



state of world population 2009



**Facing a Changing World
Women, population and
climate**

Climate change

- Sea level rise: 2cm in 18th century, 6cm in 19th century, 19cm in the 20th century, may rise to 30cm in the 21st century
- Increased Precipitation
- Surface Temperature: 0.74 degrees Celsius in the past 100 years; 10 warmest years since 1800's was during last 13 years; 1990 warmest decade; 2005 hottest year
- Extreme weather: warming episodes of El Nino more frequent; unpredictable rainfall, drought, storms, swells
- Disappearing Ice: more than 100 cc kilometers of ice being lost from Greenland per year

The precarious world we live in

- Given current population densities, a 1m rise in sea levels could displace around 100 m ppl in Asia, 14m in Europe and 8m Africa & S America
 - In the Maldives: $\frac{3}{4}$ land less than 1m above MSL;
 - 44% settlements within 100meters of coastline;
 - 42% population & 47% housing structures within 100meters of coastline;
 - 90 inhabited islands flooded at least once in past 6 years;
 - 37 islands flooded regularly or at least once a year;
 - 97% islands reported beach erosion - 64% reported severe beach erosion (2004)
 - Abnormal swells with wave heights over 2.5meters observed more frequently since 1987 (e.g may 2007 – damaged 579 housing units, harbors, jetties in 17 islands, saltwater intrusion into soil in all islands)
 - Human health and food security issues



More people, more consumption more emissions

- Not just an issue of energy efficiency or industrial carbon emissions
- Also an issue population dynamics, poverty and gender equity
 - World's population expected to reach 7 billion in 2011
 - 95 per cent will be in developing world; majority of poor are women
 - Human caused increases in greenhouse gases are the cause of much of the temperature increases in the world
 - Growth of economies, population and consumption outpaces earth's capacity to adjust
 - Rapid growth of urban population, land in cultivation, water use, **unsustainable** energy consumption leading to land degradation, water scarcity, loss of biodiversity,

Stabilizing population

- If population is maintained at 8 billion as per UNPD's low growth scenario it may reduce 1 to 2 billion tonnes of carbon emissions annually as opposed to 9 billion in the medium growth scenario by 2050
- Int'l Conf on Population and Dev reiterated need for rights based population policies:-
 - Women and men should freely and responsibly decide number and spacing of children
 - The means, information and resources to decide should be facilitated
 - Women's reproductive health and women's empowerment
 - No longer about "control" but stabilization

Implications for Maldives

- Population projection: over 400,000 by 2025; over 470,000 by 2050
- Adolescent population: currently at its peak: reproductive and health needs, access to quality education, adequate nutrition **and decent work**
- Working age population: create more flexible **employment opportunities** esp. enable women to increase labor force participation
- Ageing: social security, health services, nursing homes
- Migration: social-economic risks, demand on land (24 islands do not have additional land for new housing; 50% of population living in varying levels of congestion); vulnerability of women, children

Women:

The Under-represented Variable

UNFCC recognized gender dimensions of CC and that its impacts likely to affect men and women differently (Dec 2008) — below are the not the examples of how CC impact affect men and women differently. Can you include more suitable data? E.g. victims of Tsunami were more women than men, partially because women less likely to know how to swim. You can pick examples from the Report.

- Just 16 per cent of scientists contributing to the work of IPCC are women
- 8-18 percent women among delegations of heads of Govt in climate debates
- Only 7 of the worlds 150 elected national leaders are women
- Women hold just 18.4 per cent of seats in national assemblies and claim more than 30 per cent seats only in 22 countries

Our Gendered Lives



Our Gendered Lives

- Men and women have developed distinct roles and identities
 - Women as care giver, men as bread winner
 - But we have one of the highest rate of female headed HH in the world (47%) (ADB)
- More emphasis in reproductive role than on productive (I do not really understand what this means, “reproductive role” is housework? Work in education and health sector?) role [in the Maldives, women spend avg 6-8 hours in housework, men spend 3-4 hours, stereotypical attitudes place 72% women in education, 68% in health, social work as mid and lower level functionaries]

MDG 3 challenges: high female unemployment, low political participation, sexual and other forms of violence, fragmented family structures, high divorce rates, growing conservatism

How may women be differently affected?

