most preferred adaptation actions specifically addressing youth are job and income generation (10 out of 22 NDCs). Through various strategies, the NDCs aim to increase young people's employment in agriculture (Burkina Faso NDC, 2021: annex 3), in green entrepreneurship (Chad NDC, 2021: p. 31; Ghana NDC, 2021: p. 26), in the waste sector (Sierra Leone NDC, 2021: p. 26, 30) and in tourism, bicycle repairs and the blue economy (Cabo Verde NDC, 2020: pp. 26, 29, 39). In agriculture, Togo (2021: p. 49) plans to initiate cooperatives and young agricultural entrepreneurs in sustainable land management, while the Central African Republic (2021: p. 25) promotes actions for more diversified agriculture inclusive of youth. Côte d'Ivoire (2022: p. 35) will strengthen the environmental information system adapted to young people and support young people in agropastoral sectors to maintain social peace and improve purchasing power.



Youth in relation to health is only mentioned in two NDCs, with Mauritania (2021: p. 61) planning to develop a health strategy for women, youth and older persons, and Benin (2021: p. 57) striving to improve food and nutritional security and incomes of young people.

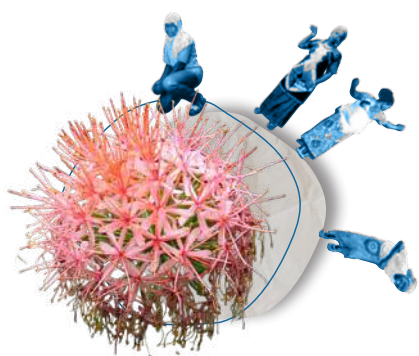
The consideration of future generations is outlined in three NDCs with the vision to protect the environment to secure a more viable future for coming generations, as outlined in the NDC of Guinea (2021: p. 8) and Côte d'Ivoire (2022: p. 4). Benin (2021: p. 63) points to the value of intergenerational knowledge-sharing to promote cultural identity values.

Youth report: a youth perspective on the Nationally Determined Contributions

Around the world, young people are extremely worried about climate change, with 75 per cent of the world's youth population fearing the impacts of climate change on their lives, livelihoods and opportunities (Hurley, Dalglish and Sacks, 2022). Many young people report fears about forming families and having children due to the existential threats presented by the climate crisis (UNICEF, 2022). Climate and health impacts will be most severely felt by marginalized children and adolescents, including Indigenous adolescents, refugees and adolescents with disabilities (UNICEF, 2022). Direct and indirect impacts on mental health are unequally distributed (WHO, 2022) and are expected to worsen in children and adolescents, particularly girls, with increasing temperatures (IPCC, 2022). Four million girls in low- and lower-middle-income countries will be prevented from completing their education because of climate-related events (Malala Fund, 2021). While young people face unique climate-related risks, they have been integral to bringing public attention to the crisis and leading the way in analysis and action and in demanding accountability.

A key component of the climate work of UNFPA is to empower adolescents and young people to build resilient communities, safeguard their well-being and protect their livelihoods.

For this review, UNFPA consulted with young people from the UNFPA Joint Youth Working Group on SRHR and Climate Change and YOUNGO. The aim of the consultation was to bring in young people's lived experiences from the region to capture youth perspectives on the NDCs and the climate crisis.



Through analysis of five selected countries, youth reviewers presented their perspectives on progress towards, and recommendations for, better inclusion of SRHR, youth and gender in the NDCs.

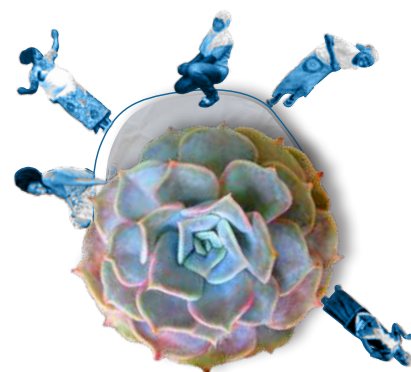
The youth reviewer in WCA is Fatou Jeng, who is the youngest Gender and Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) climate negotiator for The Gambia to the UNFCCC. From leading several projects on community resilience to climate change, she has impacted thousands of young people and planted more than 20,000 trees, which has resulted in her recognition as one of the most influential climate activists from Africa. Ms. Jeng reviewed five countries in WCA: Cabo Verde, the Gambia, Guinea, Liberia and Nigeria.

Findings

In all five NDCs reviewed, significant gaps exist in the inclusion of SRHR in climate-related processes. For example, only Guinea mentions the exposure of women to violence. Based on the analysis, the lack of inclusion of SRHR shows that countries have not recognized the link between climate change and SRHR issues such as GBV, child marriage and maternal mortality, or how climate change exacerbates these. While Cabo Verde, the Gambia, Liberia and Nigeria mention youth and aspects of their vulnerability and inclusion, Guinea does not describe the level of vulnerability young people face concerning climate change. This presents a gap in the NDC, as it fails to highlight the threat of climate change to youth. However, it does highlight actions to build young people's capacity for climate adaptation.



Fatou Jeng, 2022 Contact Point YOUNGO Women and Gender Working Group, Plant-for-the-Planet International Climate Empowerment team, Founder of Clean Earth, the Gambia and member of the United Nations Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change.
Photo: © UNphoto/Fatou Jeng



