

Workshop “Climate Emergency and Gender Equality”

The workshop is dedicated to the theme "Climate emergency and Gender Equality", with the objective of involving young people in the debate on the climate crisis - through non-formal and participatory methods. Before the workshop, the participants will receive a brochure with some relevant information to be aware of what is to take place.

Addressing a topic like climate change in an accessible and engaging way for young people requires adapting information to their level of understanding and using interactive methods. In this regard, the following things were taken into account:

1. **Using concrete examples** – presenting real and tangible examples of the effects of climate change.
2. **Use of images and graphics** – these elements help clarify complex concepts.
3. **Explanation of technical terms** – in the created brochure scientific or technical terms have been explained in simple terms to ensure understanding of the content.
4. **Encouraging questions** – throughout the activity, young people will be encouraged to ask questions if they are curious about a certain aspect.

Talking about climate change in a way that is empathetic, interactive and relevant to young people's interests and experiences can help them better understand the importance of the topic and feel motivated to act on it.

The workshop will follow the structure found below. For a good running of the workshop, a facilitator will be needed to ensure that the meeting proceeds properly, it is also recommended that within the World Caffe, there should be a member at each table to moderate and engage the members of each group to ensure that each of them presents their ideas/opinions.

Some useful information for trainers – in addition to the booklet created to be distributed to participants before the workshop (which trainers can also refer to), below is some information on some of the topics of interest related to climate change.

In 2020, the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) published a groundbreaking scientific article that shed light on how pollution and the subsequent heatwaves can elevate the risk of stillbirths. This research revealed that tiny pollutant particles in the atmosphere have the ability not only to infiltrate the respiratory systems of pregnant women but also to reach the placenta, resulting in harm to developing fetuses and, in some instances, contributing to gestational disorders. Furthermore, a study conducted by Harvard University in the same year established a connection between extreme heat and gestational diabetes.

Notably, the 2020 JAMA study highlighted a disturbing trend wherein women from ethnic minority backgrounds, particularly within the African-American community, face a higher risk compared to their white counterparts. "Ethnic minorities are disproportionately exposed to extreme weather events and often lack the means to protect themselves," as noted by Wellenius. He also pointed out that these communities frequently reside in neighborhoods that experience amplified heat during heatwaves and have limited access to air conditioning.

In Italy, a study within the framework of the Monitor project uncovered a significant increase in the risk of premature birth and miscarriage due to exposure to PM10 (particulate matter) emitted by eight incinerators in Emilia Romagna. Furthermore, research involving over 514,000 residents in five cities in southern Italy identified a correlation between fertility issues and the presence of PM10, nitrogen dioxide, and ozone, even when these pollutants were within legal limits.

Across the globe, similar studies have reinforced the concerning impact of air pollution on reproductive health. For instance, research in China, involving 18,000 couples, revealed that exposure to air pollution heightened the risk of infertility by 20 percent. In Denmark, a parallel study indicated that emissions from pollutants reduced women's chances of conceiving by 8 percent.

Adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change in agriculture necessitates innovative approaches. Farmers will need to alter their practices to cope with shifting conditions. Crucially, addressing gender inequality is essential for achieving success in this endeavor.

Agriculture plays a pivotal role in the livelihoods of women worldwide, particularly in the least developed countries where approximately four-fifths of economically active women cite agriculture as their primary economic activity. More women are entering the agricultural sector. However, female farmers face challenges related to limited access to essential resources and inputs necessary to enhance their farming practices and effectively confront climate change-related challenges.

To ensure that policies, institutions, and services designed to assist farmers in adapting to climate change yield positive outcomes, they must cater to the needs of both male and female farmers.

Five policy lessons based on research conducted in low- and middle-income countries:

Access to Agricultural Extension Services: Women often have less access to formal agricultural extension services due to the perception that they are not primary farmers. For instance, fewer women participate in community extension meetings or visit demonstration plots. To bridge this gap, diverse channels such as radio, extension events, SMS, voice messages, community groups, health clinics, and schools should be utilized to reach women effectively.

Communication and Information: Women typically have limited access to communication tools like radio and mobile phones. They also access information differently from men. Employing multiple communication channels tailored to women's needs can be more effective in disseminating critical information related to agriculture and climate change.

Tailored Information: Women may require different information compared to men because of their distinct responsibilities, needs, interests, and constraints. Therefore, information and training programs should be customized to address these specific aspects.

These policy lessons emphasize the importance of recognizing the central role of women in agriculture and ensuring that they receive the support and resources necessary to adapt to climate change while also contributing to sustainable agriculture practices.

Climate change and drought

In numerous developing nations, women bear the responsibility of sourcing water for their families. Droughts exacerbate this challenge, compelling young girls to journey ever farther in search of water sources, often necessitating them to forego their education.

Moreover, women frequently shoulder the caregiving duties within their households. As temperatures rise or disasters strike, the heightened prevalence of diseases places an increased burden on them, elevating their susceptibility to falling ill. Pregnant women are especially vulnerable when diseases proliferate.

