Climate Change, Gender & SRHR in The Gambia

Local Realities and Challenges

Clean Earth Gambia | Founder: Fatou Jeng

Forbes 30 Under 30 · UN Secretary General Youth Climate Advisor 2023–2025 . Lead Gender Negotiator for The Gambia (COP30)

UNFPA Youth Reviewer. Expert Contributor on Gender and Youth, African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022–2032)

April 2026

ABSTRACT

The Gambia is at the intersection of two defining crises — climate change and gender inequality. This presentation examines how climate hazards amplify SRHR vulnerabilities for women and girls, the gaps in national policy, how Clean Earth Gambia is driving change on the ground and recommendations.

TOP 100

Climate-Vulnerable Countries (IPCC)

TOP 10

Coastal Erosion Risk Globally (WASCAL)

46%

of Women Face Physical/Sexual Violence (UN Women)

10,125

Women of Reproductive age without services and 2,609 pregnant and lactating women displaced in 2022 (UNFPA)

THE GAMBIA: CLIMATE SITUATION

Pop. 2.8M — smallest mainland African country

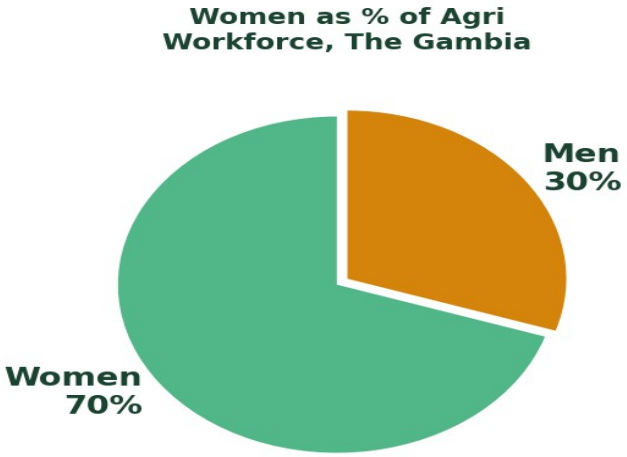
Floods = 60% of hazards &
96% of monetary losses from all Hazards (1990–2014) AFDB

Agriculture = 25% GDP, 70%
of jobs — extremely climate-sensitive (FAO)

The Gambia contributes 0.01% of global CO_2 — yet ranks among the world's most climate-exposed nations.

IPCC (2020); World Bank (2021); Knoema (2022)

WOMEN AT THE FRONTLINE OF CLIMATE CHANGE



70%

Women make up the agricultural workforce

2,609

Pregnant mothers displaced by 2022 floods

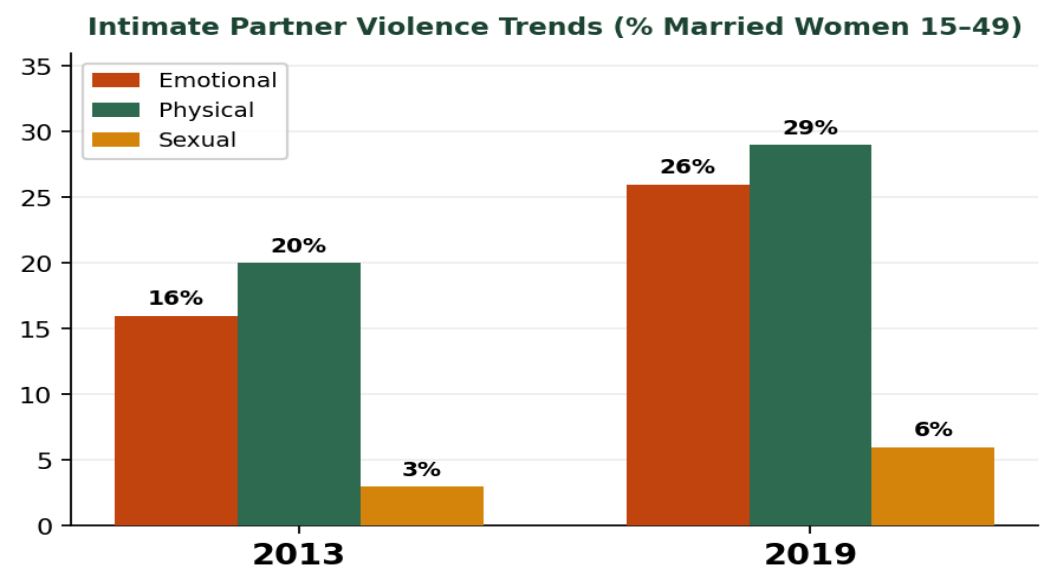
46%

of women face physical or sexual violence

- Heat waves impair pregnant women farmers — limited sick leave (Lowe et al., 2016)
- 10,125 women of reproductive age lost access to health services in 2022 floods
- GBV: emotional violence 16%→26% · physical 20%→29% · sexual doubled (2013–2019)
- Climate-driven migration ('backway') exposes girls to trafficking and exploitation

