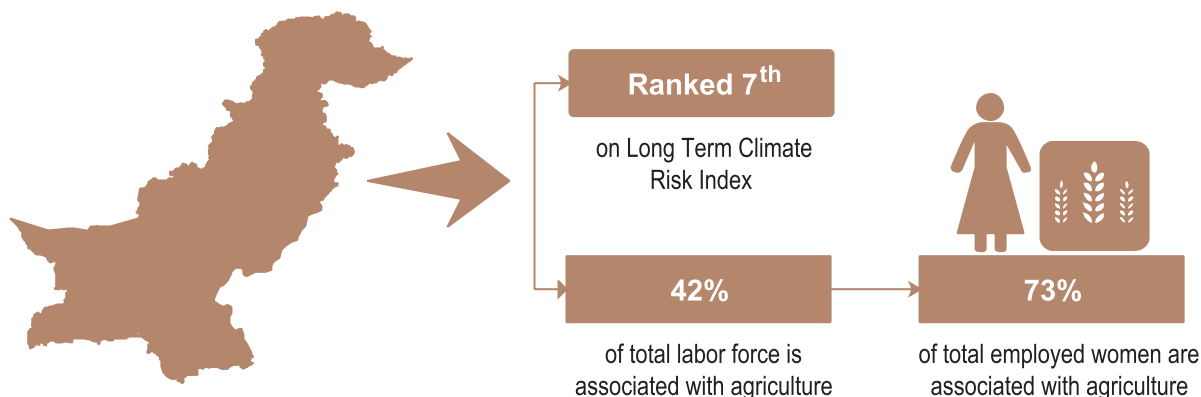


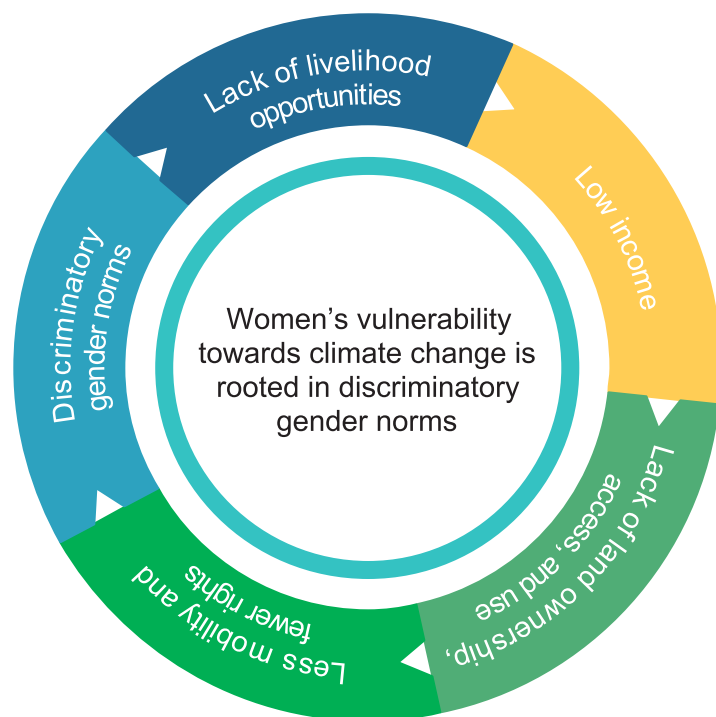
RURAL WOMEN IN PAKISTAN - STATUS REPORT 2018

GENDER, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

PAKISTAN CLIMATE RISK RANKING¹



FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO WOMEN'S VULNERABILITY²



WOMEN'S HEALTH

- Disaster affected areas become a hub for contagious diseases, malaria, cholera, skin infection
- Malnutrition due to scarce food supplies
- Reproductive health- suffer from lack of sanitation, lack of skilled birth attendants
- Shortage of healthcare providers

WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE WORK

As part of their reproductive and caretaking responsibilities, women are often engaged in fetching water and collecting fuel and food from far off places. With climate change straining these resources, these tasks may become difficult for them if they have to spend more time and exert more effort in accessing them. This leaves them with limited time to engage in other activities such as earning, decision-making and fulfilling domestic responsibilities

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Climate change provokes displacement of rural communities. This phenomenon can lead towards increased cases of gender based violence and sexual harassment. During time of natural disasters, women are more vulnerable towards violence and at risk of domestic violence, sexual violence and trafficking.

¹ Source: Global Climate Risk Index (2017)

² Source: UN Women. 2017. Mainstreaming Gender in Green Climate Fund Projects

WOMEN'S WORK AND AGRICULTURE



In rural areas, women are more invested in farm activities that are not only underpaid, but also more susceptible to climate change. Climate change threatens food security, increases their work load and exploits available resources³.



Climate change induced natural disasters (e.g. floods disrupted cotton, rice, sugar cane and vegetable production and affected women's livelihoods). Women lost wages as standing crop were destroyed in the 2010 floods.



Due to increase in temperature, the production of wheat, a staple food grown all over the country, is expected to decline in upcoming years. Climate change would also reduce sugar cane production in arid and semi-arid regions⁴.

"Untimely rains/floods damage our crops, for example if cotton is ready for picking getting rain at that time is quite a bad situation for all of us" (Female Respondent, Badin) "We cultivated tomatoes but a few days before picking of the crop in winter, the temperature was extremely low so all the crop was damaged" (Female Respondent, Dadu)

Source: SPDC. 2015. Gender and Social Vulnerability to Climate Change.

RURAL MIGRATION

Male out-migration is a common livelihood strategy, especially in the flood and drought prone arid and semi-arid areas of Pakistan. In such circumstances, women that are left behind in the rural areas play prime roles in terms of managing livestock, taking on additional responsibilities, ensuring food security of the household by food production, preservation and storage etc. This may not always lead to transformational shifts in women's agency, rather it can increase the burden of responsibility and work, further straining their capacities⁵.

The floods were very dangerous: it made life very miserable as our houses were completely damaged and livestock, chickens, crops and trees were all finished....Then we moved to Thar where more of the livestock died; we came back to our village where we then faced a drought-like situation.

Source: Female Respondent, Badin (Aurat Foundation)



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This infographic was developed by the Center of Gender and Policy Studies (CGaPS) for the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) with support from the Canada Fund and UN Women Pakistan. Please send any comments on the infographic to CGaPS at program.cgaps@gmail.com

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³ Source: Qaisrani et al., 2018 Forthcoming publication. SDPI, Pakistan

⁴ Source: Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan: Country Situation Assessment, 2015

⁵ Source: Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Climate Change and Heat-Waves: Rural-To-Urban Migration in Pakistan. A Silent Looming Crisis, 2015