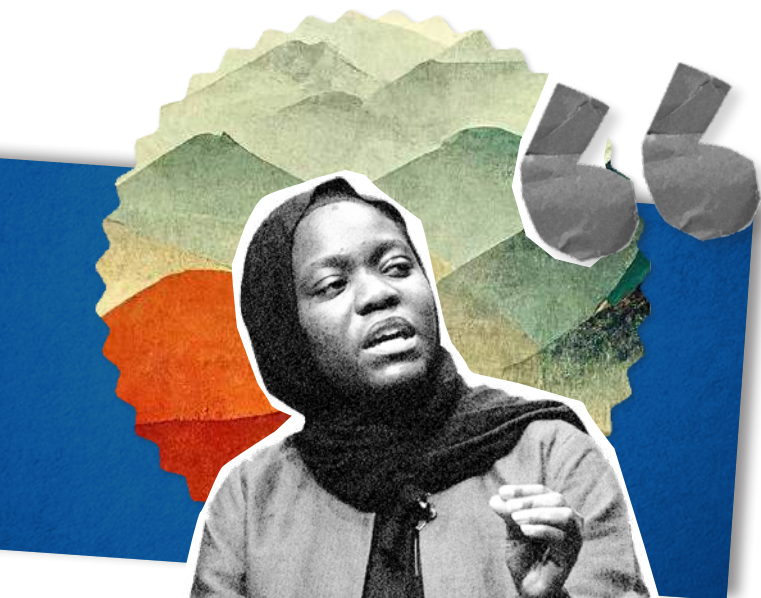


Photo: © UNphoto/Fatou Jeng

Key quotes

“The cost of climate change will fall disproportionately on future generations and today’s youth. The youth population has contributed the least to the rising crises we face today. Young people have been leading initiatives at grass roots, community, national and international levels, mobilizing resources, putting pressure on our world leaders and reminding them about the urgency of climate action, yet we continue to see the low participation of youth in climate decision-making processes.”

“As a young climate justice activist and daughter of a farmer who has experienced the impacts of climate change on our agricultural sector and other key economies, I continue to be concerned about the devastating effects climate change will have on our future. It is a rather unfair situation for us as young people to bear the burdens of the climate destruction done by the older generations which is destroying the lives of young people. Yet we have hope for a better planet.”

“The Gambia’s NDC has failed to mention SRHR despite the exacerbation of SRHR cases in the country due to the impacts of climate change. The Gambia over the years has experienced an increase in gender-based

violence cases, with 533 reported cases at the Network Against Gender-Based Violence one-stop centres and even more unreported cases, according to the Network Against Gender-Based Violence. Girls are forced into early child marriage. Moreover, the country has also witnessed an increase in maternal mortality and other pregnancy-related challenges, with 452 women dying during childbirth in the last two years according to Women’s Lives Matter. These are situations that continue to be exacerbated by climate change. Recently, the country experienced flash floods and windstorms, leading to the death and displacement of people and triggering GBV incidences.”

Taking action

1. With the severe climatic and climate-related conditions countries in WCA are experiencing, such as biodiversity loss, gender inequality, youth unemployment, poverty, GBV, maternal mortality and early and forced marriage, among other SRHR challenges, it is crucial to ensure climate action, including what is recommended in NDCs, includes comprehensive sexuality education in schools. This should be centred on women’s experiences to guarantee sustainable changes and resilient communities. Governments should ensure more adaptive measures to sensitize women and girls to climate change while putting in place safety nets to ensure that they continue to have access to SRHR services even during climate events and displacement.
2. As the young population in Africa grows, it is even more critical to have NDCs reflect the challenges young people face and to provide solutions for better youth engagement and efficient mainstreaming of gender and SRHR across critical sectors of development. This will help to foster effective climate-resilient development and leave no one behind.





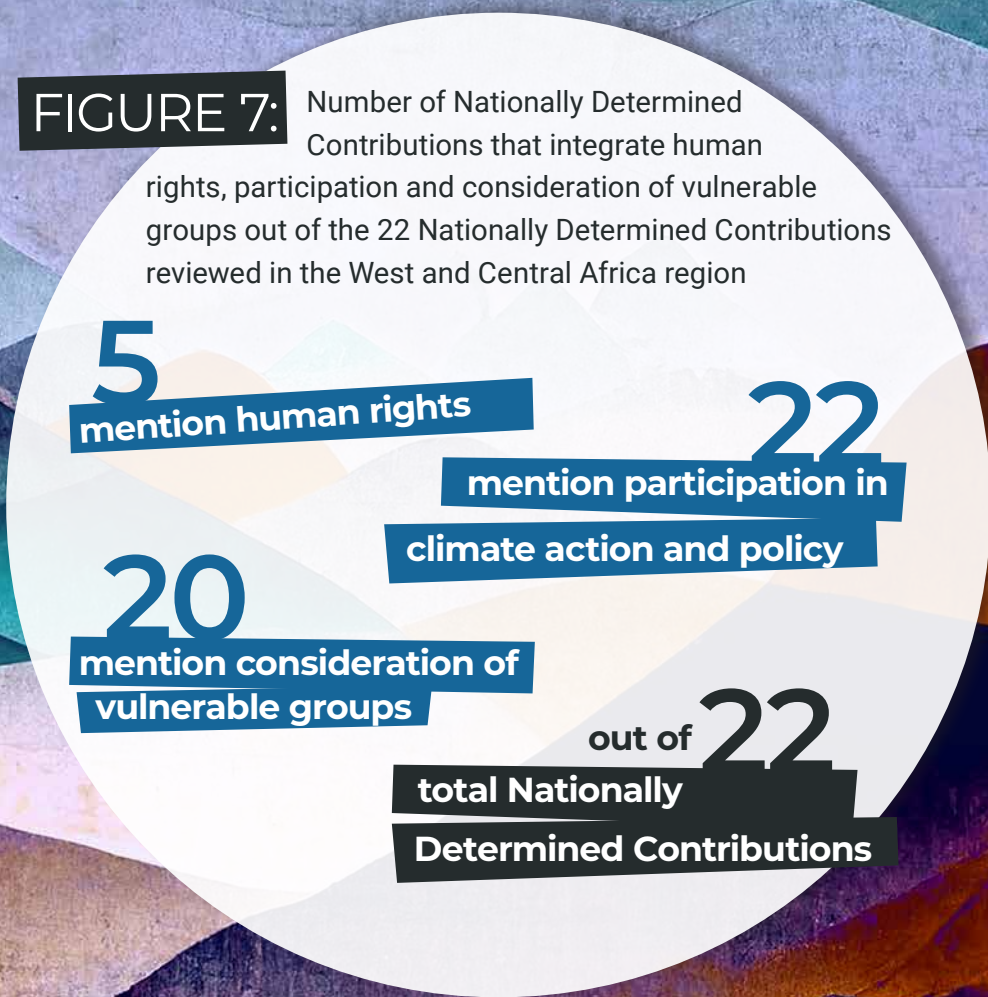
Leaving no one behind: human rights, participation and consideration of vulnerable groups

