

Building Forward Better: Advancing SRHR for Climate Adaptation and Resilience

October 19, 2021

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Moderator



Dr. Julitta Onabanjo
Director, Technical Division
UNFPA

Opening Remarks



Wendy Morton, MP

Minister for Europe and Americas

UK Foreign, Commonwealth &
Development Office

Opening Remarks



Hon. Houmed M'Saidie

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries,
Environment, Tourism, and Handicrafts

Government of Comoros

Opening Remarks



Diene Keita

Assistant Secretary-General,
Deputy Executive Director for Programmes

UNFPA

Presentation Session: Context and Challenges



Angela Baschieri

Population Dynamics Policy Advisor

UNFPA

Divya Mathew

Director, Policy and Advocacy,

Women Deliver

Building Forward Better: Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for Climate Adaptation and Resilience

Angela Baschieri, UNFPA

Divya Mathew, Women Deliver



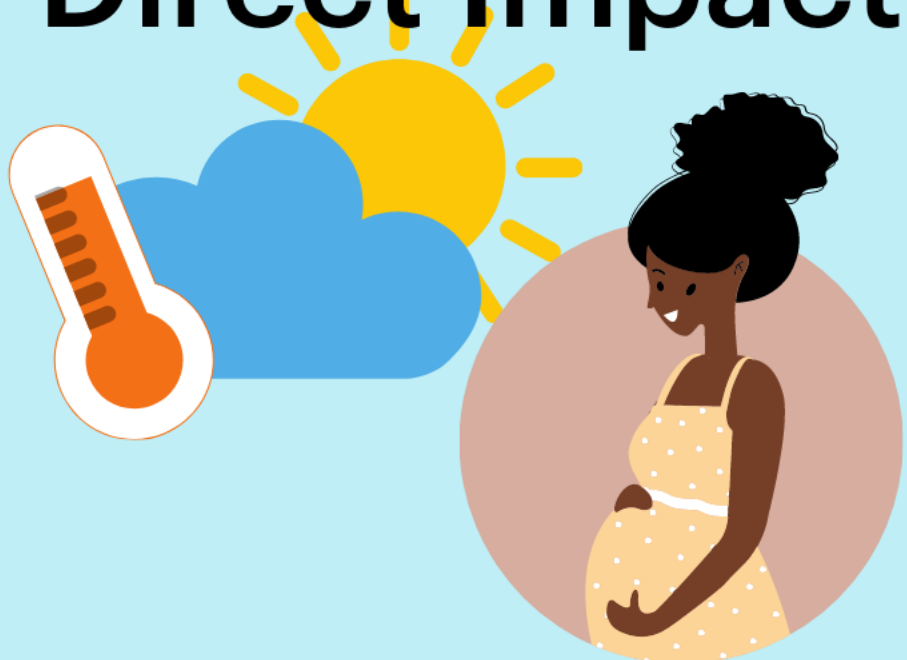
A photograph of a woman with short dreadlocks, smiling and looking towards the camera. She is wearing a purple t-shirt with some text on it and a blue patterned skirt. The background shows a damaged building with a thatched roof, palm trees, and a clear blue sky. A yellow vertical bar is on the left side of the image.

