

Young Women's Christian Association of Kenya



Empowering women and girls

# KEY LESSONS AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON YOUTH, WOMEN, AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE INVOLVEMENT IN:- POST - PARIS CLIMATE DIALOGUE PROCESSES



# INTRODUCTION

According to UNDP, climate change impacts do not affect all groups of people equally. The degree to which people are affected by climate change is directly linked to their vulnerability. Factors such as social status, gender, age set, poverty level, livelihood options, and access to and control of resources influence vulnerability and how different people experience climate change. For women, youth and indigenous people, their vulnerability is reinforced by the existing inequalities they face across social, economic, political, and environmental systems, and in turn, this means that women youth and indigenous people are more likely to be disproportionately affected by climate change.

In Kenya, patriarchal norms that assign gender roles place responsibility for household reproduction in women and girls. As primary caregivers they are charged with securing water, food, and fuel for cooking and heating while also being responsible for taking care of household members including children, the elderly, and disabled. In addition to reproduction activities, women also actively engage in livelihood production, undertaking

*“In Kenya, patriarchal norms that assign gender roles place responsibility for household reproduction in women and girls while also being responsible for taking care of household members including Children, the Elderly, and Disabled”*

the bulk of agricultural work and contributing to productivity for consumption and for sale. Nonetheless, women earn only a fraction of the income generated and own a nominal percentage of assets. Barriers to information, technologies, and financial services coupled with limits to women’s full participation in household decision-making, markets and formal institutions contribute to these unequal outcomes between men and women.

Despite women’s participation and contribution to the economy, their work is under-rated, and women and girls’ work is often unpaid, underpaid or invisible. The majority of women work in the informal sector, with only 34 percent working in the formal sector. For those that do work in the formal labor market they generally earn less than men; for every KSh100

earned by a man, a Kenyan woman only earns KSh62. This wage gap cumulatively translates to different outcomes for both men and women, economically, politically, socially and culturally. Poverty is prevalent among low-income earning women, rural communities and the urban poor, concentrated in increasing urban settlements. 30.2 per cent of female headed households are poor compared to 26 per cent of their male counterparts. Women's dependence on natural resources for both reproductive and productive activities underscore their vulnerability in the face of increased climatic uncertainty. Yet, this same dependence also makes them critical stakeholders in adaptation and mitigation efforts. Therefore, implementation towards Kenya's NDC as well as efforts towards low carbon and climate resilient development requires inclusive and gender responsive approaches that

address the factors that maintain inequalities, constrain women's opportunities, and limit their ability to plan and adapt to climate change. On the other hand, it is now certain that the youth population will be most affected by climate change in the years to come given the size of the global youth population; 18 percent of the world's population is aged 15 to 24, (UN Survey 2019), In Kenya youth 18- 35 years consist of 29 % of the total population while the population below 35 years compose more than half of the country population. The youth in formal education and out of school have been in the limelight in promoting climate change action and other environmental conservation issues in the country through taking climate action and also in advocacy. It's noteworthy that 69% of the population is unemployed or underemployed and these are mostly of the youth.



Art (c) Jilani Adam,  
YWCA Climate Change Advocate



Similarly, indigenous communities are provenly bearing the brunt of the crisis.<sup>1</sup> Such impacts as climate induced migration and conflicts, climate induced losses and damages, zoonotic pandemics, and diseases, reduced agricultural yields, displacements in small islands like Lamu, off flank counties like Marsabit, Kajiado, Wajir, Turkana, Tana River amongst other as mostly affect indigenous and local communities at the bottom of the pyramid and most vulnerable to climate change – directly and both socially and economically – and mostly in the Kenyan context.

So far, according to most research institutions, a mix of policy and practice towards forging an ambitious deal that delivers on the commitment to keep global warming below 2°C and a climate agreement that meets Kenya and Africa’s needs for global finance and supports both Kenya and Africa’s response to the climate crisis<sup>2</sup> are and will be the deal breaker to ensuring resilience amongst women, youth, and indigenous communities.

