

Gender Dimensions of Weather and Climate Services: Education and Training Needs for Gender-Sensitive Service Delivery



Did you know?

- ❑ In the 1991 Cyclone Gorky, in Bangladesh, women fatalities outnumbered men 14:1, due in part to insufficient access to early warnings.
- ❑ 80% of deaths were women during the 2005 Indian Ocean Tsunami. Women often do not possess important life-saving skills such as swimming and climbing.
- ❑ In some countries, women cannot leave their homes unaccompanied, and remain in place at great risk.
- ❑ Women and men receive weather and climate information through different media. Public announcements, radios, and other media are often not equally available.
- ❑ Women may be reluctant to use public shelters for fear of sexual violence. Gender-specific shelters are one solution.
- ❑ Men are more at risk when they are expected to perform dangerous “protector” and “bread-winner” behaviors.
- ❑ Fishermen, predominately male, are vulnerable either because alerts and warnings do not reach them, or they risk danger for the sake of their subsistence.
- ❑ While 60-70% of women in developing countries are active in agriculture, they constitute only 10% of participants in WMO roving seminars and 5% of extension services recipients.
- ❑ Women frequently make up a small percentage of mobile phone owners—a primary means for weather and climate information.
- ❑ Women, especially expectant mothers, are highly vulnerable to water-borne diseases, malaria, thermal and other extreme events.
- ❑ Elderly men are at higher risk than women during heat waves due to social isolation.
- ❑ More than half of all premature deaths due to air pollution are actually caused by indoor pollution from open-fire or unventilated stoves. Due to social roles, women and children are most at risk.



WMO Gender Equality Policy

WMO is resolved to achieve gender equality, empower women and build climate-resilient societies.



This policy includes the following objective:

- ❑ To ensure gender-sensitive development and delivery of all services provided through coordination of WMO, including equal access and equal user capacity for women and men

And the following outcomes:

Gender Sensitive Weather, Hydrological and Climate Services

- ❑ Ensure equitable access to, interpretation of and use of information and services by both men and women
- ❑ Improve the understanding of gender-specific impacts of weather and climate, [including]disaster risk reduction, water resources management, public health, agriculture, and food security
- ❑ Pursue strategies and structures to increase the involvement of women as well as men in the development and communication of gender-sensitive . . . services
- ❑ Produce and communicate gender sensitive services
- ❑ Ensure access for women to products and services
- ❑ Strengthen the capacity of women as well as men in climate-sensitive sectors through . . . professional development
- ❑ Increase investment in gender-based . . . services

Capacity Development

- ❑ Efforts will be made to improve understanding of the gender-specific impacts of weather and climate and of the gender dimensions of . . . services, through increased research, outreach and training . . .

Actions ETR Providers can take

- ❑ Provide training for weather and climate service professionals so that they are better able to produce gender-sensitive information
- ❑ Provide education and training to target users (e.g. female farmers) in how and why to access and use weather and climate information and products.
- ❑ Develop materials and tools on the gender aspects of weather, water and climate for use in training and outreach.
- ❑ Provide training aimed at women in accessing and using early warning information to prepare and reduce risk.
- ❑ Raise awareness of the WMO Gender Action Plan.
- ❑ Assist in the improvement of understanding of the gender-specific impacts of weather and climate in their regions
- ❑ Document success stories on gender-related training programmes, and share materials and tools for use in technical programmes and training.
- ❑ Offer short-term visiting scientist programmes, especially for female staff
- ❑ Provide education and training data that includes numbers addressed for each gender separately
- ❑ Provide training to extension officers and relief workers on gender and weather-related issues
- ❑ Ensure that Fellowships, induction training, and professional development programmes address gender equality
- ❑ Use outreach efforts to attract more women to the fields of science and meteorology.