**What does the
evidence say?**

UNFPA Photo

Climate change impact on maternal health

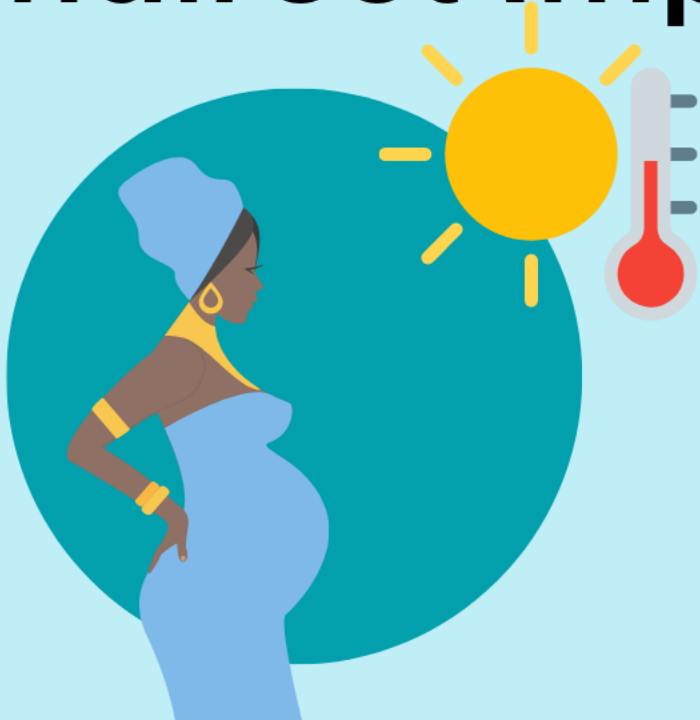
Direct Impacts



- **Heat** worsens maternal and neonatal health outcomes (Ha et al., 2017).
- Global heating impacts the **patterns of vector-borne diseases** (WHO, 2017).
- Climate change worsens **global inequity in maternal nutrition** (Lancet 2020).

Climate change impact on maternal health

Indirect Impacts



- Climate-related emergencies cause **major disruptions in access to health services** and life-saving commodities (Behrman & Weitzman, 2016).
- Increased poverty and food insecurity driven by **climate-related loss of livelihoods** affect maternal health (Lancet 2021).

Climate change impact on access to services

- Climate-related emergencies cause **major disruptions in access to life-saving commodities**, including contraception (various evidences).
- Climate-related events may also enable situations where people are at **greater risk of contracting HIV** (Low et al., 2019).
- Reduced access to **SRHR for LGBTQIA+ individuals** in times of emergency (Gillard, 2017).



Climate change impact on GBV and child marriage

- Climate change **increases risk of violence against women** (UNFCC, 2019).
- GBV, child, early and forced marriage, and trafficking **increase after disasters and extreme weather events.**
- Relationship between the Climate and Environmental Crises and Child Marriage? A Scoping Review (UNFPA & Queen Mary University, forthcoming)
 - Environmental crises worsening known drivers of CM



Benefits of realizing SRHR as a basis for climate adaptation

- Emerging evidence shows investments in SRHR, including by building more resilient health systems and delivering SRHR services in the aftermath of climate change disasters, can reduce the impacts of climate change on people.
- When SRHR is fully realized, people are better equipped to handle climate change shocks and contribute to climate solutions.

(Women Deliver 2021 for reference)



An intersectional lens is crucial

- Efforts to address climate change that do not pay attention to existing socioeconomic and cultural inequalities in access to SRHR and gender equality run the risk of exacerbating them.
- Many of the factors that inhibit the realisation of SRHR (for example, age, race, and sexual orientation) also exacerbate vulnerability to climate change and vice-versa.

(Women Deliver 2021 for reference)



