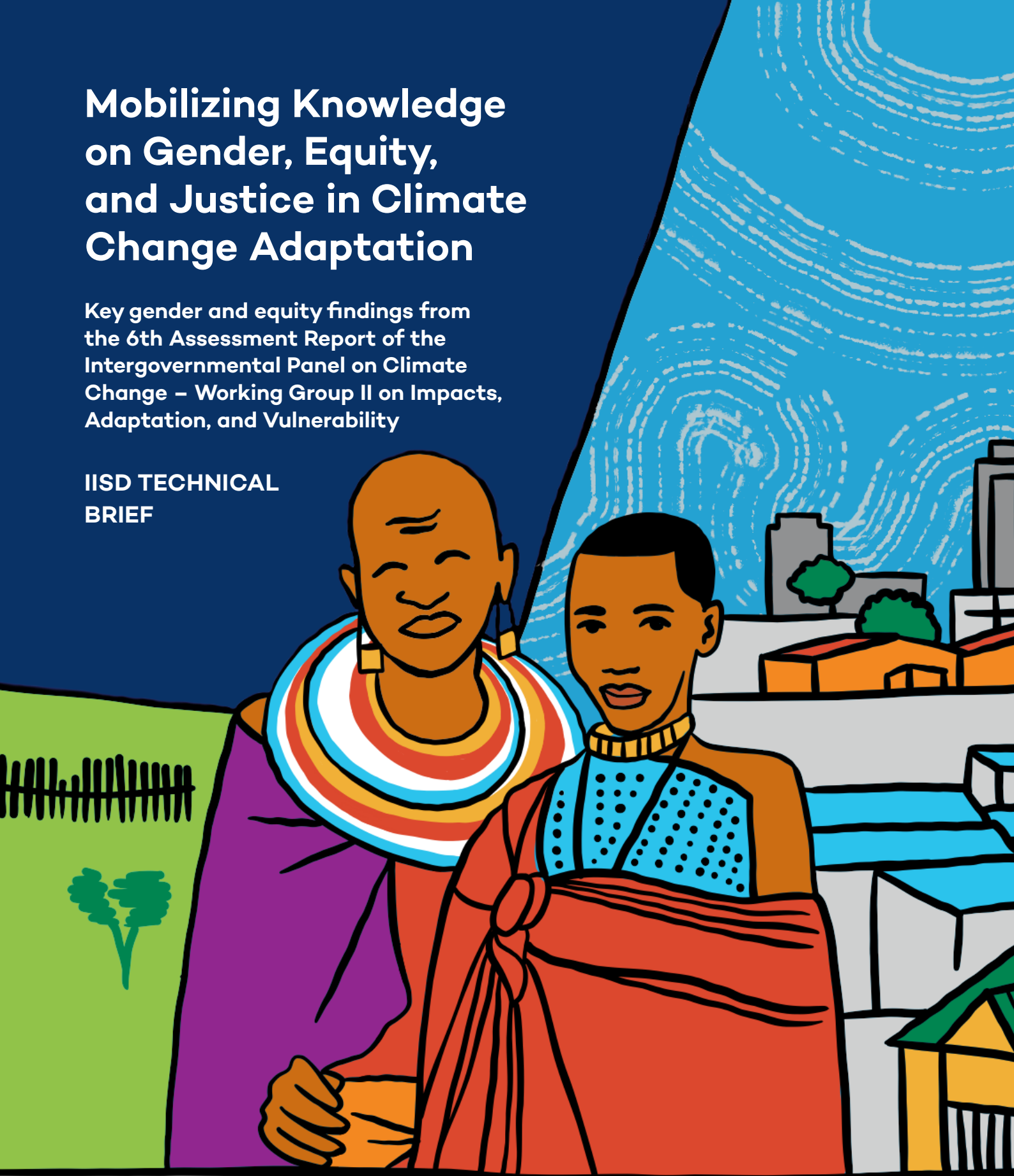


Mobilizing Knowledge on Gender, Equity, and Justice in Climate Change Adaptation

Key gender and equity findings from the 6th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – Working Group II on Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability

IISD TECHNICAL BRIEF





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September 2024

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Funding provided by:





Acknowledgements

The authors would like to express our sincere gratitude to the members of the project's advisory group, Chikondi Chabvuta (Malawi), Christine Ogola (Kenya), Colette Benoudji (Chad), Joanita Babirye (Uganda), Manal Bidar (Morocco), and Marie Christina Kolo (Madagascar) who provided their knowledge and experiences to unpack the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC's) key messages and were integral to contextualizing and illustrating these key messages so that they may reach a broader audience. This project would not have been possible without the input of the advisory group in co-designing the narrative of this technical brief and the accompanying comic. More information on each of the advisory group members can be found on the Authorship page of this report. We also greatly appreciate Lulu Kitololo (Kenya), who worked with the team to create the comic. Lulu's illustrations and narrative bring the key messages of the IPCC to life and provide important texture and nuance to the project's outputs.

