

Impacts of Climate Change and Extreme Weather events on women's autonomy in the Caribbean: A preliminary overview

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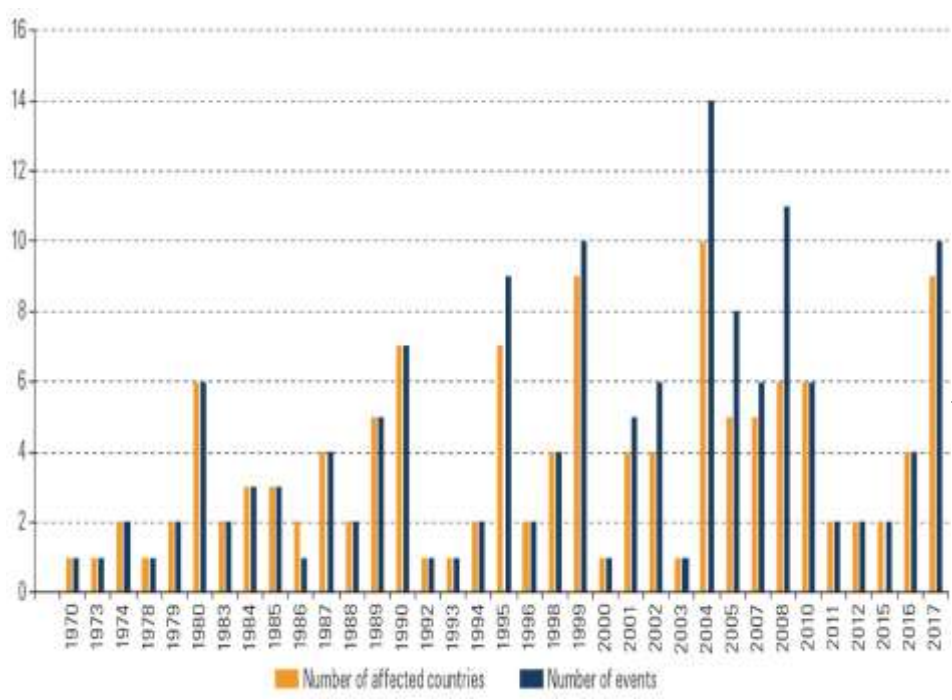
Caribbean: Specific vulnerabilities

- **Geo-ecological characteristics of SIDS and low lying coastal States**
- **14.5% of residents in Caribbean SIDS live in low-elevation coastal zones less than 10m above sea level and more than 50% of the population live within 1.5 km of the shore**
- **Estimation that annual temperatures in the Caribbean will increase by between 1°C and 5°C by 2080**
- **Economic development of the subregion mainly derived from tourism and industry**

The second most hazard-prone region in the world

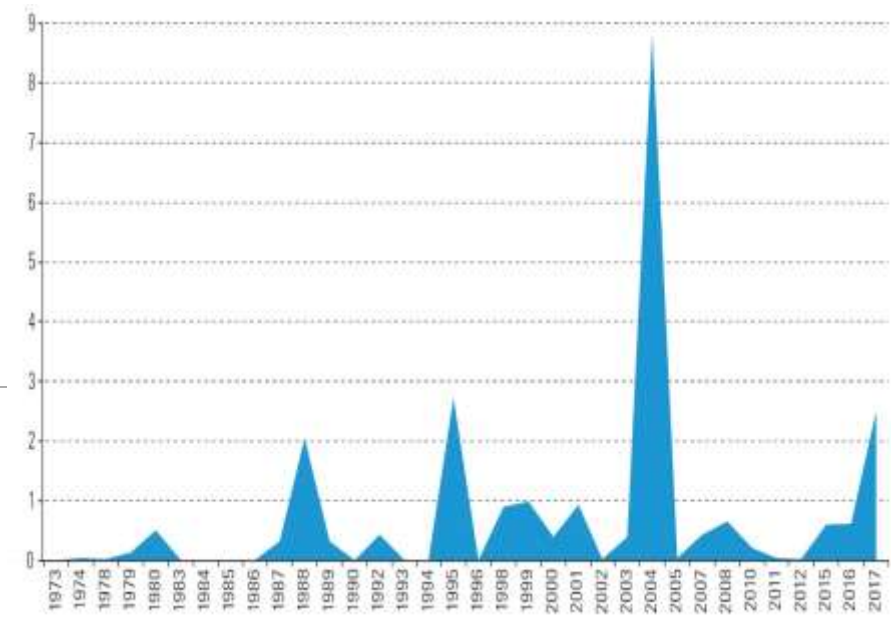
Disaster-related costs are expected to escalate in the face of population growth, rapid urbanization, increased exposure of assets and climate change –related phenomena

The Caribbean (29 countries and territories): number of disasters caused by storms and number of affected countries, 1970-2017



Source: Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT) [online] www.emdat.be.

The Caribbean (29 countries and territories): a damage caused by storms, 1973-2017 (Billions of dollars)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT) [online] www.emdat.be, and assessments by ECLAC and the World Bank Islands.