Given their roles as caregivers for children and the elderly in their families, women often prioritize the well-being of others over their own. Consequently, they become disproportionately affected during natural disasters.

In certain societies, traditional gender roles may also have hindered women's opportunities to acquire essential skills, such as swimming, or their attire may impede their mobility during emergency evacuations.

The most severe consequences of climate change lead to mass migrations due to food, employment, or water shortages. Migrant women and girls face heightened vulnerability to sexual violence, and their healthcare needs are frequently unmet.

Due to climate change even **cooking** becomes a threat to health, since in low- and middle-income countries solid-fuel stoves (such as wood, agricultural waste, coal) are used, which pollute. Figures from the World Health Organisation (WHO) speak of **3.8 million** deaths per year due to illnesses attributable to domestic air pollution caused by the inefficient use of these stoves.

Moreover, in poor communities in most developing countries, women and girls are responsible for collecting fuels such as **wood**, a gruelling task that can take two to twenty hours a week. As a result, women have less time to do household chores, earn money, engage in politics or other public activities, learn to read or acquire other skills, or simply rest. Girls also often stay at home to help. Finally, when environmental degradation forces them to seek resources further afield, women and girls may be subject to injury from carrying heavy loads over long distances, and they also face an increased risk of harassment, assault and sexual violence.

In recent years, the practice of **sex for fish** has been denounced in the central parts of Africa: i.e. sex as a bargaining chip for fish transactions between fishermen and fish sellers, when women are unable to buy it.

WORKSHOP STRUCTURE

I. Introduction - presentation of the organization, the project and the workshop (15 min)

II. Ice breaker (15 min)

III. Presentation: Climate crisis – what it is, causes and effects (30 min)

IV. World Cafe (1 h)

V. Coffee Break (15 min)

VI. Role Play Debate (30 min)

VIII. Conclusions, Feedback and thanks (15 min)

WORKSHOP STRUCTURE

ICE BREAKER

Exchange stories

Ask participants to share short stories or quotes from famous or unknown people that inspire them or that they feel are important for climate change and gender equality.

WORLD CAFE

- a. Stop and think:** What did you not know? What particularly impressed you? (10 min)
- b. Action! :** Think a small action you have taken recently to help mitigate climate change or promote gender equality. It could be something as simple as a conscious consumption choice or a gesture of support for a gender equality initiative (15 min)
- c. Young Disclosure:** think of a way to bring this theme in your school, how would you approach it? (20 min)
- d. Conclusions** – 15 min

WORKSHOP STRUCTURE

ROLE PLAYING

1. FIND A SOLUTION

Objective:

The workshop aims to engage young people in the discussion and search for solutions related to climate emergency and gender equality.

The main objective is to raise awareness of the link between climate change and gender equality. We want to provide a deeper understanding of how climate change disproportionately affects people based on their gender and discuss how to address these challenges in an inclusive and equitable manner.

Number of participants: 50

Number of groups: 5 groups (10 people each)

Estimated time: 2h and 30min

Materials:

Sheets of paper and pens for each group

Timer or stopwatch

Structure of the Activity

Participants will work in groups, impersonating associations that focus on specific issues related to climate change and gender inequality; each group will propose concrete solutions to be presented to the "Government" group.

Assignment of Topics (10 min)

Divide the participants into 5 groups, assigning each group a specific theme (e.g.: drought, school dropout, access to resources, pollution, etc.).

One group of 10 will be the government.

Development of Solutions (60 min)

Each group works together to identify creative and realistic solutions to address the assigned problem. Encourage the use of critical and innovative thinking in devising solutions. Ensure that solutions take both climate and gender aspects into account.

WORKSHOP STRUCTURE

ROLE PLAYING

Preparation of Presentations (20 min)

Each group prepares a short presentation of their solutions. They should be clear about how their proposals address the problem and contribute to gender equality. Help the groups organise their ideas in a coherent and engaging way.

Presentation and Discussion (45 min)

Each group presents their solutions in front of the government and other participants. After each presentation, leave room for questions and comments from the government.

Reflection and Conclusion (15 mins)

Facilitate a discussion on the variety of solutions presented and highlight how climate change and gender equality are linked. Conclude by highlighting the importance of collective action and encouraging participants to bring the ideas discussed into their daily lives.

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WORKSHOP STRUCTURE

ROLE PLAYING

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Sample Questions for the Discussion and Reflection Session

- Which solutions impressed you the most? Why?
- How can climate change disproportionately affect men and women?
- How do you think young people can influence policies and actions related to climate change and gender equality?
- What small but significant steps can you take in your daily life to contribute to the fight against climate change and promote gender equality?
- How can collective action have a broader impact than individual action?
- What is the role of the Government in promoting policies and actions to address climate change and gender equality?
- What can we do as citizens to push governments to take concrete action?

Remember to adapt these questions according to the dynamics of the group and the answers during the presentations. The aim is to stimulate reflection and encourage in-depth discussion on the issues addressed during the workshop.

WORKSHOP STRUCTURE

ROLE PLAYING

2. CONFERENCE ON 'CLIMATE CHANGE AND GENDER EQUALITY'

Objective

To explore how climate change may affect people differently based on gender and discuss how to address these impacts in an equitable manner.