The authors would like to thank Dr. Lisa Schipper, University of Bonn, Institute of Geography, for the conversation that sparked this initiative, as well as the IPCC authors who generously gave their time to review and provide input to document's key messages: Debora Ley (United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean) and Edmond Totin (Université Nationale d'Agriculture [Benin] and World Vegetable Center, Coastal and Humid Regions). We are also grateful to Juliet Perry (International Institute for Sustainable Development [IISD]) for her input and guidance throughout the project and to Christophe Buffet (Agence Française de Développement [AFD]) and Anne Hammill (IISD) for their review of this technical brief.

This brief was produced through an IISD project funded by AdaptAction, an AFD Group program. We are grateful for AFD's support of this project.



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1.0 Introduction

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the UN body dedicated to assessing the science related to climate change (IPCC, 2023). The IPCC brings together thousands of experts, divided into different Working Groups, to periodically review relevant scientific literature and produce the most comprehensive state-of-the-knowledge reports on climate change. Working Group II (WG II) assesses the impacts, adaptation, and vulnerabilities related to climate change, and its contribution to the most recently completed sixth assessment cycle was published in 2022. Compared to previous cycles, the WG II contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report (WG II report) includes more references to gender, equity, and justice, reflecting the importance of incorporating these considerations in climate change adaptation planning and action.

Effective adaptation action requires a whole-of-society approach, implicating a broad range of actors, including governments, civil society organizations, private sector actors, community organizations, service providers, and individual citizens. These actors need the best available evidence to integrate considerations of gender, equity, and justice into their adaptation efforts, but the length and the technical style of the IPCC reports may present barriers to accessing the critical knowledge they contain. The WG II report is over 3,000 pages long, with references to gender, equity, and justice distributed throughout the document. Additionally, the IPCC reports are written for a technical audience of governments, policy-makers, academics, and those in the scientific community (IPCC, 2012). This can make it difficult for adaptation practitioners and other interested actors to capture the key messages and apply them in their work.

In an effort to increase the uptake of gender-responsive and socially inclusive approaches to adaptation, we have systematically reviewed the WG II report and summarized the key messages on gender, equity, and justice.¹ This technical brief unpacks the key messages with illustrative examples and a companion comic: *[A Story of Gender, Equity, and Justice in Climate Change Adaptation](#)*. The brief can be used on its own or with the comic to better understand and communicate this essential knowledge toward more just and effective adaptation to climate change. We collaborated with a group of advocates and practitioners to explore how to illustrate and explain these messages in a relevant and accessible way, putting them in the context of their experiences living and working in different parts of Africa.

The key messages are also presented in a policy brief published by the NAP Global Network entitled *[Summarizing Evidence for Gender-Responsive National Adaptation Plan \(NAP\) Processes – Key Gender and Equity Findings from the 6th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\) – Working Group II on Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability](#)*.

¹ The key messages related to gender, equity, and justice in this brief present a snapshot of the research included in WG II of the Sixth Assessment Report. The information presented in these key messages is strictly based on the contents of the IPCC report. Consequently, some issues that are relevant to discussions of gender, equity, and justice in adaptation may not be captured because they do not feature in the report.



2.0 Understanding Adaptation to Climate Change

The IPCC uses several foundational concepts for understanding climate change impacts, their effects on people, and adaptation. The concepts of climate risk, vulnerability, and adaptation are core to the IPCC's and our collective understanding of climate change impacts and adaptation.

Climate Risk

The IPCC defines climate risk as “the potential for adverse consequences for human or ecological systems, recognizing the diversity of values and objectives associated with such systems” (IPCC, 2022, p. 2921), noting that risks associated with climate change can come both from the impacts of climate change and from human responses to it. Climate risks are the result of interactions of climate-related hazards with the exposure and vulnerability of human or ecological systems. These interactions are dynamic, meaning that climate risks change over time and space, and there are uncertainties around all three components (IPCC, 2022, p. 2921).

