



GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE BUILDING

By Leisa Perch, Consultant, UN Women MCO


**Caribbean Regional Training Workshop on Innovation
and Implementation of National Adaptation Plans
(NAPs)**

24-26 April 2019
Montego Bay, Jamaica



Gender is..

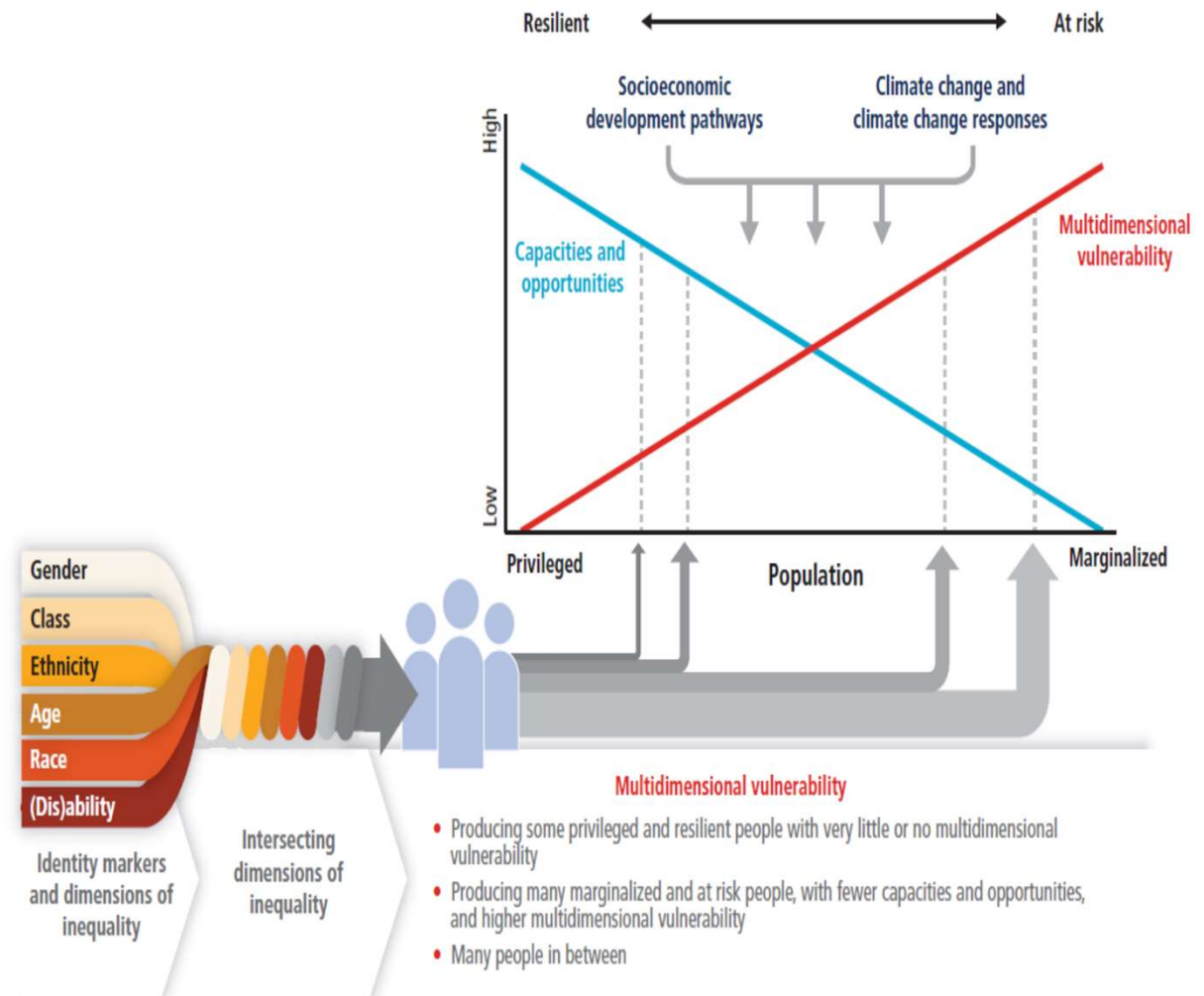
A Social Construction: Gender, as compared to sex, is socially constructed, and manifests most significantly in the different roles and responsibilities assigned to women and men in a given culture.



Gender is personal: Masculinities and femininities are culturally and socially constructed attributes that determine individual identity. As a result, it becomes important to understand the role of individual 'implicit biases' that may inform the outcomes of gender analysis.

