

Climate change and violence against women and girls

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) and climate change are two of the most pressing global emergencies of our time.

Globally, VAWG affects **1 in 3 women** in their lifetime.

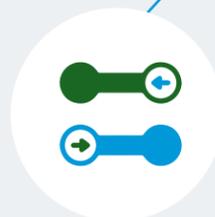


Climate change and slow environmental degradation exacerbate the risks of violence against women and girls due to displacement, resource scarcity and food insecurity and disruption to service provision to survivors.

In Puerto Rico, following hurricane Maria in 2017, there was a 62 per cent increase in requests for survivor-related services



Following Hurricane Katrina, the rate of **rape** among women displaced to trailer parks **rose 53.6 times** the baseline rate in Mississippi for that year.



In Ethiopia there was an increase in girls **sold into early marriage** in exchange for livestock to help families cope with the impacts of prolonged droughts.



Nepal witnessed an **increase in trafficking** from an estimated 3,000-5,000 annually in 1990 to 12,000-20,000 per year after the earthquake.



Women environmental human rights defenders (WEHRDs) experience threats and violence as they strive to defend natural resources and their territories. Indigenous women are at greater risk because of the intersection of sexism, discrimination, and racism.

Between 2016 & 2019,

1,698 acts of violence

were recorded in Mexico and Central America against women environmental human rights defenders.



VAWG limits women's participation, leadership and agency which is critical for effective climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience-building efforts.

Recommendations:



Create an enabling policy environment for the elimination of VAWG in the context of climate change.



Promote strategic cross-sectoral partnerships across the climate change and ERAW sectors.



Generate data to understand the impact of climate change on VAWG and risk factors.



Increase investment in flexible and adaptive approaches to VAWG prevention and response, prioritizing funding for women's rights and civil society organizations.



Prevent violence against women environmental human rights defenders and ensure perpetrators are held to account.

Please see the Tackling VAWG in the context of climate change policy brief for references.