Breaking down these component parts, we can understand that the impact of a climate-related hazard, which may be an event (such as a cyclone) or a trend (such as increasing temperatures), will differ depending on exposure and vulnerability. Exposure is about the presence of people, ecosystems, infrastructure, and other important economic, social, and cultural assets in the area where the climate hazard occurs that may be harmed (IPCC, 2022, p. 2907). Vulnerability (described in the next section) determines how serious the impacts are. Together, climate-related hazards, exposure, and vulnerability determine the degree of climate risk to people, their livelihoods, and the ecosystems, infrastructure, and services they rely on.

Vulnerability

Vulnerability is defined as “the propensity or predisposition to be adversely affected. Vulnerability encompasses a variety of concepts and elements, including sensitivity or susceptibility to harm and lack of capacity to cope and adapt” (IPCC, 2022, p. 2927). Vulnerability explains why, within the same community or even the same household, people experience different degrees of harm from the same impacts of climate change. Consider a community where some people are employed in agriculture while others work at a factory producing goods made of metal. The livelihoods of the agricultural workers are more sensitive to a climate hazard such as a drought than the factory workers; therefore, their vulnerability is higher. Among the agricultural workers, there may be some who have crop insurance or savings that can help them manage through the difficult season—their vulnerability is lower than someone who is completely dependent on the revenue generated from the crops.

Our collective understanding of vulnerability has evolved. As a result, the WG II report places greater importance on the social aspects, including race, disability, gender, and socio-economic status, emphasizing how inequity exacerbates vulnerability. People who



face discrimination are typically more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change because their adaptive capacity is constrained by barriers to accessing information, resources, and services, and they are excluded from social networks and decision-making processes. Within the community described above, for example, women agricultural workers might be more vulnerable because there are legal and social constraints to them owning land. In another example, a person who is hearing impaired and has less access to early warnings may be more vulnerable to an extreme event like a flood.

Adaptation

Adaptation to climate change in human systems is “the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects, in order to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities” (IPCC, 2022, p. 2898). It is an ongoing process of planning, learning, and adjusting to changing climate conditions and patterns in extreme weather events by reducing exposure and/or vulnerability. Adaptation is about managing climate risks, which can be either reactive—for example, by planting a second crop when the rains don’t arrive as planned—or proactive, where actions are taken to protect from future harms. As we are already experiencing the impacts of climate change, adaptation is necessary, even with strong action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. However, speeding up action to address the causes of climate change will mean less adaptation is required over time and will reduce the losses and damages experienced.

Adaptation involves a wide range of actions. Given the importance of understanding climate risks to plan for adaptation, investments in climate services such as early warning systems and downscaled climate projections can support better decision making across sectors and communities. Adaptation can involve “hard” measures, such as the protection of key infrastructure, like roads, as well as “soft” measures, like strengthening financial services and enhancing social safety nets within communities. Adaptation decision making must be informed by an understanding of current and future impacts of climate change, as well as exposure to climate risks and vulnerability to the negative effects.



3.0 Unpacking and Contextualizing the IPCC's Key Messages on Gender, Equity, and Justice Considerations in Climate Change Adaptation

This section summarizes the key messages on gender, equity, and justice from IPCC's WG II report, based on a systematic review of the document. The key messages have been grouped into three broad themes: differential vulnerability to climate change, the benefits of gender-responsive and socially inclusive adaptation, and promising approaches.

To unpack and contextualize these key messages, we engaged with a group of advocates and practitioners from a variety of African geographies. Through a co-design process that drew on their experiences living and working in different parts of Africa, the key messages were explored and a nuanced understanding of how these findings have been observed was developed. These understandings were then translated into a comic with illustrations created by Lulu Kitololo. For more information on the experts who co-created these products, [please see the Authorship page](#).

How Does the IPCC Explain Who Is Most Vulnerable to the Impacts of Climate Change?

Key Message 1:

Women, children, people living with disabilities, the elderly, people living in poverty, Indigenous Peoples, and people who face discrimination because of their race, ethnicity, caste, sexuality, gender identity, or other factors are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

The IPCC makes it clear to us that some members of our society are more in danger from the impacts of climate change than others. This susceptibility to harm varies across and within countries, populations, and communities. The available evidence points to particular groups, including women, children, people living with disabilities, the elderly, and Indigenous Peoples, who are typically more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. It further highlights other groups that face discrimination based on a range of factors as also tending to be particularly vulnerable.

This is not to say that all people falling within these groups are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. People's identities are complex and all of us have multiple, often-times intersecting aspects of our identities that impact the way we experience the world and the opportunities and barriers we face. These aspects of our identities all contribute, both positively and negatively, to our individual levels of vulnerability to climate change.