UNFPA Kenya Photo

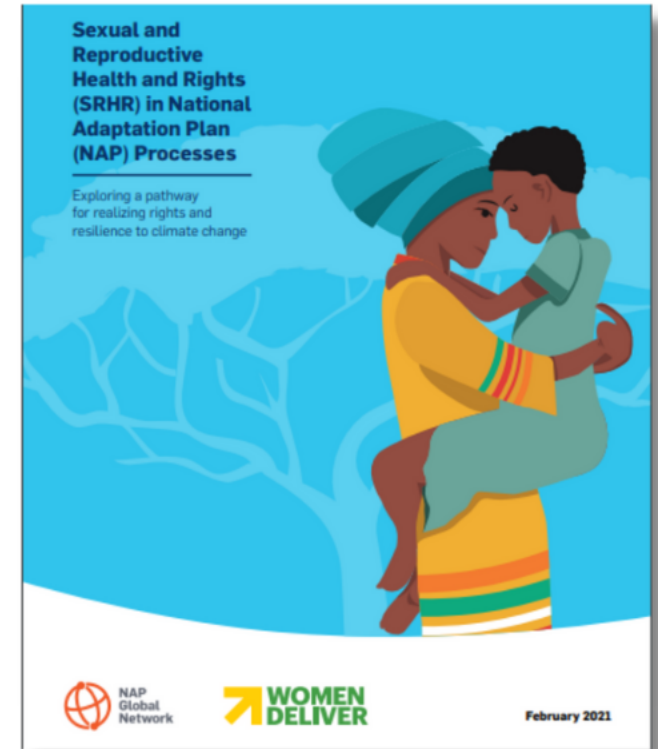


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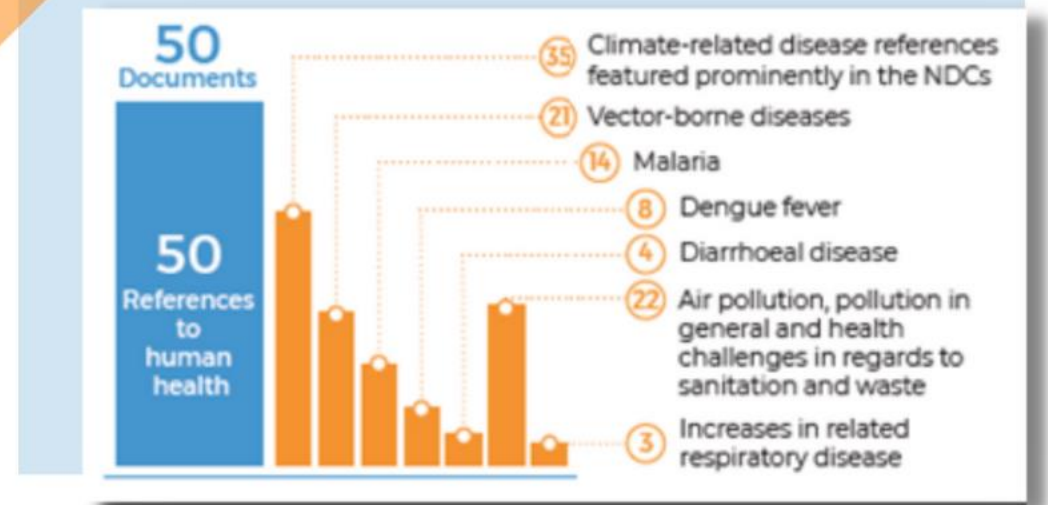