Number of participants: 50

Number of groups: 5 groups of 10 people each.

Tips for trainers:

- Create an inclusive and respectful environment where all participants feel comfortable expressing their opinions.
- Use concrete examples and engaging stories to illustrate concepts. This will make it easier for participants to connect with the issues.
- Encourage open dialogue.

Total duration: 2h 15min

Registration and Welcome: (10min)

Participants are divided into groups of 10.

Materials distribution(cards, pens, etc.).

Group Work (60 min):

Each group discusses how climate change may affect people differently according to gender and how to address these impacts in an equitable manner.

Each group briefly presents their conclusions at the end.

Talk on the Correlation between Climate Change and Gender Equality (20 min):

One representative per group gives an in-depth talk on the correlation between climate change and gender equality, including tangible examples.

WORKSHOP STRUCTURE

ROLE PLAYING

Question and Answer Session (20 min):

Participants can ask questions to individual groups to clarify doubts or deepen topics.

Future Action Planning (15 min):

Participants are encouraged to reflect on how they can contribute to positive change in their community regarding these issues.

Conclusion and Closure (10 min):

Acknowledgements, summary of the main conclusions that emerged during the conference.

Questions:

- What are some specific challenges women face due to climate change in your community?
- How can ensuring gender equality contribute to more effective decisions to address climate change?
- How important is it to have a balanced gender representation in decisions concerning the environment and climate change?
- What obstacles might prevent women from taking leadership positions in environmental issues?
- Could you share examples of projects or initiatives that address both climate change and gender issues?
- How can education and awareness help create a positive impact on both climate change and gender equality?
- How can you involve your peers in promoting sustainable and inclusive behaviour?
- What can you do individually to address climate change and promote gender equality?
- What collective actions could have a significant impact in your school or community?

Remember that the aim of the questions is to encourage critical reflection, open discussion and the sharing of different opinions among participants. Adapt the questions according to the audience's level of understanding and involvement.

ROLE PLAYING

3. ACTIVISTS' DEMONSTRATION FOR "CLIMATE CHANGE AND GENDER EQUALITY"

Objective:

The main objective of this activity is to engage participants in a creative and collaborative process, stimulating them to reflect on climate change and gender equality through the context of an event.

Number of Participants: 50

Number of Groups: Divide participants into 5 groups of 10 people each.

Total Duration of Activity: 2h

List of Materials:

Large paper or poster board.

Coloured markers.

Pencils and erasers.

Sheets of paper and pens for taking notes.

Timer or clock to monitor the time of the activities.

Microphone (if needed) for group presentations.

Structure of the Activity:

Participants will be divided into groups and will have the opportunity to create slogans, posters and speeches expressing their concerns and ideas on the topic of 'Climate Change and Gender Equality'.

Presentation of the objective of the activity: organising an imaginary demonstration.

Group formation (10 min):

Divide the participants into 5 groups of 10.

Brainstorming session (40 min):

Each group creates a slogan, a visual poster and a speech.

WORKSHOP STRUCTURE

ROLE PLAYING

Speech Preparation (20 mins):

Participants discuss and refine their speeches, making sure they are persuasive and empathetic.

Presentation of Groups (30 mins):

Each group presents their slogan, poster and speech to the other participants.

After each presentation, a space is opened for questions and comments.

Discussion and Reflection (15 mins):

Lead a guided discussion on the ideas that emerged from the presentations.

Encourage participants to reflect on the importance of collective action and the link between climate change and gender equality.

Tips for Trainers:

- Provide clear instructions and ensure that participants understand the objective of the activity.
- Foster an inclusive environment where every voice is heard and respected.
- Encourage creativity and collaboration within groups.
- Ask stimulating questions to deepen participants' reflections.
- Monitor time to ensure that each phase of the activity is respected.
- Adapt the duration of individual phases according to the needs of your group and the dynamics of the event. The aim is to create a space where young people can freely express their ideas and concerns about climate change and gender equality, encouraging them to think critically and actively.

WORKSHOP STRUCTURE

ROLE PLAYING

Sample Questions for the Discussion and Reflection Session

- What were some of the most powerful or poignant messages that emerged from the groups' presentations?
- How do you think gender issues can influence and be influenced by climate change?
- What innovative ideas or solutions to address the climate crisis emerged from your discussions?
- How can young people play a significant role in promoting action for climate change and gender equality in our society?
- What emotions or feelings did you experience while creating the materials and making the presentations? What do you think these emotions reflect?
- What concrete steps could you take after this workshop to spread awareness about climate change and gender equality in your community?
- How can you engage others outside of this workshop in a conversation about these important issues?
- What did you learn from other groups that you did not initially consider? How has this broadened your perspective?
- How can your role as activists contribute to making a real impact in promoting a more sustainable and gender just world?

These questions should stimulate in-depth discussions and encourage critical reflection on the topics discussed during the activity. Adapt the questions according to the participants' answers and reactions, creating an open and engaging environment for conversation.