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Call for Blogs

Women, Peace and Security Forum

of mainstreaming gender in indices and reports 0 comments | 5 shares Estimated reading time: 3 minutes

As the 26th UN Climate Change Conference comes to a close in Glasgow, Maryruth Belsey Priebe and Tevvi Bullock on why a gendered lens is necessary in climate change indices and reports arguing that it is no longer tenable that gender considerations remain optional in climatesecurity data collection.

As international scrutiny of the global climate crisis' security implications intensifies, new indices

and reports are regularly being released, detailing how global warming could induce or further

gaining in complexity and nuance, reflecting the complicated ways climate change, disasters, (in)security, and conflict intersect, and the ubiquitous relevance of climate security data to global systems of diplomacy, development assistance, humanitarian action, defense, and trade, to name but a few. However, as climate risks compound, the effectiveness and transformative potential of global

responses will be severely hindered if climate-security modeling categorically ignores gender. Gender is an inextricable variable influencing how people differentially cause, seek to prevent, prepare for, and experience the climate crisis. As Ide, et al. have recently detailed, gendered power structures, roles, and identities are critical intervening variables in responding to and preventing climate-related conflicts, and are crucial considerations in promoting climate resilience. It is imperative that gender is substantively integrated into the data collected and utilised by

developing climate security reports, policies, and programmes. Only when gender is employed as a variable can genuinely contextualised, spatially-explicit risk assessments emerge, enabling more comprehensive, actionable insights into the differential, gendered impacts of complex, multi-layered climate crises. Certainly, there has been growing recognition through global normative frameworks and treaties, including the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), of the need to foreground and address the

produced within the past 2 years by a range of leading scholars and institutions, including Gender, Climate and Security (2020), Advancing Gender in the Environment (2020), Climate-Gender-Conflict Nexus (2020); and Defending the Future (2021).

the data collected and utilised by scholars, practitioners, civil

society, policymakers, governments, and multilateral

organisations in developing climate security reports,

policies, and programmes. But what of the broader multitude of climate-security indices and reports which play critical roles in informing international, national, and local climate policies and programmes - to what extent are gender considerations present? To briefly survey gender integration levels in prominent climate-security risk modeling and publications, we selected five indices and five reports (found through an internet search) which satisfied the following criteria:

1. publicly available and produced by reputable organisations employing rigorous research

2. climate-security focused, but not explicitly focused on gender;

3. published between 2019 and 2021;

4. predominantly international in outlook; and

**Results Overview** Amidst a still nascent climate-security field of research, from a small sample size our results indicate that noteworthy efforts are being made by some organisations, yet a reticence by others to actively mainstream gender and integrate gender-sensitive analyses in global climate-security datasets and resources still prevails. Moreover, where women's vulnerabilities are foregrounded

but their leadership and empowerment ignored, and where gender continues to be employed as a

holistic picture and understanding of how to address the relational and interconnected aspects of

"placeholder for women," rendering men and non-binary identifying people largely invisible, a

perspective, crucial intersectional analyses and fully inclusive policy responses remain even

[1] The following gender terms were searched: gender; female; women/woman/girl(s); male;

men/man/boy(s); and non-binary. The lack of legally-recognised non-binary and gender diverse

categories globally, translating to comprehensive deficits in current 'gender-disaggregated' data

collection, is itself a significant and underaddressed issue impeding the quest to ensure human

gendered climate insecurity is negated. Furthermore, without a strong baseline gender

We examined the selected indices by reviewing their methods, indicators, and, where applicable,

published analyses for specific gender terms, [1] and conducted a textual analysis of gender terms

by some organisations, yet a reticence by others to actively mainstream gender and integrate gender-sensitive analyses in global climate-security datasets and resources still prevails 99

The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies' Climate Security Assessment explicitly connects gender equality, women's empowerment, and climate change, and incorporates the UNDP's Gender Inequality Index into its 'socio-economic susceptibility' stability indicator in climate risk assessments. Lastly, the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research's (PIK) Weathering Risk project offers perhaps the most substantive inclusion of gender. Although Weathering Risk's findings are yet to be published, the project methods section encouragingly outlines that, "a gender-sensitive and intersectional research approach will ensure findings are disaggregated by gender, age and identify groups to better understand the heterogeneity of risks and dimensions of resilience across contexts and actor groups."