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Caribbean women: between vulnerability and resilience



Social, economic & political barriers



Under-employment & unemployment



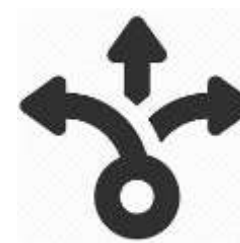
Violence



Domestic work & unpaid care



Lack of savings



Access to Decision-making



ECLAC Study: Objectives & Scope

Objectives:

- Assess how Caribbean countries have been applying a gender perspective in addressing Climate Resilience and Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction
- Identify good practices and challenges to inclusion of a gender perspective in climate change and disaster risk reduction related policies, plans and strategies
- Provide recommendations on how Caribbean governments can advance inclusion of a gender perspective in climate change and disaster risk reduction actions

Scope:

- 13 ECLAC Member countries, whose national policies, plans and strategies were reviewed
- 13 international and regional frameworks were reviewed



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Methodology

After conducting the assessment of national, regional and international frameworks, it resulted in the identification of the following principles:

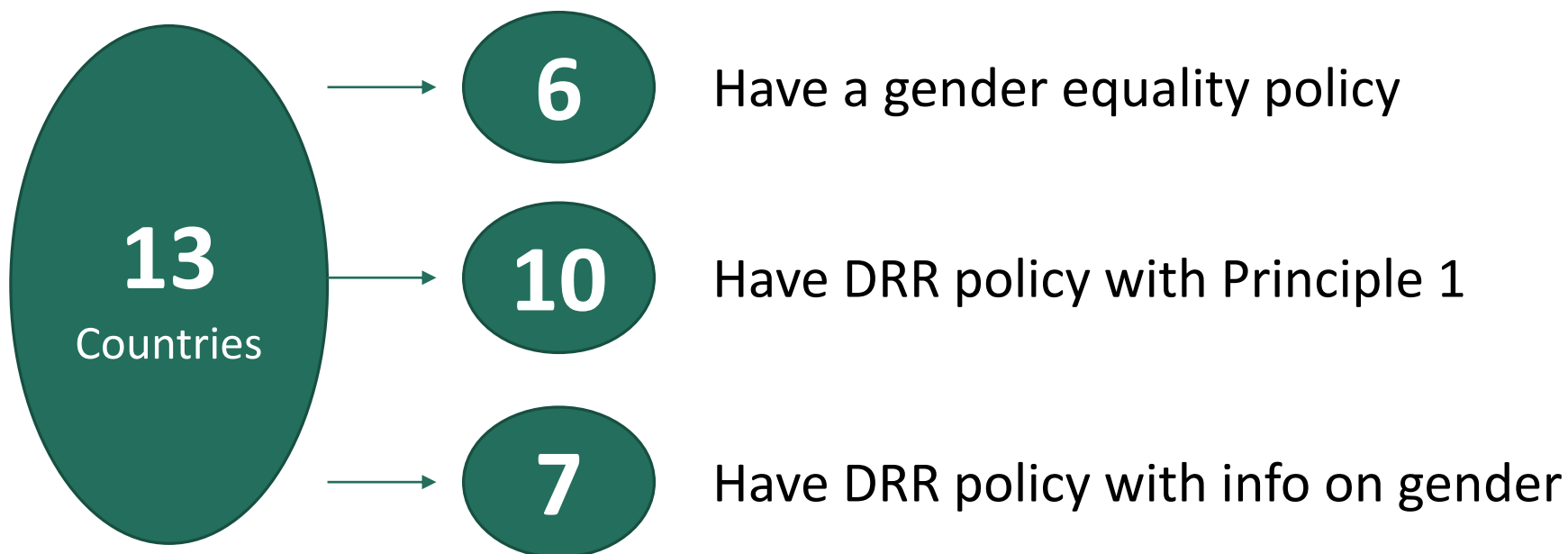
| | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PRINCIPLE 1 | Development of gender-sensitive/ gender-responsive policies and programmes related to CC or DRR | = To address the economic, physical and political autonomy |
| PRINCIPLE 2 | Specifically including women in the planning, development, implementation and management of CC or DRR policies and programmes | = To address autonomy in decision- making process |
| PRINCIPLE 3 | Collecting, assessing, disseminating and utilising sex-disaggregated data | = To track economic, physical and political autonomy |



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Preliminary findings: Regional trends





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Preliminary findings- Case studies: Dominica and Grenada

DOMINICA



-Low-Carbon Climate-Resilient Development Strategy 2010-2020

- UNDP Country assessment on Enhancing Gender Visibility in Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change (2009)

-Goes beyond identifying gender gaps to addressing them by, for example including:

- recommendations to address the vulnerabilities of women, including pre- and post-disasters;
- provision of social safety nets including micro-finance and micro-insurance to women in rebuilding their homes, businesses and lives after an extreme event

-National Policy and Action Plan for Gender Equity and Equality (2006): includes vulnerability to disasters

GRENADA



-One of few countries with gender impact assessment for a particular hurricane (Hurricane Ivan, 2005)

-Comprehensive Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan, 2014

-However, limited recommendations from the Gender Equality Policy in National Climate Change Policy (2017)

-Appointment of Gender and Climate Change focal point and delegations to international activities on Climate Change includes at least one woman



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Preliminary findings: Main Challenges



Sex-disaggregated
data



National studies



Financial, technical
and human capacity



Preliminary recommendations

- **Promote integrated and coherent institutional frameworks**
- **Appoint gender focal points in climate and disaster institutions that have specific gender training and are tasked with gender mainstreaming**
- **Adopt/ review current policies/ plans and strategies to ensure linkages between gender and climate/disaster policies and strategies**
- **Promote community involvement**



Preliminary recommendations (cont.)

- Conduct capacity building/training for Gender Machineries on climate change/disaster risk management
- Conduct gender assessment needs post-disaster, with particular focus on economic sectors tourism, fisheries, and agriculture
- Promote training courses to respond to the needs of the community after disaster
- Create awareness raising campaigns in order to sensitize communities Collect, analysis and disseminate disaggregated data



THANK YOU!