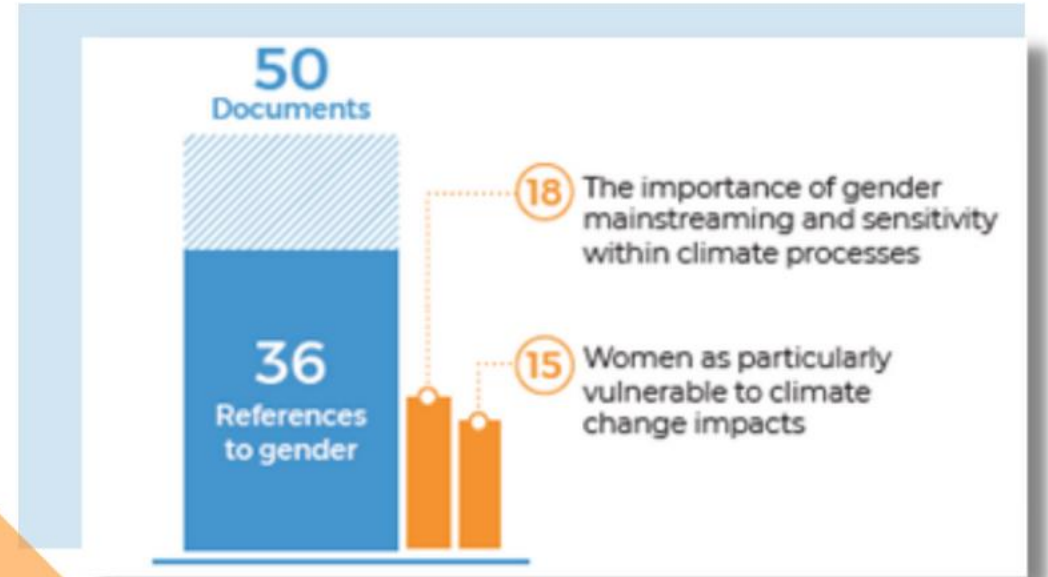
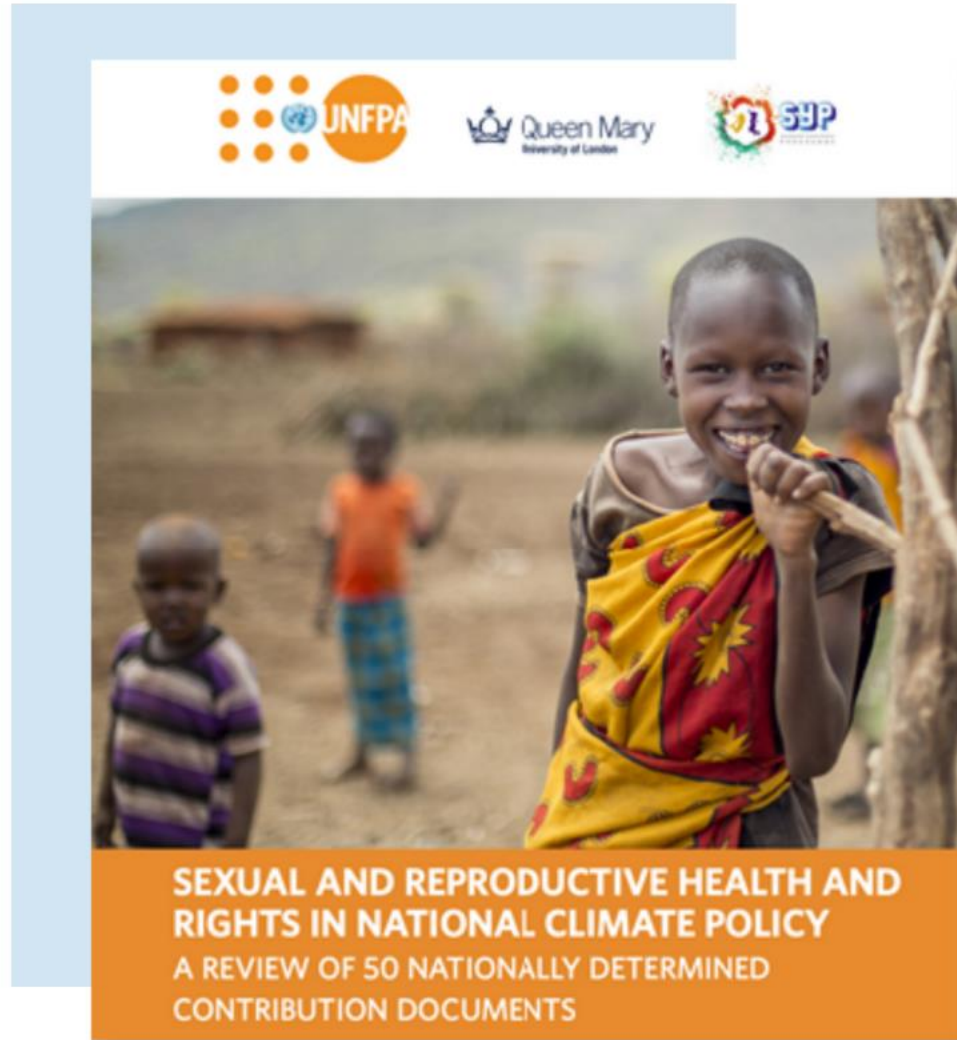
Review of National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions Documents