Our analyses of the selected climate-security reports revealed that, overall, a gender-perspective

was not strongly integrated. In four of the reports, all over 50 pages in length – The National

Security, Military, and Intelligence Panel on Climate Change's A Security Threat Assessment of

Global Climate Change, Planetary Security Initiative's Towards a Better Understanding of Climate

Security Practices, Chatham House's Climate Change Risk Assessment 2021, and International

Military Council on Climate and Security's The World Climate and Security Report 2021 – gender

However, the United Nations University Centre for Policy Research's Conflict Prevention in an Era

of Climate Change scored significantly higher, with 39 references overall made to gender terms.

terms were used 3 or fewer times in each, with one report making no reference to any gender

term. Indeed, 'Towards a Better Understanding' outlined that women's empowerment, whilst

important, constitutes a domain which is, "often not the core of climate security practices."

Contributions), with attention paid to how individual states address gender, including in Gender

Action Plans (where applicable). Gender is mentioned in 38 per cent of the country overviews and

22 per cent of the country profiles, while, for example, terms related to women are used in only 11

per cent of the overviews, but in 52 per cent of the profiles.

**Gender in Climate Security Reports** 

Importantly, several institutions mentioned here whose indices and reports did not integrate a strong gender lens have sought to address gender and climate change more substantively in other publications, programmes, and/or events. GermanWatch's policy paper on the water-energyfood nexus specifically examines women's roles within the sector. Chatham House and Clingendael Institute's Planetary Security Initiative have hosted online events including Climate Action and Gender Equality and Addressing Gender Dimensions of Climate Change and Security respectively, whilst the Centre for Climate and Security's Climate Security Risk Briefers report includes a chapter on mainstreaming gender in climate security. It is positive that organisations are increasingly making commitments to foreground gender in publications, programmes, and events. To ensure the application of a gender lens does not become an isolated or 'tick-box' affair, it is critical that organisations 'de-silo' their work, and

commit to strengthening indices and reports by purposefully integrating gender-sensitive

Certainly, disputes as to the necessity of comprehensively integrating gender may arise, as

researchers and policymakers can correlate or triangulate a multitude of gender-disaggregated

and non-gender-disaggregated data in constructing complex datasets and analyses. In fact, the

Georgetown Institute of Women, Peace and Security's (GIWPS) WPS Index Report (2021) cross-

references Notre Dame's ND-GAIN index, finding the correlation that, "countries where women's

66

To ensure the application of a gender lens does not become

an isolated or 'tick-box' affair, it is critical that

inclusion, justice, and security are protected are also better positioned to mitigate the rising

threats of climate change."

perspectives and gender as a variable into their research methodologies and analyses.

variable into their research methodologies and analyses. 99 But does this negate the importance of globally influential datasets committing to substantively integrating gender? In a highly interdependent, interconnected world categorised by worsening,

and in many places existential, climate, ecological, and gender inequality crises, it is no longer

and reporting. Ultimately, failing to mainstream gender in climate-security indices and reports

contributes to the perpetuation of laws, policies, programmes, and budgets which are gender-

constructing sustainable and transformative climate-security policies and programmes. The

be provided with every reason and opportunity to draw on gender-disaggregated data in

responsibility to demand this, and to fight for more gender-responsive, gender-inclusive,

intersectional, and equitable responses to the climate crisis, rests with us all.

Annual analysis of extreme weather sets and socio-

Contextualisation of climate policy debates and real

Summary of a country's readiness to improve

vulnerability to climate change and other global

For governments, businesses, and communities to

better prioritize investments for a more efficient

response to the immediate global challenges

An online platform that provides access to

comprehensive downloadable data on climate

Offers country profiles with historical and future

climate, vulnerabilities, and impacts information

• Focuses on national security risks generated by

security, physical security and, social and

climate-related disasters and includes elements such

as territorial integrity, ecological security, economic

Assesses the probability of a climate-related disaster

and delineates the potential impact of that natural

Provides climate impact analyses; foresight and

scenario planning; machine learning-based

assumption testing and validation process

Considers climatic pressures (climate lens);

resilience to disasters combined with its

**Table A: Climate Security Indices** 

**Features** 

Launched 2007

economic data

world impacts

Launched 2013

Launched 2011

Launched 2021

political stability

Launched 2021

hazard for a particular country

change and development

Index

German Watch -

Global Climate Risk

Index (CRI) (2021)

Notre Dame Global

Adaptation Initiative

(ND-GAIN) (2019)

World Bank Group

Climate Change

(CCKP) (2021)

Knowledge Portal

The Hague Centre

Studies's Climate

Security Assessment

Potsdam Institute for

Era of Climate Change

rights and achieve gender equality globally.