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<sup>1</sup> 5 steps to save Africa from climate change | World Economic Forum (weforum.org)

## SUMMARIZED CONTEXT ANALYSIS

The role of young people, women and indigenous people in delivering climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies are of utmost importance. Similarly, partnering with young people, women and indigenous people to amplify calls for the global, regional and international transition is an essential part of this course, as they represent a major driver of development, social change, economic growth, innovation and environmental protection. Formally, the youth, women and indigenous people have been recognized as a key stakeholder constituency in international decision-making processes by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development since 1992. Nevertheless, their engagement has majorly been through non-deliberative proceedings where influence is little.

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), meaningful youth, women and indigenous people engagement can be defined through various ways including;

◇ Consultative participation

where young people, women and indigenous people have a certain mandate, and their voices can be heard through advocacy work.

◇ Collaborative participation where the youth, women and indigenous people are regularly involved in political decision-making processes as voters, political parties or advocacy groups and

◇ Youth, women and indigenous people – led participation that guarantees young, women and indigenous people direct impact in decision making processes within their communities.

While progress in youth, women and indigenous people engagement is observably progressing in the climate change and Post Paris Climate Dialogue Processes space, a few obstacles still hinder adequate participation and involvement of the youth, women and indigenous people progressively in post Paris climate dialogue processes. To begin with, in progressively developing countries like Kenya, the youth inexperience and inadequate technical knowledge on such matters related to Post Paris Climate Dialogue Processes

as just transition, climate finance, loss and damage etc. and their linkage to climate resilient future as on the various policy strategies have increasingly derailed effective involvement of the youth in these spaces. Similarly, limited political good will, limited mentorship programmes and misguided campaign and advocacy work – similar to what was done in the past to promote agriculture amongst the youth – have made efforts to bridge the widening gap of the involvement of the youth in climate and just transition rather futile despite the innovative stories told in the various media streams on the youth.

In definition and understanding, Post Paris Dialogue Processes is a concept that involve all actions relating to the implementation of the Paris Agreement. In many instances, these actions are viewed from the points of development climate change nexus, the politics climate change nexus, racial justice climate nexus, the gender, human rights and indigenous people climate nexus, response measures including through adaptation and mitigation, just transition and ultimately the means of implementation (finance). In order that Post Paris Climate

Dialogue processes engagement is achieved, dialogue processes in such UNFCCC related local, sub-national, national, regional and international convenings are very critical as they determine the future of attaining zero carbon climate resilient development pathways in line with the global INDC. Consequently, the engagement of the young people, women and indigenous people in these processes not only helps in achieving the underscored objectives but also ensures intergenerational equity. As such, Post Paris climate dialogue processes though fixed on set of rules and specific parameters, should a vision and a process based on dialogue and an agenda shared by young people, women, indigenous people and governments that need to be negotiated and implemented based on geographical, political, cultural, and social contexts.

Post Paris Climate dialogue processes promises chances for climate justice, Decarbonization Pathways, Mechanisms for Greater Ambition, Measurements and Transparency mechanisms, Future of the Energy Industry, means of achieving gender and generational equity, shared but differentiated

responsibilities<sup>2</sup> etc. However, these benefits might not happen automatically, especially if decision-makers fail to adequately tackle questions of fairness and equity. As such, there are seemingly intergenerational and global equity considerations that need to be embedded in how countries and industry approach youth inclusion in their planning.

With their futures at risk and in question, the youth, women and indigenous people are the ultimate stockholders in the Post Paris Climate Dialogue Processes. Actions and initiatives led by young people, women and indigenous people may trigger the necessary momentum for scaling local innovation but more is required to support them. By chance, according to most reviewed grey literature, needed support includes education, training, direct-to-youth, women and indigenous people resourcing, and networks of support; mechanisms that may need to be designed with inclusion and equity at the center. Engaging young people, women and indigenous people in local, sub national, regional and global decision making and planning processes promises numerous co-

benefits. Uncertainly by including youth, women and indigenous people in the Post Paris Climate Dialogue processes and equipping them with the right set of skills, will our future systems meet the needs of a modern society, while meeting our emissions reduction needs and truly leaving no one behind.

Ultimately, bringing government, industry, young people, women and indigenous people together to achieve Post Paris Climate commitments might not simply be a question of developing or mobilizing the right technology or otherwise. It is perhaps a question of organizing Post Paris climate dialogue processes in a way that navigates discrimination that may exist and responds to the central roles played those on the margins of societies and positions. It might also be a question of responding to the skills in demand for changing roles in the youth and future generation while offering accessible ways to building those skills so everyone may participate. It may also be about understanding and responding to the values and call-to-actions from young people, women and indigenous people and recognizing their critical role in sustaining this systems-change in the long term.

