

# VIOLENCE Against Women and Girls:

## Their Climate Change-Related Vulnerability in the Region of the Americas



Climate change is increasing the **intensity, frequency, and duration** of natural disasters. This amplification of natural disasters has been especially severe in the **Region of the Americas**.



MORE  
WILDFIRES



MORE TROPICAL  
STORMS AND  
HURRICANES



WORSE  
FLOODING



LONGER  
DROUGHTS



Women and girls are uniquely susceptible to the health threats of climate change. They can be placed in situations of vulnerability due to short- and long-term compound factors (such as: forced displacement, loss of food and shelter, and disrupted services) that are triggered and worsened by climate-related events.

**THEREFORE, NATURAL DISASTERS CAN EXACERBATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS!**

For example:

- Economic insecurity & loss of livelihoods **CAN LEAD TO** forced early marriage
- Collapse of family structures & loss of housing **CAN LEAD TO** forced displacement & sex trafficking
- Drought, loss of crops, & salinization of groundwater **CAN LEAD TO** survival sex & sexual violence
- Increased stress & substance abuse **CAN LEAD TO** intimate partner violence & violence against children
  - Failure of law enforcement & the collapse of health systems **CAN LEAD TO** decreased support for survivors & increases in violence's impunity



**TOGETHER, WE MUST ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE!**

In addition to addressing climate change and the conditions of vulnerability that natural disasters trigger, we must:

### POLICYMAKERS AND MANAGERS

- ✓ Create gender-sensitive disaster policies
- ✓ Include women and girls in decision-making
- ✓ Coordinate: disaster management, law enforcement, and health
- ✓ Invest in research

### HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

- ✓ Provide first-line support
- ✓ Remember additional risks to minority groups (LGBTQI+, people with disabilities, etc.)
- ✓ Promote protection programs

### COMMUNITIES

- ✓ Remember your rights to services and protection
- ✓ Transform harmful gender and social norms
- ✓ Endorse a policy of zero-tolerance of violence