All except two NDCs (Gabon and Liberia) highlight some level of vulnerability of their population (see figure 7). Out of these, 16 NDCs describe women as a vulnerable group, and just five describe population vulnerability in relation to the health sector. The most commonly mentioned vulnerable groups include women, youth and children, older persons, Indigenous peoples, local communities – especially those in climate-exposed areas such as along coastlines – smallholder farmers and persons with disabilities. Cameroon (2021: p. 3)

states that the contribution of deforestation to climate change and to the vulnerability of local communities and Indigenous peoples is undeniable.

Addressing population vulnerability is a priority across several NDCs. Guinea is an example of a country that puts vulnerability reduction at the centre of its NDC (2021: p. 12), which states that the mitigation and adaptation measures are all likely to improve the adaptive capacities and resilience of women and vulnerable populations as a matter of priority.

FIGURE 7: Number of Nationally Determined Contributions that integrate human rights, participation and consideration of vulnerable groups out of the 22 Nationally Determined Contributions reviewed in the West and Central Africa region





Cameroon (2021: p. 10) highlights its ambition to capitalize on climate change as an opportunity to strengthen social cohesion and reduce vulnerabilities, while Mali (2021: p. 66) uses population vulnerability as a criteria for project selection. More specific actions to address vulnerabilities are found in relation to scaling up climate-smart agriculture infrastructure, technology and information (the Congo NDC, 2021: p. 26), improving marketing systems for agricultural products (the Niger NDC, 2021: p. 18), securing access to forest resources and tree planting (Nigeria NDC, 2021: p. 24) and developing watershed and strengthening food productivity to improve food and nutritional security (Benin NDC, 2021: p. 40; Chad NDC, 2021: p. 38). Chad (2021: p. 38) and Cabo Verde (2020: p. 43) highlight social protection as another concern. The latter plans to expand livelihood protection policies that assist vulnerable, low-income individuals to recover from damages associated with extreme weather events. While diverse in nature, all these actions aim to strengthen vulnerable groups' resilience.

Some NDCs outline strategies to increase their capacity to reach and engage with vulnerable populations. A concrete action to identify vulnerabilities is proposed by Sierra Leone (2021: p. 40), which plans to collect socioeconomic data to better understand vulnerabilities and impacts. Other approaches include developing a standardized, reliable climate vulnerability

index (Cabo Verde NDC, 2020: p. 53) and conducting in-depth vulnerability assessments (the Central African Republic NDC, 2021: pp. 28, 32). Finally, strengthening the institutional and technical capacities of administrations and civil society to assess local risks and vulnerabilities is proposed by Benin (2021: p. 43) as another way to formulate climate-sensitive development plans to better reach vulnerable groups (see table 4).


A key issue under the domain of participation is the engagement with public stakeholders in climate change policy development. Overwhelmingly, all the NDCs make some reference to this issue, with the majority describing their stakeholder consultation in NDC development as an inclusive and participatory approach. Some NDCs highlight their commitment to include the voices of vulnerable groups, Indigenous and local communities, civil society, women and young people in this process. Good practices in meaningful public participation are found in the Congo (2021: p. 18), which conducted consultations, field missions and focus groups, and in Liberia (2021: p. 6), which conducted detailed analysis, stakeholder consultations, regional workshops and gender and youth dialogues. Others, like Cameroon (2021: p. 44) and Senegal (2020: p. 40), describe their communication efforts to either target their communication towards Indigenous peoples and local communities or inform their stakeholder involvement.

TABLE 4:
Nationally Determined Contributions with activities to strengthen capacity to address population vulnerability

Benin**	"Strengthening the institutional and technical capacities of the Administration, civil society organizations and communities, for the assessment of local risks and vulnerabilities, and the formulation of climate-sensitive development plans and policies." (p. 43)
Central African Republic (the)**	"By 2025, assessments of in-depth vulnerability assessments are conducted and capitalized in sector planning: Modelling of climate change; assessment of risks, impacts and vulnerabilities, and adaptation options; integration into sector planning." (p. 28)

** indicates that the text has been translated from its source language into English for this report.





Another level of public engagement is seen in the seven references to population participation in sustainable local resource management and other sectors. Participatory management is found in water management both through local participation and in the implementation of water sectoral plans (Benin NDC, 2021: p. 40; the Gambia NDC, 2021: p. 34; Nigeria NDC, 2021: p. 15; Mali NDC, 2021: p. 71; Côte d'Ivoire NDC, 2022: p. 35), in forestry including in digital management of forest areas (Guinea NDC, 2021: p. 30; the Niger NDC, 2021: p. 17), in sustainable management and consumption of natural resources (Burkina Faso NDC, 2021: p. 22; the Gambia NDC, 2021: p. 32) and protection of land (Côte d'Ivoire NDC, 2022: p. 35). Burkina Faso (2021: p. 22) further emphasizes the need for participatory approaches to discuss alternative options to the country's security concerns that can compromise progress on NDC actions (see box 4). Finally, although participatory management is not explicitly mentioned, the Congo (2021: pp. 42, 44) describes its ambition to empower vulnerable smallholder farmers and adopt community-based approaches to build their adaptive capacities.