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<sup>2</sup> Setting the Post-Paris Climate Agenda | Center for Strategic and International Studies (csis.org)

## YOUTH, WOMEN AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE INVOLVEMENT IN POST- PARIS CLIMATE DIALOGUE PROCESSES

Grassroots groups, women's organizations, youth groups and social movements are demanding greater climate ambition and protection of the environment. Governments and other institutions would be wise to support them to engage with development processes, to avoid responses likely to increase insecurity, poverty and intergenerational inequality. Accordingly, as stated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, every person under the age of 18 has the right to participate in the decision-making processes that impact them. This includes a public forum to express their views, and support for them to do it. According to the United Nations, young people will be the most affected by the climate crisis and need the knowledge and skills to tackle it. Similarly, according to UNFCCC, Climate change impacts people differently—in terms of socio-economic circumstances, disabilities, age and gender. When solutions to climate change address these different realities, they are more

effective and their impact ripples through society. Here are 5 reasons why climate action and women should be seen holistically. As such, 51% of humanity is comprised of women and girls. To meet the most ambitious 1.50C target of the Paris Climate Change Agreement and to limit warming to well below 20C, it is critical that the needs, perspectives, and ideas of women, as well as of men, are included in climate action so as to create just, effective, and sustainable solutions. Furthermore, indigenous women have experienced the impacts of climate change for generations and have been forerunners and leaders in environmental conservation. Their knowledge and expertise contribute greatly to building resilience to climate impacts and to cutting greenhouse gas emissions. The traditional skills and knowledge that women have relating to natural resource management in areas such as innovation, waste and energy are effective tools in climate action strategies<sup>3</sup>. Moreover, women comprise approximately

<sup>3</sup> 5 Reasons Why Climate Action Needs Women | UNFCCC

43 percent of the agricultural labor force in developing countries. When provided with the same access to resources as men, women can increase their agricultural yields by 20 to 30 percent, not only stepping up total agricultural output in these countries by 2.5 to 4 percent but also contributing to world hunger reduction by 12 or 17 percent, according to the UN. This can positively impact climate adaptation in two ways – appropriate technology or resources contributes to more sustainable farming and conservation, and a reduction in poverty enables individuals to better adapt to changes in climate. Investing in women and girls creates ripple effects felt throughout entire communities and countries. Research shows that countries with high representation of women in parliament are more likely to ratify international environment treaties. Besides, communities do better in resilience and capacity building strategies when women are also involved in planning. According to the UN, women tend to share information about community wellbeing that is important for resilience and more willing to adapt to environmental changes since their family lives are impacted. Additionally, women are usually

first responders in community responses to natural disasters, leaders in disaster risk-reduction, and contribute to post recovery by addressing the early recovery needs of their families and strengthening community building.

It also is well established that climate change has a greater impact on those sections of the population that are most vulnerable, whether in developed or developing countries, and exacerbates existing inequalities. Women commonly face higher risks and greater burdens from the impacts of climate change in situations of poverty and due to existing roles, responsibilities and cultural norms. Targeted investments in gender equality and women's empowerment yield returns in environmental conservation, poverty alleviation, social policy and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By tackling climate change with a gender lens, women's rights are also addressed, tackling rather than exacerbating existing gender inequalities.

Equally, according to Leena Heinämäki of Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law (ArcticCentre, University of Lapland, Finland), Indigenous peoples and women are two marginalized sub-groups significantly impacted by

the unequivocal and accelerating impacts of climate change. While various legal fora slowly awakened to and seek out a better understanding of the impediments to their participation in climate governance, little focus is given to the rights and role of indigenous women in particular. Indigenous women's rights are often neglected at both the international and local level, yet indigenous women often face systemic violations of their

human rights in the context of climate change, experiencing deepened exclusionary and discriminatory practices in their own communities as well as society at large. According to Leena, the international climate change regime and Post Paris Climate dialogue processes has been slow to integrate indigenous peoples and women into its processes and mechanisms.



*YWCA participation at COP27 in Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt. With a side session at the Children and Youth Pavilion to discuss on the local actions by the youths at the global South for climate resilience. The Climate & Inclusion Officer, Isaac Oindo led a session on harnessing the artistic side of youth in climate change.*



## In depth analysis of Women, Youth and Indigenous People involvement in Post - Paris Climate Dialogue Processes in Kenya.

