



Women on the Frontlines of Change: Empowerment in the Face of Climate Displacement

Verona Collantes
Intergovernmental Specialist,
climate change focal point
UN Women

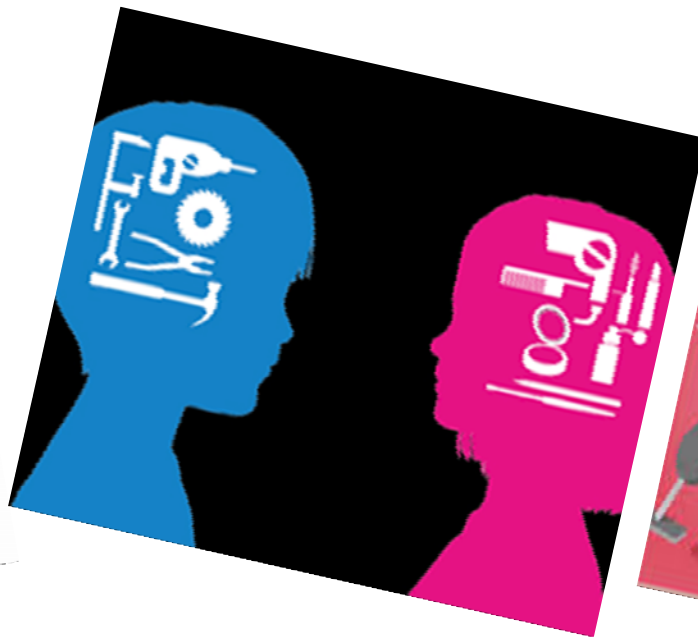
1 March 2018, Wilson Center, Washington D.C.

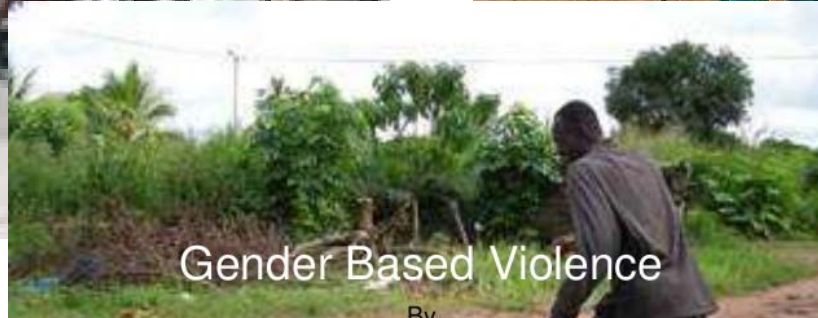
OUTLINE

- ▶ Part I: Gender dimensions
- ▶ Part II: Gender-responsive mandates and approaches
- ▶ Part III: Programmes and stories of resilience

Headline Messages

- ▶ Gender inequalities
 - ▶ constrain women and girls' responses to climate change and natural disasters
- ▶ Women and girls: disproportionately impacted by climate-related threats
 - ▶ Women and men on the move are subjected to different challenges and needs
- ▶ Women are leaders in resilience-building and are agents of change





Gender Based Violence

By
Charles Mhango
MSc.RH Student, BSc.NM



NO ACCESS





Climate-related disasters and female mortality

YEAR	DISASTER/COUNTRY	FEMALE MORTALITY
1991	Cyclone OB2 - Bangladesh	90%
2004	Tsunami - Aceh-Indonesia	77%
2004	Tsunami - Tamil Nadu-India	73%
2008	Cyclone Nargis - Myanmar	61%
2009	Tsunami - Tonga and Samoa	70%
2014	Solomon Island Floods	96% (incl. children)
2015	Nepal Earthquake	55%

The new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include a stand-alone goal on gender equality. SDG 5 covers issues that the Millennium Development Goals failed to address and that are particularly relevant to Asia and the Pacific.



SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY

The goal of SDG 5 is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



WHAT?



1 End discrimination against all women and girls



4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work



2 Eliminate violence against all women and girls



5 Ensure women's participation and leadership in decision-making



3 Eliminate all harmful practices such as child marriage



6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights

HOW?