Five countries refer to human or civilian rights, including those mentioned in the gender chapter. The Congo (2021: p. 48) refers to the Paris Agreement's obligations concerning human rights. The Gambia (2021: p. 34) speaks to the rights of women to live in a healthy and sustainable environment as guaranteed in the Women's Act of 2010. Mali (2021: p. 22) commits to respecting human rights and positive cultural values when building the capacity of stakeholders on gender issues. Nigeria (2021: p. 33) sets the ambition for a just transition where rights to decent work and environmental justice are at the core of the interest of workers. Mauritania (2021: p. 7, 12) commits to integrating human rights as a cross-cutting aspect in implementing its NDCs and takes action by reserving 10 per cent of the budget of each project to human rights, gender and youth.



Photo: © UNFPA WCARO

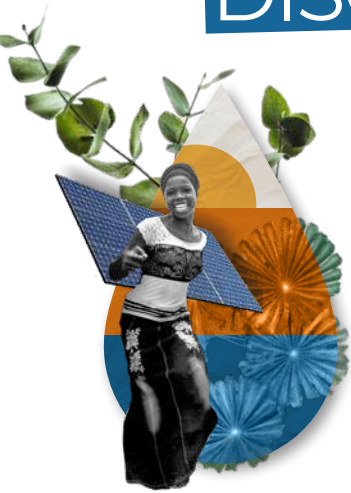
BOX 4:

The Nationally Determined Contributions of Burkina Faso describe its participatory approach to addressing security concerns**

"Indeed, the context of insecurity experienced in certain localities of Burkina Faso since the start of 2016 could increase the country's vulnerability and negatively impact the implementation of the actions planned in the revised NDC. Depending on the actions involved, participatory approaches with stakeholders will allow to identify alternative options appropriate to the circumstances." (p. 22)

** indicates that the text has been translated from its source language into English for this report.

DISCUSSION



Sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence and harmful practices

This review of 22 NDCs from the WCA region found that seven NDCs integrate SRHR and GBV and include references to maternal and newborn health, GBV and HIV and AIDS. Not all of these were directly linked to climate change, as some describe SRHR indicators. Despite the high level of harmful practices in the region, no country's NDC reviewed for this region makes any references to the impacts of climate change on harmful practices. Benin highlights the importance of health system strengthening that includes SRHR by describing its measures to improve the quality and accessibility of health services for mother and child health (Benin NDC, 2021: p. 60). Overall, however, WCA NDCs have minimal and superficial references to SRHR and GBV that are not supported with analysis, action or budgeting. Furthermore, none of the NDCs describe past or planned actions to build national-level evidence on the impacts of climate change on SRHR, GBV and harmful practices, which is an essential step to develop tailored interventions. Such evidence could come in the form of the collection of data disaggregated by age, sexual orientation, disability and migration status and vulnerability assessments that incorporate SRHR, GBV and harmful practices issues.

Risks of GBV are known to increase during situations of stress and scarcity, often related to economic instability, food insecurity,

unavailability of services and social protection networks and entrenched gender inequality (van Daalen and others, 2022). The impacts of climate change and weather-related disasters can also indirectly exacerbate GBV through climate-induced migration (Castañeda Camey and others, 2020). Guinea and Sierra Leone reflect on the impacts of climate change on GBV in their NDCs, but only Guinea provides an intervention to reduce the risk of GBV when collecting fuelwood with improved stoves, reflecting a gap in WCA NDCs in addressing these risks. No NDC describes the increased risk of GBV due to climate-induced migration, although human displacement in WCA is a trend that is predicted to increase as more climate disasters hit (Guinea NDC, 2021: p. 28).

Prominent SRHR and gender issues in the WCA region, such as adolescent and youth SRHR, family planning and child marriage, are completely absent from the NDCs, leading to a risk that the adverse impacts of climate change on these SRHR issues will be forgotten in national climate response.

Health

All 22 NDCs reference health, with 12 NDCs including plans to strengthen their health surveillance and early warning systems. Strengthening health system resilience to emerging health issues is a priority response in WCA, with the Ebola outbreak and COVID-19 pandemic demonstrating the fragility of health systems across countries in the region (Shoman and others, 2017; Tessema and others, 2021), but also demonstrating a region with experience in responding to emergency disease outbreaks.

A variety of approaches were applied to strengthen health surveillance and early warning systems to track health and diseases in relation to climate change, such as investment by Gabon into the Medical Research Centre and the plan by the Congo to integrate climate data into national health information systems (the Congo NDC, 2021: p. 32). These solutions provide entry points to build climate-resilient health systems that ensure continuity of maternal, reproductive, neonatal and child health services, demonstrated by the measure of Benin to ensure quality and accessibility of health services for mother and child health (Benin NDC, 2021: p. 60).

Assessing the cost of climate change adaptation is essential to policymaking. Our analysis showed that a high proportion of NDCs (9 out of 22) include a cost estimate for the measures they describe. Examples of good practice include Liberia, which demonstrates budget allocation and a commitment to strengthen the evidence base by dedicating half a million dollars per year to research the health-climate nexus (2021: p. 36).

Gender

All but one of the NDCs (21 out of 22) integrate gender to some degree, with most of them including an aspect of gender mainstreaming. The depth and detail of gender references are highly variable, and only some include measurement and accountability mechanisms to track gender-sensitive progress. Mauritania demonstrates the importance of gender budgeting by committing US\$ 45,183 million of unconditional funding to mainstream women, youth and human rights in climate policy and action (Mauritania NDC, 2021: p. 12). Interventions like these are highly needed in WCA, where climate finance only covers 12.7 per cent of the needs expressed in the NDCs in West Africa and Sahel in 2019, and only 54.3 per cent of bilateral climate finance is earmarked for gender objectives (Oxfam, 2022).



Sixteen of the 22 NDCs recognize women as disproportionately vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, commonly in relation to women's gender-bound role in households and agriculture, lack of land ownership, underrepresentation in decision-making and socioeconomic factors. Tackling gender equality and justice is crucial for climate adaptation, and efforts to do so through social and economic empowerment and participation will provide opportunities to achieve SRHR and eliminate GBV.