Review of National Adaptation Plans

- **Finding 1:** Adaptation in the health sector is being prioritized in NAP processes.
- **Finding 2:** Some attention to gender considerations in the health sector in adaptation planning documents.
- **Finding 3:** Limited attention to SRHR in overarching NAP documents.
- **Finding 4:** Where health sector NAPs do address SRHR, this may not be reflected in the overarching NAP documents.
- **Finding 5:** Gender-responsive approaches present an entry point for consideration of SRHR issues in NAP processes.
- **Finding 6:** Investments in health sector adaptation may have indirect benefits for SRHR.



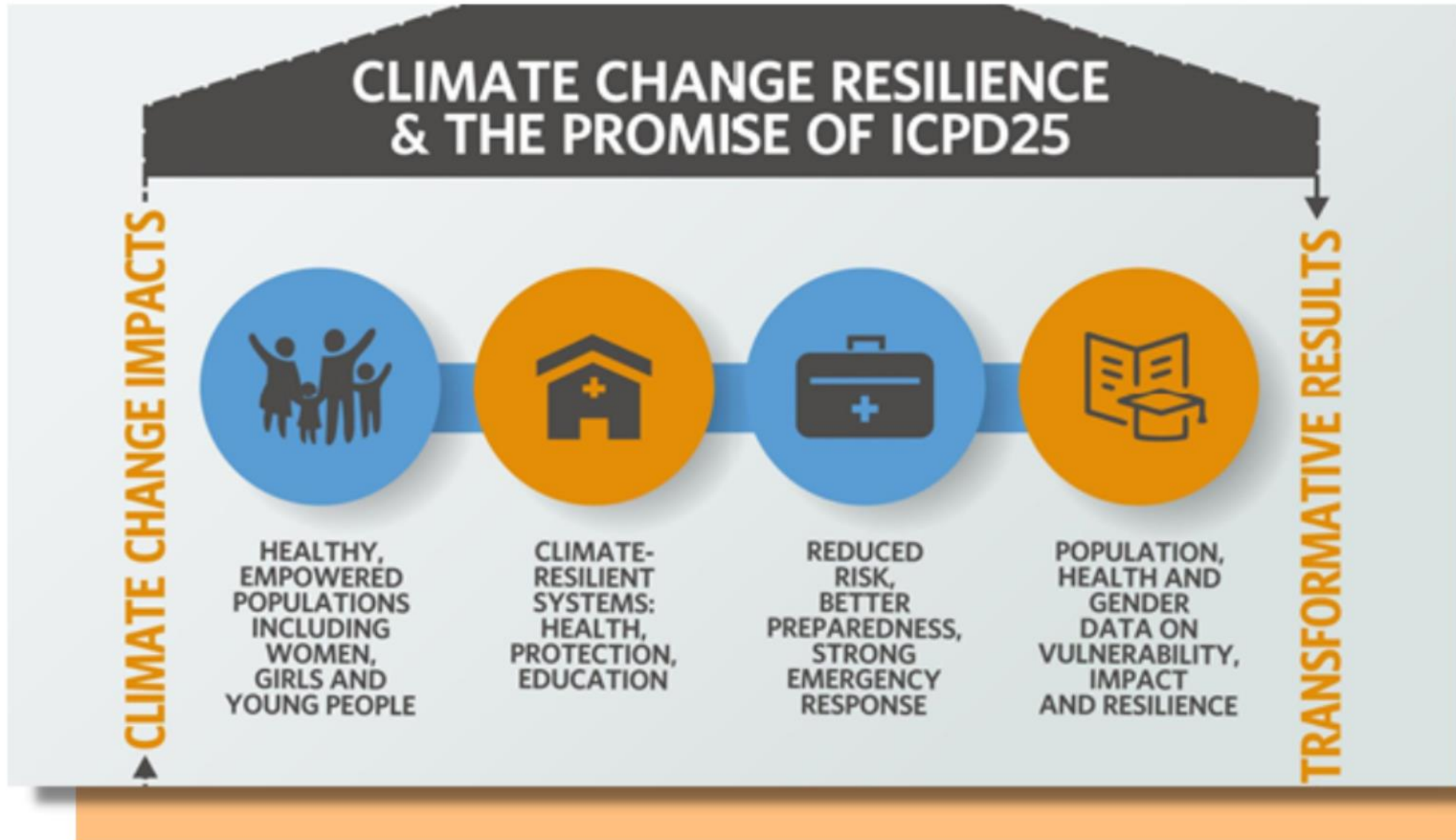
NCD UNFPA/Queen Mary University Review



Recommendations



A Multi-pronged Programme of Action





Recommendations

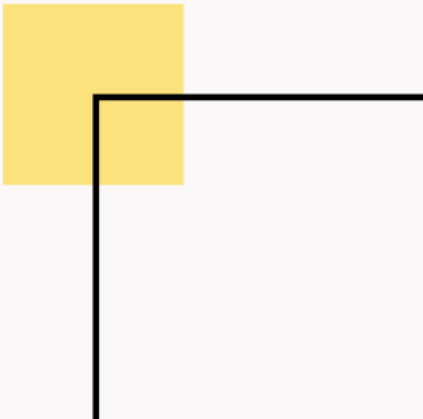
1. Realize the full range of SRHR and ensure a **social-justice and rights-based approach to family planning** in adaptation strategies.