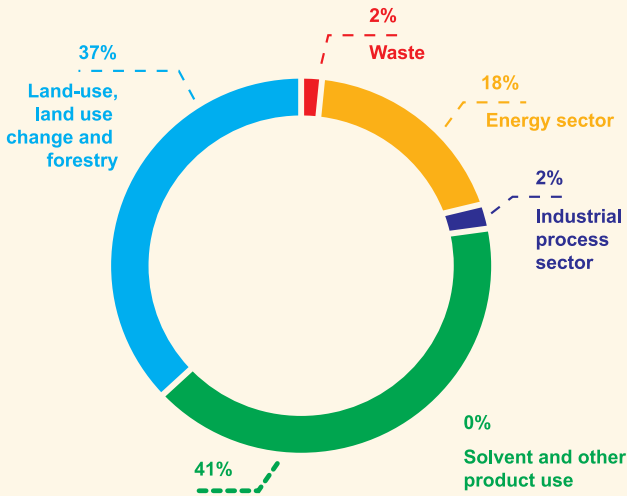
The in-depth women, youth and indigenous people analysis on involvement in Post Paris Dialogue processes strategically focused on three priority NDC sectors of Agriculture, Energy and Water. These sectors were selected because they are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, are critical in women's lives, and have significant contributions to make

towards adaptation and mitigation efforts. Moreover, as these sectors are key drivers of Kenya's economy, they are important for the achievement of the government's 'Big Four Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in addition to Kenya's NDC ambitions as shown in the figure below.

### Women Youth and Indigenous People of Kenya in the Agriculture Sector

As illustrated below, the Agriculture, Land Use Change and Forestry sector contributes to over 75 percent of the country's emissions, followed by the energy sector contributing 18 percent of emissions. While the water sector does not directly contribute to emissions, it is vital to adaptation efforts and therefore considered in this NDC revision as a priority sector. In fact, Agriculture remains the backbone of the Kenyan economy and continues to be a key economic and social driver of development. Kenyan households

that solely engaged in agriculture contributed 31.4 percent to the reduction of rural poverty.<sup>9</sup> As the largest source of income for rural households, agriculture supports over 80 percent of the rural population and provides about 75 percent of total employment.<sup>10</sup> More specifically, women account for approximately 75 percent of the agricultural labor force in small-scale agriculture in Kenya as compared to 51 percent of men.



*Distribution of Kenya's Nationally determined contributions (NDCs) depicting Agriculture, Land Use Change and Forestry sector which contributes to over 75 percent of the Country's emissions.*


Moreover, agriculture contributes 21.9 percent of GDP and 65 percent of exports, with industrial crops contributing 55 percent of agricultural exports. Nonetheless, the majority of farming in Kenya is primarily small-scale, with about 75 percent of total agricultural output produced on rain-fed agricultural lands averaging 0.3 to 3 hectares in size.<sup>13</sup> Key cash crops include tea, coffee and horticultural crops, which comprise over 90 percent of foreign exchange earnings from agricultural products. Within this context, the agriculture sector plays a clear role in both economic development and poverty reduction

by supporting livelihoods for large swaths of the population, and especially for rural women, youth and indigenous people of Kenya. Regrettably, the agriculture sector has increasingly become more vulnerable due to unpredictable weather patterns and the increased frequency and intensity of floods and droughts, which can lead to decreased agricultural productivity, crop failures, livestock deaths, land degradation, and in some cases, conflict. These impacts result in reduced yields and loss of income in the agriculture sector, food shortage and malnutrition, reduced quality of produce and earnings as

well as increased postharvest losses. Furthermore, climate uncertainties pose high risks to agro-based enterprises and can result in low agro-based investments and low technology uptake for production and value addition. According to UNDP, it is in fact estimated that the economic cost of climate change on the sector is 3 percent of GDP per year by 2030 and reaching as high as 5 per cent by 2050 – but the impact majorly felt amongst the rural women, youth and indigenous people of Kenya.