- Experience of Tsunami: women in high impact group unable to find work nearly one and half years after the event; inability to find work exceeded traditional reason of not working, i.e. due to household work
- Women's traditional income and subsistence activities of home-gardening, fish processing will be severely affected; home gardens contain average 10 different crop types, 25-30 plant varieties
- New and increasing number of diseases (dengue, chikungunya, scrub typhus, skin conditions related to UV radiation)
- Food security: heavy import dependency, limited food storage, vulnerable to changes in productivity beyond our borders and may have to compete in international markets for access to food products
- Women, esp in the islands less mobile given family responsibilities, differential capacity and cultural hindrances



Profile 1: Aminath Easa, Fish Processor

Reduced fish catch, Reduce household expenses

47 year old Aminath Easa from the island of Naifaru has been processing fish since 1995. She gets around Rf 7000 from her processing activities that includes the making of “mas mirus, fish sambol, athu jehi”. The money is used to supplement the household income. Her extended family includes her 2 elderly parents, both requiring special care, 5 children, and her younger sister’s family of 3 members.

Aminath’s two sons are employed and working outside the island. Most of the household expenses are borne with the income Aminath makes from fish processing. Her daughters aged 27 and 24 help in the processing activities.

Aminath says she has experienced difficulties in processing recently mainly because of the unavailability of fish to process. There are about 6 months spread across the year lately when she finds she cannot get enough raw fish to process. Aminath’s husband is a fisherman.

She has tried canned tuna as an alternative for her products, but finds this is too expensive. With the decrease in supplementary income for household, she says she tries to reduce the household expenditure in order to make ends meet.

Profile 2: Gameera Adam, Farmer

Conserving water to sustain soil for farming

Gameera Adam of Alif Alif Atoll Thoddoo is one of the few women in the Maldives involved in commercial agriculture. She started her agricultural career as a resort supplier in 1992. Initially she used to buy products of the local farmers in the local market in Male' and supply these to the resorts.

Since then she and her family have invested in large scale farming on uninhabited islands. She is presently working on Baa Atoll Anhenunfushi; the lease of the island is Rf 48,000 per year. She grows cucumber, watermelon, papaya, chilly. She supplies these to 11 resorts. Gameera is mainly responsible for maintaining and looking after the farming while her husband looks after marketing and sale of their farm products. They employ a number of expatriate workers on the farm

Gameera says she does not pump water from the ground because she knows it increases the chances for salinity. She prefers to use water containers to water her fields, although it is time-consuming and cumbersome. But she says, in the long run, it is beneficial to her because that way she can control water and soil quality.

Gameera feels that rainfall patterns have changed in the last couple of years. Previously she says there was a lot of uninterrupted rain for many days during the south-west monsoon but now there are less rainy days but more rainfall during those less rainy days. She says one reason why she has been able to maintain her farming income by careful and prudent water conservation. (the person in the photo is not Gameera, maybe a caption would avoid misunderstanding?)



Building resilience requires women be included and empowered

- Plays a crucial role in management of natural resources
- Brings own and different perspectives / solutions to problems – that come from women's role as child bearers and care givers
- Enriches local knowledge brought into mitigation and adaptation strategies : women have played a central role in producing food and managing environment, but their work remains hidden
- Women often remain in their communities while men migrate for work; resilience should be built-in within the community – this requires women to be empowered [gender equality, reproductive health and participation of women is a must for CC mitigation and adaptation]



“NO CLIMATE EQUITY WITHOUT GENDER EQUITY” : WANGARI MAATHAI