Gender intersects with other issues, affecting Vulnerability and Resilience

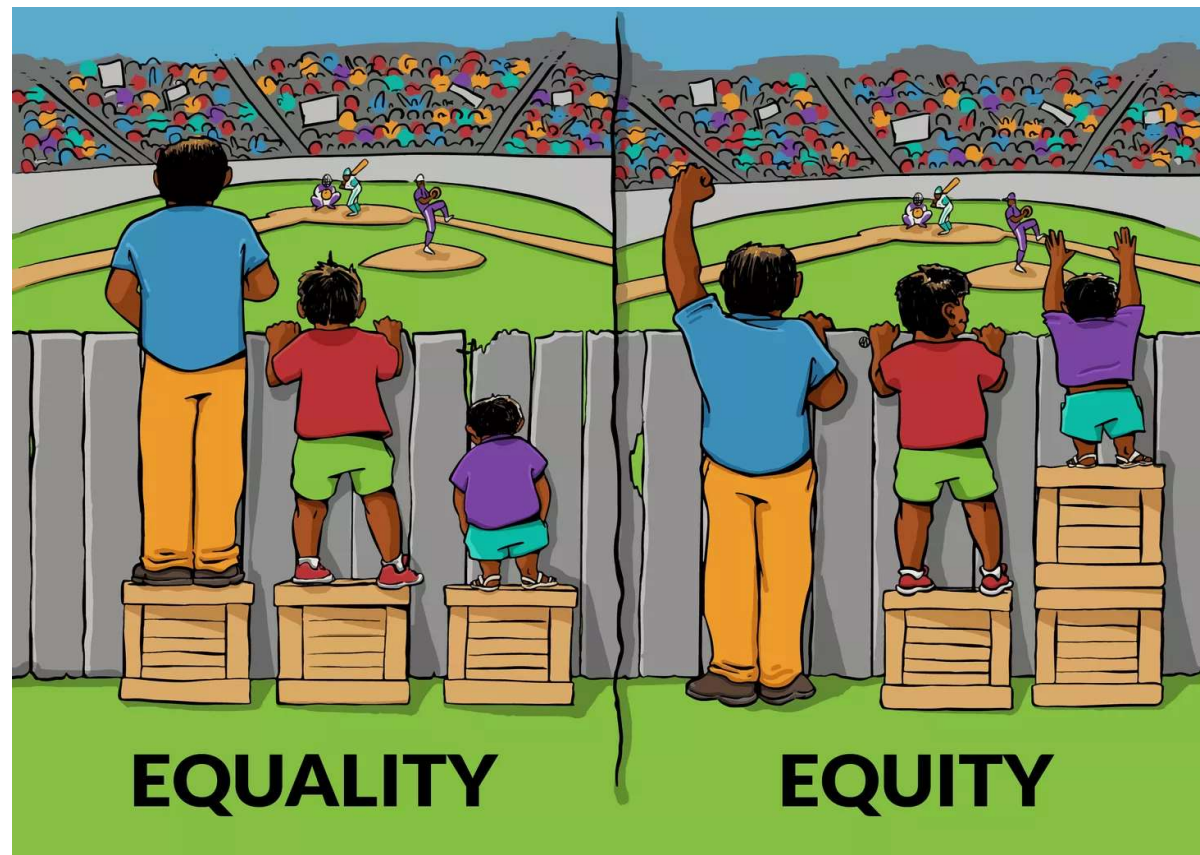
Multidimensional vulnerabilities, intersections with capacities and opportunities, and how climate change and variability impact people (Source: **Olsson**, L., M. Opondo, P. Tschakert, A. Agrawal, S.H. Eriksen, S. Ma, L.N. Perch, and S.A. Zakieldean, 2014: Livelihoods and poverty. In: *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*): https://www.dropbox.com/s/pqyq3m7anbvrpq/WGIAR5-Chap13_FINAL.pdf?dl=0



