Natural hazards and climate change impact women and men differently due to differences in societal expectations of their roles and responsibilities in families and communities, and the means by which they earn their livelihoods. Women generally have lower incomes, less access to credit and decision-making authority, and limited control over resources, which increases their vulnerabilities to many natural hazards and climate change impacts. The impacts of climate change and disasters often magnify existing gender inequalities between women and men; thus, the approach to policy development and service delivery by institutions needs to take into consideration gendered differences. In particular, climate change and disaster risk preparation and response demand initiatives that identify and address existing gendered differences to ensure that women and girls, and men and boys have equal access to disaster risk resilience and climate change and environmental solutions.
The Enabling Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery, Climate and Environmental Resilience in the Caribbean (EnGenDER) Project is funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (UKFCDO). Led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the EnGenDER Project is jointly implemented also by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA). Nine Caribbean countries are beneficiaries of the EnGenDER Project: Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname.

During the four-year period of 2019-2022, the EnGenDER Project has aimed to:

- Integrate recovery planning and frameworks at both national and regional levels to ensure gender-responsive and resilient disaster recovery for vulnerable groups.
- Strengthen national capacities for gender-responsive climate change planning and implementation among state and non-state actors in each of the nine targeted countries.
- Encourage the application of gender-responsive and rights-based approaches into national climate change and disaster risk reduction decision-making bodies.

The EnGenDER Project also supports the response of countries to loss of livelihoods in the agricultural and tourism sectors due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and natural hazards, such as floods, hurricanes and volcano eruptions.

In the same way that gender shapes vulnerability and contributes to inequalities in climate change and disaster situations, gender-responsive approaches can help to inform better planning and decision-making related to climate change adaptation, disaster risk preparation and response. Gender-responsive policies and targeted service delivery can positively shape people's capacities to prepare, withstand and recover from the impacts of climate change and disasters. Country reviews of policy design and service delivery show, however, that far too often, women are left out of planning and decision-making processes. Thus, engaging and empowering women and men is a strategic and necessary approach to strengthening their resilience to disaster risks and climate change impacts across the Caribbean.

This Gender and Climate Change Resilience Series is a UN Women publication under the EnGenDER Project.