(2020) - 79 pages.

About the author

Tevvi Bullock

Climate Impact

Research (PIK) -

Weathering Risk

Project (2021)

for Strategic

(2021)

blind, structurally inequitable, and environmentally unjust. Policymakers and practitioners need to

Gender Analysis -

Quantitative<sup>2</sup>

Gender: 0 Female: 0

W/W/G: 0

M/M/B: 0

Gender: 0

Female: 0

W/W/G: 0

M/M/B: 0

doc analysis]

Female: 3/3

Male: 0 / 3

N-B: 0 / 0

M/M/B: 0 / 2

hand figure)]

Gender: 27

Female: 1

Male: 1

N-B: 0

W/W/G: 25

M/M/B: 5

Gender: 11

Female: 0

W/W/G: 3

M/M/B: 1

Male: 0

[textual analysis]

Gender: 76 / 15

W/W/G: 22 / 35

[textual analysis of

figure) and country

profile reports (right

Male: 0

N-B: 0

[textual analysis]

[methods and technical

Male: 0

N-B: 0

Gender Analysis - Qualitative <sup>3</sup>

lens applied.

information.

stability indicator.

at time of writing.

N/A - Gender not integrated / no specific gender

N/A - Gender not integrated / no specific gender

Minimal - There are 199 country overviews

within the portal which provide descriptions of

climate preparation plans (such as Nationally

Determined Contributions), with attention paid

Moderate - Connects gender equality, women's

incorporates the UNDP's Gender Inequality

Index into its 'socio-economic susceptibility'

Moderate (provisional) - Outlines a robust.

gender-sensitive and intersectional research

methodology - project results not yet published

vulnerable group, and the need to

empower women is highlighted.

approach; assessment based on stated

to how individual states address gender, for

example in Gender Action Plans (where

applicable); There are 67 country profile

reports provide country-specific gender

empowerment, and climate change, and

tenable that gender considerations remain optional in climate-security data collection, research,

• Emissions trajectory and risks; direct climate impacts; Chatham House -Gender: 0 N/A - Gender not integrated / no Climate Change Risk cascading systemic risks. specific gender lens applied. Female: 0 Argues that "governments of highly emitting countries W/W/G: 0 Assessment (September have a critical opportunity to accelerate emissions Male: 0 2021) - 53 pages. reductions through ambitious revisions of NDCs at M/M/B: 0 COP26". N-B: 0 Clingendael (Planetary Climate security practices and related analytic challenges, Gender: 0 Minimal - Authors recognise that Security Initiative - PSI) the 'Climate-Security-Triangle' including case mapping. Female: 0 women's empowerment is a critical - Towards a Better W/W/G: 3 Provides a "non-comprehensive overview of climate issue in climate change and security security practices implemented on the ground", and argues Understanding of Male: 0 practices, and refer to women in two Climate Security M/M/B: 0 examples of climate security practices. for more transparent, systematic reporting on climate Practices (April 2021) N-B: 0 security practices. - 51 pages. International Military Climate security risk survey; climate security risk matrix, Gender: 2 Minimal - Gender noted as an Council on Climate and Female: 0 practices to reduce climate security risks, regional risk identifying characteristic of W/W/G: 0 marginalised communities facing Security (IMCCS) - The analysis, select case studies and regions review, global World Climate and Male: 0 harsher climate impacts. climate security action. Provides tools to policymakers for addressing climate M/M/B: 0 Security Report 2021 (June 2021) - 92 pages. N-B: 0 security risks and opportunities. The climate security nexus: climate security threats Minimal - Women depicted as The National Security, Gender: 0 vulnerable; no mention of the leadership Military, and Intelligence regionally corresponding to U.S. Geographic Combatant Female: 0 Panel on Climate Change Commands; global security threat assessment and profile. W/W/G: 1 or empowerment of women. (Centre for Climate and Male: 0 Finds, "even at scenarios of low warming, each region of M/M/B: 0 Security) - A Security the world will face severe risks to national and global Threat Assessment of security in the next three decades." N-B: 0 Global Climate Change (February 2020) - 86 Moderate - The importance of specific United Nations Causes of climate change on conflict risks; the resource-Gender: 12 University Centre for conflict link; shifting populations, modeling climate Female: 1 outcomes and indicators that measure W/W/G: 25 Policy Research security, need for empirics; cases of climate-security success in gender-sensitive programmes is outlined. Women are recognised as a Conflict Prevention in an Environmental change is "rapidly outstripping local coping Male: 1