Box 1. What do we mean by gender?

The concept of **gender** refers to the “socially constructed roles, behaviours, expressions, and identities of girls, women, boys, men, and gender-diverse people. It influences how people perceive themselves and each other, how they act and interact, and the distribution of power and resources in society” (Canadian Institutes of Health Research, 2020, n.p.).

The IPCC considers gender to be a very important factor that shapes how a person will experience the impacts of climate change. Throughout the WG II report, the gendered impacts of climate change and the importance of considering gender when planning and implementing adaptation actions have been well documented. The WG II report includes a cross-chapter box that highlights how understanding gender is central to addressing climate change (IPCC, 2022, pp. 2700–2704).

Illustrating Key Message 1 in the Context of Africa

In the [comic](#), we can observe how the characters are differently affected by the impacts of climate change. The narrative highlights how an Indigenous girl from a rural area is impacted by a drought. Due to her family’s livelihood practice (pastoralism) and her personal identity and place within society, the impacts of the drought are shown to severely affect her.



Her community experiences conflict, and her family is forced to migrate. She has lost the connection with her extended family and her community’s traditional lands, which are essential to their way of life as an Indigenous community. As a young girl in this cultural context, the decision was made for her to move with her grandmother to an unfamiliar peri-urban area. In this new environment, she may be more at risk of gender-based violence. Her Indigeneity, her gender, and her age all influence how the drought affects her.



Key Message 2:

The historical and ongoing exclusion and marginalization of people based on their gender, race, wealth, disabilities, social status, or other socio-economic characteristics influences their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.

Building on the first key message, the IPCC emphasizes the ways in which discrimination on the basis of gender, race, wealth, disabilities, social status or other socio-economic characteristics influences vulnerability. For example, it is not because someone is a woman that they are particularly vulnerable; it is because systemic exclusion and marginalization inhibit their decision-making power and opportunities to participate in economic, political, and social activities. These structures of inequity may exclude people from occupying certain roles in their communities and/or from accessing resources and services.

These structures of inequity have a negative impact on their ability to prepare for, manage, and recover from the harmful impacts of climate change, like extreme weather events.

Illustrating Key Message 2 in the Context of Africa

In the [comic](#), a public participation meeting is held to discuss the impacts of climate change in the aftermath of the flooding in the peri-urban community. However, the discussions are dominated by the men of the community—the women are excluded from sharing their perspectives due to social and cultural norms that position men as decision-makers. Their inability to influence the community's strategy for adaptation limits their adaptive capacity, making them more vulnerable.





Key Message 3:

The impacts of climate change will be felt in many ways and in many aspects of our society, with a number of these impacts being disproportionately felt by vulnerable groups.

The IPCC provides many examples of how climate impacts will disproportionately impact some members of our society. There is evidence of these disproportionate impacts across a range of sectors, including livelihoods, health, food security and nutrition, and water. For example, climate change is predicted to reduce access to water across many parts of the world. Women, children, the elderly, and people living with disabilities may require more water to perform necessary hygiene activities or may need greater amounts of drinking water daily to stay healthy. Additionally, many Indigenous Peoples use water for cultural and spiritual practices. Water scarcity can mean that these groups face additional challenges in remaining healthy and fulfilled. Further, in many settings, women and girls are responsible for water collection duties, so the time required for this may increase, and they may be at increased risk of violence and abuse.

We also see certain groups disproportionately affected by climate-related disasters. For example, climate change is predicted to increase extreme weather events like heat waves, which tend to disproportionately impact elderly people, pregnant women, and people living with disabilities. These groups face greater health impacts and even mortality during extreme heat events because of pre-existing health conditions and physiological differences. Further, children, the elderly, and Indigenous Peoples experience more severe health impacts and respiratory issues due to poor air quality that may accompany heat waves.