— Explicitly linked
 - - Substantially linked



Slide 10

VC1

Verona Collantes, 10/5/2016

Gender responsive approaches

▶ Gender mainstreaming as a strategy

- ▶ Objective: to actively promote gender equality, women's human rights and empowerment
 - ▶ In all areas, at all levels and all types of action - negotiations, policy, programmes, budgets, decision-making

▶ Gender analysis informs interventions:

- ▶ roles, activities, contributions, relationships, rights, resources, agency, power and decision-making, priorities and needs

▶ Impact assessment: how the planned intervention could impact on the existing gender equality situation

CEDAW Committee

General Recommendation 37

States parties should:

- ▶ Ensure that migration and development policies are gender responsive and that they include sound disaster risk considerations and recognize disasters and climate change as important push factors for internal displacement and migration.
- ▶ Facilitate the participation of migrant women, including those who have been displaced, in the development, implementation and monitoring of policies designed to protect and promote their human rights at all phases of migration.
- ▶ Ensure a gender balance among border police, military personnel and government officials who receive migrants and train these groups on the gender-specific harms that women migrants may face, including the increased risk of violence.
- ▶ Integrate human mobility-related considerations into disaster risk reduction and climate change policies, taking into account the specific rights and needs of women and girls.

UN Women's Programmes

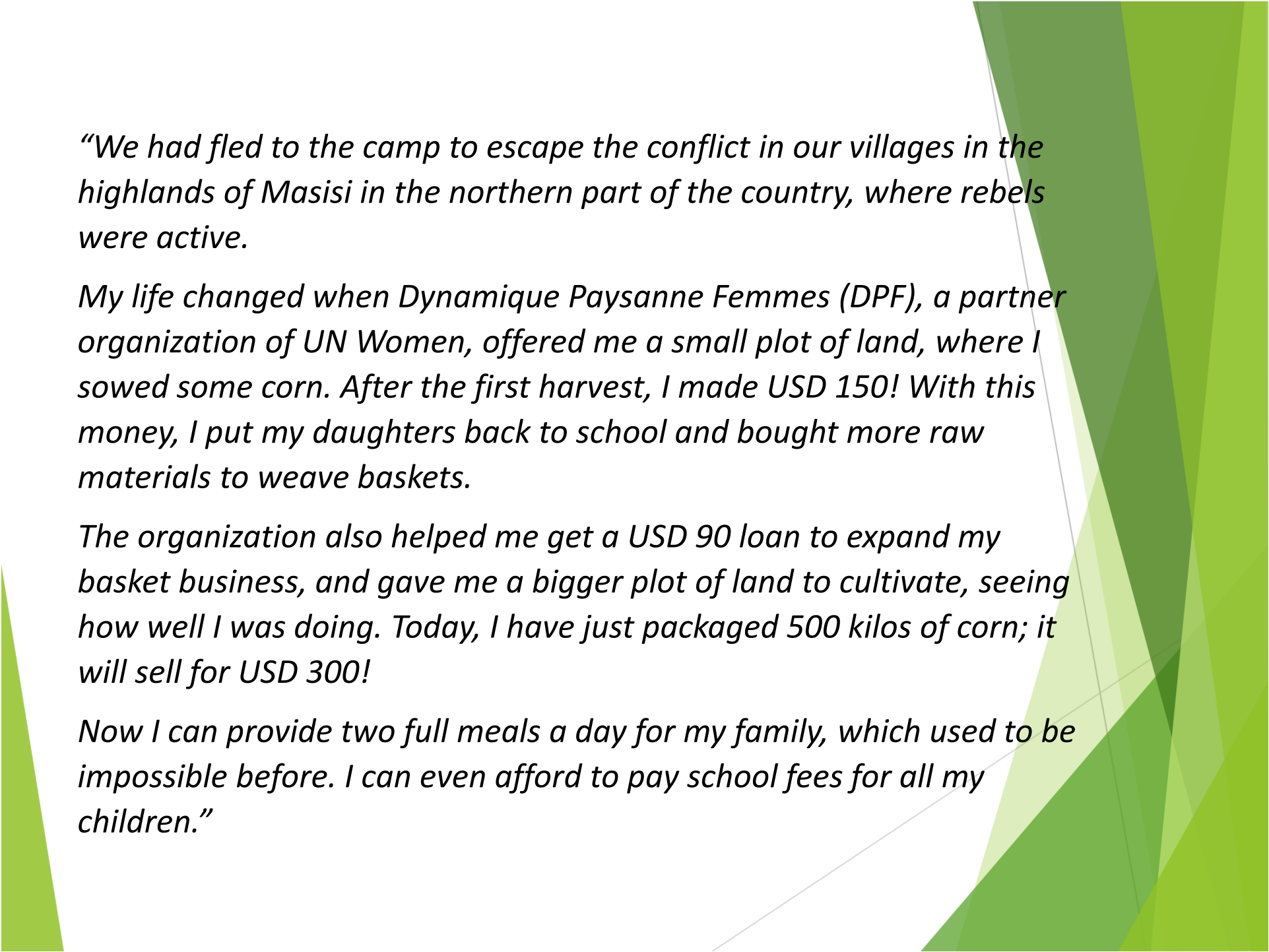
► Leadership, Empowerment, Access & Protection in Crisis Response (LEAP) programme