Adaptation: The Social and the Gender

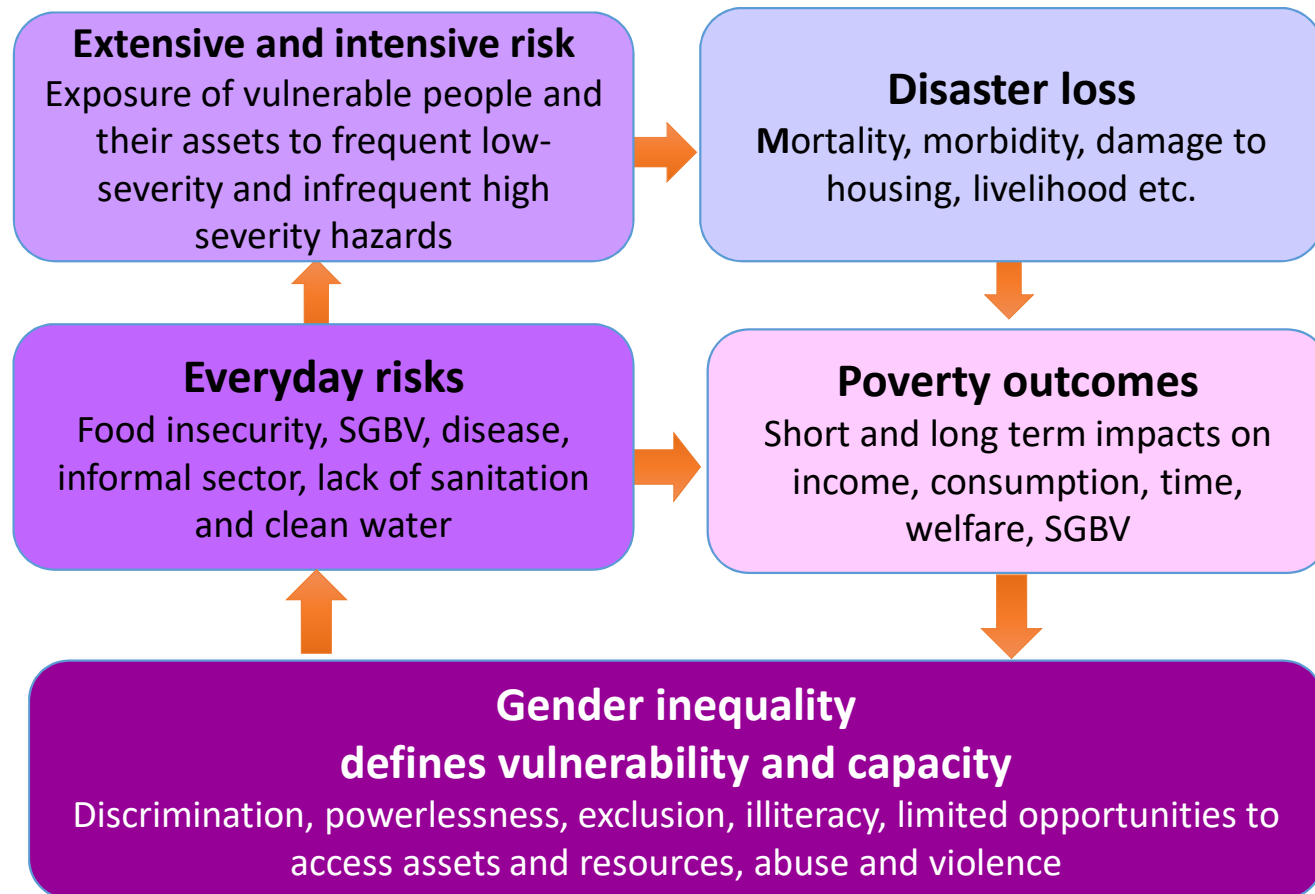
- Adaptation is as much social and as it is technical. People have to be willing, able and motivated to adapt.
- Adaptation often/primarily occurs in the context of socio-ecological systems.
- Adaptation is also a spectrum and capacity for it is in how any society or system responds to stress – economic, social and environmental.
- The same person affected by climate variability and change (Slow-onset) is also probably affected by disaster risk particularly sudden-onset events. And is also the same profile highlighted in poverty and social studies as being vulnerable.
- Women continue to be differently and disproportionately affected in key areas and men in others. And the care burden, largely unpaid, falls on the shoulders of women.
- If we understand and address barriers to people's participation, pro-activity and investment, then adaptation wins and is more sustainable.

In Adaptation –
both access to
resources and
the right kinds
and amounts
are important
(both Equality
and Equity)



Source: "Interaction Institute for Social Change | Artist:
Angus Maguire

Gender inequality of risk must be examined carefully



Data Sources for the “People” side of CCA



**Social and Vulnerability Data
(Poverty Assessments, Gender
Assessments)**



**Post-disaster Needs
Assessments**



**Climate Risk and Vulnerability
Capacity Assessments (and
these need to be gendered)**

Dominica – post-Maria impacts of note

Source: Post-Disaster
Needs Assessment
Hurricane Maria
September 18, 2017,
Government of
Dominica (Executive
Summary)

39% of Heads of Households are women (that's more than 1 in 3)

Women, elderly (including elderly single men) and children pre-dominated in shelters

