



# RESILIENCE EVIDENCE FORUM

Cape Town & Online  
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Cape Town, South Africa  
Photographer: Tobias Reich

# Conceptual Linkages between Gender, Resilience and Food Systems

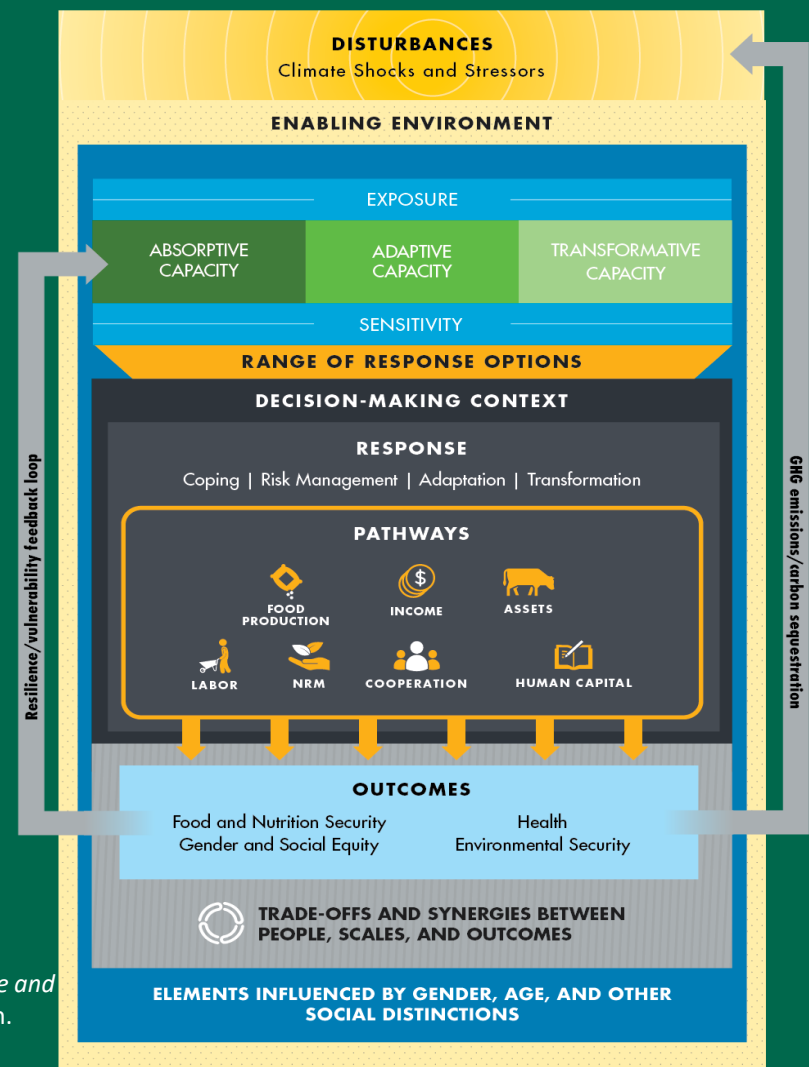
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# Gender, Climate Change, and Nutrition (GCAN) Framework: Gender and Resilience Dimensions

- Gender influences key elements of the framework:
  - Exposure and sensitivity to shocks
  - Resilience capacities
  - Decision-making context and responses to disturbances
  - Pathways and outcomes
- Elements of food systems (food environments, VCs, consumer behavior) also influence outcomes



# Gender Differences in Exposure and Sensitivity

- Men and women are exposed to different disturbances
- Men and women also experience shocks and stressors differently
- Sensitivity is also gendered
- Exposure and sensitivity also depend on:
  - The food environment (e.g. urban vs rural)
  - Gendered livelihood roles in food systems
  - Gender differences in nutritional status
  - Intersectional identities—e.g. gender differences in sensitivity vary throughout the life cycle



Photo: A group of women struggles to get rice in Dhaka, Bangladesh, which faced a severe food shortage after a devastating cyclone in 2007.



# Gender-Differentiated Resilience Capacities in Food Systems

- Gender gaps in important resilience capacities can limit women's contributions to resilience and lead to gender disparities in well-being outcomes:
  - Access to and control over assets (land, technologies, livestock, etc.)
  - Livelihood roles and opportunities for employment/ entrepreneurship
  - Access to services (extension, information, financial)
  - Work burden
  - Food security and nutritional status are also important resilience capacities influencing the ability to respond to shocks and stressors—e.g. labor productivity



# Example: Women's Already Low Access to Extension was Reduced during COVID-19 (India and Nepal)



- Women's reliance on formal extension services in both countries was already very low
- Almost 1/3 of women's primary sources of agricultural information were inaccessible or unavailable during the lockdowns
- Women's reliance on social networks and groups to deliver agricultural information increased
- Nearly 50% of women farmers in both countries reported negative impacts on agricultural productivity due to unavailability of information

# Decision-Making, Responses to Disturbances, and Implications for Food Security Outcomes



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- Preferences, interests and needs are not homogeneous
  - Different consumer behavior
  - Production priorities
  - Preferences for allocation of resources
- People must negotiate for desired responses to risks, shocks, and stressors in multiple spaces (households, communities, groups, governing bodies)
- Women have important contributions, yet...
- Women tend to have less bargaining power in all these spaces which has implications for response choices and outcomes