M/M/B: 0

N-B: 0

capacities", and in climate-affected locations, "the past is a

[1] The following gender terms were searched: gender; female; women/woman/girl(s); male;

men/man/boy(s); and non-binary. The lack of legally-recognised non-binary and gender diverse

categories globally, translating to comprehensive deficits in current 'gender-disaggregated' data

collection, is itself a significant and underaddressed issue impeding the quest to ensure human

[2] W/W/G = women/woman/girl(s); M/M/B = men/man/boy(s); N-B = non-binary.

[3] Integration of gender qualitatively ranked as minimal, moderate or maximal, or N/A.

poor predictor of the future.'

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encompasses gender, peace and security, climate and ecological

Peace and Security Next Generation Fellow '21/22 at Women in

must foreground women in urban climate security policy NOVEMBER 3RD, 2021

imperative of indices and reports NOVEMBER 12TH, 2021

Climate Change Global cities will be epicentres of gendered climate insecurity: why we

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exacerbate human, environmental, and state vulnerabilities, fragilities, and insecurities. Although climate risk modeling is a relatively new field, climate-security indices and reports are rapidly

# scholars, practitioners, civil society, policymakers, governments, and multilateral organisations in

gendered dimensions of climate insecurity in building global peace and stability. Global exemplars in data collection and research centred around the gender-climate-security triple nexus have been It is imperative that gender is substantively integrated into

in the selected reports, excluding non-substantive gender term references (for example in bibliographies). We thereby determined the quantitative extent to which gender was integrated, and concurrently assessed the qualitative strength of this integration. These results are collated in Tables A and B below.

5. at least moderately comprehensive in methodology and/or themes covered.

# our results indicate that noteworthy efforts are being made

further from reach.

rights and achieve gender equality globally.

standards;

**Gender in Climate Security Indices** Across the five selected indices, a mixed level of gender integration was evident. Two indices did not directly address gender: Notre-Dame's ND-GAIN Index, which provides valuable country-level data and historical trends on national preparedness for global challenges including climate change; and GermanWatch's Global Climate Risk Index (CRI), which employs MunichRe NatCatSERVICE, one of the most comprehensive global data sets on extreme weather events, with analyses related human impacts (fatalities) and economic losses. However, three indices in our sample did integrate gender to differing degrees. The World Bank Group's Climate Change Knowledge Portal (CCKP) offers 67 country-specific risk profiles as well as descriptions of 199 country climate preparation plans (such as Nationally Determined

The report recognised gender as an important variable underpinning the differential impacts of climate change on human security, particularly for women, and recommended the development of specific outcomes and measurable indicators for gender in addressing climate insecurity. Gender in Other Publications, Programmes and/or Events

organisations 'de-silo' their work, and commit to strengthening indices and reports by purposefully integrating gender-sensitive perspectives and gender as a

economic, social, and political stability (conflict N-B: 0 lens); climate change interactions with insecurity [textual analysis of and peace (pathways); and context factors, including methodology paper gender equality and social inclusion (cross-cutting topics) **Table B: Climate Security Reports** Report **Features** Gender Analysis - Qualitative Gender Analysis -Quantitative

Harvard's Climate Leaders Program and the Research Network on Women, Peace and Security, and is a volunteer for multiple gender-climate causes. Maryruth tweets @greenwriting

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Contextualised, spatiallyexplicit climate-security modeling is impossible without a gender lens: The mainstreaming gender in