Women took on larger proportion of unpaid care work

Due to lack of services, women left children in communal care in shelters to be able to address repairs, income needs etc

Long-term reliance on shelters linked to no housing insurance and no access to or knowledge of where to source materials

Lack of feed, shelter and water affected livestock viability and already limited income possibilities

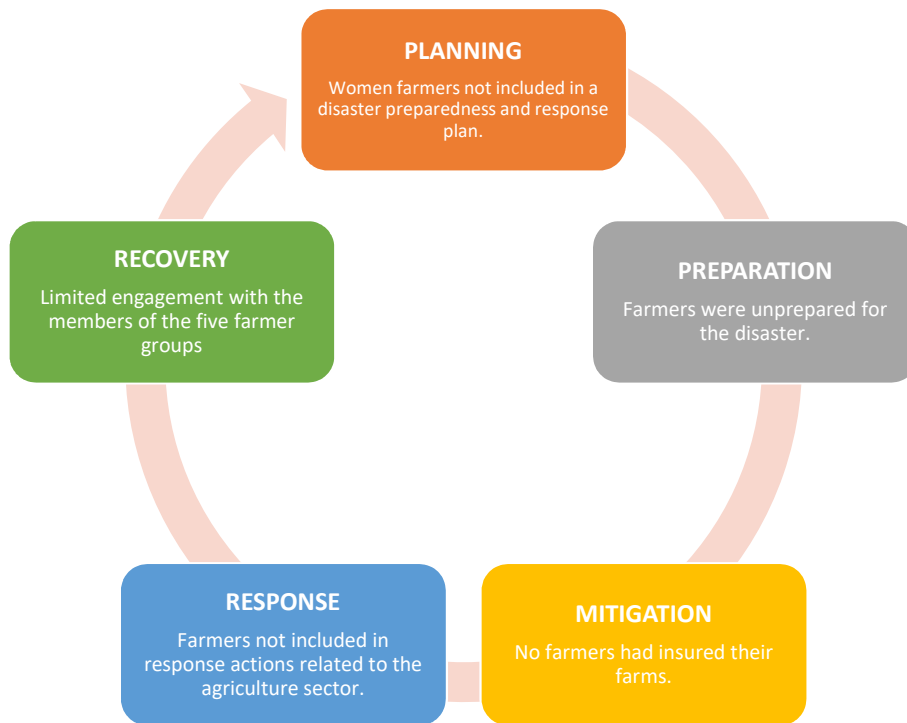
Recovery needs reflected the need for targeted assistance, particularly for single parent families headed by women, including material support for reconstruction needs; livelihood assistance, particularly for women farmers; gender training and psychological support.

Post-disaster activities that are also a sign post for adaptation

- “Gender-responsive livelihoods programs:
 - empowering men and women through national and community- level training for climate resilient agriculture.
 - supporting the creation of value chains that reduce food insecurity among vulnerable groups.
 - preparing agricultural workers to engage in value-added activities, based on the restoration of the natural environment”.
 - Some 10,000 persons were involved in micro businesses in the formal and informal sector, ranging from such activities as barbering, baking of goods, seamstresses, cosmeticians, mechanics and the repair of household items. They would need refinancing support for recovery of their businesses.

Improving Adaptive Capacity of Dominica Women Small Farmers

Rapid Assessment Findings



Key Recommendation: **Establishment of a seedbank**

UN Women MCO Response

- Establish a roster of seed suppliers with details of the type of seeds stocked, average price, contact details, average quantity needed by each farmer group.
- Develop 4 Contingency Plans (1 Contingency Plan per farmer group) that will include step-by-step preparedness and response actions specifically in relation to the following:
 - Preparedness: Identification and monitoring of seed storage capacity prior to impact
 - Response: seed distribution arrangements; and subsequent monitoring after impact
 - Roles and responsibilities of key members of each group to ensure implementation of the Contingency Plans
 - Identification of seed types and quantities to be stored and distributed.
 - Names and full contact details of members each farmer group identifies as a beneficiary of assistance for seeds.
- Drafting of 4 Simulation Exercise Documents (1 for each farmer group) to serve as a guidance document for a simulation to test the effectiveness of the abovementioned Contingency Plans.
- Conduct of 4 Simulation Exercises (1 per farmer group).

In Post-Ivan Grenada, Assessing Gender

Made a difference to the what and the when

To the who, where and how much

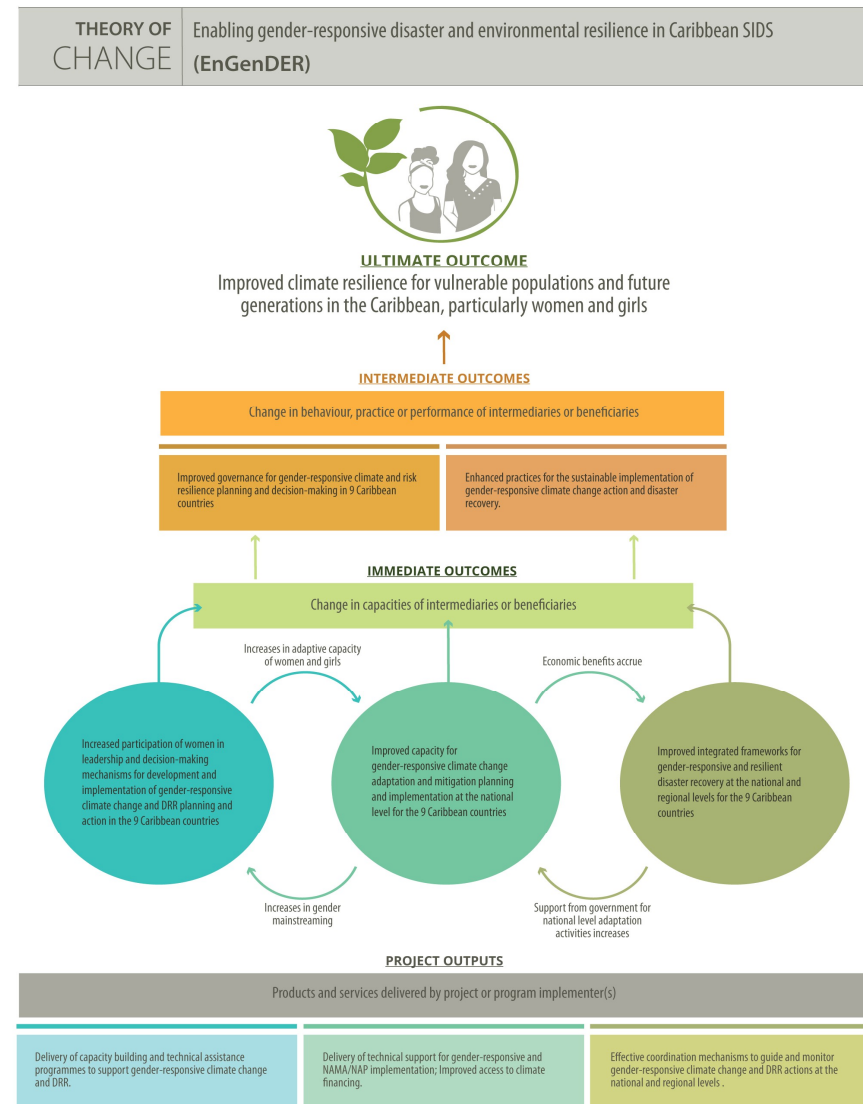
In a post-disaster context (and considering Emily came several months later):

- Giving women access to skills in critical areas of construction and repair including ways to build for better hurricane resilience;
- Working with communities to address shared risks – overflowing rivers, degraded infrastructure, improving shelters;
- Making sure there was equity of access to labour and equipment particularly for women farmers who suffered more in these areas;
- Identifying alternatives for women in agro-processing and ways to make agro-processing more resilient;
- Working with NADMA and others on shelter management and ways to make those safer spaces.

5 year engagement not just 6 mths or a year

Qualify for UNTFHS where we repeated some of the same strategies, deepened them and expanded them.

Going Mainstream: Enabling Gender- Responsive Disaster and Environmental Resilience in the Caribbean (EnGenDER)



When we get Gender Right in Adaptation, We can

Achieve the full and equal participation of men and women in the adaptation planning and implementation process;

Understand the different realities, needs and interests, challenges and opportunities of women/girls and men/boys, through gender analysis;

Identify male and female 'gender gaps' in areas of political, economic, social and cultural life, and putting in place policies, plans and programmes that address these imbalances;

Better allocate the necessary financial and human resources to address gender gaps in all sectors and at all levels; and

Ensure the equitable, effective and sustainable outcomes of programmes/actions undertaken by Government, civil society and the private sector.



That includes (UN Women programming in Antigua and Barbuda post-Irma):

- Promoting dignity in emergency response.
- Safety and security in shelters.
- Restoring livelihoods.



Includes linking CCA and Development:

- **JAMAICA** – Supporting Gender Aware Beneficiary Assessment (GABA) and capacity building on gender dimensions in accessing piped water (in collaboration with UNDP).



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

Thank you