UNFPA Gambia (2022); UN (2023); Lowe et al. (2016

GBV & SRHR: THE DATA



~289 Maternal deaths per 100,000 live births

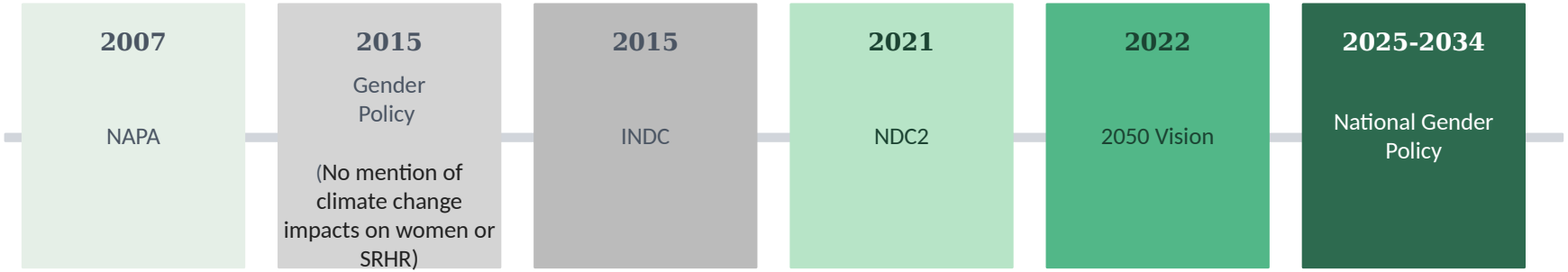
HIGH Adolescent birth rates — worsened by displacement

LOW Skilled birth attendants in coastal risk zones

Climate disasters systematically amplify all forms of GBV — yet SRHR is absent from every major Gambian climate policy document.

UN (2023); WHO (2023); Lowe et al. (2016); GoTG NDC2 (2021)

NATIONAL POLICY LANDSCAPE: KEY GAPS



INDC (2015)

No inclusion of sexual reproductive health and right and gender-based violence issues in adaptation and mitigation efforts

NDC2 (2021)

Gender provisions generic — SRHR fully absent

2050 Climate Vision

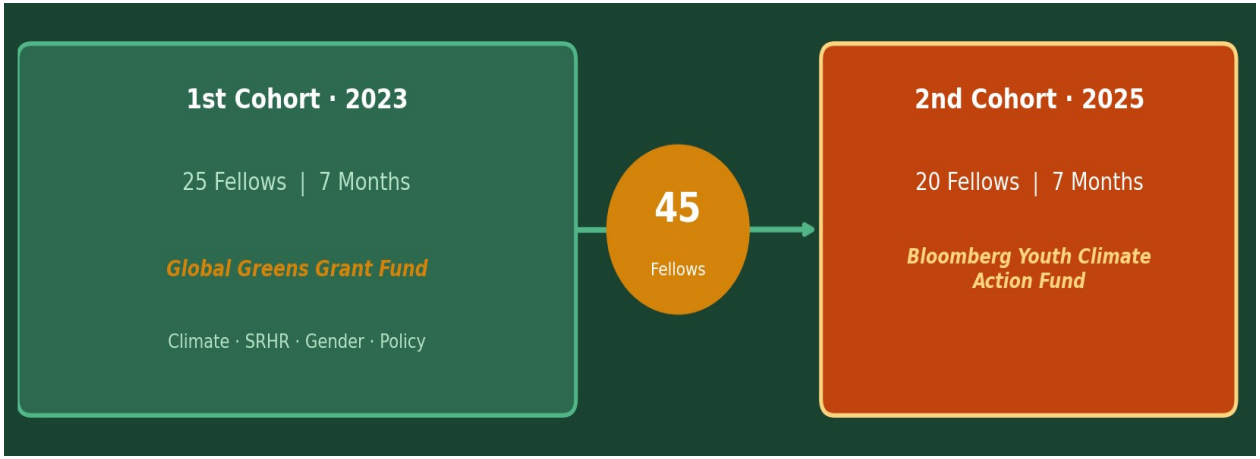
Names women as vulnerable — but lacks accountability

National Gender Policy 2025-2034

Highlights the need to address GBV and the intersection of climate change with sexual and reproductive health.