One of the gender and climate decisions of the 2019 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP25) in December 2019 was the creation of the National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point (NGCCFP) (UNFCCC, 2019). Cabo Verde is the only NDC to mention the NGCCFP in the review, possibly due to limited capacity and investment in this area. Outside the NGCCFP, gender and health are well represented in WCA NDCs, and a range of women-related interventions were discussed, including agriculture, clean energy, livelihood projects and water and food security. Furthermore, six NDCs link gender and health directly, such as Mauritania and Nigeria proposing a health strategy for women that includes community health projects and women community health workers (Mauritania NDC, 2021: p. 61; Nigeria NDC, 2021: p. 28). Such initiatives can be harnessed to include SRHR and GBV components.

Population dynamics and human displacement

Ten NDCs reference migration, displacement and urbanization. Although many WCA NDCs describe climate-induced migration, few include measures to tackle future challenges. Furthermore, migration is a highly gendered issue as women do not have equal access to assets and adaptation options to migrate as men (McOmber, 2020) and migrants often have their SRHR curtailed, if not totally disregarded by governments, due to their status (Rocha-Jiménez, 2018; Calderón-Jaramillo, 2020). This increases women's vulnerabilities, including the risk of GBV, especially in the WCA region, which is projected to experience an unprecedented number of forced human displacements due to climate change. Actions on gender and migration are crucial to protecting women and ensuring gender equality, such as the measure by the Niger to strengthen the evidence base on the link between migration, climate change and gender (the Niger NDC, 2021: p. 30). The Congo highlights an intervention of extensive consultation with climate-induced migrants and their host communities to prepare a range of strategies and activities for resettlement and provide support to local government planning (the Congo NDC, 2021: p. 27), which could be expanded to ensure women's participation and inclusion of SRHR and GBV.





Youth

Nearly all (17 out of 22) NDCs integrate youth to some degree and 10 describe youth participation. Cabo Verde highlights how formal networks can drive collaborative climate action, describing an intervention to identify and set up a network of youth associations (per island, municipality or city) as a focal point for youth participation, and an intervention to triple the number of jobs available for young adults in fields related to climate change by 2030 (Cabo Verde NDC, 2021: p. 51). Youth participation in policymaking ensures the creation of child-sensitive policies that are rights-based, holistic, multisectoral and inclusive. Children and young people should be engaged and empowered in all levels of climate processes to ensure youth mainstreaming in climate policy and action.

Leaving no one behind: human rights, participation and consideration of vulnerable groups

Nearly all (20 out of 22) countries highlight some level of vulnerability in segments of their population, with women, youth, Indigenous peoples, older persons and persons with disabilities mentioned most. Many countries also included measures to address these vulnerabilities and increase the resilience of vulnerable populations, such as Cabo Verde's plan to conduct in-depth vulnerability assessments (Cabo Verde NDC, 2020: p. 53). Vulnerability assessments are an essential area that can be expanded in scope to integrate SRHR and GBV vulnerability, including data on maternal health, family planning and adolescent SRHR.

All 22 NDCs reference public participation in climate policy and/or action. Although most NDCs describe their development process as participatory, far fewer provide details on this process. Some countries reference ACE, a term adopted by UNFCCC to denote work under Article 6 of the Convention and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement with the overarching goal of empowering all members of society to engage in climate action. However, far fewer describe specific programmes under way to increase civil society participation. The Congo describes good practice in meaningful public participation in NDC development through its stakeholder consultations, regional workshops and gender and youth dialogues (the Congo NDC, 2021: p. 18). Many platforms exist that should be used for stakeholder engagement (e.g. youth dialogues, regional workshops, engagement with gender and youth councils) in the implementation of the NDCs to ensure gender-responsive programming and/or to conduct thematic discussions, for example, on SRHR and GBV for better inclusion of SRHR and other issues identified as important by women in NDC implementation.

The UNFCCC recognized the adverse impacts of climate change on the effective enjoyment of human rights and calls upon states to ensure respect for human rights in their climate actions in Decision 1/CP.16 (2010). The preamble to the Paris Agreement calls upon states to "respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights" (1/CP.21). As only five NDCs mention human rights, strengthening the inclusion of human rights-based language and actions in WCA NDCs is crucial to achieving SRHR and gender equality while eliminating GBV.



RECOMMENDATIONS

General recommendations

Data and evidence

- 1. Strengthen the national-level evidence on the impacts of climate change on SRHR, GBV and harmful practices.** This should include improving data systems to better account and forecast for the differentiated impacts of climate change on SRHR, GBV and harmful practices, including through the conduct of gender-responsive climate vulnerability and risk assessments that integrate SRHR and GBV. Detailed country-level research, preferably led by local researchers, on the intersections between climate, SRHR and GBV is required to better support communities at the local and national level but also to contribute to the global evidence base.
- 2. Scale up efforts to collect and use disaggregated data and account for the differentiated impacts of the climate crisis.** The demonstration of such efforts in the NDCs is encouraging. Gender-disaggregated data supports the identification of groups that are more vulnerable to climate impacts and can help mobilize more sensitive and accurate climate action. This better represents the differentiated impacts of the climate crisis while supporting research, data, planning and intervention to reach better outcomes. This also enables gender-sensitive budgeting, including for components related to SRHR and GBV.

Financing and accountability

- 3. Increase support, funding and evaluation for adaptation and resilience-building efforts, including within NDCs and in the development of climate policies.** While adaptation sections are increasing in frequency and detail within NDCs, greater support, evaluation and financing are required to ensure these policies reflect the needs of underserved populations and topic areas, such as SRHR and GBV.
- 4. Strengthen the integration of costed SRHR and GBV interventions across sectors in climate policy and action.** Include SRHR and GBV issues in domains such as gender and health, as these represent entry points for their inclusion in national climate policies. Costed action, tied to monitoring and indicators that reflect impacts on gender, health and SRHR and GBV, requires more financial and technical support. Many existing interventions, particularly related to gender and health, could begin to provide or increase the integration of programming on SRHR and GBV.
- 5. Strengthen health systems' resilience to climate change by ensuring the inclusion of SRHR and GBV.** This includes ensuring the inclusion of SRHR and GBV in vulnerability risk assessments, disaster preparedness plans and health information management systems. Ensure appropriate human resources are available for health, monitoring and evaluation indicators, the allocation of funds and a coordination mechanism.





Gender equality and representation

- 6. Scale up and strengthen gender-transformative climate action through the inclusion of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices issues.** This includes the appointment and strengthening of the role of a NGCCFP to be placed in the relevant ministry, as recommended by a decision of the 2019 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP25); the review of existing gender-related climate policies; and the integration of gender-transformative approaches in all aspects of climate change policies and programmes/interventions, based on a solid foundation of context-specific analysis.
- 7. Recognize the impacts of climate change on the drivers of GBV and harmful practices.** Support the development of best practices for responding to GBV and harmful practices, and for ensuring the resilience, including financial, of essential services to prevent and respond to GBV. This can be achieved through partnership with gender and rights actors such as organizations of persons with disabilities, women-led organizations, Indigenous peoples, youth-led organizations and front-line responders.
- 8. Ensure inclusion and a minimum standard of representation in the development and implementation of climate policy at multiple levels.** This includes the inclusion and representation of women, people with diverse SOGIESC, youth, Indigenous peoples, older persons, persons with disabilities and others as relevant.

Human rights and leaving no one behind

- 9. Improve the understanding of the impacts of climate change on SRHR and GBV for people with diverse and underrepresented SOGIESC.** There is insufficient understanding and recognition of the impacts

of climate change on people with diverse SOGIESC. Increasing this understanding will require specific, local and sensitive action that is participatory, accountable and calls on existing best practices.

- 10. Mobilize and support young people.** Support youth climate networks and establish a permanent youth engagement mechanism on climate change at the national level to ensure the mainstreaming of youth priorities across the design and implementation of national climate policy and action.
- 11. Take an intersectional approach to develop, review and implement climate policy that recognizes the structural drivers of inequality and accounts for multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.** Climate policy and action must recognize how many of the people who already face barriers to SRHR and GBV services and the realization of their reproductive rights are likely to be disproportionately affected by climate change.
- 12. Enhance recognition of climate change impacts on GBV and harmful practices in NDCs and relevant climate policies.** National climate policies should more meaningfully account for the delivery of GBV services during climate-related events. This includes strengthening the engagement with national gender/GBV-focused mechanisms (e.g. ministries, parliamentary caucuses, civil society networks) as well as climate-focused national mechanisms to present regional and national analysis of the interlinkages between climate change, GBV and harmful practices and collectively develop a consensus on policy advocacy and programming strategies and interventions. This could be achieved through the creation of a common platform for meaningful dialogue, with key mechanisms, networks and leaders engaged in addressing GBV and climate change.



13. Ensure that climate policies are based on human rights and reflect the principles of the ICPD Programme of Action, including protecting the rights of women, children, refugees, displaced persons and persons with disabilities, in climate policy development. A human rights-based approach that supports individuals to make the reproductive choices that best suit their personal circumstances is core to achieving SRHR. Population dynamics are relevant for climate policy and planning and the NDCs reflect on urbanization, changing population size and structure and the need for population dynamics analysis for forward planning.

Region-specific reflections

14. Women's participation and decision-making in climate policy and action presents an opportunity to address gender-related harmful practices and bodily autonomy issues. The WCA region is observing high rates of gender-related harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and child marriage. While evidence indicates that exposure to the impacts of climate change can exacerbate the risk of female genital mutilation and child marriage, these harmful practices were absent from the NDCs. As more than half of the NDCs commit to women's participation and decision-making in climate policies, for example, through structured dialogues, consultations and representative bodies, there is an opportunity to empower women to amplify their lived experiences related to social norms and bodily autonomy in future climate policies.

15. Integrating SRHR and GBV components into existing food security, livelihoods, economic and energy interventions within climate programmes is feasible within WCA. The NDCs recognize a range of interventions and programmes that could

include programmatic components related to SRHR and GBV, such as clean energy technology transfer, including reusable cookstove interventions, or livelihood and economic security projects related to agriculture. There is precedence for integrated interventions that could be scaled up within climate programming. For example, as food insecurity is a challenge recognized in almost two thirds of the NDCs, this can be a starting point to address the social and cultural norms that increase GBV in times of food scarcity. Guinea-Bissau is one country that addresses food insecurity from a gender perspective through actions on resilience credits and entrepreneurship.

16. A holistic approach to SRHR and GBV in humanitarian preparedness, climate change policies or strategies is required. The WCA region is affected by multifaceted humanitarian emergencies, including climate-related droughts and desertification, food insecurity, social unrest and human displacement. Urgent action is needed to address SRHR and GBV holistically in all humanitarian preparedness activities, accompanied by a budget and an accountability framework to strengthen climate adaptation and resilience.

17. Adopt gender-responsive actions to future migration trends in the region to reduce women's vulnerabilities and risk of GBV and strengthen access to reproductive services. Many WCA NDCs address climate-related migration and forced displacement, but few include measures to tackle future challenges and only the Congo and the Niger present actions on gender and migration, including gender inclusion in resettlement and research activities. There is a need to strengthen data and research on high-impact responses addressing gender vulnerabilities related to migration. Building the resilience of pastoral populations and reducing women's vulnerabilities and risk of GBV in forced and voluntary migration is key.



CONCLUSION

Since climate change is already happening and is likely to worsen, it is imperative that we act and adapt, including through upholding sexual and reproductive health and rights as a foundation of resilience and of the sustainable well-being of societies overall.

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This regional review of the integration of SRHR and rights-based approaches in 22 NDCs in the WCA region found seven references to SRHR and GBV issues.

There are no references to harmful practices. While some countries only refer to aspects of SRHR and GBV in their situational analysis, and others acknowledge the impacts of climate change on SRHR and GBV but without addressing a specific programmatic dimension, only a few not only acknowledge the impacts of climate change on SRHR and GBV, but also propose substantial and multiple interventions to address these impacts.

This is a call to action for UNFPA and other advocates of SRHR and GBV prevention and response, including policymakers, parliamentarians, researchers and service providers, to enhance their engagement with climate change mechanisms and advocate for a better understanding of the interlinkages between climate action, SRHR and GBV. There are opportunities to ensure more meaningful climate action that addresses vulnerability, inequality and the importance of leaving no one behind. SRHR and interventions to address GBV and harmful practices are cornerstones of resilience and adaptation, and realizing SRHR is an indicator of a healthy and equal society. As the climate crisis intensifies, greater investment, engagement and prioritization of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices are needed to ensure no one is left behind and that inequalities are not further exacerbated.

As the next round of NDC submission approaches in 2025, there are opportunities for engagement with relevant stakeholders to address the intersection of SRHR and climate change more broadly in national climate policies and, equally, to address climate

change in national SRHR, GBV and harmful practices policies through people-centred, rights-based and gender-transformative approaches. This engagement should go beyond the NDCs to engage national policy-level ecosystems, including national climate policies, as well as GAPs, national adaptation plans (NAPs) and other relevant plans. Civil society and public engagement and consultation should be meaningful and externally assessed to ensure that data and feedback collected during consultations are reflected in NDCs.



Taking action

The results of this report will provide an opening for dialogue at global, regional and national levels on the ways that climate change, SRHR, GBV and harmful practices intersect and to identify entry points for climate action. Highlighting gaps as well as opportunities and promising practices allows for greater and more meaningful integration of aspects of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices in climate policies.



Below are some suggested avenues for further engagement with climate, SRHR, GBV and harmful practices policies in your region or territory:

Create a platform for stakeholder involvement at all levels and work across sectors to ensure the integration of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices in relevant policy and programming.

- Disseminate the findings of this report among relevant stakeholders, including colleagues, ministerial actors, fellow activists and other interested parties in your region. Organize a discussion forum or workshop to facilitate an exchange of ideas and perspectives on the intersections between SRHR, GBV, harmful practices and climate impacts within your local context. This platform will provide an opportunity to explore how these findings align with and enhance the understanding of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices in relation to climate change in your specific region.

Specific ideas to strengthen the discussion include:

- Invite experts, researchers and practitioners working in SRHR, GBV, climate change and environmental justice to share their insights and experiences.
- Encourage participants to share local case studies, success stories, challenges and innovative approaches to address SRHR, GBV and harmful practices in the context of climate change.
- Facilitate group discussions and brainstorming sessions to identify key priorities, gaps and potential strategies for integrating SRHR, GBV and harmful practices into climate policy and action.
- Conduct a comprehensive mapping of climate policies in your country, going beyond the NDCs. Explore and identify

other relevant climate policies, such as GAPs, NAPs or any other national policies that provide opportunities for the inclusion of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices.

Specific ideas to strengthen the mapping process include:

- Collaborate with local research institutions, civil society organizations and relevant government agencies to gather information and analyse the existing climate policies.
- Examine the extent to which these policies address issues of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices and identify potential entry points for integration.
- Highlight good practices and successful initiatives within climate policies that address SRHR, GBV and harmful practices and showcase them as examples to inspire further action.
- Actively engage in national consultations on climate policy, including the updating of NDCs and the development of NAPs and GAPs. Stay informed about the processes and timelines related to these consultations, and proactively seek opportunities to participate and contribute your insights and perspectives.

Specific ideas to strengthen your engagement include:

- Reach out to relevant government agencies, United Nations entities and civil society organizations involved in the climate policy development process, expressing your interest in participating and contributing.
- Prepare position papers or policy briefs highlighting the importance of integrating SRHR, GBV and harmful practices into climate policy and action, and share them with key stakeholders.



- Advocate for the inclusion of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices in the discussions, emphasizing their critical role in addressing the climate crisis and ensuring the well-being and rights of all individuals, particularly those most vulnerable to climate impacts.
- Collaborate with like-minded organizations and activists to amplify your collective voice and advocate for meaningful inclusion and action on SRHR, GBV and harmful practices in climate policy at the national level.

Contribute to the national dialogue and strengthen NAPs and specific interventions to include delivery of SRHR and GBV services for women and girls as well as prevention of harmful practices.

- Learn about the NDC and NAP development or update process in your country or region:
 - Research and gather information about the specific steps and timeline involved in the development or updating of NDCs and NAPs in your country or region.
 - Identify the key government agencies or bodies responsible for coordinating these processes and reach out to them to request information or guidance on how to engage effectively.
 - Attend workshops, webinars or information sessions organized by government agencies or climate-related organizations to learn about the requirements and expectations for engaging in the NDC and NAP development or update process.
 - Connect with local civil society organizations, research institutions or advocacy groups that have experience or knowledge about the NDC and NAP processes to gain insights and guidance.
- Advocate for the meaningful inclusion and engagement of stakeholders:
 - Advocate for the meaningful inclusion and active engagement of a diverse range of stakeholders in the development and implementation of NDCs and NAPs. This includes local groups, young people, women's groups, Indigenous peoples, underrepresented groups and other relevant stakeholders.
 - Engage with decision makers, government officials and relevant institutions through letters, petitions or direct meetings to emphasize the importance of inclusive and participatory processes.
 - Collaborate with local organizations and networks that represent the interests of marginalized or underrepresented groups to amplify their voices and advocate for their meaningful inclusion.
 - Highlight the benefits of diverse perspectives and experiences in crafting climate policies that address the specific needs and challenges faced by different groups.
 - Provide concrete suggestions and recommendations for ensuring inclusive engagement, such as organizing targeted consultations, creating dedicated spaces for marginalized groups to voice their concerns and establishing mechanisms for ongoing dialogue and feedback.