Focusing on women's empowerment and resilience, UN Women:

- Coordinates and provides technical support for gender-inclusive humanitarian response
- Enhances girls' and women's participation and leadership, and building social cohesion
- Provides protection services (i.e. legal aid, referral services, psycho-social assistance and SGBV awareness-raising and prevention)
- Provides livelihood assistance (i.e. employment (e.g. Cash for Work), agricultural production and entrepreneurship opportunities
- Organizes skills training for livelihood

The Multisectoral Response Project to Women Refugees and Displaced in the DRC supported Maheshe's leadership. She now owns a piece of land and a small business of basket-making. Her story amplifies the need of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 on ending poverty, which calls for land ownership and control, as well as SDG 8 which promotes entrepreneurship.





“We had fled to the camp to escape the conflict in our villages in the highlands of Masisi in the northern part of the country, where rebels were active.

My life changed when Dynamique Paysanne Femmes (DPF), a partner organization of UN Women, offered me a small plot of land, where I sowed some corn. After the first harvest, I made USD 150! With this money, I put my daughters back to school and bought more raw materials to weave baskets.

The organization also helped me get a USD 90 loan to expand my basket business, and gave me a bigger plot of land to cultivate, seeing how well I was doing. Today, I have just packaged 500 kilos of corn; it will sell for USD 300!

Now I can provide two full meals a day for my family, which used to be impossible before. I can even afford to pay school fees for all my children.”

UN Women's Programmes

- ▶ Gender Inequality of Risk and Promoting Community Resilience to Natural Hazards in a Changing Climate (GIR)
 - ▶ Programme with IFRC and UNISDR, UN Women in support of a gender-responsive Sendai Framework Implementation

Key outcomes :

- ▶ understanding and assessing the gender dimensions of risk;
- ▶ ensuring that DRR policy and risk governance are gender responsive and well resources;
- ▶ increasing women's capacity to prevent, prepare for and recover from disasters ; and
- ▶ strengthening women's participation and leadership in DRR.

Thank you

Verona.collantes@unwomen.org

SOME SOURCES:

Draft General Recommendation No. 37 on Gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in a changing climate (expected to be adopted on 7 March)

Pacific Gender and Climate Change toolkit (2015): <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2015/9/pacific-gender-and-climate-change-toolkit>

Monitoring gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Opportunities and Challenges

<http://www2.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2015/indicatorpaper-en-final.pdf?v=1&d=20150921T140212>

Assessment report: Women's livelihood needs in Bangladesh:
https://www.unclearn.org/sites/default/files/inventory/unwoman30112015_2.pdf

A Nexus Approach For The SDGs: Interlinkages between the goals and targets

<https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/2016doc/interlinkages-sdgs.pdf>

Leveraging co-benefits between Gender Equality and Climate Action for Sustainable Development (2016) http://unfccc.int/files/gender_and_climate_change/application/pdf/leveraging_cobenefits.pdf