2. Enhance collaboration between the climate change, health, and women's rights and humanitarian communities. Some ways:

- Promote collaboration among the government entities responsible for the NAP and NDC processes, gender equality, and health, through institutional arrangements.
- Incorporate SRHR-related issues in vulnerability assessments and gender analyses to inform adaptation planning.
- Promote gender-transformation climate action by addressing climate change-SRHR linkages across climate action processes.

3. Increase the focus on inclusive, gender-balanced, multi-sectoral stakeholder participation in climate policy.

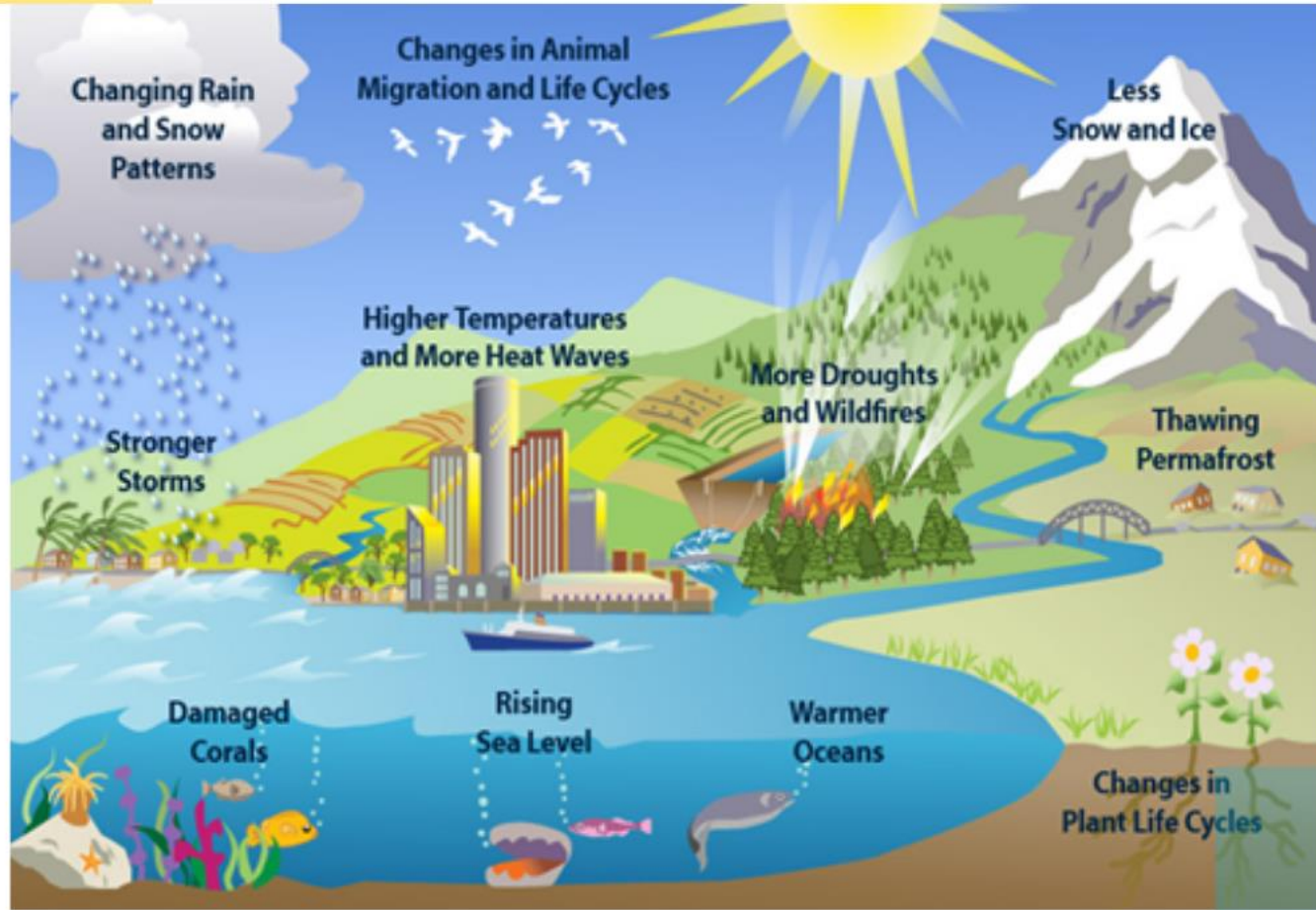
4. Invest in research to address the evidence gaps and integrate analysis of SRHR and climate data.



