

**Side Event COP 15 Copenhagen 10 Dec 2009
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GenderCC - Women for Climate Justice
UN-HABITAT**

Gender, Cities and Climate Change

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Gender ...

- ▶ **... is about socially and culturally constructed roles and power relations**
- ▶ **... is not about women, but on women and men**
- ▶ **... is not about a minority, but 100% of the population**



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Why gender in local climate policy?

- ▶ **Equality and Justice**
 - ▶ CEDAW, Beijing, MDGs
 - ▶ Gender balanced participation
- ▶ **Effectiveness of climate policy**
 - ▶ **Mitigation:**
Address needs & include capacities of women and men
 - ▶ **Adaptation:**
Work with most vulnerable groups & build resilient communities



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Carbon footprints of citizens

In most cities:
from close to zero ...



... to extremely large



Related justice problems: use of scarce resources such as urban space, water, air

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Carbon footprint of women and men



9 - 40% larger footprint of male single-person households compared to female in Europe

for all age groups and income groups

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Factor 1: Who decides? Gender bias in power & decision-making

Underrepresentation of women

- ▶ share in executive positions in urban climate policy: 0 - 30%
- ▶ male dominated fields: energy, transport, construction



Consequences

- ▶ male bias in planning and decision-making
- ▶ neglecting needs of women



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Factor 2: Who does the care work? Gender division of labour

In all cities, women do more

- ▶ care work
- ▶ unpaid work
- ▶ informal jobs

Consequences

- ▶ vulnerability: water, fuel, food, health ...
- ▶ increase of work burden
- ▶ informal work affected
- ▶ long-term impacts: health, education, gender roles



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Factor 3: Where is the money? Gender differentials in income and resources

In all countries - high, middle and low income

- ▶ gender pay gap
- ▶ gap in assets
- ▶ female poverty

Consequences

- ▶ vulnerability
- ▶ impacts of policies



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Factor 4: Gender roles and cultural patterns

Large variations in different countries and cultures

- ▶ mobility
- ▶ education
- ▶ attitudes
- ▶ communication



Consequences

- ▶ gendered vulnerabilities, e.g. more fatalities of women due to disasters
- ▶ gender blind policies neglect half of the citizens

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Factor 5: Sex related factors, physical differences

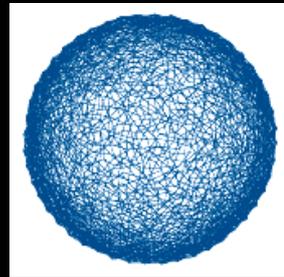
- ▶ **Reproductive functions**
Menstruation, pregnancy, lactation
- ▶ **Personal safety**
Sexual harassment and violence
- ▶ **Health issues**
e.g. higher sensitivity to heat stress?

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Which issues are relevant to climate policy? Which issues have a gender dimension?

- ▶ **Needs:** health, housing, mobility, food
- ▶ **Resources:** energy/fuel, food, water, land

- ▶ Urban development, land use
- ▶ Housing and household energy
- ▶ Urban transport
- ▶ Water management
- ▶ Waste management
- ▶ Disaster risk reduction
- ▶ Health and food security
- ▶ Education



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Core sector: urban structures

- ▶ Reflect social & economic systems:
carbon economy,
power relations and
androcentrism
- ▶ **Inertia**
- need for long-term
considerations
- ▶ **Justice** - economic
versus social priorities



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Core sector: transport

- ▶ Gendered trip patterns
- ▶ Safety requirements
- ▶ Customary/cultural constraints for women
- ▶ Preferred modes
- ▶ Gendered relation to cars



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Core sector: housing and domestic energy

- ▶ Energy poverty
- ▶ Energetic retrofitting options depending on house ownership
- ▶ Clean and affordable energy for the poor
- ▶ Energy efficiency for the poor



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Who are your allies for climate policy?

Attitudes

- ▶ different risk perception
- ▶ preferences technologies - lifestyle change

Behaviour

- ▶ awareness and disposition to change consumption patterns
- ▶ women's contribution to community based actions



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Local gender-sensitive climate policy

- ▶ Narrow carbon-only perspective not useful
- ▶ Sustainable development approach towards **low-carbon, resilient, equitable, inclusive city**
- ▶ Multi-dimensional approach includes:
 - ▶ Recognition and consideration of care economy and informal economy
 - ▶ Change and improve structures, infrastructure and services
 - ▶ Address poverty and overconsumption
 - ▶ Clean air policy, noise reduction, reallocation of public space, liveable city

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Steps for gender mainstreaming into climate policy

- ▶ **Commitment**
- ▶ **Raise awareness on gender dimension**
- ▶ **Ensure equal participation of women**
- ▶ **Collect data** (transport, energy, consumption data, e.g. surveys, response on programmes)
- ▶ **Information and cross-cutting capacity building** (climate change unit, gender unit)
- ▶ **Identify key areas and critical issues for gender & cc policy**
- ▶ **Quick scan of existing and planned programmes and projects as for their gender relevance**

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Gender Impact Assessment

- ▶ **Care economy properly considered?**
- ▶ **Balanced benefits for women and men?**
Finances, space, time
- ▶ **Influence on gender composition?**
- ▶ **Androcentrism and symbolic order?**
- ▶ **Relief from threats, constraints, sanctions?**

**The art of gender sensitive policy:
Recognise and address gender roles
and contribute to breaking
gender stereotypes**



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How to assist cities in double mainstreaming?

- ▶ Menu of gender sensitive options for urban climate action
- ▶ Can be used for quick scan / stock-taking
- ▶ City chooses priorities and defines details of implementation according to specific situation of the city
- ▶ Funding schemes can be connected to the menu



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