Furthermore, in agriculture, gender

inequalities and exclusion have been identified as one of the major factors holding back agricultural productivity and perpetuating poverty and hunger. Gender norms that dictate roles in agricultural underpin the disparities that men and women face in production systems. Women have less access to the means of production including land, finance, inputs, modern technologies, extension services, and marketing facilities while also having less say in decision making despite making the largest labor force in the sector.



**Women account for approximately 75 percent of the agricultural labour force in small scale agriculture**

Despite women's central role in agriculture production, only around 10% of land titles are issued to women. When the hectare size of titles is considered, this translates into only 1.62 percent of agricultural land being owned by women. In Kenya, where land title deeds are the most common form of collateral required for agricultural credit by financial institutions, low land ownership is a constraint to accessing credit. From 2014-2018,

it is estimated that only around 10 percent of agricultural credit went to women. These disparities result in yield gaps of up to 20-30 percent between male and female managed agricultural enterprises.

Within the context of a changing climate in Kenya, these barriers will further constrain women, youth and indigenous people's ability to adapt, and the gender gap in agriculture will continue to widen. Likewise, as women are responsible for overall security and wellbeing of the family, when food availability

is threatened by extreme weather events such as droughts and floods, the burden of sustaining the family falls disproportionately on women (and girls). Women's inequality in agriculture makes them and their families more vulnerable to climate change and therefore, must be a priority in both adaptation and mitigation strategies in the agriculture sector in line with Post Paris climate dialogue processes.

## AGRICULTURE IN KENYA



translating to



land title deeds are the most common form of collateral required for agricultural credit by financial institutions



resulting in



## WOMEN YOUTH AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF KENYA IN THE ENERGY SECTOR

In Kenya, the energy sector plays an important role as the infrastructure enabler for sustained economic growth, development and poverty reduction. Kenya's Vision 2030 identifies energy as a driver of industrialization while access to affordable, competitive, reliable, quality, safe and sustainable energy will be integral to achieving the "Big 4 Agenda." Increasing economic activities coupled with population growth has led to an increasing energy demand; between 2004 and 2013 power demand rose by 18.9% annually.

The main sources of energy in Kenya are renewable energy and fossil fuels. According to UNDP, as of 2018, renewable energy, in the form of hydropower, geothermal, and wind, accounted for 35.12 percent, 26.84 percent, and 1.09 percent, respectively, of Kenya's electricity production. The remaining electricity capacity came from fossil fuels at 34.93 percent, biomass at 1.12 percent, and off grid sources at 0.81 percent. In urban areas, 78 percent

of the urban population has access to electricity while only 39 percent of the rural population does. 52.4 percent of male headed households used electricity – as of 2018 – for lighting compared to 48.8 percent of female headed households. Regardless of connectivity to electricity, over 80 percent of Kenyans relied on the traditional use of biomass as their primary source of energy for cooking and heating – with firewood contributing 68.7 percent and charcoal 13.3 percent especially amongst the indigenous people of Kenya. About 87 percent of the rural population used firewood for cooking and 82% percent of the urban population uses charcoal for cooking in 2018.



*YWCA Climate & Inclusion Officer conducts a training for Women, Youth and Disability Groups from the 8 Sub-counties of Kisumu County on; Climate Change, CIDP and Gender Responsive Budgeting.*

While the figures might have changed in 2022, Kenya's reliance on hydropower as a renewable energy source leaves the country's energy supply sensitive to climate change impacts – with severe impacts recorded amongst women and indigenous people. Amongst the youth, access to modern energy is an enabler for empowerment as it plays a key role in meeting practical needs and solutions of the economy such as cooking, food processing and

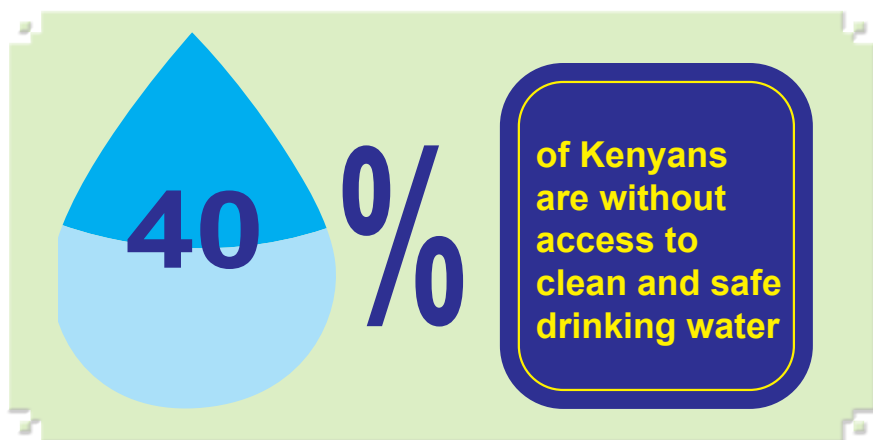
water hauling as well as strategic gender needs like street lighting for safety and power for enterprise development. Nonetheless, this still remains a pipeline dream to be realized in Kenya owing to limited involvement of youth in such processes as just energy transition dialogues as in line with Post Paris Climate dialogue processes.

## Women Youth and Indigenous People of Kenya in the Water Sector

In Kenya, water is fundamental to life and livelihoods and vital for sustainable development and adaptation actions in the water sector will be integral to Kenya's response to climate change. Currently, clean water coverage in Kenya stands at 60 percent leaving approximately 40 percent of Kenyans without access to clean and safe drinking water. In rural areas, 86 percent of people fetch water from springs, wells, boreholes and streams while only 14 percent have access to tap water. Climate change is altering the spatial and temporal availability of water resources in Kenya and has led to an increased scarcity of water resources. This makes resource

management more difficult, affecting energy production and agricultural systems and increases the likelihood of conflict. Moreover, reduced water quality and quantity for domestic and industrial use can lead to high water pricing and increases in water borne diseases.

These impacts are especially felt in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands, which make up 80 percent of the country.<sup>32</sup> During the 2017/18 drought, Kenya's dominant rain-fed agriculture system left 3.4 million people severely food insecure and an estimated 500,000 people without access to water.<sup>33</sup> Prolonged droughts reduce food security and



increase malnutrition, with impacts particularly for pregnant women, lactating mothers, children and the elderly.

In times of water scarcity, it is women and girls, youth and indigenous people who have to travel long distances in search of water, and have less water for their hygiene. Droughts therefore mean that women, youth and indigenous people work harder to feed and take care of their families, as well as take up roles that used to be the

preserve of men, who often migrate to take up paid work in urban areas increasing the burden on women. This has a negative effect on this group's time management in the household and means they have less time than normal people for learning and social and cultural activities. Women and youth's inequality in access to resources such as land, education, credit and control over household income limit their ability to adapt to climate change water related impacts.

## Women Youth and Indigenous People of Kenya in Climate Change Governance Post Paris

The Climate Change Act (2016) is the first comprehensive legal framework for climate change governance in Kenya and established the National Climate Change Council, Climate Change Directorate, and Climate Change Fund. Importantly, the Act requires that national and county governments mainstream intergenerational and gender equity in all aspects of climate change responses. In turn, the Climate Change Directorate (CCD), housed within the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, is

the lead government agency on national climate change actions and delivery of operational coordination, mandated with supporting different sectors and ministries on climate change. The Climate Change Act requires that the Cabinet Secretary responsible for climate change affairs lead the formulation of a Gender and Intergenerational Climate Change Education and Awareness Strategy and the Directorate to coordinate its implementation.

The National Climate Change Council (NCCC), chaired by

the President, is supposed to ensure the mainstreaming of climate change functions by the national and county governments and approve and oversee the implementation of the 5-year National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP). Inter-ministerial coordination occurs through the Inter-ministerial National Climate Change Coordination Committee, which consists of senior-level members from Climate Change Directorate, the Prime Minister's Office, various ministries including the Ministry of Gender, and representatives from the private sector and civil society.

The Climate Change Act (2016) calls for the creation of a climate change unit in each ministry to be responsible for integrating the 5-year National Climate Change Action Plans in sector strategies and implementation plans, however, most ministries have a climate change focal point, although not necessarily with high hierarchical influence. In the NDC priority sectors the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, and the Ministry of Energy, all have climate change and gender focal points seconded from the

Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender. As such, promoting gender equality, inclusivity and women's empowerment falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Public Service, Youth, and Gender and specifically through the State Department for Gender. The Department is the technical lead in regard to mainstreaming gender in policies and programmes within Government and works with relevant stakeholders through laid down mechanisms like the Intergovernmental Forum and the Gender Sector Coordination mechanism. These ensure that there are structured ways of interaction with relevant State and non-state Actors, including the county governments, academia and development partners. The National Gender and Equality Commission ensures the government is in compliance with all international treaties and conventions that Kenya has ratified relating to equality and non-discrimination.