Supporting Slides



Impact of Climate Change



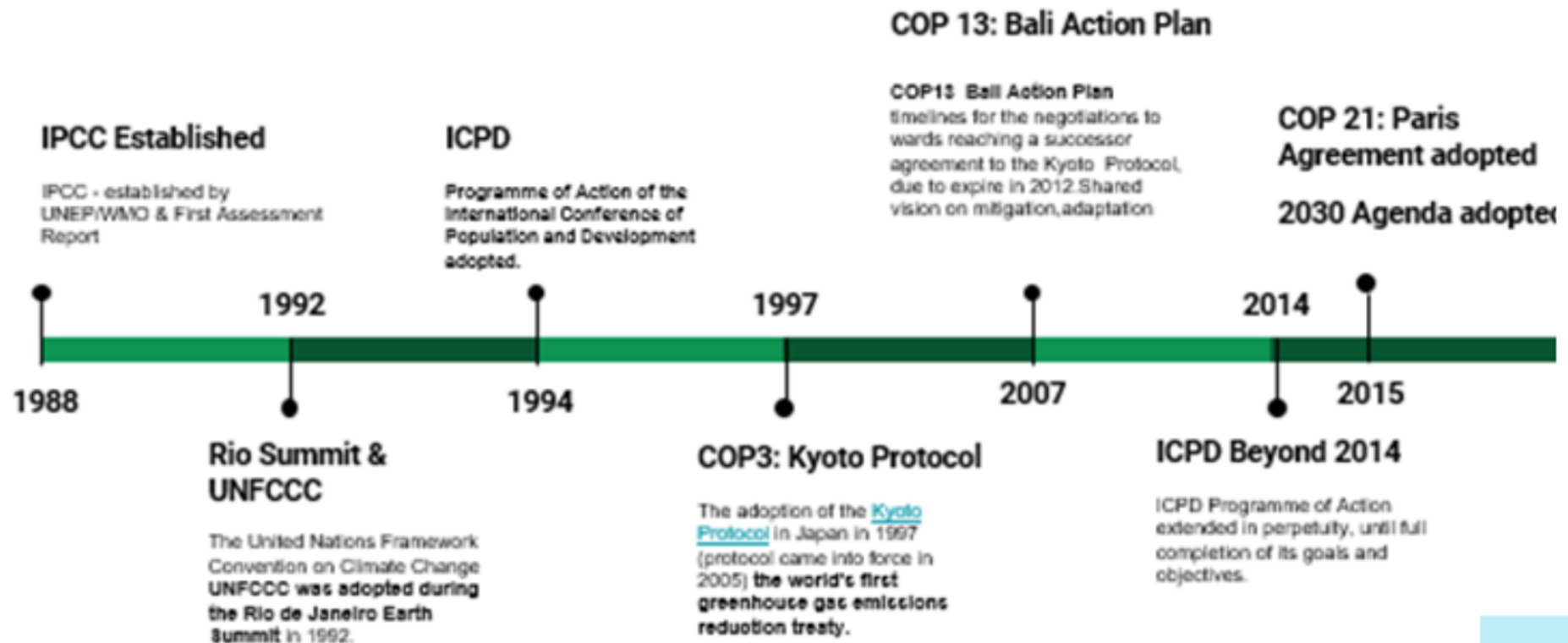
Broad impact of climate change on development and humanitarian consequence.

Eventually, without major emissions reduction and adaptation, climate change impacts will be catastrophic.

Key Milestones: From Rio to Paris

In 2015, the world adopted the Paris Agreement at the COP21

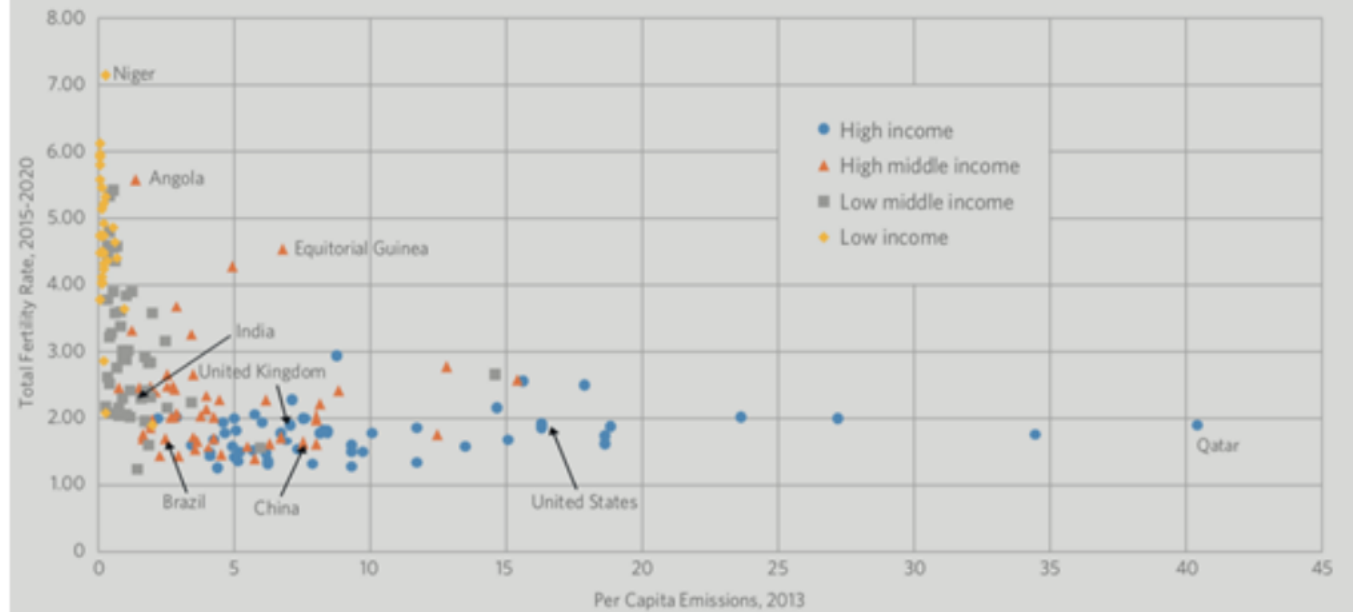
Gender and health strong in climate negotiations, but with **significant gaps related to ICPD issues**: lack of attention to maternal and neonatal health, human rights and SRHR, gender-based violence and other key gender-related sectors.



Population and Climate Change: The Error Habitually Made

- Population has not been part of UNFCCC negotiations, due to politics and the history of population control.
- Slowing population growth may contribute to emissions reductions in the long term – but it is no shortcut.
- No matter the population, we need low to zero emissions consumption and production.

Figure 1: Fertility and per capita emissions



Source: Total fertility rate from UN Population Division, World Population Prospects: the 2017 Revision
Per capita emissions from World Bank Open Data, data.worldbank.org

Integrating SRHR into National Climate Policy



UNFPA Photo

- The inclusion of **SRHR and population dynamics in climate policy must be human rights-based and reflect the ICPD Programme of Action.**
- Realization of SRHR helps **build resilience and adaptive capacity** for climate change while reducing inequality and enabling justice.
- Ensure **inclusion and representation.**
- Ensure that climate-related vulnerability assessments and actions **take into account SRHR/GBV.**
- Strengthen climate resilience through the **enhanced capacity of individuals, communities, and institutions** for the development and implementation of gender-sensitive climate adaptation actions.

Panel Discussion: Programmatic Actions



Sohanur Rahman, YouthNet
for Climate Justice



Fleur Newman, United
Nations Framework
Convention on Climate
Change, Women and
Gender Secretariat



Lorelei Goodyear, FP2030



Gareth Phillips, African
Development Bank

Closing Remarks



Jennifer Adams

Acting Assistant Administrator
Bureau of Global Health

US Agency for International Development

Thank you!