By actively engaging in the NDC and NAP processes and demanding inclusive participation, you can contribute to the development of more comprehensive and equitable climate policies that reflect the needs and aspirations of all stakeholders.





Strengthen the evidence base for the interlinkages between climate change and SRHR, GBV and harmful practices in your country and region.

- Gather information in your country, region or territory:
 - Conduct research and gather information on the intersections between SRHR, GBV, harmful practices and climate impacts in your specific context. Look for existing studies, reports or data that highlight these connections and provide insights into the challenges and opportunities for addressing them.
 - Engage with local research institutions, universities or non-governmental organizations working on climate change, SRHR, GBV and harmful practices to explore possibilities for collaboration and knowledge-sharing.
 - Participate in relevant meetings, workshops or conferences that focus on climate change, SRHR, GBV or harmful practices to learn from experts and practitioners in the field and gather valuable information.
- Incorporate SRHR, GBV and harmful practices as areas of interest:
 - Advocate for the inclusion of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices as specific areas of interest in relevant research undertakings, meetings, data-gathering activities and programmes. Emphasize the need to understand and address the intersections between these issues and climate impacts.
 - Collaborate with researchers, organizations or institutions working on climate change to explore opportunities for joint research or data-collection initiatives that incorporate SRHR, GBV and harmful practices as key components.
- Engage with local or regional climate change platforms, working groups or task forces to raise awareness about the importance of addressing SRHR, GBV and harmful practices and advocate for their inclusion in discussions and decision-making processes.
- Raise questions and ensure accountability:
 - Participate actively in relevant forums, such as policy dialogues, conferences or community meetings, where climate change and related issues are discussed. Raise questions and highlight the intersections between SRHR, GBV, harmful practices and climate change.
 - Engage with duty bearers, policymakers and government representatives at the national and regional levels to hold them accountable for considering the intersection of these issues in their work.
 - Request transparency and accountability in national and regional climate change strategies, policies and programmes, urging decision makers to integrate considerations of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices into their approaches.
 - Collaborate with local and regional advocacy groups, women's rights organizations, youth networks and other relevant stakeholders to amplify your voices and jointly advocate for the recognition and inclusion of these intersections in climate change policies and actions.
- By gathering information, incorporating these issues in relevant activities and demanding accountability, you can contribute to raising awareness and promoting the integration of SRHR, GBV and harmful practices considerations in climate change agendas in your country or region.



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Appendices

Appendix 1: Selection of Nationally Determined Contributions in West and Central Africa for review

Country included	Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) reviewed	Submission date	Original language
Benin	Updated NDC	12 October 2021	French
Burkina Faso	Updated NDC	9 October 2021	French
Cabo Verde	Updated NDC	2 April 2021	English
Cameroon	Updated NDC	11 October 2021	French
Central African Republic (the)	Updated NDC	24 January 2022	French
Chad	Updated NDC	19 October 2021	French
Congo (the)	Updated NDC	2 August 2021	French
Côte d'Ivoire	Second NDC	5 September 2022	French
Gabon	Second NDC	6 July 2022	French
Gambia (the)	Second NDC	12 September 2021	English
Ghana	Updated NDC	4 November 2021	English
Guinea	Updated NDC	28 July 2021	French
Guinea-Bissau	Updated NDC	12 October 2021	English
Liberia	Updated NDC	4 August 2021	English
Mali	Updated NDC	11 October 2021	French
Mauritania	Updated NDC	12 October 2021	French
Niger (the)	Updated NDC	13 December 2021	French
Nigeria	Updated NDC	30 July 2021	English
Sao Tome and Principe	Updated NDC	30 July 2021	English
Senegal	First NDC	29 December 2020	French
Sierra Leone	Updated NDC	31 July 2021	English
Togo	Updated NDC	12 October 2021	French

Country not included	Reason for exclusion
Equatorial Guinea	Submitted first Nationally Determined Contribution before 2020 (30 October 2018) with no update since

Appendix 2: Summary tables

Table 1: Sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence and harmful practices references across West and Central Africa Nationally Determined Contributions

Region (number of Nationally Determined Contributions)	Maternal and newborn health	Family planning and contraception	Abortion and post-abortion care	Menstruation and menstrual hygiene	Gender-based violence	Adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health and rights	Early, forced child marriage	HIV and AIDs and sexually transmitted infections	Sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics	Sexual and reproductive health and rights information and awareness	Other
West and Central Africa (22)	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	2

Table 2: Human rights, participation and vulnerable groups references across West and Central Africa Nationally Determined Contributions

Region (number of Nationally Determined Contributions)	Vulnerable groups				Participation of population in:			Human rights
	As main pillar/strategy	Communities dependent on natural resources	In relation to health	In relation to gender	Nationally Determined Contributions development	Local resource management	In relation to gender	
West and Central Africa (22)	17	14	6	16	22	9	10	5

Table 3: Population dynamics, human mobility and urbanization references across West and Central Africa Nationally Determined Contributions

Region (number of Nationally Determined Contributions)	Population dynamics	Migration, urbanization, human mobility
West and Central Africa (22)	22	14

Table 4: Youth references across West and Central Africa Nationally Determined Contributions

Region (number of Nationally Determined Contributions)	As vulnerable group	Participation	In relation to health	In relation to education/awareness	Consideration of future generations
West and Central Africa (22)	9	10	2	4	3

Table 5: Gender references across West and Central Africa Nationally Determined Contributions

Region (number of Nationally Determined Contributions)	Mainstreaming	Vulnerability	Rights	Participation	Empowerment	Health	Energy	Agriculture	Water/food security
West and Central Africa (22)	17	16	3	14	13	6	7	17	13

Table 6: Health references across West and Central Africa Nationally Determined Contributions

Region (number of Nationally Determined Contributions)	Mortality	Diseases	Air pollution	Waste	Surveillance	Access service/supplies	Food	Water	Research	Information/campaigns	COVID-19	Disasters	Budget line
West and Central Africa (22)	11	13	11	20	12	7	16	15	4	5	14	17	9



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