Following the recognition of gender, youth and indigenous people's rights as a national priority, various ministries have developed gender policies for their sectors, while some ministries have established Gender Units and

Sections with gender officers. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries has a Gender Unit whose responsibilities are to coordinate gender mainstreaming efforts and to ensure that gender is part and parcel of all interventions, procedures, and processes, however there is no specific gender budget line in the ministry for this unit. Even though the Ministry of Water has existing gender mainstreaming committees, there is a low understanding of gender mainstreaming and climate change in the sector because of limited awareness creation and capacity building resulting from inadequate funding. The Ministry of Energy has a Gender Unit in place and a Gender Ministerial Committee who are responsible for coordinating gender actions and ensuring mainstreaming of gender into activities in the ministry and its Semi-Autonomous Government Agencies. While there is good will from management to support gender activities and regular reporting by the Gender Ministerial Committee, the Gender Unit has a limited budget restricting its ability to fully operationalize.

Besides, the council of governors

provides a mechanism for consultation amongst county governments as well as the national government and other stakeholders. Under the Council of Governors there are sectoral technical committees established, including one on gender, that handle sector specific issues and offer advisory services to country governments. While Secretariats of sectoral committees lead on technical matters, including gender, the committees of the Council of Governors work separately in silos and thus minimal working relations exists with the gender committee. In terms of climate change, a County Executive Committee (CEC) member is designated to coordinate climate change affairs in each county, while each county is also expected to establish a Climate Change Unit. As part of the County Climate Change Unit establishment guidelines, staffing provisions have been made for a Social Safeguards Officer who also can act as a Gender Officer, however, this is yet to be implemented. Under provisions in the Climate Change Act (2016) some county governments have established County Climate Change Funds to

support the financing of climate change actions in their county Integrated Development Plans. Of the existing county climate change fund regulations in place across Kenya, most of them take gender, youth and indigenous people's rights into consideration. Even though Kenya has committed to mainstreaming climate change and gender in Ministries, Departments and Authorities (MDAs) and instilled institutional arrangements in all sectors, weak coordination, harmonization and networking among actors at all levels poses challenges to

mainstreaming at the national and county levels. Inadequate resources (human and financial), limited technical capacity, and capacity consistency resulting from deployment/transfers of key staff also slows down the pace of implementation. At county level, County Climate Change Units are to support county sectoral structures to mainstream climate change and gender adequately into agriculture, energy, and water functions.



*Joint National youth, indigenous people, and women physical workshop on POST COP 26 dissemination.*

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Ironically, despite the increasing numbers of the youth, women and indigenous people in Kenya, for the youth, job availability continues to decline in the country with about 80% of the youth unemployed amidst the growing interest in the green and climate-sensitive sectors and marginalization, misrepresentation and unclear indicators on youth, women and indigenous people involvement in Post Paris Climate dialogue processes still present some of the critical challenges to enhanced resilience to date. According to MPIDO<sup>4</sup> and CEMIRIDE<sup>5</sup> - through the Marginalized Communities and Indigenous People National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) Engagement Framework, there still exists a lot of gaps both in policy and institutional frameworks to ensuring marginal communities are fully involved in the Post Paris Climate dialogue processes. Such gaps include but are not limited to;

◇ Fragmentation in voices of the marginal communities alongside competing interests (conflict of interest) of various

stakeholders

◇ Limited capacity and awareness in and around Post Paris Climate Dialogue Processes

◇ Limited and sometime lack of representation (exclusion) of the marginal communities in such dialogue processes.

◇ Top – down project implementation practices by the development partners and especially on Post Paris related projects e.g., energy projects, forestry and conservation projects, land use planning projects etc.

◇ Unclear focal person in the Climate Change Directorate dealing in indigenous communities on Post Paris Climate dialogue processes along with unclear policy pointer in the NAP and NCCAP.