Illustrating Key Message 3 in the Context of Africa

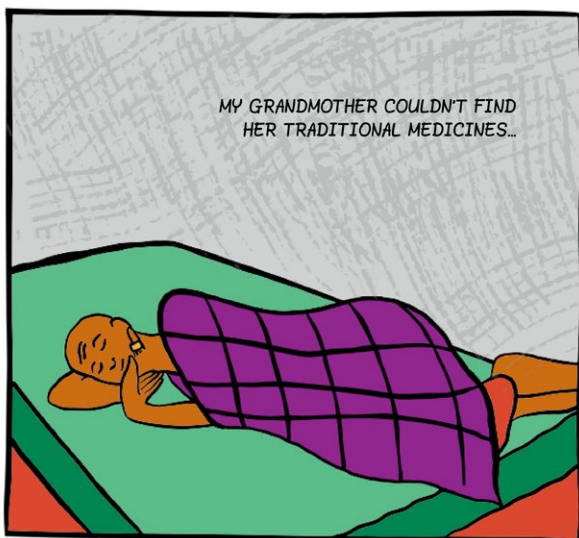
In the second storyline of the [comic](#), a young boy living with his single mother in a peri-urban setting is affected by recurrent flooding. This flooding disrupts his mother's livelihood and impacts the social services (i.e., education and nutritious meals) that they rely on.





The boy and his mother are disproportionately impacted by the flooding due to their socio-economic status. As a child from a poorer household, his family is reliant on the services the local centre provides. Disruption of these services means the loss of an important social network as well as increased food insecurity. Other members of their community may be less dependent on such services and, therefore, may be less susceptible to the impacts of flooding.

The comic brings out another example of these disproportionate impacts in the experiences of a young Indigenous woman who reports that due to the drought and their temporary relocation, her grandmother is unable to access the traditional plants that they rely on for medicine.



There are many factors that impact a person's health, including their age. The grandmother, due to her age, may require these traditional plants to remain healthy. As the drought affects these plants and limits their access to this valuable resource, the grandmother is experiencing greater health complications that will limit her ability to engage in social and economic activities.

Key Message 4:

Vulnerability to climate change, inequality, and the processes of marginalization are closely related, and these processes interact with and compound one another.

The people who experience marginalization and inequality tend to be particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. At the same time, the impacts of climate change are predicted to increase the inequalities they face, which will, in turn, further increase their vulnerability. This can create a feedback loop that reinforces their vulnerable situations.

One such example of this is gender inequality. In many contexts, women and girls are burdened with unpaid care and labour, for example, water collection duties, caring for children and older family members, and collecting firewood and other natural resources for household use. These responsibilities—combined with social norms that drive their exclusion—can prevent women and girls from participating in economic, political, and social activities.



The impacts of climate change may increase the care burden of women and girls, for example, during periods of water scarcity or if health impacts of climate change are experienced by their families. This can create further barriers, preventing some women and girls from being able to participate in income-generating activities, engage in political processes, or attain education. This sets up a vicious cycle that could cause many women and girls to be trapped in a persistent state of vulnerability. The same may happen to other people affected by racism, ageism, ableism, and other inequities.

Illustrating Key Message 4 in the Context of Africa

In the [comic](#), we see how the impacts of climate change may increase inequality and marginalization for our main characters, particularly with the recurrence of extreme weather events. Though it is not evident in the timeline of our story, we can imagine how the impacts they are experiencing may expose them to further discrimination and/or push them further into poverty, which will increase their vulnerability over time.

Why Do We Need to Build Gender, Equity, and Justice Considerations Into Adaptation?

Key Message 5:

When adaptation planning and action include considerations of gender, equity, and justice, adaptation efforts are strengthened, and there is greater potential to produce more successful, cost-effective, and just plans and outcomes.

According to the IPCC, for adaptation efforts to be successful, they need to reduce climate risks while balancing the needs, perspectives, and values present in our diverse society. To achieve this, we need to ground adaptation action in equity and justice, as this will increase their effectiveness.

When adaptation efforts include considerations of equity and justice, they recognize that people's experiences with climate change and adaptation are shaped by their background, lived experience, and the ways in which systemic exclusion and marginalization undermine their resilience. Just adaptation is grounded in meaningful participation of a diversity of actors, including the people most affected by the impacts of climate change ensuring that they have a voice in decision making. A focus on equity helps ensure that adaptation will be successful and that the benefits of adaptation will be distributed fairly so that no one gets left behind.



Box 2. What do we mean by equity and justice?

The IPCC defines **equity** as “the principle of being fair and impartial, and a basis for understanding how the impacts and responses to climate change, including costs and benefits, are distributed in and by society in more or less equal ways” (IPCC, 2022, p. 2913). Equity raises important questions with regards to climate change adaptation efforts. These include the following: Who is responsible for adaptation efforts? How are the burdens associated with the impacts of climate change distributed throughout society? and How will the benefits of adaptation actions be realized across our society?

Justice is defined by the IPCC as “the moral or legal principles of fairness and equity in the way people are treated, often based on the ethics and values of society” (IPCC, 2022, p. 2913). When we refer to justice in climate change and adaptation planning, we often use the concept of **climate justice**, which “links development and human rights to achieve a human-centred approach to addressing climate change, safeguarding the rights of the most vulnerable people and sharing the burdens and benefits of climate change and its impacts equitably and fairly” (IPCC, 2022, p. 2913).

Climate justice is specific to ensuring equitable and fair sharing of the burdens and benefits of climate change and adaptation, as well as ensuring that the rights of the most vulnerable people in our society are safeguarded.

Climate justice can be further broken down into three dimensions:

- **Procedural justice**, which is “justice in the way outcomes are brought about, including who participates and is heard in the processes of decision-making” (IPCC, 2022, p. 2913) or who has a voice in adaptation effort.
- **Distributive justice**, which is “justice in the allocation of burdens and benefits among individuals, nations and generations” (IPCC, 2022, p. 160), or who gains and loses because of climate change and adaptation efforts.
- **Recognition**, which is ensuring that “basic respect and robust engagement with and fair consideration of diverse cultures and perspectives” (IPCC, 2022, p. 160) is included in adaptation efforts.

Illustrating Key Message 5 in the Context of Africa


In the [comic](#), we see that when the women are excluded from decision making, the investment focuses on the repair of the workshop, which largely benefits the men of the community. However, when adaptation planning efforts are inclusive and consider the experiences of different groups, including men, women, Indigenous People, people who have different livelihoods or who use different ecological resources, a greater diversity of solutions designed to benefit different groups are identified. This will lead to adaptation investments that are more effective and yield more equitable outcomes.



ADAPTATION PLAN

THE FORMATION OF AN ADAPTATION COMMITTEE INCLUDING DIVERSE STAKEHOLDERS

FOLLOWING THE MEETING, SEVERAL ADAPTATION ACTIONS WERE IDENTIFIED TO PROTECT OUR TOWN AND OUR WAYS OF LIFE...



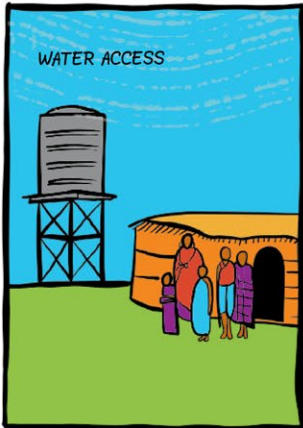
A FLOOD-PROOF LEARNING CENTRE



KITCHEN GARDENS TO GROW OUR OWN NUTRITIOUS FOOD



WATER ACCESS




PROTECTION OF GRAZING AREAS



PROTECTION OF TRADITIONAL PLANTS

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PROJECT





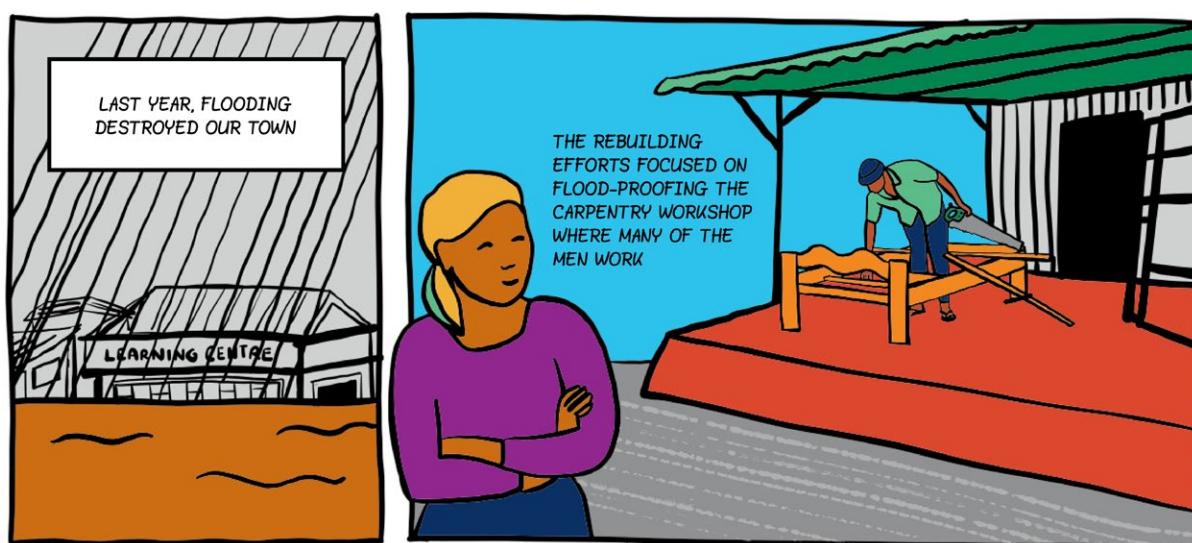
Key Message 6:

When adaptation planning and action does not include considerations of gender, equity, and justice, there is a greater potential for adaptation efforts to have maladaptive outcomes.

Maladaptation is when adaptation efforts increase or displace vulnerability and climate risk to other groups of people or locations. The IPCC tells us that when adaptation efforts do not consider the needs, experiences, and voices of those most vulnerable to the impact of climate change, the likelihood of our actions having maladaptive outcomes increases. Often, the people experiencing these negative outcomes are those who are already facing inequality and marginalization.

Illustrating Key Message 6 in the Context of Africa

The [comic](#) illustrates how when adaptation efforts don't consider the full picture and only focus on one aspect of the community, they may prove to be ineffective and could potentially lead to maladaptation. Following the initial flood event in our peri-urban environment, rebuilding and adaptation efforts do not consider the needs of all those in town but instead focus solely on flood-proofing the local carpentry workshop.



At first glance, this action may seem like it is effectively increasing the ability of the town to resist future flood events as part of the town has now been protected. When a gendered lens is applied, we see that only some members of the town and their livelihoods—the men who work at the carpentry workshop—have been protected. Future flooding events highlight the gap, with the workshop protected but no change in the vulnerability of the people who require the local centre for their livelihoods and the social services it provides. In this example, those who are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change do not get to share in the benefits of adaptation: this has implications not just for their resilience but also for the whole community.



Key Message 7:

Building considerations of gender, equity, and justice into adaptation planning also enables the production of numerous co-benefits.

When adaptation efforts include those who are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and seek to address the root causes of people's vulnerability, adaptation can produce other benefits, including contributions to social equity and health and well-being, among others. Adaptation and sustainable development are closely linked: better management of climate risks can protect development gains and contribute to progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals while also building people's resilience to climate change. When adaptation explicitly seeks to advance equity and justice, the likelihood of realizing these co-benefits is increased.

Illustrating Key Message 7 in the Context of Africa

The [comic](#) shows us how inclusive adaptation processes can lead to benefits beyond climate risk management. The adaptation plan includes a range of actions that will generate co-benefits. For example, the efforts to protect grazing areas and conserve traditional plants will



contribute to sustainable land management and yield biodiversity benefits over the longer term. Improving water access for the rural community will provide health benefits while also helping to maintain their connection to their traditional land and way of life by enabling them to stay in the area even during periods of drought. The adaptation committee presents a model for addressing other development priorities in an inclusive manner.

How Do We Consider Gender, Equity, and Justice in Adaptation Planning?

Key Message 8:

More inclusive participation, through the inclusion of diverse voices and the empowerment of vulnerable populations in decision-making and planning processes, is one strategy for incorporating considerations of gender, equity, and justice into adaptation.

Creating space for people, including vulnerable populations, to share their experiences, needs, and priorities in adaptation planning and decision making is one way of incorporating gender, equity, and justice into adaptation efforts. This aligns with the procedural component of climate justice (see Box 2), which is about ensuring that people have a say in decisions that affect them. Ensuring that people who are typically excluded from decision making can meaningfully participate requires intention and effort.

For some, this may mean providing compensation for their time, which could have been otherwise used for other activities or providing other supports, like child-care considerations or accessible venues, to ensure there are no barriers that limit the participation of particular groups.

Illustrating Key Message 8 in the Context of Africa

The [comic](#) illustrates the importance of facilitating more inclusive participation in adaptation planning processes. We first see that public participation in a community meeting about climate change is limited, and the women in the town are excluded from having a seat at the table.





We know from our key messages that when adaptation efforts are not inclusive, there is a greater chance of maladaptive outcomes occurring. The women in our story get together to strategize about how they can raise their voices, forming a collective that is recognized and invited to the next public participation meeting. This means that a greater diversity of experiences and ideas for adaptation are brought into the discussions, leading to a more inclusive process and a broader range of solutions identified, which will strengthen adaptation efforts.



When we create more space at our adaptation planning “tables,” we broaden the range of voices we are hearing and create opportunities for more equitable adaptation outcomes for all.

Key Message 9:

Grounding adaptation planning and action in multiple knowledge types, including Indigenous and local knowledge, allows for the recognition of diverse perspectives and ultimately strengthens the outcomes of the process.

Adaptation is a learning process. It must be informed by the best available science to ensure that actions are aligned with projected changes in temperature, weather patterns, and extreme weather events. Scientific knowledge is essential for effective adaptation, but so are Indigenous and local knowledges, which can ground the science in the unique context of different communities and landscapes and ensure respect for the diversity of perspectives, cultures, and knowledges that are present in any given context. This aligns with the recognition component of climate justice, acknowledging the need for Indigenous and local knowledge to complement and augment our scientific understanding of climate change and the environment.



Box 3. Indigenous and local knowledge in adaptation

The IPCC provides us with many examples of how Indigenous and local knowledge can be applied in adaptation action. For instance, the Indigenous People of Akobo, in the Jonglei Region of South Sudan, use Indigenous earth walls called hayit to protect their homes and infrastructure from flood waters. These hayit have been documented as providing protection from flooding in excess of one metre above river levels, offering the community a tested solution for flood protection (IPCC, 2022, p. 1332).

In another example, the Khwe and Mbukushu communities in Namibia use early-season controlled burns to reduce their wildfire risk and prevent more intense late-season wildfires. This previously banned practice is now being employed again to manage these communities' wildfire risks (Humphrey et al., 2021; IPCC, 2022, p. 1330). These are just two examples of Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge from communities in Africa. Many more examples can be found in the box on Indigenous and local knowledge in the WG II report (IPCC, 2022, pp. 1330–1332).

Illustrating Key Message 9 in the Context of Africa

The [comic](#) showcases how Indigenous and local knowledge can provide information that is relevant to adaptation efforts. These knowledge systems have been developed through people's long history with their land and environment.





This knowledge can provide important place-based context that grounds adaptation efforts and ensures they are relevant, as well as providing effective strategies for managing climate variability and local resources.



Key Message 10:

Community-based adaptation (CbA), human rights-based approaches (HRBA), and approaches to adaptation that consider gender-related dimensions or are equity-based can address adaptation while also contributing to gender-, equity-, and justice-related outcomes.

We have a solid base of established approaches to adaptation that can advance equity and justice. These approaches—including CbA, human rights-based approaches, and gender-responsive approaches—build on decades of development experience that have taught us the importance of centring people, enabling meaningful participation in decision making, and building on enhanced local capacities. Applying these approaches helps to put many of the other key messages into practice by grounding adaptation in local contexts, valuing diversity,



and accounting for different voices, needs, and experiences in adaptation toward more effective and equitable adaptation outcomes.

Illustrating Key Message 10 in the Context of Africa

The [comic](#) illustrates CbA in action. In the finale, we observe an annual adaptation review meeting where all members of the community, including men and women, youth, and people with disabilities, are able to participate. This review meeting provides a place where a diversity of perspectives, knowledge, and capacities can be brought into adaptation efforts. It reflects good CbA practice, both in terms of reviewing progress and adjusting the plan for the way forward, as well as in terms of ensuring that representatives of a broad range of groups within the community are present and will have their voices heard.



**Key Message 11:**

Broadening the adaptation solution space beyond technocratic approaches to include actions aimed at the underlying causes of vulnerability—such as reducing poverty, enhancing social safety nets, housing, and implementing health initiatives—can increase vulnerable groups’ resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Due to the interconnections between adaptation and sustainable development, there is a need to address equality in adaptation efforts, as well as ensure that development efforts account for the project’s impacts on climate change on our society.

The IPCC uses the term “climate-resilient development” to describe when an integrated approach toward mitigation, adaptation, and development is taken. Climate-resilient development builds consideration of equity and justice into adaptation efforts while also ensuring that our current development efforts are not vulnerable to future impacts of climate change.

The IPCC see these types of integrating approaches as showing promise because they can reduce societies vulnerability to the impacts of climate as well as contribute to equality and poverty reduction efforts.

Illustrating Key Message 11 in the Context of Africa

The [comic](#) shows the importance of different resources and services in securing the different characters’ resilience to climate impacts. The learning centre is essential for the single mother and her son, as it provides a source of income, a social network, and essential nutrition for the child that addresses the family’s food insecurity. For our Indigenous family, access to their traditional lands and the plants that they contain is important for health and well-being. The collective action of the women in raising their voices emphasizes the importance of participatory governance mechanisms that are inclusive and functional. These actions may not immediately come to mind as adaptation solutions, but they are critical for increasing people’s adaptive capacities.



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Published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development

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