



ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES

Climate Change and Drought Impacts on Women: Sub-Saharan Africa

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EWIC Staff: Datasheet

- ❖ Over 43% of the land in Africa is classified as either dry or very dry. About 330 million people depend on it for their survival, which makes it one of the most vulnerable continents to climate change. African women disproportionately face the impacts of climate change because they make up a greater portion of those in poverty. They are more dependent for their livelihood on natural resources that are threatened by climate change.^{1,3}
- ❖ According to a 2015 report by Agriculture for Impact, farmers with smallholdings in Africa will be among those most severely affected by climate change.² This also has major implications on women--more than 90% in many African countries are involved in agricultural work.³
- ❖ In Uganda, 80% of those employed in agricultural labor are women. Gender issues are not addressed in the country's Agriculture and Climate Change policies of 1997 and 2013. Gender and climate change are not given priority or a clear allocated budget in these policies.⁴
- ❖ Africa has the largest number of Women Ministers and Deputy Ministers in charge of the environment. This includes South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and 10 other African countries.¹
- ❖ Founded in 1997 by a group of grassroots women in Nigeria, the Women Environmental Programme (WEP) is a non-governmental, non-profit, non-religious and voluntary organization. WEP primarily works to address gender injustices on issues relating to climate change, the environment, economic and social rights of women, children and youths in the society.⁵
- ❖ In western Cameroon, the Upper Nun Valley Development Authority (UNVDA), a government agro-industry body, developed a program that works to help women rice farmers adopt better crop varieties and use water more efficiently in order to adapt to climate change.⁶
- ❖ In its implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification, South Africa is emphasizing the role of women in the National Action Programme process that promotes alternative livelihood strategies for women such as the production of reed mats that are used for tourist campsites.⁷

¹ <http://www.greenbeltmovement.org/node/153>

² http://ag4impact.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/MP_Climate_Report_Web2.pdf

³ http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate_change/downloads/Women_and_Climate_Change_Factsheet.pdf

⁴ <http://www.ipsnews.net/2015/11/uganda-tanzania-need-gender-sensitive-climate-change-policies/>

⁵ <http://www.wepnigeria.net/about%20wep.html>

⁶ <http://www.trust.org/item/20151016091510-ny1dw/?source=spotlight>

⁷ <http://www.undp.org/seed/unso/women>