While data on youth, women and indigenous people involvement in Post Paris Climate dialogue processes in Kenya is very scanty, a few organizations, networks and stakeholders have outlined some initiatives undertaken in partnership with these subsets of the society. In fact, networks such as the Kenya Platform for Climate

<sup>4</sup> MPIDO - Mainyoto Pastoralists Integrated Development Organization

<sup>5</sup> Centre for Minority Rights Development (CEMIRIDE) – Strengthening the capacities of minorities and indigenous peoples [MIPs] to secure their economic, social, cultural and political rights

Governance (KPCG) besides having a dedicated thematic working group on gender, youth and marginalized communities' action on climate change, have such initiatives as young digital activists (YDA) facilitating youth engagement online on various Post Paris Climate dialogues. Similarly, the Sustainable Energy Access Forum Kenya, the Kenya Climate Change Working Group, Kenya Youth Climate Network have a dedicated thematic working group on gender, youth and marginalized communities' action on climate change besides a similar model on youth digital engagement wing actively disseminating content on post Paris climate dialogue processes. AYICC – Kenya on the other hand, is a dedicated open-ended platform for youth engagement on Post Paris Climate Dialogue processes.

However, the tune is different on women engagement in Post Paris Climate Dialogue processes. A closer look at organizations such as FEMNET, FLONE Initiative, YWCA – Kenya, SNV, Concern Worldwide – Kenya, Oxfam Kenya, Dorcas Aid International Kenya, FES – Kenya and Arid

Lands Information Network amongst others, indicates awareness of issues facing women in regards to climate change and post Paris climate dialogues and deliberate programing initiatives to reach to women on Post Paris Climate dialogue processes. Nevertheless, except for Dorcas Aid International (with a focus on indigenous and local women), the rest of the aforementioned generalized the approach to target women and no specific subset of the gender. Some of the actions by women in line with Post Paris climate dialogue processes included action in sectors such as agriculture (climate smart agriculture and Agri value chains), energy (just energy transition), water, sanitation and hygiene, transport (transport planning and emission reduction) among others.

Despite the existence of the platforms and the various engagement models for the youth, there is a general lack of succinct strategy or framework amongst all these stakeholders on youth engagement except for AYICC (at a continental level). Similarly, there is a general lack of clear direction on partnership

with indigenous people on Post Paris Climate dialogue processes except for organizations like the Center for Minority Rights and Development and MPIDO. Equally, though needing some further empirical study and fact finding, financing towards youth, women and Indigenous People group involvement in post Paris climate dialogue processes is

increasingly inadequate. Other gaps identified by the study included inadequate capacity of the youth, women and Indigenous People group on post Paris Dialogue climate processes and consistent confusion of indigenous knowledge with indigenous people especially on policy action points by the national adaptation plan 2015 – 2030<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> National Adaptation Plan of Kenya | UNFCCC



## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENHANCED YOUTH, WOMEN AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE INVOLVEMENT IN POST-PARIS CLIMATE DIALOGUE PROCESSES.

OBJECTIVE	OUTCOMES
<p>Design mechanisms for achieving a coordinated and pivotal youth, women and Indigenous People group actively engaging in Post Paris Climate dialogue processes internationally, regionally, nationally and sub nationally</p>	<p>A coordinated and pivotal youth, women and Indigenous People group actively engaging in Post Paris climate dialogue processes internationally, regionally, nationally and sub nationally</p>
<p>Capacitate the youth, women and Indigenous People groups on Post Paris Climate dialogue processes including but not limited to actions on adaptation, mitigation, loss and damage and means of implementation based on their local contexts</p>	<p>A well capacitated youth, women and Indigenous People groups actively engaging on/in Post Paris Climate dialogue processes at their local contexts</p>
<p>Mobilize support through definitive allocation of roles and responsibilities from the government institutions, private sector and/or development partners for youth, women and Indigenous People group engagement in Post Paris Climate dialogue processes in Kenya such as through development of NCCAP 3 etc</p>	<p>Predictable and reliable support through definitive allocation of roles, responsibilities and resources from the government institutions, private sector and/or development partners for youth engagement in Post Paris climate dialogue processes in Kenya</p>
<p>Lobby for a youth, women and Indigenous People group focal person at the climate change directorate on matters Post Paris Climate Dialogue Processes alongside financing for the same</p>	<p>Focal person for youth, women and Indigenous People groups at CCD actively engaging grassroot youth, women and Indigenous People groups on Post Paris Climate Dialogue Processes</p>

**Young Women's Christian Association of Kenya**  
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