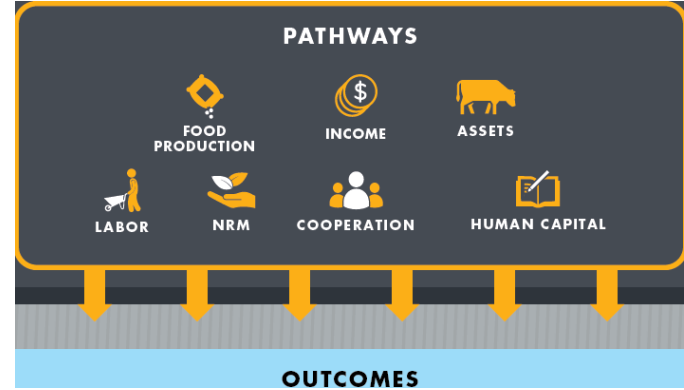
# Example: Women's Empowerment Associated with Greater Production Diversity in Bangladesh

- Women's involvement in agricultural decisions and groups is associated with:
  - An increase in land allocated to fruits and other uses
  - A decrease in land allocated to cereals (mainly rice)
- Potential benefits in terms of climate resilience (reduced risk through diversification) and nutrition





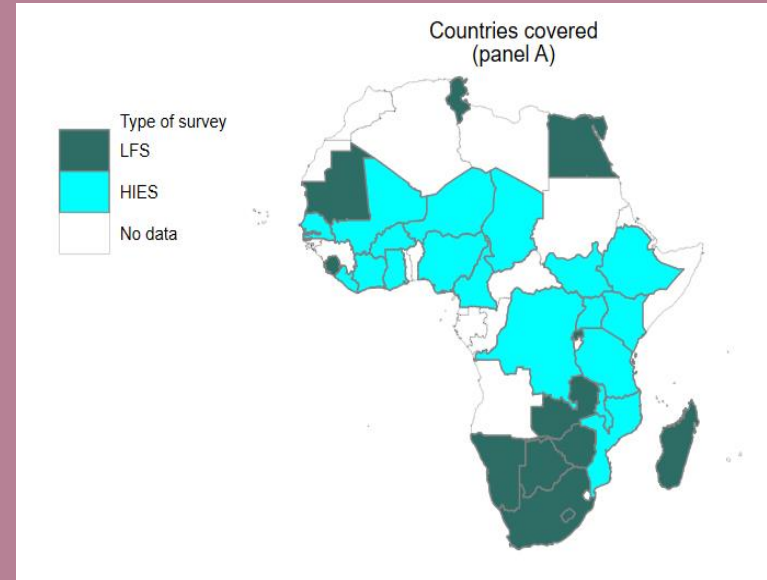
# Impact Pathways from Response Choices to Outcomes and Feedback Loops



- Response choices affect gender differentiated outcomes through several pathways:
  - Food production choices
  - Changes in income allocation/consumption patterns
  - Gendered asset dynamics
  - Changes in labor allocation (e.g. adoption of agroecological practices)
- Tradeoffs across outcomes and over time
- Gender differentiated well-being outcomes can reduce or exacerbate inequality by affecting future resilience capacities

# Example: Women's Labor Contribution Increasing Relative to Men's under Heat Stress

- Both heat waves and droughts reduce the number of hours worked by 40% and 14%, respectively.
- For women farmers, the reduction work intensity due to heat wave is 40% less across all African countries
- Effects are lower in ESA and higher in WA
- Women's labor intensity in agriculture is increasing relative to men's, under worse conditions



21/31 African countries with sex disaggregated labor force survey data or household income and expenditure survey data (HIES including LSMS)

Source: [Nico and Azzarri 2022](#)

# Evidence and Data Gaps



- Need more evidence of the impact of resilience interventions on gender equality and women's empowerment
- Link between social protection and adaptation/livelihood transformation and resilience over the longer term
- Effectiveness of including GTAs alongside resilience interventions
- Need for more sex-disaggregated data for monitoring and evaluating the impact of interventions
- Indicators for measuring the various domains of resilience and the dynamic relationship between these domains

# How to Fill Evidence Gaps?

## Go Beyond Measures of Reach

### Reach

Include women in program activities

*Indicators: share of men and women participants in program activities*

### Benefit

Increase women's well-being (e.g. food security, income, health)

*Indicators: Sex-disaggregated data for yields, income, land use, nutrition, time use, etc.*

### Empower

Strengthen ability of women to make strategic life choices and to put those choices into action

*Indicators: Decision making power on production, income, assets, and reduction of time burden, self-efficacy, aspirations, community leadership/engagement*

### Transform

Goes beyond the woman and her household to change gender norms and attitudes on a larger scale (changing systems)

*Indicators: Prevalence of/changes in gender-discriminatory norms and attitudes (e.g. attitudes about GBV)*



# Implications for Resilience Interventions

- Promising interventions to increase women's empowerment and shift gender dynamics, e.g.
  - Gender transformative approaches
  - Closing resource gaps (access to land/water, technologies)
  - Ensuring services reach and benefit (finance, information)
  - Group-based approaches (e.g. women's self-help groups)
  - Social protection programs targeted to women
- Appropriate interventions/approaches depend on the context
- Gender should be integrated in each stage of the project cycle