GoTG NDC2 (2021); GoTG Gender Policy (2010); GoTG INDC (2015); Jeng, F. (2023)

SHE-CLIMATE FELLOWSHIP | CLEAN EARTH GAMBIA



Programme Focus: SRHR · Gender · Climate · Policy

SRHR & Climate
How climate drives maternal mortality, early marriage & GBV

Gender & Policy
Advocating gender-responsive climate policy at every level

Leadership
Building the next generation of young female climate leaders

Livelihoods
Climate-smart agri, renewable energy, waste management, income generation

Clean Earth Gambia She-Climate Fellowship Programme Data (2023, 2025)

CLEAN EARTH GAMBIA: COMMUNITY WORK

Women Farmers Programme

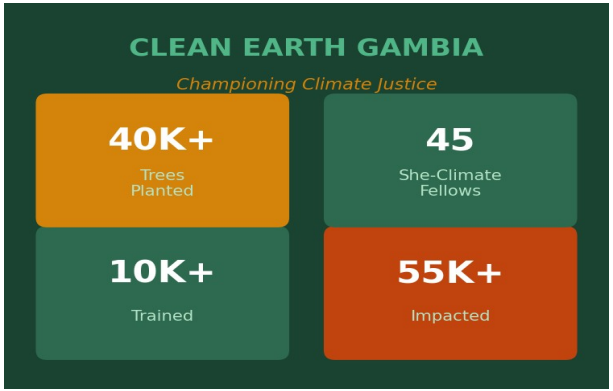
- Advocate for women's land rights against restrictive customary laws
- Climate-smart agri training: crop diversification, water conservation, soil management
- Capacity building: financial literacy, community leadership, access to resources

Clean Earth Gambia Programme Reports; UNFPA Gambia (2022); GoTG / UNICEF National Youth Climate Conference (2024)

CLEAN EARTH GAMBIA: IMPACT

COMMUNITY WORK

- Hosted 1st National Children and Youth Conference on Climate Change in partnership with Government and UNICEF.
- Planted over 40,000 trees, over 55,000 people impacted.
- Established Eco-Clubs and support greening initiatives, support youth-led local innovation and more.



Clean Earth Gambia Programme Reports; UNFPA Gambia (2022); GoTG / UNICEF National Youth Climate Conference (2024)

RECOMMENDATIONS

01

Revise National Gender Policy

Follow-up mechanism to ensure gender-responsive approaches into climate change initiatives.

02

Strengthen NDC3 Provisions

Add measurable gender-SRHR targets with accountability

03

Multi-Sectoral Coordination

Link Health, Women's Affairs & Environment ministries

04

Fund SRHR-Climate Research & Programs

Commission sex-disaggregated data on climate-driven GBV

05

Meaningful Participation

Ensure coastal & rural women shape all climate planning

06

Scale She-Climate Fellowship

Expand to all regions of The Gambia

UNFPA (2022); IPCC AR6 (2022); UN Women (2022); Clean Earth Gambia (2025)

Climate change is not gender-neutral. Neither should our response be.

The Gambia's climate future must centre women's voices,
SRHR rights, and gender justice in every policy, program and action.

REFERENCES

1. Jeng, F. (2023). The Gambia Climate Change Country Profile. Clean Earth Gambia. [UNFPA`]
2. GoTG (2015). Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC). https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/gam186326.pdf
3. GoTG (2021). Second NDC. https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-06/Second%20NDC%20of%20The%20Republic%20of%20The%20Gambia-16-12-2021.pdf
4. GoTG (2010). National Gender Policy 2010–2020. https://www.ilo.org/dyn/travail/docs/1958/Gambia%20national%20gender%20policy.pdf
5. GoTG (2010a). The Women's Act. https://wwwex.ilo.org/dyn/natlex2/natlex2/files/download/90619/GMB90619.pdf
6. GoTG (2019). National Youth Policy 2019–2028. https://nyc.gm/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/National-Youth-Policy-of-The-Gambia-2019-2028-Final.pdf
7. IPCC (2022). Sixth Assessment Report (AR6). https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/
8. UNFPA Gambia (2022). Women Farming in Kubandar. https://gambia.unfpa.org/en/news/women-farming-kubandar-land-disputes-climate-crisis-and-inequality
9. UN (2023). UNFPA Country Programme Document for The Gambia. https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/board-documents/main-document/DP.FPA_.2021.8
10. World Bank (2021). The Gambia Climate Change Country Assessment. https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/gambia/vulnerability
11. Lowe, M., Chen, D.R. & Huang, S.L. (2016). Maternal health in rural Gambia. PLoS ONE, 11, e163653.
12. University of Notre Dame (2021). ND-GAIN Country Index. https://gain-new.crc.nd.edu/ranking/vulnerability
13. FAO (2019). Climate-Smart Agriculture in The Gambia. https://www.fao.org/3/CA1673EN/ca1673en.pdf
14. GBoS (2017). The Gambia Integrated Household Survey. https://www.gbosdata.org/downloads/24-the-gambia-integrated-household-surveys-ihs-
15. GoTG (2025). National Gender Policy 2025–2034. Government of The Gambia, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare.